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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Lincoln High School

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Anderson County Community Council Community Centrer

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 920 W. Swantz Street

CITY OR TOWN: Palestine

VICINITY: N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

STATE: Texas CODE: TX

COUNTY: Anderson

CODE: 001 ZIP CODE: 75801

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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

Laurel J. Russell

4-29-98

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

hpc

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

6-3-98

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

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

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources of Palestine, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/school

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: SOCIAL/civic

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION BRICK
WALLS BRICK
ROOF ASPHALT
OTHER GLASS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5

Lincoln High School
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

The Lincoln High School at 920 W. Swantz is a 2-story institutional building with Classical Revival architectural elements. Displaying a rectangular plan, the school features brick exterior walls and a flat roof. The symmetrical facade has slightly projecting corner bays and two 1-story porticoes that mark primary entrances into the building. The school is in a mostly residential neighborhood that includes domestic buildings erected in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The school encompasses much of an entire city block in the Nance and Green Addition, which is about 1/2 mile southwest of the central business district. Historic additions to the rear have only a minimal impact to the school as a Classical Revival institutional building. Although in only fair condition, the building maintains much of its historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Lincoln High School is a free-standing building occupying a large lot in the city's southwest quadrant. A concrete sidewalk extends along those sides of the property with exposure to public streets, thereby providing children safe access to the facility. A grassy lawn serves as a buffer between the sidewalks and the building, although concrete sidewalks extend from the front entrances to the curbside. A small concrete retaining wall along the east end of the property indicates a gentle southward slope of the land. A chain link fence encloses the rear portion of the property, which includes the playground. Directly behind this area, a variety of deciduous trees lines a small creek.

In plan, the Lincoln High School features a modified rectangular building footprint with small corner extensions on the front and additions to the rear. The school has load-bearing masonry walls with a brick finish. The brick parapet obscures the roof, which is either flat or slightly inclined. The roofing material appears to be tar and gravel.

The front of the school faces east onto Swantz Street and presents a symmetrical configuration with seven vertical divisions. One-story porticoes mark the primary entrances into the building, and each of these porticoes has a single, segmental-arched opening, a dentil-like brick string course, and a flat roof. The double-door entrances include paneled wood doors with glazing. In contrast to the outer bays which have solid brick walls, the inner bays contain double-hung window openings. The windows are double hung with wood sashes and 9/9 lights. There are four windows on each floor of the central bay or vertical division. The adjacent bays have paired windows on each floor. Masonry work in the solid brick outer bays contains large, 2-story, decorative panels incorporated into the exterior finish. The use of continuous stretcher-bonded brickwork creates this effect, a feature often found on educational buildings erected throughout Texas during the early 20th century. A continuous brick parapet, with a brick string course composed of dentil-like motifs, caps the facade. Modestly scaled pediments cap each of the outer bays.

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Lincoln High School
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

The north and south elevations are similar to the front, but contain six vertical divisions on each side and do not have 1-story porticoes like those on the facade. The windows are identical, as are the parapets with their dentiled brick string course. When originally built, the Lincoln High School featured a U-shaped plan, but the construction of a large gymnasium filled the open section between the rear wings. This addition also features load-bearing brick construction. Small 1-story brick extensions have also been added onto the rear wings.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

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

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black; ARCHITECTURE

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1922-1945

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1922-23; 1934; 1937

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Rountree & Skelton, builders (1922-23)
Maffitt, Theo S., architect (1937)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-8)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY See bibliographic references for the associated historic context, *Community and Regional Development of Palestine, Texas: 1846-1945*.

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

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

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 7

Lincoln High School
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

The Palestine School Board ordered the construction of Lincoln High School in 1922, after fire destroyed the former high school for African Americans. Two stories high and constructed of brick, Lincoln High School was originally built as the city's only high school for blacks. It later functioned as a junior high and an elementary school, serving the community as an educational facility for over 50 years. The building now houses the Anderson County Community Council. Today the school stands as an important symbol of local educational policies of the 1920s and is a meaningful landmark in the local African-American community. Evaluated within the context of *Community and Regional Development of Palestine: 1846-1945*, the building is significant at the local level as the last remaining school in Palestine built for African Americans, and is nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for its role in the city's Ethnic Black Heritage. As one of only four historic schools in Palestine, the building is a noteworthy example of early 20th century institutional architecture and is therefore nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Palestine, like other cities throughout Texas, adopted a strict segregationist policy for public education that provided separate facilities for white and black students. From the late 1870s until the early 1890s, Palestine educated the children of its African-American families in one of two schools: the Old Town school, in the eastern part of town, or the Saint Paul school, in the western part. The Saint Paul School was discontinued in 1891, when the city decided to establish an African-American high school on San Jacinto Street between South Dorrance and South Jackson streets, in a building known as the Mission Church. Professors William Holland and Dallas D. Evans taught at the school.

The school continued at the San Jacinto Street location until 1895, when it was moved to its present site on the corner of Swantz and McClellan streets and renamed Lincoln High School. Originally it consisted of a 4-room frame building, though several frame annexes soon were added. The first class graduated from Lincoln High School in 1896.

The frame buildings burned in 1922, and classes were temporarily relocated to the Little Flock Church on South Dorrance Street, the Grant Chapel A.M.E. Church on West South Street, and the Union Baptist Church at the corner of Fort and West Lacy streets.

Meanwhile, the school district hired the local firm of Rountree and Skelton to construct a 6-room, 2-story brick building, the core of the extant building, at the location on Swantz Street. The cost was just over \$21,000. In January 1923, students and faculty began using the new building. The school board hired five teachers, while the local black community raised funds to hire a sixth.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 8

Lincoln High School
Palestine, Anderson County, Texas

To accommodate rapidly increasing attendance, school officials purchased additional land in 1934 and constructed a 2-room annex. In 1937, the Civic Improvement League of Colored Citizens pledged \$1,000 toward the construction of a new gymnasium. Local architect Theodore S. Maffitt completed the gymnasium and two additional classrooms the following year, at a cost of \$20,000.

A new black high school, named after Alonzo M. Story, who had served as Lincoln's principal from 1925 until 1949, opened in Palestine in 1953, and Lincoln High School became Lincoln Junior High School, serving grades five through eight. Later, a separate, 4-room frame building (now demolished) on the school's grounds allowed grades two through eight also to be taught on site.

In 1965 grades seven and eight were moved to another campus, and in 1970 the Lincoln building was abandoned as a school altogether. It was purchased by the Anderson County Civic League (now the Anderson County Community Council) in 1971, which today uses the facility to provide a number of social services for Palestine's African-American community. The A.C.C.C. is slowly renovating the building.

Since the citizens of Palestine established their public school system in 1881, the school board had undertaken numerous building programs to provide good schools for local children. These buildings, for the most part, were predominant physical landmarks in the community and displayed stylistic ornamentation and noteworthy craftsmanship. Other schools may have more outstanding and stylistic architectural features, such as the Palestine High School (1917; NR 1986); however, the Lincoln High School is significant architecturally, especially when it is considered in the context of educational structures intended for use by Palestine's African-American community. The construction of a brick school building marked a dramatic departure from the type of school building the board had previously provided the local African-American community. Brick structures embody a sense of sturdiness and permanence. Moreover, the Lincoln High School is one of only a handful of brick buildings in the southwest part of town, an area that contains mostly small frame houses of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Although insufficient information has been uncovered to justify nominating Lincoln High School under Criterion D, Sanborn maps show that the original frame school stood on land that is now the playground. No archeological investigations were conducted as part of the project; however, the grounds may contain artifacts that could shed light on the material culture of the local African-American community of the late 19th and early 20th century. Every other all-black school in Palestine is either no longer extant or has been integrated. The Lincoln High School building is the only remaining school that served Palestine's African-American community exclusively, which it did for over fifty years.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

Zone Northing Easting
15 249880 3516200

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Palestine Original Town Site; Block: B; Lot: 4,5,6.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries are those historically associated with the property.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Amber Degn, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: David Moore (Project Director), Matt Goebel (Historian)

ORGANIZATION: Hardy-Heck-Moore & Associates **DATE:** February 1994/March 1998

STREET & NUMBER: 1414 West Sixth Street **TELEPHONE:** (512) 478-8014

CITY OR TOWN: Austin **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 78703

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS N/A

PHOTOGRAPHS PHOTO 1: Ron Emrich - Photographer; March 1994; Original negatives on file with the Texas Historical Commission; Oblique view of north and west elevations, camera facing southeast.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS N/A

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Anderson County Community Council

STREET & NUMBER: 920 W. Swantz **TELEPHONE:** (903) 723-5101

CITY OR TOWN: Palestine **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 75801

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lincoln High School

MULTIPLE NAME: Palestine, Texas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Anderson

DATE RECEIVED: 5/08/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/18/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/22/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000636

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 6-3-98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in the
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

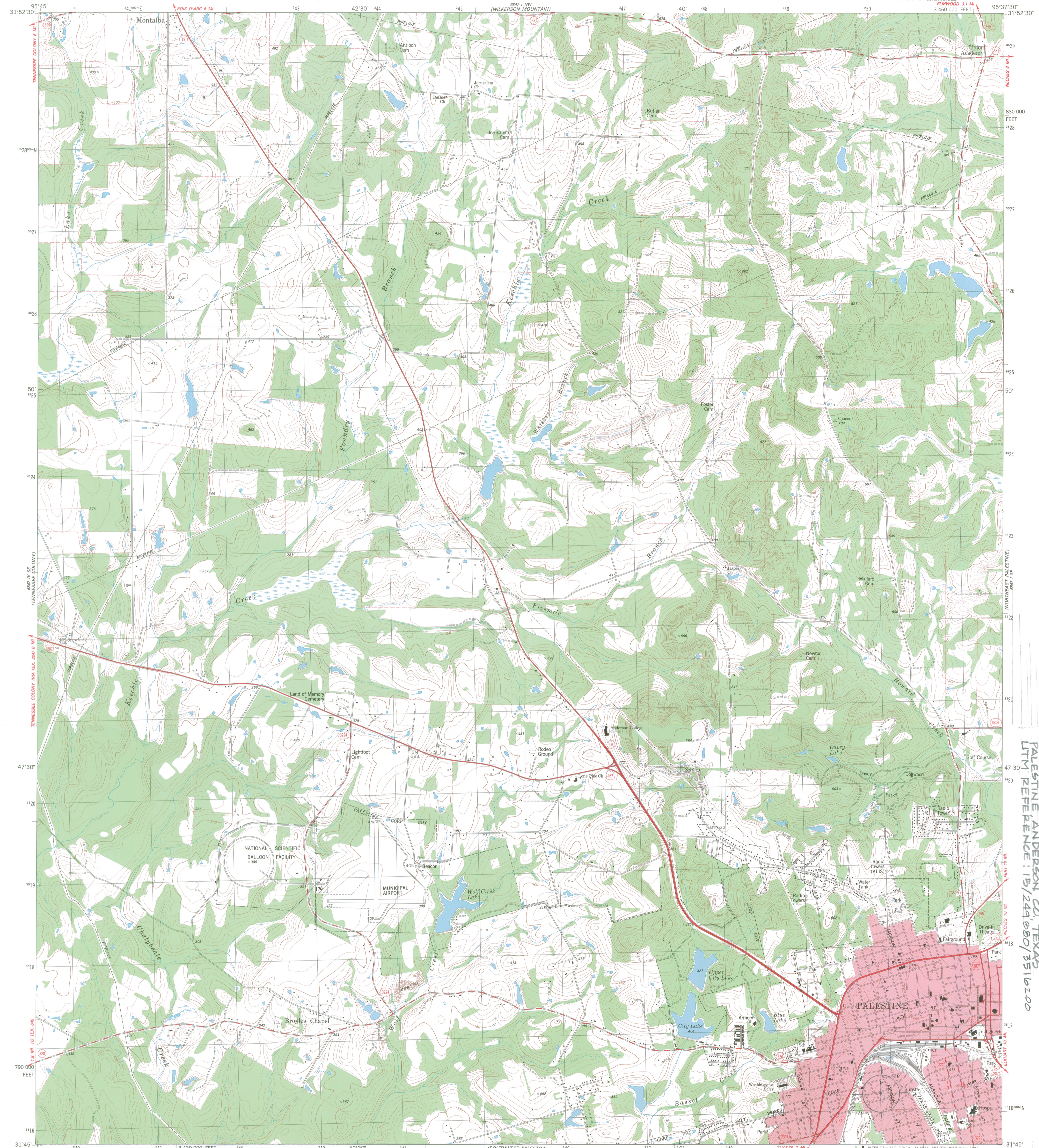
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

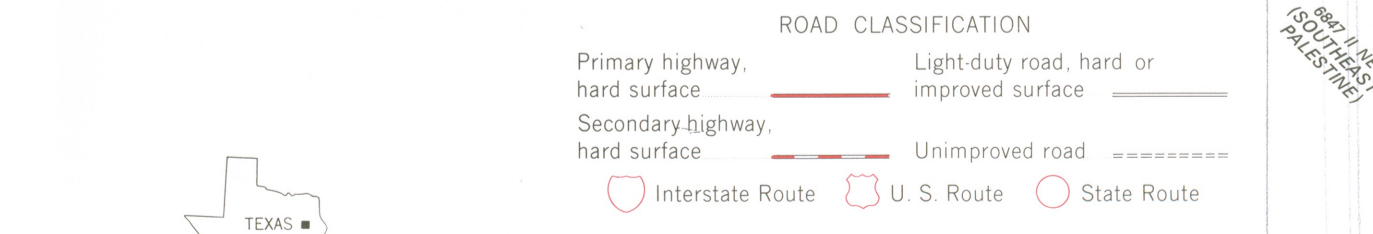
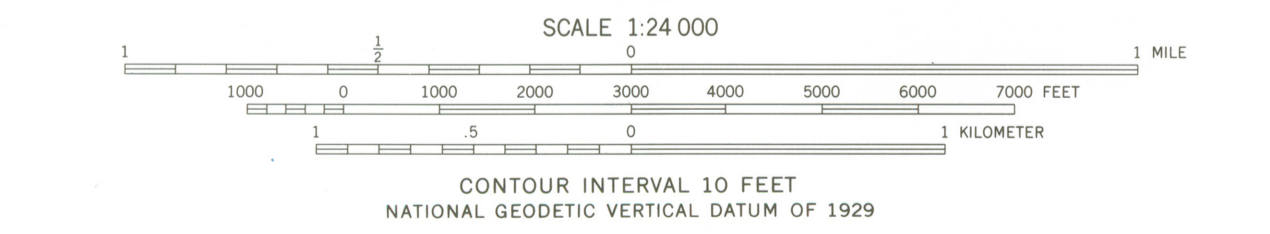
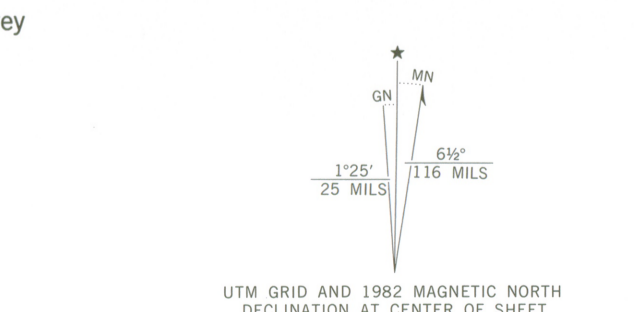


ANDERSON COUNTY COMMUNITY
COUNCIL
COMMUNITY CENTER
723-5101
OUR ONE CONSTANT SERVICE TO
HUMANITY

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL
920 W. SWANTZ STREET
PALESTINE, ANDERSON CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 1



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1976. Field checked 1977. Map edited 1982
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15 1927 North American datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 14 meters south and 23 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

3195-342
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FORT WORTH, 76116 817/731-1666
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LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL
920 W. SWANTEE STREET
PALESTINE, ANDERSON CO., TEXAS
LTM REFERENCE 15/249 880/3516200