

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received **AUG 25 1983**
date entered **SEP 22 1983**

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

1. Name

historic Thomas Jefferson High School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 723 Donaldson Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Texas code 048 county Bexar code 029

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 San Antonio Independent School District

street & number 141 Lavaca

city, town San Antonio N/A vicinity of state Texas 78210

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Bexar County Courthouse

street & number Main Plaza

city, town San Antonio state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) San Antonio Historical Survey
 title (2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
 (1) 1972
 date (2) 1983 federal state county local

(1) City of San Antonio Historic Preservation Office
depository for survey records (2) Texas Historical Commission

(1) San Antonio
city, town (2) Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition
 excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Thomas Jefferson High School is a monumental complex spread out asymmetrically around two courtyards. Designed in a Spanish Renaissance manner, the structure is faced with blonde brick with elaborate cast-stone detailing. The main building, with its towered entrance portal, and the large classroom wing to the east are capped by red-tile hipped roofs, while the other school buildings are flat roofed. The interior is noteworthy for its elaborately polychromed auditorium and library, and for the vast hallways that expedite the movement of the school's 2,100 students.

Located on a 33-acre site to the northwest of the center of San Antonio, Thomas Jefferson High School is an asymmetrical complex of masonry buildings faced uniformly with blonde brick. It faces south on Donaldson Avenue. Exterior ornamental detail is made of cast stone and is inspired by Spanish Renaissance and Mexican-American Indian sources. The Donaldson Avenue elevations are enhanced by landscaping which frames views of the main building and borders the long, curving path leading from the street to the primary entrance.

The massing of the school buildings is complex. The main building and the east classroom wing are three stories tall, while the other components of the school are only one or two stories in height. To the east and west of the central building are open courtyards, the east courtyard being the larger and more prominent of the two spaces.

Upon approaching the school from Donaldson Avenue along the wide serpentine walkway, one is led to the highly decorated main entrance portal. The three round-arch entry doors are set into a portico formed by four square columns with matching pilasters which are heavily decorated with low reliefs of stylized foliage. This profuse ornamentation also extends to the cornices which the columns support. The capitals of the columns and pilasters reflect the Iberian Baroque desire to distort and rearrange the classical detailing of the Renaissance, using somewhat stylized volutes with floral decoration between them. Rising from the entablatures are four remarkable and highly Baroque scroll brackets which frame the second-floor windows of the portico area. The lower volute of these brackets supports a rather bulbous, vase-shaped finial. These extraordinary brackets are reminiscent of 17th-century Mexican Baroque architecture, although they do not serve any true structural purpose as do their Mexican inspirations. The quoined piers that continue up from the first floor terminate midway through the third-floor windows. On the third-floor level, these forms frame four sculptural roundels, each with a portrait bust of a Spanish conquistador. The spandrel panels between the second and third floors are filled with stylized floral ornament similar to that seen on the lower columns.

The three-bay entrance portico is framed at roof level by a pair of domed towers. The east tower scarcely rises above the cornice line, with the dome resting on a base ornamented with cast-stone details. The cornice element linking the two towers takes the form of an undulating band of cast stone with vase-shaped finials. The west tower,

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National Park Service**

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which is modeled on Mexican Colonial prototypes, features chamfered corners to produce an octagonal form. On each of the four principal faces is a heavy balcony set beneath an opening framed by a four-pointed arch. The panels above these arches contain bas-relief depictions of the school's coat of arms. The four piers that support the dome are topped by paired console brackets that form part of the decorated base of the dome.

The portico bay of the main building is flanked to the west by the southward projection of the library wing. The first floor of this wing is devoted to offices, with the library occupying the double-height mass above. The office section can be entered from the south via a monumental, rusticated doorway. The library unit is set back slightly on the south elevation, with two curvilinear buttresses rising from the office block to support the corners of the library. The window bays of the library are defined by a series of pilasters with richly detailed capitals of stylized foliage. The cornice of the library is dominated by an undulating band of cast-stone detailing. The character of this decoration seems to have been inspired by patterns in Southwest American and Mexican Indian art. Proceeding to the west, there is a courtyard, open with an arcade along its south side, that leads to the student union (added 1978) and the cafeteria. The south entrance to the cafeteria is through a very handsome, multifoiled archway located in a small cylindrical tower. The roof of the cafeteria is flat, with the rain-water carried off by a series of downspouts in the form of cannon barrels. The cafeteria is well lit by large, slightly pointed arches with multi-light glazing. At the extreme western end of the complex is the shop addition (1963), sparsely detailed except for the heavy corner buttresses. The rear of the cafeteria is dominated by the extraordinary porte-cochere with its unusual undulating arches.

To the east of the main entrance extends the original three-story classroom unit, which is reduced to two stories as one proceeds away from the entrance. The farthest eastward section of the school is a more recent three-story classroom building, added in 1963. This new addition is designed in sympathy with the original using cast stone for the massive balconies, and featuring a red-tile hipped roof. These two classroom units form the southern and eastern edges of the larger of the school courtyards. This courtyard is bounded on the west by the school auditorium, with its large windows and stage loft. On the north is the boys' gym, which features a tiled parapet and pilasters with cast-stone capitals similar to those found on the library.

To the north of the auditorium and the boys' gym are the band practice hall and the girls' gym, the latter being an addition (1978) to the complex, which are faced with blonde brick to harmonize with the original structures. To the northwest is the football field with its surrounding track. The baseball field is to the east, and the tennis courts are located north of the boys' gym.

On the interior, the school's hallways are 23 feet wide with concrete tile floors. Pairs of wooden beams span the hallways, with stenciled acoustical-tile ceilings between. Built-in lockers, an innovation in their day, line the hallways. Stylized concrete and plaster columns with octagonal bases and Corinthian capitals are spanned by Moorish arches.

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The school is entered through wooden double doors with octagonal windows in the door panels and arched transom section. Original etched-glass and chrome fixtures provide peripheral lighting. Double staircases connect the first and second levels, with wooden railing and perforated patterns in the concrete balustrade.

Perhaps the most unique feature of the school is its auditorium. Seating over 2,000, the auditorium contains original wooden seating on both the first floor and in the balcony. An inclined floor leads to the orchestra pit. The metal frames of the seats have a bust of Thomas Jefferson embossed on the end of each row. Recessed fluorescent lighting is the primary source of illumination, while small, stained-glass fixtures light the underside of the balcony.

The stage is highlighted by a band of decorative ceramic tile-work in greens, blues, yellows, and reds. The proscenium arch, which is 28 feet high and 50 feet wide, is scalloped, plastered, and highlighted by concentric bands of purple, orange, silver, and green. Two small balconies with striped canopies supported by spears project into the auditorium. A stenciled frieze and molded plaster course decorate the balconies.

The acoustical-tile ceiling is brightly stenciled. Molded plaster cartouches decorate the front of the main balcony, and are colored blue and gold. Double wooden doors with octagonal insets lead into the auditorium from the main hallway. These doors are flanked by large, blue, ceramic urns set in wrought-iron frames. A built-in projection booth was a novel feature of the auditorium when it was constructed.

The library, containing 37,000 volumes, is the other major space in the school. The room measures approximately 105 by 60 feet, running north and south toward the west end of the building. The library has a coffered ceiling with dark oaken beams elaborately stenciled in gold and brown tones. Both the beams and acoustical-tile ceiling are decorated in this manner.

A plaster relief course runs around the entire library, and is accented periodically with Moorish-style crests in blues and golds. Small recessed arches run across the north end of the room, and above the arches are round windows with a raised plaster border. Above the decorative plaster frieze on the east and west walls are plaster medallions. Dark oak wainscoting occurs throughout the room, and the original wooden shelving has been retained. The original concrete-tile floor is also intact.

The library is lighted on the south, east, and west by large three-part windows with wooden mullions. The large mullion separating the upper and lower sections is stenciled in blue, red, and gold. Peripheral lighting is provided by stainless-steel, cone-shaped fixtures which cast light upward. Modern hanging fluorescent fixtures have been added with care not to disturb the ceiling stenciling. The library walls are white and of smooth-finish, scored plaster.

The school is situated in a residential neighborhood which largely postdates the construction of the school. A church is situated opposite the school on Donaldson Avenue, and there is a small commercial strip in the vicinity.

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 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 1929, 1963, 1978 **Builder/Architect** Adams & Adams, Phelps & Simmons

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1929-32 partly by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), and designed by the firm of Adams & Adams, Jefferson High School was selected by the United Press in 1937 as the most outstanding high school in America. Built on a 33 acre site in northwest San Antonio, Jefferson was financed through a bond issue designed to upgrade the city's educational facilities. Jefferson was proclaimed in Life Magazine and National Geographic for its architecture and student body. The elaborate design and detailing of the building remain virtually intact today. New features in that period, such as a separate gymnasium, tile floors, built-in lockers, and inside fire escapes, contributed to the school's importance. Two major interior spaces, the library and auditorium, the latter seating over 2,000, are beautifully decorated with detailing intact. Today, the student body totals 2,111 and continues to perpetuate the spirit that made Jefferson famous through such vital elements of campus life as the Lassos pep squad.

Thomas Jefferson High School was built between 1929 and 1932, financed through a 1929 bond issue totaling \$3,700,000 and earmarked for expansion of the city's school system. At that time, only two high schools existed in the San Antonio Independent School District: Main Avenue and Brackenridge. The former was old and crowded, and a new high school was needed to alleviate the situation. The new high school, still unnamed, was to be very expensive, costing more than \$1,250,000. Work Projects Administration (WPA) labor was used in the construction of the school, and officials were constantly criticized for the extravagance of this project in a time of depression. WPA insignias can still be seen at the school today, notably in tile and wrought-iron tables in the library.

Site selection was critical to the school and, after much consideration, a 33 acre area in northwest San Antonio, still sparsely settled, was selected. The tract was formerly named Spanish Acres, and the school informally carried that name during construction. The firm of Adams and Adams was selected to design the school, and associate Max Frederick worked closely with the project. Frederick went so far as to design a special coat of arms for the school.

Adams and Adams, Architects, were a well-established firm in San Antonio--a partnership between Carl C. Adams and his nephew, Carleton W. Adams. Formed in 1909, the firm continued after the death of Carl Adams in 1918. Max Frederick joined Carleton Adams in his practice as an associate, and together they designed many of San Antonio's important structures. These included the San Antonio Drug Company, the National Bank of Commerce, the Protestant Orphans Home, and the F.W. Woolworth Building. Outstanding examples of their work in Texas include the King Ranch residence, Santa Gertrudis, the Kerr County Courthouse, and the West Texas Utilities Building at San Angelo.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Donaldson, Rod (Compiler). "History of Thomas Jefferson High School." Unpublished manuscript, 1970, on file at high school.

The Monticello, Yearbook of Jefferson High School, various years.

The Declaration, Newspaper of Jefferson High School, various years.

Davis, Ellis A., and Edwin Grobe (eds.). The New Encyclopedia of Texas. Dallas: Texas Development Bureau, 1930.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 33 acres

Quadrangle name San Antonio West, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	5	4	5	1	1	0	3	2	5	9	5	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	4	5	4	5	0	6	0	3	2	5	9	2	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	4	5	4	4	6	5	0	3	2	5	9	6	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	4	5	4	4	6	0	0	3	2	5	9	2	7	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification New City Block A 59, bounded on the north by Club Drive, on the south by Donaldson Avenue, on the east by Kampmann Boulevard, and on the west by Wilson.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas Jefferson High School: Lee Ann Huskey and Betty Ann Janert. Maria Watson, San Antonio Conservation Society. (John C. Ferguson, Texas Historical Commission, Austin.)

organization Thomas Jefferson High School San Antonio Conservation Society

date 23 February 1983

street & number 723 Donaldson Avenue

telephone 736-1981 - Jefferson High 224-6163 - Conservation Society

city or town San Antonio

state Texas

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 17 Aug. 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

date 9/22/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Adams and Adams designed Thomas Jefferson High School to be innovative in many ways. It was the first school in San Antonio to have tile floors rather than the conventional wood floors. It also had indoor fire escapes and lockers built into the walls. Jefferson was the first school in the city to be equipped with its own separate gymnasium. The architects planned the building carefully, situating it at 23⁰ off the east-west axis, thereby giving each classroom a good breeze.

In November 1963, because of the need for more space, construction began on a three-story east wing and new shop. The cost of this wing, containing 28 classrooms, was \$468,000; and the shop, \$75,000. G.W. Mitchell and Sons were contracted to build the new additions designed by Phelps and Simmons, Architects. Both additions were designed to blend with the architecture of the original building, and cast-stone detailing was reproduced to tie the addition visually to the earlier structure.

In 1978, another addition was made of a girls' gymnasium and Student Union Building. The complex was air-conditioned in 1973 at a cost of \$1,814,000. In 1978, the wooden casement windows were replaced with anodized aluminum plexiglass windows at a cost of \$218,000. The original size and pattern of the windows was duplicated, however.

In 1932, at the formal dedication, Governor Ross S. Sterling proclaimed Jefferson, so named by the students of the school, to be the most beautiful high school in the confines of the state. National magazines such as Life and National Geographic were captivated by Jefferson's beauty. A survey conducted by the United Press was printed in Life Magazine in 1937, and out of 1500 high schools surveyed, Thomas Jefferson was selected the most outstanding high school in America. As a result, Life Magazine photographed the campus and its student activities, and in March 1938 this became Life's cover story. By the end of that year, Jefferson had appeared in various magazines, including National Geographic, American Weekly, and surprisingly, a magazine in Rotterdam, Holland.

Twentieth Century Fox was so impressed with the dramatic story of Jefferson High School and its many activities, that they decided to film a movie on the campus. Entitled "High School," the film starred Jane Withers, and was filmed in 1938. In addition, on March 14, 1938, Paramount Pictures announced that a newsreel would be made at Jefferson, America's most modern high school. This was followed in May 1939 by a Twentieth Century Fox sequel, again starring Jane Withers, titled "Texas Girl."

Outstanding activities of the war years included the purchase by the student body of enough war bonds to finance 40 jeeps. A girls' cadet corps was formed, and young men were graduated early in order to enlist. In 1945, additional war-bond purchases financed an airplane for the Air Force, and it was named "The Spirit of Thomas Jefferson." An emergency hospital was equipped with 605 beds from the student body.

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National Park Service**

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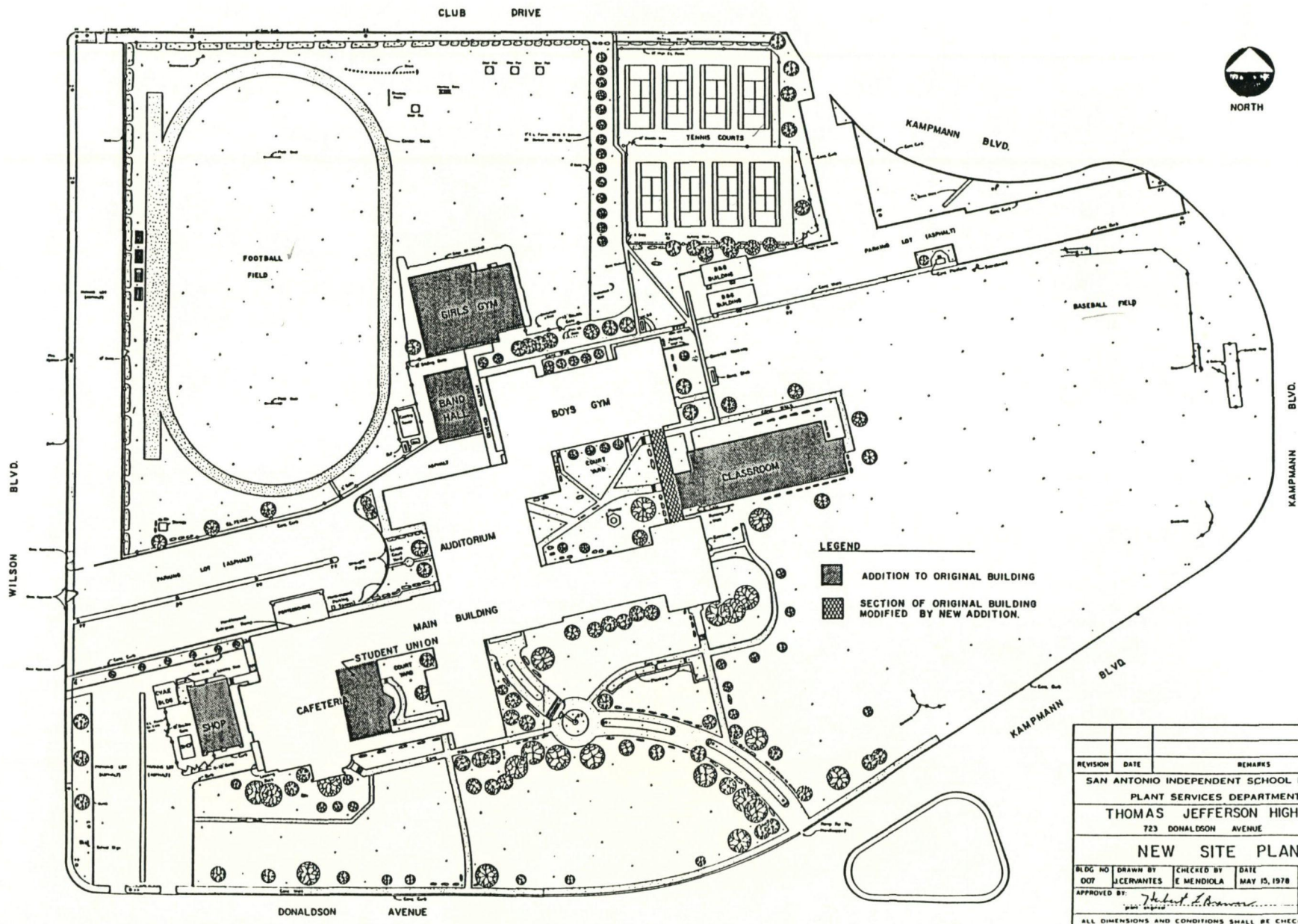
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Jefferson High School has continued to grow in the post-war period, and has grown to 2,111 students. It remains the largest physical plant in the city's educational system. The student body is a socio-economically and ethnically integrated cross-section of the community. The history of the school reflects consistently high honors achieved by students academically, socially, athletically, and politically. With these achievements, perhaps Thomas Jefferson's statement has been fulfilled: "No surer foundation than large scale education can be devised for the preservation of freedom and happiness."



LEGEND

- ADDITION TO ORIGINAL BUILDING
- SECTION OF ORIGINAL BUILDING MODIFIED BY NEW ADDITION.

REVISION	DATE	REMARKS
SAN ANTONIO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PLANT SERVICES DEPARTMENT THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL 723 DONALDSON AVENUE		
NEW SITE PLAN		
BLDG NO 007	DRAWN BY J. CERVANTES	CHECKED BY E. MENDIOLA
DATE MAY 15, 1978	DWG NO 63 DT	SCALE: 1"=100'
APPROVED BY: <i>[Signature]</i>		
ALL DIMENSIONS AND CONDITIONS SHALL BE CHECKED AND VERIFIED BY THE CONTRACTOR AT THE SITE		

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Thomas Jefferson High School
Bexar County
TEXAS

AUG 25 1983

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84
Date Due: 9/22/83 - 10/9/83
Action: ACCEPT 9/22/83
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



WALSH-BURNEY-AND-KEY-INC.
NEW SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
JUNE 7-1931

Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo of 1931 original on file at high school

South, looking north

Photo 1 of 18



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo of 1932 original on file at high school

Southeast, looking northwest

Photo 2 of 18

Completed School--S.E.--1932
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



· NEW · SENIOR · HIGH · SCHOOL ·
SPANISH · ACRES · SAN ANTONIO · TEXAS ·

· ADAMS · & · ADAMS · A · I · A ·
· ARCHITECTS ·
· PHELPS · & · DEWEES · A · I · A ·
· ARCHITECTS FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION ·

Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

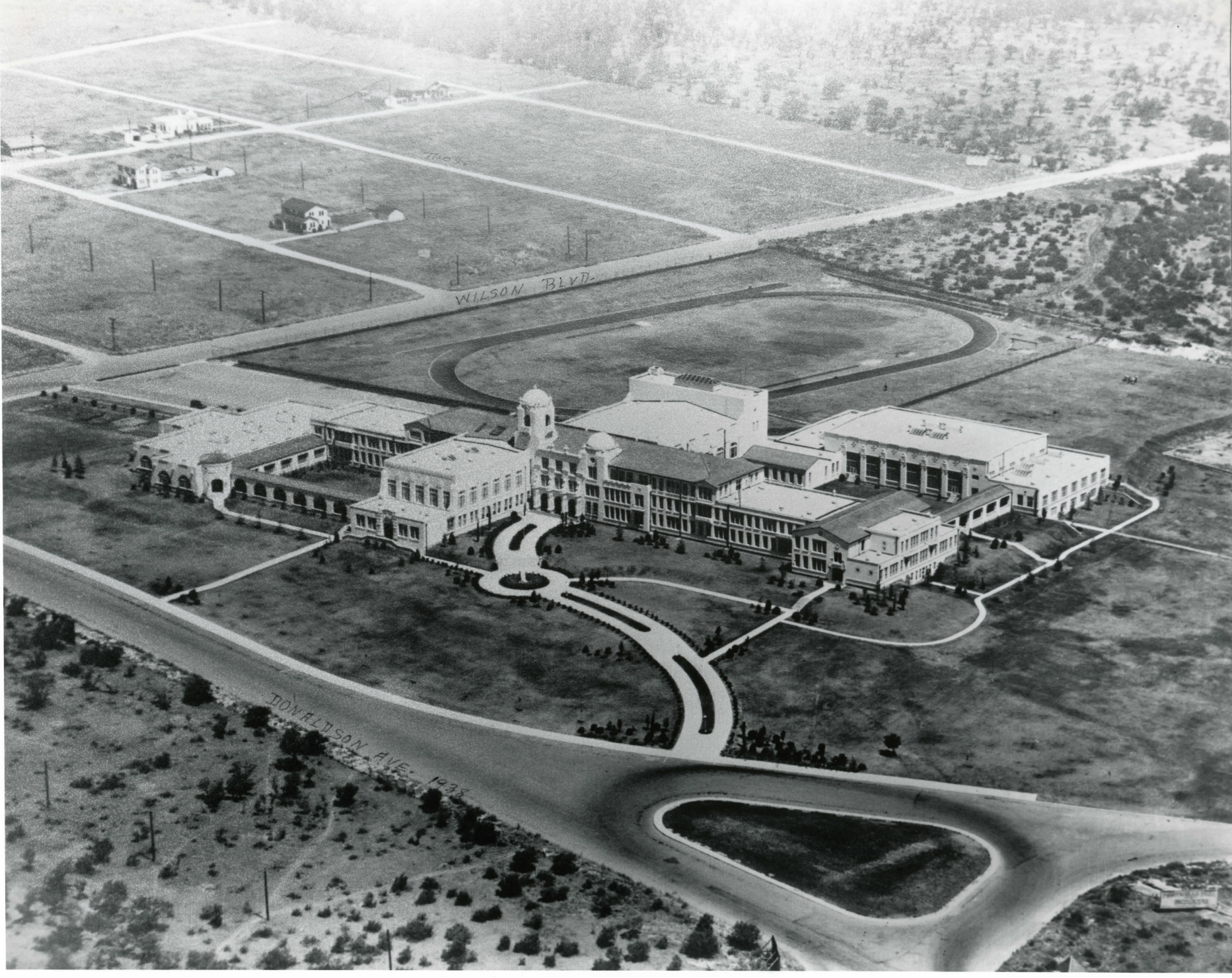
Photo of Architect's Drawing, 1982, by Victor Weiss

Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San Antonio,
Texas 78213

Southeast view, looking northwest

Photo 3 of 18

Architect's Drawing
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



WILSON BLVD.

DONALDSON AVE. 1938

Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, Sna Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo of 1938 original on file at high school

Southeast, looking northwest

Photo 4 of 18

Aerial View--S.E. to N.W.--1938
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo of 1977 Aerial Photo, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San
Antonio, Texas, 78213

South, looking north

Photo 5 of 18

Aerial View -- South to North -- 1973
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo of 1956 original at high school

Southeast, looking northwest

Photo 6 of 18

S.E. -- 1954
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL

Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: 1982, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San
Antonio, Texas, 78213

Southwest, looking northeast

Photo 7 of 18

Southwest Elevation -- 1983
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: 1982, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San
Antonio, Texas, 78213

Southeast, looking northwest

Photo 8 of 18

Southeast Elevation -- 1983
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: 1982, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San Antonio,
Texas, 78213

Main Entrance, Outside, Southeast, looking
Northwest

Photo 9 of 18

Main Entrance -- South
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: 1982, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San Antonio,
Texas, 78213

Close-up view, Main Dome, Southeast, looking
Northwest

Photo 10 of 18

Dome
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: 1982, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San Antonio,
Texas, 78213

Entrance, Cafeteria, Southeast, looking Northwest

Photo 11 of 18

Cafeteria Entrance -- S.
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: 1979, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San Antonio,
Texas, 78213

Main Entrance, Vestibule, East, looking West

Photo 12 of 18

Main Entrance
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas



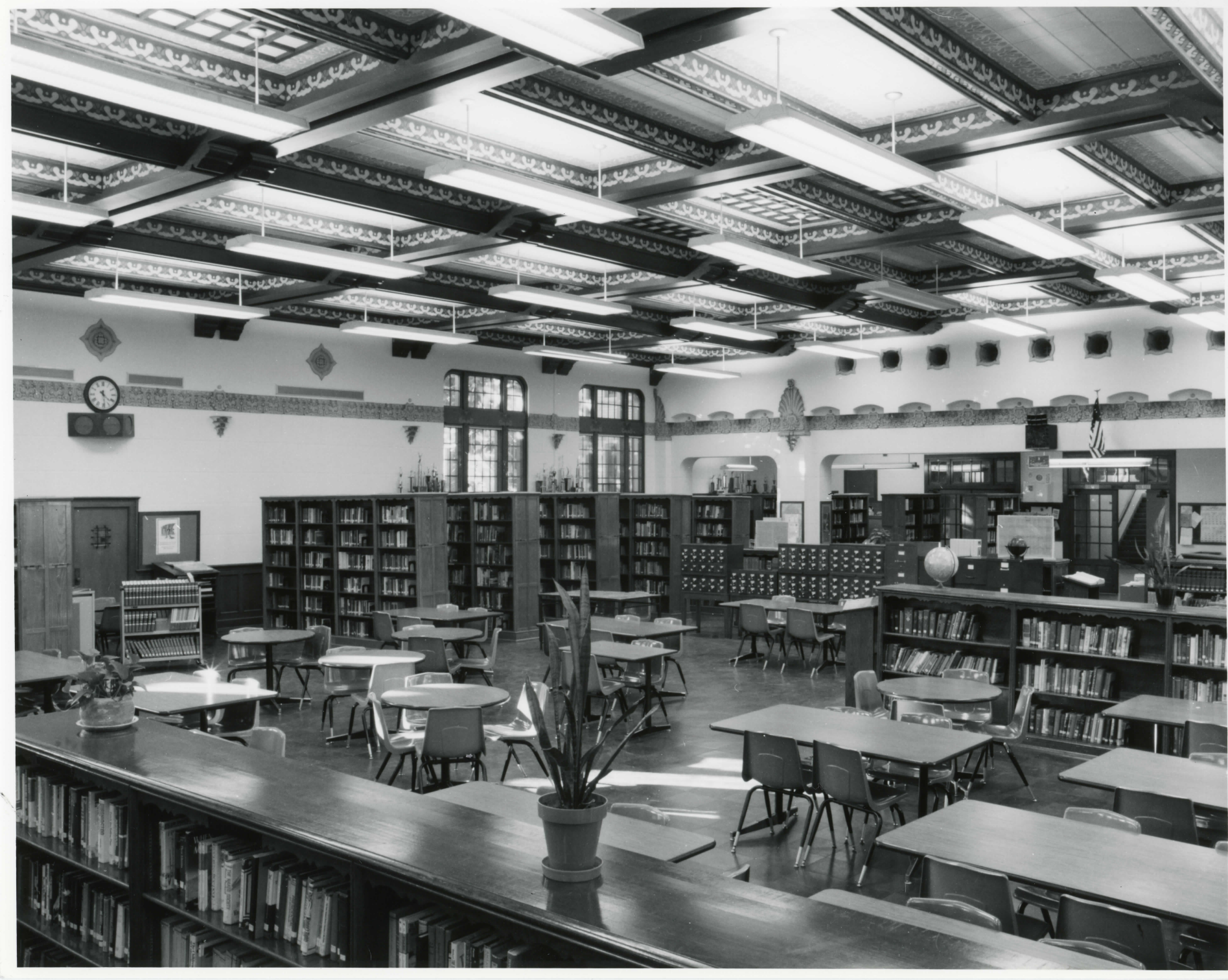
Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

Photo 1979, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file, Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San
Antonio, Texas 78213

View of east half of main hall, looking west

Photo 13 of 18

Main Hall -- E.
Thomas Jefferson High School
San Antonio, Texas

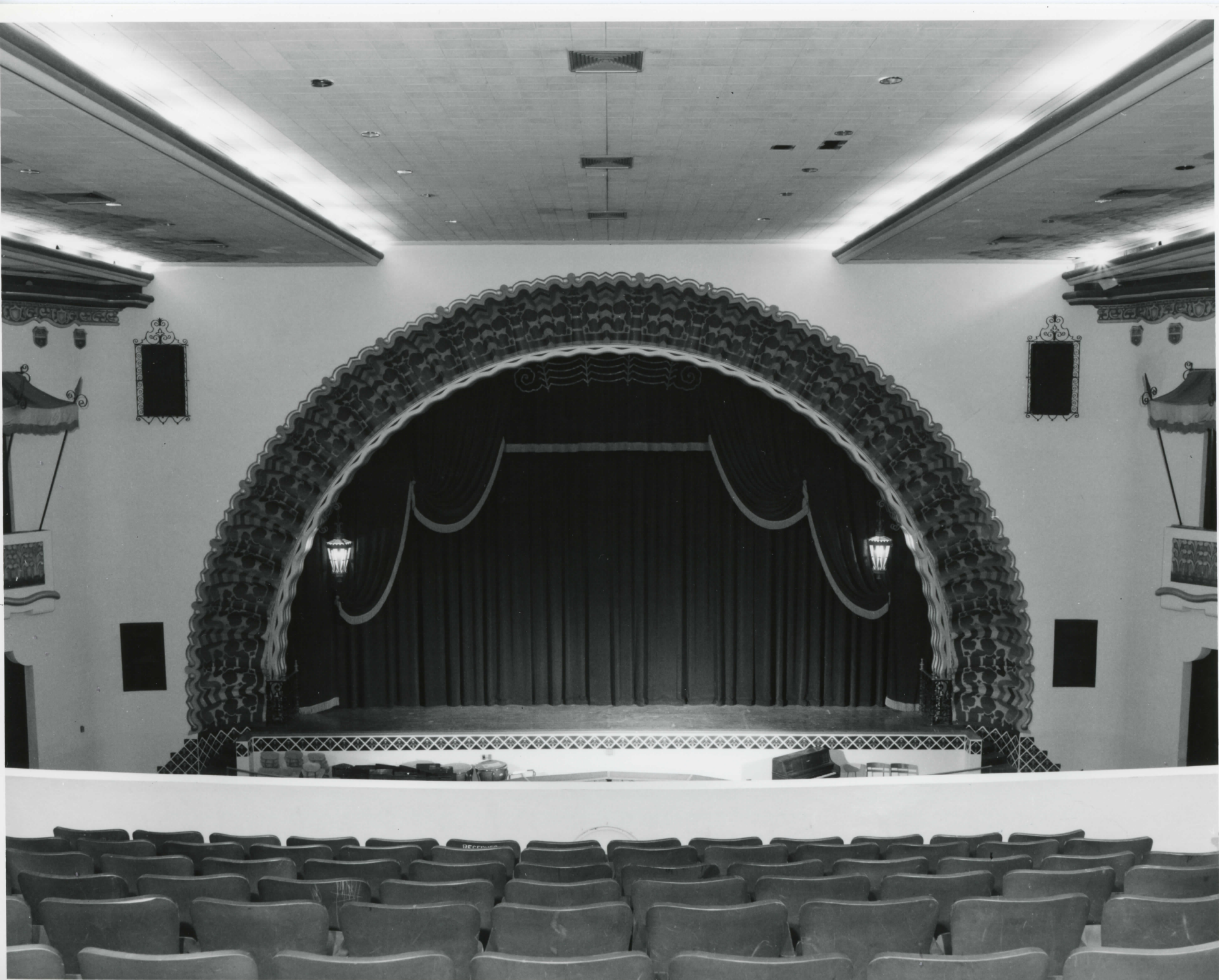


Thomas Jefferson High School, Bexar County, Texas

Photo by Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San Antonio,
Texas, 78213

Library, Northwest, looking Southeast

Photo 14 of 18



Thomas Jefferson High School, Bexar County, Texas

Photo: 1982, by Victor Weiss

Neg. on file with Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San
Antonio, Texas, 78213

Auditorium stage (north), looking South

Photo 15 of 18

LIFE



TEXAS HIGH-SCHOOL GIRLS

MARCH 7, 1938

10 CENTS

15 CENTS IN CANADA, HAWAII
ALASKA & U. S. POSSESSIONS

Thomas Jefferson High School
723 Donaldson, Bexar County, San Antonio, Texas

Photo: 1983, by Victor Weiss
Neg. on file with Victor Weiss, 458 Lively, San
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LIFE Magazine, Cover, March 7, 1938

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ONE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL: THE THOMAS JEFFERSON OF SAN ANTONIO

Here 2,394 young Texans get an education and a lot more besides

The Thomas Jefferson High School of San Antonio, Tex., is one of America's 28,000 public secondary schools attended by 7,000,000 pupils. With 2,394 students, it is bigger than most, though by no means the biggest. With a new and spacious building, which cost the people of San Antonio a million and a half dollars, it is better housed and better equipped than most. And the natural exuberance to be found in the very air of Texas has endowed it with an uncommon amount of "school spirit." Thus it cannot stand for all the 28,000 schools. But in the West at least it can stand for the new elite in American high schools. Unless you live in a sizable city west of the Allegheny Mountains and unless you have been to a high school yourself in the last ten years or sent your children to one, you have probably never seen its like.

Thomas Jefferson High teaches history and languages and mathematics ("math" is the most hated course in school), but it also teaches manners, dancing and radio broadcasting. It has two gymnasiums, a little theatre, a cafeteria, an armory, a drill ground and more playing fields than many colleges. It has clubs which the school authorities recognize and fraternities and sororities which they don't. It holds a weekly dance, with music by one of three school orchestras or an outside

band. It has a R.O.T.C. for boys and a R.O.T.C. auxiliary for girls. It has a corps of 150 "Lasso" girls, nattily turned out in cowgirl outfits, who travel all over the State.

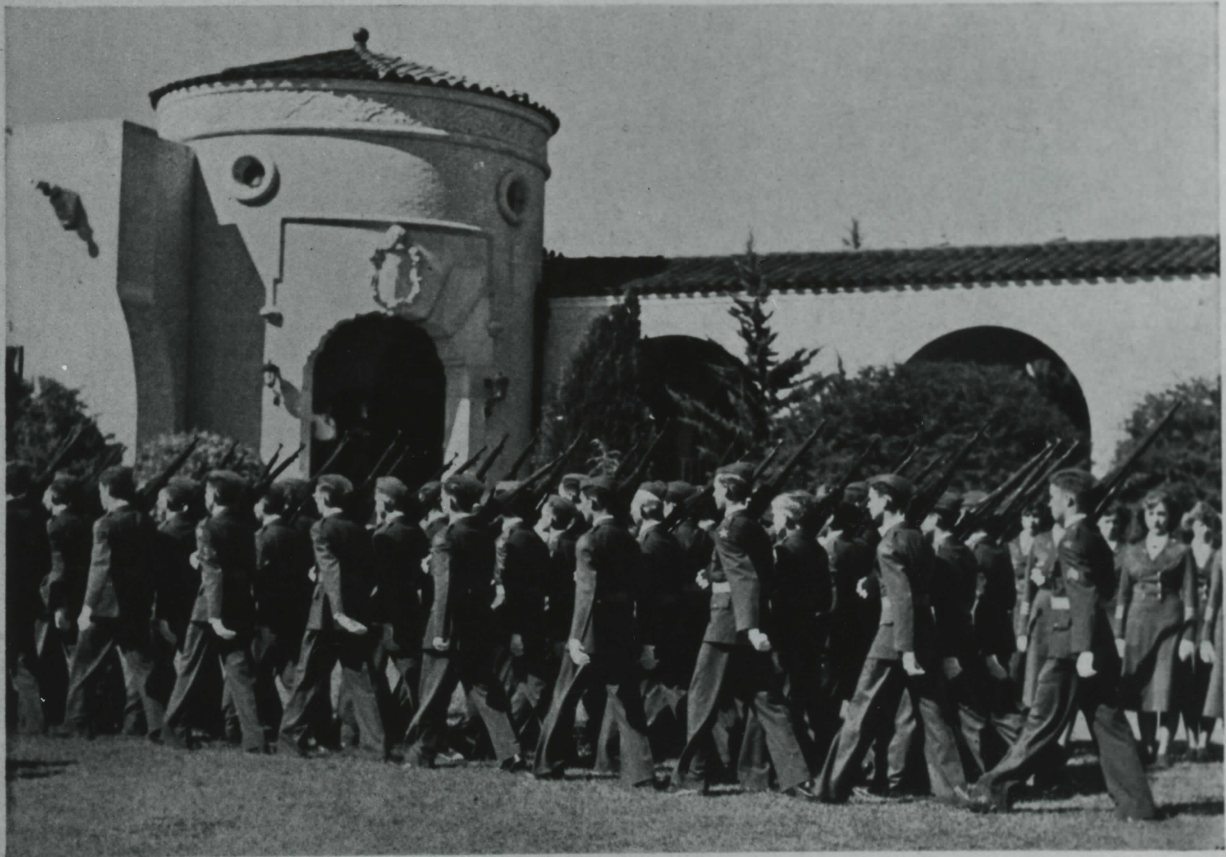
This school on the Texas prairie is, in fact, a miniature of the great State universities of the West. More than 60 per cent of its students will go on to college and, meanwhile, they ape college manners. They come to school in ancient "jalopies" which they drive pretty well, for the school has a safe-driving course. The girls wear pretty dresses and silk stockings or ankle socks with low-heeled shoes.

The boys wear slacks and no coat or tie, with only an occasional loud sweater to give away the studied carelessness. On drill days they come proudly in R.O.T.C. uniforms.

The R.O.T.C. unit is copied directly from college models. It may seem out of place in a school which bears the name of Thomas Jefferson but Jefferson, besides being a foe of militarism, was the father of the land-grant college. These colleges have fostered the R.O.T.C., believing that, in return for a free education, America's youth should prepare itself to defend the democratic system which makes that education possible. The boys and even the girls of Thomas Jefferson High will be prepared.



A STUDENT "JALOPY" IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL



THE R.O.T.C. UNIT GIVES JEFFERSON HIGH A MILITARY LOOK. THESE CADETS ARE PARADING PAST THE CORPS OF GIRL "SPONSORS."

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(continued)

The "Lassos" are the school's special pride. One hundred and fifty girls, the pick of the student body, lend "pep" to academic life and advertise San Antonio. Lassos can twirl ropes like experts and spell out (below) the "T. J." of Thomas Jefferson High.



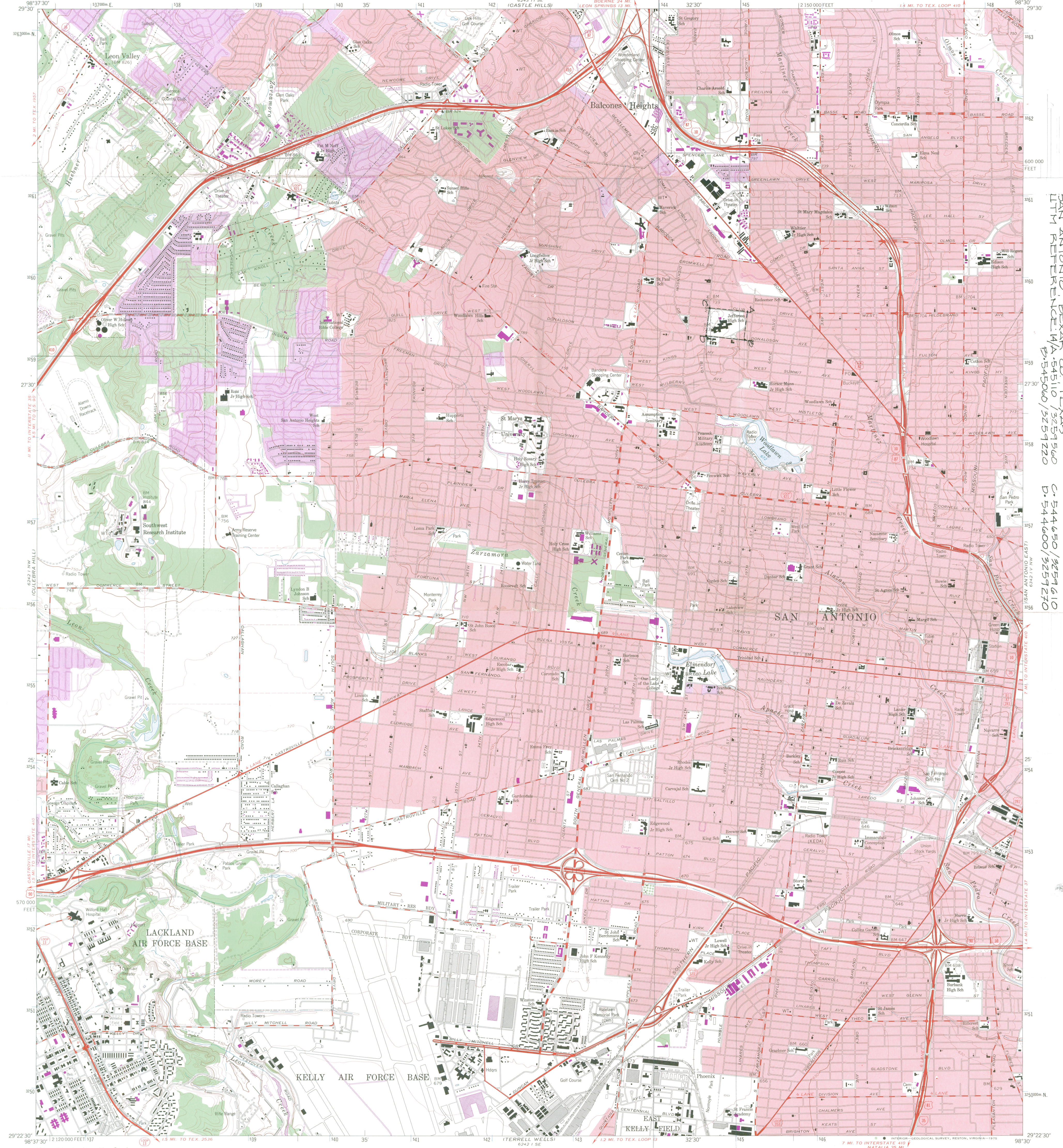
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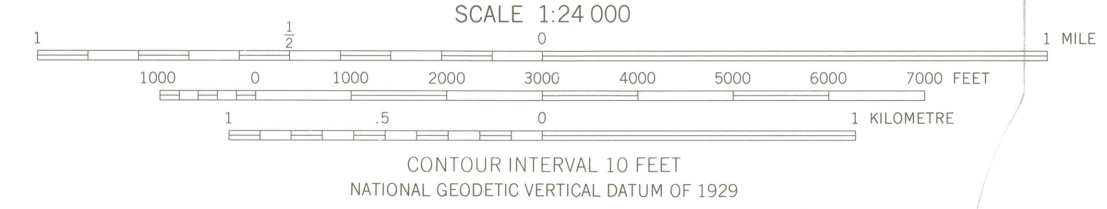
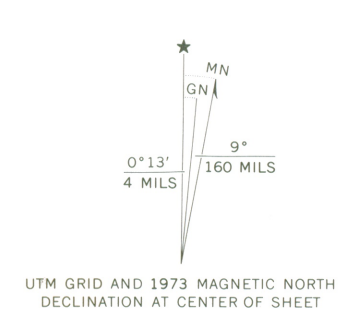
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THOMAS JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL
723 DONALDSON AVENUE
SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: MA 545000 / 32591220
C. 544650 / 3259610
D. 544600 / 3259270

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1952. Field annotated 1953. Revised by Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



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

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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