REGISTRATION FORM
NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Hilliard Hall
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: A.G. Cleaver Street, building #0537
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Prairie View
VICINITY: N/A
STATE: Texas
CODE: TX
COUNTY: Waller
CODE: 473
ZIP CODE: 77446-0519

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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature]
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this 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

[Signature of the Keeper]
[Date of Action]

See continuation sheet.
See continuation sheet.
See continuation sheet.
See continuation sheet.
See continuation sheet.
See continuation sheet.

other (explain):
5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-State

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: CONTRIBUTING NONCONTRIBUTING

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View A&M University, Waller County, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/education-related

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/education-related

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Moderne

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE

WALLS BRICK

ROOF SYNTHETIC/Foam

OTHER GLASS; STUCCO; CERAMIC TILE; STONE/Limestone

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 7-5 through 7-8).
8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

&_x_ 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 POSSESES 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: Education; Ethnic Heritage/Black

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1939 - 1948

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1939

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Giesecke, Frederich Ernst (Architect)

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheet 8-9 through 8-10).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY See bibliographic references for the associated historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View University, Waller County, Texas.*

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

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other -- Specify Repository:
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES  Zone  Easting  Northing
  1 15 212780 3332900

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-12)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-12)

11. FORM PREPARED BY  (with assistance from Karen Riles, THC Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Karen Charleston, Staff Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Prairie View A&M University  DATE: 8 May 1998

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 519  TELEPHONE: 409/857-3200

CITY OR TOWN: Prairie View  STATE: TX  ZIP CODE: 77446-0519

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-13)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-14)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Prairie View A&M University

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 519  TELEPHONE: 409/857-3200

CITY OR TOWN: Prairie View  STATE: TX  ZIP CODE: 77446-0519
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7  Page 5  Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

DESCRIPTION
Built in 1939 as a student dining hall, this brick building’s rambling plan incorporates cafeteria space, private dining facilities, kitchens and storage facilities on multiple levels. The symmetrically composed wings feature block massing and modest geometric detailing suggestive of the influence of the Moderne style popular in the 1930s. One of three surviving works on campus by Texas A&M architect and educator Frederich Ernst Giesecke, the building retains sufficient integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to remain recognizable to the period of significance.

Hilliard Hall (Bldg. # 0537) located on A.G. Cleaver Street (see 7-6 through 7-8). The building is on the major thoroughfare of the students and faculty to access the buildings inside of the quad. Hilliard Hall has 38,346 square feet of space, two floors and a basement. This building was used primarily as the campus dining hall. The roof was low pitched on the main portion of the dining hall and had a tin roof and louvers to vent the heat from the kitchen. Within the dining hall was the private dining room, the larger cafeteria with the main part of the building being the preparation areas for baking, cooking, preparing the foods and the back dock for accepting the deliveries. As the campus was self-sufficient growing its own vegetables, meats, poultry, dairy products and recycling the used products for replenishing, safety and comfort became the main focus. With the installation of vents in the restrooms and on the main floor this comfort was achieved.

Hilliard Hall, like several other buildings on campus, reflect the Georgian style (see photo 1). The building was built to withstand massive pressure and heat for preparing food for the entire campus. Special features were incorporated into this structure for that purpose. The building is composed of stucco, brick, mortar, Mexican tile-work and was revitalized during upgrading in the 1979 Rehabilitation and Renovation Project. At that time, the urethane roofing materials were extended to cover flashing. All glazed tile was removed, repaired and reattached with mortar. Total remodeling of building would be accomplished by removing existing grease traps, removal of wood framed casement windows; replacing with aluminum frames and bronze tinted window glass. And lastly the removal of the freight elevator and all plumbing that constituted the kitchen facility. The change would provide additional classroom space, room for the Communications department to prepare for the future with the installation of a new radio, student publications of the yearbook and the eventual television station. The basement was renovated to house various departments providing office space and is presently housing the telecommunications offices. To reach the second floor an elevator was installed to comply with ADA standards. Although the building has undergone changes, it still retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.
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Hilliard Hall
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas
Hilliard Hall
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

Not to Scale
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Noted Texas A&M architect Frederich Giesecke designed this building in 1939 to serve as the campus dining facility (see photo 1). Providing nutritional meals, a conduit for agricultural products grown on campus and practical vocational experience for students, the building bespeaks the expansion of the student body and physical plant wrought by changes in the curriculum during the 1930s. Subsequently named in honor of an early graduate of the college curriculum and campus administrator, Roby Hilliard. The building is related to the historic context, Development of Prairie View A&M University, 1876-1998 and is therefore nominated under Criteria A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage at the state level of significance.

Dr. Frederich Ernst Giesecke (1869-1953)

Prominent Texas architect and engineer Frederich Ernst Giesecke designed a number of significant buildings on the Prairie View campus in the early 20th century. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M in 1886. Directly after graduation he became an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering there and in 1888 he became the head of the department of mechanical drawing when it was separated from the department of mechanical engineering. He did graduate work at Cornell University, the University of Illinois and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1907 he spent a year studying heating and ventilation at the Technical University of Berlin. He published some of the first authentic articles on the subject in Heating and Ventilating Magazine when he returned. Giesecke left Texas A&M in 1912 to head the Department of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin. From 1914 to 1920 he served simultaneously as a Professor of Architecture and as the Head of the Division of the Engineering Bureau of Economic Geology and Technology. Giesecke left UT in 1923 to earn a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois. In 1927, Giesecke returned to Texas A&M as the Head of the Department of Architecture and the College Architect. In 1928 he became the Director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station. While at A&M Giesecke experimented with rodding concrete, paving the way to ready-mixed concrete. His articles on this subject led to the acceptance of reinforced concrete structures.

Dr. Giesecke was extremely active in professional organizations within his field. He was instrumental in organizing the Texas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (inducted 1906). He was a charter member (1891) of the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education (now the American Society of Engineering Education) and later served as the president of the Texas Section. He was a life member of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers and served as the president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. In 1942 Dr. Giesecke received the F. Paul Anderson Gold Metal for Outstanding Contribution to the Science of Heating and Ventilating. In addition, Dr. Giesecke remained dedicated to education and authored a number of articles and textbooks including Technical Drawing (1936, with Alva Mitchell and Henry Spencer) which has become a standard text for engineering students.

Dr. Giesecke designed the laundry building (1916), the Spence Agricultural Building (1918), and the George R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building (1927, originally the Education Building) on the Prairie View
Hilliard Hall

Roby W. Hilliard
Roby W. Hilliard, well-known educator and leader, is a native of Bay City, Texas. He began his educational journey in the Bay City public school, completing his work there in Hilliard High School. He then entered Prairie View State College where his long cherished hope became a reality. He received the Bachelor of Science degree from this institution in 1930. Mr. Hilliard has served in the capacity of Postmaster, Cashier of bank and manager of the dining hall at Prairie View. The rapidity of achievements in this youthful career made him realize the necessity of pursuing further studies in the educational field. He readily obeyed this inner urge and in 1936 he received his Master of Arts degree from the University of Wisconsin. From 1936 to 1938 he held the position State Super of Adult Education under the Works Progress Administration. Mr. Hilliard’s position was Director of Personnel and Associate Professor in the department of Sociology, Prairie View State College, Prairie View, Texas. He married Miss Mattie B. Whiting, who was an honor graduate of Prairie View College, class of 1932. He is a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity and a very outstanding educator. His loyalty and achievements have merited recognition and respect from friends everywhere. Affection and admiration for the welfare of others are clearly portrayed in his character.

Mr. Hilliard transformed the phrase “If I can help somebody then my living wouldn’t be in vain,” to become his philosophy of life. His main objective in life however, was to help anyone that he met and carefully encourage, motivate and inspire each person, in particular his student’s. As Dean of Men, he had wonderful rapport and had many return to give their thanks for giving them the opportunity to work. The students would go on to say how they would not have succeeded if not for his assistance and support.

Summary
Hilliard Hall was an integral part of the colleges’ efforts to be self-sufficient. The produce grown on campus was process in the dining hall for student consumption. As a student dining hall, the building is important in the overall evolution of the campus, and is related to the historic context, Development of Prairie View A&M University, 1876-1998. It is therefore nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage at a state level of significance.
Bibliography
(See historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View A&M University, Waller County, Texas*)
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The property is a rectangular parcel of land measuring 202.5 feet x 184.7 feet, whose northwest corner is 41.2 feet in a northwesterly direction from the northwest foundation corner of the Hilliard Hall and whose southeast corner is 38.4 feet in a southeasterly direction from the most southerly southeast foundation corner of the Hilliard Hall.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION
The boundaries include resources associated with the 1939 college building; that retain their historic and architectural integrity.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Map Page 13

Hilliard Hall
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

BUILDING KEY

1. L.C. ANDERSON HALL - #0541
2. ANNIE LAURIE EVANS HALL - #0544
3. G.R. WOOLFOLK SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE BUILDING - #0503
4. W.R. BANKS LIBRARY - #0506
5. FRY-THOMAS POWER PLANT - #0529
6. G. HILLIARD HALL - #0537
7. VETERINARY HOSPITAL - #0517
PHOTO LOG
(Photograph taken in 1997 by Charles Peveto, staff member of the Texas Historical Commission)

1) Front façade
   Camera facing north
REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hilliard Hall

MULTIPLE NAME: Prairie View A&M University MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Waller

DATE RECEIVED: 4/21/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/19/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST: 
DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/03/99
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/05/99

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000614

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 6/3/99

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