

Texas Historical Commission staff (AD), 11/5/2008, 11/24/08
18" x 28" Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker without post for attachment to masonry
Hidalgo County (Job #08HG02) Subject EB, ED (Atlas) UTM: 14 601205E 2893094N
Location: Weslaco, S. Iowa Street at 7th Street

WESLACO HIGH SCHOOL

WESLACO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FORMED IN 1921, WHEN RESIDENTS PETITIONED THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TO SEPARATE FROM DONNA ISD. UPON THE DISTRICT'S CREATION, BOARD MEMBERS PLANNED FOR THE FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING, DESIGNED BY SAN ANTONIO ARCHITECT HARVEY P. SMITH AND COMPLETED BY BROWNSVILLE'S H.L. FITCH AND CO. BY FEB. 1923. THE ONE-STORY SCHOOL BUILDING WITH RAISED BASEMENT IS BUILT OF REINFORCED CONCRETE AND HOLLOW TILE, FACED WITH DARK BUTLER BRICK AND LIGHTER BANDS NEAR THE ROOFLINE. THE RECESSED CENTRAL ENTRY HAS A PROMINENT DOOR SURROUND AND PEDIMENT. THE STRUCTURE AND ADJACENT WESLACO JUNIOR HIGH WERE THREATENED WITH DEMOLITION BEFORE BEING REHABILITATED FOR THE 2006-07 SCHOOL YEAR.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2008
MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:
2008 Official Texas Historical Marker
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid November 1, 2007 to January 15, 2008 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

Proposed marker topic (official title will be determined by the THC): **First Weslaco High School**

County: Hidalgo

Town (nearest county town on current state highway map): **Weslaco**

Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above: **S. Iowa Street at 7th Street**

NOTE: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

Criteria:

1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.
3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state

of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications: If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B and Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigns/madnrcrit.html> for National Register criteria.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC. For RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; online map (see details below); site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure.

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than January 15, 2008.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and secondary.
- Applications for RTHL markers must include a current city or county map through TopoZone.com that clearly denotes the proposed marker location. Instructions for using TopoZone.com are available on the THC web site.
- Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC,

the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:

- Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any: Topozone map will be forwarded separately from another e-mail address.

Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair): Glenn C. Housley, HCHC MMarker Chair

Mailing address: 1015 Valley View Drive **City, Zip:** Weslaco 78596

Daytime phone (with area code): 956-968-7468 **Email address** (required): gchousley@yahoo.com

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Property owner: Richard Rivera, Superintendent, Weslaco Independent School District

Address: 319 W. Fourth street **City, state, zip:** Weslaco TX 78596

Phone: 956-969-6503 **Email address:** rrodrigu@wisd.us [Rosemary Rodriguez, secy]

Legal Description of the property (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): Weslaco Townsite Block 47, Lots 6-17

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

NOTE: The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. [All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary.] Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.

- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

Marker sponsor (may be individual or organization): Hidalgo County Historical Commission

Contact person (if applicable): Glenn C. Housley, HCHC Marker Chair

Mailing address: 1015 Valley View Drive **City, zip:** Weslaco 78596

Email address (required): gchousley@yahoo.com **Phone: 956-968-7468**

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Name: Rudy Saenz, WISD Warehouse Supervisor

Street address: 1916 Joe Stephens Drive **City, zip:** Weslaco 78596

Daytime phone (required): 956-969-6840 **Email** (required): rsaenz@wisd.us

TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:

- 27" x 42" RTHL marker with post (\$1500)
- 27" X 42" RTHL marker without post* (\$1500)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
- 18" x 28" RTHL marker without post* (\$1000)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)
- RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post* (\$750)

*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:

- wood
- masonry
- metal
- other (specify)

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us.

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
 - This application form
 - A TopoZone.com map of the proposed marker location
 - The narrative history (including documentation)

RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC: The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html>).



FIRST WESLACO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING

I. CONTEXT.

Even before the City of Weslaco, founded in December 1919, was incorporated on March 5, 1921, a major concern of the new settlers was education of their children.

Weslaco was a small pioneering community carved out of newly irrigated ranchlands on the Texas-Mexico border, with muddy streets and wood shacks, frame houses or tents to shelter its sparse population. In this area of the Rio Grande Valley where one-room ranch schools had been the only educational institutions, and students were not expect to attend beyond elementary grades, an influx of well-educated, prosperous settlers created an immediate demand for better school facilities.

As part of the Donna Independent School District, Weslaco's primary and secondary school classes met in the Community House and two wood-frame church buildings. High school students met in one of the first substantial business structures, the Guaranty State Bank building on South Texas Boulevard.

Pending accreditation of Weslaco's school system, seniors rode in open trucks over unimproved roads to attend classes in Donna, four miles away, during 1920-1921. Sometimes, when roads were impassable, they rode the train. Sixteen Weslaco students were graduated from Donna High School in the spring of 1921. Weslaco separated from the Donna Independent School District (ISD) and formed Weslaco ISD on March 12, 1921.

. The School Board built its first permanent building, Weslaco High School, designed by distinguished architect Harvey P. Smith, which was accepted on Feb. 15, 1923. This building and its companion Weslaco Junior High School building (erected 1925 and also

designed by Smith) were restored in 2005-2006 and the two are now part of the Central Middle (junior high) School complex.

During the past 85 years, the Weslaco School Board has provided five separate buildings to accommodate Weslaco's growing high school population. First was the 1923 institutional style structure at East 7th and Iowa Streets. Then came the 1925 Mediterranean Revival style Junior High School building on the same campus, occupied by the high school in 1934. In 1956, high school students moved across Iowa Avenue to their new high school and city-school auditorium complex at East 6th and Iowa Streets. Weslaco's 4,150 high school students are now served by the 9.5 acre campus of Weslaco High School (built 1975) at 1006 West Pike Avenue and by Weslaco East High School (built 2000), located at 810 South Pleasantview Drive (Mile 3 ½ West).

II OVERVIEW.

Elementary Schools. The new town of Weslaco (acronym for W.E.Stewart Land CO.) was rapidly organized after the townsite lot auction December 8, 9 and 10 of 1919. A community house, built on city property at Kansas and Fifth Streets, was dedicated in 1920. . The wood frame all-purpose structure was used for a city hall, church services, town meetings, social gatherings, and on weekdays, as the school. Movable partitions separated the classes. After long months of waiting, Donna School District erected the handsome new wood and stucco Stephen F. Austin Grammar School at 4th and Oklahoma Streets in 1921. (1)

Meanwhile, in January 1921, parents and other citizens petitioned the Texas Legislature for creation of a separate school district. Their efforts paid off on March 11, 1921, when a special act of the legislature created the Weslaco Independent School

District out of a portion of Donna ISD. (Full accreditation was received in 1924.) (2)

In the April 1921 school board election, with 66 votes cast, seven trustees were named. They were: A. C. Bratton, Mrs. H.L.Buddemyer, James Chamberlain, Mrs. J.W.True, M.J.Clark, H.A.Holloway, and (first mayor) L.H Nix. Bratton was elected board president and Nix secretary at the board's first meeting. W H Hoge was named to take the first school census. In 1921, he reported 842 school age children: 445 boys and 397 girls. Estimated population of Weslaco was between 1,000 and 1,200 citizens. (3)

In the summer of 1921, by vote of 83 to 3, Weslaco voters approved \$100,000 in school bonds, to erect the town's first permanent school building, a high school.

Architect. In November 1921, the Weslaco School Board employed the San Antonio architectural firm of Smith & Kelly to design the high school building. Smith was the lead architect.

Harvey Partridge Smith (1889-1964), born in Minneapolis, received his education at Northwestern University, University of Arizona, Art Institute of Chicago and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris. He began his architectural career in 1906, moved to San Antonio in 1915 where he worked for Atlee B. Ayres and later Ralph Cameron. In 1919, he formed a partnership with Robert B. Kelly until 1924, when he opened his own office. Smith designed the first Weslaco High School Building (completed 1923) and the first Weslaco Junior High School Building (completed 1925). (4)

Site. In March of 1922, city founder and Townsite Company president Ed C.Couch offered to sell a site for the high school in Townsite Block 47 at the east edge of town and some adjacent land outside the city limits, on the east side of Iowa Street, for \$3500.

The new high school was built here, on Block 47, between East 6th and 7th Streets on the

north and south, and bordered by Illinois and Iowa Streets. (By 2007, a multi-school complex occupied 21 acres in the area.) (5)

Construction. The School Board approved Architect Smith's plans for the high school, and the next month, 10 April 1922, they awarded the construction bid to H.L. Fitch and Company of Brownsville for \$62,655.

High School Building Accepted 1923. The School Board accepted the new High School Building on February 15, 1923. Mr. Holloway (a school board member) was employed to prepare the grounds for planting shrubbery and grass, and to grade the unpaved streets around the new high school. (6)

Description of Building. The first Weslaco High School building (1923) is an institutional style school building. It does not incorporate historical decoration but straightforwardly expresses the spatial organization of the building as a series of classrooms opening off a central hallway. (7)

Although it appears to be two stories, the original Weslaco High School is a one-story, reinforced concrete frame hollow-brick and tile structure with a high basement. Façade is dark red Elgin Butler face brick, with white trim outlining the flat roofline and doors and windows, and with a white horizontal band below the parapet. Hardwood floors are edge grain heart flooring (cost \$210 more than common edge grain). Walls are lathe and plaster. There are 15 classrooms.

First floor, eight feet above ground level, is approached by fairly steep, wide concrete steps on all sides. The lower level has generous windows for light and ventilation. Heating was originally by wood stoves, later changed to gas stoves.

Main entrance faces north, into the inner campus lawn. Double doors are protected

by an entry porch under a Roman arch flanked by pilasters supporting a modest pediment. Wings on each side of the main entrance have murals with the raised metallic outline of a snarling panther, the football team mascot. A central projection on the south side contains the auditorium and balcony, which overlooks a stage.

Athletic Field. Students began playing football in 1922, and in 1923 the team obtained a coach, Rufus Ward. The first football game between Weslaco and Donna was held in the fall of 1924. An audience of 200 stood on the sidelines to watch the hard-fought contest, and were gratified to see the Purple Panthers emerge with a 3-0 victory, beginning a long-standing rivalry which persists to this day. Steel bleachers, obtained when Rice Institute upgraded its own facilities, were installed in September 1948. (8)

Junior High School. On March 27, 1925, the Weslaco School Board selected an architect for a Junior High School building to be built on the same campus as the Weslaco High School.. Their choice was Harvey P. Smith, who had previously designed the Weslaco High School building. Smith's plans for the Mediterranean Revival style junior high school and a new Mexican school were accepted April 4, 1925. On June 19, the contract for the two new school buildings was awarded to Bock & Company of Brownsville for \$48,600. Construction was fairly rapid, and the junior high school building was completed that year, 1925. (9) The two buildings exchanged functions in 1934 because of the growing junior high school population.

Landscaping 1926. In September of 1926, the position of landscape gardener for all the schools was created. A board member was instructed to purchase a mule for use on school grounds. Mrs. Golda La Duke Roberts (WHS '34) recalled seeing the mule pull a mower) The mule was sold in 1931 for \$45, after a power mower was purchased. (10)

Barbee Field. In 1933, Superintendent W. T. Barbee, principal F.E. McConnell

and Oliver Swinnea, grounds and buildings superintendent, planted a double row of hackberry trees around the junior and senior high schools. A rare Java plum tree still shades the junior high school entrance. In 1934 the athletic field was dedicated. A few weeks later, W. T. Barbee died of typhus fever. A memorial gate reading "Barbee Field" was erected in his memory by the senior classes of 1934 and 1936. (11)

New quarters for Weslaco High School 1934. In 1934, because of increased junior high school enrollment, the junior and senior high schools exchanged buildings on the Iowa Street campus. (12)

High School Gymnasium. Following a delay caused by post-war building restrictions 1946-47, and a whirlwind bond-selling campaign in which students sold \$50,000 worth, a \$110,000 gymnasium was completed. Formal opening was May 28, 1948. Floor space was 8,526 square feet. The building was brick and tile with laminate roof. Seating capacity was 300, to be expanded to 1400. Located on the southeast corner of Iowa and E.7th Streets, it served both junior and senior high schools. (13)

War Years 1943-1945. During the period of the Second World War, Weslaco High and Weslaco Junior High Schools flew the "Schools at War" flag. Every student and teacher bought war stamps or war bonds, almost \$400,000 worth. The basement of the junior high school was designated as an air raid shelter. Twenty-one WHS graduates and one teacher were killed in action. In 1945, WHS graduate ('43) Marine Corporal. Harlon Block was photographed in Joe Rosenthal's famous picture of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima. He died in the battle two weeks later. (14)

New High School on E. 6th Street. In 1952, with enrollment at 539, planning for a new high school building began. In 1954, a bond issue was approved for the new high

school. On Feb.10, 1956, students moved across Iowa Avenue to their new 8.5 acre high school and city-school auditorium complex (now Central Middle School) on E. 6th Street. Lacking funds for landscaping, students brought plugs of grass from home to sod the lawn. (15)

Weslaco High School at 1005 West Pike Avenue. In 1969, the Board of Education purchased a 9.5 acre tract for a new WHS campus. The new plant, completed in 1975, provided 129 classrooms and the handsome new Bobby Lackey Athletic Stadium. (16)

Weslaco East High School. On Dec 16, 1998, there was a ground-breaking ceremony for Weslaco East High School, at Business Highway 83 and Mile 3 ½ West Road. The new complex was completed by the 2000-2001 school year for 2200 students. (17)

Rehabilitation first WHS and WJHS buildings. With a continuous program of new school construction, the first WHS and WJHS buildings on Iowa Avenue were vacated. During a class reunion tour of Weslaco, guide and local historian Glenn C. Housley informed WHS alumni that their alma mater was scheduled for demolition. Determined to save the two revered structures, WHS graduate ('73) and now practicing architect Hector Garcia convinced the Weslaco School Board to preserve the buildings.

Garcia's architectural firm, Mata-Villarreal-garcia Design Group of McAllen, got the job. In August 2004, Enriquez Enterprises of Pharr was chosen as contractor. On September 5, 2006, WISD hosted an open house for the rehabilitated buildings. (18)

The restored buildings now meet all building codes. Designated Annex A (built 1925) and Annex B (built 1923) of Central Middle School (the 1956 high school building), they now provide 15 classrooms, a library and Fine Arts Department for Weslaco Independent School District.

Noteworthy Graduates. Weslaco High School has extended its influence nationwide. Its graduates have excelled in many fields: medicine, politics, statesmanship, entertainment, social service, education, military service, and business. Among these are actors Pat Hingle and David Spielberg, major generals Cecil Childre and Walter Baxter III, professional football player Bobby Lackey, Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Raul Gonzalez, Doctors Armando Cuellar and Robert Sepulveda (both School Board members), five-times Weslaco mayor Joe Sanchez, present Weslaco mayor Hector de la Rosa, McAllen Mayor Richard Cortez, Mercedes City Manager Alan Kamasaki, WISD Superintendent Richard Rivera and Cameron County Judge Ray Ramon.

Among women graduates are educator (Weslaco's first Hispanic Ph.D.) Dr. Amparo Cardenas, theatrical producer Shirley Atkins, publisher Allie Aldridge Haden, surgeon Dr. Sandra Esquivel, Municipal Judge Mindy Garza Farias, Weslaco City Commissioner Soyla Reyna Gonzalez, Austin ISD administrator Pat Andersen Nizer, and hospital administrator Debbie Verser Rektorik.

Superintendents. WISD has had eighteen superintendents. (19)

1921-1924 Harburd Tarpley	1949-1951 O. R. Scott
1924-1926 R. A. Dean	1951-1962 Grady Hester
1926-1934 E.E. Chamnes	1962-1964 D. F. O'Quinn
1934 W. T. Barbee	1964-1968 Jack Frost
1934-1939 F.C. McConnell	1969-1969 M. N. Henson
1939-1941 C. B. Cooper	1969-1972 Otto. W. Longlois
1941-1944 Fred Kay	1973-1974. Dr. Clyde Greer
1944-1948 Joe H.Wilson	1974-1996 A. N. Rico

1948-1949 A.C. Murphy

1996-Present Richard Rivera

III SIGNIFICANCE.

The first Weslaco High School building, judiciously restored and adapted to modern building codes and school requirements, represents Weslaco's enduring commitment to the education of its youth. Provision of first-class, adequate school facilities, faculty and programs, and the responsible management demonstrated by governors of the Weslaco Independent School District have assured the development of civic leadership and progress. The effect has been far-reaching, as Weslaco High School graduates spread across the nation. An educated, productive citizenry has assured strong and efficient government, economic well-being, and social progress for the city and beyond..

IV DOCUMENTATION

1. Weslaco 1919-1969, 50th Anniversary Celebration, Official historical booklet, Weslaco, Texas. Eleanor Mortensen, editor. "A town is born." p 11.
2. Mortensen. "First school census taken" p 17, and Weslaco News, Weslaco TX, Dec. 1, 1948. "History of school parallels story of Weslaco" by Peggy Kirgan.
3. Mortensen, p 18. "First school census taken." And Johnson, Marjorie. "Weslaco Timeline 1519-2006" prepared for the Weslaco Museum. Weslaco TX, May 2006.
4. New handbook of Texas in six volumes. Austin TX: State Historical Association, 1996. "Smith, Harvey Partridge" by Christopher Long. Vol. 6, p 1099.

Smith was a prolific Texas architect; he was responsible for restoration of the Governor's Palace and the San Antonio Missions, Sunken Garden, Open Air Theater, 1936. Also 30 buildings for Southwest Texas Teachers College in San Marcus 1944, Nimitz Jr High School in San Antonio 1961, and numerous buildings in the Rio Grande Valley. Alexander Architectural Collection,

- University of Texas at Austin, UT Architects' Brochures File, "Harvey P. Smith" c1940.
5. Weslaco Independent School District. School Board Minutes, Vol. 1, 1921-1931. Unpaged. [Unless otherwise attributed, School Board activities reported in this document are derived from School Board Minutes at the date given.]
 6. Minutes, Feb. 15, 1923.
 7. Fox, Stephen. Rice University, Houston TX. E-mail with Frances Isbell, Weslaco TX, February 13-14, 2007.
 8. Mortensen, p 22. "The first years."
 9. Minutes, March 27, April 4, and June 19, 1925.
 10. Minutes, January 31, 1931.
 11. Mortensen, p 39. "Changes in Superintendent."
 12. Weslaco News, Weslaco TX. "Early years remembered; Weslaco's schools '22-'49." By Walter Bach and Louise Black. June 26, 1969.
 13. Weslaco Board of Education, Weslaco TX. Program. "Weslaco gymnasium Formal opening May 28, 1948."
 14. Mortensen, p 50 "Eight sons serve country." And Weslaco News, June 26, 1969,. "Early years remembered; Weslaco's Schools '22-'49."
 15. Weslaco Mid-Valley News, Weslaco TX. 50th Anniversary edition, December 1969. "M-Day remembered by Louise Black."
 16. Cabaza, Raul. Memorandum to Dr. Amparo Cardenas. "Weslaco ISD building dates." Weslaco TX, May 5, 1994.
 17. Mid-Valley Town Crier, Weslaco TX. December 12/13, 1998. "Ground-breaking ceremony slated for new school."
 18. Weslaco Independent School District, Weslaco, TX; Program "Central Middle School Annex A, Annex B Open House, Sept 5, 2006."
 19. Weslaco High School, Weslaco TX. Department of Journalism. La Palma [annual; some incorporate Weslaco Hi-Life newspaper]. 1925-2006.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Acheson, Gambrell, Toomey and Acheson. Texian Who's Who, Dallas: TheTexianCo., 1937. "Smith, Harvey P.," p 429.

Ault, Janet. WISD Public Information Office, e-mail correspondence with Frances Isbell, Sept. 20, 2007.

Isbell, Brecht. Weslaco TX, Photographs Weslaco High Schools. July 2007.

Johnson, Marjorie. Historic Rio Grande Valley, an illustrated history. San Antonio: Historical Publishing Network for the Rio Grande Valley Partnership, Weslaco TX 2001. "Weslaco Independent School District," pp 260-261.

Mata-Villarreal-garcia Design Group l.l.p. Annex B, Senior Hall, North Elevation and floor plans, Weslaco Central Middle School, McAllen TX, n.d. [August 9, 2007]

Plat of Weslaco, Hidalgo County, Texas. Nov. 24, 1919. H.E. Bennett, Mercedes TX, Surveyor.

Sanborn Insurance Map of Weslaco TX. Updated to 1969. Sanborn Map. Co, Pelham NH.

Weslaco High School, 1005 Pike Avenue, Weslaco TX. Jose Nava, Journalism Department. La Palma (annual), 1926-2006.

Weslaco Museum. 515 S. Kansas St, Weslaco, TX. Historical archives and Photo Collection "Early Weslaco."

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Acheson, Gambrell, Toomey and Acheson. Texian Who's Who, Dallas: TheTexian Co., 1937. "Smith, Harvey P.," p 429.

Ault, Janet. WISD Public Information Office, e-mail correspondence with Frances Isbell, Sept. 20, 2007.

Hidalgo County Ranch Histories. Frances W. Isbell, editor. Edinburg, TX" Hidalgo County Historical Society and Hidalgo County Historical Commission, 1994. "Parajitos Ranch" and "San Pedro Ranch."

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