

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

JAN 14 1985

date entered

FEB 20 1985

Continuation sheet

Item number 4,7,8,9,10

Page 14_a

#42/#43, PHOTOS 9,10,11,12,13

NAME: Chappell Hill Public School and Chappell Hill
Hill Female College Bell

DATE: 1927/1873

ADDRESS: Poplar Street

BLOCK/LOT: See Verbal Boundary
Description

PRESENT OWNER: Chappell Hill Historical Society
Mr. Robert Nebel, President
P.O. Box 211
Chappell Hill, Texas 77426

ACREAGE: 1.961

CURRENT USE: Museum, educational,
entertainment/bell

ORIGINAL USE: School/Bell

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: 7.5' Chappell Hill, Tx

U.T.M. REFERENCE: 14/763660/3337380

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Physical Condition: Excellent

Dates of Alterations: 1982-aluminum windows replaced wooden sash ones

Designed by Page Bros. Architects and constructed by Austin contractor Frank Barron, the Chappell Hill Public School is a single-story brick structure which once functioned as the local school. The L-shape structure houses large classrooms, a spacious auditorium, and various storage and ancillary services. The backdrop of the stage in the auditorium is still intact. The building is typical of early 20th-century scholastic architecture with a Jacobean flair, including the crenelations around the parapet wall. The projecting front entrance resembles a castle or fortress entry with some Gothic detailing in the masonry work. Stone trim accentuates the north (front) facade at the main entrance in the form of a decorative elliptical archway with molded acanthus leaves and pinnacles atop corner pilasters. Above the archway are three panels containing quatrefoil motifs and an emblem, while the main entrance is bordered by urns resting on plinths. A stone belt course also extends around the perimeter of the building beneath the crenelated parapet wall.

The front entry consists of a multilight double door with transom above. A transomed double door at the rear contains a flat wooden canopy. Brick flat-arch windows are set in groups of five, and only recently have aluminum units replaced the original 6/6 wooden-sash windows. The ceilings of the interior and entrance way are of pressed metal with geometric and floral motifs bordered by egg-and-dart moldings.

A single wood-frame, board-and-batten outbuilding, once used as a storage room and pump house, exists on the property. Located next to the concrete sidewalk is a wooden sign with posts identifying the museum. Also located in front of the building is a concrete marker erected by the State of Texas in 1936, commemorating the site of the Chappell Hill Female College.

The Old Chappell Hill Female College Bell is situated on the site of the Chappell Hill Community Center and Museum, and is located on the original site of this historic college. The College Bell, which was cast in 1873 by the firm of McNeely and Kimberly

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Troy, New York, was housed in the cupola atop the large-scale, two-story, Greek Revival building which replaced an earlier structure destroyed by fire in the early 1870s. Mounted on its original works, the bell is in good repair. The lighted display case is constructed of wood and glass and contains a wooden-shingled pyramidal roof. The base upon which it rests was constructed of stones salvaged from the ruins of Soule University. A few feet west of the bell stands an official Texas Historic Marker.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Period: 1900-

Areas of Significance: Education; architecture

This building was constructed by a prominent architect in 1927 as the main educational building for the Chappell Hill Independent School District. Harvey L. Page, a partner in the firm of Page Brothers, moved his office from Washington, D.C., to San Antonio at the turn-of-the-century. Many domestic structures and important public buildings in Washington, D.C., and the Southwest are attributed to him.

In terms of education, this building is significant as the first new school built in the 20th century to accommodate students in the Chappell Hill Independent School District. Through its architecture, it reflects an up-to-date awareness of new approaches to public education in the fields of administration, instruction, and facilities. When built, it was a manifestation of "modern" or early 20th-century, educational architecture in Chappell Hill, which was dominated by 19th-century residences. The school was built on the original site of the Chappell Hill Female College, which operated from 1854 to 1912. The cornerstone for the brick building was laid on September 6, 1927, with ceremonies conducted by the Masons of Chappell Hill and Brenham.

The contract for the erection of the new school building was awarded to a well-known Austin contractor and brickmason, Frank R. Barron, whose bid was slightly in excess of \$30,000. Barron was also commissioned by the Brenham Independent School District at this time to build a "splendid" new high school. Although larger in scale than the school building at Chappell Hill, the Brenham High School was similar in style and detailing. These two public school buildings, which were equipped with all the modern conveniences and furnishings, were architecturally outstanding in Washington County at the time of their construction. It is significant, too, that a town the size of Chappell Hill, once a pioneer in education in the state, would construct such a commodious educational institution during this period. The erection of the building signified the educational progress of the Chappell Hill community in the early 20th century.

The 1927 educational facility continued in use as a school until 1966. The following year the building was leased to the Chappell Hill Historical Society. On December 8, 1976, the Society succeeded in procuring ownership of the school building. The old school currently functions as the town's community center and museum and exhibits documents, photographs, and other memorabilia depicting the historical development of Chappell Hill.

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The potential for historic archeological investigation exists on the site of the school building, which was previously the location of the Chappell Hill Female College's main building. Two other main buildings, one of which was destroyed by fire, were also in existence here. Archeological exploration would undoubtedly yield information about these buildings and verify the location of ancillary structures.

The College Bell, which is being nominated as an historic object, is the only remaining relic from the 1872 main building of the Chappell Hill Female College. Around 1943 the bell was rescued from a World War II Scrap Drive by Chappell Hill residents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schaer. Mr. Louie Winfield promptly built a frame for the bell and displayed it in the lobby of the Farmer's State Bank. In the 1960s the lighted case was moved to a vacant lot between Lesser's Store and the bank. When the bank built an annex on this lot in 1974, the bell was removed to its present location.

The old College Bell, the symbol of a leading 19th-century educational institution which pioneered in higher learning in Texas, is significant to the Chappell Hill community and the state.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Austin American-Statesman, February 29, 1952 (Obituary-Frank Barron).

Brenham Banner-Press, July 7, 1927.

Brenham Banner-Press, September 7, 1927.

Washington County Deed Records, Brenham, Texas.

RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDINGS: Situated on large tract next to residential area and southwest of the Methodist Church. Located at the end of Church Street. Original site of Chappell Hill Female College

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All of that certain tract or parcel of land lying in and being in Washington County, part of Wm. Munson league, A-90 beginning at an iron bar set at the intersection of the north line of Providence Street with the east line of Haller Street for the southwest corner of the original tract called 4 acres; thence along the east line of Haller Street for the west line of this tract N 0° 03' 40" E, 218.00 feet to an iron bar and N 45° 31' 19" E, 21.04 feet to an iron bar set on said street line at its present intersection with south line of Poplar Street being the northwest exterior corner of this tract; thence along a portion of the north line of said original tract being along the south side of Poplar Street and along a line being used for a south line of the United Methodist Church of Chappell Hill lot S 89° 00' 55" E, 347.89 feet to an iron bar set in the north deed line of the original tract called 4 acres and under an old fence for an interior corner; thence along the old fence N 3° 20' E, 6.40 feet to fence line angle N 59° 46' 55" E, 16.24 feet to a fence line and a south deed line of said Cegelski tract for a north line of this tract S 85° 28' 39" E, 242.63 feet to an iron bar set at a fence corner post found for the northeast corner of said original tract; thence along a portion of the

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fenced west line of said Cegelski tract being along a portion of fenced east line of said original tract called 4 acres for the east line of this tract S 0° 12' 40" W. 229.31 feet to an iron bar set at a fence corner in the southeast corner of this tract; thence along fenced line for a south line of this tract N 87° 41' 22" W, 265 feet to an iron bar set near a fence corner post; thence along a portion of a fence line S 2° 18' 38" W, 17 feet to an iron bar set at a corner or turn of the north line of Providence Street; thence along the north line of Providence Street N 87° 57' 43" W, 391.12 feet to place of beginning, containing 3.559 acres.

Washington County, Texas, Deed Book 350, page 751; 8 December 1976.

Less the Following Portion Sold:

Beginning at an iron bar and fence corner post at the southeast corner of said original 3.559 acres of which this tract is a part being the southeast corner of this tract; thence along the fenced line N 87° 41' 22" W, 265.00 feet to an iron bar set near a fence corner post being an interior corner of said original tract and of this tract; thence along a portion of the west line of the Simpson tract S 2° 18' 38" W, 17.00 feet to an iron bar set on said line for an exterior corner of this tract and of said original tract, being at the corner of turn of the north line of Providence Street; thence along the north line of said Providence Street N 87° 57' 43" W, 30.00 feet to an iron bar set on said street line for the southwest corner of this tract; thence leaving said street and along a line severing said original tract N 0° 31' 23" E, 239.61 feet to an iron bar at an interior corner of said original tract and an exterior corner of the United Methodist Church of Chappell Hill lot being under an old fence; thence along said old fence as follows: N 3° 20' E, 6.40 feet to a fence line angle N 59° 46' 55" E. 16.24 feet to a fence line angle and S 89° 15' 28" E, 37.83 feet to an iron bar at the base of a fence corner of said Cedelski 7.191 acre tract, being the most eastern southeast corner of said church lot; thence along an old fence and a south deed line of said Cegelski tract S 85° 28' 39" E, 242.63 feet to an iron bar at a fence corner post for the northeast corner of this tract and of said original tract being an interior corner of said Cegelski tract; thence along a portion of the fenced west line of said Cegelski tract S 0° 12' 40" W, 229.31 feet to the place of beginning and containing 1.598 acres of land.

Washington County, Texas, Deed Book 355, page 583, 11 July 1977.

Thus leaving the Chappell Hill Historical Society Community Center and Museum tract 1.961 acres of land.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Chappell Hill Multiple Resource Area
State Washington County, Texas

Cover account.

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Main Street Historic District | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 5/15/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 2. | Applewhite, Isaac, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 3. | Chappell Hill Circulating Library | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 4. | Chappell Hill Methodist Episcopal Church | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 5. | Chappell Hill Public School and Chappell Hill Female College Bell | Substantive Review | Keeper | <i>Linda McClelland 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 6. | Felder, E. King, House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 7. | Rogers, William S., House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 8. | Routt, J.R., House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 9. | Smith, John Sterling, Jr. House | Entered in the National Register | Keeper | <i>Shelene Byers 2/20/85</i> |
| | | | Attest | |
| 10. | | | Keeper | |
| | | | Attest | |

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET~~Substantive Review~~Chappell Hill Public School and Chappell Hill
Female College Bell (Chappell Hill MRA)
Washington County
TEXASWorking No. JAN 14 1985
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.4.86
Date Due: 2/14/85 - 2/28/85
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2-20-85
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

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

Substantive Review: ☒ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decisionReviewer's comments: Architecturally significant schoolhouse also reflects an important stage in town's role as a center of education & culture. Property also includes the bell of town's 1st school (moved to site in 1974). It has become a commemorative
Recom./Criteria Accept A+C
Reviewer L. McClelland
Discipline Arch. Hist.
Date 2-20-85
see continuation sheetNomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category

Ownership
Public AcquisitionStatus
Accessible

Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐
- excellent
-
- ☐
- good
-
- ☐
- fair

- ☐
- deteriorated
-
- ☐
- ruins
-
- ☐
- unexposed

Check one

- ☐
- unaltered
-
- ☐
- altered

Check one

- ☐
- original site
-
- ☐
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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

fine symbol of Chappell Hill's important role in education beginning in mid-19th century. It has achieved local importance through its age and symbolic value, qualifying it as a contributing object (primarily commemorative in purpose). Note, Bell was saved in 1943 and displayed locally ever since even though it wasn't moved to school until 1974. It's not clear where it was located from 1920's to 1943.

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



Im. 42

Historic Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#42 Chappell Hill Female College Bell
Located in front of Chappell Hill Community
Center and Museum

Photo by Julie Edwards, March 1984, neg on file
Texas Historical Commission

Northwest elevation, camera facing southeast

photo 9 of 58

6



GRAPELAND BRANCH
OF THE
MUSEUM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
COMMUNITY CENTER

Historic Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#43 Chappell Hill Public School
Poplar Street

Photo by William Schaer, May, 1984, negoon file
Texas Historical Commission

North facade, camera facing south

Photo 10 of 58

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Historical Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#43 Chappell Hill Public School
Poplar Street

Photo by William Schaer, May, 1984 neg on file
Texas Historical Commission

Detail of front and north entrance; camera facing
south

photo 11 of 58



HISTORIC RESOURCES OF CHAPPELL HILL
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

#43 Chappell Hill Public School
Poplar Street

Photographer unknown, c. 1970, neg on file
Texas Historical Commission
Photo # 12 of 58

VIEW: SOUTHWEST ELEVATION; camera facing northeast



1907

2

57
58

Historic Resources of Chappell Hill
Chappell Hill, Washington County, Texas

Historic Photo: Chappell Hill Female College
(demolished 1927)

Photo by Schlueter Hodston; ca. 1907, neg on
file at Texas Historical Commission

Northeast elevation, camera facing southwest

photo 13 of 58

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000834