

Texas Historical Commission staff (CRB), 7/2/2012, rev (BB) 8/3/12  
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Harris County (Job #11HR17) Subject (Atlas ) UTM: 14 000000E 0000000N  
Location: Baytown, 1809 Market Street

### **ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL**

AFTER A POPULATION INCREASE DUE TO THE DISCOVERY OF OIL IN 1908, LOCAL RESIDENTS REALIZED THE NEED FOR PERMANENT SCHOOL FACILITIES AND FORMED THE GOOSE CREEK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT IN 1919, ENCOMPASSING THE CITIES OF GOOSE CREEK, PELLY, AND BAYTOWN AND THE WOOSTER COMMUNITY. PROMINENT HOUSTON ARCHITECT HARRY D. PAYNE DESIGNED A NEW SCHOOL, WHICH OPENED IN FALL 1928. THE ART DECO-STYLE BUILDING WITH CLASSICAL ELEMENTS IS CONCRETE-FRAMED WITH A STUCCO VENEER ON A CONCRETE FOUNDATION. NOTABLE FEATURES INCLUDE GLAZED TERRA COTTA ROOF TILES, BRICK TRIMMED NICHES WITH URNS, AND CLASSICAL FINIALS. ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL, NAMED DUE TO THE CONFEDERATE GENERAL'S POPULARITY IN THE AREA, SERVED AS A SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ENTIRE DISTRICT. SITED BETWEEN GOOSE CREEK-BAYTOWN HIGHWAY (NOW MARKET STREET) AND THE DAYTON-GOOSE CREEK RAILROAD (NOW UNION PACIFIC), THE SCHOOL WAS CENTRALLY LOCATED IN THE TRI-CITIES, ALLOWING IT TO UNITE THEM AND BECOME THE HEART OF THE AREA.

AS A STATED PURPOSE OF THE SCHOOL WAS TO BECOME THE CENTER OF ALL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND CHURCHES WERE ALLOWED TO USE ITS FACILITIES, AND THE AUDITORIUM BECAME A POPULAR VENUE FOR CIVIC EVENTS. ANOTHER PURPOSE WAS ADULT EDUCATION; FROM 1934 TO 1951, LEE JUNIOR COLLEGE HELD CLASSES AT NIGHT ON THE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS. DISASTER STRUCK ON APRIL 29, 1987, WHEN A FIRE, LATER DETERMINED TO BE ARSON, ENGULFED THE MAIN BUILDING. ALUMNI AND CITIZENS INSISTED ON RESTORATION OF THE BUILDING TO ITS ORIGINAL APPEARANCE. FROM THE BEGINNING, ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE WON NUMEROUS HONORS IN BOTH ACADEMICS AND ATHLETICS. OVER THE YEARS, THE SCHOOL HAS EXPANDED AND MODERNIZED TO CONSISTENTLY MEET THE HIGHEST STANDARDS AND REMAIN A FIRST-CLASS HIGH SCHOOL.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2011

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:  
2011 Official Texas Historical Marker  
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid September 1, 2010 to November 15, 2010 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):

ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL

**County:** Harris

**Town** (nearest county town on current state highway map): **Baytown, Texas 77520**

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:** 1809 Market Street

**Marker Coordinates:**

**If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:**

UTM Zone          Easting          Northing 29.73136          W 94.98652  
Lat:          Long:          (deg, min, sec or decimal degrees)

**Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here** (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek): Property and building faces Market 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.

Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NRHP.

**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; legal description of the property; site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure—please resize photographs to 1-2 MB, or approximately 1024 x 768 pixels).

- 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 November 15, 2010.
- 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.

- 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: This application is sent directly to the THC per our agreement of September, 2010.**

**Name of CHC contact** (chair or marker chair): Louis F. Aulbach, Marker Chair

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 925765 **City, Zip:** Houston, Texas 77292-5765

**Daytime phone** (with area code): 713-683-8379 **Email address** (required): lfa@hal-pc.org

### **PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

**Property owner:** Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District. ATTN: Dr. Toby York, Superintendent

**Address:** P.O. Box 30 **City, state, zip:** Baytown, Texas 77522

**Phone:** 281.420-4800 **Email address:** ctyork@gccisd.net

**Legal Description of the property** (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): Abstract: A66 W Scott (upper) league, Track 2. Harris County Appraisal District Act. 0410220020744

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):

Baytown Historical Preservation Association

**Contact person** (if applicable): Mrs. Jean McLeod

**Mailing address:** 2106 Pinemont Place **City, zip:** Baytown, Texas 77520

**Email address** (required): jean\_mcleod\_99@yahoo.com **Phone:** 281-422-9957

### **SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS**

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, residence addresses, post office box numbers and rural route numbers are not permitted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

**Name:** Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District (GCCISD)  
ATTN: DAVID FLUKER

**Street address:** 3401 North Main St **City, zip:** Baytown, Texas 77521

**Daytime phone** (required): 281-425-3223 **Email** (required): dkfluker@gccisd.net

### **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](mailto: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
  - The narrative history (including documentation)
  - Legal description of the property
  - Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure
  - Detailed site plan of the property
  - At least one historic photograph
  - Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure

**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/markerdesigns/madmark.html>)

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Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276  
Phone 512/463-5853  
[history@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:history@thc.state.tx.us)



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*

Application for a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker for the

**ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL  
BAYTOWN, TEXAS**

Written by Jean McLeod, Baytown Historic Preservation Association  
Architectural Description Contributed by Jan Lammers, AIA  
and presented to the Harris County Historical Commission

**I. CONTEXT**

Long before Robert E. Lee High School (REL) was built on the north bank of Goose Creek,<sup>1</sup> in what would later become the City of Baytown, the residents realized the importance of providing educational opportunities for their children.<sup>2</sup> Although the agricultural communities of nearby Cedar Bayou and Wooster had built schools for their children in the 1800s,<sup>3</sup> the area ~~in~~ between later known as Goose Creek was slower to establish formal public schools until the population began to increase after the discovery of oil nearby in 1908.<sup>4</sup> Nine years later, ~~Then~~ the big gusher *Sweet #11* in 1917 created a boomtown near Tabbs Bay and the mouth of Goose Creek after which wildcatters and oilfield workers poured into the area.<sup>5</sup>

As chaos settled into a more orderly society, temporary schools emerged.<sup>6</sup> By 1919, many residents realized more permanent facilities were needed, and the Goose Creek Independent School District was formed, although it did not receive its formal charter until 1920.<sup>7</sup> The new district encompassed the communities of Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown that were often at odds with each other because of social, cultural, economic, and political differences, as well as territorial issues.<sup>8</sup> The year after Goose Creek Independent School District was formed, the trustees added upper grades and opened the first high school in the old YMCA building.<sup>9</sup>

From the beginning, the trustees were determined to provide a quality education through high standards and first-class facilities to insure that students were well prepared for college or entering the work force. In 1921, citizens approved a bond issue to build five permanent schools, including Goose Creek High School (GCHS).<sup>10</sup> Mrs. Virgie King, a former Goose Creek student who moved with her family to Baytown in 1921, recalled, “In the spring of 1923, we moved into the new Goose Creek High School . . . . We carried our chairs down Jones Street, across the railroad tracks to the new school.”<sup>11</sup> In 1924, the State Board of Education recognized it as a “high school of the First Class,” and, in 1925, GCHS was included in the list of “All Southern”



affiliated schools. These affiliations enabled Goose Creek graduates to enroll without examination in the University of Texas and most universities in the South.<sup>12</sup>

The student enrollment grew as the stable population of the communities expanded,<sup>13</sup> due mostly to Humble Oil and Refining Company's continuing growth.<sup>14</sup> Within five years after the new GCHS opened, it was apparent that a much larger facility was needed.<sup>15</sup> Mrs. Virgie King recalled, "I have seen our school system grow from a barn, a shack in Pelly, and the YMCA to the superior system it is today."<sup>16</sup> In the few short years between the district's first school—a warehouse converted into a ten-room schoolhouse, "The Barn,"<sup>17</sup>-- and the opening of Robert E. Lee High School in the fall of 1928, the district had undergone phenomenal growth and change.

## II. OVERVIEW

When the Goose Creek board (B.C. Morgan, President, N.D. Stiles, W.Y. Harvey, Dr. F.L. Robbins, and W.B. Dumas)<sup>18</sup> met in the office of Superintendent J.C. Ingram on January 26, 1927, the stated purpose of the meeting was to discuss plans for a new building program for the district. Two of the attendees at the meeting were Mr. Jack Dies, attorney for Humble Oil and Refining Company, and Mr. R.E. Powell, superintendent of the Baytown Refinery. Mr. Dies expressed "the hearty approval of the Humble Oil and Refining Company for the proposed improvement of the schools."<sup>19</sup> He also stated that the Humble Oil Company wanted the ". . . Goose Creek and Baytown schools to be the best in the country; and he suggested that the Board build not only for the present but also for the future."<sup>20</sup> ~~At the direction of~~Directed by the trustees, the superintendent hired ~~at a cost of \$2,000,~~ Dr. T.H. Shelby and his staff from the Extension Department of the University of Texas for a \$2,000 fee to survey facilities, determine the needs of the district, and submit their final report in no longer than six months.<sup>21</sup> At the May 13, 1927, board meeting, the survey committee gave its preliminary report:

On an adequate site of land not less than twenty acres between Goose Creek and Baytown, we recommend the erection of a senior high school building for the entire district. This building to be erected [should] provide for an up-to-date senior high school program to serve as a center of all community activities and for full provision for part-time and adult educational programs.<sup>22</sup>

Following this recommendation, things moved quickly. In June, the board called for a bond election to address the needs of the district, including purchasing a site between Goose Creek and Baytown and building and equipping a new high school.<sup>23</sup> The board voted to hire Harry D.

Payne, a Houston architect, to draw up sketches for the proposed new buildings.<sup>24</sup> On July 2, 1927, district patrons passed a \$450,000 bond issue, with \$200,000 of which was designated for the new high school.<sup>25</sup> In October, the board approved the new high school plans for the new high school, and directed the architect to proceed with the school design. Additionally, two, and authorized two board members, Dr. Robbins and Mr. Stiles were authorized, to purchase a site for the new high school.<sup>26</sup> At the meeting of November 21, 1927, the board voted to name the new high school *Robert E. Lee Senior High School*<sup>27</sup> because of the Confederate general's popularity in the area. In December, the board discussed the possible purchase of land on the north bank of Goose Creek stream. The site for the new Robert E. Lee High School was located between the Goose Creek-Baytown Highway (later renamed Market Street) on the front ~~east,~~ west, north, south?north and the Dayton-Goose Creek Railroad (later Southern Pacific) at the back ~~[include cardinal direction]~~ on the south. The site was is would be a central location for the tri-cities of Goose Creek, Baytown, and Pelly.<sup>28</sup> Later that month, the board voted to pay \$20,000 for approximately fourteen acres to heirs of the Wiggins estate.<sup>29</sup> At the board meeting of March 6, 1928, the trustees opened the bids for construction of Lee and awarded the construction contracts to the following Houston firms: M.C. Parker for general construction, Lee Rogerson for plumbing, Walker Heating and Plumbing for heating, and Eugene Ash Electric Company for electrical work.<sup>30</sup> On March 20, 1928, the board held a special session to determine where the Lee site was actually located—Goose Creek or Pelly. Mr. Riggs had a contract to sell water to Pelly and wanted to sell water to the school as well. Upon reviewing maps provided by Mr. Lawler, an attorney for the school district, the trustees decided the site was in Goose Creek and, therefore, voted to run water lines from Goose Creek as originally planned.<sup>31</sup>

Construction was begun on Robert E. Lee in March of 1928 and continued throughout the spring and summer months. School was slated to begin on September 24 with plans to open the 1928-1929 year in the new building.<sup>32</sup> Some students from the first classes at Lee recalled carrying desks down the Southern Pacific railroad tracks to the new building.<sup>33</sup> Along with their desks, the students carried their school traditions—academic and athletic excellence, the school colors of maroon and white, the Gander mascot, and the title of their yearbook *The Gander*.<sup>34</sup> The opening of Robert E. Lee High School was a starting point for uniting the citizens in the rival communities. According to Margaret Henson, author of *The History of Baytown*, “Two threads connected them [Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown], however: The community high

school, Robert E. Lee, which opened in 1928, and their economic dependence on Humble Oil and Refining Company.”<sup>35</sup> The evolution of Robert E. Lee into the heart and soul of the Tri-Cities had begun.

In accordance with a stated purpose that Robert E. Lee become a center of all community activities, in November of 1928, the trustees voted to allow charitable organizations and churches in the Tri-Cities to use school auditoriums at any time as long as they did not interfere with school functions with the provision they pay for lights, gas, and janitorial services. Because the Lee auditorium was a large, modern, well-designed and equipped facility,<sup>36</sup> it became a popular venue for civic activities. In February of 1929, the trustees even approved the purchase of a grand piano costing \$1,300 for the Lee auditorium.<sup>37</sup>

In addition to providing the most up-to-date facilities for Robert E Lee, the trustees strived to provide excellence in all aspects of education at Lee. The practice of hiring highly-qualified teachers from prestigious colleges and universities, many with master’s degrees, began with the creation of Goose Creek High School and continued at Robert E. Lee.<sup>38</sup> This quest for excellence ~~in all things pertaining to Lee~~ prompted the board to contract with Star Engraving Company of Houston to supply the diplomas for the 1929 graduating seniors. The diplomas ~~were had to have~~ leather bindings with the name and seal of the school in gold letters stamped on the cover that ~~would be in was the school colors of~~ maroon and white, the school colors. The cost of each diploma was approximately three dollars,<sup>39</sup> a great sum of money at that time. In December of 1928, the trustees voted to hold all future board meetings in the superintendent’s office at Lee High School and ordered that the board minutes be placed there.<sup>40</sup> Thus, just as Lee was to be the center for community activities, it also became the educational center of the school district.

After completing the first year at Robert E. Lee High School, the staff of *The Gander*, the school’s yearbook, expressed their feelings about their new school:

In the beautiful Robert E. Lee High the students have a school of which they may be justly proud. The high knoll crowned by the majestic building, surrounded by moss-draped oaks, is a picture which can hardly be duplicated anywhere. The students can hardly appreciate how fortunate they are in having such a well situated school. The building, in itself a fitting tribute to the great Southern general, surrounded by clustering trees and overlooking the stream from which the city derives its name is a sight which is never forgotten once it is seen. The interior of the building is well planned with the utmost attention to detail, and has practical utility and conveniences without detracting from the school’s beauty ... .

Surely, with the atmosphere of high ideals created by our school, we cannot fail to go forth better people and better citizens.<sup>41</sup>

Although students were attending high school in the new Robert E. Lee building, the football games were still ~~being~~ played at the old high school campus. In March of 1930, trustees voted to build a new football facility on the Lee campus. After discussing several possibilities, they decided to construct the facility in the area between the back of the school and the Southern Pacific railroad track.<sup>42</sup> The facility opened in the fall of 1930 at a cost of \$28,000. District officials petitioned to showcase the new stadium by hosting the Harris County Interscholastic Athletic Meet.<sup>43</sup> The field was later named Elms Field in honor of Roy D. Elms, the first paid Gander football coach who later became the district's first athletic director.<sup>44</sup> Elms Field was later replaced by Memorial Stadium in 1947.<sup>45</sup>

In 1931, R.B. Sparks became principal of Robert E. Lee High School and served as principal until his death in 1959. Because of his outstanding leadership and dedication to the school and its students, Mr. Sparks earned the respect and affection of the staff, students, and community.<sup>46</sup> As Lee's longest-serving principal, he led the school through much growth and many changes.

Another of the original stated purposes of Robert E. Lee High School was to serve as a facility "for part-time and adult education programs."<sup>47</sup> In 1934, the school board voted to establish a junior college. The plans were to hold college classes at night on the REL campus. Voters overwhelmingly approved the plans, and classes for the new "first-class junior college" began in September of 1934 with 177 students.<sup>48</sup> This arrangement continued until 1951 when Lee Junior College moved into its new facilities.<sup>49</sup> The principal of REL also served as dean of the college. After the United States became involved in World War II, the college curriculum changed to meet wartime needs and continued to change to meet the need to prepare students for employment in industry.<sup>50</sup> Thus, Lee High School became the center of higher education in Baytown.

Due to the addition of the twelfth grade in 1937,<sup>51</sup> and increased high school enrollment, the school board voted to expand Lee's facilities. In January of 1936, ~~architect~~ Mr. L.L. Huie was hired to design additions to the main building. The board instructed him to draw plans that would add a wing that would extend ~~as far back as~~ ~~[south, north, east, west to]~~ ~~to~~ the football field ~~onto~~ each side of the original building. The wings ~~were~~ ~~were to be set toward~~ ~~planned for~~

the ~~back-rear elevation extending [south, north, east and west?]~~ of the original building and designed in the same architectural style so as not to detract from the original façade. The trustees called a bond election for May 1, 1936.<sup>52</sup> Voters of the district approved the bond issue.<sup>53</sup> A year later, the district added a new, detached gymnasium on the northeast side of the main building.<sup>54</sup>

After World War II ended, because of increased population and popularity of football, voters approved construction of a new football stadium for the Ganders. Trustees voted to name the new stadium Memorial Stadium in memory of Robert E. Lee High School students killed during World War II. A bronze plaque bearing their names was placed on the base of the flagpole near the entrance to the stadium and later moved to a place of honor inside the commons area of the school. The stadium was located on the far northeast side of the campus.<sup>55</sup>

The higher student numbers and popularity and growth of vocational education and extracurricular activities at Lee created a need for another expansion of facilities. In 1949, the district applied for a permit to construct a new detached cafeteria and vocational building behind the main building on land formerly part of Elms Field.<sup>56</sup> On July 20, 1953, trustees approved plans by Baytown architect Lowell Lammers for a freestanding fine arts building to house the Lee Band, choir, and Brigadiers. This facility was built on the north side of the gymnasium. In August of 1953, the board approved plans by Lowell Lammers for a new shop building to house both woodworking and metal trades shops and a new homemaking building with areas for both clothing and cooking instruction. All homemaking classes were housed on the first floor. The two-story facility provided additional classrooms on the second floor. These facilities were built on the east side of Lee near the cafeteria.<sup>57</sup> All of these additions were ready for occupancy in 1954. Just as this building program was completed, the trustees voted to add a swimming pool to the gymnasium and to expand the bleachers on the home side of Memorial Stadium.<sup>58</sup> Due to increased student enrollment, the old auditorium was no longer adequate for the needs of the school and community, and additional classroom space was needed. In 1958, a new detached auditorium was constructed at the end of the northeast wing between the main building and the gymnasium. The new auditorium designed by Lowell Lammers was large enough to seat the entire student body at one time and was the only air-conditioned facility on the campus for several years. In 1959, the high quality of the auditorium was recognized with an award of national honors for its outstanding design.<sup>59</sup> The space previously occupied by the original auditorium was converted into additional classrooms and administrative offices. By 1964, once

again the Lee student population was outgrowing the facilities, and the campus was in need of expansion, renovation, and modernization. The commons, a large enclosed, multipurpose area, was added to connect the cafeteria and vocational buildings to the back of the main building. The boys got a new gymnasium adjacent to the old gymnasium, and the old gym became the girls' gym.<sup>60</sup> In 1979, a much larger and more modern agriculture building was added to replace a much older and smaller one. Following these changes, the campus at Lee remained relatively unchanged for many years. In the fall of 1966, Ross S. Sterling High School (RSS) opened on the north side of Baytown to accommodate the town's rapidly growing population<sup>61</sup> and to relieve the overcrowded conditions at Lee, making further Lee expansion unnecessary for several years. At this time, the Goose Creek schools were fully integrated, and George Washington Carver High School, the school for African Americans, was closed as a high school. Now all high school students in Baytown attended either Robert E. Lee or Ross S. Sterling.

Then disaster struck. In the early morning hours of April 29, 1987, a massive fire engulfed the original main building of Robert E. Lee High School. Despite valiant efforts of the Baytown Fire Department, by dawn the entire section had burned and collapsed except for the exterior walls that remained intact. In spite of all the damage, the name Robert E. Lee could still be seen emblazoned above the front entrance as if to say I am still here. At first, the fire was believed to have been caused by an electrical problem<sup>62</sup>; however, further investigation determined it to be the work of arsonists.<sup>63</sup> As word of the fire spread through the community in the early morning hours, hundreds of Baytonians gathered at the site, watching in horror and disbelief the devastation wreaked on this historical community landmark. Members of the school board met in emergency session to plan for moving students to another site to complete the school term.<sup>64</sup> Rumors began to spread that the school board was contemplating abandoning the old campus and relocating the entire school to a new facility to be built on a different site. Fearing that such a move would mean the end of Robert E. Lee High School, two Lee alumnae, Baytown dentists Dr. John Hurr and Dr. Donald Brunson, began a petition drive to save the site, façade, and name of the school. Several thousand Baytonians united behind this group and pressured the trustees to restore the building to its original appearance.<sup>65</sup>

For the remainder of the 1987 school year, Lee students were moved onto the Ross S. Sterling High School campus in a split school day schedule. In the morning, the Sterling campus was Sterling High School, but in the afternoon, it became Robert E. Lee High School. Sterling

was manned by Sterling faculty and staff; Lee was manned by Lee faculty and staff.<sup>66</sup> Despite the heavy damage to the main building, the outlying Lee facilities were undamaged, and as soon as power was restored to them, the fine arts, athletic, and vocational programs continued on the Lee campus. The Lee auditorium was also usable and ready for Lee's May 1987 graduation.<sup>67</sup>

Due to intense pressure from the community, the trustees finally announced their plans to completely restore the Lee campus.<sup>68</sup> Things moved quicklyfast after that. Necessary contracts and purchases were all handled on an emergency basis without bids.<sup>69</sup> Estimated replacement and cost of the main building was over ten million dollars plus additional costs to restore adjacent areas having suffered less damage.<sup>70</sup> Construction was begun, and on January 19 (ironically General Robert E. Lee's birthday), 1988, Lee students and staff thankfully moved home-back into an uncompleted facility.<sup>71</sup> Fortunately, the wings had sustained only minor interior and exterior damage, which made the early return possible. The reconfiguration of the interior and restoration of the main building continued for several more months. No original walls on the main building or the wings were replaced. Restorations were necessary for portions of the interior of the central section of the main building. Like the Phoenix of old, Lee had risen from the ashes.

Once again, Lee had reunited the community. Merchants donated money to the Lee building fund;<sup>72</sup> fundraisers were held to help defray costs of restoration.<sup>73</sup> Shane Goodman, a Lee graduate and member of the Cadillac Cowboys, a country-western group, wrote "Loss of a Legend," to honor Robert E. Lee High School.<sup>74</sup> The band recorded the song and donated the proceeds from the sale to the Lee building fund.<sup>75</sup> The rededication ceremony for Lee was held on October 9, 1988, at which time Henry Armstrong, REL principal at the time of the fire, and Congressman Jack Fields, a U.S. Representative for Baytown, spoke at the rededication ceremony.<sup>76</sup>

In the years following the restoration, several changes have been made to the campus in order to keep it current with modern educational needs. The community has demanded that Lee be just as modern and desirable as the new facilities being built in the district. These have included the following: a new homemaking building to replace the one built in 1953, a new state-of-the-art football field house, a new cafeteria, vocational facilities, additional classrooms, and a two-story science building with modern laboratories. In addition, in 2010 the district dedicated the recently completed Memorial Sports Complex. The complex includes Gary N. Herrington



Field (named for a long-time Gander baseball coach); Pete Sultis Stadium that was formerly named Memorial Stadium and renamed to honor a former Gander football coach, athletic director, and school board member; the Lady Ganders Softball Field; and a state-of-the-art football field house.<sup>77</sup>

From the very beginning, the communities showed strong support for all things having to do with Robert E. Lee High School. “Pellyites,” “Baytonians,” and “Goose Creekians” all developed an intense pride in and fierce loyalty to their new school. Evidence of this support manifested itself in numerous ways. Goose Creek named a street “Robert E. Lee Drive,” today known as “Lee Drive.” Local service clubs sponsored clubs on the Lee campus. The new radio station on Decker Drive bore the call letters KREL.<sup>78</sup> For many years, until the opening of the district’s second high school, the main water tower at the west entrance to Baytown was emblazoned with “Home of the Fighting Robert E. Lee Ganders.” During football season, downtown merchants allowed Lee students to paint spirit signs on their store windows and for important games closed early so that their employees could attend the games.<sup>79</sup> Gander fans camped out overnight in long lines to buy season tickets as well as tickets to playoff games and games with bitter rivals.<sup>80</sup> It was not unusual for fans to keep their season tickets for twenty-five years or more.<sup>81</sup> In the earlier years, when many did not own cars and travel by automobile was not always practical, Lee fans chartered trains and buses to out-of-town games.<sup>82</sup> Later, long lines of fans in automobiles followed the Ganders in caravan style.<sup>83</sup> The community supported Lee organizations by raising or donating money for special causes. For example, when the Lee band, because of its outstanding reputation, was invited to perform for the International Lions Club at its convention in Chicago in 1950, the community went to work to purchase new uniforms and to provide money for travel expenses.<sup>84</sup> Also, the residents of Baytown should have been well read because of the highly successful magazine sales conducted yearly by the Lee Band and Brigadiers.<sup>85</sup> During the years Rascal McCaskill was disk jockey for “Night Train,” a program immensely popular with Lee students, he allowed students to dance inside the studio, and he still returns from his home in Victoria, Texas, to take in part in the class reunions for the Class of 1957.<sup>86</sup>

In addition to the community’s support for Lee’s programs and projects, Lee students also supported community projects. For example, the Key Club, a school service club sponsored by the local Kiwanis organization, has for many years helped sell and deliver apples for the



Kiwanis annual fundraiser. It has participated in the state's "Adopt a Highway" program to pick up litter along a section Decker Drive.<sup>87</sup> In 1957, the REL Key Club secured a historic railroad engine to be placed in Roseland Park where it remains today.<sup>88</sup> The band and Brigadiers marched in many parades, and the choral groups performed at nursing homes and organization meetings in a show of support for the community and its activities. From the beginning, Lee students have contributed their time and labor for the betterment of the community, participating in such service projects as visiting nursing homes, helping with Special Olympics, assisting at the Cerebral Palsy Center, collecting items for food drives, conducting toy drives for underprivileged children, working at the church-sponsored thrift shop, holding parties for childcare centers, participating in get-out-the-vote drives, and preparing and delivering food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas.<sup>89</sup> Even today, Lee students participate in community projects such as working during "Trash Bash," picking up litter along the waterways of the area.<sup>90</sup> Obviously, the community has been greatly enriched by the contributions made by thousands of Lee students.

One of the Board's stated purposes for building Robert E. Lee was to have it serve as a center for community activities. Once REL was completed, the community took advantage of the opportunity to use the school's facilities. On November 30, 1928, shortly after the school opened, a "Jubilee" program was held in the new building.<sup>91</sup> In 1931 the regional district P.T.A. group held its district meeting in the Lee auditorium.<sup>92</sup> In 1934, the Goodfellows held "an indoor baseball game" at Elms Field.<sup>93</sup> In 1935, the International Association of Oilfield, Gas Well, and Refinery Workers, Local 333, held a "speaking and barbecue" on the Lee grounds.<sup>94</sup> In 1934, the Board voted to allow Humble Company to use rooms not in use for vocational instruction.<sup>95</sup> In 1936, the district allowed *The Daily Sun* to use the benches from Elms Field for a political rally and permitted the band to perform.<sup>96</sup> In 1953, the Veterans of Foreign Wars held a "Homecoming Fete" for Baytown's Korean Prisoners of War.<sup>97</sup> For many years, Easter Sunrise Services were held at Memorial Stadium.<sup>98</sup> In 1953, the Rotary Club moved its meetings from Grace Methodist Church to the Robert E. Lee cafeteria.<sup>99</sup> The auditorium was frequently used by local organizations for a wide variety of programs. For example, many dance and piano recitals have been held there through the years. Additionally, groups have held fundraising concerts and performances in the Lee auditorium. One in the early 50s spotlighted Curly Fox and Texas Ruby, two very popular Grand Ole Opry stars who had their own television show on Houston's KPRC-TV.<sup>100</sup>

Robert E. Lee High School has gained recognition throughout the state and nation for the excellence of its athletic programs. From its inception, Gander teams have excelled in virtually all sports. The football teams have been powerhouses and have gone to state playoffs numerous times, including state finals two consecutive years in 1951 and 1952.<sup>101</sup> George Walmsley (Class of 1944) was one of the greatest Gander football players in the school's history. He was named to the All-State High School Team in 1941, 1942, and 1943 and to the High School All American Team in 1943. As a freshman at Rice University, he was named College All American in 1944.<sup>102</sup> George Walmsley wore Number ~~44, #44~~, the only Lee jersey number ever retired (~~Number 44~~).<sup>103</sup> Several other Gander football players have won distinction as High School All Americans and college All-Americans, including David "Kosse" Johnson (Class of 1950), Herbert Gray (Class of 1952), and Tom "Swede" Stolhanske (Class of 1949). Large portraits of these three Ganders, along with one of head football coach Dan Stallworth, hung for years in the lobby of Citizens National Bank before the bank donated the portraits to Lee.<sup>104</sup> One of the many traditions of the Gander football team started by Coach Stallworth was to take a container of dirt from the Lee stadium to spread on the field at out-of-town games. By throwing "Gander dirt" on an opponent's field to take away home field advantage, it was said that Ganders never played on foreign soil.<sup>105</sup> Throughout the years, Gander players have received much fame and won many prestigious individual awards. From Lee's earliest beginning until the present time, Gander football teams have brought glory and renown to Robert E. Lee High School and the town by winning countless district, bi-district, regional, and state-level titles. Many of these outstanding athletes have gone on to excel on college and professional teams.

With the opening of ~~Ross S. Sterling [spell out—is this Ross Sterling something?], High School~~, the district in 1967 decided to build a new stadium to be named Stallworth Stadium to serve all district high schools.<sup>106</sup> Though the new Memorial Sports Complex at Robert E. Lee includes multi-use Pete Sultis Stadium, REL varsity football games have been played at Stallworth Stadium since 1969.<sup>107</sup> Lee football teams had been so highly rated through the years that President Gerald Ford chose to attend one of the Lee games in 1976.<sup>108</sup>

In addition, Lee has fielded outstanding baseball teams that have gone to state playoffs, including the 1961 Gander team that won the state championship under head coach Don Truehardt. Numerous loyal supporters and the Lee Band trekked to the finals in Austin to cheer the Ganders on to victory.<sup>109</sup> More than a thousand fans met the team at Memorial Stadium when

the players arrived home from Austin late at night.<sup>110</sup> Several Gander players went on to play on college and professional teams. Gary Herrington (Class of 1955) for whom the Lee baseball field is named played on the Texas A&M Southwest Conference Championship team and later was drafted by the Los Angeles Angels.<sup>111</sup> John Byington (Class of 1986) and Andy Duke (Class of 1985) of Texas A&M were named honored players to the All Southwest Conference Baseball Team in 1989.<sup>112</sup> John Byington later played Triple A ball for the Milwaukee Brewers. Under Coach Herrington, “. . . Ganders won more than 500 varsity games. They made the playoffs ten years in a row at one time, and, in 1999, reached the Region III-5A finals, coming within one win of the state tournament.”<sup>113</sup>

Lee basketball teams have also brought recognition through their participation in state playoff competition. The Lee track teams under Coach Beverly Rockhold won fifteen district championships, eleven regional titles, two state championships, and finished second in state four times. Originally the Lee Relays, later renamed Rockhold Relays, has for decades been recognized as one of the premier track meets in Texas.<sup>114</sup> Additionally, REL teams have brought home trophies in tennis, softball, golf, volleyball, and water sports.

The Robert E. Lee Band, officially created in September of 1935, has brought state and national recognition to the school and Baytown. When REL opened, a volunteer band was organized and conducted by A.A. Davis who eventually convinced the Board of Trustees to include a band program at the high school and to provide a site on the Lee campus for the band to meet and practice.<sup>115</sup> From that time forward, the band has been a source of pride for the community. Throughout its long history, the band has won accolades far and wide for its outstanding quality. In 1936, the band was invited to perform at the Texas Centennial in Dallas.<sup>116</sup> In 1939, the band featured the school’s new “The Lee Alma Mater” written by two Lee graduates. Audrey Nell Smith (Class of 1939) wrote the words for the song, and T.F. Seale, a Lee band director, composed the music.<sup>117</sup> The popularity of the band skyrocketed after the 1940 acquisition of authentic Confederate Army style uniforms like the one worn by General Robert E. Lee during the Civil War. The community raised and donated money to repay the district for the cost of the new uniforms.<sup>118</sup> In 1950, the band performed in Chicago at the national Lions Club convention.<sup>119</sup> In 1952, the band performed for the Sons of Confederate Veterans at their national convention in Jackson, Mississippi. Major Horace H. Shelton, Commander of the Texas Division of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, was instrumental in

having the Lee Band named the official band of the organization.<sup>120</sup> The Lee Band has marched in numerous local and distant parades and events such as the Cotton Bowl, Disney World in Florida, and the opening of the Astrodome, just to name a few.<sup>121</sup> Charles Forque, a former Lee student who became Lee band director in 1957 when J.C. Burkett retired, took the band to new heights. In the 1960s and 1970s, Doc Severinsen, leader of the *Tonight Show Band* and a famous trumped player, performed and recorded with the Lee Band on many occasions. Under Forque's leadership, the band won numerous first-division ratings in UIL competition.<sup>122</sup> The Lee Band's tradition of excellence continues today, and the organization remains a vital part of the school and community it serves.

The Robert E. Lee Brigadiers, an all-girls drum and bugle corps, enriched Robert E. Lee High School and the community for seventy years. It was organized in 1930 as a pep squad by Margaret Elms, wife of the first Lee football coach and a physical education teacher. It was not until the second year that they began to acquire instruments and march. In 1935, the group adopted the name "The Maroon Brigadiers." In 1940, the group, under the direction of Mrs. A.A. Davis, officially changed its name to the Robert E. Lee Brigadiers.<sup>123</sup> That same year they got new uniforms made out of the same material as the band uniforms with Confederate-style jackets, short, pleated skirts, and cavalry-style boots.<sup>124</sup> In Lee tradition, the Brigadiers have brought honor and renown to their school. The group has performed in numerous parades and events such as the Cotton Bowl, the Orange Bowl, and Disney World.<sup>125</sup> Additionally, they received national recognition when they were featured in a Life magazine article on Texas football. The article included a full-page, color photograph of the REL Brigadiers.<sup>126</sup> In addition to promoting school pride and spirit with their performances, the Brig helped with Special Olympics, "Shots Across Texas," presentation of colors for community events, food drives, and many other service projects. By the 1990s, the Brigadiers were the last all-girl drum and bugle corps in Texas, and their numbers swelled to more than 300.<sup>127</sup> By the end of the decade, however, student interest had diminished, and in 2001 the group was discontinued and replaced by a dance group named the Lee Celebrities.<sup>128</sup>

From its beginning, Lee students have won honors and broad acclaim for themselves and for Robert E. Lee High School. These include recognition as Advanced Placement Scholars and National Merit Scholars. Academic teams have brought home top awards in debate, UIL writing, decathlon, poetry, typing, accounting, math, science, yearbook, newspaper, and

countless others. Junior Classical League Latin students have won state honors numerous times. Career technology students have brought home their share of awards in agriculture, cosmetology, auto mechanics, metal trades, and others. Fine arts students have also garnered awards and honors in many competitions. The REL Choir has won top honors in UIL competitions and made many contributions to both school and community. The members of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC have been recognized for outstanding performance and have won numerous awards. Students in Lee's art department have produced paintings that have been auctioned for thousands of dollars at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. For example, Nick Dodson's (Class of 1999) painting "A Living Legend" sold for \$20,000 at auction.<sup>129</sup> Additionally, Lee students have been honored by having their paintings exhibited in the capitol in Austin. The Lee choir has brought its share of awards back to Lee in recognition of their outstanding performances. The Lee orchestra has won both group and individual awards in state competitions.

Robert E. Lee High School, in its eighty-one years, has produced countless athletes who have achieved success in their chosen fields following graduation. Many of these have returned to live and work in Baytown while others have gained their success in other places throughout the state, nation, and world. Former Gander athletes have excelled in colleges and universities around the nation, and many have played professionally. Clint Stoerner (Class of 1996) played for the Dallas Cowboys. Kirk Botkin (Class of 1989) played for the Pittsburg Steelers and later returned to Lee to coach. Jimmy Hearndon played for the University of Houston and later the Houston Texans. Robert Carr, a former Lee running back, set the single-game running record at Yale University. Quinton Coryatt (Class of 1988) played for the Indianapolis Colts and Dallas Cowboys. Fred Marti (Class of 1959) became a professional golfer and later returned as the golf pro at a Baytown golf course.

Numerous Lee graduates entered the medical profession, and many have returned to Baytown to practice. These include T.T. Peck (Class of 1941), Philip Eichelberger (Class of 1947), George Walmsley (Class of 1944), James Walmsley (Class of 1952), and Thomas N. Holsomback (Class of 1960), to name a few. Dr. Bob E. Stout (Class of 1951) served on the staff of the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston.<sup>130</sup>

Other graduates have achieved success in a myriad of fields. Bill Broyles (Class of 1962) became a highly successful award-winning author, screenwriter, and a former editor of *Newsweek* magazine.<sup>131</sup> Dr. Beth Burnside (Class of 1961) became Vice Chancellor for Research

at the University of California at Berkley.<sup>132</sup> Robert W. Lawless served as president of Texas Tech University.<sup>133</sup> Tom Meier (Class of 1958) served as president of Castleton State College in Vermont.<sup>134</sup> Gwenn D. Casey, DVM, (Class of 1963) received his degree in veterinary medicine, and returned to Baytown to practice. Joe West, a Lee graduate, was issued more than twelve patents in microelectronics.<sup>135</sup> Ralph A. Wooster (Class of 1946), author of numerous books on Civil War history, served as head of the History Department at Lamar University and retired as Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History.<sup>136</sup> Another famous Lee graduate, Robert “Bob” Lanier (Class of 1951), grew up in Pelly, made his fortune in real estate, and in 1991 was elected mayor of Houston.<sup>137</sup> Roscoe R. Zierlein, Jr., (Class of 1937) became a lawyer, served as a Justice of the Peace, and practiced law in Baytown until his retirement.<sup>138</sup> Rear Admiral William Retz was in charge of naval operations in the [Persian](#) Gulf.<sup>139</sup> Chester Burchett (Class of 1953) played football for the Ganders and the Naval Academy.<sup>140</sup> Because of his many years of service to Spring ISD, the district named an elementary school in his honor. Allen Rice (Class of 1953) became an award-winning, Harvard-educated architect. After his retirement, he wrote *Ganders*, which focuses on the Lee teams’ accomplishment during some of the school’s glory years of 1950-1953.<sup>141</sup> Wanda Orton (Class of 1952), a retired managing editor of *The Baytown Sun*, is a prolific author of articles on Baytown history and student life at Robert E. Lee.<sup>142</sup> Countless other graduates have become leaders in their chosen communities, successful employees in their chosen fields, and contributing members of society.

**Architectural Description** by Jan Lammers, AIA ~~[put this person as a co-author at the beginning]~~

—The Robert E. Lee High School old main building, built in 1928, with later classroom additions, is architecturally significant as a type of educational structure widely used in Texas during the 1920s and 1930s. The original structure was designed by ~~American~~ Houston architect Harry D. Payne, 1891-1987, in the Art Deco style ~~of architecture, popular at the time~~. Payne, an architectural consultant to school districts in the Houston Metropolitan area during the 1920s through the 1940s, was also responsible for numerous other structures, including River Oaks Elementary (1927), Wheatley High School (1927), Baytown Junior School (1928; destroyed by fire in the 1980s), Deer Park High School (1931), and Lamar High School (1937 with John Staub and Kenneth Franzheim).

The building incorporates several elements of the Art Deco style, including glazed terra cotta tile embellishment at the main entry and at the roof cornice as well as ~~wrought decorative iron~~ ~~[at this time period, most likely this is cast iron or a mixture of cast and wrought]~~ entry handrails and ~~decorative~~ lanterns. The predominant exterior material is ~~textured buff-colored stucco~~ ~~set off in a textured pattern, painted a buff color~~. The ~~concrete-framed stucco-veneered stucco~~ building sits on a painted concrete foundation ~~podium foundation [?]~~ ~~with an exposed and has a~~ terra cotta tile roof, a definite regional influence. Brick trimmed niches with urn on pedestal type motif decorate each side of the entry façades. A ~~n Art Deco/c~~ Classical finial adorns each building corner. ~~[or is the finial stylized in the Art Deco style?]~~ The school name is rendered in glazed terra cotta tile set high over the front entry, just under the ~~roof overhang eave~~.

In 1987, an ~~arsonist's~~ fire ~~(later determined to be arson)~~ gutted ~~portions of~~ the entire ~~original section of the~~ main building. In the reconstruction, the exterior façade was maintained ~~[were portions of the original façade retained or was the entire original building replicated/reconstructed?]~~ ~~(All portions of the original facade are still there. They were saved— not replicated.)~~ ~~using the original materials.~~ ~~The roof was replicated using original materials.~~ The original supplier of the original glazed terra cotta tile supplied replacement tiles for those damaged in the fire. Rededicated in 1988, the Robert E. Lee main building and additions (approximately 90,000 square feet) are still functioning as a viable landmark in the Baytown community.<sup>143</sup>

### III. SIGNIFICANCE

From its beginning in the fall of 1928, Robert E. Lee High School in Baytown has fulfilled and even surpassed every goal and expectation set forth by the citizens and Board of Trustees of Goose Creek Independent School District. The 1927-1928 members of the school board and Superintendent J.C. Ingram realized the need for a quality high school and took the actions necessary to the creation of Robert E. Lee. Their intentions were to build a high school for not only their time, but also for the future. From inception to completion took only eighteen months. First, Lee established a tradition of excellence in every aspect of a high school student's education. The students were provided first-class facilities in which to learn. They were provided a highly-qualified teaching staff and a rigorous curriculum that enabled them to enter the best colleges and universities in the nation, many without exam. Students were provided programs outside just the academic fields--in athletics, in fine and practical arts, and in career technology. Over the years, even to today, the facilities have been expanded and modernized as has the curriculum to keep pace with changing times and needs so that Lee could remain a first-class high school. Second, Lee was built to serve all the [Anglo and Hispanic](#) students within the school district—those of Goose Creek, Pelly, and Baytown. Some forward-looking citizens saw this as a chance to unite the residents of these communities and to eventually consolidate them into one town. As the students grew to know each other and as the parents worked together in support of the school, this process began to become a reality. Within twenty years, consolidation took place. Last, one of the stated goals was that Robert E. Lee High School would become the center of and for community activities. The community was not only allowed, but also encouraged, to use the Lee campus facilities for varied meetings, programs, concerts, and other activities. It served as an emergency shelter, polling place, school administration building, and meeting place for civic organizations. Within a few short years, Lee truly became more than just an educational facility. It was the heart and soul of the communities within the district. Community life revolved around Lee. It was the common denominator for people from different economic, social, geographical, and cultural backgrounds. Lee students served the residents of the communities through countless hours in service projects as well as in the many performances by the band, Brigadiers, and choirs. In return, the community gave Lee its wholehearted support and loyalty. Graduates of Robert E. Lee High School have demonstrated that they were prepared to succeed in whatever



they chose to do in life. Wherever the graduates of Robert E. Lee have gone, they have carried the name of Baytown and the fame of the Ganders with them. Robert E. Lee has and continues to fulfill its destiny.

#### IV. DOCUMENTATION

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<sup>1</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, December 13, 1927, Vol. II, pp 82-83.

<sup>2</sup> Haenel, Olga, *A Social History of Baytown, Texas 1912-1956*. Austin: University of Texas, 1958. p. 25.

<sup>3</sup> Henson, Margaret Swett, *History of Baytown*. Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986, pp.72-77.

<sup>4</sup> "The Saga of a City," *The Lee Traveler*, 1949 Yearbook of Robert E. Lee High School, no p.#.

<sup>5</sup> "The Saga of a City, no p.#."

<sup>6</sup> "History of Goose Creek High School," *The Gander Magazine Issue 1928*, no p.#. (Published by the staff of *The Gander*, the yearbook.) *The Gander Magazine* was published only one time, the last of Goose Creek High School. *The Gander* was the title of the Goose Creek High School yearbook. It was also the title of the Robert E. Lee High School yearbook for the years 1929 and 1930. Subsequent yearbooks, starting in 1937, after a six-year period of no publications due to the Great Depression, were titled *The Traveler*, which was named for General Robert E. Lee's horse, Traveller.

<sup>7</sup> Henson, p. 108.

<sup>8</sup> Haenel, p. 20.

<sup>9</sup> "History of Goose Creek High School", 1928, no p.#.

<sup>10</sup> Henson, p. 108.

<sup>11</sup> "Mrs. Virgie King," *In Retrospect: Recollections of Years of Teaching That Are History*. Baytown, Texas: Baytown Area Retired Teachers Association, 1976, p. 37. This is a collection of memories of Baytown education employees of Goose Creek CISD which was collected and published by the Baytown Area Retired Teachers Association.

<sup>12</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, May 13, 1927, Vol. I, p. 262.

<sup>13</sup> Haenel, pp. 29-30.

<sup>14</sup> "The Saga of a City, no p.#."

<sup>15</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, May 13, 1927, p. 257.

<sup>16</sup> "Mrs. Virgie King," p. 36.

<sup>17</sup> Henson, p. 108.

<sup>18</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting of Mar. 6, 1928, Vol. II, p. 212.

<sup>19</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, Jan. 26, 1927, Vol. I, p. 228.

<sup>20</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, Jan. 26, 1927, Vol. I, p. 227-228.

<sup>21</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, Jan. 26, 1927, Vol. I, p. 227-228.

<sup>22</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, May 13, 1927, Vol. I, p. 257.

<sup>23</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, June 6, 1927, Vol. I, p. 278.

<sup>24</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, June 28, 1927, Vol. I, p. 315.

<sup>25</sup> "History of Goose Creek High School, no p. #."

<sup>26</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, October 29, 1927, Vol. II, pp. 60-61.

<sup>27</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, November 21, 1927, Vol. II, p. 68.

<sup>28</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, December 13, 1927, Vol. II, pp. 82-82.

<sup>29</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, December 31, 1927, Vol. II, pp. 92-93.

<sup>30</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, March 6, 1928, Vol. II, pp. 212-213.

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- <sup>31</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, March 20, 1928, Vol. II, pp. 217-218.
- <sup>32</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, March 6, 1928, Vol. II, pp. 212-213.
- <sup>33</sup> Henson, p. 123.
- <sup>34</sup> *The Gander, 1929 (the yearbook), no p.#.*
- <sup>35</sup> Henson, p. 111.
- <sup>36</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, November 15, 1928, Vol. II, p.57.
- <sup>37</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, February 27, 1929, Vol. III, p. 85.
- <sup>38</sup> *The Gander Magazine, 1928.*
- <sup>39</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, November 28, 1928, Vol. II, pp 62-63.
- <sup>40</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, December 3, 1928, Vol. II, p. 65.
- <sup>41</sup> *The Gander, 1929, p. 8.*
- <sup>42</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, March 8, 1930, Vol. IV, p 68.
- <sup>43</sup> "New Stadium at REL," *Daily Tribune*, January 16, 1931, p.1.
- <sup>44</sup> "Brig Founder Still Part of Tradition," *The Baytown Sun*, October 10, 1993, p.15A.
- <sup>45</sup> *The Lee Traveler, 1947.*
- <sup>46</sup> *The Lee Traveler, 1951, p.4; The Lee Traveler, 1959, p.4..*
- <sup>47</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, May 13, 1927, Vol. I, p. 257.
- <sup>48</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, May 13, 1927, Vol. I, p. 257.
- <sup>49</sup> Laird, Nettie, "Highlights of My Experience in School Cafeterias," *In Retrospect: Recollections of Years of Teaching That Are History*. Baytown, Texas: Baytown Area Retired Teachers Association, 1976, p.7.
- <sup>50</sup> Henson, p. 121.
- <sup>51</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, April 12, 1937. "It's been 50 Years," "REL Class of '37 to Have Reunion May 2," *The Baytown Sun*, April 26, 1987, page 7-A. It says that the Class of 1937 was the last class to graduate under the 11 grade system and that the 12th grade was to be added in the fall.
- <sup>52</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, January 18, 1936, Vol. VII, p. 146.
- <sup>53</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, May 3, 1937, Vol. VII, p. 283.
- <sup>54</sup> "\$80,000 Gym Ordered," *The Daily Sun*, August 16, 1938, pp. 1 & 2.
- <sup>55</sup> "Stadium Dedicated to Lee's War Dead," *The Daily Sun*, September 6, 1946, pp. 1 & 2.
- <sup>56</sup> "May Construction Hits All-Time High," *The Daily Sun*, June 6, 1949, p.1.
- <sup>57</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, July 20, 1953, Vol. XX, p. 24.
- <sup>58</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, March 8, 1954, Vol. XX, p. 150.
- <sup>59</sup> "National Honors Given to New REL Auditorium," *The Baytown Sun*, December 13, 1959, p.1.
- <sup>60</sup> "Student Commons," *The Baytown Sun*, August 13, 1964, p.1.
- <sup>61</sup> "New High School and Insignia Named," *The Baytown Sun*, May 25, 1966, p.1.
- <sup>62</sup> Mohlman, David. "Robert E. Lee High School Burns," *The Baytown Sun*, April 29, 1987, p.1.
- <sup>63</sup> "Donald Hyatt Charged with Arson in Robert E. Lee High School Fire," *The Baytown Sun*, November 10, 1989, p. 1.
- <sup>64</sup> Mohlman, David. "Robert E. Lee High School Burns." *The Baytown Sun*, April 29, 1987, p. 1
- <sup>65</sup> "REL Petitioners Seek to Save School Heritage," *The Baytown Sun*, May 4, 1987, p. 1.
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- <sup>67</sup> *The Lee Traveler, 1987, pp. 210-211.*
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- <sup>69</sup> Mohlman, David. "Trustees OK General Contractor for REL," *The Baytown Sun*, May 26, 1987, p. 1
- <sup>70</sup> *Goose Creek News*, A publication of Goose Creek CISD, April 29, 1987, p. 2.
- <sup>71</sup> "REL Back in Own Backyard Today," *The Baytown Sun*, January 19, 1988, p. 1.

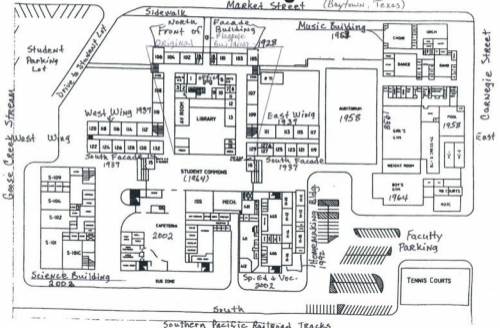
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- <sup>73</sup> “REL Benefit Rescheduled,” *The Baytown Sun*, June 14, 1987.
- <sup>74</sup> *Goose Creek News*, May 5, 1987, p.2.
- <sup>75</sup> “*Loss of a Legend Honors Robert E. Lee High School*,” *The Baytown Sun*, May 15, 1987, p.6C.
- <sup>76</sup> “*Robert E. Lee Rededication to Be Held October 9, 1988*,” *The Baytown Sun*, October 10, 1988, p.1; Mohlman, David. “Mail Building Rededication at REL Feature of Ceremony,” *The Baytown Sun*, October 10, 1988, p.1.
- <sup>77</sup> Goose Creek CISD website (<http://www.gccisd.net>) (accessed July 28, 2010); “Memorial Sports Complex Is Home to Pete Sultis Stadium,” *The Baytown Sun*, March 17, 2010, p. 1A; “Goose Creek Board of Trustees Names Lee High School Baseball Field Gary N. Herrington Field,” *The Baytown Sun*, August 15, 2000, p. 1.
- <sup>78</sup> Orton, Wanda. “Radio Station Call Letters Said It All,” *The Baytown Sun*, November 30, 2008, p.2.
- <sup>79</sup> “Baytown to Close Shop for the PA Tilt,” *The Baytown Sun*, November 30, 1948, p. 1.
- <sup>80</sup> “Gander Fans Wait in Line to Buy Tickets,” *The Baytown Sun*, November 30, 1948, p.1.
- <sup>81</sup> Haenel, p. 141.
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- <sup>83</sup> Haenel, p. 141.
- <sup>84</sup> “Band Fund Goes Over Top,” *The Baytown Sun*, June 23, 1950, p.1.
- <sup>85</sup> “Brigadiers: Pride and Joy,” *The Baytown Sun*, September 29, 1952, p. 27.
- <sup>86</sup> Orton, Wanda, “Rascal Remembers Days of Radio,” *The Baytown Sun*, January 30, 2010, p.2.
- <sup>87</sup> Salas, Christian. “Roots from the Past,” *The Baytown Sun*, October 6, 1994, p. 8A.
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- <sup>89</sup> *The Lee Traveler*, 1966, pp. 170,187, 212, 213, 216, 241,243.
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- <sup>91</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, November 28, 1928, Vol. 3, p. 63.
- <sup>92</sup> “District P.T.A. Meeting at REL Auditorium,” *The Daily Tribune*, January 12,1931, p.7.
- <sup>93</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, October 1, 1934, Vol. VI, p.11.
- <sup>94</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, July 1, 1935, Vol. VI, p.112.
- <sup>95</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, August 31, 1934, Vol. V, 286.
- <sup>96</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, July 20,1936, Vol. VII, p. 4.
- <sup>97</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, September 14, 1953, Vol. VI, pp 86-87.
- <sup>98</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, February. 8, 1954, p.161.
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- <sup>100</sup> Oral history remembrances of Wilyne Laughlin who attended the Concert.
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- <sup>102</sup> Rice, p. 4.
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- <sup>104</sup> Rogers, Dave. “School Board Chief Looks to Honor Past,” *The Baytown Sun*, October 23, 2007, p.1.
- <sup>105</sup> “REL Greats Return to Honor Rockhold,” *The Baytown Sun*, May 23, 1977, p.1B.
- <sup>106</sup> “*Stadium Named for Dan Stallworth*,” *The Baytown Sun*, June 13, 1967, p.1.
- <sup>107</sup> “Renovation Underway on Sultis Stadium,” *The Baytown Sun*, February 22, 2009, p.1.
- <sup>108</sup> Finley, Jim. “Big Thrill When Ford Visited Town,” *The Baytown Sun*, December 28, 2002, p.2.
- <sup>109</sup> Eyewitness report by 1961 Lee Band member Jean McLeod.
- <sup>110</sup> “Fans Give REL Champions Lusty Welcome,” *The Baytown Sun*, June 11,1961, p.10.
- <sup>111</sup> Rogers, Dave. “Tourney Namesake Still Going Strong,” *The Baytown Sun*, February 29, 2008, p. 2A.

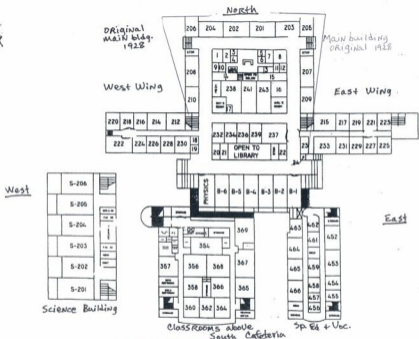
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- <sup>113</sup> Rogers, Dave. “Tourney Namesake Still Going Strong, p. 2A.”
- <sup>114</sup> “REL Greats Return to Honor Rockhold,” *The Baytown Sun*, May 23, 1977, p. 1B.
- <sup>115</sup> Goose Creek ISD Minutes of Board Meeting, May 27, 1935, Vol. VI, p. 100.
- <sup>116</sup> *The Lee Traveler*, 1937, p. 37.
- <sup>117</sup> “New School Song by Grads to Be Featured at Half Tonight,” *The Daily Sun*, November 3, 1939, p. 1.
- <sup>118</sup> “Uniforms for Lee Band and Corps Bought,” *The Daily Sun*, February 24, 1940, p 1-2.
- <sup>119</sup> “Band Returns After Trip to Chicago,” *The Baytown Sun*, July 22, 1950, p.1.
- <sup>120</sup> “REL Band Sells Baytown,” *The Baytown Sun*, September 28, 1952, p. 12; *The Lee Traveler*, 1951, no p.#.
- <sup>121</sup> *The Baytown Sun*, December 15, 1952, p.1.
- <sup>122</sup> Kinghorn, Austin. “Legendary Lee Band Boss Dies,” *The Baytown Sun*, August 2, 2005, p.1.
- <sup>123</sup> “Brigadiers: Pride and Joy,” *The Baytown Sun*, September 29, 1952, p.27.
- <sup>124</sup> “Uniforms for Lee Band and Corps Bought,” *The Daily Sun*, February 24, 1940, p. 1-2.
- <sup>125</sup> *The Lee Traveler*, 1990, pp.36-37.
- <sup>126</sup> “Texas Blows Its Top Over Football,” *Life*, October 29, 1956, p. 39, Vol. 41, No. 18.
- <sup>127</sup> Salas, Christian. “Roots from the Past,” *The Baytown Sun*, October 6, 1994, p. 8A.
- <sup>128</sup> “Celebrities to Replace Brigadiers,” *The Baytown Sun*, February 27, 2002, p. 1.
- <sup>129</sup> “A Living Legend,” *The Baytown Sun*, May 16, 1999, p.1.
- <sup>130</sup> “Onetime Star Fullback at REL Dr. Stout Earns UTMB Honor,” *The Baytown Sun*, June 2, 2006.
- <sup>131</sup> Silva, Clarissa, “Movie Has Baytown Ties, in Fact, Fiction,” *The Baytown Sun*, p. 1.
- <sup>132</sup> “From Baytown to Berkeley,” *The Baytown Sun*, March 19, 2006, p. 1.
- <sup>133</sup> “Ex Baytonian Tech President,” *The Baytown Sun*, March 31, 1989, p.1.
- <sup>134</sup> “Dr. Tom Meier Heads College in Vermont,” *The Baytown Sun*, August 24, 1979, p.1.
- <sup>135</sup> “4 LC Exes Lauded at Chamber Fete,” *The Baytown Sun*, February 15, 1981, p. 1.
- <sup>136</sup> Orton, Wanda. “Historic Site to Be Commemorated with Marker,” *The Baytown Sun*, March 18, 2008, p. 2.
- <sup>137</sup> “Bob Lanier Wins Mayoral Race,” *The Baytown Sun*, November 6, 1991, p.1.
- <sup>138</sup> “Zerlein Seeks Re-Election,” *The Baytown Sun*, May 23, 1950p.1.
- <sup>139</sup> “REL Graduate Commands Naval Operations in Gulf,” *The Baytown Sun*, February 25, 1986, pp.1 & 9A.
- <sup>140</sup> Orton, Wanda. “Burchett Namesake of Spring School,” *The Baytown Sun*, June 5, 2010, p.2.
- <sup>141</sup> Rice, back cover.
- <sup>142</sup> Orton, Wanda. “They Rode to School in Antique Car,” *The Baytown Sun*, April 18, 2007, pp. 2 & 3.
- <sup>143</sup> Architectural description prepared by Jan Lammers, AIA, a 1965 graduate of Robert E. Lee and a practicing architect in Baytown.

North

# Robert E. Lee High School

Market Street (Baytown, Texas)





# SECOND FLOOR South

Robert E. Lee High School  
Baytown, Texas

**Authorization for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation**  
January 2011

**Robert E. Lee High School**  
**1809 Market St.**  
**Baytown, TX 77520**

**Property reference number (Appraisal District/Tax Office property number, etc):**  
HCAD Acct. No. 041-022-001-0744. Tract 2, Abstract 66, W. Scott

**Legal Description (Lot and block metes and bounds, etc.)**  
N.63°44'03"77.62  
S.89°51'00"W 348.34°

Thomas J.D. Wiggins to Goose Creek Independent School District  
1-24-36  
Vol. 1002, Page 648  
Deed Records of Harris County. Texas

60° Row  
Goose Creek Independent School District  
11-22-32  
Vol. 1110, Page 145  
Deed Records of Harris County, Texas

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Job# 11 HR17

Authorization for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation

Date of RTHL designation: January 28, 2011

Property Name: Robert E. Lee High School  
 Physical Address: 1809 Market  
 City: Baytown County: Harris Zip: 77520  
 Property reference number (Appraisal District/Tax Office property number, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Description (Lot and block, metes and bounds, etc.): HCAD Acct# 041-022-001-0744  
See attached

Additional description ("property encompassing the bridge and abutments," "the 1936 portion of the County Consolidated High School building," "the historic homestead, including the main house, barn, windmill, smokehouse and water well," etc.):

The property is on the north side of Goose Creek Stream. It is further bounded on the north by Market Street and on the south-southeast by the Southern Pacific Railroad and on the east by Lee Drive.

The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation is awarded to historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. Authorized by the Texas Legislature under Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, RTHL is the highest honor the state can bestow on historic structures in Texas. Designated properties are afforded a measure of legal protection and become part of the recorded history of the state's built environment.

Benefits of the RTHL designation:

- Recognition that a property is of local, regional or state significance.
- Protection for up to 90 days from exterior alterations, including demolition or relocation.
- Ad valorem tax exemptions, where granted by local taxing authorities.
- Inclusion in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas.
- Technical preservation assistance through the THC.

Responsibility of the property owner under the RTHL provision, as noted in Texas Government Code, Chapter 442.006 (f):


A person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving the notice, the commission may waive the waiting period or, if the commission determines that a longer period will enhance the chance for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not longer than 30 days. On the expiration of the time limits imposed by this section, the person may proceed, but must proceed not later than the 180th day after the date on which notice was given or the notice is considered to have expired.

Additionally:

- The designation requires the public display of the RTHL marker. The marker is the property of the State of Texas and may not be removed or relocated without the prior permission of the Texas Historical Commission.
- RTHL status is a permanent designation which is retained with the property even upon transfer of ownership. Only the Texas Historical Commission may remove the designation.
- Structures designated as RTHLs do not have to be open to the public, but the marker must be accessible to the public.
- RTHL designation does not imply eligibility for federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.

I, the property owner or legal administrator of the property noted herein, signify below that I have read the information regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks and that I voluntarily seek the designation for the property. I further promise to comply with the provision noted in the Texas Government Code.

Name (print): Toby York  
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 30  
 City, state, zip: Baytown, TX. 77522  
 Signature: Toby York  
 Phone: 281-420-4842 Date: 2-10-2011



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
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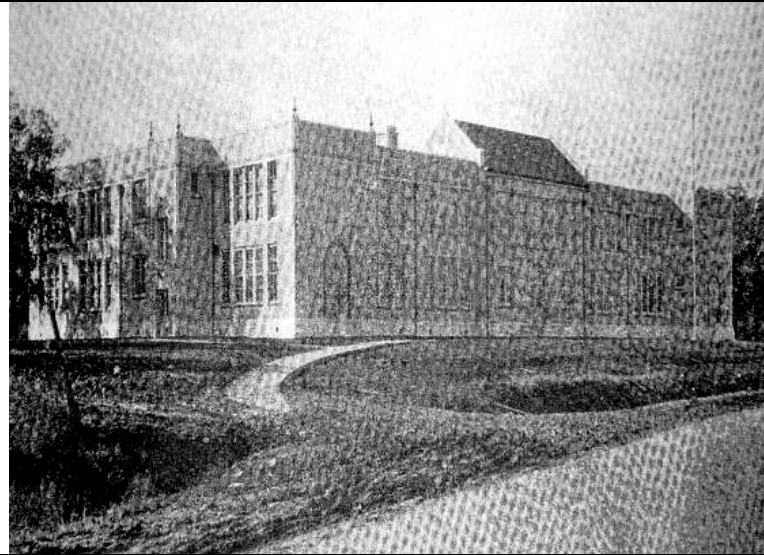




## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS

**NOTE: THE PICTURES BEGIN AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE BUILDING AND PROCEED IN CLOCKWISE ORDER TO THE FRONT AND BACK TO THE BEGINNING.**

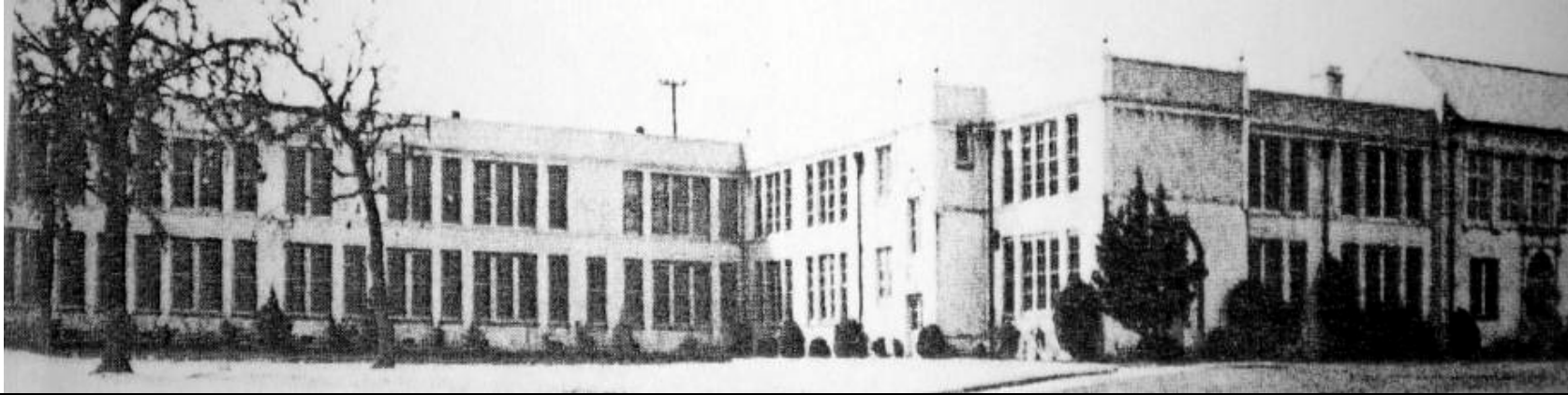
East and north façade of Main Building (1928) from 1929 yearbook with camera facing southwest



Drawing of north façade of Main Building (1928) with viewer facing southwest



## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS



North façade of East Wing (1937) and east and north façade of Main Building (1928) from 1940 yearbook with camera facing southwest



North and west façade of Main Building (1928) with north façade of West Wing (1937) on right from 1940 yearbook with camera facing southeast

## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS

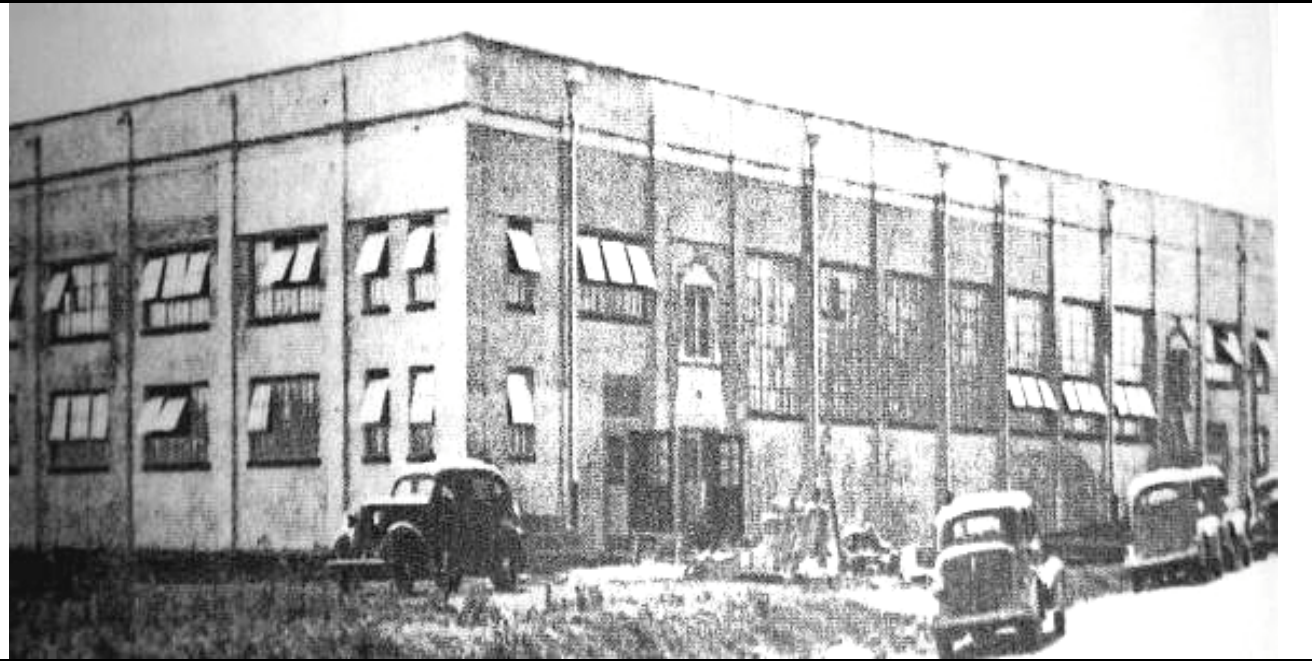
Main entrance and north  
façade of Main Building  
(1928) from 1940 yearbook  
(showing original  
architectural details) with  
camera facing southwest





## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS

South and east façade of  
Gymnasium (1938)  
designed by L. L. Huie with  
camera facing northwest



South façade and east end  
of East Wing (1937), south  
entrance to Auditorium  
(1958) at right, and east  
façade of Homemaking  
Building (1992) at left with  
camera facing northwest



**ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS**



North façade of East Wing (1937) on the left with the east façade of the Main Building (1928) showing east entrance with camera facing west

Façade of east end of East Wing (1937) with Auditorium (1958) to the right with camera facing northwest



## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS

South façade of East Wing (1937) showing where Commons was attached with Homemaking Building (1992) at left with camera facing west



South façade (original of West Wing 1937), Science Building (2002) to left, Patio (2002) at center, and Cafeteria (2002) to right with camera facing north



**ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS**

West end of West Wing  
(1937) with south façade  
to the right with camera  
facing east



West façade of Main  
Building (1928) showing  
west entrance with camera  
facing east





## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS

West façade of Main Building (1928) with north façade of West Wing (1937) to the right with camera facing east



North façade of Main Building (1928) with camera facing southeast



## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS



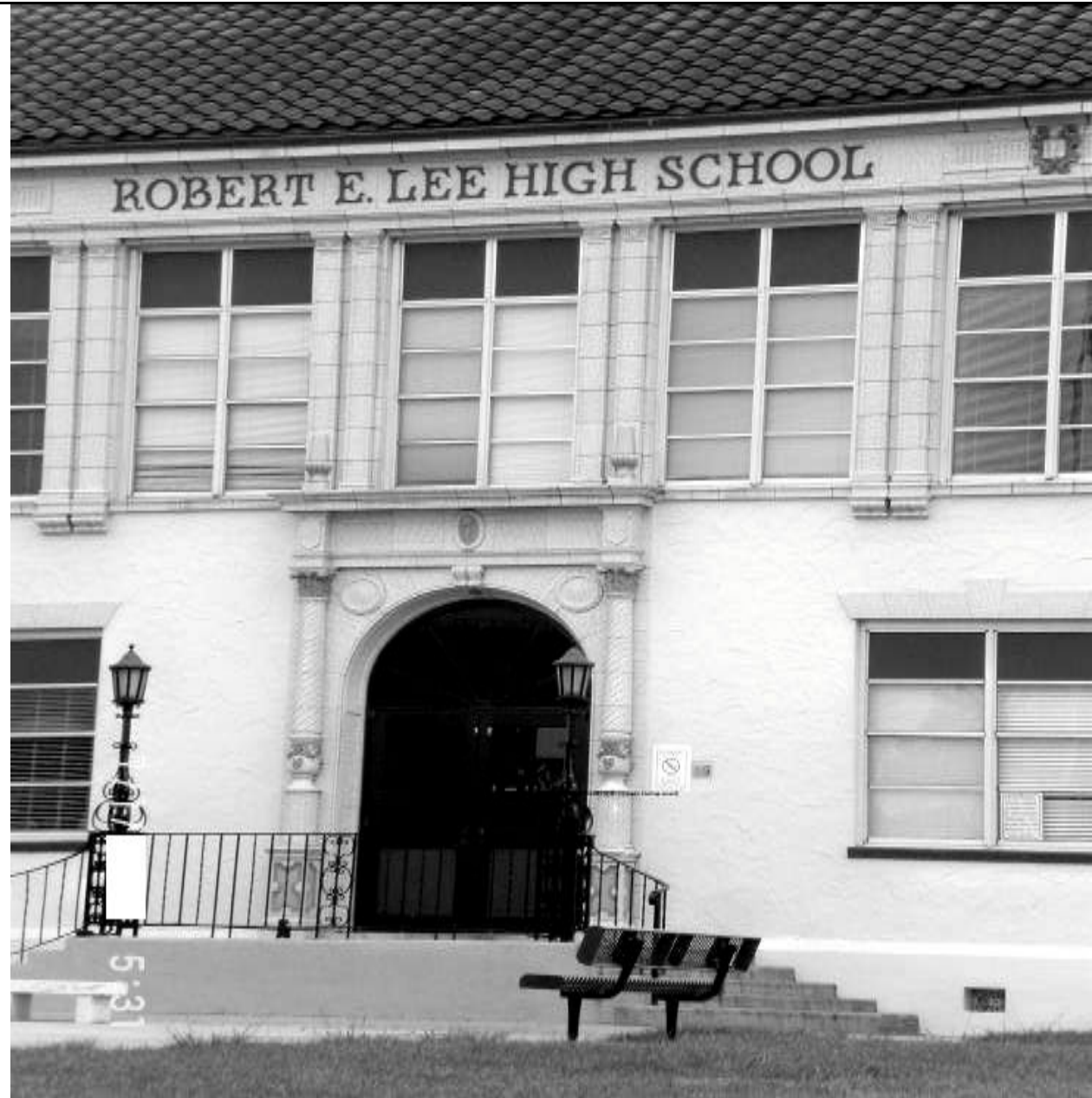
North façade of Main Building (1928) and East and West Wings (1937) taken from the Hill of Rest Cemetery across Market Street from Lee with camera facing south



North façade of Main Building (1928) showing placement of flagpole, and marquee with camera facing south

## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS

North entrance and north façade of Main Building (1928) showing tiled roof, and original tiled school name, and architectural details at entrance with camera facing south



## ROBERT E. LEE HIGH SCHOOL – BAYTOWN, TEXAS

North façade and northeast corner of Main Building (1928) with north façade of East Wing (1937) with camera facing southeast



Northwest corner and north façade of Main Building (1928) showing original architectural details with camera facing south

