

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1000

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: San Jacinto Senior High School  
Other name/site number: South End Junior High School, San Jacinto Memorial Building  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 1300 Holman Street  
City or town: Houston State: TX County: Harris 201  
Not for publication:  Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:  
 national  statewide  local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer  
Signature of certifying official / Title  
Date: 10/11/12  
Texas Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting or other official  
Date  
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register  
other explain: \_\_\_\_\_

For Eason H. Beall Signature of the Keeper  
Date of Action: 12-4-12

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** EDUCATION: school

**Current Functions:** EDUCATION: college

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival; MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Cast stone

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-8 through 7-11)

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### **Narrative Description**

The San Jacinto Senior High School is a symmetrical, three-story, C-plan, Neo-Classical-style enframed block dominated by engaged monumental Doric columns. Prominent Art Deco style towers connect the original building to Classical style wing additions added in 1928 and 1936. The building faces north toward a grass lawn and Holman Street in Houston's Midtown neighborhood. Built as the South End Junior High School in 1914, the building has housed subsequent institutions such as San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston Technical Institute, and served as the central administration building of the current owner, the Houston Community College. The building retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a high degree. The San Jacinto Senior High School is comprised of three contributing resources—the main building (1914, plus additions), a gymnasium (1928), and a band practice building (1951).

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The 1914 San Jacinto Senior High School is a symmetrical, three-story, C-plan enframed block constructed of reinforced concrete with Neo-Classical detailing. Prominent Art Deco style towers and Classical style wing additions were added in 1928 and 1936 and cited at 35 degree angles that tilt towards the front lawn. Several other additions were added to the rear of the building over a period of forty years. The original C-plan 1914 building faces north toward Holman Street in Houston's Midtown neighborhood, historically known as the South End. The building and its subsequent additions occupy an entire city block bounded by Holman to the north, San Jacinto to the West, W. Alabama to the south and Austin to the east. Only a portion of this block is included in the present nomination (see boundary description on page 4). Since 1978, the building served as the administration building of the Houston Community College Central Campus, until it was vacated in 2010 prior to a major rehabilitation effort.

The setting is urban with the other campus buildings primarily located to the south and east. Neighboring buildings include the First Evangelical Lutheran Church across Holman Street to the north, as well as residential and mixed commercial and social service agencies in the vicinity. San Jacinto Street is a major north-to-south traffic and light rail thoroughfare leading downtown. The school has an Official Texas Historic Marker (OTHM) for its historic significance and the Temple Beth Israel (NR, RTHL, SAL), now called the Heinen Theater and located to the east of the school, was the former temple for the oldest Jewish congregation in the state and has been adapted for use as a performing arts venue. Other historic, designated neighborhood buildings include the First Evangelical Lutheran Church (RTHL); Isabella Court (NR) located three blocks to the southwest on Main Street; and Trinity Episcopal Church (NR) located three blocks to the west on Main Street.

The front lawn of the school is mown grass with wide sidewalks and a central grass median leading to the front door. There is a surface parking lot on a portion of the western half of the lawn. Objects in the front lawn include the flagpole (date unknown) and an obelisk (c. 2000). In the rear triangular-shaped courtyard on the southwest side of the building, is a statue of Confucius that dates to c. 2000. None of these objects contribute to the significance of the property, nor are they of a sufficient scale to be included in the official resource count for the property. In 2007, a new clear glass, curve-fronted HCC administration building, designed by Kirksey Architects of Houston, opened on the eastern half of the front lawn. This building is not included within the nomination boundary.

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The main facade of the 1914 building, designed by the Oklahoma City architects Layton & Smith, is five-bay enframed block arranged in an A-B-C-B-A pattern and dominated by monumental engaged Doric columns on the second and third floors. Between the columns are six-light, fixed aluminum frame windows with embossed copper spandrel panels marking the floor division. In the 1950s, the original 1/1 double and triple wooden sash windows were replaced with multi-light (6/6, 9/9) wooden sash windows to unify the central section with the two wing additions. The entire building was re-windowed in the 1970s with the current fixed aluminum frame windows. The building has a full entablature with alternating rosettes and vertical V-shaped grooves in the frieze. There is a Classical style roof balustrade with turned balusters divided by pedestals that align with the frieze rosettes and the column spacing. The outer bays (A) project slightly from the building plane and have engaged pilasters supporting a full entablature with tympanum. The windows in these two outer bays are the same fixed aluminum type with 12-light divisions on the second and third floors. The engaged pilasters on the ends (A) are embellished with a central rosette and garland swags and the tympanum they support has a central cartouche with a shield decoration surrounded by pearls and acanthus leaves. The ground floor is differentiated from the upper two with four-light windows inset between coursed engaged column plinths. Between the first and second floor is a wide beltcourse with a Classical molding profile that runs into the triple gable pediment of the central entry.

The first floor primary entry is three bays wide and projects slightly from the main building plane. The entry has three inset openings each with paired aluminum-framed, single-light doors with single-light transoms. The divisions of the triple-gabled entry are emphasized by large, traditional festooned corbels. Above each entry is a gable inset decorated with a central cartouche and garland swag. Above is a decorative door surround band with an abstract oval design punctuated with roundels placed at the center and upper corners. This decorative band extends 2/3 of the way down the sides of the door openings. Classical style cast metal lamp posts with a single round globe sit on an unadorned concrete plinth and flank each entry opening. A plaque above the front door reads:

In honor of the Boys, the Girls, and the Teachers of South End Junior High School who served at home and abroad in the World War 1917-1918  
Erected by the Booster Clubs

The building's A-B-C-B-A pattern is composed of the secondary entrances in the outer bays (A); the two inner bays (B), each with six monumental columns; and, the central bay (C) housing the primary entrance. The cornerstone, laid in 1913 at the start of construction, is on the east side of the 1914 building and names the mayor, commissioners and school board members, as well as the architects, S. A. Layton and S. W. Smith, and the general contractor, C. Hartmann Construction Company. A second plaque on the western 1936 wing notes the architect as Joseph Finger and general contractor as Nathan Wohlfeld. The plaque also lists members of the Houston Independent School District's Board of Education and select administrators.

The 1928 and 1936 angled wings display a restrained classicism that repeats the form and composition of the original 1914 building. Heddrick and Gottlieb designed the 1928 eastern wing, and Joseph Finger designed the 1936 western wing. The wings are mirror images of each other and are separated from the original building by two prominent Art Deco style towers.

Both the east and west towers rise an additional story above the roof line of the original building and form a clear division from the central section. Both have a Roman arched entry with balconette above detailed with a

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classical allegorical battle scene. Art Deco style detailing includes inset vertical channels and narrow pilasters that emphasize the tower's verticality. Atop each tower is a relief sculpture with two classical allegorical figures, one holding a book and the other a chalice or vase. Outward from the towers, the wing additions follow the fenestration and rhythm of the main buildings only with a more restrained execution. For example, the spandrels are simplified with inset concrete panels instead of the embossed copper spandrels seen on the main building. There is an exterior metal fire escape on the eastern wing that partially obscures an inset arched fountain with a coquillage backdrop with a face that spouts water into a shell shaped basin. This fountain is replicated and unobscured on the western wing. The three-bay end elevations repeat the detailing of the main facade with subtle differentiation. The ends have a full tympanum with squared spandrel panels compared to the more rectangular panels of the east facade. The frieze, atop the engaged square pilasters, picks up the regularly spaced rosettes of the original building (omitted from the wing additions). The roof balustrade on the wings is solid and more restrained than the original building.

The interior of the school has been significantly altered over time, and all that remains is the terrazzo flooring in the hallways and a few of the original hall clocks. The main circulation spaces, hallways, and grand staircases remain in their original locations; however the ceiling height has been curtailed by a lay-in acoustic tile system. At least one of the historic clocks remains in the hallway on the second floor. The existing grand staircase flanking the central entrance remains; yet its design and materials, gypsum board balustrade with a wide, unvarnished wooden handrail, date it to the 1970s. It is not known if the original staircase survives beneath. Several interior spaces that do retain historic material include the alumni conservatory, the auditorium, and swimming pool.

The conservatory is located on the second floor directly opposite the main staircase. Extant elements of the conservatory include the terrazzo floor, tiled fountain and the four-pendant light fixtures. The historic floor plans and a 1927 *El Orosio* (volume 1) yearbook photo illustrate the bay window projecting to the rear yard and playing fields. This yearbook image also includes a large portrait of Robert E. Lee after the Battle of Gaines Mill as he waited for General Jackson on the west wall; the hard fought battle was a Confederate victory. Mrs. Sue E. Murrelle, Mrs. Charles F. Schultz and Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon Black of the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the UDC were responsible for gifting the painting to the school, and it was valued at \$1,200 at the time.

The swimming pool, located in the eastern arm of the original C-plan footprint, is a four lane, 25-yard pool with a tiled interior and perimeter gutter system. The original wall tile and gutter system is extant; the bottom tile was sympathetically replaced at an unknown date to include lane stripping. The pool is on the first floor. Historically, the girls' gymnasium was above on the second floor and the Domestic Science Department was on the third floor.

The auditorium, located in the 1936 wing addition, has a proscenium arched stage and orchestra and balcony seating. The balcony seating is original and fabricated by the Heywood-Wakefield Company, a New England-based furniture manufacturer whose products included metal outdoor seating, school furniture and theater seating. The Heywood-Wakefield Company Complex in Gardner, MA, was listed in the National Register in 1983. The original foot lights, fabricated by Kliegl Brothers, are extant on the stage. The two small staircases that provide access from the auditorium to the stage were a gift of the Class of 1938, according to a metal plaque near the stairs. The plaque also identifies Carl Jaschke and Louis DoMaschk as the stair builders; Jack J. Lamp is identified as the Instructor, Department of Industrial Arts. Other elements in the auditorium include

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several brushed aluminum light fixtures on the balcony, the wooden floor of the stage, the flared megaphone shaped speakers on the ceiling above the stage, and the ropes and scenery control system backstage. The original orchestra seats were removed at an unknown date and replaced with metal backed seats with cushioned seats and backrests. Most likely this was done at the same time the rear exit doors were reconfigured and new doors installed.

Historically, the rear of the school was reserved for athletic playing fields. As the school grew, additions and free-standing buildings were added to the rear and sides of the building. These additions are more functional in style and do not exhibit any of the exuberant architectural detailing shown on the earlier buildings. The Girls' Dressing Room, added in 1936, is a modest one-story addition to the eastern arm of the original 1914 C-plan building. The building has twelve window openings on the west elevation and two on the south. There is an entrance on the north elevation. Other elements of the building include its shallow sloping shed roof and large stucco window sills. A Boys' Dressing Room was added in 1951 and is located between the 1928 gymnasium and the rear arm of the original 1914 C-plan building. This masonry addition is one-story with a flat roof. The rear (or south) elevation has two bays with small, fixed windows, an element repeated on the east elevation.

Gymnasium, 1928 (Contributing)

The gymnasium, constructed as a separate building in 1928, is a double-height brick veneered building with hipped roof and parapet and is located to the southeast of the eastern wing. Decorative elements of the exterior include roundels of four sports—track, football, baseball and basketball—along the cornice line of each elevation. The artist is not known, yet the style appears similar to William McVey, a well-known Houston artist who designed similar sports-themed roundels for one of the colleges at Rice University. A small one-story, rectangular plan addition was added to the east elevation of the gym later in the twentieth century. Currently, the original building is partially obscured by this addition. A second pie-shaped addition from 1968 connects the 1928 wing to the main entry elevation of the gym. The gym interior retains its exposed, riveted truss system, maple flooring and cast concrete bleachers along the west and north interior walls. Alterations to the interior include the addition of exposed air conditioning ductwork and the sealing up of several of the window openings on the east elevation to accommodate the addition. Though portions of the exterior elevations have been compromised by the two additions, the building retains enough integrity to convey its significance, especially as it relates to the evolution of curriculum requirements of the school as it transitioned from use as a junior to senior high.

Band Practice Building, 1951 (Contributing)

The Band Practice Building, added in 1951, is a small, polygonal plan, one-story masonry building with modest raised brick cornice detail located across the open air walkway from the southwest end of the 1936 wing that houses the auditorium. The building has large windows on the southwest elevation with replacement 2x5 light fixed aluminum frame windows. The building interior is a large open room arranged like an amphitheater with tiered rows now with theater seats facing a small lecture/stage area. The interior has been significantly altered and retains none of its historic materials. The building retains enough integrity, however, to convey its significance, especially as it relates to the evolution of curriculum needs of the campus and its students.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** EDUCATION, ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:** 1914-1962

**Significant Dates:** 1914, 1926, 1928, 1936, 1951

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked):

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked):

**Architect/Builder:** Architect: Layton & Smith (1914 building)/ Builder: C. Hartmann Contracting, Inc.; Architect: Heddrick & Gottlieb (1928 wing); Architect: Joseph Finger (1936 wing) / Builder: Nathan Wohlfeld.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8-12 through 8-22)

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheets 9-23 through 9-25)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): NA

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## Statement of Significance

San Jacinto High School played a prominent role in the development of the Houston educational system as one of the first junior high schools in Houston, TX, and then as the location for many of the Houston Independent School District's experiments with alternative forms of education, primarily in the form of vocational and adult education. The building is the work of three master architects, Layton & Smith, prominent Oklahoma architects; Hedrick & Gottlieb, prolific Houston architects; and Joseph Finger, a significant Houston architect. The period of significance begins in 1914, the year the school first opened, and extends to 1962, the fifty year limit for the National Register. The building has been incorporated into the Houston Community College central campus and is currently vacant awaiting rehabilitation. The San Jacinto Senior High School is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for education and Criterion C for architecture.

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### Foundation of the Houston Educational System (1837-1930)

Education in Houston began in the form of small private and parochial schools shortly after the city's founding. Mrs. E. A. Andrews opened one of the first of these private schools in November of 1837, teaching primarily young ladies but also including a few boys under the age of twelve.<sup>1</sup> According to an article in the *Houston Telegraph* and *Texas Register*, Mrs. Andrews offered "the various branches of English education."<sup>2</sup> Five years later in 1842, the first Roman Catholic Church opened a parochial school at the intersection of Franklin and Caroline Streets and placed it under the administration of the local parish, St. Vincent de Paul.<sup>3</sup>

The first city-owned school was built following a bequest to the city of \$5,000 by James H. Stevens, designated for education purposes. After raising an additional \$20,000, the city built a two-story, columned, brick building on Capitol Street between Austin and Caroline Streets. The school opened in 1859 as the "Houston Academy."<sup>4</sup> In 1876, as a result of local and state legislation, the Houston mayor and city council took control of all of the city's private schools, making them free to residents and establishing the Houston Public School System. The schools were administered by a board of trustees and a board of examiners, each composed of three members appointed by the mayor and subject to confirmation by the city council.<sup>5</sup>

As Houston's population grew during the last decades of the nineteenth century, so did enrollment in the city's public schools. During the 1877-78 school year, the Houston school population totaled 1,617 pupils; by the 1899-1900 year, however, enrollment had reached 6,000.<sup>6</sup> Between 1876 and 1900, school curriculum underwent major changes as standard courses of study for grade one through eleven were established.<sup>7</sup> Eleven grades were created; the lowest three were referred to as "primary," the next four were called "grammar

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<sup>1</sup> William A. Young, Jr., *History of Houston Public Schools 1836-1935* (Houston: Gulf School Research Development Association, 1968), 1.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 2.

<sup>4</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 3-4.

<sup>5</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 28.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

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grades,” and the four highest were labeled “normal and high school.”<sup>8</sup> By 1893 the city had fourteen schools, three of which—the Old Clopper Institute (Houston Academy), the Colored High School, and the Jones School—were brick.<sup>9</sup> In 1894, to accommodate the growing number of pupils, the city demolished the Clopper Institute and built the Houston High School on the same site.<sup>10</sup> Complete in 1895, the new school contained twenty rooms with 790 seats. Six teachers taught the 214 students.<sup>11</sup>

The two decades following the turn of the century saw major changes in the control of Houston schools, as well as the further evolution of structure and curriculums based on changing national theories in education. From 1900 to 1923, the city of Houston continued to grow with a corresponding rise in public school enrollment. In 1905, this expansion had reached a size that required the taxing authority and the budgets of the city and the school system to be separated. As a result, the city of Houston public schools were incorporated into “The Public Schools of the Independent School District of City of Houston, Texas.” This change of status allowed the school district to gain a measure of fiscal independence by allowing it freedom to manage its own resources and spending.<sup>12</sup> Following World War I (WWI), the school population had reached 23,000 students, with a ratio of twenty-eight professional staff for every 1,000 students.<sup>13</sup> By 1923, many Houstonians believed the public school system was strong enough to stand alone as an independent school district without the involvement of the mayor and city council. In fact, many felt that this separation would improve the operation of Houston’s schools. R.B. Cousins, superintendent of schools from 1922-23, concurred, suggesting the school system was hindered by its political connections.<sup>14</sup> On March 20, 1923, the state legislature passed a bill creating the Houston Independent School District, entirely separating it from the City of Houston.<sup>15</sup>

At the same time that these changes in management were occurring, Houston and the nation were experiencing a growing discontent with the established organization of schools, which consisted of the elementary grades encompassing one through eight and high school encompassing grades nine through twelve.<sup>16</sup> School systems everywhere were witnessing poor attrition rates between elementary and high schools; many students were either dropping out directly after elementary school or were so unprepared for high school that they left after a few months of struggling.<sup>17</sup> Education reformers placed the blame for this trend on the existing rigid curriculum. The then-current standards favored only a select few who could work well within the established system while discouraging all others; those who excelled beyond or fell short of the established standards were culled from the system.<sup>18</sup> In response, a new emphasis was placed on catering to the individual needs of the student through broadening options and courses of study. These new methods included individual instruction, multiple courses and elective studies, departmental teaching, promotion by subjects, vocational and pre-vocational classes, and educational and vocational guidance.<sup>19</sup> Although the problems with the educational

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<sup>8</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 10.

<sup>9</sup> Houston Independent School District, *1912-1913 Annual Report* (Houston, Texas): 7.

<sup>10</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 25.

<sup>11</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 26.

<sup>12</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 30.

<sup>13</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 32.

<sup>14</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 33.

<sup>15</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 34.

<sup>16</sup> Eugene McGorry, “A Middle School Case Study” (PhD diss., Indiana University of Pennsylvania, 2009).

<sup>17</sup> P.W. Horn, “The Junior High School in Houston, Texas,” *The Elementary School Journal*, Vol. 16 No. 2 (1915): 91-95.

<sup>18</sup> Leonard V. Koos, *The Junior High School* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1920), iii.

<sup>19</sup> Koos, *The Junior High School*, iv.

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system extended throughout all grades, educators focused on the years surrounding students' transition from elementary to high school due to the critical number of students dropping out at that stage.<sup>20</sup>

In 1913 Houston built the city's first two junior high schools, North End Junior High School and South End Junior High School, and opened them to students in the fall of 1914.<sup>21</sup> In his report to the school board following the school year, the Houston Superintendent of Schools, P. W. Horn, discussed the means by which these two junior high schools would better cater to the needs of all preadolescent children and listed ten methods including:

1. Using a more mature method of instruction than in elementary school but less like the university methods used in high school.
2. Using a more mature method of discipline, unlike those used for young children in elementary schools, but not utilizing those means sometimes used in high school.
3. By keeping many children who would ordinarily drop out at this time in school, by catering to their individual needs and urging them to complete senior high school.
4. By providing a convenient stopping place for those students who cannot remain in high school for four years, keeping them in school for at least a few more years, and better preparing them for work in the modern world than had they simply completed elementary school and dropped out.
5. By providing more male teachers for boys.
6. By providing a more flexible course of study and allowing students more freedom to choose electives both in the junior high schools and in the earlier grades of senior high school.
7. By allowing brighter pupils in the seventh grade to begin work in certain high school subjects, especially when beginning a foreign language.
8. By bringing high schools geographically closer to students' homes so that they will not be forced to drop out as a result of distance. (This problem was already addressed with the junior high schools' locations at the north and south ends of the city, providing easy access to a maximum of the population.)
9. By placing a greater emphasis on industrial and physical education.
10. By placing a greater emphasis on the child as an individual and providing a personal touch to his or her education.<sup>22</sup>

Both North End and South End Junior High Schools proved to be a success, with enrollment increasing by 50% from 1914 to 1923. By 1924, the city had added two other junior high schools, West End and the Heights Junior High Schools.<sup>23</sup>

During the 1920s and 1930s, Houston and the rest of the country experienced two paradoxical decades—the prosperity and confidence of the Roaring 20s followed by the welfare lines and fiscal collapse of the Great Depression. Both eras had a profound effect on the landscape and structure of the Houston educational system. Houston and Harris County's population continued to grow, rising 93% from 1920 to 1930 as more and more

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<sup>20</sup> Koos, *The Junior High School*, iv-v.

<sup>21</sup> Houston Independent School District, *1914-1915 Annual Report* (Houston, Texas): 9.

<sup>22</sup> *1914-1915 Annual Report*, 10-11.

<sup>23</sup> Houston Independent School District, *1920-1924 Annual Report* (Houston, Texas): 67.

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oil companies located their offices in the city following the discovery of oil at Spindletop in 1901.<sup>24</sup> In 1924, the school administration, recognizing the inadequacy of its current facilities, launched an \$11,000,000 building program.<sup>25</sup> By 1929, the city had built more than twenty new elementary buildings, twelve junior high school buildings, and two new senior high school buildings bringing the total number of buildings owned by the independent school district to 105 and valued at \$22,000,000.<sup>26</sup> In addition to the construction of new buildings, this building program also encompassed the acquisition of grounds for twenty-seven new schools, some future sites and some additions, and the improvement of existing facilities.<sup>27</sup> It was during this building program that South End Junior High School was converted into San Jacinto Senior High School in 1926 to better meet the needs of the surrounding district.

South End Junior High School (1914-1925)

As one of Houston's first junior high schools, South End Junior High School was intended to serve the South End District of Houston (now known as Midtown) while its counterpart, North End, provided for the north end of the city. Both schools were intended to be completely innovative, following the new theories of education and junior high schools, and to serve as models for future junior high schools. In his book, *The Junior High School*, professor of education at Columbia University, Thomas H. Briggs, described the unique needs of a junior high school campus.<sup>28</sup> He acknowledges the essential needs of all school buildings, including those of proper lighting, heating, space, and toilets; but he also emphasizes the need for additional facilities at this new type of school to address the unique needs of preadolescents between elementary and high school. Briggs' recommendations include a large enough space that will allow enough students to gather and begin to differentiate according to aptitude and inclination; large grounds with space for physical training and agriculture; gymnasiums; assembly halls; rooms dedicated to extra-curricular activities; cafeterias; and laboratories, shops, and other dedicated spaces for exploratory and vocational training.<sup>29</sup>

Architects Layton & Smith followed these basic tenets in their design of South End Junior High School, providing spaces for traditional, physical, and vocational education. Built with fireproof construction, the building was located on ten acres in the heart of Houston's south end residential district.<sup>30</sup> The spacious grounds provided space for a football and baseball field, an open air theater, and a large front lawn on which students could congregate. On the interior, the first floor was primarily devoted to vocational and physical education. The east wing held a manual-training department with a drafting room, pattern shop, turning shop, foundry, and cabinet-making and finishing rooms.<sup>31</sup> The west wing held the seventy-five by twenty-five foot swimming pool with adjoining girls and boys locker rooms. This indoor pool was unique to South End as funds ran out before one could be completed at North End Junior High School.<sup>32</sup> Two classrooms, a kitchen with boys' and girls' lunch rooms, a club room, and an emergency sick room were also located on the first floor.<sup>33</sup> More traditional

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<sup>24</sup> Young, *Houston Public Schools*, 37.

<sup>25</sup> "Houston Schools Lead the State in Size and Facilities," *Houston Chronicle*, December 29, 1929.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> "Schools Building Program Completed: Seven Million Dollars Expended on System within the Past Twelve Months," *Houston Press*, September 30, 1927.

<sup>28</sup> Thomas H. Briggs, *The Junior High School* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1920), 270.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>30</sup> "South Side Junior High School, Houston, Texas," *The American School Board Journal*, Vol. 52 No. 3, March 1916, 30-31.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *1914-1915 Annual Report*, 12.

<sup>33</sup> "South Side Junior High School, Houston, Texas," 30-31.

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academic rooms dominated the second floor, including seven classrooms, a large study hall, and administrative offices. The floor also included elements of the new educational theories, such as three laboratories, a fifty by ninety foot gymnasium with nineteen foot ceilings, and an 850 capacity auditorium with a large stage and dressing rooms.<sup>34</sup> The central section of the third floor held eight classrooms, a study hall, a music room, an art room, and a large commercial room. The domestic science department encompassed the entire west wing of the third floor with two laboratories, a sewing room, an art room, a laundry, and a model dining room.<sup>35</sup> The east wing held the upper section of the auditorium with access to the balcony.

In addition to providing state-of-the-art space for the junior high school students, South End also served as a community resource. Community groups could use the club rooms, the auditorium, or the gymnasium, while the indoor pool was available for rent. According to a newspaper article, Rice co-eds were one of the groups taking advantage of these facilities, renting the pool from 5:00-6:00 every Friday night.<sup>36</sup>

Upon its opening in the fall of 1914, Mr. F. M. Black served as the principal of South End with a faculty of thirty-eight and a student body of about eight hundred.<sup>37</sup> By 1916 enrollment had reached 924 and the still-new school building was at capacity.<sup>38</sup> By 1923 enrollment at South End had reached 1,167 and far exceeded the capacity of the school building. In an effort to ease the cramped conditions school administrators split the student body into two separate schedules with one shift attending school from early morning to 1:00 P.M. and the second arriving in the late morning and remaining until 5:00 P.M.<sup>39</sup> The majority of the other Houston Schools were experiencing the same overcrowding and many were resorting to a similar split schedule. In response to this issue and the poor condition of many of the school buildings, the Houston Independent School District embarked on an \$11,000,000 building program.<sup>40</sup> This plan involved the addition of seven new high schools for the city, one of which was created by converting South End Junior High School into a senior high school.<sup>41</sup>

#### San Jacinto Senior High School (1926-1970)

In 1926 South End Junior High School officially became San Jacinto Senior High School. The students and faculty decided on the name following a vote. "San Jacinto" was chosen because all the athletic teams already had an "S" and a "J" on their uniforms and with this choice they would not be required to purchase new sets. Mr. T. H. Rogers served as principle and Genevieve Johnson was the Dean of Students with a faculty of seventy-six in English, Math, Vocational, Language, History, and Science courses.<sup>42</sup> Enrollment for the year was 2,384 and the first graduating class that spring had thirty-one students with ages ranging from thirteen to eighteen.<sup>43</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> "Co-eds Enjoy Swims at South End High on Fridays," 1919.

<sup>37</sup> Lynne W. Denison and L. L. Pugh, *Houston Public School Buildings: Their History and Location* (1936), 107.

<sup>38</sup> Houston Independent School District, *1916-1917 Annual Report* (Houston, Texas), 35.

<sup>39</sup> *1920-1924 Annual Report*, 67.

<sup>40</sup> "Houston Schools Lead the State in Size and Facilities," *Houston Chronicle*, December 29, 1929.

<sup>41</sup> "School Board Hits on Plan for Building," *Houston Chronicle*, October 21, 1924.

<sup>42</sup> *El Orosio*, vol. 1, 1927.

<sup>43</sup> *San Jacinto High School Vertical File*, Houston Metropolitan Research Center, "Senior Issue," *The Forum*, 1926.

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While in attendance at San Jacinto Senior High School, students had the option to participate in a number of sports and activities. Potential school activities in 1927 included Latin Club, Dramatics, Debate, Girls' Booster Club, Boys' Booster Club, Spanish Club, Literary Society, Ye Scribes, San Jacinto Hi-Y Club, Pep Club, Home Craft Club, Sketch Club, Music and Drama, and Orchestra.<sup>44</sup> In sports, the school competed as the San Jacinto Golden Bears in football, girls' volleyball, girls' and boys' basketball, track, and boys' and girls' tennis. The student body had two publications, a literary magazine titled the *Forum* and the *Campus Cub*, a bi-monthly newspaper.<sup>45</sup> As the school expanded, so did the number of activities and sports. In 1929 the school added a French Club and a Cadet Corps with three companies, A, B, and Band that would later become the US Reserve Officers Training Corp (ROTC) in 1936.<sup>46</sup> In 1932, an ice hockey team was formed, and bowling and cheerleading were added in 1945.

Between 1923 and 1930, enrollment in Houston high schools had increased from about 3,000 to just over 8,000 pupils.<sup>47</sup> In 1928, HISD hired Hedrick & Gottlieb to design an addition to the high school to meet the needs sparked by this steady increase. The resulting addition involved a four-story tower and three-story wing and accommodated additional classrooms, office space, and a stair held in the tower. The tower and wing match the same fireproof, reinforced concrete construction of the original building. A second gymnasium of masonry construction with concrete floors, reinforced brick walls, and exposed steel trusses was also included in the 1928 building program. The gym is located south of the new east wing and east of the original 1914 building. That same year, the largest class of any Houston high school graduated from San Jacinto Senior High School, with 97% continuing their education in college. Two hundred of these students applied to the Rice Institute.<sup>48</sup>

By 1936, however, the school had once more outgrown its facilities, leading HISD to hire Joseph Finger to design a west wing addition to match the earlier east wing. A band practice building was added in 1951 to the southwest of the new west wing. In 1960, two three-story reinforced modern style classroom and lab buildings were added in the front lawn. Both of these buildings have since been demolished. In 1968, a new one-story pie-shaped building connected the 1928 wing to the gymnasium, giving the sprawling building its current configuration.

Throughout its forty-four year history, San Jacinto Senior High School has graduated a number of renowned alumni. Walter Cronkite graduated from San Jacinto in 1933 and went on to become an anchorman at *CBS Evening News* from 1962-1981. During his time at San Jacinto, he was editor of the school newspaper the *Campus Cub*.<sup>49</sup> In an interview for *National Mentoring Month*, a project spearheaded by the Harvard School of Public Health, MENTOR, and the Corporation for National and Community Service, he recalled his mentor Fred Birney who taught at San Jacinto and inspired his career in journalism:

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<sup>44</sup> *El Orosio*, vol. 1, 1927.

<sup>45</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>46</sup> *El Orosio*, vol. 3 and Vol. 10, 1929 and 1936.

<sup>47</sup> Houston Independent School District, *1924-1930 Annual Report* (Houston, Texas), 111.

<sup>48</sup> *El Orosio*, vol. 2, 1928.

<sup>49</sup> David Barron, (July 17, 2009). "News icon Walter Cronkite dies at 92," *Houston Chronicle*, <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/deaths/6535009.html>, retrieved 30 July 2012.

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I went to San Jacinto High School in Houston, Texas, in the 1930s, and was fortunate to come in contact with a man who would inspire me to become a career print and broadcast journalist. Fred Birney was a pioneer in high school journalism. Very few high schools at that time even taught journalism, and many schools didn't have their own student newspaper.

Fred talked the Houston Board of Education into allowing him to teach a journalism class once a week at three local high schools, one of which was San Jacinto. He was a newspaperman of the old school and taught us a great deal about reporting and writing. He also became a sponsor of the San Jacinto High School newspaper, the *Campus Cub*. Under his tutelage, we published it monthly, whereas it had previously been published in a casual manner, just three or four times a year. During my junior year, I was the sports editor of the *Campus Cub* and its chief editor in my senior year...

[Fred] was well-connected with the three newspapers in Houston. During the summer of my junior year, he secured his interested students jobs as copy boys and girls with the *Houston Post*. Then, after I graduated in 1933, I became the campus correspondent for the *Houston Post* at the University of Texas at Austin and worked at the college paper, the *Daily Texan*, working my way up to become its editor. My sophomore year I got a weekend job working as an exalted copy boy for the International News Service at the state capitol, but I was also asked to cover committee meetings of the state legislature...

In 1950 I was hired by CBS, and became further involved in radio and television.

Fred Birney wouldn't admire the type of journalism going on today. He was always big on journalistic integrity. "You've got to remember that everyone you write about is a human being," he would tell us, "not just a headline."

We exchanged several letters until his death, shortly after my high school graduation. He taught me so much in those high school classes, and by securing me those early jobs, he cemented my desire to be a reporter for the rest of my life. He was my major inspiration. I always credit Fred Birney for my career.<sup>50</sup>

Dr. Denton Arthur Cooley (b. 1920), a native Houstonian and renowned American heart surgeon graduated from San Jacinto High School in 1937. In an interview on file with the *Houston Public Library Digital Archives*, he remembers fondly his athletic endeavors at San Jacinto where he played basketball and was part of the All City basketball team.<sup>51</sup> Race car driver Anthony Joseph "A.J." Foyt Jr. (b. 1935) attended San Jacinto High School. He became the first driver to win the Indianapolis 500 four times. His championship titles include USAC Stock Car, NASCAR and IROC.<sup>52</sup> Kathryn "Kathy" J. Whitmire (b. 1946) graduated from San Jacinto High School in 1964. Houston's first female mayor, she served five consecutive two-year terms from 1982-1991. Wildcatter Glenn McCarthy also attended San Jacinto High School. McCarthy's nicknames include "Diamond Glenn" and "King of the Wildcatters" due to his rags to riches story and the loss and recapture of several fortunes. He developed Houston's famed Shamrock Hotel, and reportedly inspired the character Jett Rink, played by James Dean, in the movie *Giant*.<sup>53</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Matilda Raffa Cuomo, ed., *The Person Who Changed My Life: Prominent Americans Recall Their Mentors*, [http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy/Celebrities/walter\\_cronkite.html](http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/chc/wmy/Celebrities/walter_cronkite.html), accessed 30 July 2012.

<sup>51</sup> Kellar, William H., Ph.D., "Interview with: Dr. Denton Arthur Cooley," August 4, 2007, *Houston Oral History Project: A Great City Voices its Past*, Houston Public Library Digital Archives, accessed 30 July 2012.

<sup>52</sup> A.J. Foyt, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A.\\_J.\\_Foyt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._J._Foyt). Accessed 30 July 2012.

<sup>53</sup> Mod, Anna. *Building Modern Houston*. South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2012.

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### Houston Junior College (1927-1934)

The advent of junior high schools in Houston was the result of educators considering the needs of individual students and their development and looking beyond the traditional strict curriculum. At the same time and in addition to this major reorganization, HISD had also begun to consider the needs of other subgroups of students— for example, exceedingly bright pupils, students with subnormal mentality, and those students who had to work.<sup>54</sup> Adults who wished to attend college but could either not afford or did not have time to attend a four-year institution were included in this consideration.

As a result, following a conference with representatives from the State Department of Education, the University of Texas, the Rice Institute, and Sam Houston State Teachers College, the Board of Education established the Houston Junior College in the spring of 1927.<sup>55</sup> The first session began on June 5, 1927, with an enrollment of 232 students studying Education, Spanish, English, History, Biology, Art, and Physical Education. Classes were held in the San Jacinto Senior High School Building with a faculty mainly recruited from the staffs of the University of Texas and Sam Houston State Teachers College.<sup>56</sup> These classes and others continued at San Jacinto until 1934 when the Houston Junior College became a four-year private university under the control of HISD.<sup>57</sup> At this time, classes moved to other high schools and churches in Houston until the first University of Houston building, the Cullen Memorial Building, opened in 1939.<sup>58</sup>

### Houston Technical Institute

After the final class graduated from San Jacinto Senior High School in 1970, the Houston Technical Institute took over the campus.<sup>59</sup> Little information could be found on the institution beyond the fact that it continued part of the original purpose of the building in promoting vocational training.

### Houston High School for the Performing and Visual Arts

The same year the Houston Technical Institute opened at the old San Jacinto Senior High School building, HISD founded the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA). This new school was intended to provide highly specialized and intensive training in the arts to gifted young artists while at the same time providing them with a high school diploma. Classes began in the fall of 1971 with an enrollment of 200 and were located in a renovated synagogue, the Houston Technical Institute, Houston Community College, and the Trinity Episcopal Church. In 1981, HSPVA moved to 4001 Stanford Street, formerly the Montrose Elementary School.<sup>60</sup>

### Houston Community College

Following the conversion of the Houston Junior College into the four-year state school University of Houston, the city was left without a junior college. It was not until 1971 that Houston voted to create the Houston

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<sup>54</sup> 1914-1915 *Annual Report*, 13.

<sup>55</sup> "History of Junior College is Story of Rapid Growth," *The Cougar*, Vol. III, May 1930, 1.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>57</sup> Oscar Gutierrez, "From Junior College to Tier One University in Less than a Century!" (power point presentation, 13 June 2012, *University of Houston Fourth Annual Student Leadership Forum*).

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> *El Orosio*, vol. 44, 1970.

<sup>60</sup> Vertical File, "High School for the Performing and Visual Arts," *Houston Metropolitan Research Center*.

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Community College System (HCCS) to replace this resource and share facilities with the HISD.<sup>61</sup> The opening enrollment in the fall of that year was 5,711 with courses focusing on vocational and occupational training.<sup>62</sup> As part of the HISD, the Houston Technical Institute (located in the former San Jacinto Senior High School building), held some of HCCS' early classes. Later, the San Jacinto Senior High School building became part of the HCC Central Campus with an enrollment of 11,445 in the fall of 2001.<sup>63</sup> The building, renamed the San Jacinto Memorial Building, held courses in banking, cosmetology, lifestyle arts and design, and held a fitness center and administration offices. In 2007, HCC opened a new glass-fronted administration building on the front east lawn of the school. In 2010, the San Jacinto Memorial Building was closed for rehabilitation while the interior was rebuilt to allow for multimedia classrooms.<sup>64</sup>

Layton & Smith, Architects, 1914 Building

The City of Houston chose Oklahoma architects Layton & Smith to design the 1914 South End Junior High School. The architects had extensive experience in institutional design, particularly in high schools and junior high schools. They were also known for the sturdy and fireproof designs, a factor that appealed to the city after their decision to build only fireproof schools following the 1912-1913 school year.<sup>65</sup>

Solomon Andrew Layton was a significant Oklahoma architect who greatly influenced the built fabric of the territory and then fledgling state from 1902 to 1943. Born in Lucas County, Iowa, in 1864, Layton learned carpentry and building from his family during his childhood. In 1887, he began his career as an architect in Denver, Colorado before moving to El Reno, Oklahoma, in 1902 and then establishing a practice in Oklahoma City shortly after.

Layton partnered with many architects throughout his career, including George Forsyth, S. Wemyss Smith, Jewell Hicks, and James W. Hawk. With these men, Layton focused on public, institutional, and commercial architecture, contributing more than one hundred buildings to the Oklahoma City built fabric. The Oklahoma State Capitol, initiated in 1914, is the most significant of these buildings. With various partners, Layton designed at least sixteen Oklahoma county courthouses, forty-six Oklahoma City public schools (including the city's first five high schools and six junior high schools), several corporate headquarters, office towers, department stores, mental hospitals, and prisons. His firm's work also includes numerous buildings on the University of Oklahoma-Norman campus. Layton's extant buildings in Oklahoma City include the Oklahoma County Courthouse, Central High School (restored as One Bell Central), the Oklahoman Building (now the YMCA), the Braniff and Petroleum towers (now incorporated into Kerr-McGee corporate headquarters), the Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company building, the Journal-Record Building (originally Shrine Temple and now the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial), the MidContinent Building at Northwest Thirteenth and Classen Drive, and the Governor's Mansion and Wiley Post Building. Layton was also responsible for the design of the

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<sup>61</sup> J.B. Whiteley, "Beginnings Houston Community College System 1971-1977: A Report of Progress," Houston Community College System.

<sup>62</sup> Nancy Beck Young, "Houston Community College System," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kch13>), accessed August 01, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>63</sup> Ibid.

<sup>64</sup> L. Andre Humphery, "Central Future," accessed August 01, 2012, [http://central.hccs.edu/portal/site/central/menuitem.dc8592919ae8b3707bd15b10c17401ca/?vgnnextoid=3a6a2401412c2210VgnVCM2000001b4710acRCRD&appInstanceName=default](http://central.hccs.edu/portal/site/central/menuitem/dc8592919ae8b3707bd15b10c17401ca/?vgnnextoid=3a6a2401412c2210VgnVCM2000001b4710acRCRD&appInstanceName=default).

<sup>65</sup> *1912-1913 Annual Report*, Houston Independent School District, 7.

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two Skirvin Hotels. The first Skirvin Hotel was built as a hobby of oil multimillionaire William B. Skirvin and served as a gathering location for many of Skirvin's oil-baron friends.

It is this connection with the oil industry and Layton's extensive institutional and educational work that could be the reason he was selected to design South End Junior High School in Houston. Layton holds the Oklahoma state record at twenty-two for the greatest number of buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. His works exhibit a stability and a design aspect that greatly influenced the city's development.<sup>66</sup> Put to the test during the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, eleven of Layton's downtown buildings sustained damage yet remained structurally sound.<sup>67</sup>

Hedrick & Gottlieb, Architects, 1928 Addition

Significant Houston firm, Hedrick & Gottlieb, was chosen to design the 1928 addition to San Jacinto Senior High School. Known for their Neo-Classical commercial buildings, the firm became the successor to the Fort Worth firm, Sanguinet & Staats. Hedrick and Gottlieb were partners from 1925-1930 following the retirement of Sanguinet and Staats. In 1930, Gottlieb left the practice and the company became "Wyatt C. Hedrick." Of the two men, Hedrick proved to be the more significant. At one time, his was considered to be the third-largest architectural practice in the United States.<sup>68</sup>

Hedrick was born on December 17, 1888, in Chatham, Virginia, to Washington Henry and Emma Cephas Hedrick. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Roanoke College in 1909, and then an engineering degree from Washington and Lee University in 1913, Hedrick began work for Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation of Boston as a construction engineer in their Dallas office. A year later he began his own construction company in Fort Worth, TX, which he led until 1921 when he became a partner in the firm Sanguinet & Staats. Gottlieb also bought a limited partnership in the firm, making the Houston office's name "Sanguinet, Staats, Hedrick & Gottlieb."

Throughout his career Hedrick designed a number of significant buildings both with partners and on his own. Some of the most important include the Shamrock Hotel (1949, demolished); the South Main Baptist Church (1924 with Sanguinet, Staats, Hedrick & Gottlieb); the Old Houston National Bank (1928 with Gottlieb, NR); John Marshall Junior High School (1925 with Gottlieb); the Sam Houston Hotel (1924 with Sanguinet, Staats, Hedrick & Gottlieb); and the William P. Hobby Airport (1954).<sup>69</sup> Hedrick also designed a number of school buildings for various school districts and universities including Texas Tech University, Texas Christian University, and Texas Wesleyan College.

Joseph Finger, Architect, 1936 Addition

Prominent Houston architect Joseph Finger was chosen to build the Neo-Classical 1936 addition with Art Deco tower to San Jacinto High School. His addition was to mirror the 1928 Hedrick & Gottlieb addition.

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<sup>66</sup> Mary Jo Nelson, "Layton, Solomon Andrew (1864-1943)," *Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History & Culture*, Oklahoma Historical Society.

<sup>67</sup> Nelson, "Layton, Solomon Andrew (1864-1943)."

<sup>68</sup> Christopher Long, "Hedrick, Wyatt Cephas," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fhe51>), accessed August 01, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

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Joseph Finger was born on March 7, 1887, in Bielitz, Austria, to Henri and Hani Finger. Following the completion of his primary, secondary, and technical education in Bielitz, he immigrated to the United States in 1905. Finger initially settled in New Orleans, LA, but moved to Houston three years later in 1908. There, he worked in the branch office of Dallas architect C. D. Hill and Co. In 1912, Finger became a junior partner of Houston architect Lewis Sterling Green. From 1914 to 1919 he partnered with James Ruskin Bailey and worked with Lamar Q. Cato from 1920 to 1923. Finger then practiced under his own name from 1923 to 1944, before working in partnership with George W. Rustay until his death in 1953.<sup>70</sup>

During his career, Finger built extensively throughout Houston and the surrounding area. Beth Israel Temple (now the Houston Community College Heinen Theater, NR, RTHL, SAL) was one of his first works in the early 1920s.<sup>71</sup> His other religious works include the Congregation Beth Israel Temple (1925), Congregation Beth Israel Mausoleum (1935), and the Congregation Beth Yeshurun Synagogue (1949).<sup>72</sup> Finger's commercial and office work includes the American National Insurance Company Building in Galveston (1913), the A.C. Burton Auto Showroom (1929), and the Clarke Courts printing plant (1936, NR). He also designed retail stores for Everitt-Buelow (1926), Levy's (1930), and Battlestein's (1923, 1936, 1950), in addition to the Byrd's Department Store. During the 1930s, Finger's worked on many public buildings, including the second Jefferson Davis Hospital with Alfred Finn (1937, demolished), Houston City Hall (1939, NR), and the Houston Municipal Airport Terminal and Hangar (1940, NR).<sup>73</sup>

Finger's extensive work in Houston shaped the city's appearance and growth, particularly during the 1930s and 1940s. His Art Deco works like Houston City Hall and the Houston Turn-Verein (1929, demolished) placed Houston at the forefront of modern architecture, demonstrating the city's drive to embrace modern ideas and technology in its built environment.

### Conclusion

The City of Houston built San Jacinto Senior High School to be a testing ground for new educational theories and a model for future schools. As such it has played a significant role in the development of the Houston educational system beginning with South End Junior High School and the Houston Junior College and continuing with Houston Community College. The building was designed by Oklahoma architects Layton & Smith in the Neo-Classical style with additions by prominent Houston architects, Hedrick & Gottlieb and Joseph Finger. The San Jacinto Senior High School is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C with significance at the local level in the areas of education and architecture.

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<sup>70</sup> Stephen Fox, "Finger, Joseph," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ffi37>), accessed May 01, 2012. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

<sup>71</sup> Jeffery S. Kelly, "Finger on the Pulse of the Times: Immigrant Guided Houston's Architecture for More than Two Decades," *The Houston Post*, July 4, 1987.

<sup>72</sup> Stephen Fox, "Finger, Joseph."

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** 5.32 acres

### Coordinates

**Coordinates** (either UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates)

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 29.737399 Longitude: -95.376603

**Verbal Boundary Description:** The property begins at the southeast corner of San Jacinto and Holman Streets and extends east 330 ft. before turning 90° and running south for 292 ft. From this point the property extends 280 ft. northeast to Austin Street and is bounded by a line drawn between the 1928 east wing addition of San Jacinto Senior High School and the 2007 HCC administration building. The boundary then turns south, running 283 ft. along Austin Street. At this point, just east of the southeast corner of the 1928 Gymnasium on Austin Street, the boundary turns 90° to the west and extends 609 ft. to San Jacinto Street. Finally, the boundary runs north along San Jacinto Street 496 ft. to the southeast corner of San Jacinto and Holman Streets.

**Boundary Justification:** This boundary includes the contributing San Jacinto Senior High School Building and additions, the original landscape features, and the open lawn space. The boundary excludes the non-contributing 2007 administration building and the 1980s building that sit on the same block.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Grace Cynkar and Anna Mod  
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Date: July 2012

## Additional Documentation

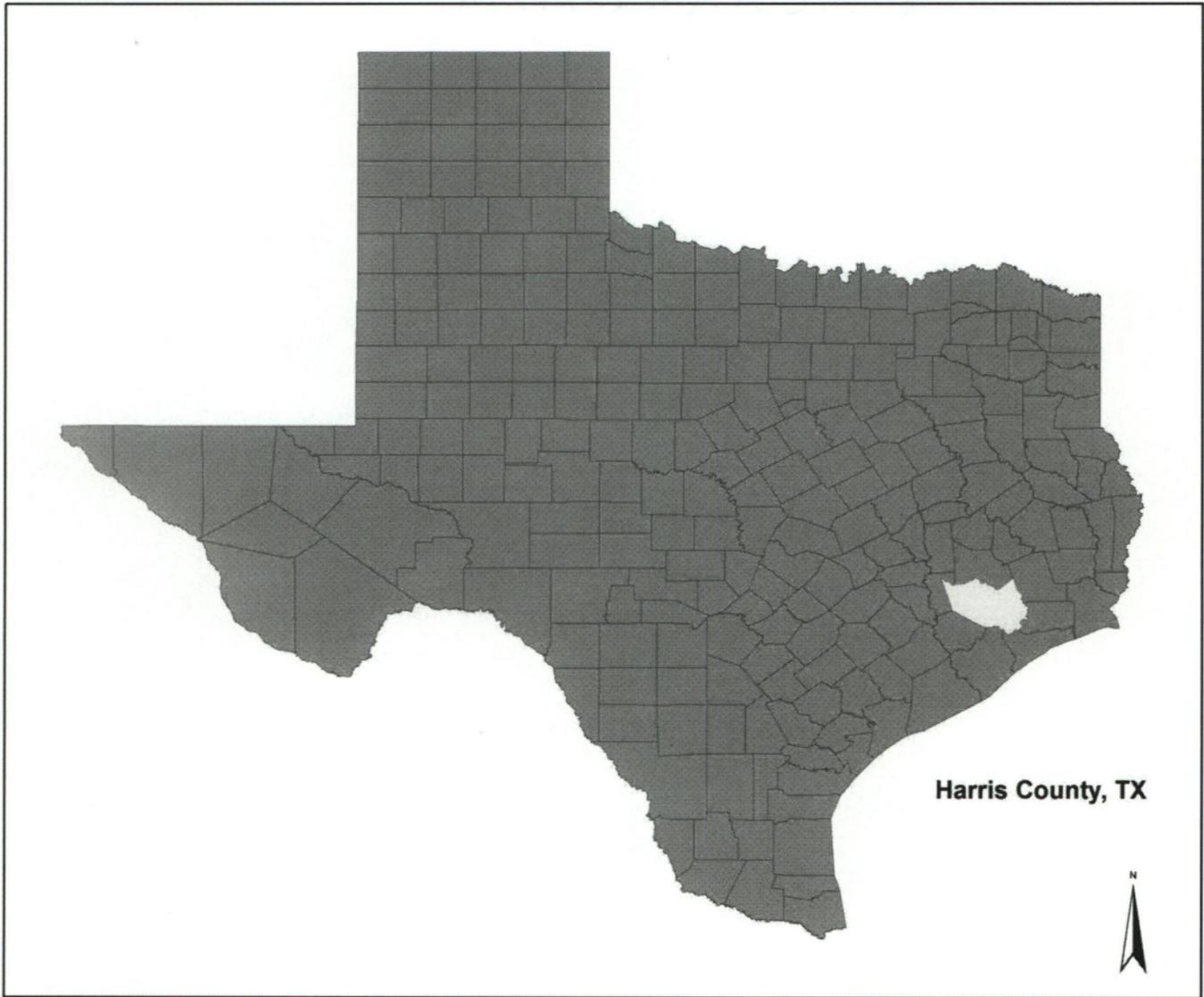
**Maps** (see continuation sheet Map-26 through Map-30)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets Figure-31 through Figure-38)

San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

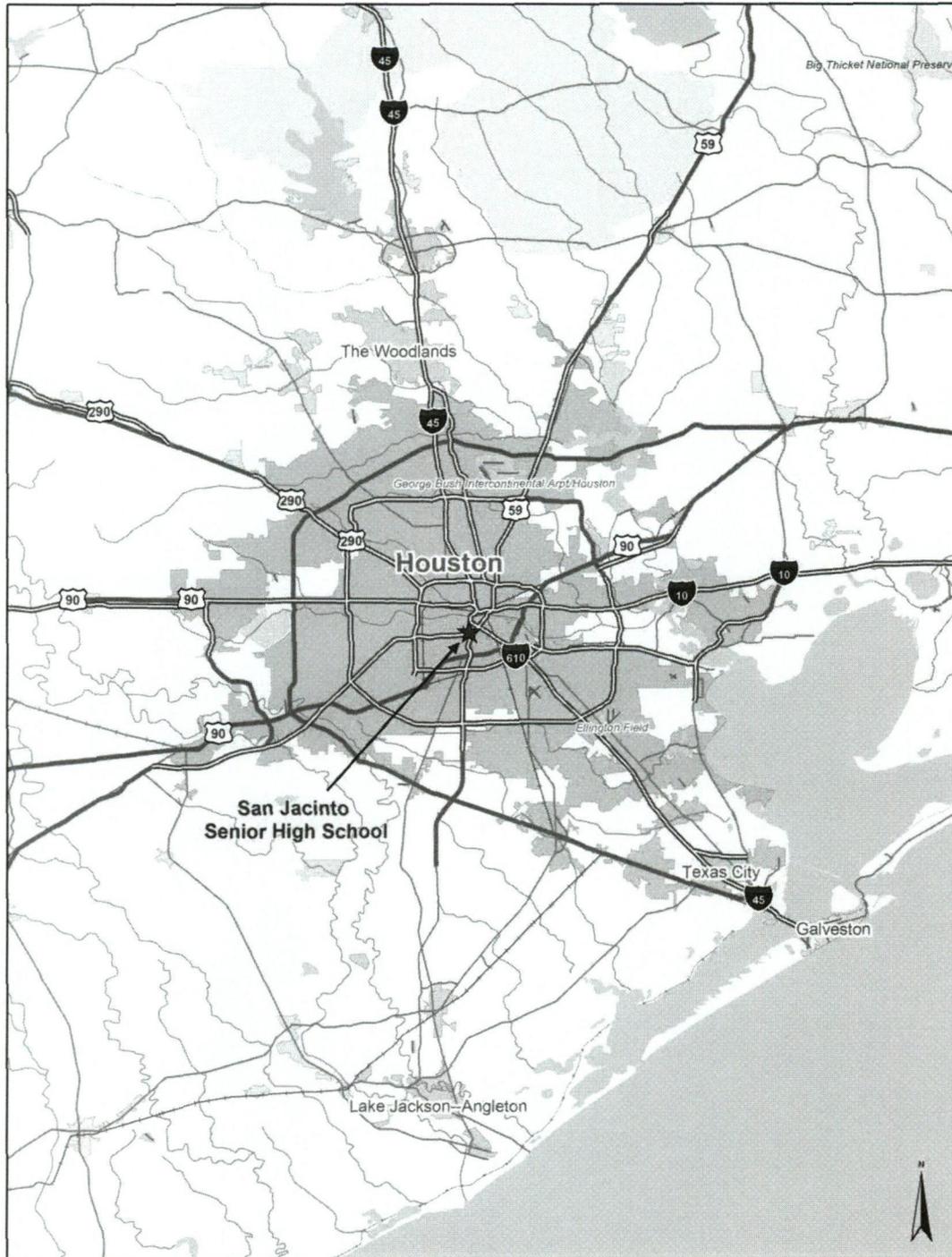
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**Map:** Harris County, TX (shaded)



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

**Map:** Houston, TX. Nominated property marked with star near center of city.



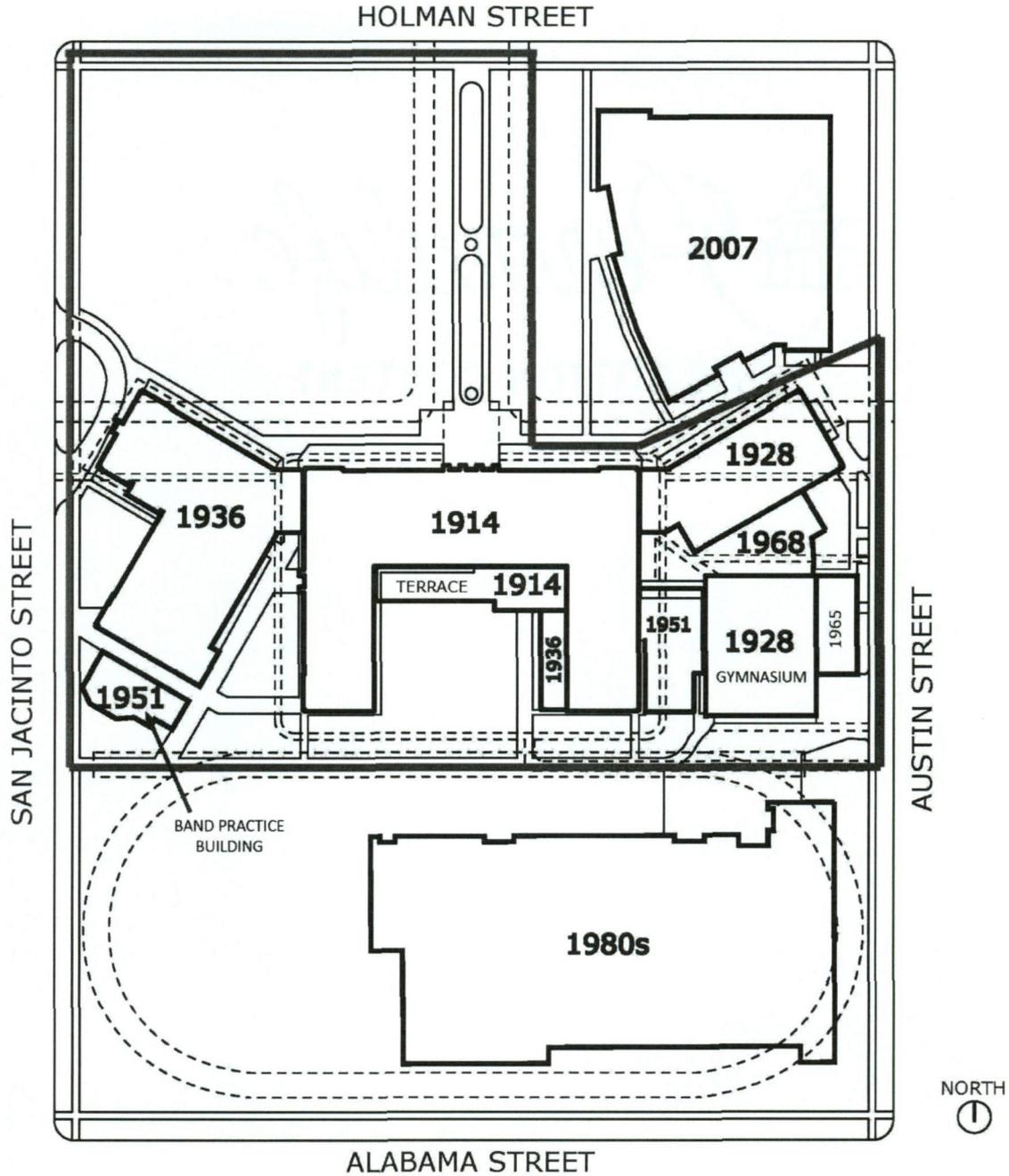
San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

**Map:** San Jacinto Senior High School with nomination boundary. Note: the rectangular building in the northwest corner of the property (top left) is no longer extant.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

**Map:** San Jacinto Senior High School Site Plan and Evolution. Dashed lines represent historic pathways and athletic fields. Note that the boundary is drawn to exclude the 2007 and the 1980s buildings. Included within the boundary are three contributing resources: 1) the 1914 building, with all subsequent additions; 2) the 1928 gymnasium; and 3) the 1951 band practice building.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

**Map:** Google Earth map depicting the latitude and longitude of the San Jacinto Senior High School. Accessed October 8, 2012. Note that the building located in the northwest quadrant of the block is no longer extant.

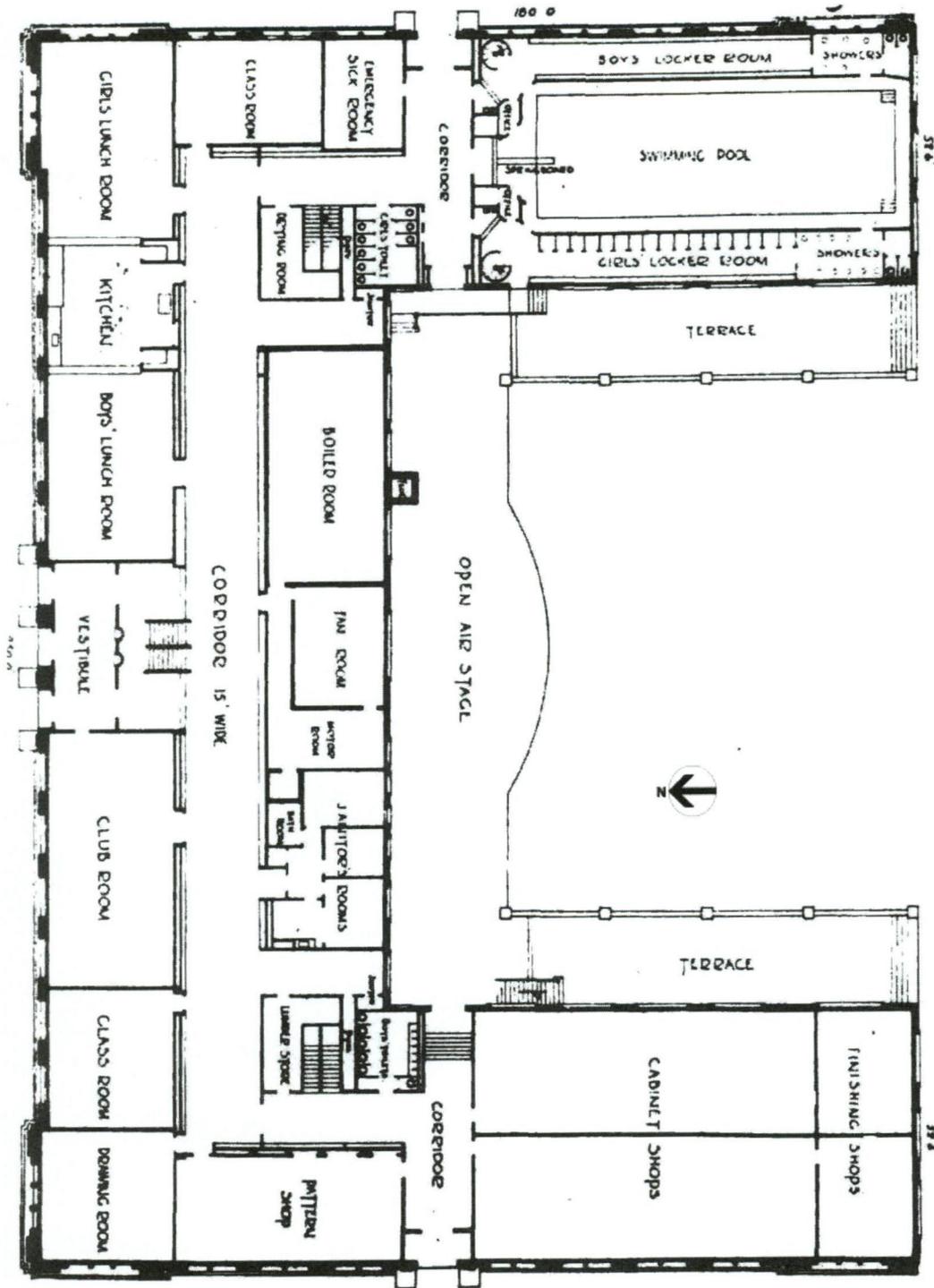


Google earth



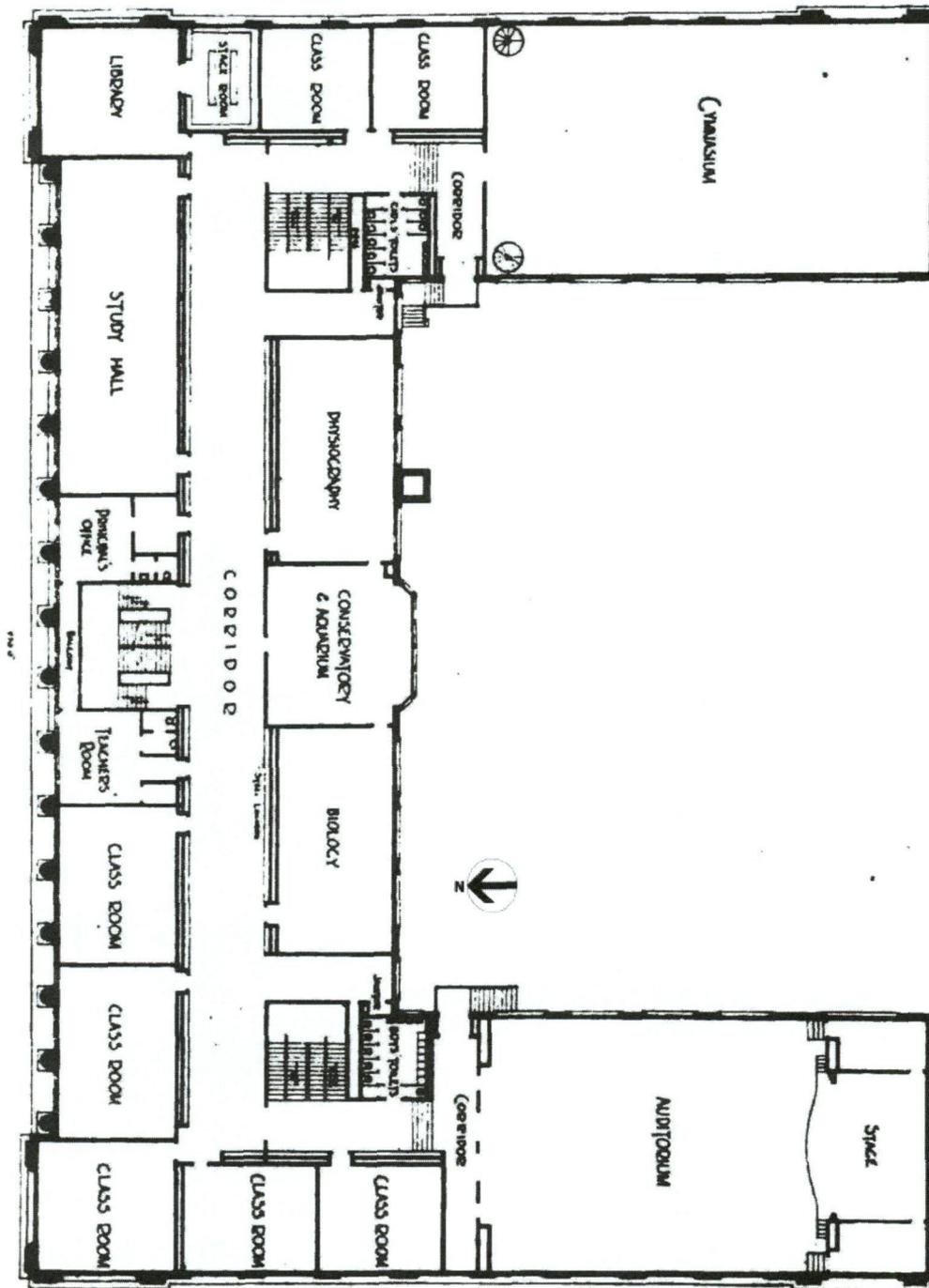
San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure: First Floor Plan, 1914.



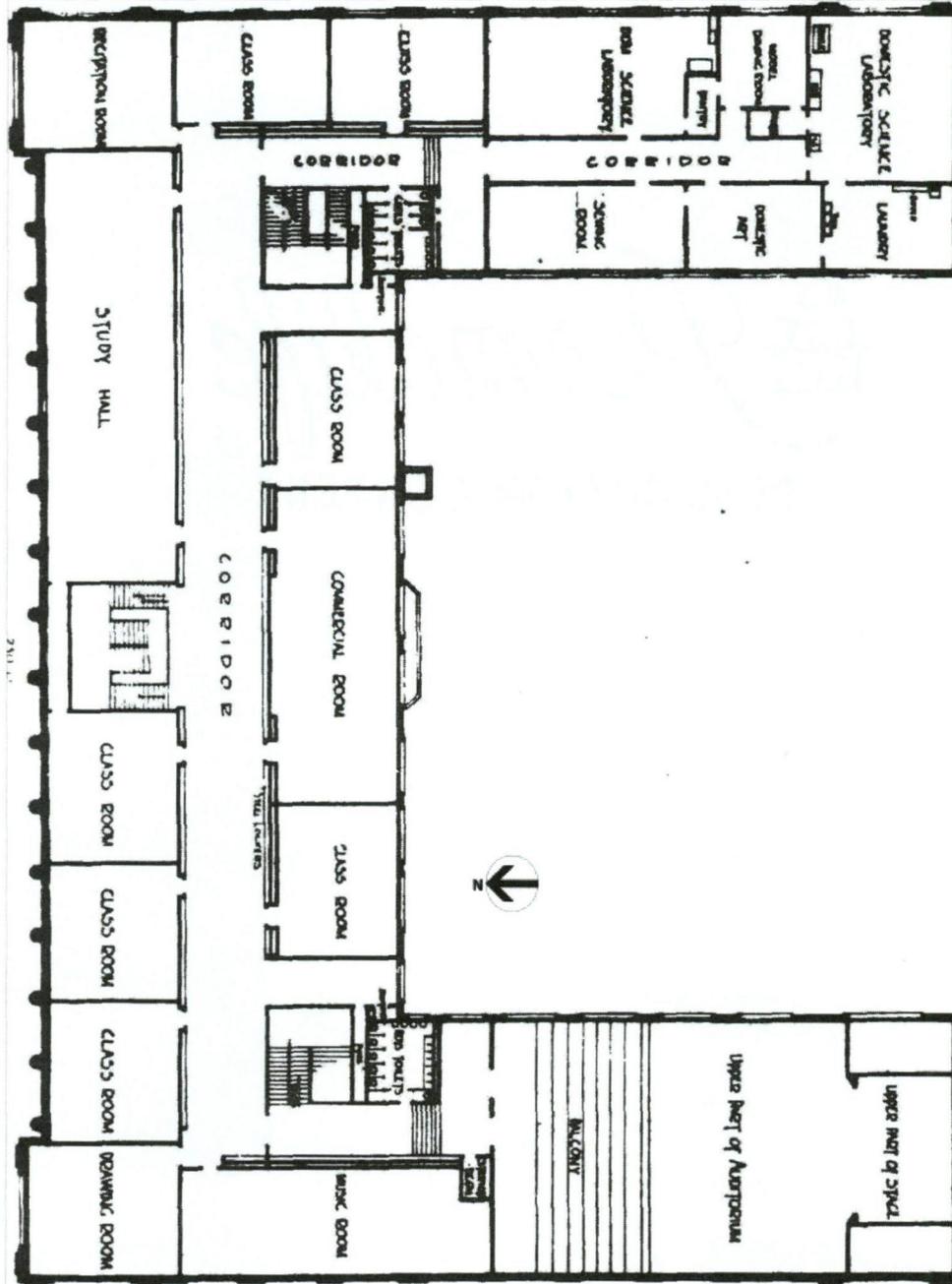
San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

Figure: Second Floor Plan, 1914.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

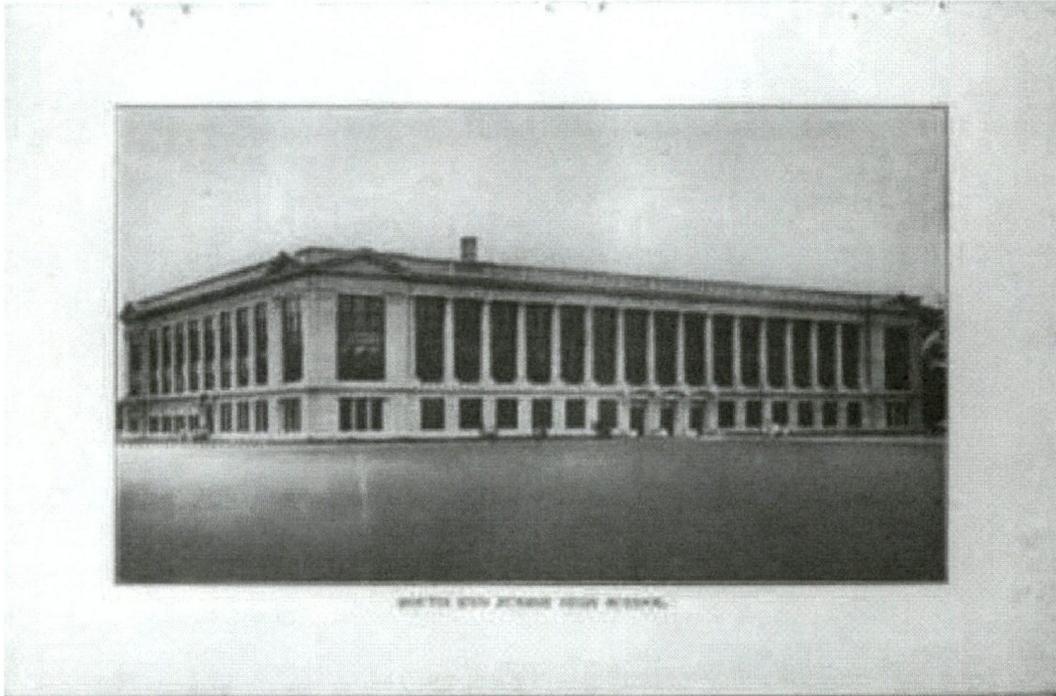
Figure: Third Floor Plan, 1914.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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**Figure:** 1914-1915 image of north facade and east elevation. From the collection of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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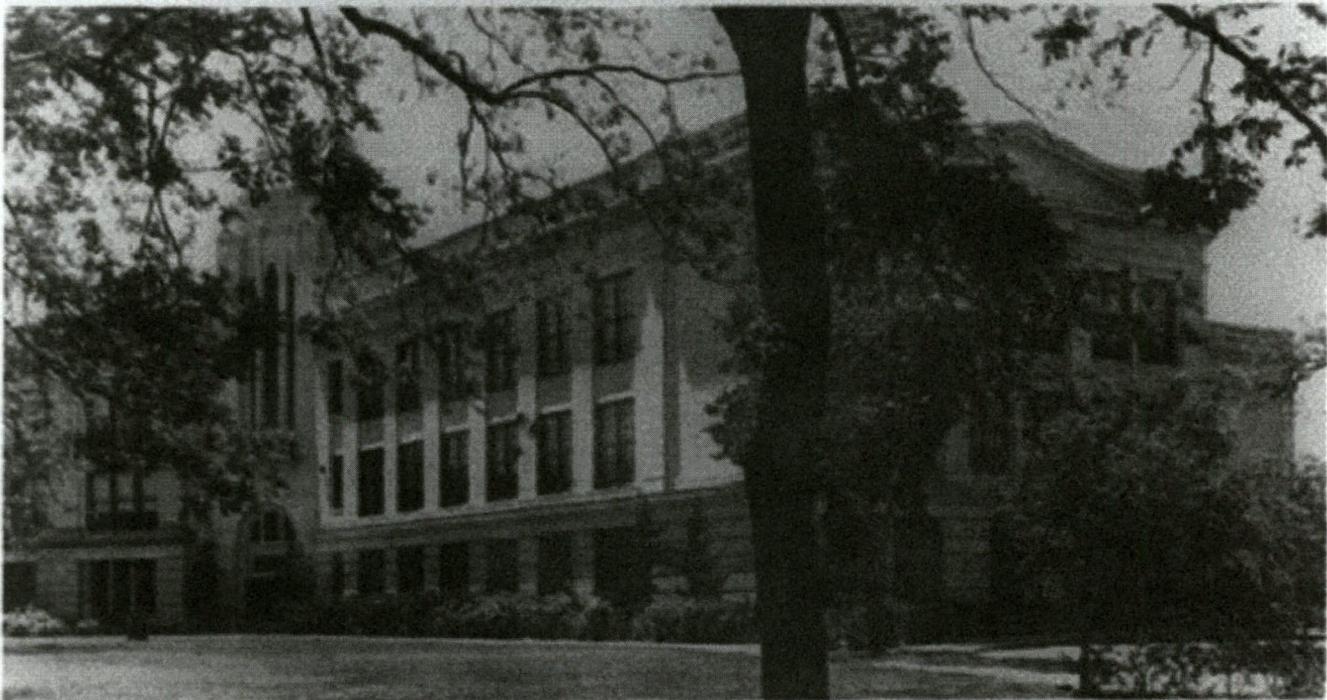
**Figure:** Historic Photo. North elevation eastern wing and original center section, 1936. From the collection of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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**Figure:** Historic Photo. North and west elevations, western wing, 1936. From the collection of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center.

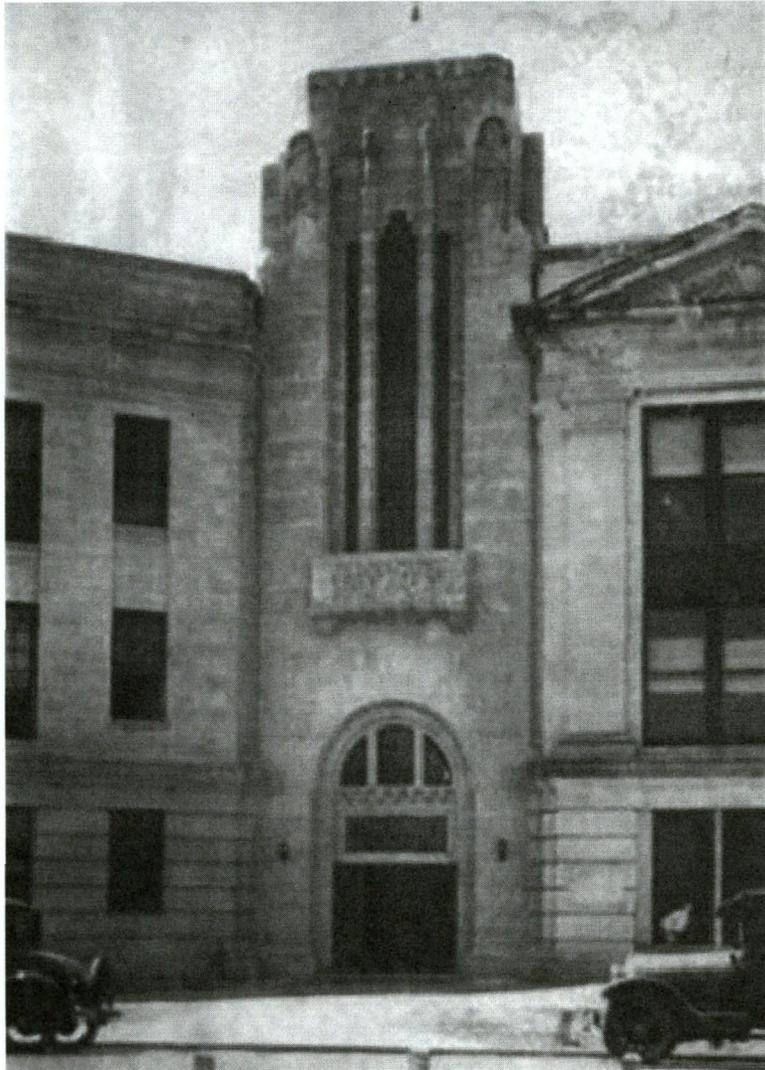


SAN JACINTO HIGH SCHOOL, HOUSTON, TEXAS

San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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**Figure:** 1932 historic photo of the eastern tower.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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**Figure:** 1932 historic photo of north facade of gym (L), rear elevation of eastern wing (R), and ell of 1914 C-plan original building.



San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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## Photographs

All photos are printed on HP Premium Photo Paper with HP Vivera ink.

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Overall, north facade and partial west elevation, view SE  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0001

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Detail, main entry of north facade, view south  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0002

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Detail, spandrel panel, original 1914 building, typical  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0003

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Detail of east tower, view SW  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0004

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Detail of east tower entry, view S  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0005

San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Detail of west wing addition, fountain, view S  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0006

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: East and south elevations of gymnasium, view NW  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0007

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Detail of gym roundel and frieze, typical  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0008

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Interior, second floor hallway, typical, eastern wing, view E  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0009

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Detail of fountain in conservatory, view NE  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0010

San Jacinto Senior High School, Houston, Harris County, Texas

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Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Interior, auditorium, view SW from balcony towards stage  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0011

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Interior, gymnasium, view SE  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0012

Name of Property: San Jacinto Senior High School  
City or Vicinity: Houston  
County, State: Harris, Texas  
Photographer: Hester + Hardaway  
Date Photographed: July 2012  
Description of Photo: Interior, swimming pool, view N  
Photograph Number TX\_Harris\_San Jacinto Senior High School\_0013

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY San Jacinto Senior High School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Harris

DATE RECEIVED: 10/19/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/04/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/05/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001000

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 12.4.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 1 of 13



HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus

HP Premium Plus



Premium Plus

Premium Plus

Premium Plus

Premium Plus

SAN JACINTO MEMORIAL BUILDING



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 2 of 13



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 3 of 13



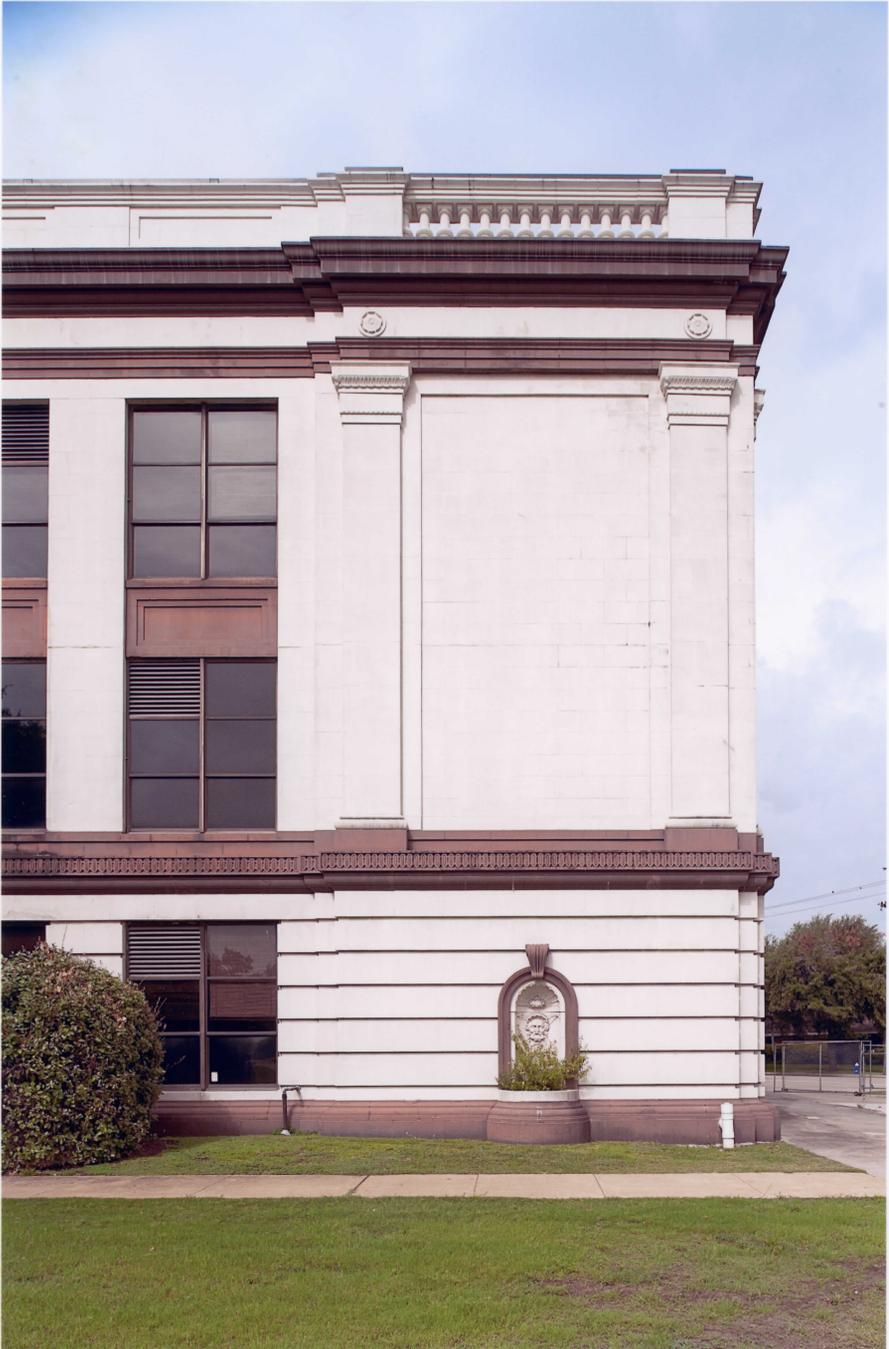
San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 4 of 13



S.JAC  
Building

SAN JACINTO  
SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 5 of 13



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 6 of 13



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 7 of 13



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 8 of 13

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San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 9 of 13



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 10 of 13

HP Premium Plus

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HP Premium Plus





San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 11 of 13



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 12 of 13



San Jacinto Senior High School  
Houston, Harris Co., TX  
Photo 13 of 13

## Missing Core Documentation

**Property Name**

San Jacinto High School

**County, State**

Harris, Texas

**Reference Number**

12001000

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

Nomination Form

Photographs

USGS Map

**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

*real places telling real stories*



TO: Edson Beall  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Carlyn Hammons  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: San Jacinto Senior High School  
(Houston, Harris County, TX)

DATE: October 8, 2012

The following materials are submitted:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
	Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property Documentation form
	_ Resubmitted form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs printed from digital files
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gold CD with TIFF photograph files and electronic NR nomination form
	Photographs printed from negatives
	USGS map
	Correspondence – Notification of federal property owner (USPS)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Google Map indicating latitude and longitude locational data is located on page 30 of the nomination form (in lieu of USGS quad map).

