

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

*Historic name:* Abilene Christian College Administration Building

*Other name/site number:* 2287; Abilene Christian University Administration Building

**2. LOCATION**

*Street & number:* Abilene Christian University

*not for publication:* N/A

*City/town:* Abilene

*State:* TX    *County:* Taylor

*code:* 441    *zip code:* 79699

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

*Ownership of Property:* Private

*Category of Property:* Building

<i>Number of Resources within Property:</i>	<i>Contributing</i>	<i>Noncontributing</i>
	__1__	_____ <i>buildings</i>
	_____	_____ <i>sites</i>
	_____	_____ <i>structures</i>
	_____	_____ <i>objects</i>
	__1__	__0__ <i>Total</i>

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

*Name of related multiple property listing:* Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Texas

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*Curtis Russell*

2-12-92

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

*Antonietta J. Rose*

3/23/92

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain):

*fr* Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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*Historic:* Education

Sub: College

*Current:* Education

Sub: College

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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*Architectural Classification:* Classical Revival

<i>Materials: foundation</i>	concrete
<i>walls</i>	brick
<i>roof</i>	asphalt
<i>other</i>	cast stone

*Describe present and historic physical appearance.   x   See continuation sheet.*

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

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*Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally*

*Applicable National Register Criteria:* A and C

*Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) :* N/A

*Area(s) of Significance:* Education, Architecture

*Period(s) of Significance:* 1929-1939

*Significant Dates:* 1929; 1950s

*Significant Person(s):* N/A

*Cultural Affiliation:* N/A

*Architect/Builder:* Nichols & Campbell (architect); Seby, H.M. (contractor)

*State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.   x   See continuation sheet.*



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Continuation Sheet

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Historic and Architectural Resources  
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Description:

The Administration Building at Abilene Christian University (formerly Abilene Christian College) is a massive 2-story masonry building with Classical Revival detailing. It faces west onto Campus Court Drive and serves as the symbolic entrance to the institution's grounds. Unlike most historic buildings on the university campus, the Administration Building has remained unaltered and retains much of its integrity.

The Administration Building has a raised basement where the masonry work is crafted to achieve a rusticated effect. The building has a U-shaped plan with projecting side wings on the north and south ends of the front facade. These wings were part of the original plan but were not built until the 1950s. Nevertheless, they display detailing, materials and craftsmanship that are almost identical to comparable features on the original building and are hardly discernible as additions. A 2-story, 3-bay portico with giant order Ionic columns marks the main entrance. The first floor bays within the portico have round arched openings including the double door primary entrance. Windows within the portico's second floor, as well as those on the remainder of the building, are paired and have multiple light wood sashes.

Statement of Significance:

The Administration Building at Abilene Christian University (formerly Abilene Christian College) is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Education, for its role in local educational efforts and is associated with the historic context "Educational Efforts in Abilene, 1881-1939." The building has served as the institution's main building, housing administrative offices and classrooms, since its construction in 1928-29. The Administration Building is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as a local example of Classical Revival architecture as expressed in its detailing. Although major additions (the side wings) were completed in the 1950s, they are compatible both in design and scale to the original building. The building is in good condition and retains its integrity.

A.B. Barret, a Church of Christ evangelist from Tennessee, founded what became Abilene Christian University in the early years of this century. The school opened in 1906 and operated out of the W.H. Childers home at the northeast corner of North First and Kirkwood streets. The school was officially called Childers Classical Institute; he had sold his home and property at a discounted price for construction of the school. However, it soon was called Abilene Christian College.



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of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

The school overcame a shaky beginning and greatly expanded during the 1910s and early 1920s. The five acre lot that served as the original campus soon proved inadequate and new grounds were secured on the east side of town near the headquarters of John D. Simpson's Hashknife Ranch.

The Administration Building was the first building erected on the new campus and a local newspaper stated "the general contract for construction of the first of three units of the administration building of A.C.C. on its future campus east of the city has just been awarded to H.M. Seby on a bid of \$73,950. Ground for the building will be broken next Wednesday [May 30, 1928]..." (Morris and Leach 1953:145). The quote suggests that the wings were part of the original plan but were not built during the 1928-29 construction possibly due to lack of funds.

The first school session on the new campus began in the fall of 1929. Since then, both the physical plant and enrollment have grown tremendously. The Administration Building remains an important symbol of the institution's success and expansion.

Abilene Christian University's decision to move its campus affected Abilene's physical development and encouraged growth on the east side of the community. To help finance the move, school trustees attempted a creative and ambitious real estate promotion of adjoining lands the college owned. The property was partitioned and sold to individuals who subsequently erected residences. Revenues from these sales, the trustees anticipated, would generate monies for years to come; however, the scheme was largely unsuccessful due to external economic factors of that era. After World War II, the area was more intensely developed.

The Administration Building is an excellent local example of Classical Revival architecture, a popular design used by academic institutions during the era. Classical columns with Corinthian capitals support a full height porch that dominates the main facade and all elevations have symmetrically balanced fenestration patterns, features typical of classically inspired design.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

x See bibliography for associated historic context.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- x Local government (City of Abilene Planning Department)
- University
- x Other -- Specify Repository: Abilene Preservation League

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreege of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	14	433260	3592240	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is indicated on the accompanying base map, see attached Continuation Sheet 10-7.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the area that has been historically associated with the property and that retains its historic and architectural integrity.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Amy E. Dase, Historian, THC staff)

Name/Title: David Moore, Historian  
 Organization: Hardy Heck Moore  
 Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande  
 City or town: Austin

Date: June 1989; January 1992  
 Telephone: 512/478-8014  
 State: TX Zip: 78705



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National Park Service

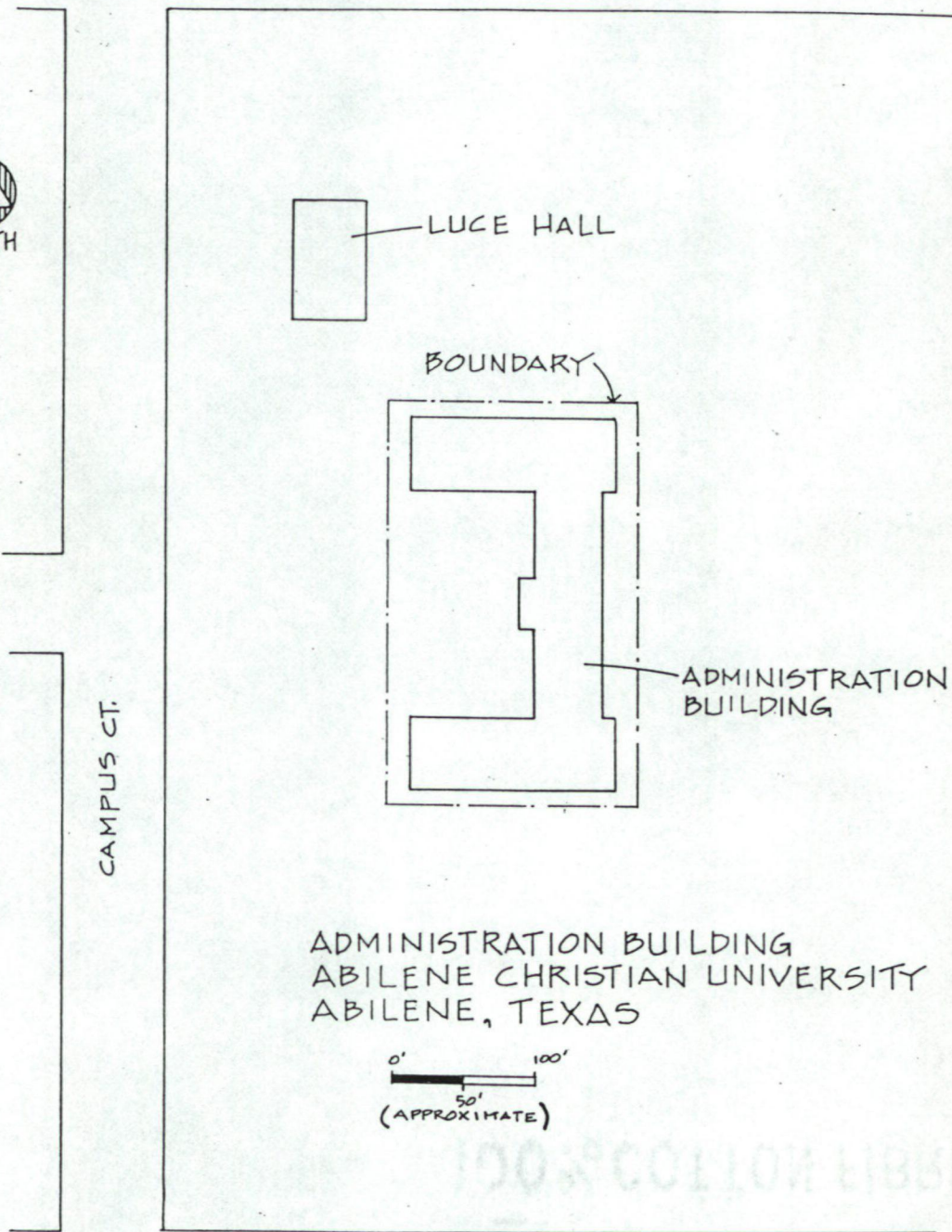
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Historic and Architectural Resources  
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

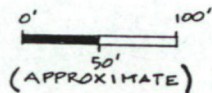


E. N. 18TH ST.



CAMPUS CT.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
ABILENE, TEXAS



E. N. 16TH ST.



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Historic and Architectural Resources  
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

Abilene Christian College Administration Building

Abilene Christian University Campus  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
West facade, camera facing east  
Photograph 1 of 48

Luce Hall  
Abilene Christian University Campus  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 2 of 48

W.A.V. Cash House  
1302 Amarillo  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
East facade, camera facing west  
Photograph 3 of 48

House at 1127 Ash  
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas  
Photographed by David Moore  
Winter 1989  
Negative with Texas Historical Commission  
Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast  
Photograph 4 of 48



2/19/92

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Abilene MPS  
TEXAS

Date Listed

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
		12/18/91
92000225	1915 Taylor County Courthouse	3/23/92
92000193	Abilene Christian College Administration Building	5/23/92
91001811	Abilene Commercial Historic District	12/18/91
92000200	Abilene Fire Station No. 2	3/23/92
92000205	Abilene Street Railway Company Barn	3/23/92
92000191	Abilene and Northern Railway Company Depot <i>owned by</i>	3/23/92
92000214	Ackers, William and Mary, House	3/23/92
92000234	Blanton, Thomas L., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000229	Boyd--Hall House	3/23/92
92000206	Caldwell Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000195	Cash, W. A. V., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000218	Castle, David S., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000211	Chambers, Samuel A., House	3/23/92
92000237	Davis, George R., House	3/23/92
92000199	Dillingham, O. D. and Ada, House	3/23/92
92000222	Dodd--Harkrider House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000204	Evans, J. W., House	3/23/92
92000228	Federal Building ( <i>now returned</i> )	Ret.
92000210	Finley, Eugene L., House	3/23/92
92000226	First Presbyterian Church <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000215	Fritz, David C. and Docia, House	3/23/92
92000192	Fulwiler, William J., House <i>owned by</i> <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000232	Goodloe, Albert S. and Ruth, House	3/23/92
92000207	Green, Roland A. D., House	3/23/92
92000236	Higginbotham, J. G., House	3/23/92
92000196	House at 1127 Ash Street	3/23/92
92000224	Hughes, Ed S., Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000212	Jones, A. T., House	3/23/92
92000221	Lanius, C. A., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000194	Luce Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000220	Magee, J. D., House	3/23/92
92000201	McDaniel, George W. and Lavina, House	3/23/92
92000219	McDonald Hall	3/23/92
92000209	McMurry College Administration Building <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000198	Minter, William A., House	3/23/92
92000216	Motz, Charles, House	3/23/92
92000230	Parramore, D. D., House	3/23/92
92000223	Radford, James M., Grocery Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000231	Reading, Jhules, House	3/23/92
92000235	Roberts, Nathan J. and Nancy, House	3/23/92
92000233	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	3/23/92

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000193 Date Listed: 3/23/92

Abilene Christian College Administration Building  
Property Name

Taylor                      TX  
County                      State

Abilene MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for Anthony J. Lee*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

3/25/92  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

**Statement of Significance:** Under Significant Dates, 1950s is removed.

This information was confirmed with Amy Daze of the Texas State historic preservation office.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Abilene Christian College Administration Building

MULTIPLE NAME: Abilene MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Taylor

DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/06/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/22/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/04/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000193

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3/23/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*The Abilene Christian College Administration Building is significant as a reflection of the local education context and as a significant Classical Revival building in the community.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept 1a+c  
REVIEWER Antoinette J. Lee  
DISCIPLINE History  
DATE 3/23/92

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

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten notes and stamps:*

AL 0114

the above building is significant as a part of the local education system and as a significant element in the community.

RECEIVED

APR 10 1980

RECEIVED

APR 10 1980

RECEIVED

APR 10 1980





ABILENE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ADMIN. BLDG.  
ABILENE CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY CAMPUS  
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 48



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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500625