

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received SEP 24 1980

date entered NOV 17 1980

## 1. Name

historic El Paso High School

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 1600 North Virginia St. \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town El Paso \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 16

state Texas code 048 county El Paso code 141

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name El Paso Independent School District

street & number 6531 Boeing

city, town El Paso \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Texas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. El Paso City-County Building

street & number San Antonio Street

city, town El Paso \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Texas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1975 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

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

## 7. Description

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

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

Sited at the base of the Franklin Mountains, El Paso High School is a brick and terra cotta structure consisting of a raised basement and three stories, erected in 1916 in a Classic Revival style. The ell-shaped plan is realized in two perpendicular wings which meet at right angles with an elaborately detailed entrance pavilion crossing the inside of the ell at a 45 degree angle. Trost and Trost, an early 20th century El Paso architectural firm whose work was prominent throughout the southwest for many years, is credited with the innovative plan of this educational facility which combines the school building and athletic field in an integrally related design. Constructed on the northwest corner of a square city lot, the building, elegantly detailed with classical elements, forms an impressive backdrop for the athletic field which is aligned diagonally across the approximately 9.5 acre lot.

The field is embraced with concrete bleachers built into slopes that rise sharply around it on the north, west, and south sides. Further elevated beyond the western seating section, the building dominates the campus with a commanding view of the playing field, the lengthwise axis of which is aligned with the school's monumental entrance pavilion. The inside of the ell or eastern oblique, which faces the playing field, is treated as the "front" of the building. Symmetrically balanced, this side consists of a colossal pedimented portico in the center flanked by wings which extend to the northeast and southeast and terminate in lesser pavilions.

Terrazo steps flanked with brick and terra cotta bases ascend the main entrance on the first floor. Six fluted columns rise two stories to support the Corinthian order which includes the typical acanthus leaf capitals, prominent entablature with "El Paso High School" carved in the frieze area, and a pediment adorned with dentils, modillions, and other classical motifs. Behind the pediment an attic story, also decorated with classical motifs, rises above the roofline of the pavilion's flanking wings, further increasing the visual impact of the dominant central feature. Beyond the columns a brick facade is pierced with multi-paned windows and a central, double-door entrance marked with a scroll-supported, dentilled cornice. Recessed on either side of the entrance block, walls punctuated with three-part window compositions and ground floor entrances extend in a plane that is parallel to the plane of the main pediment, then abruptly turn 45 degrees and extend in the wings of the ell.

Each wing is divided into a tripartite scheme which consists of a base (raised basement), a shaft (floors one and two), and an attic story (third floor). The unadorned base is pierced with multi-paned windows occurring in pairs and triplets and terminated with a string course from which brick pilasters that span two floors rise. Pairs of windows are incorporated in the recessed bays between the pilasters on both the first and second floors. The pilasters support a prominent yet simply detailed frieze band and cornice on which the attic story rests. The attic is pierced with single windows and topped with a continuous balustrade of brick posts and turned members. Each wing terminates in a pavilion that steps forward slightly. Pairs of pilasters define a single bay which is infilled with windows on each level. The first floor features Palladian-type window units that consist of a central pedimented window with retaining balustrade, flanked by two lesser windows.

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Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

Page 1

Steps ascend a central pedimented entrance on the first floor of the end facade of each wing. Decorative elements and fenestration patterns in the established format are repeated on these facades as well as those on the northwest and southwest which front on Schuster and Virginia Streets respectively. The street facades consisting of a long, recessed bay terminated with stepped pavilions on either end are not symmetrical. Each features an off-center entrance and a single story space with numerous windows protrudes from the ground floor on the southwest facade. Unlike the front facade, the window bays are retained with a balustrade that spans the first floor level.

The ell plan and its long, axial hallways was conducive to the efficient organization of a high school. The lunch room, auditorium, library, and administrative offices used by all students were located in the central section of the building while the more specialized activities were provided for in the wings. Gymnasiums originally occupied each end pavilion on the ground floor allowing separate facilities for the sexes. In addition, the industrial arts and home economics facilities were located on this floor. The auditorium, administrative offices, classrooms, and student lounges were on the first floor while the second floor contained the library, study halls, locker rooms, and more classrooms. The third floor, with skylights and special ventilation devices, was designed with lecture rooms and laboratories for the sciences, labs for mechanical drawing and art, and instruction in office skills and music. Originally a roof garden covered the entire building. The high school has remained in continual use since its completion although the spatial allocations have since been modified to accommodate the changing needs of the student body. The exterior of the building and the campus layout retain their original appearance.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1916

Builder/Architect Trost and Trost

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

El Paso High School, the oldest remaining and first separate high school in the city, has been in continuous use since its completion in 1916. This outstanding example of early 20th century Neo-Classicism, one of the most noteworthy examples in the state, attests the planning and aesthetic achievements of the architectural firm of Trost and Trost. The unusual layout of the campus incorporates the athletic playing field and school building in a monumental design. In addition, the school's auditorium has since become the first Center for the Performing Arts of the El Paso Independent School System.

Established in El Paso in the first decade of the 20th century, the architectural firm of Trost and Trost was headed by Henry C. Trost along with his brother, Gustavos Adolphus, and cousin, George Ernest. Henry, the firm's principal designer, had previously lived and practiced in Chicago and a number of other cities in the south and west. The more than 800 buildings constructed throughout the southwest that are attributed to the firm show a refreshing originality and sophisticated comprehension of the various stylistic movements of the turn of the century. Among Trost's El Paso structures, his own home was listed 7/12/78 and the Hotel Paso del Norte 1/18/79, while a thematic nomination which includes 15 early 20th century commercial structures in the Central Business District was submitted 3/17/80.

Several schools throughout the country were examined before the El Paso facility was planned. The resulting design, executed in 1914, was an ingenious solution which exhibits rational programming, spatial economics, and magnificent visual presence. Finely proportioned on a grand scale, the elegantly detailed building is one of Texas' finest examples of the Classic Revival movement. J. E. Morgan constructed the concrete frame of the building in 1915 and the American Construction Company of Houston completed the work. The heating and ventilating contract went to Elliott Engineering Company of El Paso and the stadium, with a capacity of 12,000, was constructed by J. F. Woodward, Jr.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gonzales, Eloise, "Teen Times," El Paso Times, December 13, 1975  
 Miller, Nancy, 50th Anniversary, El Paso High School, 1600 North Virginia, El Paso, Texas  
 and the Trail of the Tiger 1916, Molding Lives and Careers for Fifty Years, 1916  
 "El Paso High School 50th Anniversary Fete Set:" El Paso Herald Post, July 21, 1965  
Original Architectural Drawings by Trost and Trost, November 14, 1914, Rev., Sept. 9, 1915

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 9.5  
 Quadrangle name El Paso, Texas

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>3</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	F	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
G	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	H	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Property bounded on the north by Schuster Street, on the east by Ochoa Street, on the west by Virginia Street, and on the north by Brown Street.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda C. Flory, Historian

organization Texas Historical Commission date September 9, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 12276 telephone 512-475-3094

city or town Austin state Texas, 78711

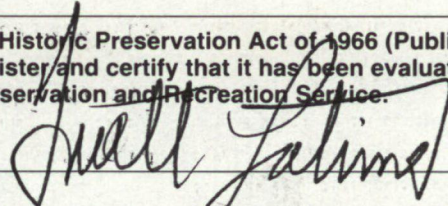
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 15, 1980

**For HCRS use only**

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

*Beth Grosvenor* date 11/17/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

Property

El Paso High School

80004103

DUE 11/24/80

State

TX, El Paso

Working Number

9/24/80/2396

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos

6

Maps

1

HISTORIAN

Excellent example of early 20th C Neo-Classicism; monumental design incorporates playing field and school building. City's oldest & first separate high school. Auditorium became school system's first center for the performing arts, but we don't know when that happened, so it may or may not be "historically" significant as defined by NR criteria.

accept  
Grover  
11/7/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered NOV 17 1980

Federal Register Entry 2-2-82

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



El Paso High School  
1600 North Virginia  
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Photo: Historic, ca. 1925-30; Original courtesy El Paso High School Student Council,  
Photocopy negative on file at THC  
Southeast oblique, camera facing west  
Photo # 1 of 6

SEP 24 1980

NOV 17 1980





SEP 24 1980

El Paso High School

1600 North Virginia

El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Photo: Historic, ca. 1925-30; Original courtesy El Paso High School Student Council,

Photocopy negative on file at THC

Entrance detail, southeast oblique, camera facing northwest

Photo # 2 of 6

NOV 17 1980



El Paso High School  
1600 North Virginia

El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Photo: Historic, ca. 1925-30; Original court-  
esy El Paso High School Student Council,  
Photocopy negative on file at THC

Interior detail, view unknown

Photo # 3 of 6

SEP 24 1980

NOV 17 1980



SEP 24 1980

El Paso High School

1600 North Virginia

El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Photo: Mike Yancy, 6/75

Negative on file at THC

Southeast oblique, camera facing west

Photo # 4 of 6

NOV 17 1980



SEP 24 1980

El Paso High School

1600 North Virginia

El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

Photo: Mike Yancy, 6/75

Negative on file at THC

Northwest oblique, camera facing east

Photo # 5 of 6

NOV 17 1980

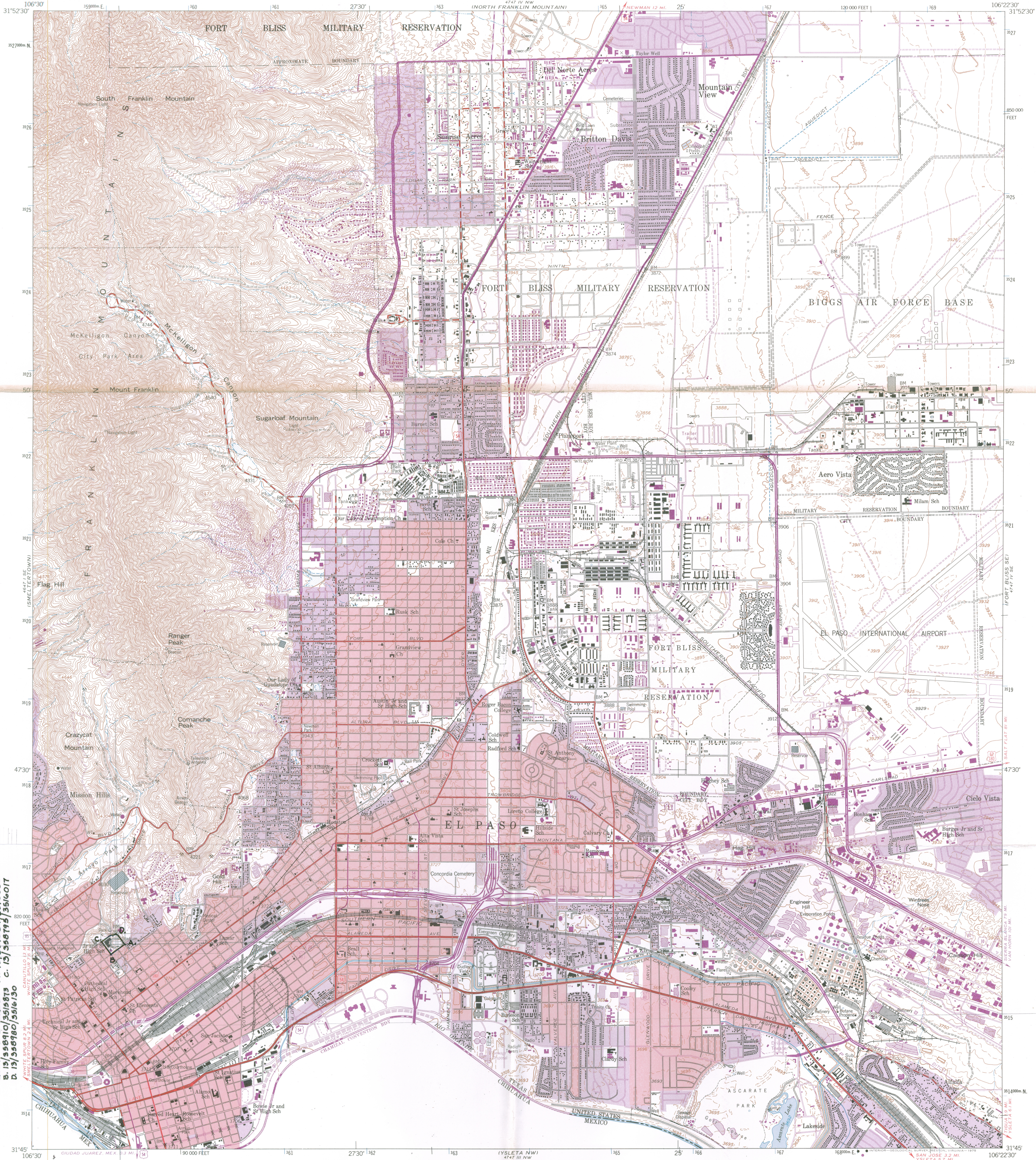




SEP 24 1980

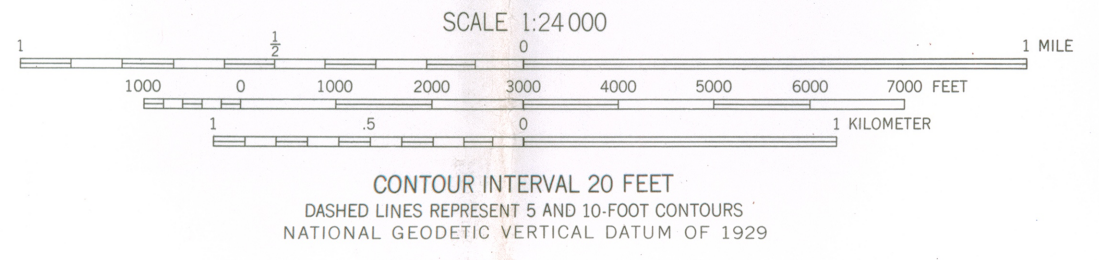
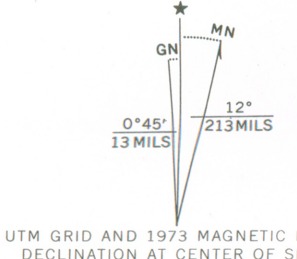
El Paso High School  
1600 North Virginia  
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas  
Photo: Mike Yancy, 6/75  
Negative on file at THC  
Interior detail, Auditorium  
Photo # 6 of 6

NOV 17 1980

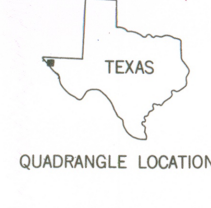


EL PASO HIGH SCHOOL  
1600 N. VIRGINIA  
EL PASO, EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCES: A. 13/351084/3516000  
B. 13/358910/3515873 C. 13/358919/3516017  
D. 13/358970/3516130

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Photography field annotated 1955  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,  
central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 13, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial  
photographs taken 1967 and 1973. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

RECEIVED  
SEP 9 1980  
NATIONAL REGISTER

EL PASO, TEX.  
N3145-W10622.5/7.5  
1955  
MOTOREVISED 1967 AND 1973  
AMS 4747 IV SW-SERIES V882

3106-432

NOV 17 1980

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered

NOV 17 1980

Name

Location

El Paso High School

El Paso  
El Paso County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Richard C. White

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

NR Byers/bjr/11/24/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.