

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Killeen High School

Other name/site number: Avenue D Elementary School, Killeen City Hall (current)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 101 North College Street

City or town: Killeen

State: Texas

County: Bell

Not for publication: ☐

Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this

☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 3/26/15
Signature of certifying official / Title Date
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

____ entered in the National Register

____ determined eligible for the National Register

____ determined not eligible for the National Register.

____ removed from the National Register

____ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: EDUCATION / School

Current Functions: GOVERNMENT / City Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification: MODERN MOVEMENT: Modernistic; LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Collegiate Gothic

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, Cast Concrete

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-8 through 7-12)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Areas of Significance: Education, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1924-1964

Significant Dates: 1924

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

Architect/Builder: C.H. Leinbach (architect); F. A. Mote (contractor)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-13 through 8-20)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-21 through 9-22)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

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

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.9 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

Latitude: 31.120962°
Longitude: -97.733281°

Verbal Boundary Description: Original Town School Block 062 Lot 001A. The nominated property occupies a city block bound by Avenue E /761st Tank Battalion Avenue to the south, Root Avenue (FM 439) to the west, North College Street to the east, and Avenue D to the north.

Boundary Justification: Block is historically and currently associated with the building

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Hannah Vaughan
Organization: Hicks & Company
Street & number: 1504 W 5th Street
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78703
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Date: September 2014

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-23 through Map-24)
Figures (see continuation sheets Figure-25 through Figure-38)
Photographs (see pages 5 through 7 (Log) and continuation sheets Photo-39 through Photo-51)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo Log

Name of Property: Killeen High School
City or Vicinity: Killeen
County, State: Bell County, Texas
Photographer: Hannah Vaughan
Date Photographed: September 22, 2014
Number of Photo(s): 22

The following digital images were submitted to the National Park Service on CD, along with this nomination document. For reference, the images are included at the end of this document, beginning on page 39.

Photo 1 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0001)
Southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photo 2 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0002)
Southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest

Photo 3 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0003)
Northeast oblique
Camera facing southwest

Photo 4 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0004)
Northeast oblique
Camera facing southwest

Photo 5 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0005)
North elevation
Camera facing southeast

Photo 6 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0006)
West elevation, north end
Camera facing south

Photo 7 (TX_Bell County_Killeen School_0007)
West elevation
Camera facing southeast

Photo 8 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0008)
West elevation, south end
Camera facing southeast

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Photo 9 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0009)

Southeast oblique

Camera facing northwest

Photo 10 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0010)

West elevation, south end

Camera facing north

Photo 11 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0011)

South elevation

Camera facing west

Photo 12 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0012)

Front (east) portico

Camera facing west

Photo 13 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0013)

Front (east) parapet above portico

Camera facing west

Photo 14 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0014)

Corner stone, northeast corner

Camera facing southwest

Photo 15 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0015)

North portico

Camera facing south

Photo 16 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0016)

North portico signage

Camera facing south

Photo 17 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0017)

South portico signage

Camera facing north

Photo 18 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0018)

Interior, second floor corridor

Camera facing north

Photo 19 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0019)

Interior, first floor corridor

Camera facing north

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Photo 20 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0020)

City Council Chambers

Camera facing northwest

Photo 21 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0021)

South stairwell from ground to second floor

Camera facing north

Photo 22 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0022)

MEP building (noncontributing)

Southeast oblique

Camera facing northwest

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Narrative Description

The three-story, red-brick Killeen High School building was designed by C.H. Leinbach in a blend of American modernism and the Collegiate Gothic styles. Sitting atop a slight rise on a landscaped block west of downtown Killeen, the 1924 school features cast concrete bands, sills, parapet molding, and quoins. Geometric decorative motifs are executed in soldier bricks and cast concrete blocks. The rectangular-plan building is symmetrically arranged with recessed and projecting bays and vertically aligned multi-light steel windows. Front and side entrances, accessed through arched porticos, lead to a central corridor running the length of the interior on all three floors. Converted to use as Killeen's City Hall in 1993 with minimal alterations to character-defining features, Killeen High School retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a high degree.

Site

Killeen High School (currently Killeen City Hall) occupies a city block bound by Avenue E /761st Tank Battalion Avenue to the south, Root Avenue (FM 439) to the west, North College Street to the east, and Avenue D to the north, which is not a through street on this block.¹ The site is located three blocks west of the Downtown Killeen National Register Historic District (NRHP 2014), and just north of the train tracks, in an area characterized by single-story office and commercial buildings with off-street parking.

The site (Figure 6) has a gentle southward slope. A parking lot, accessed by driveways at North College Street and Root Avenue, wraps three sides of the building. A grassy lawn with a network of concrete pathways covers the North College Street (front) and Avenue E sides of the site. Plantings along pathways and near the building are a mix of mature and new crape myrtle, live oak, and Italian cypress trees and various small bushes. A central pathway, which leads from North College Street to the main entrance, forms a circular bypass around three flag poles at center of the lawn flying the Texas, American and City flags. The flag pole circle is heavily shaded by four live oak trees. A seating area surrounded by crape myrtles outside the south entrance contains two benches and a Texas State Historic Marker (Oveta Culp Hobby and the Women's Army Corps). The only other structure on the site is a non-historic (1993) red-brick MEP equipment building (noncontributing) at the northwest corner of the site.

Killeen High School

The 1924 Killeen High School building is a three-story (two stories with raised basement) red-brick building with cast concrete water table and cornice bands, beveled parapet molding, window sills, and door surrounds. The building is essentially rectangular in plan broken up with small projecting and recessed bays.

There is one entrance on each side of the building. The main entrance on the east elevation is accessed by a straight flight of stairs leading to the second floor, or piano noble. Side entrances are at ground level and are labeled BOYS ENTRANCE (north elevation) and GIRLS ENTRANCE (south elevation). The rear

¹ The street grid in this area is oriented in a north northeast/ south southwest direction, likely influenced by the train tracks. For the purpose of this nomination the closest cardinal directions are used. The main elevation, for example, faces east southeast, but is referred to here as the east elevation.

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(west) elevation, historically the utility side of the building, was modified during the 1993 rehabilitation and includes an Americans with Disabilities (ADA) ramp to a first-floor entrance and loading dock. Most windows are historic 20-light or paired 3/3-light steel windows with (historically) operable tilt-swing casement panels within a larger grid of fixed panes. Non-historic windows, located primarily on the rear elevation, are single pane with 10-light faux window grid. Windows on the front and side elevations are symmetrically placed and vertically aligned. All windows have a cast concrete sill. First and third story windows have a continuous header formed by the water table and cornice bands, respectively, while the header for the second story windows is formed by a single brick soldier course.

Front (east) elevation

The primary elevation of Killeen High School (Figure 1) is divided into four vertical bays in an A-B-C-B-A pattern with B being slightly recessed and C slightly projecting. The corner bays (A) and recessed bays (B) are equal width, while the narrower entry bay (C) is defined by a projecting two-story entry portico.

The outermost corner bays (A) have no windows and are elaborated by geometric patterns created by vertically oriented brickwork and cast concrete squares. At either end of the parapet is a decorative element which repeats throughout the building and will be referred to as a "ribbon ornament." The ribbon ornament is composed of soldier bricks forming a narrow band extending down from the parapet through the cornice band, and terminating in a point highlighted by cast concrete squares. A slight step up in the parapet above the design evokes a crenellated parapet. In addition, the corner bays feature a larger rectangular pattern with cast concrete corner blocks centered on the bay.

Moving toward the center, the recessed bay (B) is recessed approximately two and a half feet from the corner bay and has two windows on each floor. Windows are paired 3/3 light steel casement windows (historically operable, now fixed). Two concrete squares at the parapet line create visual voids evoking crenellation.

The entry bay (A), is formed by a two-story entry portico which projects six feet three inches beyond the recessed bays, or three and a half feet beyond the corner bays. The main door, located on the middle floor, is accessed by a straight flight of stairs framed by wide brick walls capped with cast concrete. Modern metal hand rails were added to the stoop during the 1993 rehabilitation for ADA requirements. Entry to the portico is through a segmental arch framed by cast concrete quoins and capped with a label molding and flared label stops. Above the arch is a cast concrete plaque reading "KILLEEN HIGH-SCHOOL." A beveled molding frames the plaque and also runs in a continuous band above and below the plaque. Ribbon ornaments extend down from the portico corners.

The entry door is a (non-historic) double wood door with a single light on the top half and two vertical, recessed panels on the bottom of each door. The door is framed by (historic) sidelights and a large transom comprised of three rows of thirteen small square lights.

The projecting portico stops at the second floor and is part of the larger frontispiece which makes up the central bay. Above the portico, the third floor of the central bay, projects approximately six inches from the recessed bays on either side. Between the portico and cornice band is a single 20-light fixed-pane steel

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window bracketed by ribbon ornaments. Above the cornice band is a plaque reading “1923”² with another set of ribbon ornaments on either side of a geometric pattern cast in concrete above.

The end (A) and recessed (B) bays north of the entry bay echo those on the other side with the exception of signage on the north corner bay. CITY HALL in metal letters is framed by the brick pattern on the north corner bay. A granite corner stone wraps the northeast corner of the building. The marker is approximately eighteen inches tall and lists the trustees on the east side. The north side of the corner stone is engraved with the Masonic square and compass and reads:

KILLEEN LODGE NO. 1125
A.F & A.M
A.L 5923 A.D. 1923
C.H. LEINBACH, ARCHT.
F.A. MOTE, CONTRACTOR

Above the corner stone on the east elevation is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Medallion: Avenue D School.

Side Elevations (north and south)

The side (north and south) elevations are identical except for a small variation in the first floor openings and are therefore described together (Figure 2). In a simplified version of the primary elevation, the side elevations are composed of three vertical bays in an A-B-A pattern with the center bay being a narrower entry bay with portico. Both side entry doors are non-historic glass double doors with 12-light transoms.

The outer bays (A) contain three 20-light steel windows on the second and third floors and concrete blocks along the parapet aligning with the outer edges of the window group.

Fenestration below the water table on the east end of both side elevations is the same as the upper stories – three 20-light windows. Fenestration below the water table on the west end of both elevations is more utilitarian and varies between the two elevations: the north elevation has a single, truncated, 10-light window in line with the innermost windows above, and two steel coal chute doors. The south elevation has two non-historic 20-light windows in line with the two outermost windows above.

The central bays (B) of the side elevations contain a one-and-a-half-story entry portico, also a simplified version of the main entry portico. The porticos, which access the first floor, project approximately two and a half feet from the plane of the building and extend from ground level through the water table band to midway on the second floor. Entry to the portico is through a segmental arch framed by cast concrete quoins and capped with a label molding and flared label stops. Above the arch is a plaque reading “BOYS ENTRANCE” (north side) or “GIRLS ENTRANCE” (south side). The beveled molding along the otherwise flat parapet of the portico steps slightly up and over the plaques. Above the portico is an elongated 30-light steel window framed by ribbon ornaments at the parapet. The window, which

² Construction began at the end of 1923 and was completed in February of 1924, thus the 1924 date of the building in this nomination.

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correlates with an interior stairwell, extends below the horizontal line created by the windows on the outer bays.

Rear (west) elevation

The rear elevation, both historically and currently, is the most utilitarian (Figure 1). It was the most heavily altered during the 1993 rehabilitation when an ADA ramp was added. Windows from this elevation were used to replace missing or irreparable windows on the other elevations, and therefore there are eight non-historic windows with faux divided-light interior grids on the west elevation.

The rear elevation consists of a single projecting bay in the center, corresponding with the recessed bays on the front, with narrower bays at either end. The ADA entrance is located in the southwest corner of the building. The ramp runs parallel to the building beginning at the north end of the elevation. Due to the slope of the site, the first floor entrance is below ground level. A non-historic low brick wall along the ramp doubles as a retaining wall creating a below-grade courtyard near the entry door.

The rear entry is two non-historic glass double doors covered by a green awning. Aside from the water table and cornice bands, which extend around the entire building, there are no other openings or decorative features on the south bay of the rear elevation.

The center bay consists of six 20-light steel windows on the third floor. The first and second floors contain four non-historic 20-light windows each, which are vertically aligned with those at the west end of the third floor.

The interior corner on the north end of the rear elevation is a loading dock with a short ramp leading down to a solid metal double door on the north-facing wall and a solid metal single door on the west-facing wall. There is a smokestack at the interior corner of the projecting bay and no other openings.

Interior

The interior of Killeen High School is organized around a double-loaded corridor that runs the length of the building between stairwells and side entrances on either end. A shorter entry hall connecting the front entrance and stairway intersects the main hallway in the center of the building (Figures 3-5).

When the school building was rehabilitated in 1993 the interior was reconfigured to meet the needs of its new use as Killeen City Hall. The general interior organization including location of corridors and stairwells was retained, while classrooms were reconfigured to accommodate office spaces. The cafeteria was converted into City Council chambers retaining the open space and stage-audience relationship although all finishes are new. The pressed tin ceilings were retained and repaired on the first and second floors as were many of the five-panel wood doors. Flooring is a mix of non-historic hexagon-and-square tile (first-floor corridor) restored historic hardwood (second-floor corridor), carpet, and linoleum (third floor and offices).

MEP Equipment Building (Noncontributing)

The only other structure on the site is the Mechanical Electrical Plumbing (MEP) Equipment building which was added during the 1993 rehabilitation. The 21-by-60-foot one-story building sits at the

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northwest corner of the site, across the parking lot from the school building. Cladding is red brick, with soldier courses at the base, around doorways and below the parapet roof. A beveled cast concrete molding, matching that of the school building, runs along the top of the parapet. The only openings are a double solid steel door on the south (short) elevation, and a roll-up garage door, single solid steel door, and vent on the east (long) elevation.

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Statement of Significance

Killeen High School was the City's only school building, serving all grades, from the time it was completed in 1924 until World War II (WWII) when the establishment of Camp Hood necessitated the rapid expansion of Killeen's education facilities. Used as an elementary school from 1949 until 1981, the building was rehabilitated in 1993 and is now home to Killeen's City Hall. Situated three blocks west of the Killeen Downtown Historic District (NRHP 2014), the three-story, red-brick building, designed by C.H. Leinbach, is a modern take on the Collegiate Gothic style. Killeen High School is the oldest extant public school building in Killeen and as such is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Education. The building is also a good local example of the transition from historicist forms to modernism in architecture and is one of the few buildings outside the Downtown Historic District which pre-date WWII. Therefore, the Killeen High School is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance.

Early Development in Killeen

The City of Killeen is located in western Bell County, approximately 70 miles north of Austin in Central Texas. Bell County was carved out of Milam County in 1850 and the City of Belton (then known as Nolan Springs) was selected as the county seat. The town of Killeen was established in 1882 when the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway Company platted a 360-acre town site in advance of extending the rail line from Temple to Lampassas through the area. The 70-block town was named for the railroad company's assistant general manager, Frank P. Killeen (Leffler).

When the first train arrived on May 15, 1882, the town was home to approximately 40 residents—many of whom had relocated from nearby communities including Palo Alto and Sugar Loaf in anticipation of the economic opportunities generated by rail access (Skidmore). In its early days, the economy of Killeen was dominated by modest farming and ranching enterprises operating in the surrounding area. The rail linked area farmers to markets for their cotton, wool, and grain in Belton-- and ultimately to shipping opportunities in Galveston. Killeen officially incorporated in 1893 by which point it had established itself as a regional marketing and shipping center with six general stores, three cotton gins, three blacksmiths, and two hardware stores (Leffler).

By 1910 the town's population had reached 1,200 where it remained for the next 30 years. Killeen undertook important public improvement projects during the first two decades of the 20th century including a power plant, which supplied the town with electricity, a public water system, and bridge construction to improve transportation routes. During the Great Depression, Killeen received New Deal funding for the paving of nine city blocks and an extension of US Highway 190 (now Business 190/ Veterans Memorial Boulevard) (Leffler). These infrastructure improvements enhanced automobile access to Killeen and set the stage for the rapid change which was around the corner.

Camp Hood: Transitions and Rapid Growth

The course of this small Central Texas railroad town was profoundly and permanently shifted when the US entered WWII following the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941. War readiness necessitated the expansion of domestic military bases, and in January of 1942 the US Army announced

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the establishment of a new tank destroyer base on the border of Bell and Coryell Counties, just outside of Killeen. Once the location was determined, the federal government began procuring land from farmers and ranchers in the region. To accommodate the new base, about 300 families were forced to sell their land at a price set by the government (Skidmore). In all, the federal government acquired 109,000 acres of land surrounding Killeen, effectively wiping out its agricultural trade area (Skidmore).

Camp Hood, named after Confederate General John Bell Hood, opened on September 18, 1942, and Killeen was inundated with military personnel and civilian employees. Although originally planned as a tank destroyer tactical and firing center, the Camp's mission soon expanded to include replacement and basic training (Briuer). At its WWII peak, Camp Hood's population would reach 130,000 people – all housed in and around a town with a pre-war population of 1,400 (Skidmore). Through the duration of the war, the City of Killeen struggled to accommodate the overwhelming population surge brought by Camp Hood.

As WWII drew to a close in 1945, the fate of the base which had thoroughly transformed the culture, economy and citizen-base of Killeen, was uncertain. The North Cantonment of Camp Hood closed and the population in Killeen sharply dropped (Briuer). By the end of 1947, the town population had shrunk to 4,175 residents and the base population to 3,394 (Skidmore).

In January of 1949, the federal government announced the expansion of the 2nd Armored Division at the base (Elkins). Once it appeared that the Camp was to be a permanent installation, the City of Killeen took steps to restructure itself as a modern city. Between 1949 and 1951 the City officially incorporated, adopted a home-rule charter, implemented zoning and building ordinances, hired a city manager, and established a chamber of commerce (Elkins, KCC).

On April 13, 1950, the US Army announced that Camp Hood would be a permanent military post and renamed it Fort Hood. With the Korean Conflict brewing, the population of Fort Hood quickly rebounded as training activities ramped up. This led to another period of rapid growth in Killeen, during which the population jumped to 7,045 by the end of 1950 and to more than 21,000 just five years later (Leffler).

In addition to expanding the size of the population, Fort Hood brought dramatic demographic changes to the previously all-white community. One long-time Killeen resident, Mrs. Winifred Bell, recalled seeing a sign just outside of town prior to WWII which warned, "N____, don't let the sun go down on you in Killeen" (Bell). In 1943, the 761st Tank Battalion³, an African American unit, was stationed at Fort Hood, the first of many African American and other non-white soldiers who would be stationed there. In addition to soldiers assigned to Fort Hood and their families, diversity in Killeen was a natural byproduct of a growing city with increased economic opportunities.

Although African American soldiers could be housed on base, others who came to town –such as family members or those seeking employment– found it nearly impossible to secure a place to live. Typically, segregated southern cities at that time had established sections of town for African Americans. However,

³ Also known as the "Black Panthers," the battalion went on to receive many combat awards. Avenue, E which runs south of the building, has been co-designated "761st Tank Battalion Ave" in their honor.

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as African Americans arrived in all-white Killeen, there was simply no place they were allowed to live. When Melba Olean Davis arrived in Killeen to work as a maid in 1948, the only housing available was a group of one-room shacks with no running water or sanitary facilities, known as “The Gin” and would be condemned the following year in 1949. Noting the housing shortage, white Baptist minister, William “Bill” Simmons, bought several surplus army barracks from Fort Hood and set them up on his land east of town (near present-day 38th and Business 190). With these, he offered families that had been displaced from The Gin a place to live, and other African Americans seeking housing soon followed (Fedak). The community, known as Simmonsville, was eventually annexed to the City of Killeen in 1959. In 1953 a new neighborhood designated for African Americans and named Marlboro Heights was developed south of Simmonsville within the City limits.

Since its establishment, Fort Hood has been a constant, if somewhat cyclical, source of growth and change in Killeen. During the Korean War, as GIs married while stationed overseas and returned with their wives, Killeen also became home to a sizeable Korean community. Fort Hood continued to expand through the Korean Conflict, Vietnam War and Cold War, and, accordingly the population grew by approximately 10,000 per decade from the 1950s through the 1980s. Since the 1990s, growth has been even stronger, and the current population is almost 130,000 (US Census).

Education in Killeen

Prior to the platting of Killeen and arrival of the railroad, the educational needs of area children would have been served by small rural schools, ranch schools or private institutions. Killeen’s first school was established in 1882, the year the railroad arrived. The school was housed in a two-story building at the corner of 4th Street and Avenue B; the ground floor was a class room, and the second floor was meeting space for the Masonic Lodge. This first facility consisted of a single room, approximately 20x40 feet with benches and no desks (Smith). The first school teacher, W.E. Hudson, went on to become Killeen’s first mayor when the town was incorporated a decade later (Skidmore). The school charged a small tuition and had an enrollment of 20 students (Smith).

Two years later, in 1884, the first free public school became available in Killeen. The South Nolan Masonic Lodge sponsored construction of a two-story, wood-frame school house and again used the second floor for meetings. This second schoolhouse was constructed on Avenue D, a block or two east of present-day College Street, and was destroyed by a tornado three years later in June of 1887 (Skidmore). The Masons sponsored construction of yet another wood-frame building in the same location (Figure 7).

By the turn of the century, around 460 students were enrolled in the Killeen school system (Duncan), prompting the construction of a new building a few blocks west at the intersection of Avenue D and College Street (named for a planned, but never built, college). The site sat atop a small hill which came to be known as School House Hill.

Completed in 1903 and enlarged in 1909, Killeen’s third school building was the first brick structure in town and a source of pride for the community (Lucksinger and Skidmore) (Figure 8). The three-story, red-brick, Richardson Romanesque structure featured contrasting light-brick and limestone trim, multiple archways, and an octagonal bell tower with a domed cupola. The construction of the elegant and monumental school building speaks to the importance of education in this still relatively new town.

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In March of 1923, fire destroyed the school (Figure 9). The account of one student stated that the fire started in an exhaust flue from one of the school's wood stoves (Skidmore); however, other records indicate that the cause of the fire is unknown. Although no serious injuries occurred (Duncan), the loss of this unique building was felt by the entire town.

Killeen High School

Immediately after the fire, the City began plans to construct a replacement school. In the meantime students attended classes in makeshift classrooms set up in local church buildings (Duncan). By the end of the year, Killeen contracted Dallas-based architect C.H. Leinbach to design a new building—which was completed in February of 1924 at a cost of \$100,000 (KISD) (Figures 10-13). The Masonic Lodge presumably continued their support of the school system, as the corner stone is engraved with their logo. The new school was constructed on the south side of Avenue D, across from the remains of the burned 1903 school.

The new school was a three-story, red-brick, square-plan building which, although inspired by the more traditional Collegiate Gothic style, followed a modern trend away from overt historicism and applied ornament, a major departure from the previous building. Historian Gra'Delle Duncan, writing about the two schools in 1984, describes the 1903 school as “by far the most interesting building in the county,” while the building that replaced it had “all the charm and grace of a child's building block” (Duncan).

The new building, however, was connected to the City's new water system and had the advantage of indoor toilets. The school had separate side entrances labeled for boys and girls. Although the sign over the main entrance reads ‘Killeen High School,’ the building served all grades. Grades one through four were located on the ground floor, grades five through seven and the superintendent's office on the middle floor, and grades eight through 11 on the top floor (Killeen-Project 1930s Inc.).

As the first school year in the new building was winding down, the building caught fire just as its predecessor had. Much to the town's relief, however, the fire was extinguished in time and classes continued through the end of the year. Leinbach supervised repairs during the summer and the building was restored to functionality by the time classes began in the fall of 1925 (KISD).

In the 1920s, Killeen was still a small agricultural community with cotton as its most economically important crop. Because cotton was the lifeline for many families in Killeen, the school's schedule was sometimes adjusted during growing cycles to ensure that students were available to help with crop picking. The agricultural influence is also evidenced in various clubs and programs offered at the school, such as the Vocational Agriculture Program and Future Farmers of Texas Club, both of which were initiated at the school in 1929 (Killeen-Project 1930s Inc.). Sometimes, the school's sports arena was even used as supplemental pasture for livestock in the off-season, as well as a venue for rodeos. Accounts of former students describe having to clear livestock off football field in order to play (Killeen-Project 1930s Inc.).

Much of the high school student body (grades nine through 11) would have come from surrounding rural communities. While children from area farms could attend a nearby country school for the primary grades, the closest high school would have been in town. For some this meant a walk of several miles; for

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others, such as Emma Normand, Killeen High School's 1913 valedictorian, it meant moving into town and renting a room in a private home in order to attend high school (Lucksinger, personal communication). The fact that it served as a regional high school may explain why it was called "Killeen High School," despite the presence of lower grades in the same building.

Camp Hood and the Expansion of the School System

Among the challenges Killeen faced with the population explosion brought by Camp Hood and later Fort Hood, was keeping pace with public services, not the least of which was schools. As Camp Hood reached its WWII peak population within three years of its opening, the existing single school building was quickly overwhelmed.

To deal with overcrowding, a school operated by the Killeen school system was opened at Camp Hood to serve first through eighth graders who lived on the base. Between 1946 and 1953, enrollment at the Camp Hood school jumped from 250 to 1,053 (Skidmore). In 1947, the Camp Hood School became its own independent school district (Skidmore).

Despite the facility at Camp Hood, enrollment in Killeen's only school increased nearly threefold in 1942 alone, from 500 to 1300 (Skidmore), prompting major changes in a short period of time. To cope with overcrowding until a new building could be completed, two half-day sessions were held for the elementary pupils. In 1944 a second school, used for sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes, was opened at 10th and Rancier Avenue (KISD).

Once Camp Hood became a permanent installation in 1950, new school construction proceeded at a frenetic pace. That year, the school on Rancier was expanded to become Killeen's first separate high school (Skidmore). The primary grades remained at the 1924 building and the name was changed to Avenue D Elementary. Over the next few years, several more elementary schools were added to serve new neighborhoods, including East Ward Elementary (1952), West Ward Elementary (1953), and Marlboro Elementary, for African Americans, in 1954. A larger high school was built on Williamson Street in 1955 (now Texas A&M Central Texas-North Campus) and the school at Rancier Avenue was converted to a junior high once again (Skidmore).

In 1953 the Killeen and Fort Hood school districts re-consolidated (Skidmore). The following year, in 1954, the Supreme Court found school segregation unconstitutional in the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling. Just as African American residents struggled to find housing in Killeen, the school system failed to meet the needs of African American students who did not live on base. The closest African American school was Harris High School, 18 miles away in Belton. In 1954 Marlboro Elementary was opened in the newly developed African American neighborhood of Marlboro Heights. Secondary students, however, continued to be bussed to Belton until Killeen integrated its high school in 1956 (Skidmore).

While many southern communities either delayed or actively resisted the order to integrate, Killeen took action relatively quickly, becoming the first school district in Central Texas to integrate (Skidmore). The politics of integration and segregation in Killeen were likely closely tied to the military presence in the community. The US military had been integrated by executive order in 1948. One year before, in 1947,

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the Killeen and Camp Hood districts split. Although no direct evidence relating the two events, it is possible that the split occurred to allow the military school to be integrated and the Killeen school to remain segregated.

The decision to reconsolidate the two school districts came the year before *Brown vs. Board of Education*. By the time the order to integrate public schools was handed down, soldiers and their families would have already been living in an integrated community on base. Resistance to integration of the local schools, which had just reconsolidated with the military schools, may have been an untenable position for Killeen's school district.

In the first year of integration, fourteen African American students chose to attend Killeen High School (located at the newly-completed Williamson Street building), while others chose to remain at the Harris High School in Belton. Reports indicate that integration of the schools proceeded without serious incident, although it was not necessarily easy (Skidmore). As representatives of the first integrated school in the region, sports teams often received hostile receptions as they travelled to surrounding towns for games (Duncan). One African American student, who attended Killeen High School during the first year of integration, was Joe Searles III, a star football player. The football team often had to have a police escort to away games and had difficulty finding restaurants that would serve the whole team (Duncan).

As Fort Hood and Killeen continued to grow, the Killeen Independent School District added 14 new school buildings between 1953 and 1973 (Skidmore), although overcrowding continued to be a major problem into the 1970s. Today the Killeen Independent School District consists of 32 elementary, 11 middle and four high schools, as well as two alternative schools, a career center, and various specialized campuses.

In 1981, Avenue D Elementary School was closed. According to the Director of the Community Education Advisory Council at the time, the building had "outlived its usefulness as a functional elementary school" (Hayes). After serving various uses and standing vacant for a period, the building was rehabilitated in 1993 to serve as the Killeen City Hall.

Architectural Significance

Architect C. H. Leinbach, was born in Kansas in 1881. The son of a farmer, he learned architecture through self-study and working in the building trade. He married in 1907 and the following year moved to Mineral Wells, Texas, where he opened an architectural practice. Seeking a city with greater opportunity, Leinbach relocated to Dallas in 1915 where he remained for the rest of his career. Leinbach came to be known as a school specialist, designing over 100 educational buildings in Texas in his lifetime, mostly high schools in towns and small cities in Texas. In addition to schools, Leinbach designed other public buildings, including the Wood County Courthouse in Quitman and the First Baptist Church of Mineral Wells (Davis).

For Killeen High School, Leinbach chose a modernist interpretation of the Collegiate Gothic Style. The Collegiate Gothic traces its origins to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to a time when American universities saw a dramatic increase in enrollment, as well as in donations from wealthy industrialists –resulting in the expansion of campuses across the country. American universities favored

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the style for its implied connection to the oldest and most venerated Anglo educational institutions, Oxford and Cambridge. The Gothic Revival style endowed these relatively new American institutions with a sense of history and legitimacy. Buildings at Bryn Mawr, Princeton, and Yale are some notable early examples of the Gothic Revival on college campuses, but other universities soon followed. As the style became associated with American institutions of higher education, the Collegiate Gothic style naturally filtered down to secondary and primary schools.

However, by the time Leinbach designed Killeen High School in 1924, the era of the Gothic Revival was waning. While late nineteenth century was architecturally dominated by revivals of historic styles—from Classical to Gothic—toward the end of the century progressive architects, led by Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright, began to argue for a new form of architecture free from historic references. These ideas slowly disseminated throughout the country, eventually shifting popular tastes to a “modern” aesthetic without extraneous applied ornament or historic associations. Yet, progressive ideas of architecture had yet to take hold in smaller towns like Killeen. As a result, Leinbach chose to incorporate the more traditional and familiar Collegiate Gothic Revival style, but expressed it with modern forms, resulting in a stripped-down interpretation of the style that is representative of the transition period between historicist revivals and modernism.

In Texas, the lineage of architects such as Wright and Sullivan can be traced to two architects who arrived in Dallas around the same time as Leinbach. Architects George Willis and Charles Erwin Barglebaugh both trained under Frank Lloyd Wright at his Oak Park Studio before coming to Texas. Willis practiced on his own and with other architects in Dallas from 1907 to 1910 before moving to San Antonio. Barglebaugh moved to Dallas in 1907, working for Lang and Witchel until 1916 when he formed a partnership with Lloyd Whitson (Henry). The use of non-representational geometric patterns, can be seen in the work of these architects in and around Dallas during the 1910s and 1920s, such as the 1913 Sears Roebuck Wholesale Store by Lang and Witchell. The nine-story, red-brick warehouse features continuous contrasting headers and footers and long geometric designs extending down from the cornice line at the corners (Figure 14).

The rich ornamental schemes which usually characterize the Gothic Revival and Collegiate Gothic are not present in the architecture of Killeen High School, although the style is referenced in the masonry detailing, arches and crenellation. Crenellation is implied by the cast stone molding along the parapet which dips down to frame cast stone blocks, creating periodic void against the red brick parapet, as well as smaller steps along the portico parapets. The segmental arches at the entrances are a variation on the pointed arches most strongly associated with the Gothic style. The label mold and label stop (the stepped molding above the entry arches) and the faux masonry quoins framing the openings recall the more monumental Collegiate Gothic buildings executed in stone.

The influence of non-historically inspired designs, specifically the non-representational geometric patterns, can be seen in the designs worked into the brick field. Contrasting soldier bricks and cast concrete squares create long, narrow bands which extend down from the parapet (ribbon ornaments) and a rectangular pattern on the windowless corner bays.

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The form and layout of Killeen High School is one that Leinbach used for many of his school designs: a three-story rectangular building with a central double-loaded corridor connecting two side entrances, bisected by a central hall accessing a main entrance set in a recessed central bay. This same form is found in schools by Leinbach in Mineral Wells (1914, Figure 15), Merkel (1916, Figure 16), and Bartlett (1917, Figure 17).

Interior renovations were undertaken at Killen High School in 1956. At that time, the auditorium balcony was enclosed and converted to office space. The auditorium became a cafetorium; classroom space became a kitchen, and restrooms were remodeled and tiled (KISD). After the school closed in 1981, the city explored various options for reuse of the building (Hayes).

In 1993 the building was rehabilitated by Killis Almond & Associates, a San Antonio-based architecture firm specializing in historic rehabilitations. Major modifications to the exterior were limited to the addition of an ADA ramp on the rear. Inside, the general layout and circulation pattern –the double loaded central corridor, ground-level side entrances, and second-floor main entrance – were retained and the cafetorium was converted into City Council chambers. Historic finishes were retained and repaired where possible including the second floor wood floor, pressed tin ceilings and five-panel wood doors.

Killeen High School is the oldest extant school building in Killeen and the only school that pre-dates the arrival of Camp Hood. Few structures in Killeen represent the period before exponential growth associated with Fort Hood dramatically changed the character of the town. The varied uses of the school – from the only school serving all grades, to one of many elementary schools within a large school district, to City Hall– document the challenges the school district faced in keeping pace with population growth. As the oldest school building in Killeen, Killeen High School is nominated to the National Register at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Education. The school is also a good local example of the transition to modern architecture as interpreted within the traditional framework of the Collegiate Gothic. Therefore the building is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance.

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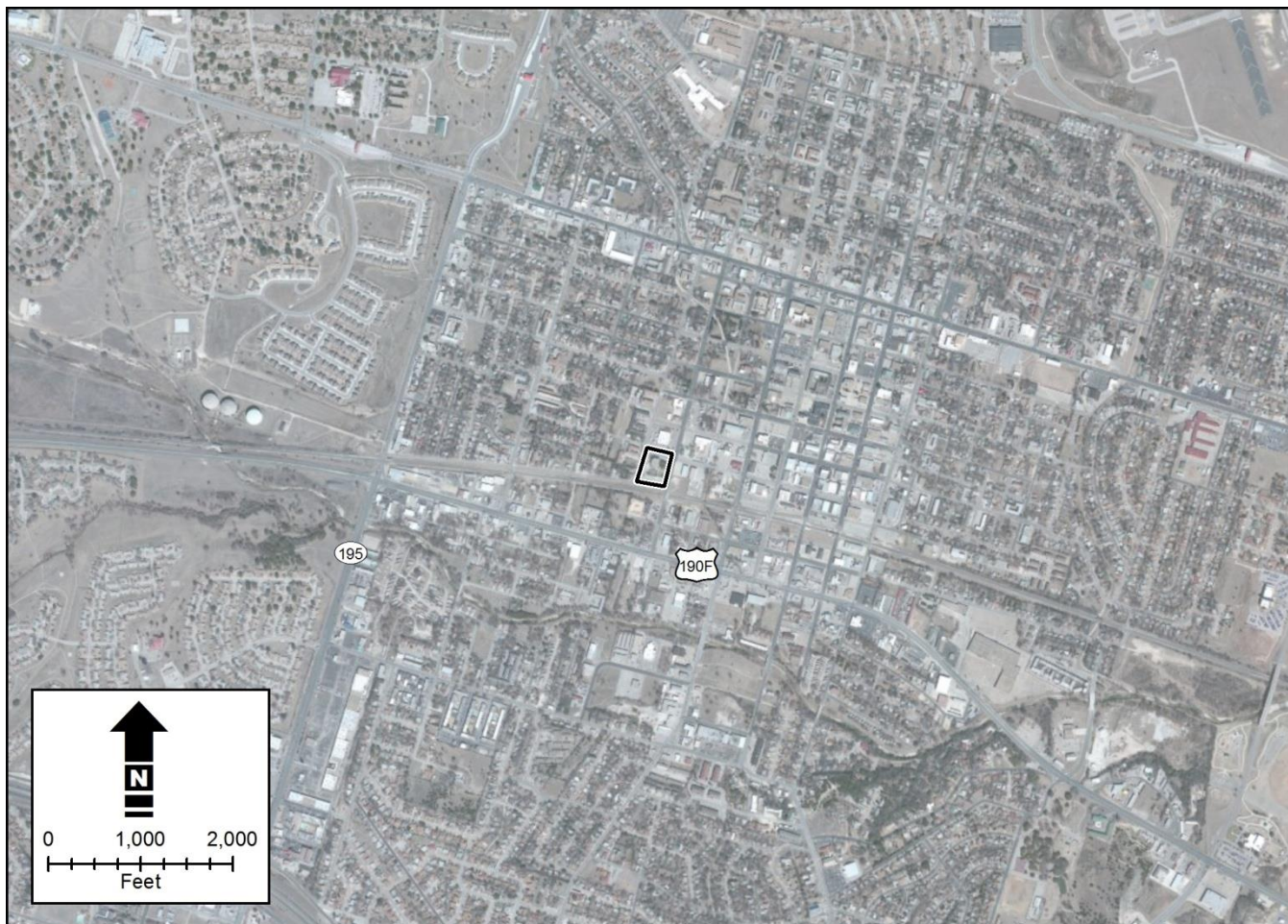
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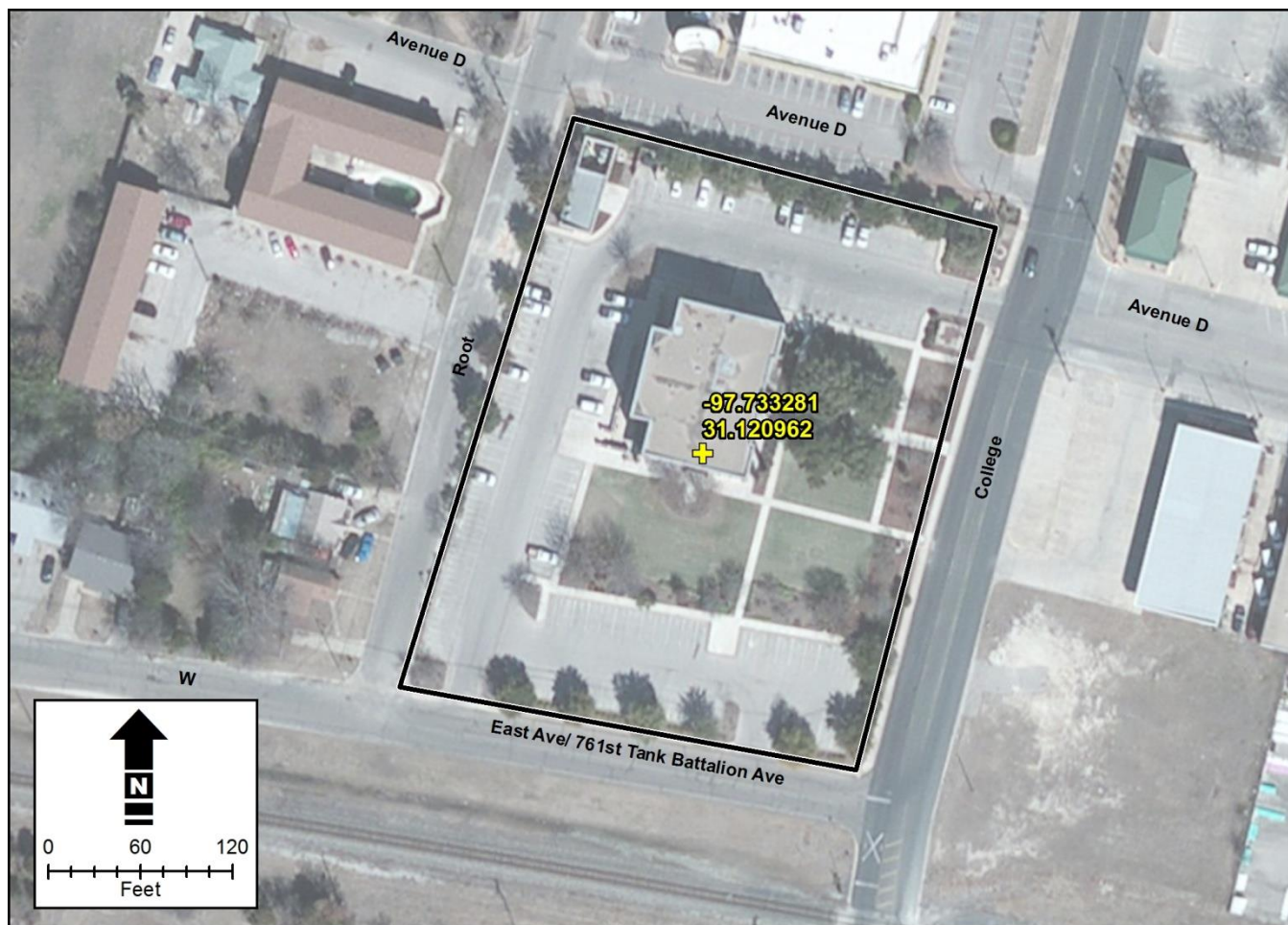
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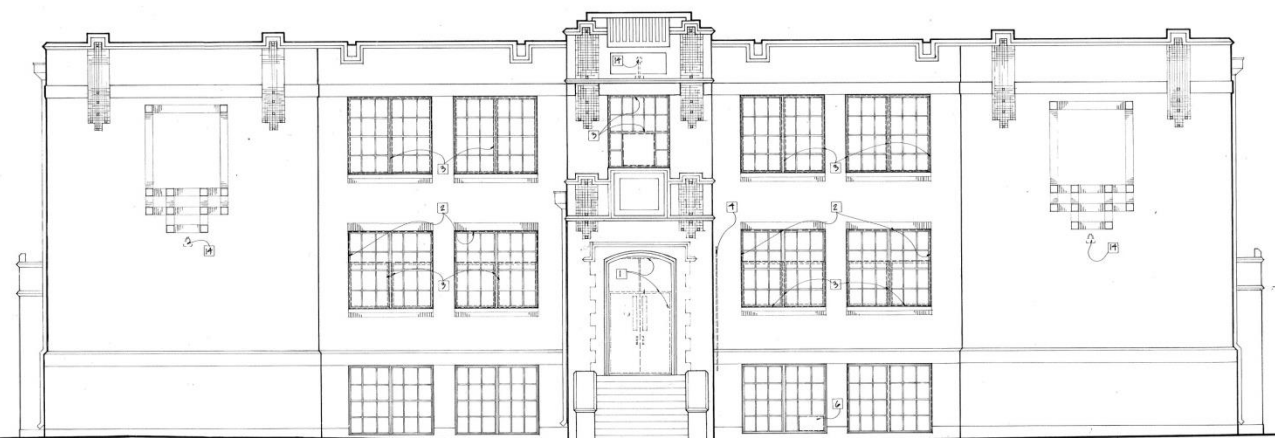
Map 1 Killeen High School parcel location within Killeen

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

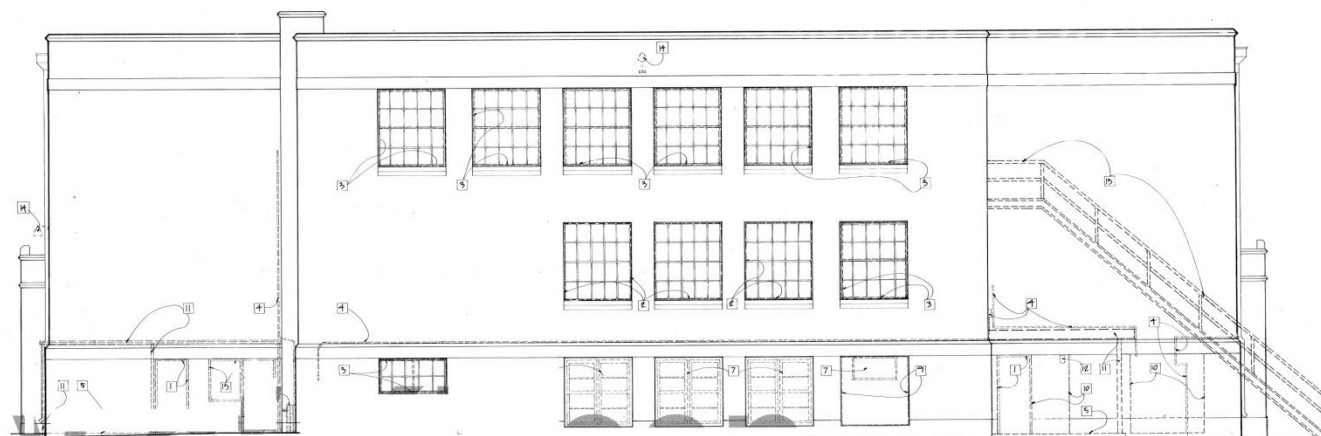


Map 2 Killeen High School parcel with decimal degrees

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



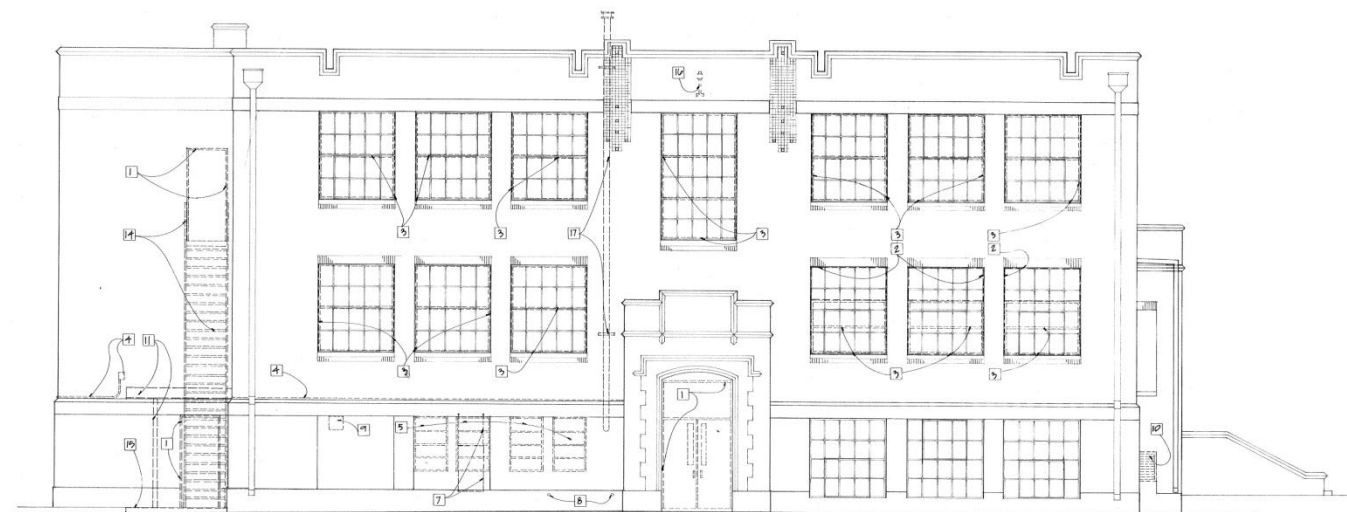
801
EAST ELEVATION



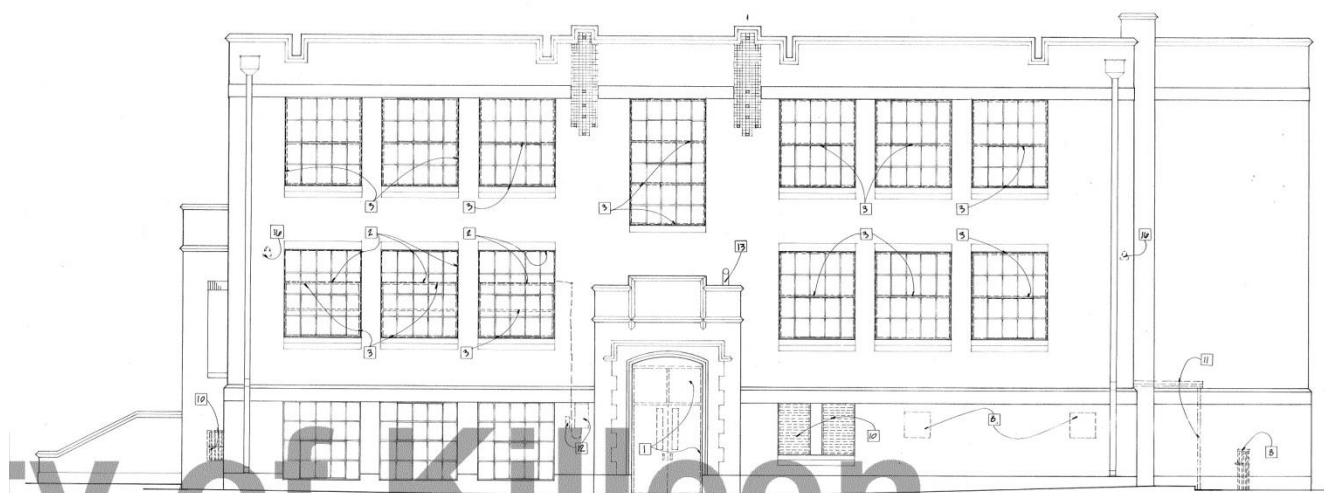
WEST ELEVATION

Figure 1 east (front) and west (back) elevations (Killis Almond & Assoc. 1993)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



901
SOUTH ELEVATION



902
NORTH ELEVATION

Figure 2 north and south (Side) elevations (Killis Almond & Assoc. 1993)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

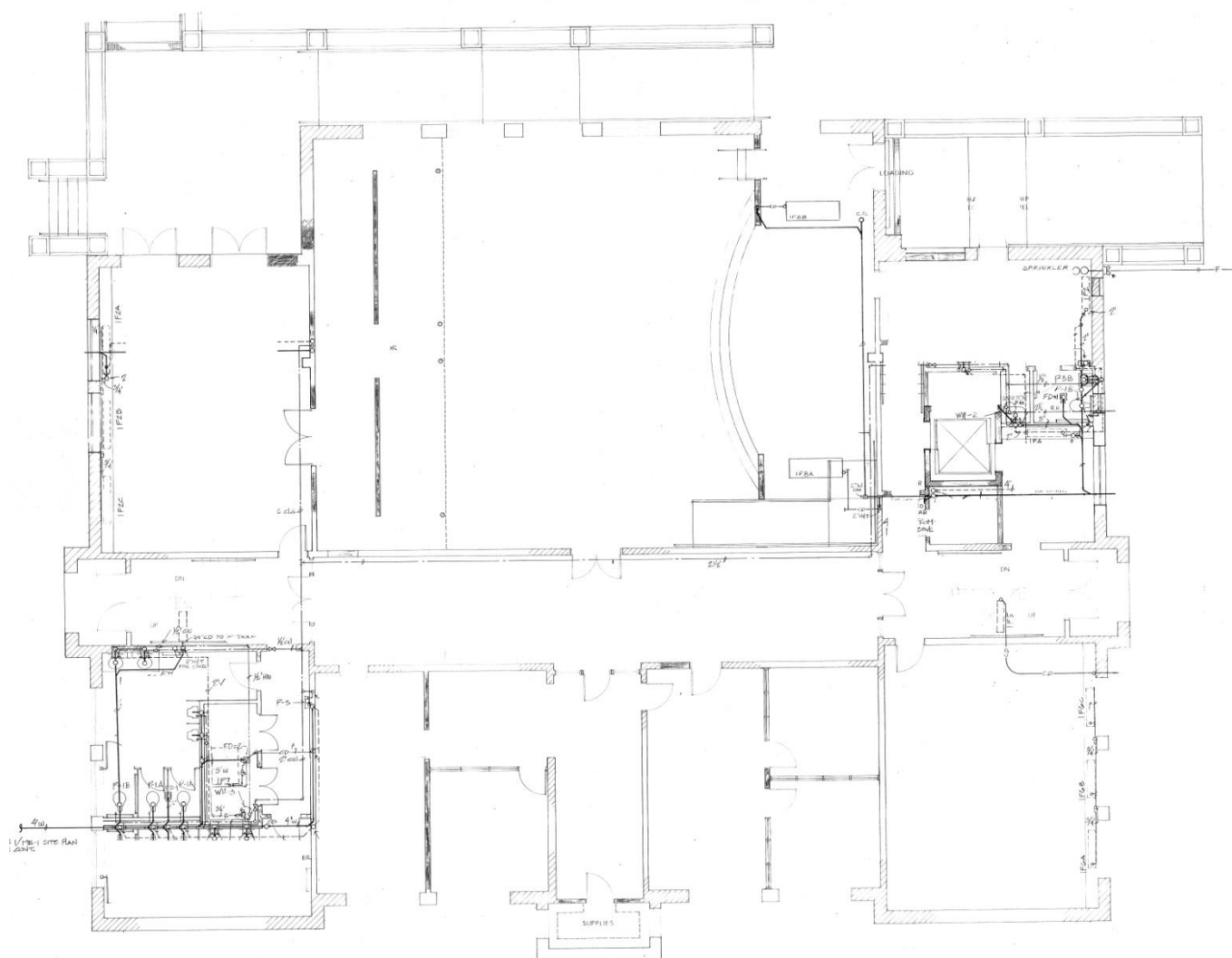


Figure 3 first floor plan, existing (Killis Almond & Assoc. 1993)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

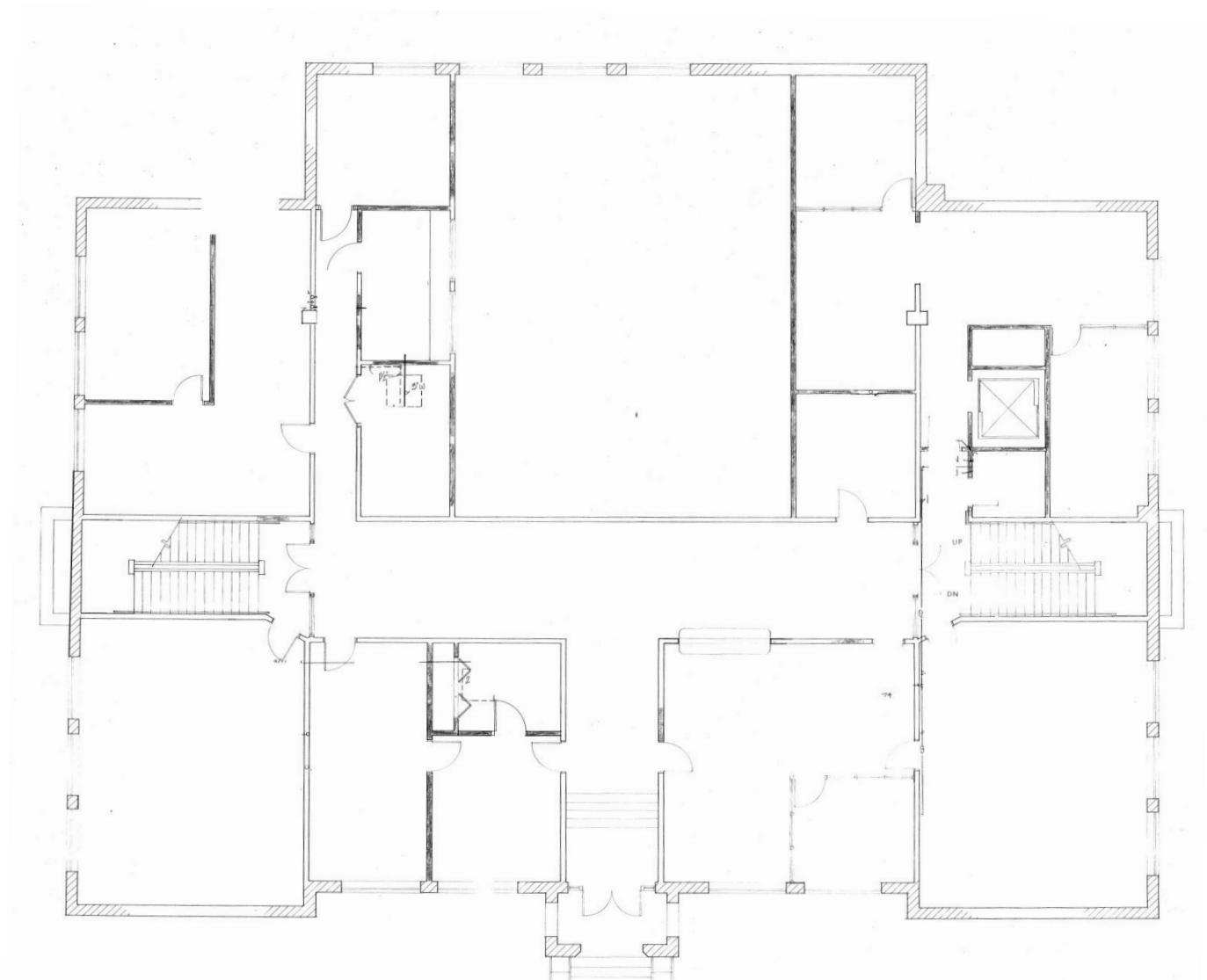


Figure 4 second floor plan, existing (Killis Almond & Assoc. 1993)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



Figure 5 third floor plan, existing (Killis Almond & Assoc. 1993)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

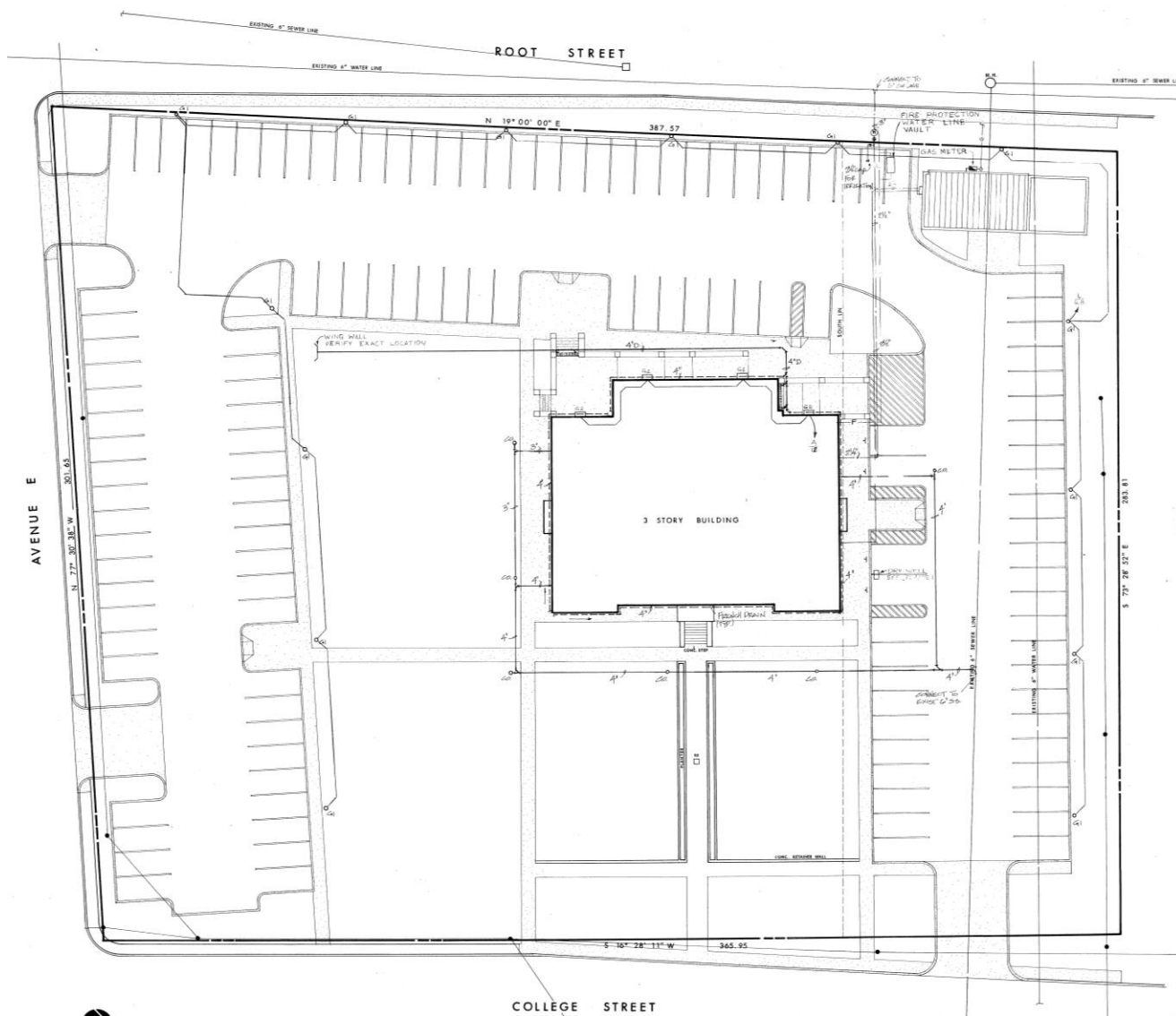


Figure 6 site plan, existing (Killis Almond & Assoc. 1993)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



Figure 7 Killeen's third school building, 1905 (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph12982/>)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



Figure 8 Killeen's 1903 school building, c1921 (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph12933>)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

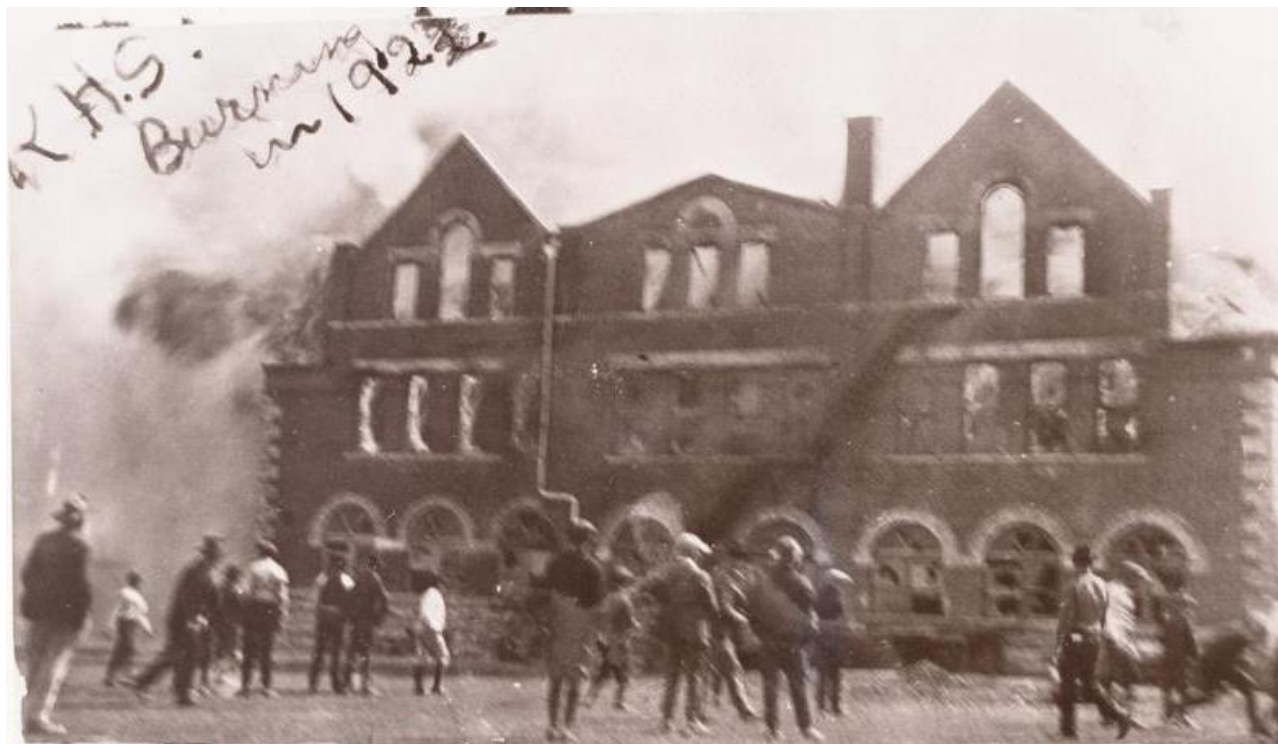


Figure 9 1903 school during 1923 fire (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth12935/>)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



Figure10 Killeen High School c1924 (Duncan, p78)

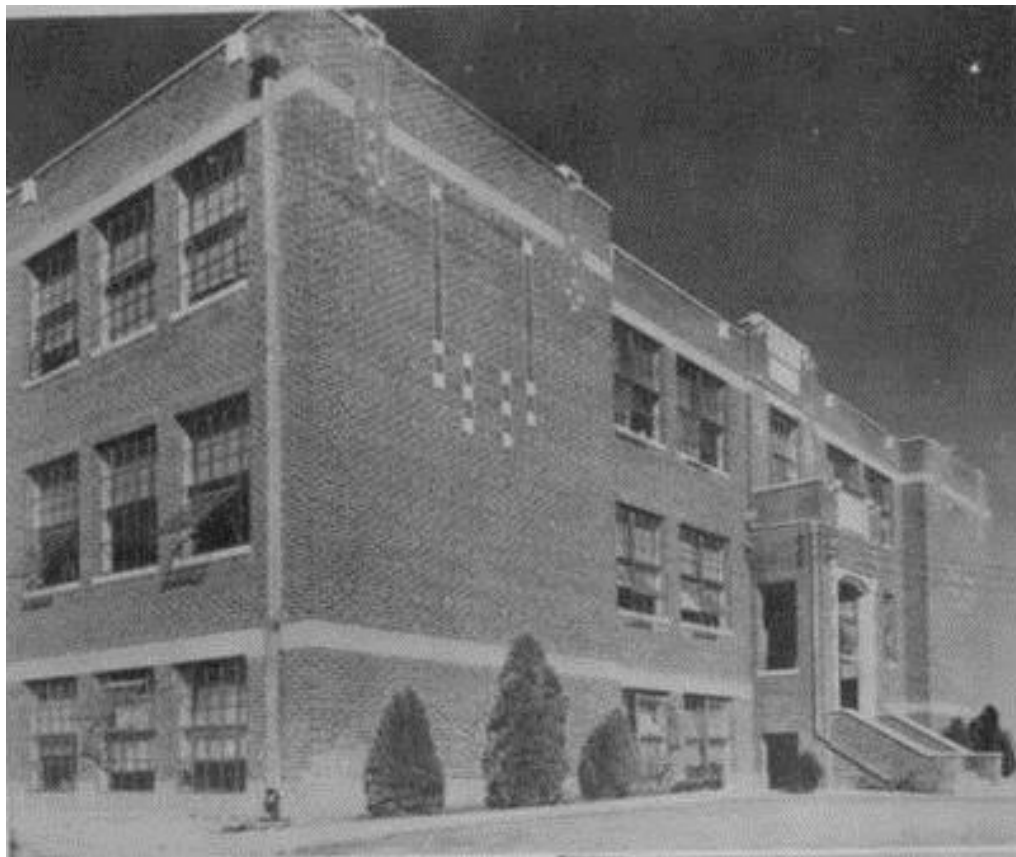


Figure 11 Killeen High School, no date (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph12863/>)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



Figure 12 Killeen High School c1948 (The Kangaroo 1948)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

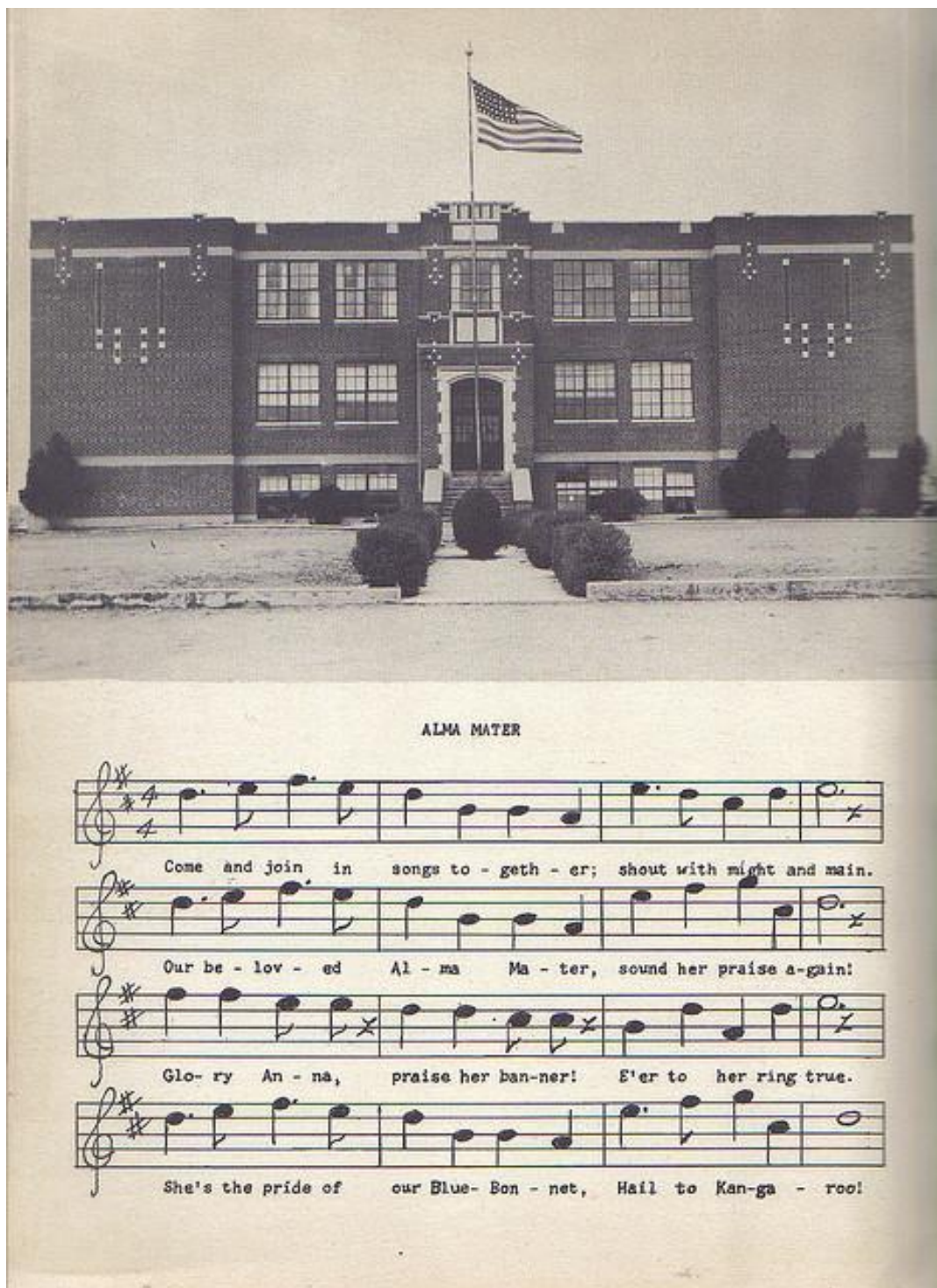


Figure 13 Killeen High School building c1947 and school song (The Kangaroo 1947)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas



Figure 14 1913 Sears Roebuck building, Dallas, by Lang and Witchell, (Henry, p53)



Figure 15 Mineral Wells High School (1914), by Leinbach (Google Streetview)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

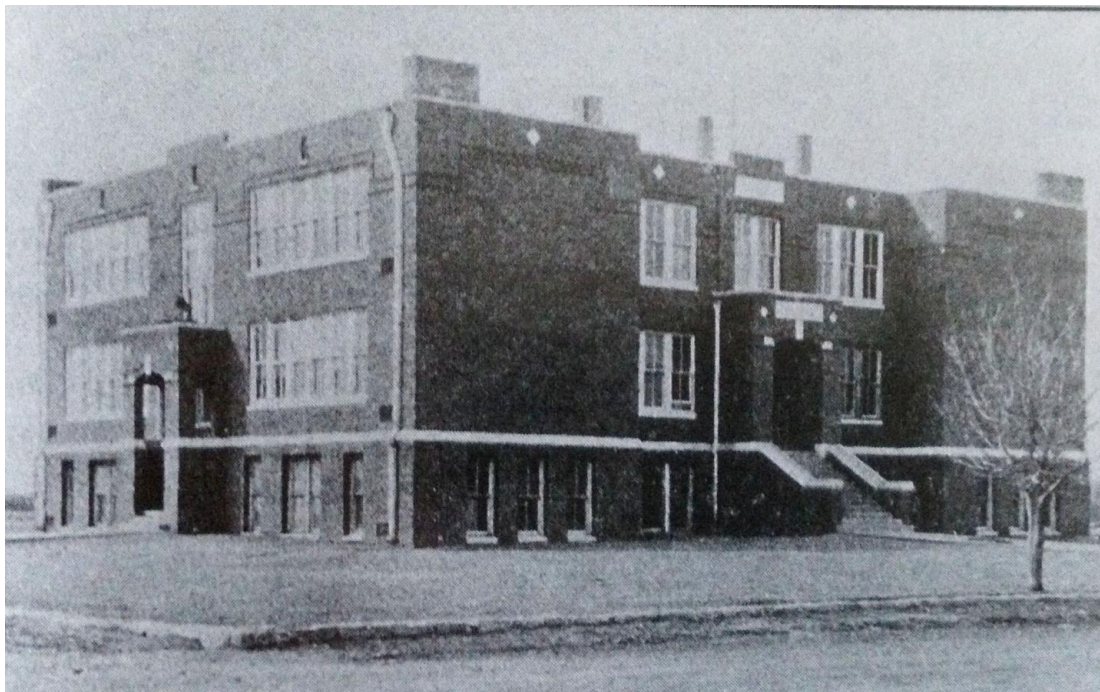


Figure 16 Merkel School (1915), by Leinbach
(provided by Taylor County Historical Commission)

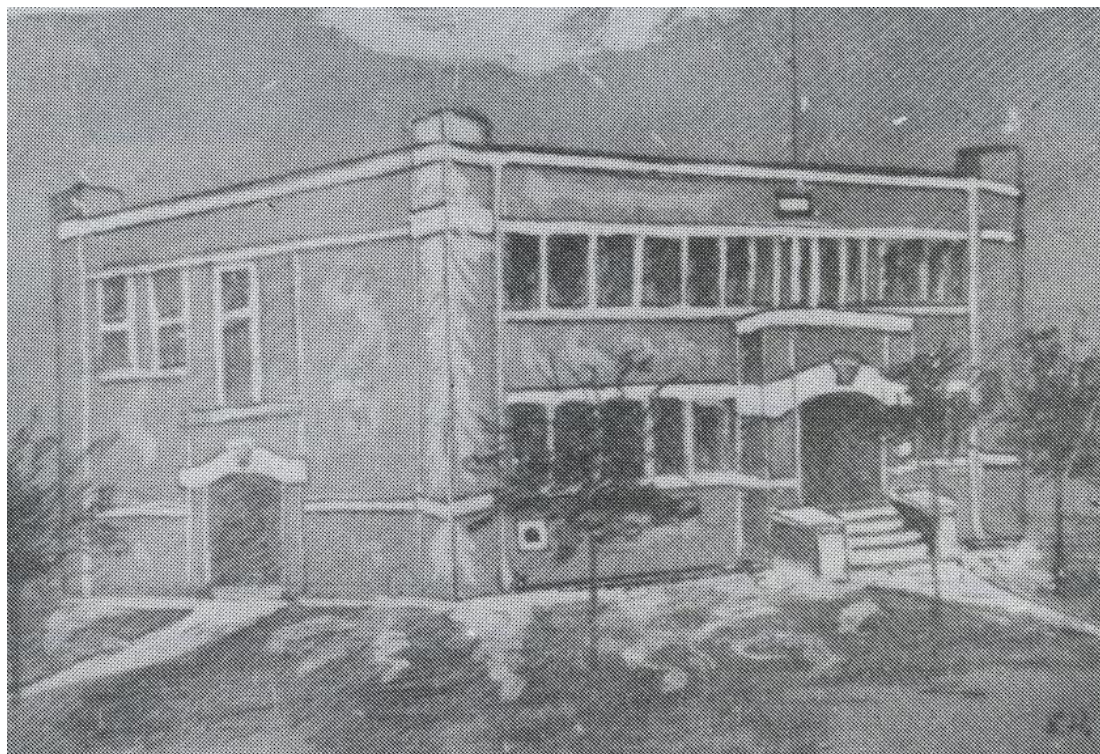


Figure 17 Bartlett High School (1917), by Leinbach
(provided by Williamson County Historical Commission)

Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

CURRENT PHOTOS OF THE NOMNATED PROPERTY

The following photos were also submitted to the National Park Service as high quality digital files.

Photo 1 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0001)

Southeast oblique

Camera facing northwest



Photo 2 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0002)

Southeast oblique

Camera facing northwest



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 3 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0003)

Northeast oblique

Camera facing southwest



Photo 4 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0004)

Northeast oblique

Camera facing southwest



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 5 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0005)

North elevation

Camera facing southeast



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 6 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0006)
West elevation, north end
Camera facing south



Photo 7 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0007)
West elevation
Camera facing southeast



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 8 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0008)

West elevation, south end

Camera facing southeast



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 9 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0009)
Southeast oblique
Camera facing northwest



Photo 10 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0010)
West elevation, south end
Camera facing north



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 11 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0011)
South elevation
Camera facing west



Photo 12 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0012)
Front (east) portico
Camera facing west



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 13 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0013)

Front (east) parapet above portico

Camera facing west



Photo 14 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0014)

Corner stone, northeast corner

Camera facing southwest



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 15 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0015)

North portico

Camera facing south



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 16 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0016)

North portico signage

Camera facing south



Photo 17 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0017)

South portico signage

Camera facing north



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 18 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0018)
Interior, second floor corridor
Camera facing north



Photo 19 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0019)
Interior, first floor corridor
Camera facing north

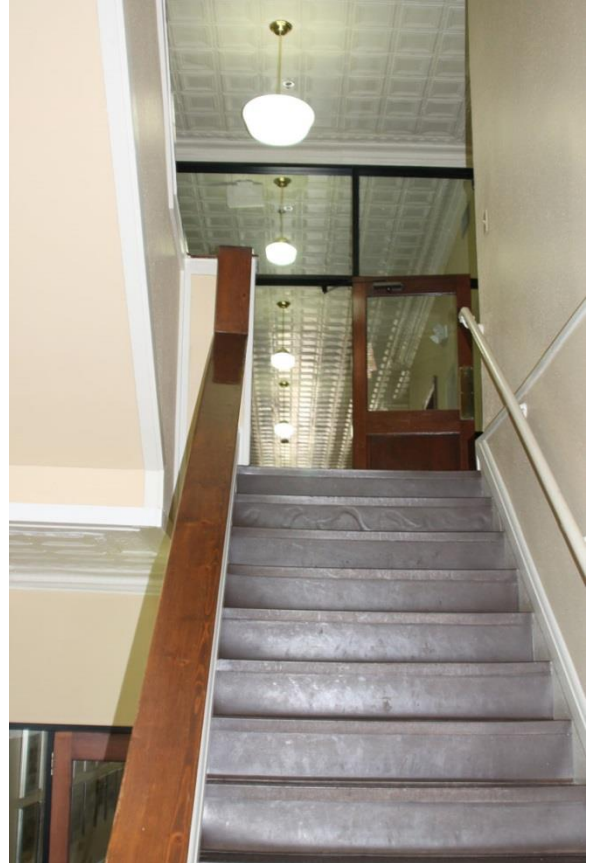


Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 20 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0020)
City Council Chambers
Camera facing northwest



Photo 21 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0021)
South stairwell from ground to second floor
Camera facing north



Killeen High School, Bell County, Texas

Photo 22 (TX_Bell County_Killeen High School_0022)

MEP building (noncontributing)

Southeast oblique

Camera facing northwest

