



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

981

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Lott-Canada School  
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Lott-Canada High School; Beeville Rosenwald School

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 900 W. Corpus Christi Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Beeville  
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Bee CODE: 025 ZIP CODE: 78102  
 NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
 VICINITY

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer Date 10/18/10  
Signature of certifying official / Title  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- other, explain  See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper Linda McClelland Date of Action 12-07-10

**5. CLASSIFICATION**

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY**

	private
X	public - local
	public - State
	public - Federal

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY**

X	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

**NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY**

contributing	noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	1	total

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** *Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program*

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** EDUCATION / school = school house

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** EDUCATION / college = community college

**7. DESCRIPTION**

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE; WOOD  
 WALLS BRICK; WOOD  
 ROOF ASPHALT  
 OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-7)



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### NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The 1932 Lott-Canada School typifies the four-teacher type school constructed with Rosenwald funds. Built according to Community School Plan #4-A, the one-story, wood framed structure features a brick veneer and a recessed porch flanked by two perpendicular wings with front-facing gables. The distinctive H-shaped plan contained classrooms, an auditorium and stage, and an office and library; restroom facilities were added to the southwest corner of the building during the late 1950s. At the time of its construction, the Lott-Canada School featured minimal Craftsman-style details such as exposed rafter tails, but some of these elements have been replaced. Although modifications have been made to the building's fenestration and porch, the school retains a good degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship; it retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Still owned by the Beeville Independent School District, the building continues to function as an educational facility for Coastal Bend College; as such, the Lott-Canada School is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage—African American, at the local level of significance.

Rosenwald schools followed standardized plans that can be identified by the number of classrooms, which corresponded to the number of teachers; plans ranged from one-teacher to twelve-teacher type schools.<sup>1</sup> The Lott-Canada School is a four-teacher school, built according to Community School Plan #4A. This plan features two classrooms on the west side; an "industrial" classroom and another classroom flanking a central office and library on the east side; and a large auditorium with stage linking the two sides perpendicularly, forming an H-plan. Community school plans specified building orientation to maximize natural light and ventilation; the north-to-south orientation of the Lott-Canada School and the placement of its windows are consistent with those specifications.

### Exterior

The Lott-Canada School is of wood frame construction with a red brick veneer. The wood frame roof structure may have been clad with metal at the time of construction, but it is now covered with composition shingles installed in 2009. Original brick chimneys have been removed. Wood fascias are boxed, with the exception of the front entry porch—which features exposed rafter tails—and the awning roof of the 1950s restroom addition. The wood pier-and-beam foundation is concealed by a continuous concrete beam or footing which also supports the brick veneer. Ventilation holes cut into the concrete beam allow air to circulate under the building. Detailing or ornamentation is minimal, and the exposed rafter tails provide a Craftsman-period appearance.

The original 9-over-9 double-hung wood windows have been replaced or covered by metal panels; in some instances, such as on the west side of the building, 1-over-1 metal windows have been located within larger metal panels. Door frames are original, although the original wood 5-panel double doors have been replaced by new flush panel double doors with a single, narrow window in their upper halves. Much of the wood fascia and trim is

<sup>1</sup> Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program.



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original, and where replacement was needed the profiles were matched. Each of the four gables features a square attic vent with wood louvers, which are original to the building. The four original wood box columns of the covered entrance porch have been replaced with more slender and decorative turned columns.

The building is clad in a veneer of red modular face brick of unknown, but possibly local, manufacture. The brick veneer is supported on a continuous concrete perimeter beam and appears to be original to construction, but it is in extremely poor condition due to foundation and building movement. The building does not appear to have had gutters or downspouts, and none appear in historic photographs.

In the 1950s an addition was constructed on the west side of the building to provide washroom facilities for students and teachers. The addition's foundation is a concrete slab on grade, and the load-bearing walls are constructed of red clay tile. The restroom addition features small slider windows for ventilation and natural light on all three sides, and flush-panel doors appear on the addition's south and east façades. Also on the south and east sides, an awning roof with exposed rafters is supported on large wood brackets.

## Interior

The Lott-Canada School was organized in an H-shaped plan. Legs of the H provided four classrooms, one of which was designated for "industrial" education, and the east leg also included a small office and library. Connecting the two legs was a central auditorium with a small elevated stage. The interior of the building has been modified through the years, although no overall renovation has been accomplished. These modifications have been undertaken by school personnel on an as-needed basis; the construction of the washroom addition during the 1950s is an example of this type of work.

The historic auditorium area has been subdivided and the historic stage has been removed, although marks on the floor indicate the location of the former stair to the stage. Classrooms also have been subdivided to provide space for additional administrative support, restrooms, and storage; these subdivisions are wood frame wall structures sheathed with gypsum board. An air conditioning system has been installed, its ductwork obscured by suspended ceilings throughout the building. Historic wood floors have been covered with carpet or vinyl composition tile in most locations, and historic walls that remain in place feature a wainscot that may date to the time of construction.

## Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The nominated property of Block 10 includes the Lott-Canada School building at its southeast corner, and two additional buildings. The homemaking cottage is adjacent to the school, immediately to its west; it is directly associated with the history of the Lott-Canada School and is contributing. The third building, at the northwest corner of the property, has been moved to the site and is noncontributing.

According to Archie Toliver, Jr., who attended Lott-Canada School from 1933 to 1944, a home economics building was constructed on site in Block 10 while he was in elementary school (1933-1938). He indicated that



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construction of the building took almost the full school year. According to Joanna O'Riley, who attended Lott-Canada from 1946 to 1955, the building consisted of one large multi-purpose room with a small bathroom and a small dressing room. The south side contained five windows. The west side of the room contained one wall of floor-to-ceiling cabinets for storage. The wall on the east side had a small floor-to-ceiling cabinet on each end and a counter in between with cabinets below and above it; two sinks (one has been removed); and, a refrigerator. There were two gas stoves on the north wall, one on each side of the back door entrance. Four large tables with chairs to accommodate approximately 32 students occupied the remaining space. The tables served as desks during class periods and were used for laying out fabric and cutting patterns during sewing classes. Half of the school year was spent learning to sew and the other half spent on learning to cook. After the schools were integrated in 1955, the home economics building served as a cafeteria for the classes remaining at Lott-Canada. Since 1982, the building has been used as the BPS Federal Credit Union. Much of the interior historic fabric is intact, making the home economics building a contributing resource.<sup>2</sup>

The third building on Block 10 originally was constructed in the Candalish Community on FM 416 near Berclair, Texas, between 1910 and 1920. It was moved to what is known as Jackson School in Beeville in the early 1950s by the [Lucas] Garza Family movers. According to David Rodriguez, who taught at that school, it was used as the cafeteria at the "Mexican School" on Jackson Street. Lucas Garza then moved the building from the Jackson School to Block 10 around 1967, after the Jackson School completed construction of a new cafeteria. The moved building was used by Beeville ISD for many years as the construction trades and home economics classroom and then for special education classes. The building is now used to store equipment for special education classes and salvaged building materials, including some doors and light fixtures. The building itself is in very poor condition, with holes in the roof and walls. Because this building was relocated here after the period of significance, it does not contribute to the nominated property.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Interview with Archie Toliver, Jr. (a student at Lott-Canada School, 1933-1944) by Joanna O'Riley, May 2010 and June 6, 2010.

<sup>3</sup> Interview with Lucas Garza by Roy Galvan, May 2010 (Mr. Garza is now over 90 years old); interview with David Rodriguez by Roy Galvan, May 2010.



**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA**

Property:

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

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or has achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** EDUCATION; ETHNIC HERITAGE / African American  
**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1931-1964  
**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1931  
**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A  
**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A  
**ARCHITECT / BUILDER:** unknown  
**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-14)

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-15 through 9-16)

- PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
  - previously listed in the National Register
  - previously determined eligible by the National Register
  - designated a National Historic Landmark
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
  - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

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

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lott-Canada School in Beeville, Bee County, Texas was built between 1931 and 1932 with funds from the Julius Rosenwald School Building Program, established in 1917 for the advancement of African-American education in the rural South.<sup>4</sup> The building serves as a physical reminder of this philanthropic program and is the sole extant property directly linked to the history of African-American education in the community, representing an era when legally-mandated separate—but rarely equal—accommodations for black students were the norm throughout the southern United States. The building is a good example of a Rosenwald school modeled on Community School Plan #4A, and is it nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A, in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage—African-American, under the context *Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program* (MPS, 1998). The period of significance extends to 1964, when Bee County public schools became fully integrated; Criteria Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years, therefore applies, as the building continued to function as a segregated public school. The building is exceptionally significant as a rare physical reminder of segregated African-American education in Bee County, Texas.

## Development of Beeville, Bee County, Texas

People have lived in the area of Bee County, Texas, for thousands of years. At the time of their first contact with Europeans, various bands of Karankawas lived in the eastern portion of the future county, and Lipan Apaches and Borrados occupied the northwest and southwest sections, respectively. Archeological evidence has confirmed the presence of Skidi Pawnees along Sulphur Creek near present-day Pawnee.<sup>5</sup>

The first Spanish land grant in the area was made to Carlos Martínez in 1789, in recognition of his service in the king's army at La Bahía, but permanent settlement began only after Mexico won independence from Spain in 1821. The Imperial Colonization Law of 1823 gave *empresarios* (land agents) assigned territory in which to locate colonists.<sup>6</sup> Under Mexico's colonization laws, all settlers had to be members of the Roman Catholic Church; however, empresario James Power—who gained authority to bring Irish settlers to the region—persuaded governing officials to amend the law and permit other citizens of the United States, France, England, and Germany

<sup>4</sup> The school was named Lott-Canada in recognition of Mose Lott and Allen Canada, who constructed an earlier wood frame school for African-American students in Beeville. A critical component of this program funded by Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck & Company, was the philosophy of self-help as espoused by Booker T. Washington, the renowned founding director of the Tuskegee Institute. See "Rosenwald Schools Initiative," website of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, accessed on January 23, 2010 at: <http://www.preservationnation.org/travel-and-sites/sites/southern-region/rosenwald-schools>.

<sup>5</sup> Grace Bauer, "Bee County," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed on October 20, 2009 at: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/hcb5.html>.

<sup>6</sup> Eugene C. Barker, "Mexican Colonization Laws, in the Handbook of Texas Online, accessed on March 2, 2010 at: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/MM/ugm1.html>.



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to settle there.<sup>7</sup> John McMullen and James McGloin of Ireland were two empresarios who brought newly-arrived Irishmen from New York to this area, beginning in the late 1820s.<sup>8</sup> The Irish settlers accepted land grants in the McCullen and McGloin Colony and the Power and Hewetson (or Refugio) Colony, with a portion of both covering what later became Bee County.

Ties with the Mexican Republic were broken during the Texas Revolution in 1836, but many of the first permanent settlers' descendants remain in Bee County; after the Mexican War of 1846-1848, other newcomers joined them. With the memory of their hardships in Ireland and all they had endured in the war with Mexico, they did not hesitate to begin again—this time not as colonists, but as citizens of the United States.<sup>9</sup> Bee County was created in 1858 by taking parts of what are now the five contiguous counties—Live Oak, Karnes, Goliad, Refugio and San Patricio—to form its 866-square-mile area.<sup>10</sup> The county was named in honor of Barnard Elliott Bee, Sr. (1787–1854), a South Carolina-born attorney who served as secretary of war under Sam Houston and then as secretary of state during the first administration of Mirabeau B. Lamar.<sup>11</sup>

Beeville, the county seat of Bee County, is on Poesta Creek at the intersection of U.S. Highways 181 and 59. It is approximately 90 miles southeast of San Antonio, 60 miles north of Corpus Christi and 180 miles southwest of Houston. The first county seat, known as Beeville-on-the-Medio, was organized in 1858 on the east bank of Medio Creek seven miles east of the current city. Beeville was platted in 1859 as a town site named Maryville (renamed Beeville in 1859). The post office was also established in 1859, followed by construction of the first courthouse in 1860. In 1880, Beeville had two general stores, two hotels, a gin and gristmill, and a blacksmith shop.<sup>12</sup> Beeville was incorporated as a town in 1890, but the incorporation was dissolved the following year.<sup>13</sup> On July 25, 1893, the citizens voted to incorporate for school purposes only.<sup>14</sup> Beeville was reincorporated as a town in 1908.<sup>15</sup>

Most of Bee County is a vegetation region, characterized by open grasslands and scattered shrubs and cacti. By 1860, the Bee County economy was based almost exclusively on cattle ranching. Some families grew small crops of corn and other grains, but farming remained on the subsistence level until well after the Civil War. Because of the emphasis on ranching, on the eve of the Civil War only seventy-nine slaves lived in the county, most of whom were evidently cow herders and drovers.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Handbook of Texas Online, s.v., "Power and Hewetson Colony," accessed on March 2, 2010 at: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/PP/uep3.html>.

<sup>8</sup> Christopher Long, "McMullen-McGloin Colony," in the Handbook of Texas Online, accessed on March 2, 2010 at: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/MM/uem1.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Margaret Lynne Moser, *The Biography of a Particular Place*, Volume 1, Bee County.

<sup>10</sup> "Brief History of Bee County Sites," accessed on October 31, 2009 at: [www.Beeville.Net/Historical/Sites](http://www.Beeville.Net/Historical/Sites).

<sup>11</sup> Thomas W. Cutrer, "Bee, Barnard Elliott, Sr.," in the Handbook of Texas Online, accessed on March 2, 2010 at: <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/fbeaz.html>.

<sup>12</sup> Grace Bauer, "Beeville, Texas," in the Handbook of Texas Online, accessed on October 31, 2009 at: [www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB.html](http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB.html).

<sup>13</sup> Camp Ezell, *The Historical Story of Bee County, Texas* (Beeville Publishing Co., 1973).

<sup>14</sup> *Beeville Bee-Picayune*, October 1958.

<sup>15</sup> Ezell, op. cit.

<sup>16</sup> Bauer, "Beeville, Texas," op. cit.



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The most important event in the early postwar period was the great cattle boom. Most postwar cattle drives to the north followed the Chisholm Trail and later the Western Trail.<sup>17</sup> In 1886 the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway was built through Beeville connecting it with Corpus Christi and San Antonio.<sup>18</sup> This was followed by the establishment of the Gulf, Western Texas and Pacific Railroad line northeast to Victoria, Houston, and Galveston in 1889.<sup>19</sup> The railroads not only opened up new markets outside the county, but also brought large numbers of new settlers. After the Civil War, with the explosion of cattle ranching and the addition of the railroad, more Blacks, along with other ethnicities, moved into the Beeville area. Between 1870 and 1890 the population of Bee County nearly quadrupled, from 1,082 to 3,720.<sup>20</sup> The black population increased from 69 (6.4%) to 153 (8.5%) persons.<sup>21</sup> The population in Beeville grew overall from about 300 in 1880 to 2,311 in 1900.<sup>22</sup> Blacks represented 6.7% to 6.2% respectively of the total county population at that time.<sup>23</sup>

The growth in population resulted in dramatic growth in agriculture. Between 1900 and 1920 the number of farms in Bee County increased from 628 to 1,497 and agricultural receipts grew nearly fivefold. Cotton, which was introduced during the 1890s, became a leading crop.<sup>24</sup> In 1929, oil and gas were discovered in Bee County. The oil boom brought new residents to town and in 1930 the population was 4,806; African Americans made up 6.9% of this total.<sup>25</sup> During the Great Depression, many fell victim to falling prices for agricultural products and to the reluctance of banks to extend credit. By 1940, fewer than half (629) of the tenants who had farmed a decade before were still on the land.<sup>26</sup>

During World War II, Beeville benefited from the construction of the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Chase Field, which eventually became the Naval Air Station, Beeville. The base trained naval aviators from 1943 through 1946, and then was temporarily deactivated. In response to the demands of the Korean Conflict, the base was reopened in 1952 and continued to train pilots until its closing in 1992. Beeville grew while the base was open, reaching 13,811 inhabitants in 1960.<sup>27</sup> Blacks equaled 3.9% of the population.<sup>28</sup> Thereafter, the population remained relatively constant; as of the census of 2000, Beeville had a total of 13,129 citizens, 2.9% of which were African Americans.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Bauer, "Bee County, Texas."

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Department of Interior, Census Office report on Population of the United States at the Eleventh Census: 1890, Part 1, Washington DC, 1895, p. 430.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Census Reports Vol. 1, Twelfth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1900, Part 1, Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 1901, p. 557.

<sup>24</sup> "Beeville, Texas," op. cit.

<sup>25</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Fifteenth Census of the United States; 1930, Population, Vol. III, Part 2: Montana-Wyoming, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 1932, p. 1010.

<sup>26</sup> "Beeville, Texas," op. cit.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> The Eighteenth Decennial Census of the United States, Census Population: 1960, Vol. 1, Characteristics of the Population, Part 45, Texas, United States Government Printing Office, Washington DC., 1963, pp. 145-146.

<sup>29</sup> "Beeville, Texas," City-Data website accessed on October 31, 2009 at: [www.city-data.com/city/Beeville-Texas.html](http://www.city-data.com/city/Beeville-Texas.html).



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### Education in Beeville Prior to 1931-1932

Initially, Beeville settlers taught their children in their homes. In 1859 G. W. McClanahan began teaching school [for whites] in a one-room wooden house that also served as a church and theater.<sup>30</sup> The first school tax was levied in 1867 to pay tuition of indigent white children. The first building used exclusively for school purposes [for white children] was acquired by Beeville in 1874 from the Methodist Church.<sup>31</sup> On May 22, 1876, the Texas Legislature established a system of free public schools resulting in the creation of a board of school directors for Beeville and Bee County.<sup>32</sup> During this year, the first black school in Bee County was held in Stephen Canada's store, seven miles north of Beeville.<sup>33</sup> The following year, Stephen Kennedy built a small frame school house for \$19; Susan Lott and Ellen Carrol reported as teachers. Responding to a petition from Stephen Canada and Stephen Kennedy, in 1879, the court created Colored Community School Twelve; four years later, it was changed to Colored District Fifteen.<sup>34</sup>

Minutes of the board of trustees reflect that in 1901 Beeville City Schools had one high school with eight teachers and one elementary school with nine teachers; the black school had two teachers and the Mexican school had one.<sup>35</sup> No historical evidence has been located to show that a colored school was built by the Beeville School System until land was purchased by the organization later known as the Beeville Independent School District (ISD); the ISD purchased Block No. 10 (107 N. Burke) from R.H. and Clara Berry (A.C. Jones's heirs) from the Jones Addition for a "colored school house" in 1908.<sup>36</sup>

In 1913-1914, a black school known as School Three was completed at 107 N. Burke Street. School Three was a wood frame building constructed by carpenters Mose Lott and Allen Canada; the school principal was J.R. Lockett, teachers were Mrs. Mary Goodson and Mrs. G.A. Smith, and the Superintendent of Schools was W.E. Madderra. The superintendent's report reflected that there were 122 black children enrolled out of a total school population of 744 students.

According to George McCarty, Bee County local historian and archivist for African-American history, there was a fire in 1929 and School Three burned. As a result, the students were schooled in temporary quarters at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church at 108 N. Burke Street. On July 16, 1931, the *Beeville Bee-Picayune* announced that new Negro and Mexican schools would be built. This same year, Beasley Gymnasium was constructed at a cost of \$32,000; Tyler Elementary was erected for \$34,000; and Jackson School was built at a cost of \$15,000.

<sup>30</sup> *Beeville Bee-Picayune*, October 1958.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> Grace Bauer, *Bee County Centennial, 1858-1958* (Bee County Centennial, 1958).

<sup>34</sup> County Judges School Record 1877-88; and County Commissioners Court Minutes 1936, No. 65, p. 229, and Book B, p. 135-141; County Commissioners Court Minutes June 30, 1884.

<sup>35</sup> Beeville City Schools Bulletin 1901, p. 4; County Commissioners Court Minutes, 1901, p. 123, 258.

<sup>36</sup> Deed Records of Bee County, Vol. P-2, pp. 332-333.



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### Lott-Canada School

The Lott-Canada School was constructed between 1931–1932 as a school for black students—the children and grandchildren of former slaves. Located at 900 W. Corpus Christi Street in Beeville, the land is the same parcel purchased by Beeville ISD in 1908 for School Three, but the Rosenwald school building was required to face the south (Corpus Christi Street) instead of east (North Burke Street). Lott-Canada School was initially called the “Rosenwald Building” but was later named in recognition of Mose Lott and Allen Canada, the carpenters who built the previous school for black students in Beeville. It is a four-teacher-type Rosenwald School and follows the published plan for Community School Plan #4-A. The archival records of the Julius Rosenwald Foundation indicate the breakdown of funds contributed as follows:

Negroes	\$0
Whites	\$0
Public	\$14,600
Rosenwald	\$1,200
<hr/>	
Total	\$15,800 <sup>37</sup>

In accordance with the Rosenwald Fund requirements, local public school authorities owned the site and building. Lott-Canada School opened with Mrs. Lockett as principal with Ms. Ivy. J. Word, Mrs. Rupe and Ms. Bernice Sanders as teachers.<sup>38</sup> Over the life of the school, patrons and the Parent Teachers Association conducted fundraisers to finance special school events and provided supplies such as athletic team uniforms, cheerleader uniforms, travel expenses for interscholastic sporting events, and miscellaneous needs.

The school featured four classrooms, an auditorium with a stage, and a principal’s office that also housed the library. The classes taught in each of the four classrooms included first through third grade; fourth through sixth grade; seventh through ninth grade; and tenth through twelfth grade.

The building used city water since the time of its construction. Initially there were two outdoor, detached restrooms with running water. In the 1950s, the north end of the west wing of the building was extended to include two attached restrooms, however, the facilities could only be accessed from outside. The former detached boys’ restroom became a facility used by Lott-Canada School students as a sports team dressing room and the detached girls’ restroom was used to store janitorial equipment and supplies. Wood stoves provided heat until natural gas was supplied in the 1950s; the brick chimneys for the wood stoves have since been removed. Each classroom and the principal’s office were illuminated by round globe electric fixtures; the auditorium had multiple globe fixtures.

The school did not include a cafeteria or lunchroom on the premises. Prior to 1945, as a fundraising project, several high school boys would operate a stand to provide hot lunch to students on campus; later the Duck Inn, which

<sup>37</sup> “Beeville School, Bee County, Texas.” Card from Rosenwald Collections, Fisk University.

<sup>38</sup> “Lott-Canada School Notes,” *Beeville Bee-Picayune*, December 1, 1932.



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served barbeque, hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas, and snacks, was located across the street and provided reasonably-priced food. A grocery store located directly in front of the school was also available.

The playground was equipped with swings, a slide, seesaw and merry-go-round. Athletic facilities at the Lott-Canada School consisted of an outdoor basketball court and a crude makeshift combination softball/football field. After regular school hours, practice was held for the boys' football, basketball, track, and baseball teams and for the girls' basketball and track teams; the principal served as the coach for all teams. In the late 1940s, students of Lott-Canada School were granted use of the school gymnasium used by white student athletes of Beeville. In the 1950s, the use of the football stadium at the white school was permitted for games only. Lott-Canada School athletes were required to dress at their own school and be bused to and from the gymnasium or stadium.

Throughout the entire history of the Lott-Canada School all desks, chairs, and books available to area colored schools were those discarded by the white public school officials; the textbooks were inherently outdated or obsolete.<sup>39</sup> In 1951 all colored schools of Bee County were consolidated, and black schoolchildren from across the county and from Berclair (Goliad County) were sent to the Lott-Canada School.<sup>40</sup>

On May 17, 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a decision in the case of *Brown v. the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, declaring that racially separate educational facilities were inherently unequal and, in effect, violated the 14th Amendment of the Constitution. A special meeting of Beeville ISD Board of Trustees was held on August 15, 1955, and a decision was made to close the high school department of Lott-Canada School and integrate those students with the A.C. Jones High School students. The tenth-, eleventh- and twelfth-grade students from Lott-Canada School went to A.C. Jones High School, and the ninth-grade students went to Thomas Jefferson Junior High School.<sup>41</sup> The remaining first- through eighth-grade Lott-Canada School students were integrated by 1964. After that time, the building was used for administrative offices.

### Coastal Bend College Lott-Canada Facility

Bee County College opened in 1965 to provide higher education to local students. In 1998 Bee County College became Coastal Bend College (CBC) to reflect the addition of campuses in Alice and Kingsville (in Jim Wells and Kleberg counties), and later in Pleasanton (in Atascosa County). In 2008 the Beeville Independent School District leased the Lott-Canada School to Coastal Bend College for \$1 per year. The building is now used as an adult learning center and is called "Coastal Bend College Lott-Canada Facility." It houses CBC's Continuing Education program with classes in customer service, job interview skills, allied health, hobbies, personal well-being; Adult Basic Education classes which include pre-GED, GED, and English as a Second Language (ESL); the non-profit Bee County Adult Literacy Council, a community literacy program; and monthly rural leadership classes for Bee, Refugio, and Live Oak counties. Approximately 5,100 patrons are served annually at the CBC Lott-Canada Facility.

<sup>39</sup> Knowledge of author, a 1955 graduate of Lott-Canada, and interviews with former classmates and Lott-Canada attendees.

<sup>40</sup> *Beeville Bee-Picayune*, Thursday, May (date unknown) 1963.

<sup>41</sup> "Integration of Negro High School Students Is Decided Last Night," *Beeville Bee-Picayune*, August 18, 1955.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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The conference room and walls throughout the building now serve as a museum with artifacts, photos, memorabilia and displays that tell visitors of the importance that Lott-Canada School had on Beeville's black community. Members of the Lott-Canada Alumni Association are partners in preserving the school's history. The CBC Lott-Canada Facility continues to be a place of learning for those who attend classes there and for visiting schoolchildren who ask, "Why did the black and Hispanic kids have to go to different schools than white kids?" Community members have already shown great dedication in preserving their history and continue to host events there. As a growing rural community, it is becoming more and more difficult to maintain a "sense of place," yet projects like Lott-Canada have had great success in bringing together the people of Beeville and the surrounding areas. The Lott-Canada School building and the activities that occur within its walls actively contribute to a positive community spirit.

Of the 527 Rosenwald schools originally built in Texas, fewer than 35 extant buildings have been identified; many Rosenwald schools in Texas are known to have been demolished or drastically altered. The Lott-Canada School is an excellent example of the four-teacher type Rosenwald school depicted in the program's 1924 publication "Community School Plans." It retains its original configuration and the characteristics of this plan type, and the building retains a good degree of integrity. The Lott-Canada School is therefore nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property submission *Historic and Architectural Resources Associated with the Rosenwald School Building Program* (MPS1998), under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black at the local level of significance. The period of significance extends from 1931, when the current building was erected, to 1964, when the Beeville Independent School District completed integration of all schools; Criteria Consideration G, for properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years, therefore applies, as the building continued to function as a segregated public school. The Lott-Canada School is exceptionally significant as a rare physical reminder of segregated African-American education in Bee County, Texas.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 15

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/MM/uem1.html>.



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Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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Interview with Mr. Lucas Garza (building mover) by Roy Galvan, May 2010.

Interview with Mr. Charles Hodge, 1951 graduate of Lott-Canada School, by Carl O'Riley in December 2009 and January 2010.

Interview with Mr. David Rodriquez by Roy Galvan, May 2010.

Interview with Mr. Archie Toliver, Jr. (a 1944 graduate of Lott-Canada School) by Joanna O'Riley, May 2010 and June 6, 2010.

Interview with Mr. Joe Webb (1952 graduate of Lott-Canada School) by Joanna O'Riley, January 2010.



10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 2.07 acres

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	14	621718	3141790

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Block 10 of Jones Western Addition to the City of Beeville, Texas

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historically associated with the building.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Rachel Leibowitz, Texas Historical Commission staff)

NAME / TITLE: Carl D. O'Riley, Joanna O'Riley, and Adrian Jackson

ORGANIZATION: 121 Legacy Trace Drive DATE: June 15, 2010 (October 15, 2010)

STREET & NUMBER: TELEPHONE: (830) 947-3549

CITY OR TOWN: La Vernia STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78121

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-17 through Map-21)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-26)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheets Figure-22 through Figure-25)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Beeville Independent School District (Sue Thomas, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools)

STREET & NUMBER: 2400 North St. Mary's Street TELEPHONE: (361) 358-7111

CITY OR TOWN: Beeville STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 78102

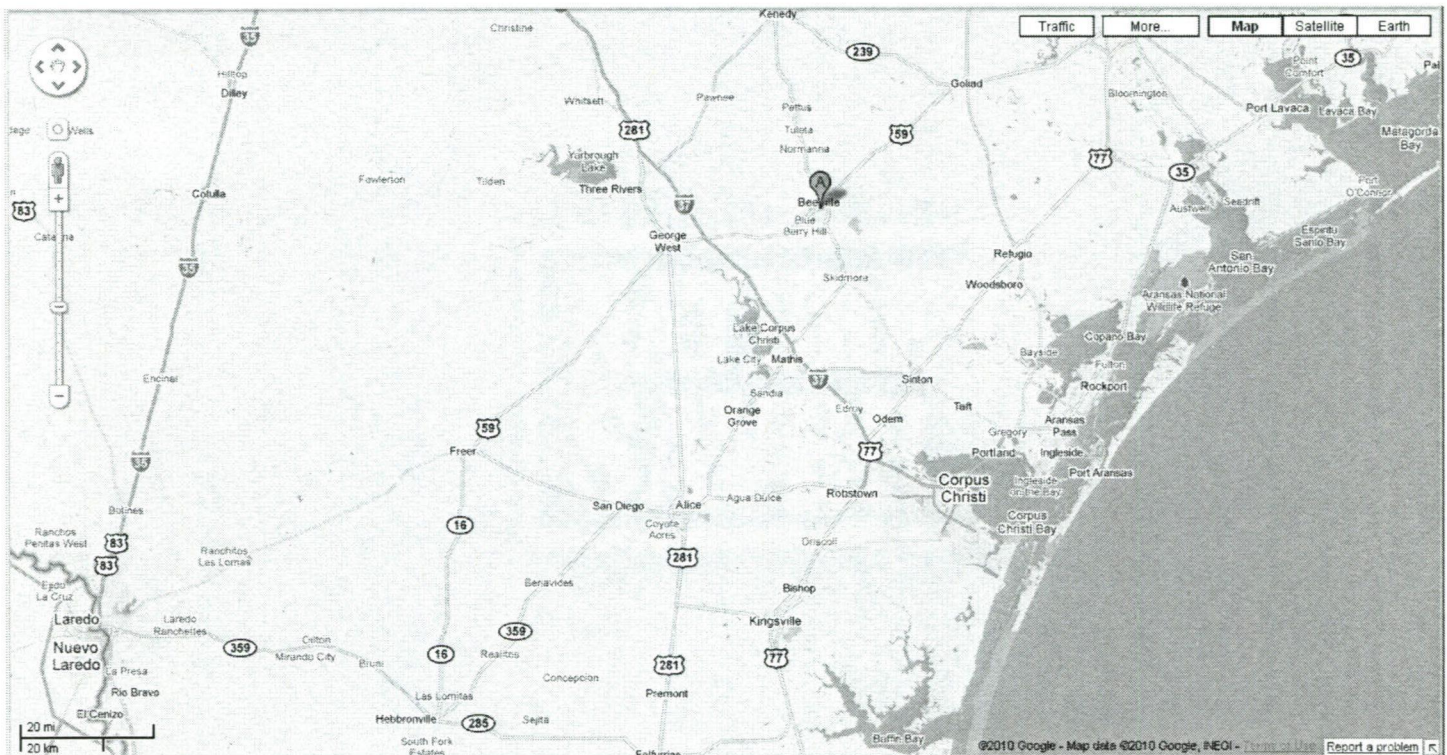


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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 17

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas



Map 1. Beeville, Bee County, Texas.

(Map courtesy of Google Maps.)



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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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**Map 2.** The Lott-Canada School (circled) is located at 900 W. Corpus Christi Street, Beeville, Bee County, Texas.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section MAP Page 19

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas



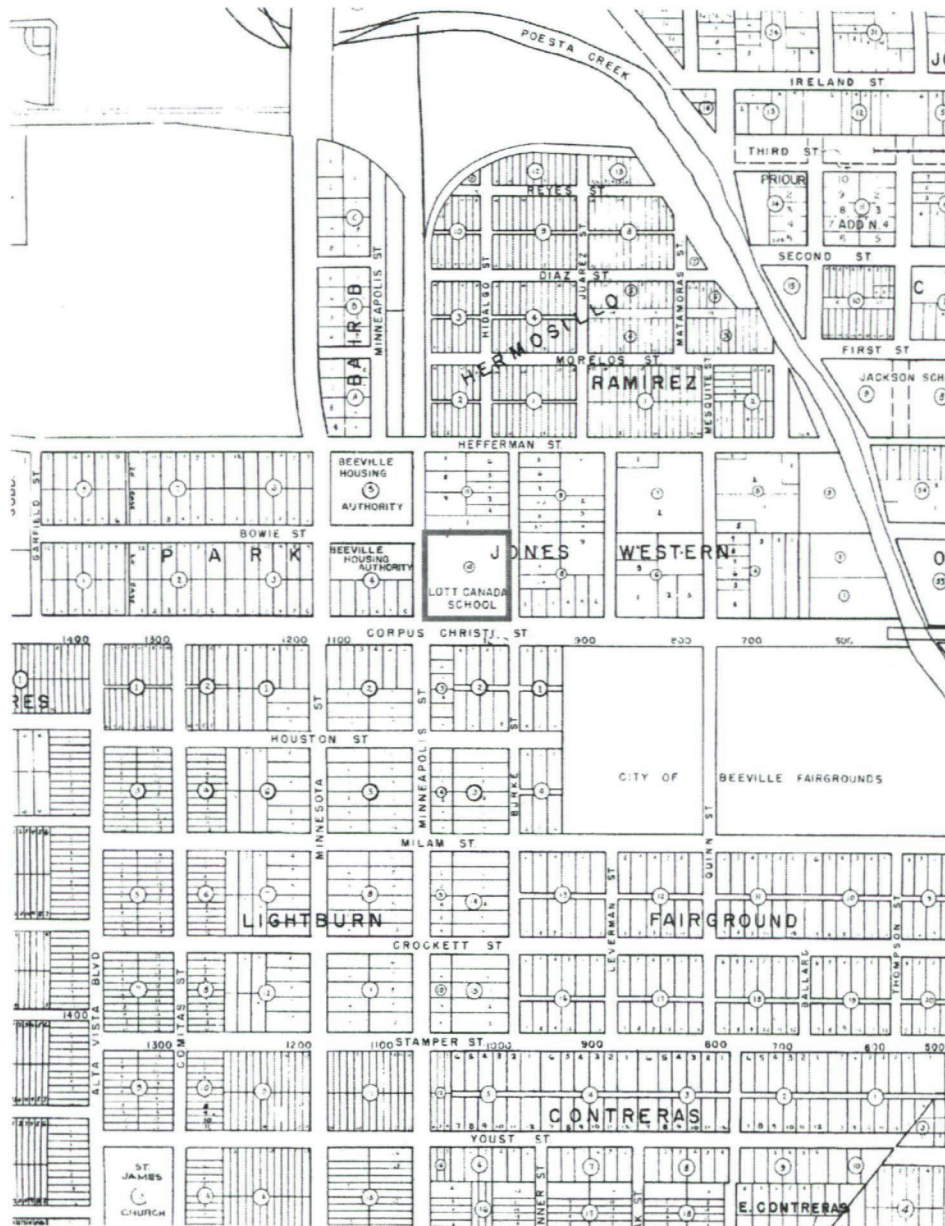
**Map 3. The Lott-Canada School.**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

Section MAP Page 20



Map 4. Beeville.

Lott-Canada School is located in the Jones Addition on land donated to the school district by descendents of the founding father of Beeville, Captain A.C. Jones, for the purpose of building a permanent school for colored children. The school building is in close proximity to Beeville's two historically black churches, also built on land donated by the Jones family.

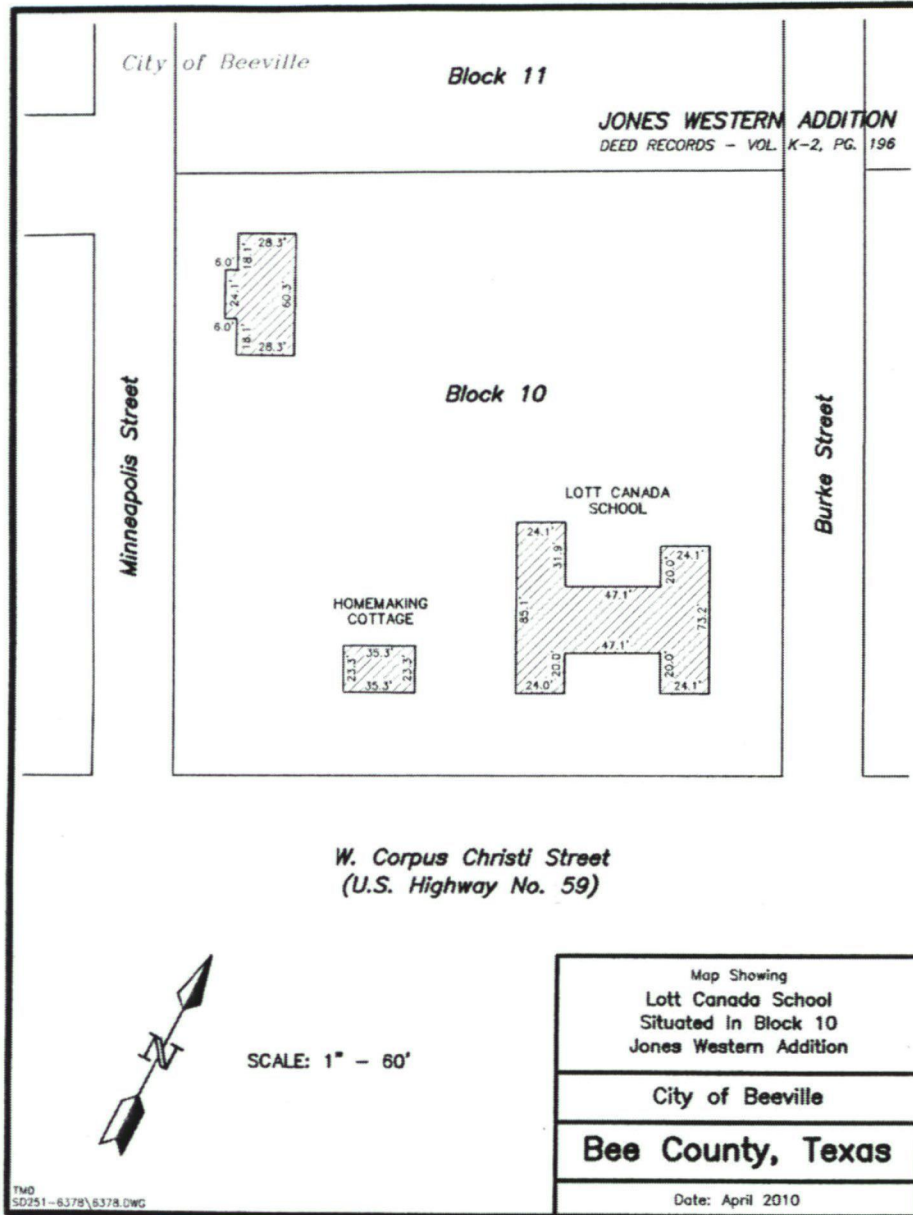


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Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 21

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas



Map 5. Site plan of nominated property, Block 10.

Lott-Canada School is located at the southeast corner of Block 10, Jones Western Addition, Beeville. The nominated property is the entire block, and includes a second contributing building, the homemaking cottage adjacent to the school building. A third building, at the northwest corner of Block 10, was moved to the site and is noncontributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 22

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

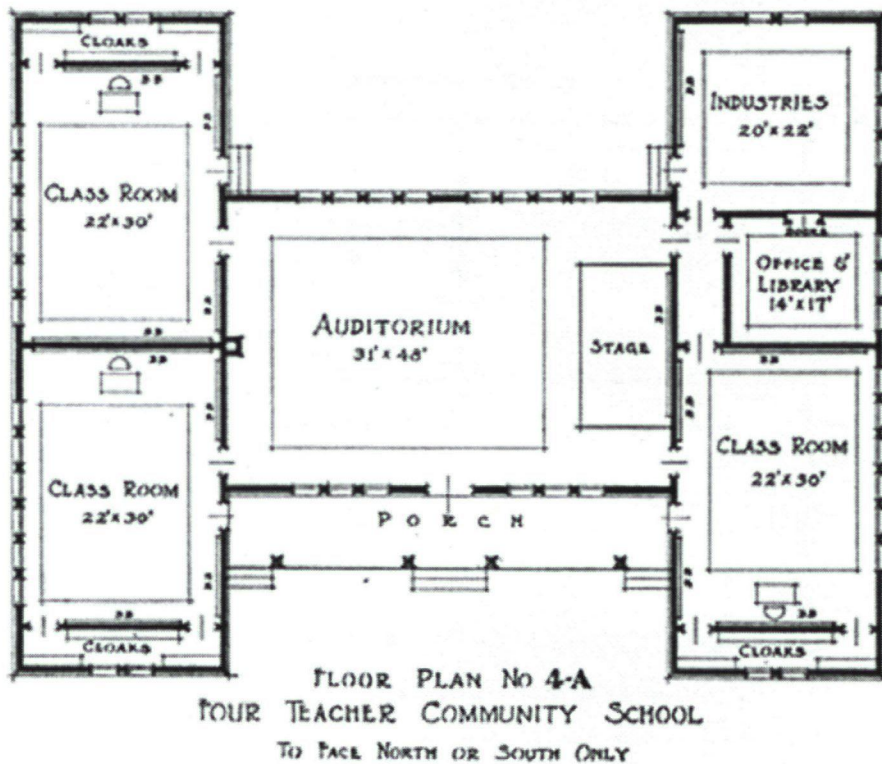


Figure 1. Rosenwald Foundation Community School Plan 4-A

Source: <http://www.rosenwaldplans.org/SchoolPlans/FourTeacherNS/FourTeachNS.htm>

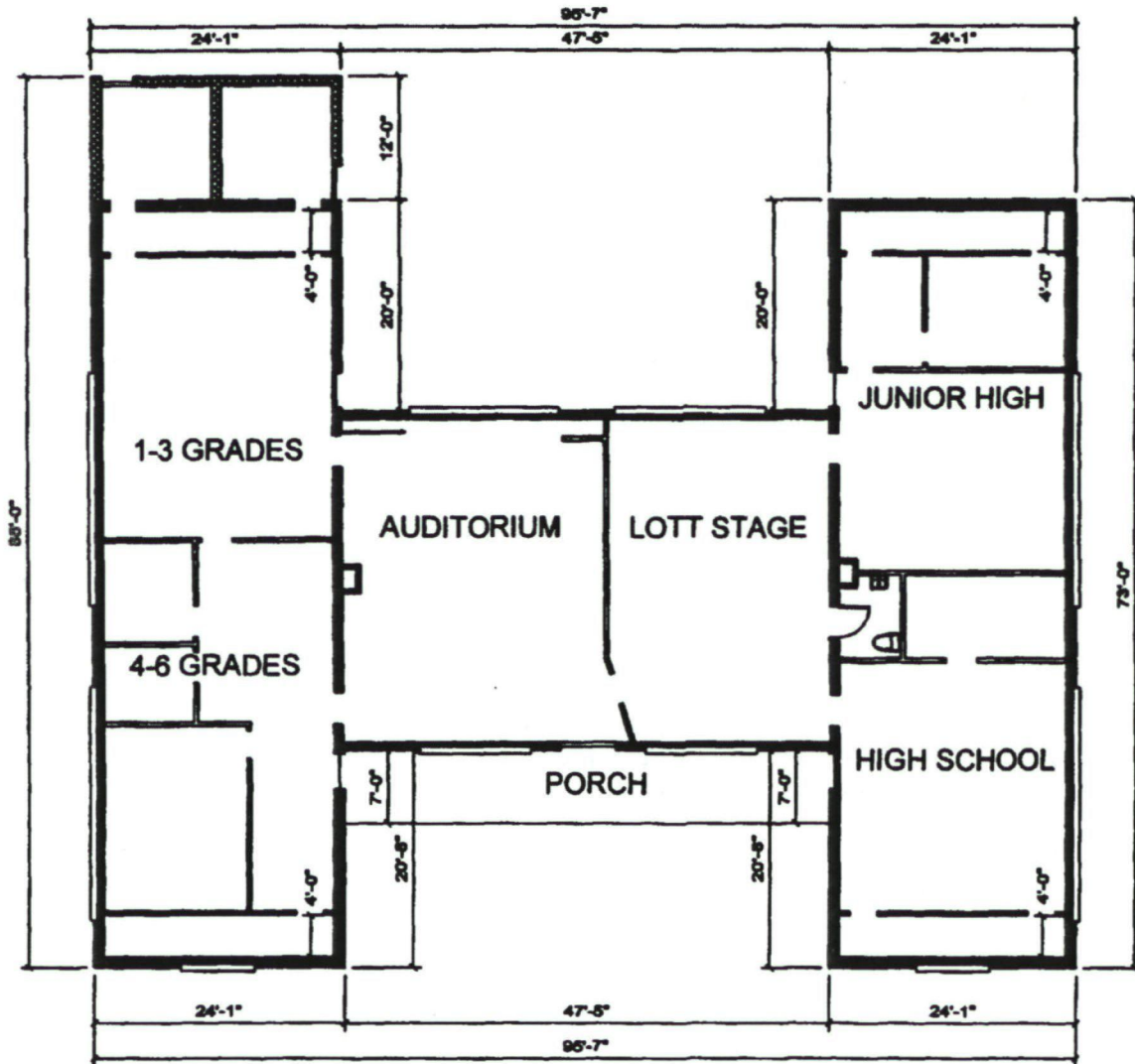


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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 23

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas



**PLAN OF BUILDING**  
(LABELS INDICATE INITIAL BUILDING USAGE)

LEGEND

ORIGINAL WALLS	———
EXTERIOR ADDITION	———
ADDED INTERIOR WALLS	———

Figure 2. Lott-Canada School, floor plan showing initial usage.

Source: Coastal Bend College Drafting and Design Department, Bob Roberts and Jack Young

United States Department of the Interior  
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Section FIGURE Page 24

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas



**Figure 3.** Lott-Canada School, ca. 1932.

North (main) elevation. Camera facing south.

(Photographer unknown.)



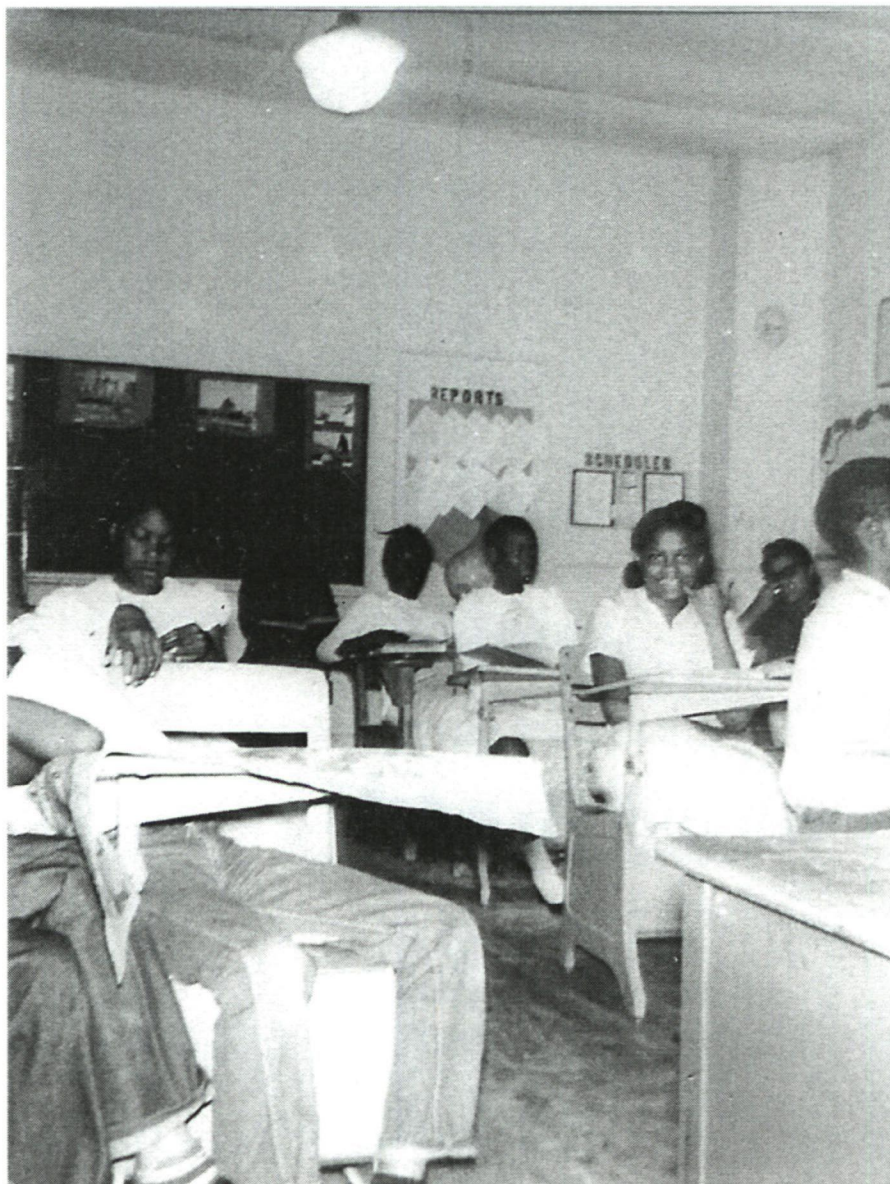
**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

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**Continuation Sheet**

Section FIGURE Page 25

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

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**Figure 4.** Lott-Canada students in class, circa late 1950.

(Photographer unknown.)

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 26

Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

## PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All photographs are credited as follows:

Name of Property:	Lott-Canada School
City:	Beeville
County:	Bee County
State:	Texas
Photographer:	Adrian Jackson
Date:	October 2010
Location of digital files:	Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Printed on Epson Ultra Premium Presentation Paper with Epson Ultrachrome ink

**Photo 1** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0001.tif)

Lott-Canada School.  
South (main) elevation. Camera facing north

**Photo 2** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0002.tif)

Lott-Canada School.  
West elevation. Camera facing east.

**Photo 3** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0003.tif)

Lott-Canada School.  
East elevation. Camera facing west.

**Photo 4** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0004.tif)

Lott-Canada School.  
North (rear) elevation. Camera facing south.

**Photo 5** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0005.tif)

Home economics cottage (contributing).  
South (main) elevation. Camera facing north.

**Photo 6** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0006.tif)

Home economics cottage (contributing).  
West elevation. Camera facing east.

**Photo 7** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0007.tif)

Home economics cottage (contributing).  
East elevation. Camera facing west.

**Photo 8** (TX\_Bee County\_Lott-Canada School\_0008.tif)

Coastal Bend College storage facility (noncontributing).  
West Elevation. Camera facing east.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lott--Canada School

MULTIPLE NAME: Rosenwald School Building Program in Texas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bee

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/22/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/07/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/07/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000981

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

P.O.S. extends to 1964 when segregation, <sup>here and</sup> in all educational facilities in Bee County ended. School is associated with Rosenwald building program and represents <sup>Community</sup> Plan #4-A. It operated as a <sup>multi-grade</sup> segregated school for African-Americans until 1964, and is considered exceptionally important. The students were gradually integrated into other area schools between 1955 (in response to Brown vs Board of Educ decision) and 1964 when the school was converted to administrative use. This is one of the 35 extant examples of the 527 Rosenwald schools built in Texas

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER Linda McClelland

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 12-07-10

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

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





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—  
LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX  
PHOTO 1 OF 8







LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX  
PHOTO 2 OF 8







LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX  
PHOTO 3 OF 8





LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX  
PHOTO 4 OF 8







LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL

BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX

PHOTO 5 of 8





LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX  
PHOTO 6 OF 8







LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX  
PHOTO 7 of 8







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—  
LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX

PHOTO 8 OF 8



HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus



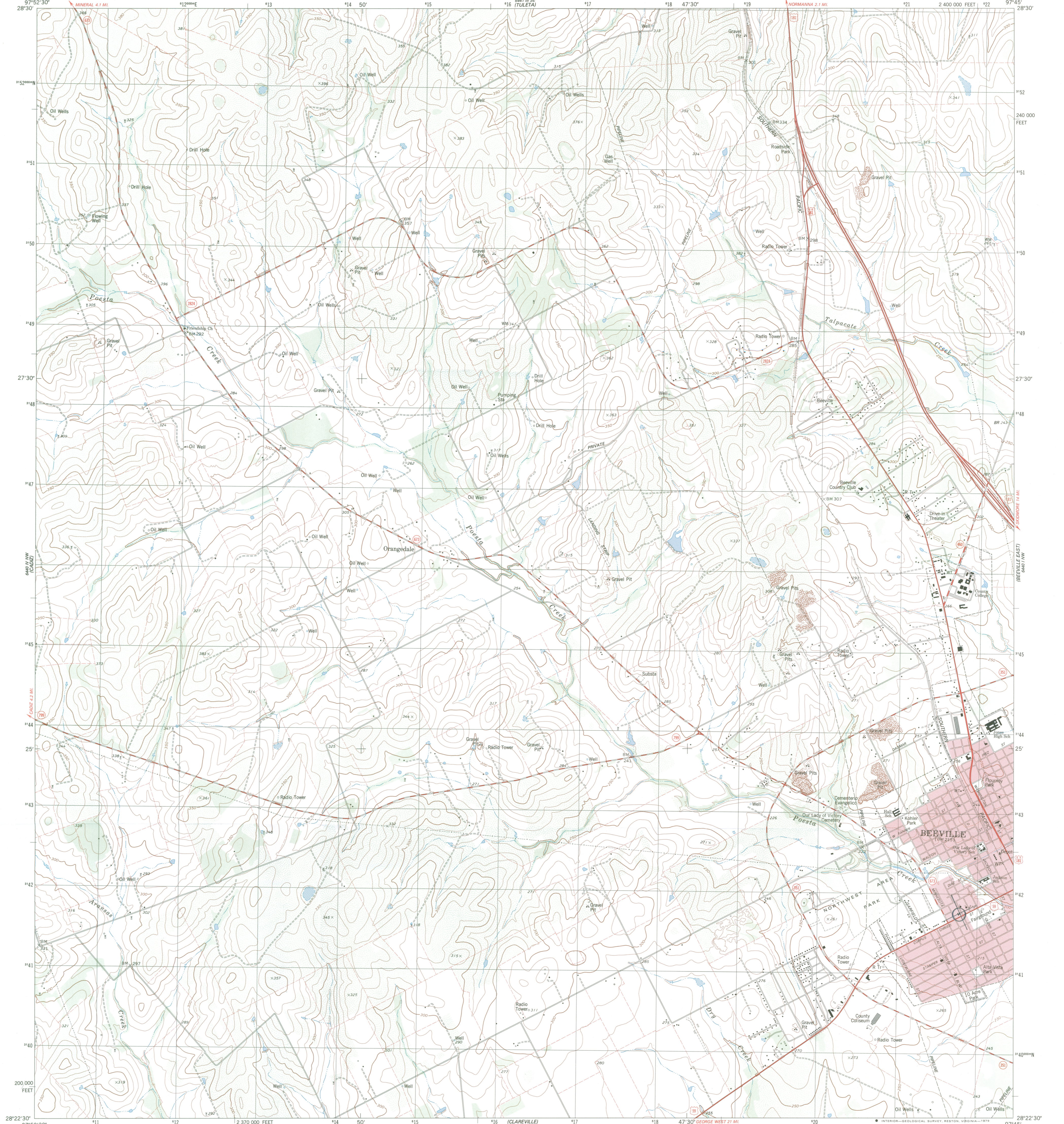
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HP Premium Plus

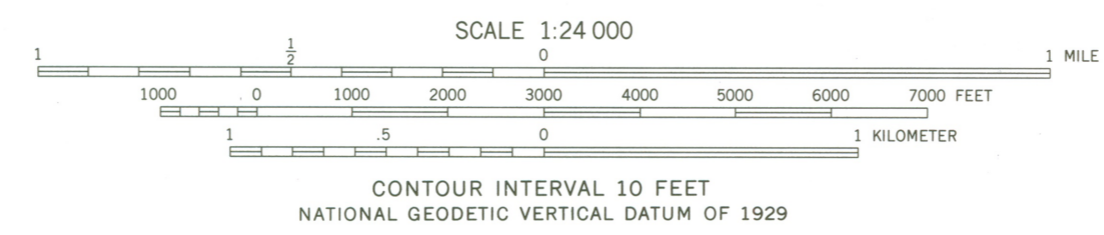
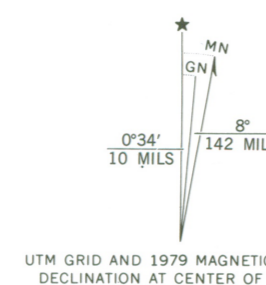
HP Premium Plus







Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1975. Map edited 1979  
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas coordinate system, south central zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 14 1927 North American datum  
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

LOTT-CANADA SCHOOL  
 900 W. CORPUS CHRISTI ST  
 BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TX  
 ZONE 14  
 621718 E 3141790 N

BEEVILLE WEST, TEX.  
 NE/4 FLEMING 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N2822.5—W9745/7.5



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*real places telling real stories*



MEMORANDUM

TO: Linda McClelland  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Rachel Leibowitz, Historian  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Lott-Canada School  
Beeville, Bee County, Texas

DATE: October 19, 2010

The following materials are submitted regarding [address]:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
	Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS maps
	Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Archival gold CD with digital image files (TIFs) and .doc file of form

COMMENTS:

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

