

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **OCT 11 1985**

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Old Lyford High School

and or common Old Lyford Junior High

2. Location

street & number High School Circle (formerly Bulldog Ave.)

N/A not for publication

city, town Lyford

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

code 048

county Willacy

code 489

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Lyford Consolidated Independent School District (J. A. Flores, Supt.)

street & number P. O. Box 220

city, town Lyford

N/A vicinity of

state Texas 78569

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk Office, Willacy County Courthouse

street & number West Hidalgo

city, town Raymondville

state Texas 78580

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1985

federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin

state Texas

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Old Lyford High School building is a one-story, T-plan structure built of tawny brick with cast-stone trim. Ornamentation is confined to the south elevation where the main entry is the centerpiece of the five-bay facade. The building was designed to contain five classrooms and an auditorium, which was later partitioned off to form five classrooms and a teachers' lounge.

Constructed in 1923 as the first high school building in Willacy County, the Old Lyford High School is located slightly to the west of the city reservoir on flat land landscaped with palm and elm trees. The structure, which is one story high, faces south. The main elevation measures approximately 129 feet long, with the wing extending to the north measuring 131 feet from the front door to the rear wall. The plan of the structure is that of a T, with the head of the T containing the original five classrooms and the north wing containing the original auditorium.

The south elevation is a five-part composition, with the main entrance forming the center bay. The recessed entrance way is framed by cast-stone detailing that includes an ornamental entablature on scroll brackets, above which is carved the name "Lyford High School." The two inner, flanking bays contain three windows fitted with 2-over-3 double-hung sash. The end bays of the south elevation project forward, as does the entry bay. These bays are fitted with large window bays containing five window units using the 2-over-3 pattern noted on the inner windows. These large window bays are spanned by a massive cast-stone lintel.

The east and west elevations of the classroom block are identical, with a centrally positioned doorway set in a monumental brick enframingent. A large window bay containing five window-sash units is placed to the north of these two doorways. The rear wing of the building is less ornamented than the section just described, with none of the cast stone or modeled brickwork noted. Each side of the north wing is fitted with three doors and five windows.

The interior of the building, although suffering from leaks in the roof, still retains much of its original plan and detailing. The south-facing mass of the building is bisected by a hallway, which terminates at the doorways on the east and west elevations. Student lockers are built into the walls of this corridor, the doors into the classrooms are fitted with transoms, and ventilation windows open from the classrooms into the hall. The north wing, which originally housed the auditorium, was remodeled in 1958 so as to house five classrooms and a teachers' lounge. The structure was originally fitted with wooden windows which were removed in a 1949 remodeling and replaced with steel-frame windows. It should be noted, however, that the new windows duplicated the design of the originals. The metal canopies which flank the north wing are recent additions to the structure, but the installation of these items did not result in the loss of any significant original building fabric.

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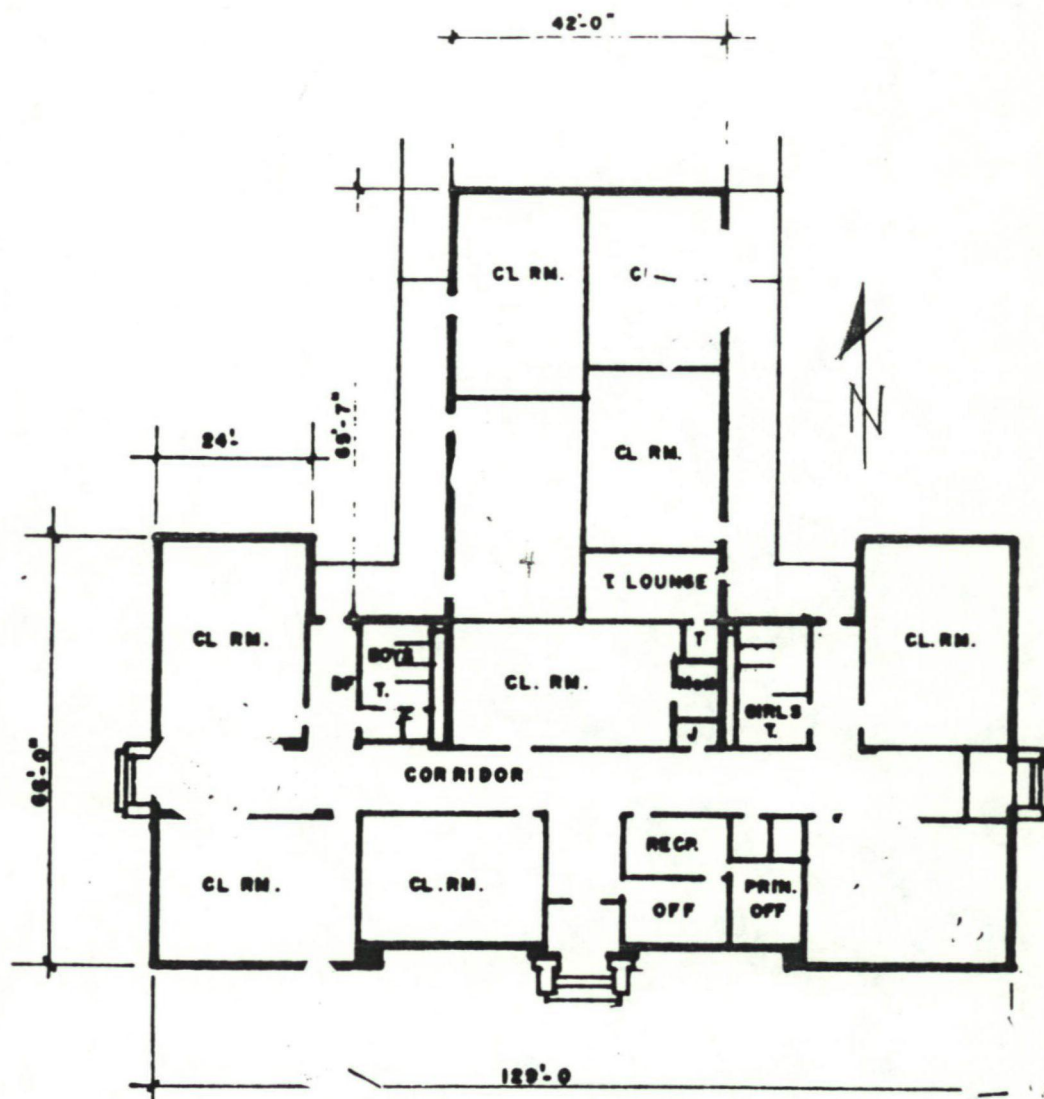
received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1



Plan of Old Lyford High School Bldg.

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 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 1923

Builder/Architect Roland Moore of Donna, Texas
Smith and Kelly of Galveston, Texas

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Being the first building erected solely for use as a high school in Willacy County, the Old Lyford High School was constructed in 1923 according to designs prepared by the San Antonio architectural firm of Smith & Kelly. The students were originally drawn from a number of small neighboring communities, and the construction of the school took place after the near unanimous passage of a bond election to raise the needed funds. The structure served its original function until superseded by a new high school in 1958.

Willacy County was created in 1911, and is situated just to the north of the Rio Grande and above Cameron County. During the early years of the county's history, it was threatened by the incursions of Mexican bandits crossing the nearby international boundary. The promulgation of the "Plan de San Diego," in February of 1915, called for the seizure of those lands in Texas south of the Nueces River and their incorporation into Mexico. Even though the plan was never acted upon, the region could almost be considered a frontier area in terms of the security of its residents.

The population growth which had taken place in the county by 1922, necessitated the construction of a permanent high school building, the first in the young county's history. The Lyford Board of Trustees called for a bond issue election to be held on June 22, 1922, for the purpose of constructing and equipping a public free school building of other than wooden material. The cost of the proposed facility was \$35,000. The contract for the construction of the school building was given to Roland Moore of Donna, Texas, on April 1, 1923, and the design of the new school building was prepared by the architectural firm of Smith and Kelly of San Antonio, and was accepted by the Lyford Board of Trustees on January 6, 1923. The structure was formally opened on February 29, 1924, with the dedication ceremonies presided over by the Raymondville Lodge No. 1204, A.F. & A.M., better known locally as the Masons.

The student body was drawn from the communities surrounding Lyford, including Sebastian, Turner Tract, and Stockholm. The popularity of the school construction project is attested to by the fact that the bond issue election passed by the lopsided vote of 64 in favor and 4 opposed. Students were brought to the school daily by trucks, the only vehicles which could successfully negotiate the dirt roads of the county.

The auditorium of the Old Lyford High School was the scene of all high school graduation ceremonies from 1924 until 1958, when the auditorium of the new high school assumed that role. With the construction of the new building, the Old Lyford High School building became Lyford Junior High, a function it maintained until 1983, when yet another school building was erected and the original high school was closed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"A Survey of Existing Facilities and Master Plan of Building Needs--Lyford I. S. D."
September 9, 1980. SHWC, Inc. Architects, Engineers, Planners, Harlingen, Texas.
(see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Raymondville, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 14 620040 29215000
Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing

C Zone Easting Northing

D Zone Easting Northing

E Zone Easting Northing

F Zone Easting Northing

G Zone Easting Northing

H Zone Easting Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See continuation sheet)

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

Table with 4 columns: state, code, county, code. Row 1: state N/A, code, county, code. Row 2: state, code, county, code.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. A. Flores (with John Ferguson, THC)

organization Lyford Cons. Ind. Sch. Dist.

date June 1985

street & number P. O. Box 220

telephone (512) 347-3521 ext. 200

city or town Lyford

state Texas 78569

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local (X)

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

Signature of Curtis J. Jundt

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 27 Sept. 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

Signature of Nelson Boyer, Keeper of the National Register

date 11-7-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

The Old Lyford High School has been secured against vandalism and further weather damage by the boarding up of all window openings. The Lyford Consolidated Independent School District proposed the demolition of the structure in 1982 and 1983, but was dissuaded from that course of action by the demonstrations of public support for the retention of the building, which had served to educate so many residents of the community. Present plans call for the replacement of the roof in 1985, with future work to continue on the interior. The building will probably contain a few classrooms and administrative offices, as well as space devoted to a museum display of historical documents which have been collected by the school's librarian. Thus rehabilitated, the building will continue to serve the educational needs of the county for years to come.

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Continuation sheet

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Page 1

Brownsville Herald, Volume 23, No. 90 (Thursday, October 21, 1915).

Cost-Estimate date October 9, 1984 by Balli/Gomez & Associates, Inc., Architects and Planners, 954 East Madison, Brownsville, Texas 78520.

Interviews by J. A. Flores with 1949 Lyford Superintendent Sidney McKeand, 1949 teacher Florence Carlson, and Lyford High School graduates Luis Prator and Julio Saldana. Stanley Addington, Willacy County Historical Committee Chairman.

Letter dated November 4, 1984, from Ray Ydoyaga, Associate Editor of Texas Architect, on file in the office of Lyford CISD Superintendent J. A. Flores.

Lyford Consolidated Independent School District Board minutes on file in the Administration Building located next to Old Lyford High School, 1922-1985.

Pierce, Frank C., Texas Last Frontier - A Brief History of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Wisconsin: The Collegiate Press-George Banks Publishing Company, 1917 (Reprinted 1962, Historical Society).

Rodriguez, Maria, "The Rio Grande Valley's Dangerous Little War." The Junior Historian, Vol. XXIV, No. 2, November 1963.

Stevenson, Daisy Glick, A Trail to Manana. Royal Publishing Company, 1958.

The Lyford Courant, Lyford, Texas. Published Weekly by the Union Publishing Company, August 20, 1915.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

Metes and bounds, description of:

A 14,466.80 square feet tract of land out of Out Lot 68, Lyford Townsite, Willacy County, Texas; according to the Map Records of Willacy County, Texas thereof; said 14,466.80 square feet tract of land being more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the Southwest corner of said Out Lot 68 and East right of way line of Simon Gomez Avenue 40.0 feet right of way; THENCE, North with and along the contiguous West line of said Out Lot 68 and said East right of way line, a distance of 196.38 feet to a point; THENCE, east parallel to the South line of said Out Lot 68, a distance of 94.33 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and the Southwest corner of the tract herein described; said corner being marked by a $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter steel bar;

THENCE, North 0 degrees 15 minutes East, a distance of 80.79 feet to a point for a corner of this tract; said corner being marked by an X-mark set on a concrete walk;

THENCE, South 89 degrees 45 minutes East, a distance of 38.38 feet to a point for a corner of this tract; said corner being marked by a $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter steel bar;

THENCE, North 0 degrees 15 minutes East, a distance of 50.35 feet to a point for the Northwest corner of this tract; said corner being marked by an X-mark set on a concrete walk;

THENCE, South 89 degrees 45 minutes East, a distance of 63.34 feet to a point for the Northeast corner of this tract; said corner being marked by an X-mark set on a concrete walk;

THENCE, South 0 degrees 15 minutes West, a distance of 53.68 feet to a point for a corner of this tract; said corner being marked by a $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter steel bar;

THENCE, South 89 degrees 45 minutes East, a distance of 39.50 feet to a point for a corner of this tract; said corner being marked by a $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter steel bar;

THENCE, South 0 degrees 15 minutes West, a distance of 77.46 feet to a point for the Southeast corner of this tract; said corner being marked by a nail set in concrete;

THENCE, North 89 degrees 45 minutes West, a distance of 141.22 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 14,466.80 square feet of land.

REF#

85002770

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Old Lyford High School
Willacy County
TEXAS

Working No. OCT 11 1985

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 11/7/85 - 11/25/85

Action: ACCEPT 11-7-85

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 Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

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

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 _____

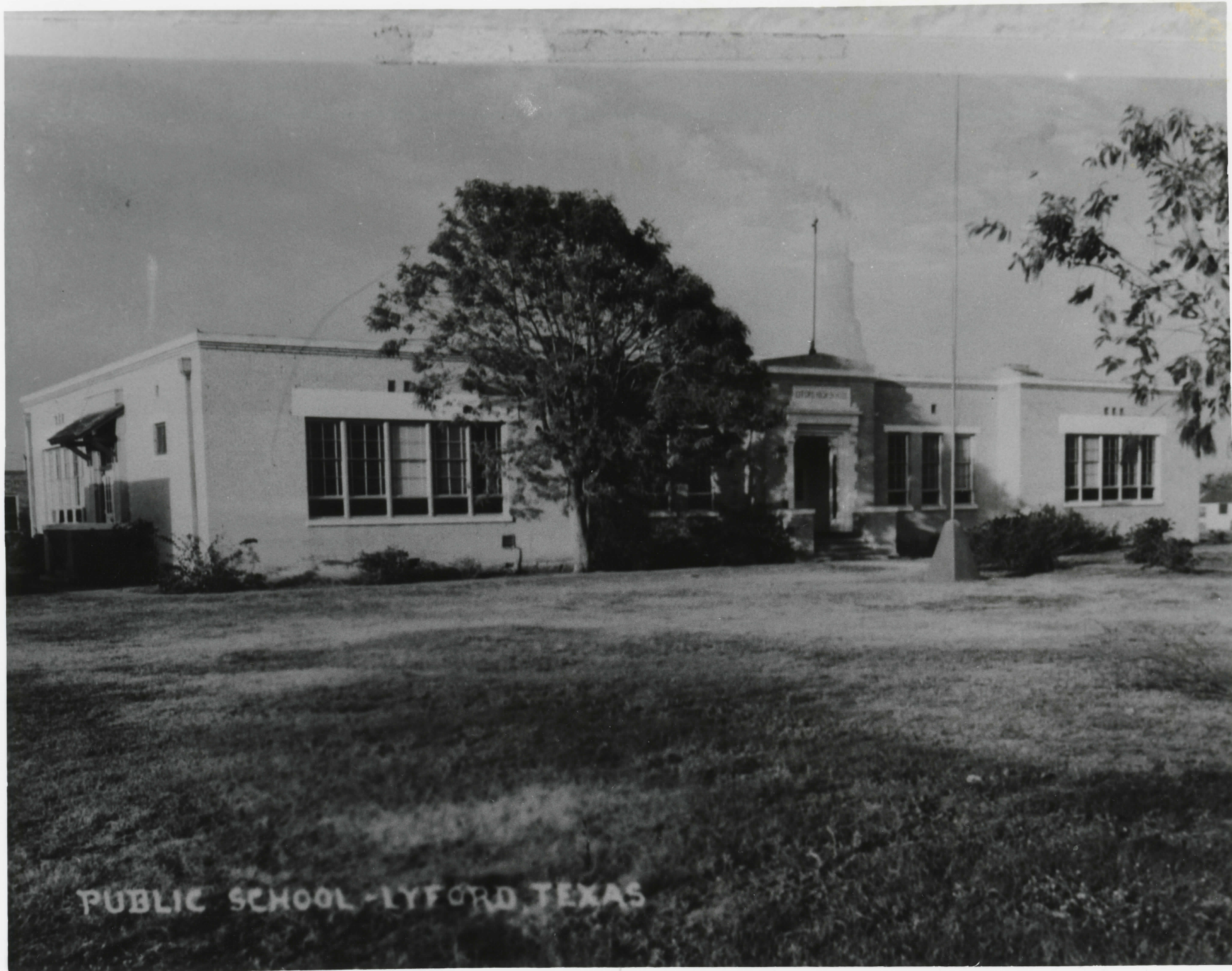
13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



PUBLIC SCHOOL - LYFORD, TEXAS

1

Old Lyford High School, High School Circle,
Lyford, Willacy County, Texas.

Photo: 1950s, photographer unknown.

Early photo of building from postal card, looking
NE.

Photo 1 of 7



2

2

Old Lyford High School, High School Circle,
Lyford, Willacy County, Texas.

Photo: October 1984, Ray Snow; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Front or south side with close view of windows
in SE corner, looking NW.

Photo 2 of 7



6

Old Lyford High School, High School Circle,
Lyford, Willacy County, Texas.

Photo: March 1985, Gene Smith Studio; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Windows covered with temporary panels, south
front of building, looking NE.

Photo 3 of 7



7

Old Lyford High School, High School Circle,
Lyford, Willacy County, Texas.

Photo: March 1985, Gene Smith Studio; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

West side of old auditorium, looking E.

Photo 4 of 7



Old Lyford High School, High School Circle,
Lyford, Willacy County, Texas.

Photo: March 1985, Gene Smith Studio; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

East wall of original classroom part of building,
looking SW.

Photo 5 of 7



12

Old Lyford High School, High School Circle,
Lyford, Willacy County, Texas.

Photo: March 1985, Gene Smith Studio; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

Interior hall, looking E.

Photo 6 of 7



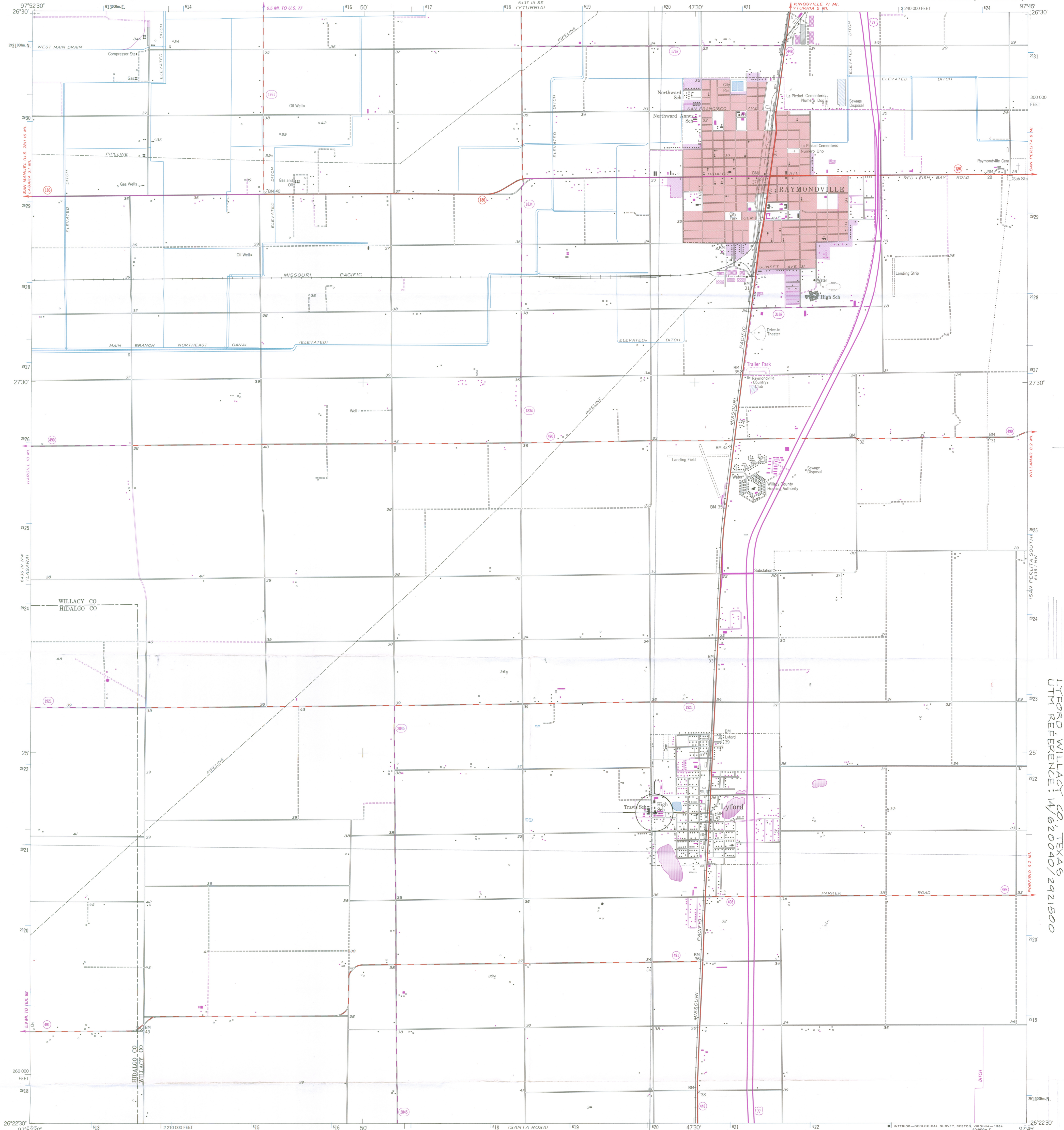
15

Old Lyford High School, High School Circle,
Lyford, Willacy County, Texas.

Photo: March 1985, Gene Smith Studio; neg. with
Texas Historical Commission, Austin.

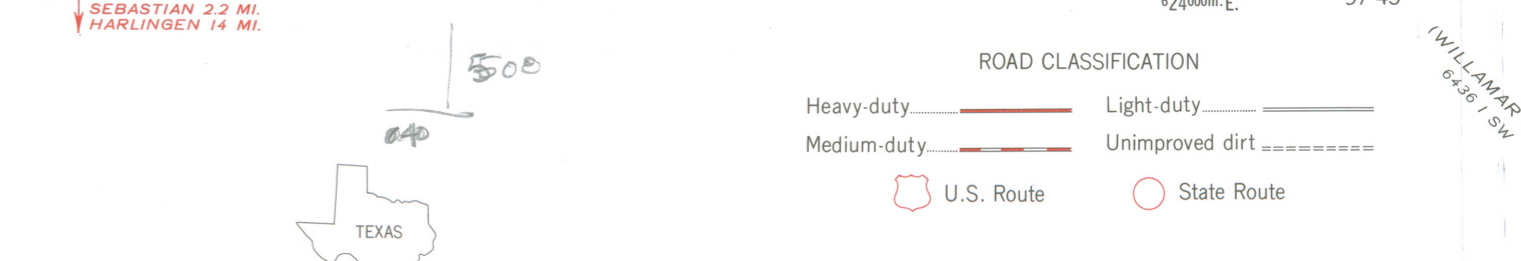
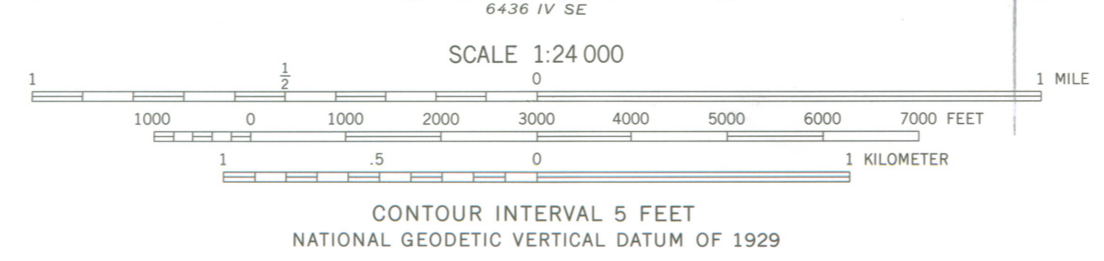
Interior of SE classroom.

Photo 7 of 7



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1953. Topography by planetable surveys 1956; and from 1:24 000 scale mapping by the Texas Reclamation Department 1937, revised 1956
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 32 meters south and 28 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1980 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982
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

OLD LYFORD HIGH SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL CIRCLE
LYFORD, WILLACY CO. TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14U020040/2921500