

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

404

OK



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Lampasas Colored School
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 514 College Street
CITY OR TOWN: Lampasas
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Lampasas CODE: 281

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 76550

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

4 MARCH 2002

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

4-24-02

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: public-local

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/school

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: VACANT, WORK IN PROGRESS

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: NO STYLE

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE
WALLS STONE/limestone
ROOF METAL
OTHER CONCRETE

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-7).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

The 1923 Lampasas Colored School, at 514 College Street in Lampasas, Texas, is a 24' x 66' rectangular, single story, two-room, vernacular limestone schoolhouse with a low gable roof. While the building utilizes materials common to many properties in Lampasas, the school is a late example of stone construction in the area and is more substantial than most African American schools in Texas, most of which are wood frame or brick. The rubble limestone exterior walls are enhanced at each corner with quoins, and a narrow decorative stone cap on the parapet walls is repeated about four feet lower as a belt course. Two small additions were made to the basic rectangle in 1948 – on the east façade an enclosed entry vestibule and on the west indoor restrooms. In 1959, a concrete block kitchen was added to the south end of the west façade. The school building has suffered from lack of maintenance and carelessly executed (though reversible) remodeling, repairs, and additions in recent years, but retains its character-defining features and a high degree of historic and architectural integrity.

Described in the deed records as Lot 1, Block 11, East Lampasas subdivision, the lot measures 37½ by 75 varas. The site is bounded on the east (front) by College Street, on the south by Bridge Street, on the west by Sulphur Creek, and on the north by a commercial site. It is about four block southeast of the courthouse square and the historic downtown district of Lampasas (NR nomination pending). Today the neighborhood is diverse racially and culturally, consisting of very modest homes. Immediately south of the site across Bridge Street, is the well-tended New Hope Baptist Church, one of two black churches in the neighborhood. Two lots south of the New Hope Church is a city park and playground. The school site is fenced with a mixed variety of wire material attached to creosote posts. The building is on the east portion of the site.

The windowless east (front) façade of the building features a 6' x 14' foyer which was added in 1948 and completely covers the two separate original entry doors which led into each classroom. The east elevation is windowless to allow for blackboard space on the interior. This 6' x 14' foyer is slightly north of center, and is constructed of limestone masonry units on a cement slab, matching 1923 building in type, color, style, and workmanship. Though not as tall as the building wall, it repeats the belt course at the same level as the main structure and repeats the cap stone treatment for the top of the wall. The foyer features paired five-panel wooden doors with a horizontal transom above. The transom is currently boarded over with plywood, and the doors are broken. Initially featuring a symmetrical plan, the building is about 10 feet longer on the south end as a result of a 1948 extension of the south room to make a performance stage. The only other decorative element on the primary façade consists of two narrow arched niches (approximately 10" wide x 36" tall), interrupting the belt course at the midpoint between the original foyer and the original corners of the façade. (photo #5) An attic vent is located above each of the niches.

The south façade of the building is about 14' high x 24' feet wide. A 9' high x 13' wide vehicle or storage entrance has been cut at the west edge of the façade. (see photo #2) The opening is reinforced with paired steel I beams. A heavy wood-framed door covered with corrugated metal has been removed, but the metal tracks are still in place. The low gable end is covered with corrugated metal.

The west (rear) elevation has the largest number of alterations. At the northwest corner of the original building was a large open shed structure with a 23' x 23' footprint. Three of the four windows located in the west wall of the north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 6

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

classroom and part of the limestone wall were removed to create a 9' x 9' doorway into the building. (photo #6) A large side sliding corrugated metal door on a track to covers this opening.

Just south of the shed location is a 13'-wide limestone addition, protruding 23 feet from the original façade. It was added in 1948 to provide separate indoor restrooms for boys and girls. The restroom addition is on a concrete slab with rubble limestone masonry walls. This addition is not as tall as the original building and has a corrugated metal roof that sits on top of the exterior walls sloping from north to south. The exterior three-panel wood door features a single light. There are two windows in the west wall of the addition, and one small window high in the south wall, all with limestone sills. This addition covers two doorways into the original structure, one to each classroom.

A 14'x14' concrete block addition on a concrete slab is attached to the south portion of the west elevation. (photo #2) The flat metal roof of this addition begins just below the belt course on the original building and slopes from east to west. Just above the roof of this addition is a scupper hole with metal receiver head and metal down-spout for roof drainage from the main structure. The addition has a one-over-one double hung wood sash window centered in each of the south and west walls and a doorway at the west edge of the north wall. A heavy metal screen security covers the windows. Between this addition and the masonry restroom addition to its north is a four-unit, six-over-six light, double hung wooden window group in the west wall of the south classroom. The sill for the window unit is smooth tooled limestone blocks.

The north façade of the building is virtually unaltered, with one high-placed central window. The window is boarded over with plywood. (photo #3)

The building interior has been altered but still retains much evidence of the original school finishes and floor plan. (photo #6) All interior finishes are damaged or dilapidated. The entire 24' x 66' interior space has been modified into one large room, with evidence of the original partition wall between the two classrooms. A portion of another partition wall is still in place and defines the 10-foot south classroom extension that was made in 1948 to provide a performance stage.

The original wooden floor has been removed, exposing a dirt sub floor in the north part of the building. The south half of the sub floor is covered with cement. Along the east wall of the original south classroom space is a 24" strip of 3" tongue and groove flooring, along with a 1"x 6" baseboard. Remnants of wooden floor joists and empty joist pockets are evident in the east and west exterior walls. A portion of the wooden floor for the stage still exists along the east wall and remnants of floor joists in pockets in the west exterior wall shows that the stage floor was 18 inches higher than the classroom floors. The original pressed tin ceiling remains, but is in very deteriorated condition.

Two doorways in the east wall lead to the enclosed 1948 foyer. Each doors had a three-over-three light panel in the top portion above a single wood panel lower half. Each had a horizontal three light transom above. The north door and transom are in place and functional. The south door is missing and its opening filled with plywood.

On the west wall, are the remnants of two large window groups, one for each class room. (photo #6) Each group consisted of four units of six-over-six wooden double hung windows. Three of the four north-room window units have been removed to make a large opening in the building. By comparison, the south-room window group is mostly intact.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

Two doorways in the middle of the west wall lead into the restroom area. Another doorway at the south end of the west wall leads from the stage to the cement block room. The school room walls are plaster applied over masonry, but plaster is in poor condition. Wooden strips set into the plaster, reveal outlines of the (missing) blackboards.

All of the masonry additions have concrete floors. The restroom addition has glazed tile walls in each restroom and plaster finish in the vestibule. The south restroom retains old ceramic fixtures and two wooden privacy partition walls. There are no fixtures or partitions in the north restroom. The concrete block addition has a concrete floor, painted walls, and missing ceiling.

Despite alterations, the Lampasas Colored School retains a good degree of integrity. The stone building is a remarkable sturdy example of a early 20th century central Texas African American school, retaining integrity of location, setting, workmanship, materials, design, feeling, and association. Most alterations have occurred on the sides and back of the building, leaving the primary (east) elevation intact.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: G

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Education; Ethnic Heritage: Black

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1923-1963

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1923, 1948

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-17).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-18).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

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

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 8

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The 1923 Lampasas Colored School¹ is associated with the period of racial segregation in Lampasas public schools, and is the sole extant property directly associated with African-American education in the community. The simple 2-room stone school building replaced an earlier single-room frame building, and represents an era when legally mandated separate --but rarely equal-- accommodations for African American students were the norm throughout the southern United States. Despite its diminutive size in comparison to the schools intended for white students only, the Lampasas Colored School made a significant contribution to the education of black children in Lampasas for over sixty years, and is nominated to the National Register under Criteria A, in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage:Black. The period of significance extends to 1963, when Lampasas public schools integrated; Criteria Consideration G (*properties that have achieved significance within the last fifty years*) therefore applies, as the building continued to function as a segregated public school. The building is exceptionally significant as a rare physical reminder of African-American education in Lampasas County, Texas.

The Lampasas Colored School is located at 514 College Street, east of and adjacent to Sulphur Creek, which flows through town. The neighborhood in East Lampasas found along Bridge, College, Cloud, and Briggs Street, about four blocks southeast of the courthouse square and the historic downtown district of Lampasas, has occupied by black families since the 19th century. Two black churches are located a short distance from the old school building, including the adjacent New Hope Baptist Church.² This section of town was known as "Light Town" due to the early presence of street lighting.³ Another small black neighborhood is found along the junctions of north-south Main, Chestnut, and Western avenues and the east-west Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth streets. This other area did not have street lights and was known as "Dark Town."⁴ The neighborhood, which is now racially integrated, has lost roughly half of its houses to demolition and neglect.

The Lampasas Colored School is the oldest public school building in the city of Lampasas. Most of its simple workmanship and design have survived and still reflects the integrity, feeling, and associations of its original purpose- the segregated education of black children. It is also a place where black students went to school to learn, have fun, and prepare for adult life, and is representative of American society before desegregation when separate schools for black and white children was the policy of the public school systems throughout a large portion of the United States.

Lampasas, Texas⁵

Lampasas, seat of Lampasas County, Texas, is on Sulphur Creek at the junction of U.S. highways 183, 281, and 190, in south central Lampasas County. The earliest permanent settlers began arriving in the Lampasas area in the 1850s, and engaged in farming and ranching. A few early settlers brought slaves with them.

¹ The term "colored" appears throughout this nomination because it is the word commonly used by former students to distinguish the building from other Lampasas schools.

² *Lampasas Dispatch Record*, September 19, 1996.

³ Edward Finnell, interview.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Partially adapted from "Lampasas, Texas," article in *New Handbook of Texas* (1996).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 9

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

John Bureson, the county's first resident, was awarded 1,280 acres of land including the present Lampasas townsite on April 26, 1838, in return for his services during the Texas Revolution. After his death the land was deeded in 1854 to his daughters, Elizabeth Scott and Martha Moore. When the Texas legislature established Lampasas County on February 1, 1856, it named the community of Bureson as the county seat, changing its name to "Lampasas." By 1871 the town had fifteen to twenty businesses, including the Dunn molasses business, several wool and mohair commission houses, and a number of county government agencies. In 1873, Lampasas incorporated, responding to the need for a law to keep livestock off the public square.

In 1882 the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railway was extended to Lampasas, making the town an important trading center and a major shipping port for wool and cotton. The population soared to an estimated 3,500. Hancock and Hanna Springs, the most notable of the town's mineral springs, believed in the late 19th century to have medicinal value and curative powers, were promoted to attract invalids and health seekers. With the arrival of the railroad, Lampasas, formerly known as the "Saratoga of Texas," became the "Saratoga of the South." Large facilities accommodated health-seeking visitors, including the Park Hotel near Hancock Springs and the Hannah Bath and Opera House, which hosted the Democratic state convention in 1893. By the mid 1890s, the popularity of the malodorous sulfur springs began to fade.

Lampasas weathered the Great Depression and by the 1940s became the home office of the Motor Freight Company. During World War II, Hancock Park, known temporarily as Panther Park after the Tank Destroyer Center symbol, was used as a recreation center for troops from nearby Fort Hood. After the war, Lampasas experienced a boom when the camp flooded the town with new residents. The population of Lampasas, estimated at 2,107 in 1904, reached 3,426 by World War II, jumped to 4,872 by 1952, and peaked at 7,682 in 1978. In 1988 the town had 6,749 residents and 145 businesses. In 1990 the population was 6,382.

Early Black Education in Lampasas

The first permanent settlers arrived in Lampasas in the 1850s. By the time of the 1860 census the population had grown to 1028 people. There were 153 slaves belonging to 12 different slave owners.⁶ Slaves received no formal education, but after emancipation, national black leaders, along with some progressive white leaders, began to recognize the necessity of education for black children. Until the creation of (and in some cases, in lieu of) separate schools for blacks, African American families assumed the responsibility for educating their own children. Lampasas County native Stanley Walker (1898-1962), a former city editor of the *New York Herald Tribune* and a nationally-known author described the typical setup in his book *Home To Texas*:

"Mary [Pickett] Washington [1870-1962] educated her children and her grandchildren. A grandson, Jesse Washington Hodges [1920-1950], taught school in Lampasas, then became a doctor, with the position of head physician at a prominent Negro college. But the strain had been too great. He died of tuberculosis, before he was thirty years old."⁷

⁶1860 Census of Lampasas County.

⁷Stanley Walker, *Home to Texas*, page 236.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 10

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

The history of race relations in Lampasas is similar to that of other small towns throughout the south. The former slaves who remained in the area and those African Americans who later migrated to Lampasas experienced segregated accommodations similar to those found in other parts of the south, and were treated as second-class citizens by the majority population. Blacks worked as field hands, cooks, house maids, porters, yardmen, and often were relegated to the most strenuous jobs. There is no record of large-scale race-related violence or an organized civil rights movement, but the Ku Klux Klan was apparently locally active in the 1920s.⁸

Most of the early black teachers of the Lampasas Colored School had attended the State School at Prairie View, the black state college which later became known as Prairie View A&M. The number of students enrolled in the Lampasas Colored School varied. The numbers reveal a decline in the black student population from about 1908 to 1963. In 1898, there were 50 students attending the colored school, in 1908 the figure reached a high of 111, in 1911 there were 77, and in 1921 there were 35. Two students graduated from the school in 1919, Helen Huling and Tommie Williams.⁹ Since 1923, when the limestone school was built, the number has remained below 55 and in 1963 there were only 37 students enrolled. These numbers were found in newspaper items and school board minutes and there may have been occasions when the actual enrollment exceeded these figures.

The One Room School House.

One of the earliest black teachers in Lampasas was Professor T.L. Williams. Prof. Williams began teaching in Lampasas about 1892. The *Lampasas Leader* described him as the "prince of colored teachers." He was a graduate of the state school at Prairie View and he was a member of the African Methodist Episcopal [A.M.E.] Church.¹⁰ In 1898, Prof. Williams raised enough money to purchase a site for a black school house in Lampasas. The Board of Trustees of the City Public Schools secured the donation of an old building known as the "Alto School House," and with the \$25 that Prof. Williams raised, bought Lot One in Block Eleven of East Lampasas.¹¹ This lot became the permanent location of the Lampasas Colored School. This wooden building would continue to be the colored school until it was replaced with a limestone structure in 1923.

In 1898, the closing ceremony or end of the year program for the Lampasas Colored School was held in the Hanna Opera House, near Hanna Springs. The Hanna Springs Opera House was a large hall that the community used for various purposes. Two-thirds of the audience were white, and the *Lampasas Leader* reported that Prof. Williams, "placed a great responsibility upon the white people, for he advises his people to imitate the whites."¹² This fine example was not demonstrated and the *Lampasas Leader* made note of the "unbecoming conduct of a few white men" at the ceremony. This graduation marked the completion of the fifth grade level of education, the highest grade offered by the school at the time.

⁸"Lampasas, Texas," article in *New Handbook of Texas* (1996). St. Dominic's Villa, a Catholic girls' boarding academy opened to all faiths in 1900, but the institution closed in 1925 under pressure in part from the Ku Klux Klan.

⁹*Lampasas Leader*, May 23, 1919.

¹⁰*Lampasas Leader*, December 12, 1902.

¹¹*Lampasas Leader*, July 29, 1898; Lampasas County Deed Records, Volume 3, page 341.

¹²*Lampasas Leader*, June 3, 1898.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 11

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

In 1902, Prof. Williams died of typhoid fever,¹³ and S.W. Henry was hired to take his place.¹⁴ In 1903, the new principal of the Colored School published the following item in the *Lampasas Leader*:

To Patrons of Colored School.

The school board has announced that the public schools of the city will open on the 14th of September and some of our people announced before hand that the keeping of their children out of school will commence on the same day. . .¹⁵

The newspaper did not explain why African American families would keep their children out of school (and much of the following narrative is based on infrequent items published in the local paper). In 1904, the colored school held their closing ceremonies at the Ladies Library Hall on Third Street. School children were allow free admission to the event, but the public was charged ten cents to meet contingent expenses. Prof. L.C. Anderson of the Prairie View Normal and Industrial College delivered an address and on the following day a picnic was held at Gooch Spring just east of Lampasas.¹⁶

By 1906, the black population may have changed their minds about keeping their children from school, judging from an report published in the *Lampasas Leader*. By then, Prof. Henry had divided the students into two groups of younger and older students – more like a grade system of education found in a larger school – and added grades six through eight:

Reports from the colored school show most encouraging results. Since Prof. Henry has taken charge the grade has been raised materially - at first taking hold of the school there being only five grades and now there are eight. There are two teachers in charge of the work and a total of 91 pupils, 30 of whom are in Room 1, which has from the 4th to the 8th grades, and the remainder are in the three lower grades. The increase in attendance over this time last year is about 15. The grade of work which is done is first class and the pupils are willing and anxious to learn.¹⁷

J. Henry Marion became principal and teacher c.1916. In 1919 he was making \$60.00 per month and his wife was paid \$30.00 per month to be his assistant.¹⁸ J.R.S. [or J.H.R.] Hollowell took the job in 1920 and was paid \$87.50 per month. In 1921, the school board reviewed Prof. Hollowell's performance on the job. The following was noted in the minutes book on October 28:

I visited the colored school and observed two classes recite. I find that the order of the room was good and the instruction very good. The pupils seemed to understand what they were doing and gave very

¹³*Lampasas Leader*, December 12, 1902.

¹⁴*Lampasas Leader*, January 9, 1903.

¹⁵*Lampasas Leader*, September 4, 1903.

¹⁶*Lampasas Leader*, May 27, 1904.

¹⁷*Lampasas Leader*, February 6, 1906.

¹⁸*Lampasas Leader*, May 18, 1917. Lampasas School Board Minutes, May 1, 1919, June 20, 1919.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 12

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

intelligent answer in what they said. His teaching of moral principles was good. There were thirty eight pupils present on this day.¹⁹

The 1923 Lampasas Colored School.

In 1922, the people of Lampasas voted in favor of a \$40,000 school bond that would provide money to repair the white grammar school, remodel and enlarge the white high school, and erect a new building for black students.²⁰ Work on the new colored school, located in front of the existing schoolhouse, began in April 1923. Upon completion near the end of May, the old school building was torn down. J.H.R. Hollowell was principal of the colored school at the time.

The new Lampasas Colored School was a simple two-room box-like limestone structure with a flat roof and was like a small version of the larger high school. The somewhat primitive and simple nature of the Lampasas Colored School building reflects an attitude of the time that spending an equal amount of money to educate black children was not necessary. While the building was substantial compared to the earlier facility, the new building appears to have been built with stone salvaged from a much older structure. The designer is not known.

It became apparent almost immediately that the new building was too small to adequately serve the black population. In 1927, the colored school population had too many students to use the building at one time. In order to relieve this overcrowding the school board decided to split the school day between the younger and older students. The older students went to school from eight a.m. till noon, and the younger students from one p.m. till five p.m., and the teacher's pay was raised from \$75.00 a month to \$100 per month.²¹

In 1935, Sam Burton, the colored school teacher and principal, was paid \$630.00 for the year. This seems to be the lowest pay offered any teacher in the Lampasas system at that time. Other teachers were paid from \$675 to \$1260 for a year's service.²²

In 1941, the Colored Parent Teacher Association, composed of Ruby Hicks, Sophia Espy, Etta Mae Jefferson, Thelma Taylor Barton and Jesse W. Hodges, met with the Lampasas School Board and asked that a new boys' restroom be added to the north side of the building. They also asked that sidewalks be constructed leading to the restrooms. Instead the board added sinks to the rest rooms so the children could wash their hands, and instructed the janitorial staff to paint the walls of the colored school with calcimine.²³

In 1948, the Lampasas School Board approved a bid of \$10,922.42, from Audie Powledge for work on the colored school.²⁴ This work may have included the addition of a small entrance room on the east side of the building and a boys and girls restroom on the west side. The building was also extended on the south side and a stage was built on this

¹⁹Lampasas School Board Minutes, October 28, 1921.

²⁰*Lampasas Leader*, June 22, 1922.

²¹Lampasas School Board Minutes, January 11, 1927.

²²Lampasas School Board Minutes, April 27, 1938, page 74.

²³Lampasas School Board Minutes, September 9, 1941, pages 130-131.

²⁴Lampasas School Board Minutes, May 27, 1948, page 217

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 13

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

extended area. The center wall was removed and partition doors were installed, between the two classrooms. This allowed both classrooms a view of the stage. By the end of 1948, the board was considering curtains for the stage.²⁵ In 1950, natural gas lines were installed and used to heat the school.²⁶ Billie E. Orman became the principal of the black school in 1948 and would remain in that position until it was closed in 1963.²⁷

Colored School Activities

Despite small class size and inadequate facilities, Lampasas Colored School students took part in numerous extracurricular activities including athletics and performing arts. The Lampasas Colored School had a small playground and (after 1948) a small stage, but the black students had infrequent access to the Lampasas school facilities such as the gymnasium and football field. Over the years, the Lampasas School Board discussed the use of "white" facilities by black students, and sometimes allowed such use for special occasions. In 1938, the school board allowed the Lampasas Fire Department to sponsor a "Negro foot ball game" for charity purposes. A similar allowance was made the following year.

Records of activities through the 1940s and 50s are infrequent, but some notices appeared in the *Lampasas Leader*, such as the May 1941 announcement that of a play ("Diamonds and Hearts," a comedy-drama in three acts), sponsored by Lampasas Colored School pupils at the high school gymnasium.²⁸

Debate about the use of "white" facilities continued until desegregation. In 1948, the Lampasas School Board considered allowing the black children the use of the white high school gymnasium. After a discussion the board decided:

... since there is so much commotion being stirred up over the country at present over segregation problems, and since the board was interested in keeping down trouble in Lampasas, especially for the benefit of colored people, and since up to now there has been no trouble, and since the outcome of letting the colored team use the gym was in question, he moved that the board could not see fit to permit its use at this time.²⁹

Instead the school board authorized the superintendent to improve the outdoor court at the colored school, in order to make it the "best court possible."

At the beginning of the school year in 1950, a Dramatic Arts Club, a Junior Star Club, and a community youth choir were organized.³⁰ In March of 1951, the colored P.T.A. held a banquet. Their menu consisted of "stomach's sake

²⁵Lampasas School Board Minutes, November 9, 1948, page 223.

²⁶Lampasas School Board Minutes, February 7, 1950, page 237.

²⁷Lampasas School Board Minutes, July 9, 1948, page 219.

²⁸*Lampasas Leader*, May 15, 1941.

²⁹Lampasas School Board Minutes, February 3, 1948, page 207.

³⁰*Lampasas Record*, September 21, 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 14

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

pig hips, ranch style brownies, green tips, Irish favorite, swollen staff, sweet taste, cow's choice (frozen), and mother's best."³¹ Music was furnished by "'Cockeye' and His Aces."

A school basketball team was organized in 1951. Known as the Eagles, they wore the same colors as the Lampasas Badgers.³² Principal Billie E. Orman served as coach of the team. The girls basketball team was known as the Eaglettes. A regular column titled "Negro School News" by Ernestine Patrick began appearing in the *Lampasas Record* in September 1951.³³ In November, she reported that Amos Anderson was back with the basketball team since the eleventh grade had been added to the school. She also noted that, the school has been pulling for the Badger football team [the white school football team] this season and hopes them another win in Temple tomorrow night.³⁴ In December, Mrs. Patrick announced a practice game between the Eagles and the Lampasas all-stars. The all-stars were a team of colored school graduates. She also noted that books were still being donated to the library and invited parents and friends to check the books out.³⁵

In 1952, Lampasas was "invaded" by over 100,000 United States troops in a military war game called Operation Long Horn. The school board granted permission for the colored soldiers to use the colored school building as a colored U.S.O. as long as it did not interfere with regular school programs.³⁶

In 1954, the school produced a 32-page yearbook which was sold for \$1.50. The yearbook contained pictures of the P.T.A., 27 student portraits, group shots of the Yearbook Staff, Student Council, Dramatics Club, Jolly Club, Music, Girl Scouts and the Pep Squad., as well as a page of candid photographs and several pages of advertisements.

On November 10, 1959, the school board approved a lunch program for the colored school and hired Ruby Hicks to be the cook.³⁷ A small concrete block room was added to the back side of the building to be used as a kitchen.

Up until 1951, black students in Lampasas were limited to ten grades of education. In order to finish high school these students would have to go to other cities with black schools that taught 11th and 12th grade. In 1951, the school board allowed the colored school to begin teaching 12 grades in Lampasas.³⁸ In 1956, Lampasas author Stanley Walker noted in *Home to Texas*: "When a Negro student [in Lampasas] reaches what amounts to the sophomore class in high school, and wants to go further, he must be sent away, usually to Negro schools in Austin or Temple, for this "advanced" study." Student Edward Finnell recalled (in a 2001 interview) "The teacher would send us up to the white school to get

³¹*Lampasas Record*, March 22, 1951.

³²*Lampasas Record*, April 19, 1951; "Lampasas Colored School Restoration," in *Lampasas-Dispatch Record* online, accessed 12-12-2001 (http://www.ci.lampasas.tx.us/lampasas_colored_school.htm)

³³*Lampasas Record*, September 27, 1951.

³⁴*Lampasas Record*, November 22, 1951.

³⁵*Lampasas Record*, December 6, 1951.

³⁶Lampasas School Board Minutes, March 4, 1952, page 259.

³⁷Lampasas School Board Minutes, November 10, 1959, page 52.

³⁸Lampasas School Board Minutes, November 7, 1951, page 256.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 15

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

used books - we very seldom got new books." Edward finished the 10th grade in the Lampasas Colored School in 1942. From there he went to Phillis Wheatly High School in San Antonio to finish his high school education.³⁹

Approaching Desegregation.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down a decision that in effect declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal and, as such, violate the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees all citizens "equal protection of the laws."⁴⁰ The Lampasas School Board Minutes of July 13, 1955, reveal a lengthy discussion about integration, but no action was taken ("Study of local and area developments will be continued.")⁴¹ It is logical to conclude that this discussion was a result of the Supreme Court decision.

It would take nearly a decade after the decision of the Supreme Court for segregation to end in Lampasas. Through this time period, the Lampasas school board would consider what action to take. The matter may have been discussed at various times, but any action was tabled until 1963 when, for financial reasons, the Lampasas Schools took the action necessary to desegregate its school system.

During the 1950s, Stanley Walker, ventured into the subject of desegregation. Walker's observations are important today. His observations of this period of history may be the only published words on the Lampasas condition during that period of time:

The great storm which of recent years have blown about the subject of race relations have caused little more than a ripple in Lampasas. The situation is, so to speak "stable" and has long been so, with all its inequities and all its surface calm. There are towns not far from Lampasas which have dismal records, including lynching. These are the towns where no Negro must be found after sundown. Lampasas has never indulged in such insanity, and yet the Ku-Klux spirit never quite dies. The people, white and black, are approaching the "integration" problem very gingerly, and have done absolutely nothing yet. How serious the forthcoming agonies will be I cannot venture to predict. I can report what one prominent white citizen told me: "They'll come around, one way or another, in good time. It doesn't bother me a bit. We have had a whole century, right here in this town, to do right by these people, and we have never done it. If it takes the Supreme Court and the forces of the federal government to force us to do right - well, all I can say is that it is about time."... What our local Negroes seem really to want is nothing but a little better run for their money, particularly in education. The Negro school, which struggles bravely with two teachers and pathetically inadequate equipment, is 'separate' all right, and they like it that way, but no one would dare call it 'equal.'⁴²

It would still take a few more years before this change would take place and indeed it would take the force of the federal government to make this change occur in many places in the south.

³⁹Edward Finnell [Fennell] interview.

⁴⁰National Park Service, *Brown V Board Of Education*.

⁴¹Lampasas School Board Minutes, July 13, 1955, page 9.

⁴²Stanley Walker, *Home to Texas*, page 236-7.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 16

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

In 1957, following a flood that devastated the low areas near Sulphur Creek and did a tremendous amount of damage to the community, the board approved the expense of replacing the wooden floor in the building.⁴³ In 1959, the board approved \$7,200 to construct an additional classroom and equip it if enrollment at the colored school increased.⁴⁴ The board hired P.G. Norton, Architect to draw plans for repairing the white intermediate school and colored school.⁴⁵ The Burnet Construction Company was awarded a contract worth \$16,000.00 for the colored school and the white intermediate school renovation project.⁴⁶ This work may have included a small concrete block room which was added to the southwest corner of the building with an entrance to the stage area and the addition of a portable classroom building to the campus.

In 1963, the school board took the action necessary to abolish the colored school and voted to integrate the Lampasas Public School System starting with the 1963-64 school year.⁴⁷ At that time Lampasas had 37 black students enrolled in the Colored School and was spending \$450 per student at this smaller campus as compared to \$300 per student on the white campus. There were three teachers teaching twelve grades at the colored school, a 1-12 teacher-student ration, compared to a 1-20 through 1-30 teacher-student ratio at the white school campus. In order to keep from losing accreditation the Lampasas School systems would have to add five teachers to the black school campus, where expenses were already much higher. The *Lampasas Record* noted in February 1963:

The matter has been under consideration for a number of years, but pressure to take action really began in 1960 when the state surveyed many of the dual systems such as Lampasas has. It has been pointed out that in the past the Negro School here as well as many other places did not meet the standard, and a number of corrections were made locally.⁴⁸

A state inspection of the school was scheduled for March 27, 1963, with the implication that vast improvements to the colored school or integration would be required in order for the entire Lampasas school system to retain accreditation. The article continued:

The Negro people of the community are quiet, go about their own business, and have not been agitating. Also, a great many of them would like to continue to have segregated schools . . . Some would be willing for it to go on without any change, while others would prefer that they have high standards schools such as are found on the main campus. . .⁴⁹

The public record overwhelmingly supports the argument that the Lampasas School Board did not afford black students the facilities or financial support that white students enjoyed throughout the years. Black teachers were paid less than their white counterparts. The school building was little more than the most basic of stone structures. Over time,

⁴³Lampasas School Board Minutes, July 9, 1957, page 25.

⁴⁴Lampasas School Board Minutes, February 23, 1959, page 41.

⁴⁵Lampasas School Board Minutes, May 12, 1959, page 45.

⁴⁶Lampasas School Board Minutes, June 30, 1959, page 47.

⁴⁷Lampasas School Board Minutes, February 12, 1963, page 82.

⁴⁸*Lampasas Record*, February 14, 1963.

⁴⁹Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 17

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

however, the cost of operating a small separate black campus grew. In the final days of segregation the cost of educating a black student in Lampasas far exceeded that of a white student. It finally reached a point where the school board, facing a loss of accreditation, could argue that the decision to desegregate the public school systems was a *financial* decision. Desegregation of the schools in Lampasas during the 1963-64 school year occurred without incident.

In July 1963, the board decided to use the colored school for a storage and maintenance shop instead of granting a request from the colored patrons for its use.⁵⁰ On December 22, 1964, the Lampasas County Independent School District deeded the Lampasas Colored School property to the County Judge of Lampasas County for \$3000.00.⁵¹ The county used the colored school for a precinct barn and made several modifications to the building. Apparently the building was in good shape when turned over to the county. The county opened up the south wall of the building to make a garage entrance, but a road grader destroyed the old wood floor. A cement floor was placed on the southern portion of the exposed dirt floor. Another garage opening was added to the west wall into the north classroom. From the looks of the wall it appear that they used a bulldozer to push the stone out of the area below a large window group and thus create this garage opening. Two shed roofs were attached to the west side of the building. When the old flat roof began to leak, a second gable roof system was placed on top of the building. The property was sold to Mr. Clarkston several years ago. In 2001, the old stone building was on the verge of being torn down to recover and sell the limestone from it's walls, when a group of people in Lampasas got together and raised the money to buy the property for the City of Lampasas. The city has since leased the property to the Lampasas Museum Foundation, Inc. who will attempt to raise the money and restore the building to its original state, or as it might have appeared in the 1940s and 50s.

The Lampasas Colored School remains as a rare and exceptionally significant reminder of the segregation era in Lampasas, Texas.

⁵⁰Lampasas School Board Minutes, July 8, 1963, page 88.

⁵¹Lampasas County Deed Record, Volume 125, page 616.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 18

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

Bibliography

1860 Census of Lampasas County

"Lampasas, Texas," in *New Handbook of Texas* (Austin: Texas State Historical Association), 1996.

"Lampasas Colored School Restoration," article in Lampasas Dispatch Record website,
http://www.ci.lampasas.tx.us/lampasas_colored_school.htm (accessed 11 December 2001)

Lampasas County Deed Record, Volume 3

Lampasas County Deed Record, Volume 125

Lampasas School Board Minutes

Lampasas Leader (newspaper)

Lampasas Record (newspaper)

Lampasas Dispatch Record (newspaper)

Walker, Stanley. *Home to Texas*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1956.

Interview, Edward G. Fennell, June 29, 2001

Interview, Clementine Walker and Joe Espy, July 2, 2001

1954 Eagle [Colored School Yearbook]

Lampasas County Texas, Its History and Its People. Compiled by the Lampasas History Book Committee. Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1991.

National Park Service, Brown V Board Of Education, internet article at: <http://www.nps.gov/brvb/>

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing
 14 569900 3436880

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot 1, Block 11, of the portion of Lampasas known as *East Lampasas*

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION The nomination includes all property historically associated with the building

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Gregory Smith, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Jeff Jackson, with Judy Chapin

ORGANIZATION: for Lampasas Museum Foundation, Inc.

DATE: October 2001

STREET & NUMBER: 4 Skyline Drive

TELEPHONE: (512) 556-3200

CITY OR TOWN: Lampasas

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 76550

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-20)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheet Plan-19)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: City of Lampasas, Texas

STREET & NUMBER: 312 E. Third Street

TELEPHONE: (512) 556-6831

CITY OR TOWN: Lampasas **STATE:** Texas

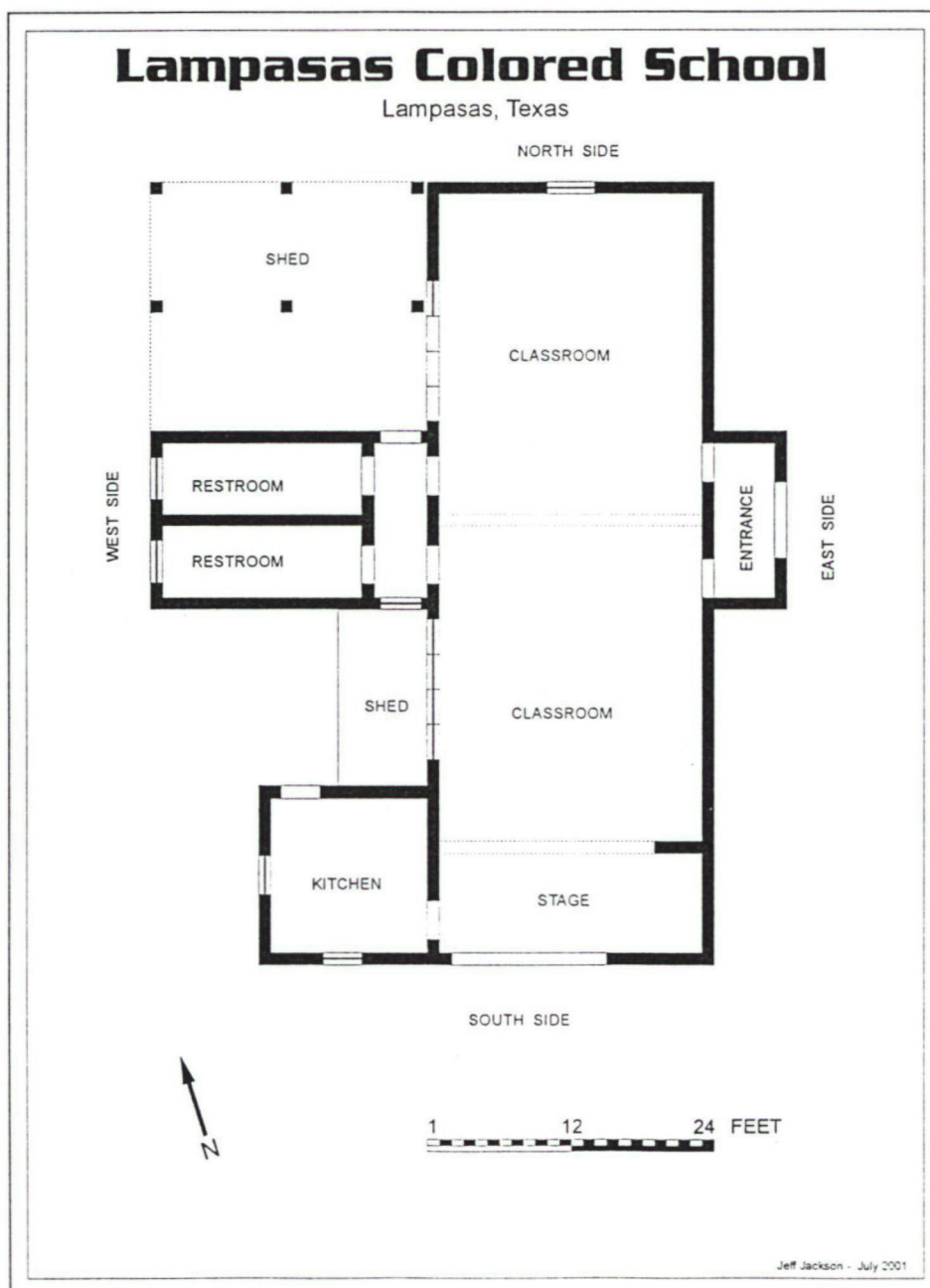
ZIP CODE: 76550

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PLAN Page 19

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 20

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas

Lampasas Colored School
514 College Street
Lampasas, Lampasas County, Texas
Photographed by Jeff Jackson, Summer 2001 (except as noted)
Negatives on file with Texas Historical Commission

Northeast oblique
Camera facing southwest
Photo 1 of 8

Southwest oblique
Camera facing northeast
Photo 2 of 8

North elevation
Camera facing southeast
Photo 3 of 8

Southeast oblique, quoin detail
Camera facing northwest
Photo 4 of 8

East elevation detail: arched niche
Camera facing west
Photo 5 of 8

Interior
Camera facing north
Photo 6 of 8

Historic photo (east doorway with class, pre-1948)
Camera facing east
Photographer unknown
Photo 7 of 8

Historic Photo (east elevation, from 1954 high school yearbook)
Camera facing east
Photo 8 of 8

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lampasas Colored School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Lampasas

DATE RECEIVED: 3/11/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/01/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/17/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/25/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02000404

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: Y
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Lampass Colored School is locally significant for its role in African-American education during the age of Jim Crow. It was built in 1923 and used as a school until 1963, when the Lampass County Independent School district became integrated. The period of significance corresponds with these dates. At the time of construction, the building resembled a smaller, less comfortable version of the contemporary white high school. It was later used for storage but retains its historic integrity and appearance.

RECOM./CRITERIA A

REVIEWER DANIEL VIVIAN

DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 4/24/2002

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



1.

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas



2.

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas



3.

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas



4.

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas



5.

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas



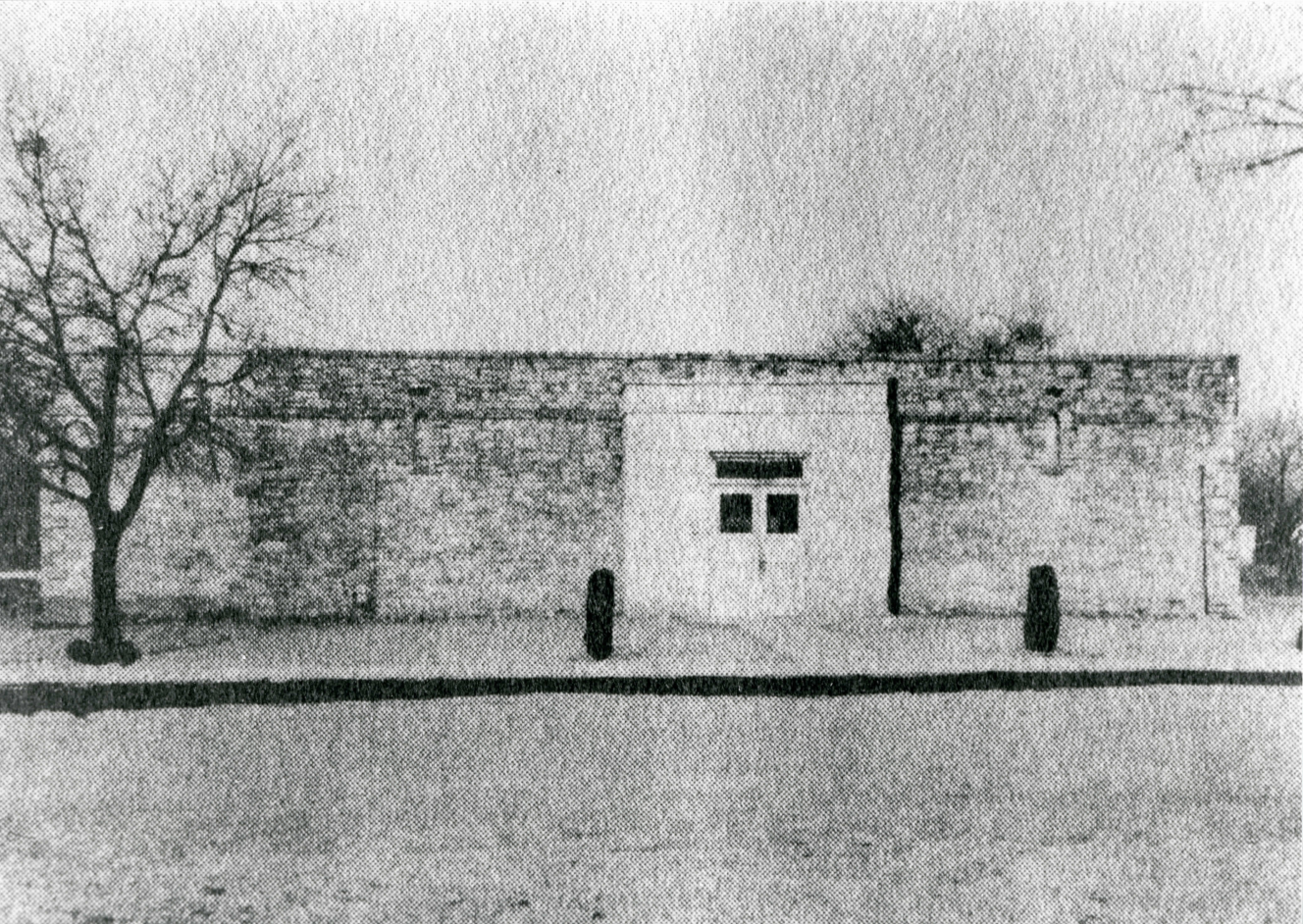
6.

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas

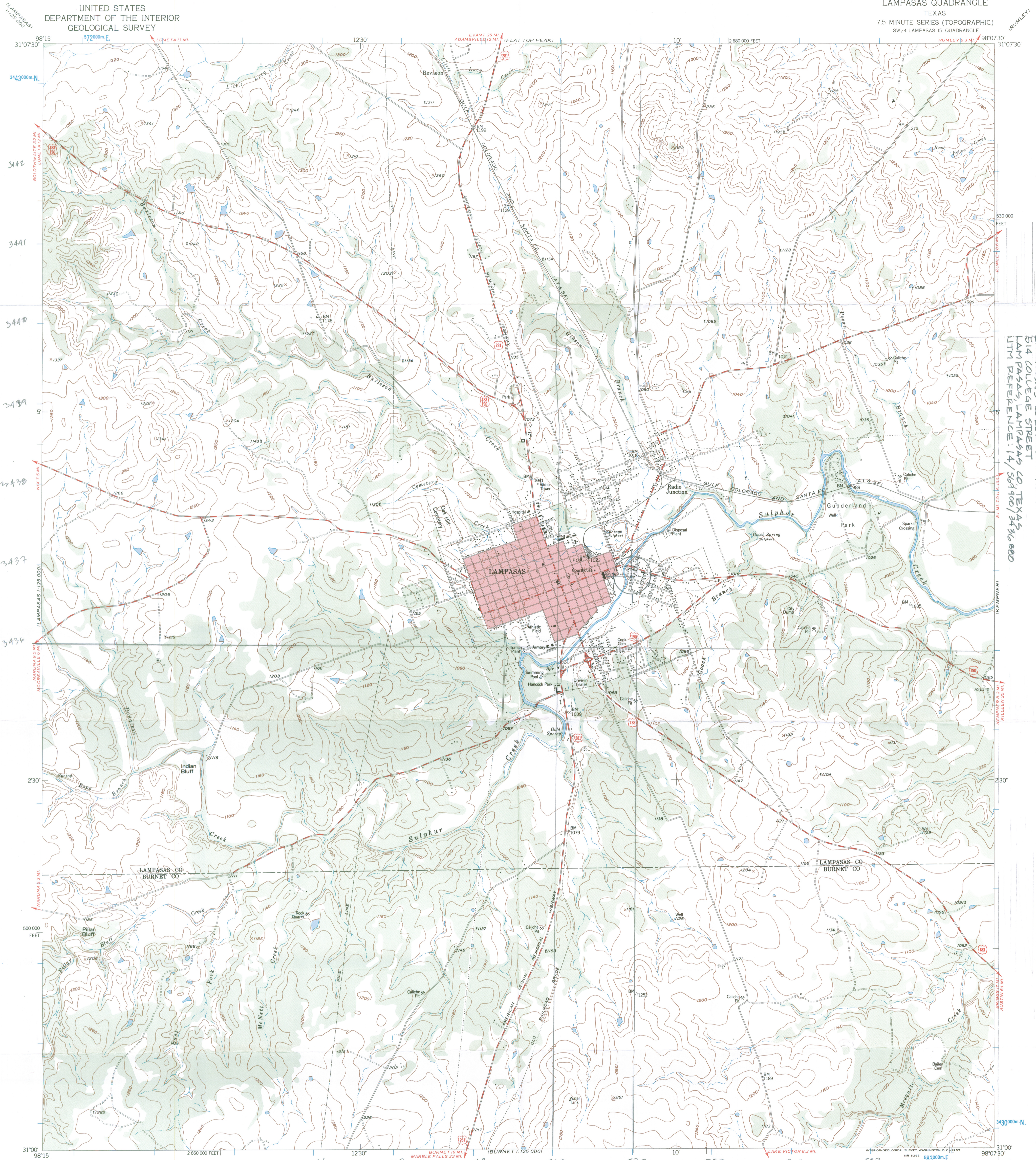


7.

Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas



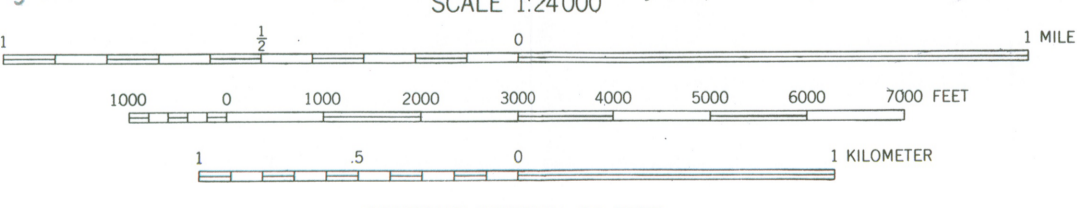
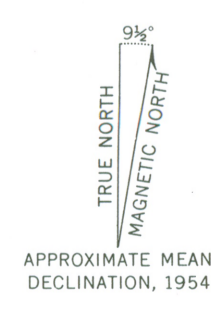
8. Lampasas Colored School
Lampasas, Texas



3442
3441
3440
3439
3438
3437
3436

LAMPASAS COLORED SCHOOL
514 COLLEGE STREET
LAMPASAS, LAMPASAS CO. TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14 / 569400 / 3436 800

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1953. Field check 1954
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 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium duty ——— Light duty ———
Unimproved dirt - - - - -
U. S. Route

LAMPASAS, TEX.
SW/4 LAMPASAS 15' QUADRANGLE
N3100—W9807.5/7.5

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 2, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3198-112

1954