Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

CITY, TOWN

Austin

PH 0664847

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAR 1 5 1978

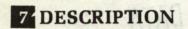
STATE

Texas

RECEIVED

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM DATE ENTERED SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME HISTORIC ** Texas Hall, Old Trinity University Campus Westminster College LOCATION STREET & NUMBER corner of College and Westminster Sts. NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CITY, TOWN Tehuacana VICINITY OF STATE CODE CODE 293 4 Texas 048 Limestone CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE _DISTRICT __PUBLIC _OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM XBUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE **XUNOCCUPIED** COMMERCIAL PARK _STRUCTURE _BOTH _WORK IN PROGRESS _EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** ACCESSIBLE ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS OBJECT IN PROCESS XYES: RESTRICTED __GOVERNMENT _SCIENTIFIC BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION NO MILITARY *OTHER: vacant OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME John H. Jenkins STREET & NUMBER #8 Cromwell Hill STATE CITY, TOWN Austin Texas 78703 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Limeston County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE Groesbeck Texas REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Historic Sites Inventory DATE __FEDERAL X_STATE __COUNTY _LOCAL 1977 **DEPOSITORY FOR** SURVEY RECORDS Texas Historical Commission



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT

_FAIR

__DETERIORATED

UNEXPOSED

__UNALTERED

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

IN SIGNETCANCE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Prominently sited on a hilltop and surrounded by tree-covered grounds, Texas Hall stands on the site of a campus that served three colleges from 1869 to 1972. The four-story structure of locally cut, load bearing limestone walls, is a predominately Second Empire Style structure with Gothic details. Texas Hall was constructed in stages—a classroom block and auditorium wing built between 1871 and 1873, and two end pavilions which flank the main classroom block, constructed between 1873 and 1890. The stages were unified by a prominent mansard roof enclosing the fourth floor. In 1892 the four-story tower completed the composition.

The main block of the T-shaped building forms a recessed five-bay portion on the main (east) facade, flanked on each side by the projecting end pavilions. Across the recessed portion, a three-story gallery with cast iron columns is sheltered by the mansard roof of the fourth floor. The symmetrical arrangement of openings displays a central double door on each floor, flanked on each side by two 9/9 light windows. On the ground floor five horizontal panels elaborate the doors and this entrance is enlarged by sidelights and transoms. Flat stone arches cover this door and flanking windows. The central doorways of the second and third floors exhibit Gothic arched transoms with simple Gothic tracery, while lancet windows pierce the doors. The windows on these upper floors also have Gothic arched transoms filled with tracery.

Whereas the recessed section (1871 portion) is distinguished by smooth-faced limestone blocks, the later end pavilions display bold rock-faced ashlar with rusticated and smooth stone detailing. Smooth-faced quoins terminated by a stringcourse above the first floor define the ground level as the base of the building, while the verticality of the upper two floors is expressed by the corner pilasters and unbroken window bays. On the east (front) side of each pavilion, paired windows linked by a bracketed lintel form the ground floor opening, while the upper two floors contain a recessed central bay of nine-over-nine light windows linked between floors by decorative spandrels and capped by a wide, rusticated segmental arch. The side and back portions of these pavilions contain linteled windows on the ground floor and a raised band of linteled windows on the 2nd and 3rd floors, rising unbroken from the stringcourse to the cornice.

To the rear (west) extends the auditorium wing, which was part of the original 1871-73 building. Constructed of smooth-faced ashlar limestone blocks, the wing displays an eight-bay north and south facade with flat arched windows on the first floor and Gothic arched windows spanning the second and third levels. The narrow multi-pane Gothic arched windows rise the full height of the interior two-story auditorium space and are crowned by tracery-filled transoms. The west (rear) facade of the auditorium wing is similar to the sides, except that it extends only four bays in width.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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Crowning the entire building and enclosing the fourth floor addition is the prominent bell-cast mansard roof. Pedimented dormers pierce the roof and symmetrically correspond to the division of bays on the first three floors. A paneled frieze and large brackets visually support the base of the roof. The remains of chimneys, which once rose to the height of the roof ridge alternate between dormers.

The focal point of the building is the four-story tower which rises above the main block of Texas Hall. Divided into four levels the tower displays a broad convex mansard base, topped by a rectilinear middle element which contains a Palladian window now hidden by sheet metal. The third level displays a concave shape covered with imbricated metal shingles, while the terminating convex roof exhibits a circular motif apparently intended to support a clock face.

The interior of Texas Hall consists of relatively simple plastered wall surfaces and beaded tongue and groove wooden wainscoting. The auditorium has a carved wooden ceiling, its apex consisting of broad shallow coffers. There is an unadorned proscenium arch at the space's east end, flanked by dressing rooms on each side.

The last owner of the structure vacated Texas Hall in 1972. Since that time the building has been empty. The building is sound structurally, but vandals have destroyed several windows and the roof had been damaged by wind and corrosion. John H. Jenkins of Austin has recently purchased the building and is in the process of restoring it.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD COMMUNITY PLANNING _LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE RELIGION PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION LAW SCIENCE _1400-1499 _ECONOMICS _LITERATURE _SCULPTURE __1500-1599 _AGRICULTURE __MILITARY _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _1600-1699 X_ARCHITECTURE X EDUCATION _ART _ENGINEERING MUSIC THEATER 1700-1799 _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT __PHILOSOPHY _TRANSPORTATION X1800-1899 COMMERCE POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRY _INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES 1871-1892

COMMUNICATIONS

_1900-

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph Schuster, William Rees. arch.- J. W. Flanders

_OTHER (SPECIFY)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Texas Hall, which served as the main building for three church-supported institutions of higher education, is an important educational landmark in Texas. From 1871 until 1902 Texas Hall housed the offices, classrooms and auditorium of one of the state's oldest colleges, Trinity University, at the school's original location. After Trinity moved in 1902, the building served from that time until 1950 as the main building for Westminster College, which later became one of Texas' first accredited junior colleges and from 1953-1972 as Westminster Junior College and Bible Institute. Architecturally, the building survives as an excellent example of collegiate architecture containing both Second Empire and Gothic details.

Sponsored by the Synod of Texas of the Presbyterian Church, Trinity University was founded in 1869 and opened its doors to students in September of that year at Tehuacana, Texas, where it operated for 33 years. Instrumental in the founding of Trinity University was John Boyd, who donated a considerable sum of money and 1100 acres of land to the university. Boyd had been a pioneer Texas settler and representative to the first Congress of the Republic of Texas from Sabine County. He later moved to Limeston County and represented that area in the Ninth Legislature.

Known as College Hall until the 1890's, Texas Hall served as a classroom building, administration building and auditorium for Trinity University. Joseph Schuster, an immigrant stonemason, constructed the original portion of the building consisting of the central block and auditorium wing. This section is delineated by the smooth-faced ashlar blocks which distinguish it from the rusticated stone end pavilions. Begun in 1871 construction was finally completed in 1873.

As soon as construction was completed on the original building, plans were underway for the addition of wings. Between 1873 and 1890 two pavilions flanking the main facade of the original building were constructed from the design of the Dallas architect, J. W. Flanders. William Rees, an English stonemason who emigrated to Texas in 1870 and then to Tehuacana in 1872 received the contract for the wings. In 1875 he married and remained in Tehuacana until his death. The final addition and the central tower was also designed by Flanders and completed in 1892.

The Presbyterian-affiliated university continued to occupy Texas Hall until 1902 when the school moved to Waxahachie and later to San Antonio, where it has remained. Trinity deeded their property at Tehuacana to the Methodist Protestant church on the condition that the denomination operate a school on the site for ten years. Westminster College, a Methodist school founded in 1895 in Collin County, opened its doors in Tehuacana to students in 1902. Although originally a four-year institution, Westminster dropped the last two years of college work from the curriculum in 1916 and became one of the state's Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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first accredited junior colleges. In that year a basketball court was built on the fourth floor of Texas Hall above the auditorium, reportedly creating Texas' first indoor college basketball court.

Because Westminster was struggling with small entollments, Southwestern University in Georgetwon assumed administrative control in 1942, but in 1950 the college closed. On March 21, 1953, the Congregational Methodist church purchased the property at Tehuacana and moved their Congregational Methodist Bible School from Dallas to that location. Renamed the Westminster Junior College and Bible Institute, the school operated at this site until 1972 when they moved to a forty-acre campus at Florence, Mississippi.

In 1976 John Jenkins of Austin purchased Texas Hall and the surrounding campus and he plans to restore the building for use as a museum and conference center.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Everett, Donald E. W/ Eugenia De B. Reiwald, Blanche M. Mason, Ann Heatherington Prassel, Trinity, A Record of 100 Years, Trinity University Press, 1968. Rhodes, Don, Information prepared for National Register Application from Trinity University Catalogs, 1884 - 1900. Robinson, Williard B., Texas Public Buildings of the Nineteenth Century, University of Texas Press, Austin and London, 1974. 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000 QUADRANGLE NAME Tehucacana, Texas UTM REFERENCES A 1,4 7 3, 2 5, 3, 5 31 5 1 4 4 91 0 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Texas Hall and the surrounding 2 acres in contained in Block 12 LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE COUNTY CODE CODE STATE CODE COUNTY FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Marie D. Landon, Historian/Joe Williams, Project Director ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission 3/14/78 TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER (512) 475-3094 P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station CITY OR TOWN STATE Austin Texas 78711 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE_X NATIONAL ___ LOCAL As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and pertify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE DATE TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

ATTEST:

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Webb, Walter Prescott, ed., The Handbook of Texas, Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas Hall, Old Trinity Univ. Tehuacana, Limestone County

Mike Yancey, June 1977
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest oblique

JUL 1 2 1978

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Texas Hall, Old Trinity Univ. 73
Tehuacana, Limestone County

Mike Yancey , June 1977
Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique
JUL 12 1978 MAR 1 5 1978



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

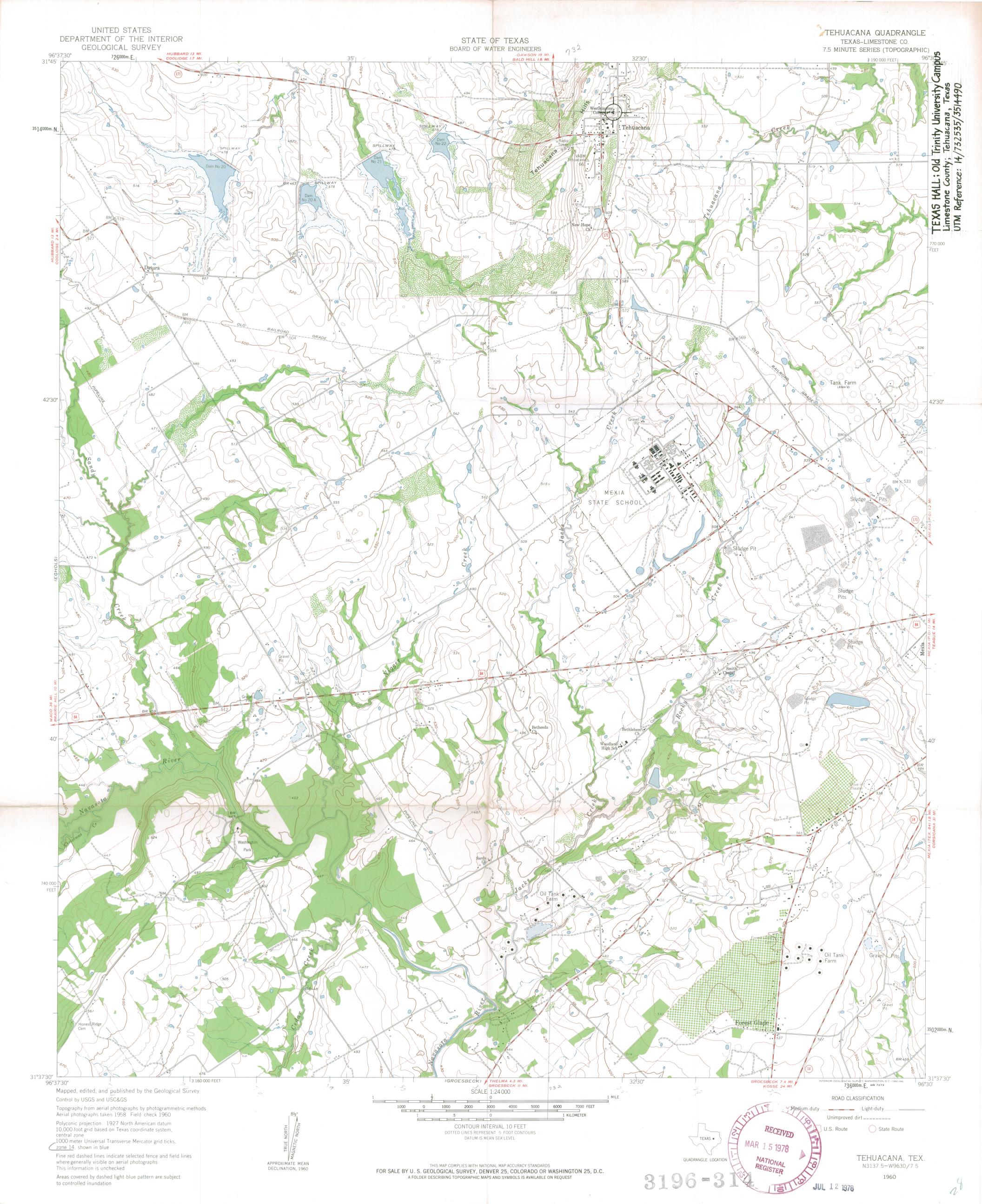
Texas Hall, Old Trinity Univ. 3 1 3 Tehuacana, Limestone County

Mike Yancey, June 1977
Texas Historical Commission

South elevation

MAR 15 1978

JUL 1 2 1978



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JIII 1 2 1978

Name

Location

Texas Hall, Old Trinity University

Tehuacana Limestone County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower Honorable Olin E. Teague

NR

State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas Historical Commission P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

Byers/bjr 7/14/78

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

NAME as it appears on federal registe	Age :	2 OTHER NAMES:			(3) date of entry: (4	county code:	
Texas Hall, Old Trinity University Westminster College		ollege		JUL 1 2 1979	293		
5 LOCATION street & number	city / town	vicinity of	state	county	BNPS REGION:		
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30 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP							

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