

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Houston High School

other name/site number Fine Arts Building

2. Location

street & town 423 West Pine N/A not for publication

city or town Houston N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Texas code 215 zip code 65483

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mark A Miles Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date Dec 19, 2008

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

Edson R. Beall 2-12-09

Houston High School
Name of Property

Texas County, MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Recreation and Culture/auditorium

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof _____

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Summary:

The Houston High School, 423 West Pine Street, in Houston, Texas County, is a two story with raised basement building constructed of brick on a concrete foundation. Except for the metal reinforcement rods in the foundation, all the material in the school was obtained locally. Its 200,000 bricks were made of clay mined in the county and fired at the local Houston Brick & Tile works. Oak and pine trees were harvested locally for the interior framing and floors. The building, based on designs developed by community residents in 1921, is of a simplified collegiate style with a projecting center entrance bay and side wings with large window openings to provide classrooms with natural light and ventilation. Architectural details are minimal with native stone used in the water table above the raised basement and for the cornice that extends across all four sides of the building. The school's entrance and windows were modified in the 1940s, and a small 1-story annex was added to the east side in 1950. These changes occurred during the period of significance for the property and the building as a whole continues to convey its significance in education.

Setting:

Located approximately 1/2 mile west of the Texas County Courthouse, the Houston High School building is part of a complex of educational buildings and sports fields housing the Houston K-12 schools system. Due to their age or to changes to their historic character, other buildings in the complex are not nominated and have been excluded from the boundaries of the nominated property. The high school, currently called the "Fine Arts Building" has a native stone fence fronting the property. This fence is counted as a contributing structure. The fence is 3 feet high and two feet thick capped with concrete. It encloses the southern perimeter of the entire school campus. The wall was completed in 1932 using local labor and native stone.

Elaboration:

The main block of the Houston High School building, constructed in 1921, measures 80' 4" east to west, and 76' 8" north to south. It is 33 feet tall. A one story addition, constructed in 1950 is attached to the east side of the building and measures 30' X 30'. The primary elevation faces south onto West Pine Street. The building has a small lawn in front, bounded by a native stone wall with concrete cap along the street.

South Elevation:

This two story building with raised basement is five bays wide. The center bay projects slightly and contains the entrance to the building. Originally, a set of stairs led to an entrance door between the first floor and basement. Around 1940, the entrance was lowered to grade and the stairs were removed. The windows in the center bay are offset from those to either side, marking stair landings on the interior. The second story of the center bay has a wide window opening with flat arch and stone sill. The opening is filled with modern windows. The third story of the center bay has a wide segmental arch window opening with shoulder blocks. The center pane of the modern window is filled with a vent, and there are fixed pane windows on either side. The cornice on this bay is slightly arched as is the parapet wall

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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

above.

A wide stone water table separates the basement from the upper floors. The windows openings on the basement level are the same width as those on the upper floors and are each filled with 3 1/1 windows. The first floor windows on either side of the center bay have segmental arched openings and concrete sills. The original windows have been replaced with metal windows. The arches and transom areas have been filled with white painted panels and there are large fixed panes over smaller upper windows. The second floor has a flat arch with wide stone header and concrete sills. Like the second floor, these openings have been filled with three modern windows with white panels in the transom area, and fixed clear panes over small hopper windows.

West Elevation:

The west elevation has similar architectural features as the primary façade, though with simpler window openings. The elevation has a raised basement capped with a stone water table. Above the second floor is a simple cornice line topped by a stone capped parapet wall. A metal fire escape stair, installed c. 1950, extends from a door in the second floor, contains a landing for another exit on the first, and ends at the ground/raised basement level. Fenestration on this wall is irregularly spaced and varies in size and arrangement on each floor. The raised basement contains paired 1/1 windows clustered in the northern half of the façade. The second floor has one window with stone header, and a door allowing access to the landing. The third floor contains four sets of paired windows. The entablature of the cornice line acts as the header for these windows. Historic windows have been replaced with windows that have white-painted transom panels, square fixed panes, and small hopper windows. A single window, similar to the four paired sets, and a fire exit door are also located on this floor.

East Elevation:

The one story brick addition, c. 1950, is located on this elevation. The addition is simply designed with unornamented brick walls. The front (south) elevation is recessed approximately 15 feet from the façade of the main building and contains a centered entrance door. The fenestration on the east elevation of the addition consists of three window openings. Two are smaller single windows with fixed panes and hopper openings, and the third contains three windows of similar design, though taller and narrower than other windows in the addition. The second floor of the main block of the building is exposed above the addition and contains 5 sets of paired windows. Windows are of similar design to those on the façade and west elevations.

North Elevation:

The north elevation is very similar to the front, though it does not have the projecting center bay or rounded parapet wall. Windows in the raised basement have been removed, though there is a modern pedestrian door located in the center bay. Windows on the first floor have segmental brick arches containing three windows of similar design to those on the front and sides. The second floor has wide openings with flat arches and concrete sills.

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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Interior:

The volume of the interior space is largely taken up by a gymnasium/auditorium in the basement and first floors. The auditorium has a stage on the east side and once had a balcony that was removed in the 1970s. The auditorium can still hold 1500 people and was historically used both for dramatic performances and social events and for basketball and other sports. The basement has a T shaped hall. The base of the T leads from the entrance and has a classroom to the east and administrative offices to the west. The top of the T runs along the south side of the gymnasium/auditorium space. On the second floor there is a wide center hall flanked by classrooms and restrooms to the east and west. The hall ends at the south wall of the gymnasium. The third floor has classrooms on three sides of a central hallway. Stairs from the lower floors are located in the center of the southern portion of the floor plate, and the hallway widens slightly in the center section. Six classrooms of various sizes and an office/teacher's lounge open onto the hallway.

The interior layout has not been altered significantly since the 1940s when the raised entrance was lowered to grade, likely for easier access to the auditorium. This change necessitated alterations to the entrance and interior stair well. Fire doors and other safety measures have been added to the interior, as have dropped ceilings with modern lighting and acoustical tile. The arrangement of classrooms and the volume of the auditorium, however, have not changed significantly since the construction of the building and 1940s alteration.

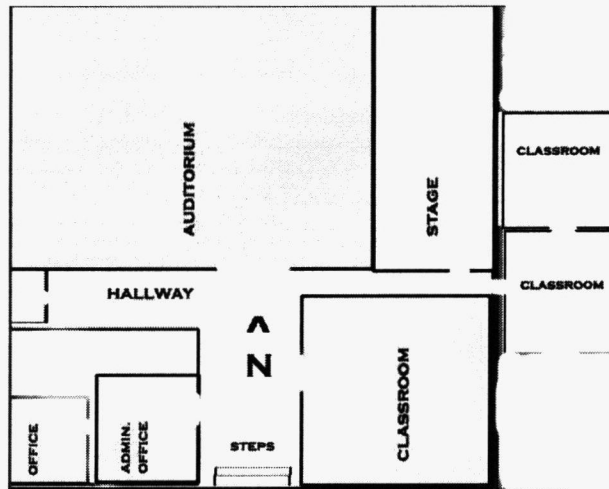
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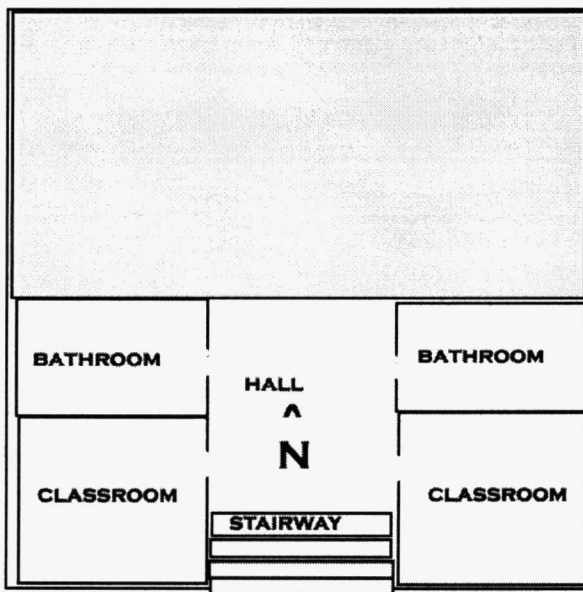
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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

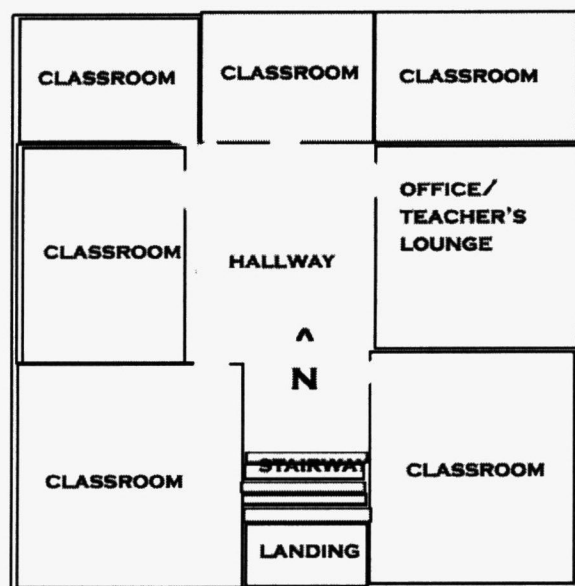
Sketch Floor Plans showing general room arrangement: Drawn by John Impey. Not to scale.



First Floor (originally the raised basement)



Second floor (originally the 1st floor)



Third floor (originally the 2nd floor)

Houston High School
Name of Property

Texas County, MO
County and State

8. Description

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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 values, 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

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

Education _____

Social History _____

Period of Significance

1921-1958 _____

Significant Dates

1921 _____

1950 _____

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

N/A _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository: _____

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Summary:

The Houston High School, 423 West Pine Street, Houston, Texas County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History. When bids from contractors to build the school far exceeded the available funds, school board president C.E. Covert rallied the community to design and build the school themselves. With few exceptions, material for the school--brick, pine and oak framing and flooring--was made or harvested locally, and labor was provided by Houston citizens and students of the vocational industrial arts class. After completion in 1921, the building became the home of Houston High School and a center of community activities. In addition to school sporting events and plays, the auditorium hosted moving picture shows, theatrical presentations, firemen's balls and political rallies. As the population of Houston grew and its educational needs changed, the high school building was later used for elementary and middle school classes and as a fine arts building, and it continues to be used today for educational purposes. The period of significance is 1921 to 1958, the date of construction through the fifty year closing date for periods of significance where activities begun historically continue to have importance but no more specific date can be defined.

Elaboration:

Houston and Texas County

In February 1843, the Missouri General Assembly attempted the organization of a new county to be called Ashley in southern Missouri out of parts of Shannon and Wright counties. This early attempt failed, but in February 14, 1845 the assembly passed a bill organizing the new county. Residents petitioned to name the county for the Republic of Texas. The name was timely and honored the attempts of the Republic to be accepted as a state, a milestone that was met in December of 1845. The name is also appropriate because Texas County is the largest of Missouri's 114 counties in land area.¹ County commissioners purchased land for the new county seat in 1846 and named the town Houston in honor of Republic of Texas president, Sam Houston. In March 1847 the commission let the bid for the first county courthouse to James Sweeny. The commission accepted the completed courthouse in December of that year.²

Houston itself was slow to grow in the early part of its history, likely due to the relative remoteness of the county. Before the Civil War, the town was home to the courthouse, and "about thirteen families and one store."³ The town was destroyed twice during the war, "and when peace was proclaimed she had not a single inhabitant, nor was there even a barn standing within her present limits."⁴ The town began to grow again after the war and incorporated in 1872. By 1885, the town supported numerous businesses including druggists, hardware stores, general merchants, a foundry, flouring and saw mills, a furniture

¹ Texas County Genealogical and Historical Society. *Texas County Heritage, Volume 1*. Rich Hill, MO: Bell books, 1989; *History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent Counties, Missouri*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing CO., 1889, transcribed in part online by Debbie Linton and Penny Harrell, 1/26/2001 at <http://texas.mogenweb.org/goodspeed/>. Accessed September 24, 2008.

² Goodspeed transcript, n.p.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

factory, several hotels and a newspaper. The general prosperity of the community also supported new educational facilities.

Education in Texas County and Houston

The early history of education in Texas County is murky at best. In summarizing the 1841 reminiscences of John T. Lynch, Goodspeed's 1889 history of Texas County notes, "I don't suppose that in that day [before the organization of the county] Texas County had any more population than the town of Houston has today, and public schools were unknown, as were almost any other kind of schools."⁵ More recent histories of the county mentions that a school was conducted in the courthouse in 1847,⁶ though this would have been of short duration since the courthouse was not completed until December of that year. It is more likely that school was first held in the courthouse in 1860. According to local historian Julia West Parker, the earliest school in Houston was in 1860 with David Waite of Pennsylvania teaching classes for "older children" at the Texas County Courthouse.⁷ This seems to correspond with other information in the historical record. In May of that year a new courthouse opened and the county court ordered that "the youngsters of Houston have the privilege of resorting to the house for civil mirth; when it is not otherwise occupied."⁸ This early effort at conducting school in Houston was likely a subscription school. In 1869, John Lynch taught the first free public school in the community.⁹

The current Houston K-12 buildings are located on the site of the Houston Academy, incorporated on April 22, 1871. Though little information could be found on the academy, it appears to have been a private high school. The academy operated until 1882 or 1883 when the buildings and grounds were turned over to Prof. C.W. White for use as the Houston Institute. The transfer occurred on the caveat that White would take "charge of the public schools and build up the educational interests of the town."¹⁰ It is unclear whether or not this was a public school. It may be that the Institute was a private high school, but Prof. White also oversaw the city's public elementary or common school. In 1883, White held classes in a new institute building and constructed a home nearby the following year. During the first year he had 30 students in the "academics" course of study and 120 in the common school department. His academic classes increased in size to 86 by 1888. In Goodspeed's enumeration of school statistics it is noted that in the 1887 report of Texas County schools, C.W. White and three assistants presided over the graded school at Houston that had 223 pupils enrolled and an average attendance of 193.¹¹

Whether or not the Houston Academy and its successor, the Houston Institute, were private schools, by mid-1890s the buildings and grounds seem to have converted to public use. The Institute became the basis for Houston's High School and set it in good stead for consistently high ratings in Missouri's early high school classification system. In 1909, Houston High School was one of 116 in the state that

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Texas County Genealogical and Historical Society, p. 111.

⁷ Julia West Parker. *Out of the Past*. Springfield, MO: Empire Printing, 1968, p. 39-40.

⁸ Goodspeed transcript, n.p.

⁹ Parker, pp. 39-41.

¹⁰ Goodspeed transcript, n.p.

¹¹ Ibid.

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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

maintained a term of 9 months or more, and employed four or more teachers.¹² This was the first year in which the state implemented its high school classification system. Schools were classified after an inspection that looked at buildings, school libraries, teacher qualifications, and several other factors. Classified schools had to meet minimum standards for the above and have a prescribed minimum course of study for each class. According to the *Missouri Report of Public Schools* in 1909, 1911, and 1912, Houston was rated as having a Second Class high school. This meant that Houston maintained at minimum a three year course of study, that its terms were at least nine months long and that it employed at least two teachers qualified to teach high school work.¹³ In 1915, Houston became a First Class high school,¹⁴ which required the school to maintain a four year course with work in English, math, science and history for 9 months or more each year and to employ at least 3 teachers qualified to teach high school work.¹⁵

Houston's public high school originally shared space with its graded elementary or common school. Even as early as 1909, it was likely that the school building was pushing the limits of its capacity. Though substantial in size, the Houston Public School (See figure 1) had a total enrollment of 326 and an average daily attendance of 260 in the 1909 school year. Of the total, 65 students were taking the high school course.¹⁶ In 1917, the total enrollment for the Houston school system was 400, 100 of which were in the high school program. These years also saw an increase in high school graduates, with 2 reported in 1909 and 19 in the 1917 school year.¹⁷

Growing enrollment strained the public school building and in 1921 school superintendent James W. Tetrick reported that the commencement exercises "packed the Lyceum theatre to the doors." The exercises marked the "closing of a four year school course by twenty five of the finest young men and women." Tetrick was also proud to report that "in the last four years, the high school has doubled its enrollment . . . [and] at present we have outgrown our current building."¹⁸ Though Houston was rightly proud of its high school course and the quality of education it provided, the need for a new school building to house the course was not easily addressed. The school had no building fund, and the school system was limited to \$15,000 in bonds for the purpose of constructing a new school building. The lowest bid for construction, however, was \$59,000.¹⁹

Undaunted by the lack of funding, school board president C.E. Covert rallied the community. In his speech at the conference called to discuss the school he said:

¹² *Sixtieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1909*. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1909, p.

¹³ *Sixty-Second Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1911*. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing, 1911, p. 68.

¹⁴ Texas County Genealogical and Historical Society, p. 112.

¹⁵ *Sixty-Second Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri*, p. 67-68.

¹⁶ *Sixtieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri*, p. 91.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*; *Sixty-eighth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1917*, Jefferson City, MO: Hough Stephens Printing Company, 1917, p. 251.

¹⁸ Houston Herald, May 26, 1921.

¹⁹ Texas County Genealogical and Historical Society, p. 113.

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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

I'll tell you what we'll do; we'll build this high school ourselves. Every brick will be made from clay within sight of town, every piece of lumber will be cut from Texas County trees.²⁰

And it was so. To meet the demands of constructing the building with local materials, Houston citizens organized to buy machinery and establish a brick plant. A school board member bought the first \$100 share in the company and within an hour, citizens subscribed \$3,000 to the company. Bricks were made at the new refractory at \$15 a thousand compared to the market price of \$45 per thousand. Additionally, pine lumber was harvested locally at a cost of \$22.50 per thousand board foot, half the market price. Oak for the floor was harvested in the county at a cost of \$35/thousand board foot compared to a market rate of \$125/thousand. The school board hired no contractor to construct the building, but supervised the construction themselves with labor from townspeople. While this greatly reduced the cost of construction, the town still needed to raise money to pay for materials and construction. A loophole in the law governing school bonds was found and citizens were able to vote to support another \$15,000 bond issue.²¹

Though the school was able to raise \$30,000 through bonds for school construction, economy and local initiative were still the order of the day for completing and furnishing the school. The boys of the vocational industrial arts classes wired the building, installed the plumbing, and made the furniture. A boiler, costing \$10, was converted into a pressure tank for heating, and a generator purchased from a street car company was used as a power plant for the school. This plant allowed motion pictures to be shown in the finished school building. At the completion of construction, the school district had a high school building valued at \$65,000 that only cost the district \$30,000. Locals hailed it as "an imposing structure made possible by the handiwork of people who defied adversity. With little money but a wonderful faith, this high school building provided a place to educate the youth of Houston and its environs."²² The new school opened for classes in the fall of 1921.

By all indications in local records, the school was built without the assistance of an architect or professional contractor. The design of the building, however, is typical of school buildings of the 1910s and 1920s in towns across Missouri. The Houston School board may have borrowed school plans or ideas from buildings in neighboring counties, or found inspiration in photographs and designs published in Missouri's annual reports of public schools. In the 1910s, the annual *Missouri Report of Public Schools* contained photographs, drawings and often floor plans of new or proposed school buildings throughout the state. Published designs for town or larger consolidated schools shared characteristics with the final design for the Houston High School. Typically published plans featured brick, two-story buildings with raised basements and a slightly projecting center entrance bay. Most of these schools had thick water tables above the basement level and a decorative cornice below a simple or shaped parapet wall. The fronts of the buildings had large window openings to maximize natural light and ventilation for classrooms. All of these characteristics are shared by the Houston High School. Though interior arrangement varied, many schools also included a large volume of space to be used as a gymnasium and assembly area, squared classrooms lined with windows, and spaces for libraries, offices, and restrooms.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid., 113-114.

²² Ibid.

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Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Houston's high school building made room for all of these features.

Community efforts to construct the Houston High School Building were an act of recommitment to the education of the community's youth. These efforts might also have been an act of recovery from the devastation of WWI and the 1918 Spanish influenza pandemic. Research on the effects of the war and pandemic on Texas County was not available, but there are hints in the school records that the flu may have had a significant impact on Texas County schools. In preparing for the 1919-1920 school year, Texas County school superintendent J. K. Connolly wrote:

The schools of the county have now begun their year's work in earnest. A desire seems to pervade the soul of almost everyone that something must be done to overcome the loss sustained last year by repeated setbacks due to the prevalence of the influenza epidemic.²³

The statistics for school enrollment for the school years ending on June 30 of 1917, 1918 and 1918 indicate that the epidemic did have a significant impact on the school term. Though the total enumeration of school aged children in the county grew slightly between 1917 and 1918 from 6,611 to 6,617, the school enrollment dropped drastically from 6,558 to 5,805.²⁴ The pandemic peaked in the fall of 1918 and was greatly reduced in scale and effect by the summer of 1919. The 1919 school year showed some recovery with a total enumeration of school aged children in the county at 6,512 and an enrollment of 6,124.²⁵ Despite the setbacks, Superintendent Connolly found that citizens had a new respect and commitment for education in the county and a willingness to commit to its advancement. In his report to the state superintendent of schools he noted, "Verily the "Flu" has done some good."²⁶

The construction of the Houston High School building brought the community together, and community efforts were rewarded both by an expanding high school enrollment roster but also with a new center for community activities. In 1917, Texas County only had four classified high schools. Two--Houston and Cabool--were first class high schools, Licking housed a second class high school and the Summerville consolidated district No. 1 had a third class high school. Houston had the added draw of offering teacher training courses in addition to its high school course, something not available at any of the other Texas County schools.²⁷ The number of high schools enumerated by the Texas County superintendent had dropped to three by the end of the 1919 school year.²⁸ The limited opportunities for high school education, the teacher training courses, and Houston's central location and new school building pushed

²³*Seventieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1919.* Jefferson City, MO: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1919, p. 55.

²⁴*Sixty-eighth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1917.* Jefferson City, MO: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1917; *Sixty-ninth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1918.* Jefferson City, MO: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1919.

²⁵*Seventieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1919.* Jefferson City, MO: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1919, p. 55.

²⁶*Seventieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri,* p. 55.

²⁷*Sixty-eighth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri,* p. 122-125, 132.

²⁸*Seventieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri,* p. 55.

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Houston High School
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Houston into a center for education in the county. State high school inspectors from the Missouri Department of Education reported that just two years after the completion of the school building (school year 1923-24), the Houston school system had a total enrollment of 385. Of the total, 250 were enrolled in the four year high school course and/or teacher training classes. The high school enrollment included 108 students that were not residents of the Houston school district.²⁹ That 43% of high school students were from outside the district is a strong indication that Houston High School played a significant role in education in the community and county as a whole.

As indicated above, the high school building completed in 1921 allowed the Houston School district to greatly increase enrollment in the school system. It also provided space for additional school sporting and educational facilities. The *Missouri High School Reports for School Year 1923-24* recommended that the school continued to be rated "First Class," and outlined the educational opportunities provided at the institution. The school's 7 teachers offered 8 periods of "recitation" in algebra, plane and solid geometry, European and American history, civics and geography, economics, social history, Latin, physics, vocational agriculture, home economics, and teacher training for students in the upper three years. All students were required to take "physical culture" (apparently physical education), and could join the school orchestra. The school also had a library of 1748 volumes, most of which fell under the categories of literature (550), agriculture (400), and education (375). Categories of library books also included history and civics, sciences, and "other."³⁰

By the mid-1930s, the total enrollment of the Houston High School had dropped, due in large part to the development of new high schools in other parts of the county. The 1937 Pineymo yearbook, named for the nearby Piney River, listed 119 high school students and seven teachers. Classes included social science, English, science, teacher training, vocational agriculture, vocational home economics, music and commerce. While most of the students lived within the Houston School district, the school still drew students from the county at large. The August 31, 1934 minutes of the Houston School Board notes,

Adult students going to Houston High School who have finished their four year course that live in the consolidated district, [can attend] free of any charges of tuition but those to whom [sic] live out of the district or nonresidents to the consolidated district that are 20 years of age and also taking a post graduate course shall pay \$4.00 per month or \$36.00 per school year.³¹

Others of school age from nearby school districts could attend Houston High School for \$6.00 per term. The board also discussed small charges for non-residents riding the school bus, and other fees for those attending the school but living outside the district.

Because it originated in such an unusual act of community cooperation and self-reliance, the school building became an integrated part of the community and its educational and social activities. From the

²⁹ State Department of Education. "Houston High School," *Missouri High School Reports for School Year 1923-24*. On file at the State Archives, Missouri Secretary of States Office, Jefferson City, MO, n.p.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Board Minutes, Houston High School, 1931-1974. County and Municipal Records on Microfilm, State Archives, Missouri Secretary of States Office, Jefferson City, MO, Reel C12757, p. 58.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

laying of the cornerstone in June 1921, the school and grounds were a source of community activity and pride. The *Houston Herald* reported,

Houston witnessed a great and inspiring Masonic ceremony last Saturday when Dr. C.H. Briggs of Springfield conducted the exercises which marked the laying of the cornerstone of the new High School Building. . . The occasion brought a great crowd of Masons, their families and many other visitors to our little city . . . The cornerstone has been duly prepared and placed at the southwest corner of the building, the stone bearing the names of the Board of Education . . . In the receptacle of the stone was placed a copy of "Pineymo," latest copies of the *Houston Herald*, [and] the Holy Bible.³²

Though school buildings often become the social center for small communities, the Houston High School was from its inception meant to be both a school and a community center. Its planning included, for this reason, a "gymnasium which will seat between 800 and 1,000 [for sporting events?] . . . for other occasions will seat from 1,200 to 1,500."³³ Before the completion of the high school, community members packed into the GAR Hall or Lyceum theatre for sporting events, dances, and plays, but the new high school's interior gymnasium with stage offered a roomier and more modern venue, one that was and continues to be well used.

Houston's school system suffered financially during the Depression era. The Board Minutes that consisted in large part of monthly accounts of teachers and the salary paid, had the following written over one set of such accounts on March 16, 1934:

These accounts of teachers were canceled as the Board of Education [has] no money to pay same and they were taken over by State Teachers Relief from March to end of May as the State had fallen short of estimations.³⁴

Troubled times did not significantly prohibit the use of the school's gymnasium for school and community activities. Though the school struggled to pay staff, the school board opened its doors to a wide variety of events. Minutes showed board approval for use of the school for health and dental clinics, fire department-hosted firemen's balls, alumni association events, and even a Democratic committee political rally.³⁵ School-hosted activities still dominated, at least during the school year. For example, the High School Literary Society, established in 1937, competed in debate and speech contests and also sponsored one act plays and readings that were presented to the entire community. The group also hosted community debates such as the 1937 debate topic "Resolved: that all electric utilities should be governmentally owned and operated."³⁶ The town's basketball team also became Missouri State Champs in the 1938-1939 school year, competing with area teams in the gymnasium.

³² *Houston Herald*, June 30, 1921.

³³ *Houston Herald*, August 4, 1921.

³⁴ Board Minutes, Houston High School, 1931-1974, p. 50.

³⁵ Board Minutes, Houston High School, 1931-1974, specifically September 3, 1935, p. 84; March 20, 1936, p. 96; May 3, 1937, p. 136; and January 11, 1938, n.p.

³⁶ *Pineymo*, Houston Public School Yearbook, 1937.

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Section number 8 Page 12

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

The early 1940s saw Houston High School continuing its role as a community center, with students and community members supporting the war effort. In August of 1942, the *Houston Herald* announced,

Preparations are being made for the annual Texas County singing convention, to be held at Houston school gymnasium Sunday, August 2 . . . All Texas county singers are urged to take part in this great annual singing.³⁷

In 1944, the Herald reported that the school district's \$30,000 quota for war bonds was "well over the top," that the Senior Class play had been a success, and that "A good program and a pie supper will be held Saturday, March 17 at the High School gym for the benefit of the Red Cross . . ." ³⁸ Community education and service was also an important part of the school's function as evidenced by the announcement made by Dr. D.D. Sheppard, the school's vocational agriculture instructor that "The community cannery at the Houston high school will be open from July 15 until October."³⁹

The school building was altered somewhat throughout its period of significance as the needs of the school and community changed. In the school board minutes of July 15, 1937, the secretary noted alterations to the first floor room for offices and the move of the home economics department out of the building to the second floor of the old grade school.⁴⁰ Sometime during the 1940s, the entrance of the school was altered to lower the entrance to grade and modify the interior stairwell to accommodate the new entrance. In 1950, a small addition was added to the east elevation to accommodate music and debate classes. In more recent years, a new high school was constructed and the nominated building was used as a middle school and fine arts building.

The 1921 Houston High School building remains a center for community activities eighty-seven years after it was built by the community from locally harvested materials. The auditorium is still used by the school and as a collection point for donations for the local Relay for Life that benefits cancer victims. The classrooms are still in use by the middle school, and there is an option to use the school's auditorium and stage for local theatre productions. The building has had modern windows installed since its period of significance, but the building's massing, fenestration openings and exterior walls have not been changed since c. 1950. The building retains integrity and continues to convey its significance as a center for education and community events in Houston.

³⁷ *Houston Herald*, July 23, 1942.

³⁸ *Houston Herald*, June 29, 1944.

³⁹ *Houston Herald*, May 29, 1947.

⁴⁰ Board Minutes, Houston High School, 1931-1974, p. 141.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Historic Photographs

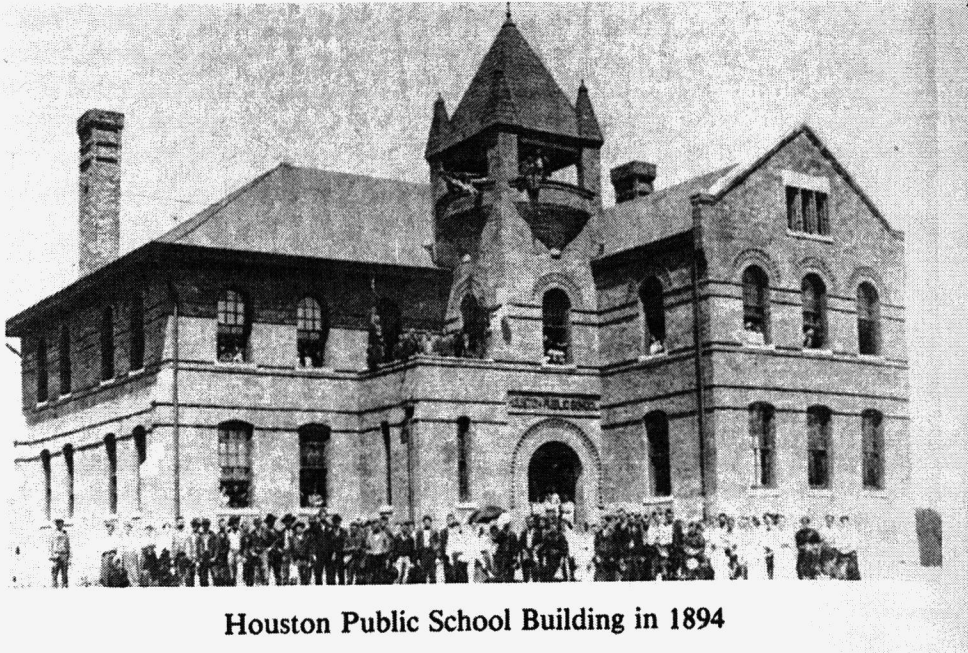


Figure 1: Houston Public School, 1894.

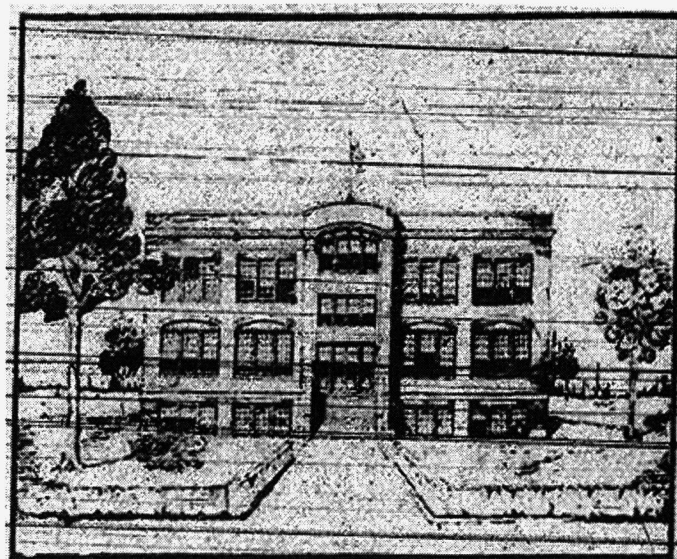


Figure 2: Drawing of Houston High School, *Houston Herald*, August 4, 1921.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

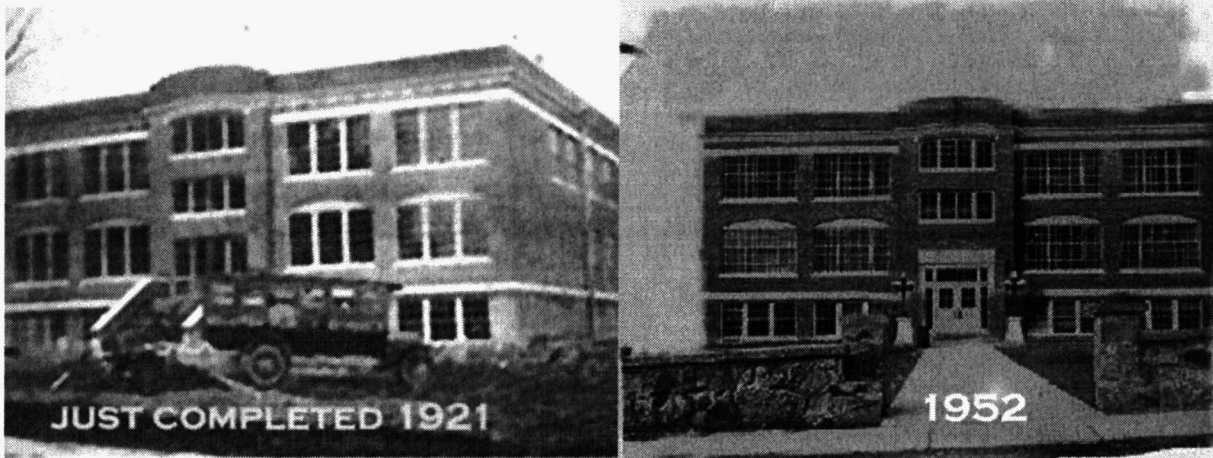


Figure 2: Houston High School before and after entrance remodeling.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Bibliography:

Board Minutes, Houston High School, 1931-1974. County and Municipal Records on Microfilm, State Archives, Office of the Missouri Secretary of State, Jefferson City, MO, Reel C12757.

History of Laclede, Camden, Dallas, Webster, Wright, Texas, Pulaski, Phelps and Dent Counties, Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing CO., 1889, transcribed in part online by Debbie Linton and Penny Harrell, 1/26/2001 at <http://texas.mogenweb.org/goodspeed/>. Accessed September 24, 2008.

Houston Herald, May 26, 1921.

Houston Herald, June 30, 1921.

Houston Herald, August 4, 1921.

Houston Herald, July 23, 1942.

Houston Herald, June 29, 1944.

Houston Herald, May 29, 1947.

Parker, Julia West. *Out of the Past*. Springfield, MO: Empire Printing, 1968.

Pineymo, Houston Public School Yearbook, 1937.

Seventieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1919. Jefferson City, MO: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1919.

Sixtieth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1909. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1909.

Sixty-Second Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1911. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1911.

Sixty-eighth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1917, Jefferson City, MO: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1917.

Sixty-ninth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri: School Year Ending June 30, 1918. Jefferson City, MO: Hugh Stephens Printing Company, 1919.

State Department of Education. "Houston High School," *Missouri High School Reports for School Year 1923-24*. On file at the State Archives, Office of the Missouri Secretary of State, Jefferson City, MO.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 16

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Texas County Genealogical and Historical Society. *Texas County Heritage, Volume 1*. Rich Hill, MO:
Bell books, 1989.

Houston High School
Name of Property

Texas County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/5 5/9/2/1/5/6 4/1/3/1/6/4/6
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title See continuation page

organization date September, 2008

street & number telephone

city or town state MO zip code

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name/title Houston R-1 Schools, Attn: Dr. Dan Vandiver, Superintendent

street & number 423 W. Pine telephone

city or town Houston state MO zip code 65483

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10/photo log Page 17

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary is based on metes and bounds using existing roads and sidewalks. Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of North 1st Street and West Pine Street in Houston, Texas County, Missouri, proceed west 686 feet along the sidewalk paralleling West Pine to the intersection of said sidewalk and drive opening in the native stone fence. Turn north at a right angle and proceed 180 feet along the drive, thence west 120 feet, again turning at a right angle and proceeding South 180 feet through a secondary opening in the stone wall to the sidewalk paralleling West Pine. From this point proceed 120 feet east to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The Houston High School is part of a large complex of school buildings and sports fields used by the Houston R-1 School District. Because much of the complex is newer or has been significantly altered after the period of significance, only the historic high school building is included in the nomination. Boundaries have been drawn to encompass the school building, associated front lawn and the historic stone fence fronting the property. Boundaries exclude neighboring, non-historic educational and administrative buildings and sports fields.

Form Prepared By:

1. John Impey, 1102 Augusta, Houston, Missouri (initial submission)
2. Tiffany Patterson, MO SHPO, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65109 (additional research/writing)

Photo log:

The following is true for all photographs:

Houston High School
Houston, Texas County, Missouri

Photographer: John Impey

Date: June 16, 2008

Location of Negatives: On file with photographer, 1102 Augusta, Houston, Missouri

1. South elevation, from west Pine, looking north.
2. Close-up of south elevation, looking north.
3. West elevation, looking east.
4. East elevation, looking west.
5. North elevation, looking south.
6. Interior, second floor classroom, looking east.
7. Interior, gymnasium/auditorium, looking east to stage
8. Interior, gymnasium/auditorium, looking west from stage.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Houston High School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSOURI, Texas

DATE RECEIVED: 12/30/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/12/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000016

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 2.12.09 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.



Houston High School
Texas County, MO

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193636 32/37<4R36>



Houston High School
Texas County, MO

a

<12> CO MO Y0 D0 6/16/2008

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Texas County, MO
Houston High School

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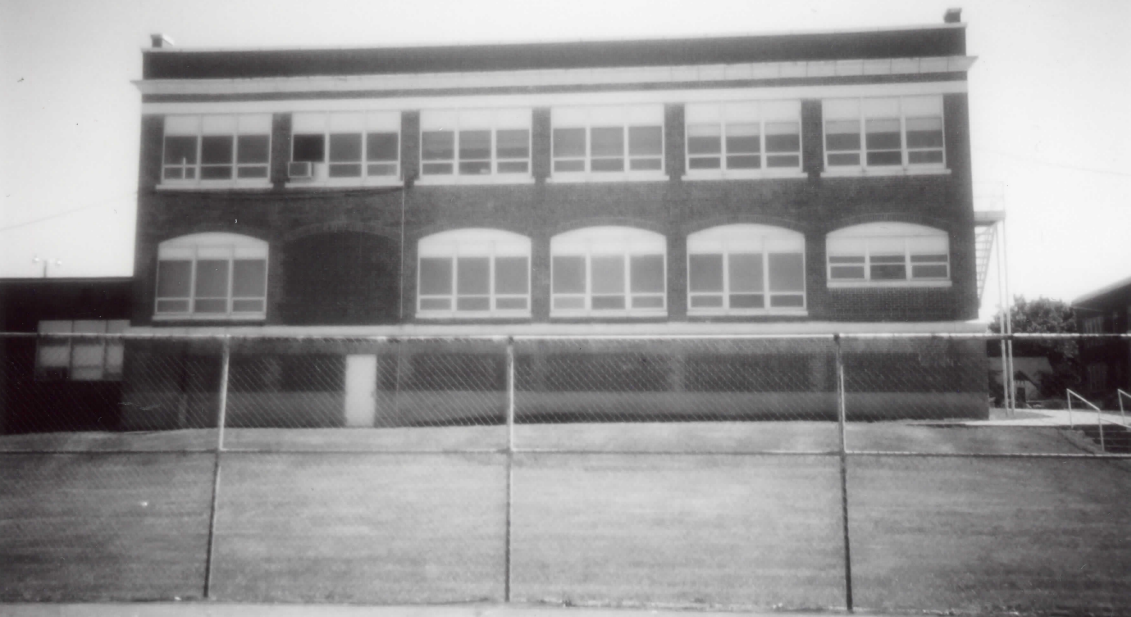


Houston High School
Texas County, Mo

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Houston High School
Texas County, Mo
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193636 17/37 (4R36)



Houston High School
Texas County, Mo

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Houston High School
Texas County, MO

7

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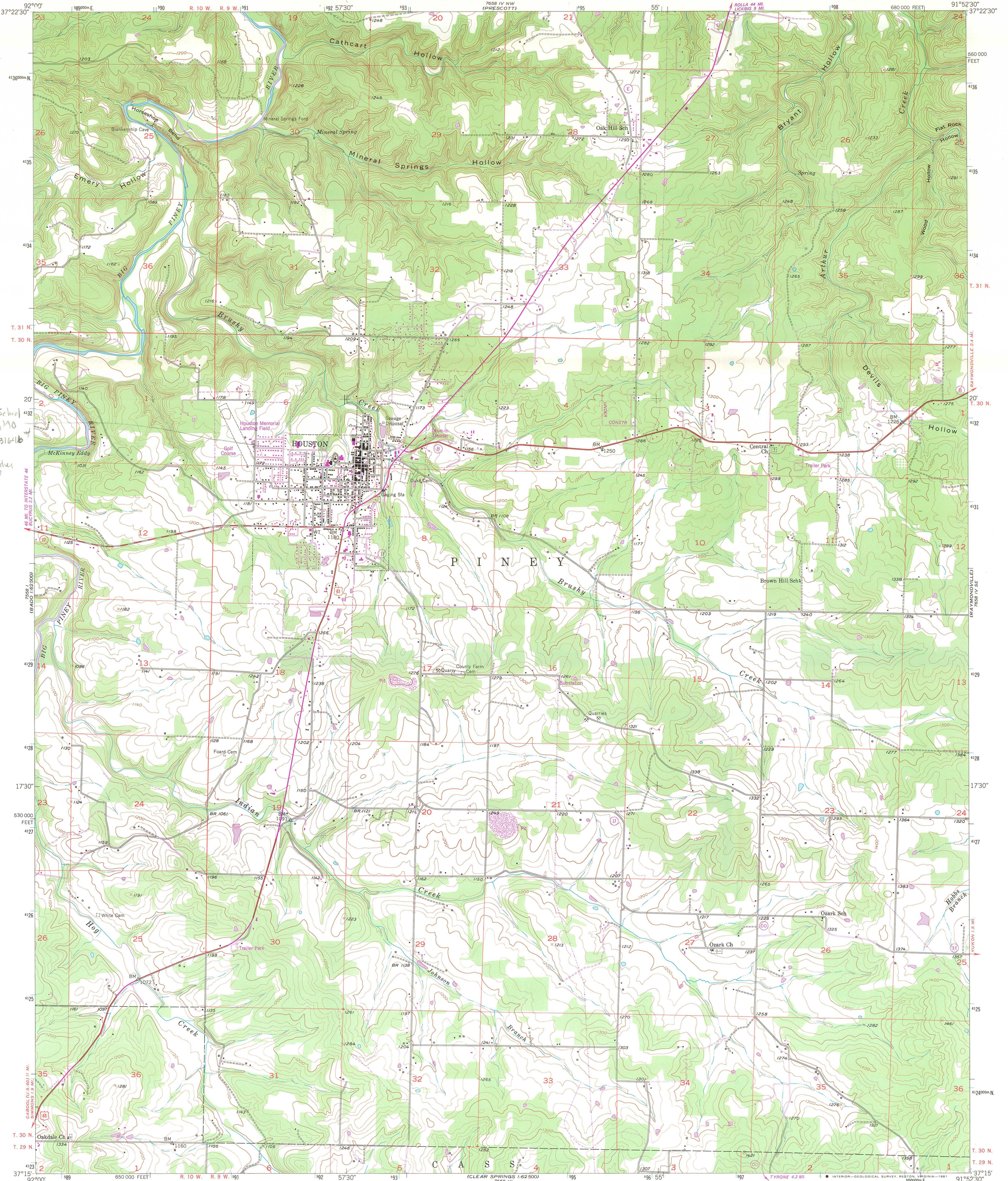


Stammin

Houston High School
Texas County, MO
photo 8

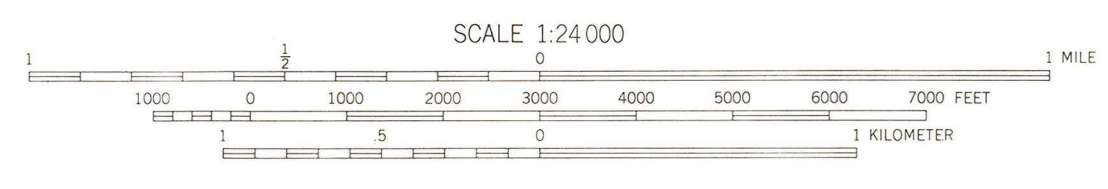
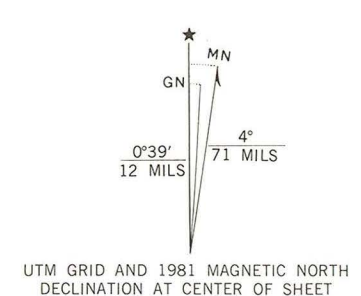
<8> 00 M0 Y0 D0 6/16/2008

193636 27/37(4R36)



Houston High School
Texas County, MO
15/592186/4131641b
From Arc Reader
Software

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1951
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters south and
13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken
1978. Map edited 1981. This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,
AND THE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY,
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



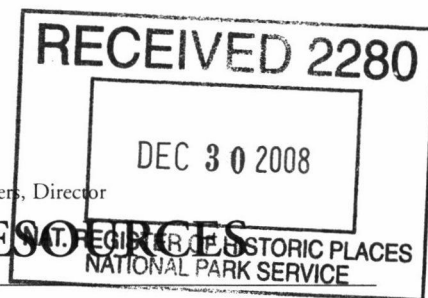
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Heavy-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE	Light-duty	
Medium-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt	
U. S. Route		State Route	

HOUSTON, MO.
SW/4 RAYMONDVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3715—W9152.5/7.5
1951
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 7658 IV SW—SERIES V879

7658 IV NE
7658 IV SE
7658 IV SW



Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director



www.dnr.mo.gov

December 19, 2008

Ms. Janet Matthews
United States Dept. of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Matthews:

Please find enclosed the following submission from Missouri for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

Houston High School
Texas County, Missouri

Our state review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, approved the above nomination on November 14, 2008. All owners and appropriate elected public officials were notified and provided at least thirty (30) days to comment on the above proposed nomination in accordance with Section 36CFR60.6, interim regulations, using the exact notification format recommended by the National Register.

A letter from the superintendent of schools, objecting to the listing of this publically owned building, is enclosed. Also enclosed is documentation from a group in support of saving and continuing to use the building for community purposes.

If you have any questions concerning this submission, please contact Tiffany Patterson of my staff at 573/751-7800, tiffany.patterson@dnr.mo.gov, or at the State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102.

Sincerely,

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark A. Miles".

Mark A. Miles, Director and
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosures: as stated



Houston R-I School District

423 West Pine Street – Houston, Missouri 65483

An A+ Designated School
Gold Star School

HOME OF THE TIGERS

Dr. Dan Vandiver
Superintendent
417-967-3024, Ext. 450
417-967-4887, Fax

Board of Education
Dr. Tom Dunn
President

Sharon Rees
Vice-President

Kathy Hutcheson
Secretary/Treasurer

Doug Castleman
Member

Jo Holland
Member

Steve Pounds
Member

Darrell Scheets
Member

LeAnn Edington
Elementary Principal
417-967-3024, Ext. 460

Scott Dill
Middle School Principal
417-967-3024, Ext. 455

Ben Yocom
High School Principal
417-967-3024, Ext. 451

Scott Roberts
Asst. High School Principal
417-967-3024, Ext. 451

Eileen Fronterhouse
*Director, Exceptional Child
Cooperative*
417-967-3196

Ms. Tiffany Patterson
National Register Coordinator
State Historic Preservation Office
PO Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102

October 14, 2008

Dear Ms. Patterson,

I am writing in response to the letter I received today informing our school district that one of our buildings is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. As a representative of the Houston R-I School District, I wish to inform you that our Board of Education does not support the nomination of our building to the National Register. It is the wish of the board and myself that our opposition to our building being nominated be made a matter of record and taken into consideration during the meeting on November 14th.

The building in question is not in use currently. In an evaluation by a certified structural engineer conducted this past summer, the building was found to have framing that was inadequate for classroom or office loads. Based on that information, and the anticipated expense of any renovation project, it is unlikely that our district will have any use for the building in the foreseeable future.

I understand that a listing on the National Register could facilitate some tax benefits for those contributing to restoration of the building. We already have an educational foundation in our district that can offer tax incentives for district benefactors. In spite of this, we have not seen any interest in the community in contributing to the cause of preserving our building.

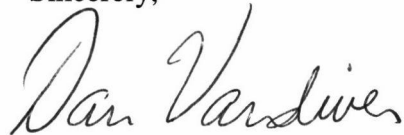
Because of the nature of our campus and the proximity of other buildings, the site on which the old building sets is the most logical choice for constructing a badly needed new high school facility. It wasn't until our board suggested to the community that the old building be torn down to make way for new construction that the individual who contacted your department had any interest in the building as an historic site.

Our district has limited space for building. We also have students attending classes in several different buildings. It is in the best interest of our students to have a new building located on the site of the

OCT 17 2008

building you are considering for nomination to the National Register. I do understand that a listing on the National Register would not prevent our district from proceeding with plans for demolition, but at the same time it could make it more difficult politically to move forward. While our district respects our history, we exist to best serve the students of today in preparing them for their futures. Having the building in question listed on the National Register would hamper our school district in fulfilling its primary mission of educating students. Please consider the best interest of our students in your decision regarding our building's status.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Vandiver". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Dr. Dan Vandiver
Superintendent

RECEIVED

NOV 06 2008

STATE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION OFFICE

November 3 2008

To : Missouri Advisory Council On Historic Preservation
From : John Impey, on behalf of the general will in Houston to preserve
its unique history
Re: Superintendent's October 14 letter objecting to nomination of our
original high school building to National Register of Historic Places.

The present School Board's slighting of this honor in being considered worthy of recognition by the Missouri Historic Preservation Council does not represent the feelings of the vast majority here in Houston or among alumni. The strange determination to destroy our unique history in Houston is an expression of a distinct minority who happen to find themselves, for the time being, with the means to destroy something greater than themselves in its meaning - transcending generations. Most in Houston take great pride in preserving its history. Our motto is " a town with a great past and a greater future". Since my brother and I began campaigning to prevent the mindless destruction of our history, we have become increasingly aware of how many in Houston feel they have a deep spiritual duty to preserve the legacy of their families' contribution in helping to build the original high school, overcoming great adversity to realize this improbable victory over Fate.

Those in Houston whose families have the deepest roots in its native soil understand that the heroic effort to build in the shadow of an epidemic which had taken away so many of its hopes for the future generation was a unique expression in affirming and renewing hope. We have in Houston, like most towns, a war museum honoring the self-sacrifice of those who believed they had to risk their own lives to protect future generations. We have in Houston, like all towns, gravestone monuments so that we do not forget our past, and therefore who we are today and what that means for carving out our future destiny before we too have our names inevitably inscribed on headstones.

We also have, however, buildings here that remain visible monuments to the unique rainbow prism which is cast locally when history is refracted through the lens of a particular people.

The Lynch-Tweed house, built in 1858, still stands on the edge of town. It was the only house that was not burned to the ground during the Civil War. It stands not as a monument to war but as a reminder to the people of Houston that they survived a terrible war in which more people were killed on their homesteads by bushwhackers than sons were killed on distant battlefields. The fact that it was still standing when the people of Houston returned in 1865 to rebuild the town became a symbol of their resilient spirit.

In a similar understanding of the need to preserve visible embodiments of their heritage, the rock-faced building downtown which was the Houston Casket Company reminds them of how the town revived after the Spanish Influenza took so many lives that they ran out of coffins. The Houston High School Building stands on a hill overlooking the town as a similar reminder that a people of real heroic determination will always find a way to rise above cruel Fate, which cares nothing for our modest hopes, and may sometimes do so in a way that creates something of everlasting value to everyone, not just a monument to Houston, for people of Missouri, or even for the people of one nation. For any victory of the spirit of creative Life defying the shadow of Death looming over any land or people, at any moment in history, of the desire for peace reclaiming the wasteland left by war, is a tribute to the best in human nature, forever. It is not enough to remember in textbook history that our Finest Hours are not during wars but in our healing responses to the aftermath of wars (for the Spanish Influenza spread by soldiers returning home from the trenches).

Houston's Finest Hour, most of us here believe, should remain visibly embodied in a building which is as much a monument to the best in human nature, when they act cooperatively to create not destroy, in peace not war, as it is a unique expression of our community. To me the philosophical meaning of being honored by inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places is that our local Finest Hours should fuse into those of others across our nation as a collective legacy for future generations. It is

important to preserve monuments to battles or war dead yet it is surely equally important to preserve monuments to moments in history when people worked together with heroic self-sacrifice to try and renew their life following suffering by again turning their hands to ploughshares and letting go the sword.

Our Finest Hour in Houston happened in 1921, although it seems very modest in the scope of human history, when people picked up the stone mason's trowel to help build a new high school which enabled more young people in surrounding smaller communities to have the opportunity of getting a high school diploma. In 1921, in poorer rural areas, a high school education was still not a commonplace right, but the privilege of the few who lived within easy travel to the classroom. The determination of the six hundred people living in Houston at the time that education be extended to more in surrounding communities like Success, Plato, and Raymondville was also an expression of the willingness of every generation that the next be given greater advantages than they had known.

They picked up hammers, hefted bricks from the factory they built for this purpose, some donating time and labor when they must have already been exhausted from farm work, as a way of saying they were exhausted from being asked to shoulder the burdens of war or Death, hefting rifles or serving as pall-bearers to coffins - but were not too exhausted to help their community renew its life and hope for the future.

Returning to the prosaic task of addressing the objections made to the nomination by the Superintendent, his chief argument is that your nomination of our building will "make it more politically difficult to demolish it "(true) but therefore this "will hamper the school district's ability in fulfilling its primary mission of educating its students" (false) because of the need for new buildings when "our district has limited space for building."(entirely false).

There is no inherent contradiction between the Houston School Board's plan to build a new high school building adjacent to our original high school building rather than insisting on its demolition by building on the same site. They are quite aware, as is the Houston community no, that nearby towns like Cabool, Willow Springs and Mountain Grove chose to build new high schools without demolishing their original high school buildings, which are still in use by their districts. There is a very large expanse of land downhill from the Fine Arts Building (original high school building) which is quite suitable for this purpose, which now has only tennis courts on it, no longer in use. There is another even larger expanse of land next to the Vocational Educational Building which includes an old football practice field which would be a more logical candidate for construction of a new high school building, as it would consolidate classes of a high school campus which the Board has stated they wish to be further removed from the middle school campus.

The district has no "limited space for building". Indeed, they have more land they have bought and left undeveloped than they know what to do with ! Those in the community who have pointed out for eight months now, since this controversy came to a head, that it was not rational for the school board not to compromise by simply building on a different site, have been patiently waiting, to no avail, for them to arrive at this logical conclusion. Following an April 8 defeat of the school bond issue - because voters became aware through the efforts of my brother and I, then others rippling through the community, that a vote for building a new high school entailed the destruction of the original high school - the school board still refused to deviate from their self-defeating strategy of linking the building of the new with the destruction of the past. Our high school building was spared demolition by a margin of only two votes. Yet the margin would have been greater if more people had known when they voted on April 8 that they were not in fact voting to destroy the original high school building (e.g. many were unaware that the re-named "Fine

Arts Building” referred to in the ballot initiative was in fact the original high school building).

The original high school building was in fact being used for classrooms until May 2008, just as it always has been since 1921, until the re-count demanded by the school board confirmed that the school bond had been defeated. It was only then, suddenly, that the board began declaring that “they believed the building was unsafe”. When challenged to produce any report on which this nebulous feeling was based (cf. attached news articles and letters to the editor), Superintendent Vandiver admitted in the *Houston Herald* that no such report existed. He also confessed in the same open letter to the public, that the board kept no records on how much it cost to maintain the Fine Arts (original high school) Building or what it might cost to make minor repairs needed (if safety really was an issue). To date, no such information is yet been available to the public, despite Sunshine Law requests. Therefore his statement in the letter that “the anticipated expense of any renovation project” makes it prohibitive for the district to consider remains a meaningless void: no estimate of the cost of any renovations have ever been made !

Stung by public criticism as the result of these public admissions, an evaluation was indeed made by a structural engineer of the original high school building, Pinnacle of Springfield. Requests by myself to obtain more objective and thorough evaluations by truly independent structural engineers, from firms without any relation to those vying for the contract to construct the new high school building or who generally work with them were ignored by Vandiver and School Board President Tom Dunn. The original assertion by the Superintendent and the Board that this report (which actually only suggested minor repairs that ought to be made to the building) proved that the building was “unuseable”, let alone “structurally unsound” or “unsafe” again had to be publicly recanted by the Superintendent in the *Houston Herald*

following my pointing out that the report itself made no such sweeping conclusions.

As to the Superintendent's argument that "we already have an educational foundation in our district that can offer tax incentives for district benefactors" interested in restoring the building, he is referring to the Houston Educational Foundation which, in fact, has not only not shown any interest in protecting the building but whose members are uniformly for tearing it down. This is not surprising as (however inappropriately for a non profit organization which is not supposed to be simply a promoter of the school board's decisions) the school board itself approves the selection of its officers, the litmus test for approval being 100% agreement with its agenda to demolish our alma mater.

Concerning the statement that "we have not seen any interest in the community in contributing to the restoration of the building": (1) a probable majority of Houston alumni and citizens do not believe it needs *restoring if by that is meant some extensive repairs*. They believe quite frankly that the building's supposed dilapidation is a political myth invented by the board without any basis in empirical reality; (2) like myself, they were only made aware quite recently that the building was not being as well maintained as it should have been, in line with the school board's legal responsibility to do so or that the board planned to demolish it !; (3) many in the community have only been made aware that there are other resources for communities to help them maintain the building which, in fact is in quite excellent condition, so that they don't have to rely on a Houston Educational Foundation which remains hostile to their very idea of saving our history from the mindless wrecking ball and bulldozer. I suppose I need not say much about the *ad hominem* rather lame argument that I "was only interested in the building as a historic site" after I became aware that the board was planning to demolish it ! Yes, like many in Houston, I did not think I would have

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to protect our history by appealing to those outside the community to help protect it. Indeed I had no idea that a school board would be willing to sell its own history downstream at the behest of corporate interests outside of Houston: District Financial Advisers and Architects whose interest is only profit not preserving our history or local autonomy. Not only does the Superintendent and School Board not represent the general will of the Houston and surrounding communities on this issue, they in fact have become representatives of firms in St. Louis and Springfield who would profit from the loss of our town's collective soul, its unique history.

The Superintendent was correct in one statement only: your nomination of our original high school building to the National Register of Historic Places will indeed make it more politically difficult for them to proceed with a completely unnecessary destruction of a historically important monument to a people's true understanding of the meaning of education. Education is the inheritance of the Past informing a Future which otherwise knows only the blind perspective of the Present. The school board in 1921 knew this. They knew, whether instinctively or consciously, that they were elevating in brick, iron, pine and oak not a mere building but a monument whose very visibility on a high hill would remind Houston of the true meaning of education. Because its very brick, mortar, pine framing and oak beams came from the native soil, because their own sweat and sacrifice was infused in its body, something of their own soul, it would not be a generic building, such as a modern high school building usually is: neither built nor financed by the community itself - but would always be a tower of communal strength, a living essay in the meaning of past generations wisely reminding the present of its indebtedness to the sacrifices made on their behalf. Please help us realize our spiritual obligation to continue bequeathing the legacy of the Past being handed safely, like a family heirloom, to the next generation. Help us protect it today. We in Houston will do the rest.

John Impey Houston Missouri 65483
#417-967-2358

Recount Sought in Houston School District Bond Issue

The Houston board of education will seek a recount of ballots cast in last week's election, which saw a \$3.5 million bond issue go down to defeat by a slim margin.

The count was 636-479. A four-sevenths majority - 57.14 percent - was required for passage. It received 57.04 percent. How close was it? If two persons who voted "no" marked their ballot "yes," it would have passed. Additionally, it would have passed if three more traveled to the polls and voted "yes."

The board's decision came Monday night after visiting with Gary Barbe, a principal in Sam Winn and Associates, a Springfield architectural firm that designed the building that included more classroom space, a new library and additional computer and science studies space. No tax levy increase was necessary for passage of the issue that called for the new building at the site of the Fine Arts Building. The only public criticism of the plan came from those who wanted to preserve the district's original high school constructed in the early 1900s.

While not making any decision to place the issue on the ballot again, the board will meet with faculty throughout the campus to receive suggestions. New plans may be developed addressing such as the need for a commons area and additional restrooms facilities. After the discussions, the board will meet again with Barbe to discuss any changes. The move will allow the project to move forward should the board decide to put the issue on the ballot again and the recount does show that the measure failed.

County Clerk Don Troutman certified the election's results Friday. The school will follow a state statute that allows a recount at no cost because of the closeness of the election.

Houston attorney Brad Eidson is expected to file paperwork with the court that asks for a review. Troutman said the process should be simple.

School Building Eligible for National Register

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has ruled that a Houston building is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The determination came after an opponent to the demolition of the former Houston High School building filed an initial application.

Voters in April narrowly defeated a bond issue that would have resulted in the construction of a new high school, and the former high school building would have been destroyed to make way for the new structure. The school district said the early 1900s-era building, which is named the Fine Arts Building, is too costly to renovate and would not support needed space for students. A majority of patrons agreed, but the issue fell just two or three votes shy of the four-sevenths required for passage. The Houston board of education has not determined whether the issue will return again before patrons.

John Impey, one of the opponents against the issue, said he plans to complete paperwork to get the issue approved for the historical designation. In a May 23 letter to Impey, Tiffany Patterson, national register coordinator for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, wrote the Houston building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the criteria of education.

"The story of the school's construction by the community with locally harvested and manufactured materials is especially compelling and tells of the community's dedication to the education of its youth," wrote Patterson.

Impey said late last week he would begin preparing final documents and revisions required by the state.

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Historic places are nominated to the National Register by the state in which the property is located. Anyone can make a nomination. Owners of private property are given an opportunity to concur in or object to the nomination.

Tweed House Restoration Discussed

Members of the Community Betterment and Arts Council of Houston and the City of Houston are discussing the possibility of restoring the Civil War Tweed House on Airport Road.

The structure was acquired through a Missouri Department of Transportation grant by the city as part of an effort to secure property close to the Houston Memorial Airport.

Representatives met Monday at the council's meeting to discuss the idea. The Tweed residence was one of the only structures still standing after the Civil War ravaged the community, historians say.

IS BUILDING UNSAFE ?

To the editor: According to the minutes of the June 16 Houston school board meeting, in order to dispel rumors that classes were being moved from the historic high school (Fine Arts) building simply as a political ploy, "it was clarified that the district has moved classes out of the building because we believe it is not safe." In what way is it "not safe?" In what objective structural analysis of the building or E.P.A. inspection report

See LETTER, Page A5

From LETTER, Page A4

or any publicly available empirical study is this vague feeling of “unsafeness” based?

If certain members on the school board are sincere about making certain

all of its buildings are safe for children and teachers, they should contact state agencies (as I have) about low-cost or no-cost inspections by *objective experts*, who have no interest in local politics, who can determine the structural integrity, possible health and safety hazards posed by *all* of its buildings once and for all.

Otherwise children and teachers are just being moved about, from the one building that *doesn't leak*

to others that still do, as pawns in a political game, from one unknown situation to another.

If this proposal meets resistance from the school board, it can only mean they were not really concerned about determining the safety conditions in *all* of its buildings — just making a political statement against *one* of them.

In passing, of what relevance to the story about the Hiett Gymnasium leaking (yes, if you neglect leaks long enough they cause worse damage!) was the statement in the *Herald*

that a new high school building would have connected to the gym?

Would that have prevented it from leaking?

The entire universe isn't “safe” ultimately speaking for all living beings. Yet in order to take steps to make certain at least our surroundings are safe, we must first *objectively*

survey them!

If certain members on the school board *really* believe the historic high school building to be “unsafe”(?) they should not have allowed people to be in there last week in connection with the Relay for Life. This is just political fear-mongering. Americans are tired of it.

John Impey, Houston To the editor: Many of you may or may not know that Montauk

past 25 years.

With regards to your specific questions about the Fine Arts building: 1. No condemning authority has ruled on the safety of the building.

2. A safety inspection has not currently taken place.

3. A "current use" policy for the building does not exist.

It is my intent to maintain open communications with all stakeholders in our school district. While it is impossible to make decisions with which everyone will always agree, it is vitally important that the decisions made for a public entity such as a school be fully informed. I can't promise to make everyone happy with every future decision, but I can work very hard to listen with an open mind to the opinions, concerns and even criticisms of district stakeholders.

Respectfully, Dr. Dan Vandiver

concerns and even criticisms of district stakeholders.

Respectfully, Dr. Dan Vandiver

Cavanaugh's response:

Sick Leave Pool: While the letter from the school states the sick leave pool days were distributed equitably and no days were left, Dr. Vandiver was able to clarify that there were less than two dozen days left after the equitable distribution designed by the committee. He informed me the leftover days were distributed among the support staff. He did not volunteer how this was done equitably.

Old High School Building/Fine Arts Building Safety Issue: When I delivered my letter asking for information about how and why the building was and was not being used, school officials told me they had "backed off" their statement to the *Herald* about the building not being safe.

School District Re-evaluating Campus Needs

The Houston School District will conduct a comprehensive review of its campus needs following the defeat of a bond issue in April that would have led to the construction of a new building. The decision came Monday during a meeting of the board of education.

Attending his first board meeting since becoming superintendent, Dr. Dan Vandiver said several issues will be addressed as part of the review process:

- *Teachers and patrons will be sought for their input on district needs.
- *A structural engineer will make a report on the condition of the Fine Arts Building.
- *The district will study its finances and look at its bonding capacity, which has increased since the original building plan was conceived.

Voters at Houston narrowly defeated the proposal in November. A new library, computer and science labs, as well as additional classrooms would have been constructed at the site of the Fine Arts Building. The plan also called for the replacement of bleachers at Hiatt Gymnasium. It was the first stage of a three-prong building plan. No increase in the school's debt levy would have resulted.

NEW: Houston Schools will no longer use Fine Arts Building, which is deemed "structurally unsound "

The Houston School District will no longer allow use of the Fine Arts Building on its campus after an engineering report issued Friday says that it is structurally unsound without renovations.

The conclusions are contained in a 13-page report released by Pinnacle Design Consultants, a Springfield firm hired to examine the safety of the 1921-constructed building that once housed the community's high school.

Ronald Hamme said a review found framing issues that were inadequate for loading conditions in some areas of the building.

"The report essentially establishes that, short of renovations to reinforce substantial amount of the building framing, the building is unusable for student purposes," said Dr. Dan Vandiver, superintendent.

In his report, Hamme said he also found foundation settling issues.


Vandiver said the district will no longer use the building and has advised two community groups that its auditorium will no longer be available for public use.

More News


NEW: Houston Schools will no longer use Fine Arts Building, which is deemed "structurally unsound "

BREAKING: Motorcyclist Serious Following Accident

NEW: Two Held in Licking Crimes

 Junior Livestock Sale, Demolition Derby Highlight Last Night of Fair

The Week Ahead: Unseasonably Mild Weather

 24 Hours in Houston: Week 6

County, City To Sell Tracts for Taxes

UPDATED: \$34,000 in Lottery Tickets Missed from Business



August 8, 2008

Dr. Dan Vandiver
Houston School
423 W. Pine
Houston, MO 65483

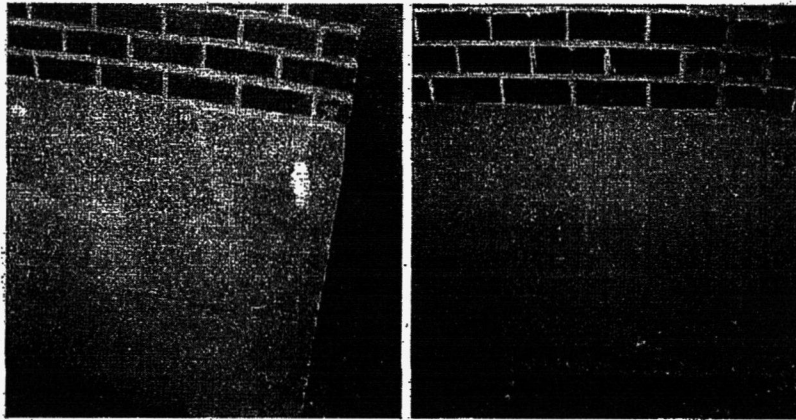
Re: Evaluation of the Fine Arts Building

Dear Dr. Vandiver:

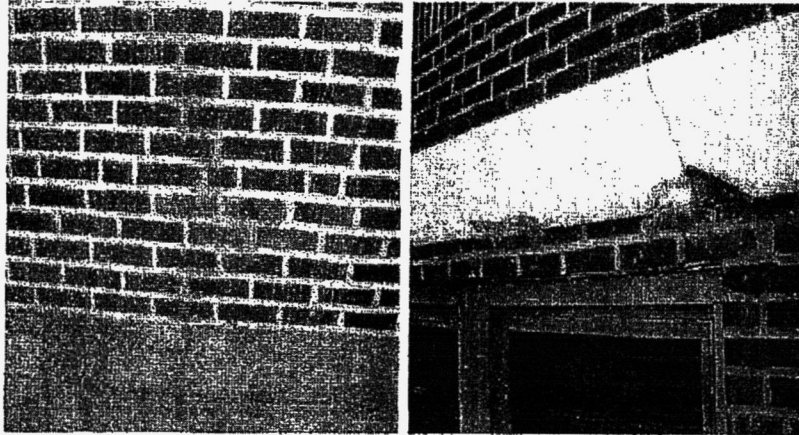
On July 23, 2008, I inspected the above-referenced structure with respect to its use and sustainability for future uses within the district.

This structure is a three story masonry structure completed in 1921. It currently has classrooms, offices, restrooms, as well as an auditorium.

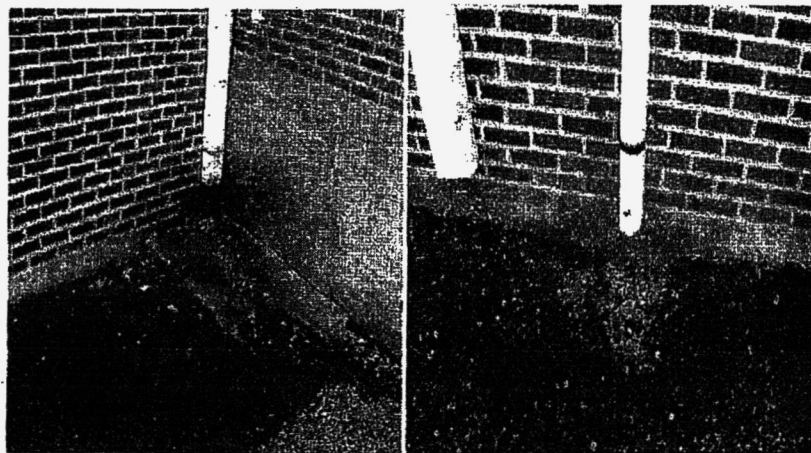
A visual inspection of the exterior was performed first and the following photos show some areas of concern.



1715 S. KANSAS AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807
417-459-4570 417-865-3033 FAX



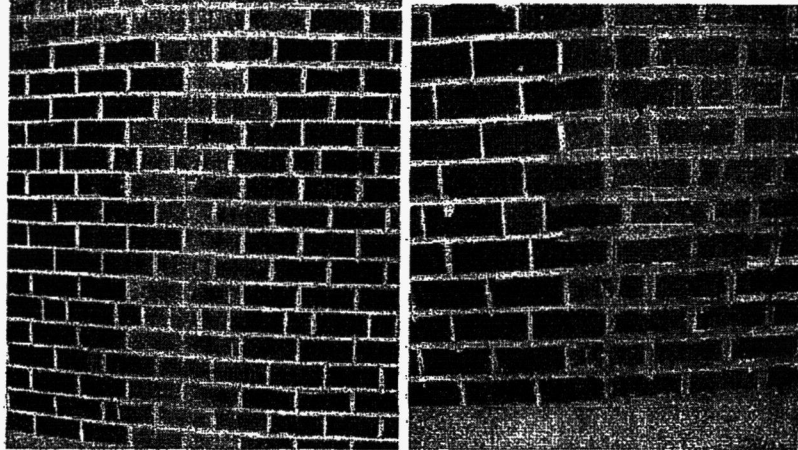
These photos show some cracks in the foundation walls. These are most likely caused from settlement, and appear to have occurred some time ago. The cause of this settlement might be attributed to drainage and runoff. The following photos show some downspout locations.



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These downspouts do not allow water to properly drain away from the building. This accumulation of water can cause excessive moisture in the sub grade and subsequent settlement.

The following photos show some discoloration in the exterior brick in the areas between windows in the lower level. The following photos show this.



It appears that this brick had been repaired or replaced. It is difficult to determine what happened in these areas; however the repairs appear to have been adequate.

The interior structure was analyzed for suitability of occupancy.

The two occupancies that were considered are office, and classroom.

The following are the loading criteria for each.

Office:

Live Load: 100 P.S.F.

Dead Load: 20 P.S.F.

Classroom

Live Load: 40 P.S.F.

Dead Load: 20 P.S.F.

The framing plans that are shown in the following sheets are based on a non destructive investigation and are the engineers' best interpretation of what is there and may not be entirely accurate.

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In area A, this is the framing above the lower hallway. This framing was determined to be rough sawn 2x4 spaced 16" o.c. spanning 11'. These members are inadequate for either loading condition, and would have to be reinforced in order to accommodate the required loading.

In area B, the floor framing was determined to be 2x10's spaced 16" o.c. spanning 15'. These framing members are inadequate for either loading condition; however less work will be required to reinforce these to meet classroom loading.

In area C, The floor framing consists of 2x12's spaced 16" o.c. spanning 13'-11". These joists are capable of supporting the classroom loading but would need to be reinforced in order to facilitate the office loading. The beams that support these joists were inaccessible to inspect and determine their size so there might still need to be some modifications made.

For simplicity, all modifications to be made will accommodate the office loading of 100 P.S.F. live load.

Area A will require the addition of a 4x4x16ga. C channels to each joist with bearing on each wall. This can be fastened to the existing wood joist with #8 wood screws 16" o.c. staggered.

Area B will require the addition of a 10x2x16ga. C channels on every other joist installed similar to area A.

Area C will require the addition of 12x2.5x16ga. C channels on every other joist installed similar to area A.

All supporting beams will require the addition of fitch plates on each side of the existing beams to accommodate this additional load.

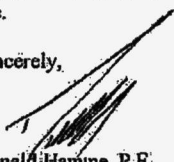
The foundations that have settled may be underpinned and jacked to bring back to level. At a minimum, the downspouts will have to be reworked and some regarding will be necessary.

The roof structures have not been investigated as their loading will not change. However there may need to be some repair work required to meet current codes and or the addition of equipment.

This is a cursory structural evaluation of structural loading. This does not address any lateral loading analysis, upgrading of any of the plumbing, electrical, or H.V.A.C. systems, nor does it describe any work necessary to remediate unsuitable materials such as asbestos.

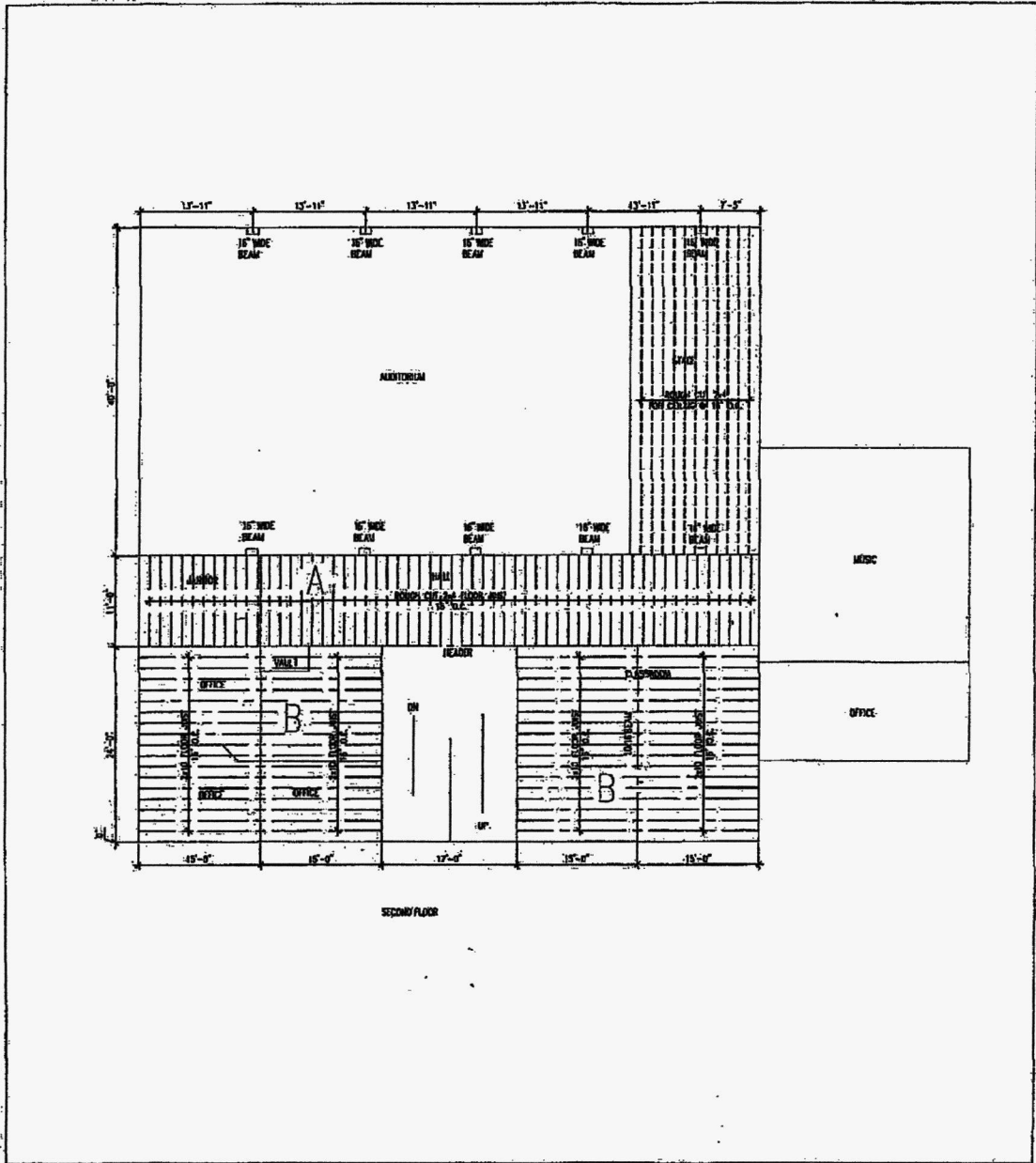
If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ronald Hamine, P.E.
Pinnacle Design Consultants, L.L.C.

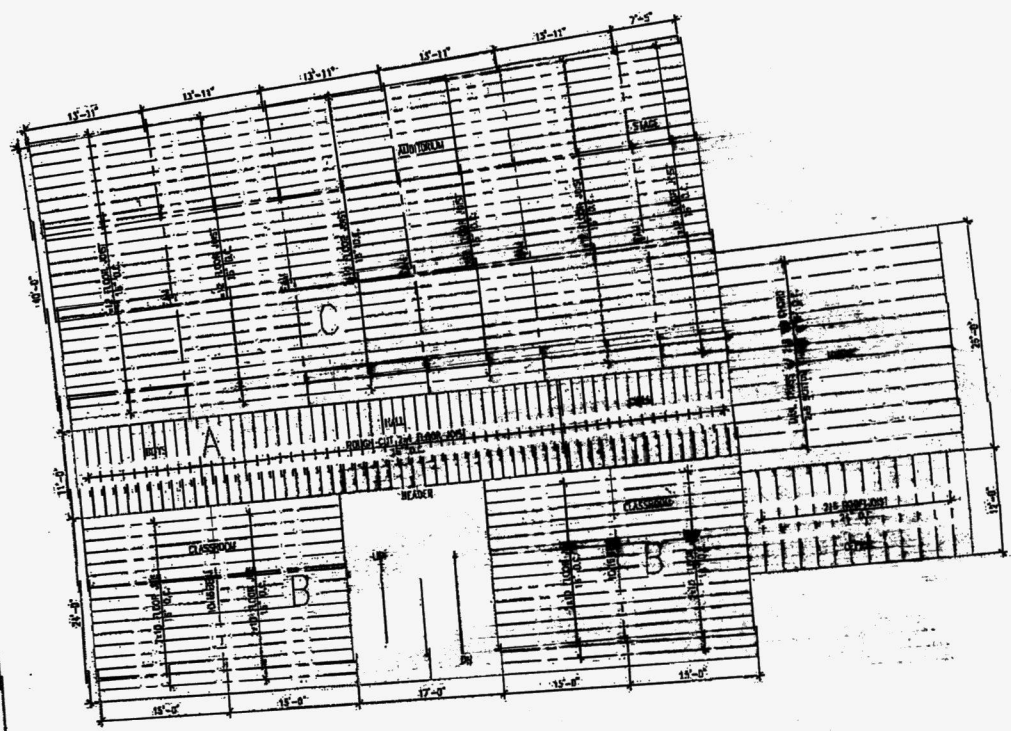
**1715 S. KANSAS AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807
417-459-4570 417-865-3083 FAX**



FINE ARTS BUILDING
HOUSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PINNACLE DESIGN CONSULTANTS
PH: (417)731-3001 ~ FAX: (417)865-3033
1715 S. KANSAS AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807

SHEET NO.	OF
1	2
DATE	
08/07/08	
PROJ. NO.	
989-06	



FINE ARTS BUILDING
HOUSTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

PINNACLE DESIGN CONSULTANTS
PH: (417)731-3001 - FAX: (417)865-3033
1715 S. KANSAS AVENUE, SPRINGFIELD, MO 65807

SHEET NO.	2	OF	2
DATE	08/07/08		
PROJ. NO.	989-06		

TABLE 4-1 MINIMUM UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED LIVE LOADS, L_u , AND MINIMUM CONCENTRATED LIVE LOADS

Occupancy or Use	Uniform psf (kN/m ²)	Conc. ks (kN)
Apartments (see Residential)		
Access floor systems		
Office use	50 (2.4)	2,000 (8.9)
Computer use	100 (4.79)	2,000 (8.9)
Armories and drill rooms	150 (7.18)	
Assembly areas and theaters		
Fixed seats (fastened to floor)	60 (2.87)	
Lobbies	100 (4.79)	
Movable seats	100 (4.79)	
Platforms (assembly)	100 (4.79)	
Stage floors	150 (7.18)	
Balconies (exterior)	100 (4.79)	
On one- and two-family residences only, and not exceeding 100 ft ² (9.3 m ²)	60 (2.87)	
Bowling alleys, poolrooms, and similar recreational areas	75 (3.59)	
Catwalks for maintenance access	40 (1.92)	300 (1.33)
Corridors		
First floor	100 (4.79)	
Other floors, same as occupancy served except as indicated		
Dance halls and ballrooms	100 (4.79)	
Decks (patio and roof)		
Same as area served, or for the type of occupancy accommodated		
Dining rooms and restaurants	100 (4.79)	
Dwellings (see Residential)		
Elevator machine room grating (on area of 4 in. ² (2,580 mm ²))		300 (1.33)
Finish light floor plate construction (on area of 1 in. ² (645 mm ²))		200 (0.89)
Fire escapes	100 (4.79)	
On single-family dwellings only	40 (1.92)	
Fixed ladders		See Section 4.4
Gauges (passenger vehicles only)		40 (1.92) ^{a,b}
Trucks and buses		
Grandstands (see Stadiums and arenas, Bleachers):		
Gymnasiums—main floors and balconies	100 (4.79)	
Handrails, guardrails, and grab bars		See Section 4.4
Hospitals		
Operating rooms, laboratories	60 (2.87)	1,000 (4.45)
Patient rooms	40 (1.92)	1,000 (4.45)
Corridors above first floor	80 (3.83)	1,000 (4.45)
Hotels (see Residential)		
Libraries		
Reading rooms	60 (2.87)	1,000 (4.45)
Stack rooms	150 (7.18) ^f	1,000 (4.45)
Corridors above first floor	80 (3.83)	1,000 (4.45)
Manufacturing		
Light	125 (6.00)	2,000 (8.90)
Heavy	250 (11.57)	3,000 (13.40)
Marquees	75 (3.59)	
Office Buildings		
Lobbies and computer rooms shall be designed for live loads based on anticipated occupancy		
Lobbies and atrium floor corridors	100 (4.79)	2,000 (8.90)
Offices	50 (2.40)	2,000 (8.90)
Corridors above first floor	80 (3.83)	2,000 (8.90)
Penal Institutions		
Cell blocks	40 (1.92)	
Corridors	100 (4.79)	
Residential		
Dwellings (one- and two-family)		
Uninhabitable attics without storage	10 (0.48)	
Uninhabitable attics with storage	20 (0.96)	
Habitable attics and sleeping areas	30 (1.44)	
All other areas except stairs and balconies	40 (1.92)	
Hotels and multifamily houses		
Private rooms and corridors serving them	40 (1.92)	
Public rooms and corridors serving them	100 (4.79)	
Reviewing stands, grandstands, and bleachers	100 (4.79) ^d	

TABLE 4-1 MINIMUM UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED LIVE LOADS, L_o , AND MINIMUM CONCENTRATED LIVE LOADS (continued)

Occupancy or Use	Uniform psf (kN/m ²)	Conc. lb (kN)
Roofs		
Ordinary flat, pitched, and curved roofs	20 (0.96) ^a	
Roofs used for promenade purposes	60 (2.87)	
Roofs used for roof gardens or assembly purposes	100 (4.79)	
Roofs used for other special purposes		i
Awnings and canopies		
Fabric construction supported by a lightweight rigid skeleton structure	5 (0.24) nonreducible	
All other construction	20 (0.96)	
Primary roof members, exposed to a work floor		2,000 (8.9)
Single panel joist or lower chord of roof trusses or any point along primary structural members supporting roofs over manufacturing, storage warehouses, and repair garages		300 (1.33)
All other occupancies		300 (1.33)
All roof surfaces subject to maintenance workers		300 (1.33)
Classrooms		
Corridors above first floor	40 (1.92)	1,000 (4.45)
First-floor corridors	60 (2.83)	1,000 (4.45)
	100 (4.79)	1,000 (4.45)
Scuttles, skylight ribs, and accessible ceilings		200 (0.89)
Sidewalks, vehicular driveways, and yards subject to trucking	250 (11.97) ^e	8,000 (33.60) ^f
Stadiums and arenas		
Bleachers	100 (4.79) ^d	
Fixed seats (fastened to floor)	60 (2.87) ^d	
Stairs and exit ways	100 (4.79)	
One- and two-family residences only	40 (1.92)	
Storage areas above ceilings	20 (0.96)	
Storage warehouses (shall be designed for heavier loads if required for anticipated storage)		
Light	125 (6.00)	
Heavy	250 (11.97)	
Stores		
Retail		
First floor	100 (4.79)	1,000 (4.45)
Upper floors	75 (3.50)	1,000 (4.45)
Wholesale, all floors	125 (6.00)	1,000 (4.45)
Vehicle barriers	See Section 4.4	
Walkways and elevated platforms (other than exit ways)	60 (2.87)	
Yards and terraces, pedestrian	100 (4.79)	

- ^aFloors in garages or portions of a building used for the storage of motor vehicles shall be designed for the uniformly distributed live loads of Table 4-1 or the following concentrated load: (1) for garages restricted to passenger vehicles accommodating not more than nine passengers, 3,000 lb (13.35 kN) acting on an area of 4.5 in. by 4.5 in. (114 mm by 114 mm) footprint of a jack; and (2) for mechanical parking structures without slab or deck that are used for storing passenger cars only, 2,250 lb (10 kN) per wheel.
- ^bGarages accommodating trucks and buses shall be designed in accordance with an approved method, which contains provisions for truck and bus loadings.
- ^cThe loading applies to stack room floors that support nonmobile, double-faced library book stacks, subject to the following limitations: (1) The nominal book stack unit height shall not exceed 90 in. (2290 mm); (2) the nominal shelf depth shall not exceed 12 in. (305 mm) for each face; and (3) parallel rows of double-faced book stacks shall be separated by aisles not less than 36 in. (914 mm) wide.
- ^dIn addition to the vertical live loads, the design shall include horizontal swaying forces applied to each row of the seats as follows: 24 lb per linear ft of seat applied in a direction parallel to each row of seats and 10 lb per linear ft of seat applied in a direction perpendicular to each row of seats. The parallel and perpendicular horizontal swaying forces need not be applied simultaneously.
- ^eOther uniform loads in accordance with an approved method, which contains provisions for truck loadings, shall also be considered where appropriate.
- ^fThe concentrated wheel load shall be applied on an area of 4.5 in. by 4.5 in. (114 mm by 114 mm) footprint of a jack.
- ^gMinimum concentrated load on stair treads (on area of 4 in.² (2,580 mm²)) is 300 lb (1.33 kN).
- ^hWhere uniform roof live loads are reduced to less than 20 lb/ft² (0.96 kN/m²), in accordance with Section 4.9.1 and are applied to the design of structural members arranged so as to create continuity, the reduced roof live load shall be applied to adjacent spans or to alternate spans, whichever produces the greatest unfavorable effect.
- ⁱRoofs used for other special purposes shall be designed for appropriate loads as approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

TABLE 4-2 LIVE LOAD ELEMENT FACTOR, K_{LL}

Element	K_{LL}
Interior columns	4
Exterior columns without cantilever slabs	4
Edge columns with cantilever slabs	3
Corner columns with cantilever slabs	2
Edge beams without cantilever slabs	2
Interior beams	2
All other members not identified including:	1
Edge beams with cantilever slabs	
Cantilever beams	
One-way slabs	
Trib-way slabs	
Members without provisions for continuous shear transfer normal to their span	

^aIn lieu of the preceding values, K_{LL} is permitted to be calculated.

Bogus Report on Historic High School Building

The engineer's report on the historic high school (fine arts) building does not, in fact, conclude anything about it being "structurally unsound" or "unusable." These are scare quotes added by those on the school board who seem obsessed with tearing down history. Mountain Grove, Willow Springs and Cabool also have high school buildings built in the 1920s which they still have. They simply built their new high schools near them, thereby preserving their history while not denying the reality of change.

The report from Pinnacle admits that it is only a " cursory " visual walk-through, not an actual inspection of all critical beams and joists. E.g. "In area C, the beams that support these joists were inaccessible to inspect and determine their size." (pg. 5) The report mainly points out minor superficial problems and suggests easy, relatively inexpensive repairs. "The foundations that have settled may be underpinned and jacked to bring back level" (pg. 5). "The cause of this settlement might be attributed to drainage problems. The downspouts will have to be reworked" (pgs. 3, 5). The need for a few trips to the hardware store hardly justifies the school board's overreaction that it is now "unusable"! This is simply a political ploy to begin convincing alumni that since the board decided long ago to become derelict in their duty to maintain taxpayers' buildings, alumni might as well abandon their duty to preserve their heritage.

The report itself is not unbiased or objective. Sam Winn, architect, Springfield hired Pinnacle, a frequent business associate, to conduct the superficial inspection. Winn stands to gain millions by building a new complex which for some unfathomable reason *must* be built precisely on the same spot as the historic building. Pinnacle of Springfield is not about to issue a report which will cost their friends a lucrative contract.

When there is a bias behind a report, statistics get skewed to get the outcome one *wants* rather than what *facts support*. The Pinnacle skew is to be found on page 5: "For simplicity, all modifications to be made (to reinforce floors) will accommodate the office loading of 100 pounds per square foot live load." Yet this standard for judging load bearing, for floors that have to support heavy machinery, is much higher than for those appropriate for classrooms (40 P.S.F.) because they only have to support the weight of human beings, desks, etc. This invalidates his conclusion that the present framing is inadequate for loading with reinforcement.

You don't judge the load-bearing capability of a human being by the standard appropriate to an elephant. Nor classroom

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You don't judge the load-bearing capability of a human being by the standard appropriate to an elephant. Nor classrooms that support human weight by the standard appropriate to those which must support many heavy machines. Yes, if the school were planning to use its upper floors to warehouse Sherman tanks or to hold dancing classes for circus elephants, it would discuss need to reinforce its floors. But to continue normal classroom use, it has held up perfectly - without cracks in the ceiling - so you may be certain that if such cracks existed, they would have been pointed out in the Pinnacle report!

The report says *absolutely nothing* which would lead one to the Grand Canyon leap in logic that the ground floor auditorium cannot be used or should be off-limits to alumni functions, etc. This ban on auditorium use was defended, at the school board meeting, by the lame argument that people attending alumni functions would have to use the bathrooms on the now suddenly precarious second floor. Unless they all ascend the stairs at once, riding elephants like Hannibal, it is not probable that they will put a strain on anything except on someone's credibility for making such an argument or my imagination in how to convey its absurdity to the generally sane reader.

The historic high school building is much stronger than any modern buildings built by Winn. It is reinforced with iron, expensive now to use. Its strength is columns of iron compared to modern paste-board box construction.

To the editor: Last week's edition of the paper contained an advertisement that ran in space paid for by someone in the community, "Bogus Report on Historic High School Building." Please allow me the opportunity to correct some inaccuracies contained in the piece.

1. The writer of the piece maintained that the engineering firm who conducted the inspection of the building did not find it to be "structurally unsound" or "unusable." Technically, this is true. The engineering report did not use the words "structurally unsound" or "unusable." The report did however find that the framing between the first and second floors of the building, part of which is made up of only 2x4 lumber, was inadequate to meet current load-bearing requirements for either classroom or office space.

2. The piece also stated that, "The report itself is not unbiased or objective. Sam Winn, architect, Springfield hired Pinnacle, a frequent business associate, to conduct the superficial inspection." Sam Winn & Associates had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with choosing the engineering firm Pinnacle. In the interest of objectivity, I contacted a separate architect who has not been working with Houston Schools in any way, to ask for a reference for a good engineering firm.

3. It was suggested that an architectural firm would stand to gain millions from a construction project for Houston Schools. District bonding capacity is currently approximately \$4.5 million. The standard architectural fee is 6 percent of the project. That means if a project was for the district's maximum possible, the architectural fee would be far short of millions at \$270,000.

4. Because the engineer's report included both office and classroom load-bearing requirements, the author of last week's piece misinterpreted the report to mean that renovation to reinforce the framing to meet classroom load requirements was unnecessary. The report very distinctly stated that the framing in large areas between the first and second floors was "inadequate for either load bearing requirement."

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5. The piece does accurately state that the engineer's report says nothing about the auditorium on the first floor being unusable. I made the decision to stop any use of any floor of the building based on the increased liability that comes with the knowledge of weaknesses in the building. We have, in writing, a report from a certified structural engineer stating that significant portions of the building have some framing problems. While it could be considered unlikely, if an accident ever happened that someone could connect to the structural integrity of the building, our knowledge of the engineer's report would send the district's liability for injuries skyrocketing. That is a liability I am unwilling to accept for the district or myself.

The whole debate surrounding the old high school, now referred to as the Fine Arts building, began because there are some pretty definite facility needs that our school district is facing. The library shared by the middle school and high school doesn't come

These are just two or several other pressing needs that could be listed. No amount of renovation to the old building would result in the kinds of space required to meet district needs. At best, after a very expensive renovation, we would have some classrooms available, but not a library or cafeteria; and we would still have a 90-year-old building.

In addition to other needs, our campus is very spread out. Students attend classes in four different buildings regardless of weather. For any project the district undertakes, avoiding further spreading out of our campus must be a consideration.

I understand the sentimentality connected to the old high school. I went to school in that building for years, too. However, the Houston R1 School District does not exist to serve history or sentiment; it exists to serve the students of today. We have as our primary duty to our current and future students to use available resources in the best, most efficient way possible to ensure that we offer them the most optimum education we can.

In the decisions with which we are faced, much more weight must be given to what is best for our kids now, than is given to holding on to our past. Both are important, but not equally important. Still, I believe we can find a way to do both simultaneously.

Dr. Dan Vandiver, superintendent To the editor: This is in response to Reg Kelly's

Fiddling While History Burns

Since all roads lead to Rome, by what route Winn or some unnamed "separate architect," arrived at the choice to have Pinnacle of Springfield produce a report on the historic high school building is irrelevant. The report's lack of objectivity lies in its selective bias and its ultimate worthlessness in the fact that it did not inspect the load bearing beams themselves. The alleged unsupported area grows, magically morphs before our very eyes, in the superintendent's letter, from being "part made up of only 2x4 lumber" to three paragraphs later, "framing in large areas between the first and second floors" then to "significant portions of the building have framing problems"!

This is a striking illustration how one raindrop can grow into an imagined flood when one sees what one wishes to see rather than sticking to what is actually printed. This is how fact quickly grows into mythology. From a few 2x4s supporting a drop-down ceiling, the engineer certainly should have known better than to make any pronouncement at all about the hidden floor joists above it, which are undoubtedly the same massive 2x12 oak beams which they used for support throughout the building. The materials used in a building are obviously relevant to its structural strength. Any inspection which does not know the materials and does not see the beams is worthless in its calculations because they are being applied to an unknown "X."

Any superintendent knows that school districts are absolutely protected by state law from being held liable for accidents by community groups using their buildings. Statute 177.031.1 ...“The school board shall keep the school houses and other buildings in good repair.. and cause an accurate account of the expense thereof to be kept..177.031.2. All persons upon whose application or at whose request the use of any schoolhouse building ...is permitted.. shall be jointly and severally liable for any injury or damage thereto which directly re-sults from the use.”

Superintendents and school board members are required to know such basic state laws (ignorance is not considered an excuse) because violating laws about public use of buildings, no bid contracts, etc. can cause their state aid to be suspended. I can only conclude therefore that the statement that the Houston alumni were banned from the use of the historic auditorium because of the potential of an accident “sending the district’s liability for injuries skyrocketing” was knowingly false, not a mistake based on ignorance of the law.

My observation that preserving history and allowing for growth are obviously not mutually exclusive alternatives (Cabool, Willow Springs and Mountain Grove quite sensibly did not insist on building on the same site as their original high schools) was evaded. The Houston School District does indeed exist to serve history as well as to serve the students of today because there is no contradiction between them as Cabool, Mountain Grove and Willow Springs have demonstrated. Preserving history has nothing to do with "sentimentality." Education is the inheritance of the past guiding the otherwise blind perspective that only knows the present. Therefore preserving history is absolutely indispensable to education.

As to one citizen's feigned fear that he finds my "obsession with the building frankly scary": if you can't distinguish between the determination of those citizens who tried to save historic Rome from burning down and the Nero who was obsessed with destroying its history, so that only his new buildings would be remembered, there is no hope for you. It's no use for his ghost writer to keep pretending that I am alone. Last April 8, 479 voters agreed with me. Their numbers are growing. The Missouri Historical Preservation experts agreed with me. The National Historical Monument list may soon announce its agreement with me. Nero, please fiddle at least a different tune. This old sawing away, appealing to fear rather than reason, is out of synch with the nation.

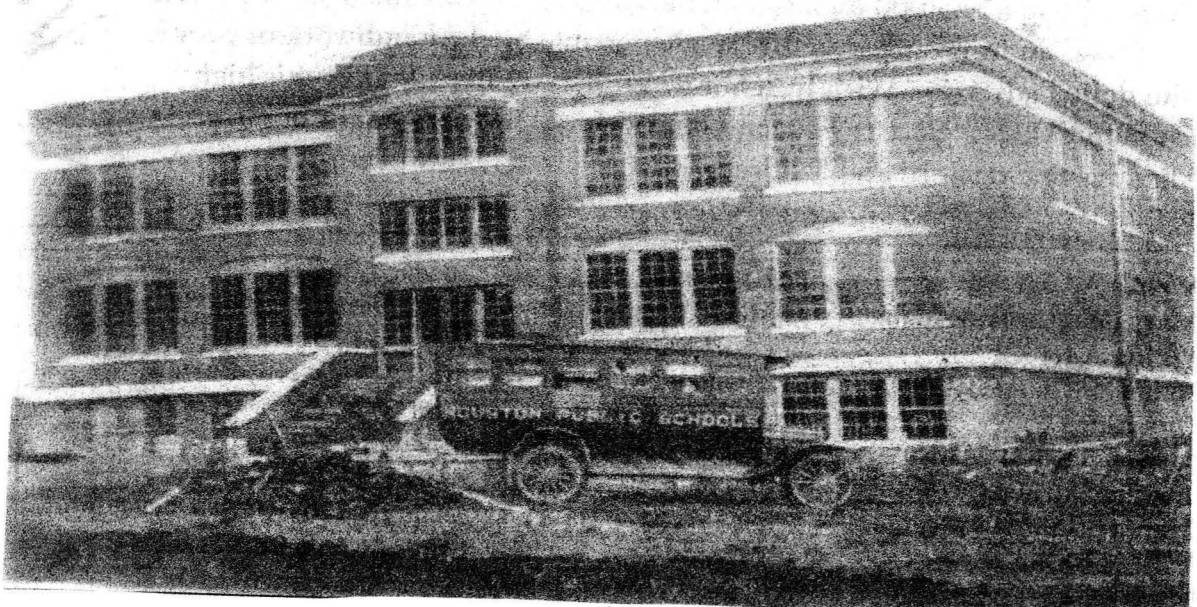
John Impey

Alumni Please Speak Up to Save the Historic Home of the Houston Tigers

The concept and construction of the Historic Houston High School: An Enduring Monument to Hope.

1921 was a dark time for the people of Texas County. They had been hard hit by a war, then three years of Spanish Influenza epidemic. They labored in the shadow of the twin hardships of poverty and the lingering consequences of World War I. Hope for the next generation seemed blighted like blossoms in a late frost. Of the local young men serving in that war, forty were killed, twice that number returned home wounded or suffering from shell-shock. The Spanish Influenza had also claimed over three hundred lives locally.

Yet, it was in this time of despair and grief that the community of Houston pulled together to build an enduring monument to the hope that their youth would have a brighter educational future by building a new high school with their own hands, making great sacrifices to do so. The historic Houston High School building remains today as a testament to the faith, courage, and determined spirit of self-sufficiency of the Houston community which, at that time, only numbered 600 people. Those determined people rose above adversity to see this building become a reality. Today it stands on that hill above town as a solid monument to what can be achieved when there is a concerted will to achieve by a community. For these reasons, our High School building has been recognized and honored by the Missouri Historical Preservation Society in 2008 as worthy of nomination to the National Register of Historical Monuments. (Photo during construction 1921)



"A new high school was needed, but the school had no building fund... When the lowest bid for the project was \$59,000, C.E. Covert, president of the board, called a town meeting and said, "I'll tell you what we'll do, we'll build this high school ourselves. Every brick will be made from clay within sight of town, every piece of lumber will be cut from Texas County trees." And it was so.

A company was organized to buy machinery and start a brick plant. A member of the school board bought the first \$100 share and within an hour \$3,000 had been subscribed to the company. No contractor was hired. Bricks were made at \$15 a thousand as against the market price of \$45. Pine lumber at a cost of \$22. 50 a thousand which was one half of the market price. Oak for the floor was \$35 a thousand against the market price of \$125.

When the building was about half finished, the funds were exhausted... Thirty citizens signed a note for \$15,000 and this sum was borrowed. A special election was then held, bonds were voted and the debt was paid. The boys of the Vocational Industrial Arts classes wired the building, installed the plumbing, and made the furniture. A boiler, costing \$10 was converted into a pressure tank. An old generator was purchased from a street car company in Springfield and was used as a power plant so that motion pictures could be shown in high school. When the work was completed, Houston had a \$65,000 high school building which cost the district \$30,000.

It was an imposing structure made possible by the handiwork of people who defied adversity. With little money and a wonderful faith, this high school provides a place to educate the youth of Houston and its environs."- Alice Fourt Crawford and Mildred Fourt Melton, *Texas County Heritage*,

Founding A Heritage 1921

Walter Adams *	W.H.Arthur	Howard Bartch
Mary (Westbrook) Adams	Aquilla (Douglas) Arthur	Pearl (Johnson) Bartch
Walter Adey	James H Baker	William E. Barton *
Amanda (Elmore) Adey	Ora (Goodwin) Baker	Marietta (Tweed) Barton
Guy Akins	James A Baker	John C Baty
Melva (Bowles) Akins	Anne (Edwards) Baker	Mary (Atchely) Baty
Joseph Aldridge	Walter Baker	Elmer Blankenship *
Mary (Bellamy) Aldridge	Bessie (Watson) Baker	Meda (Burchard) Blankenship
Wales E. Aldridge	Otis Bandy	Effie (Tweed) Blickensderfer *
Mary (Gobble) Aldridge	May (McCubbins) Bandy	

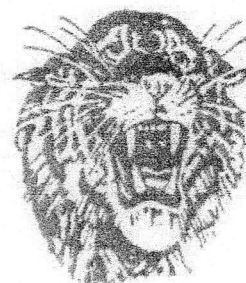
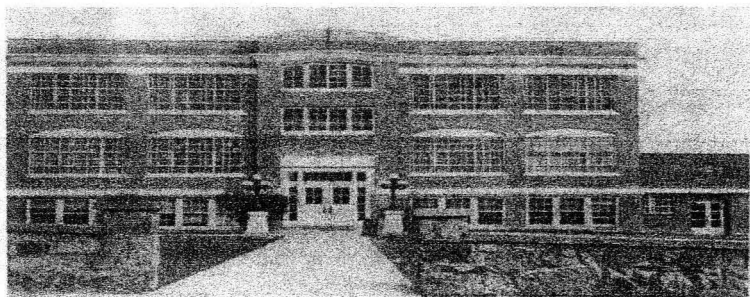
Local Families who contributed to the Historic High School Building construction.

Your Help is needed now! If you believe that the Historic Home of the Houston Tigers must be preserved for our future please act!

Contact the School Board Members and let them know that any new construction should not come at the cost of the destruction of our community constructed building. Plenty of unused space exists behind the building for any future expansion or construction. Please don't be misled that this building has lost its purpose or function. Examine it for yourself, it is a solid testament to quality construction, craftsmanship and building materials that do not exist today.

**Contact : Houston R-1 School District Bd.
423 West Pine,
Houston , MO. 65483
(417) 967-3024**

Or **e-mail** District School Board members:
Tom Dunn - puppydoc@train.missouri.org
Sharon Rees - sharonlearees@yahoo.com
Kathy Hutcheson - askhutch@centurytel.net
Call now!! Don't wait until the bulldozers get there!!



Houston School Song

*"THE HOUSTON TOAST"
Here's to dear old Houston,
She's tried and true;
Gladly we'll back her
In what she may do.*

*See, the foe is trembling,
Trembling with fear;
Push! Pull! for Houston,
With cheer on cheer.*

(Continued: Some of the Texas County Families who helped construct the HHS Building)

S.E. Atkisson *	William O. Collins	Roy E. Crawford	Mary (Harris) Elmore
Julia (Holt) Atkisson	William W. Collins	Lola (Rickard) Crawford	
James C. Bennett *	Margaret (Ragsdale) Collins	William G. Davis	William Forbes
Cora (Miller) Bennett	Walter Copeland *	Leona (McGibney) Davis	
Cecil Bennett *	Jenny (Connelly) Copeland	Charley Davis	Gladys (Campbell) Forbes
Isaac Bowles	James Corbett	Bessie (Wallace) Davis	
Mae (Spangle) Bowles	Laura (Guilly) Corbett	Walter Davis	John Foster
George Branson	Claud Courtney	Grace (Cooper) Davis	
Lelah (Vandervoort) Branson	Ruth (Hedgepeth) Courtney	John R. Douglas	Rhonda (Burriss) Foster
James E. Bridges	C.E. Covert *	Jennie (Bell) Douglas	David I. Foulk *
Mary (Ward) Bridges	Virginia (Sutherland) Covert	Bessie (Douglas) Gentry	
John T. Bridges	J.H. Covert *	Nellie Mae Gentry *	
Helen (Burney) Bridges	Anna (Garner) Covert	Willis G. Douglas	Alice (Edwards) Foulk
Mary Britzman *	Albert M. Coyle	Maude (Davis) Douglas	
James G. Brown *	Ester (Pierce) Coyle	Charles H. Duke	Lewis A. Fourn *
Irene (Gentry) Brown *	Elbert E. Crawford	Iris (Mott) Duke	Ransom W. Fourn *
Walter A. Browne	Gertrude (Castor) Crawford	Howard H. Eberhardt	
Henry Burch *	Elbert M. Crawford	Jennie (Harmon) Eberhardt	
Julia (Hogan) Burch	Louise (House) Crawford	C.E. Elmore*	Goldie (Todd) Fourn *
T.E. Cavaness	Homer Crawford	Adda (Crimson) Elmore	
Mattie (Keeney) Cavaness	Bessie (Coats) Crawford	James A. Elmore	

* a leader in building the high school, organizing, financing, or a leading educator

ALERT!!!!!!

The Current Houston School Board is considering a proposal to destroy our Historic Houston High School Building. Please let them know that you oppose this. They need to hear your voice and demands to save this building which is an important part of our community heritage.

Last April 8th, the voters of Houston defeated a school bond issue which would have resulted in the **destruction** of the Historic Houston High School building. **The Board is considering a new school bond proposal and will again in the April 2009 election be seeking \$7.5 million dollars from local taxpayers for a building which will occupy the same site of the Historic Houston High School Building, Please demand that the School Board build on another site and preserve this important part of Houston's History** and the home of so many Alumni memories. The building is still sound and stable based upon the expert handiwork and craftsmanship of our forefathers and fellow Houstonians who built it. This viable and strong edifice of a building deserves to continue to serve the people of this community who paid for it and the school board should be directed to preserve and protect this community asset rather than unnecessarily destroy it.