

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



614

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: A.G. Cleaver Street, building # 0503
CITY OR TOWN: Prairie View
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Waller CODE: 473
NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
VICINITY: N/A
ZIP CODE: 77446-0519

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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


Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

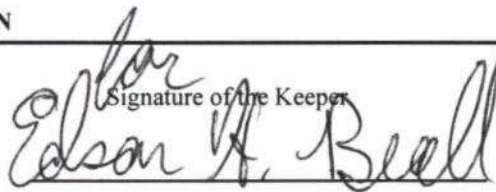
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

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


Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6/3/99

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Public-State**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

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

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View A&M University, Waller County, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: EDUCATION/education-related**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** EDUCATION/education-related

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Georgian Revival

MATERIALS:	FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
	WALLS	BRICK
	ROOF	METAL/Aluminum
	OTHER	GLASS; STONE/Limestone

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

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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

DESCRIPTION

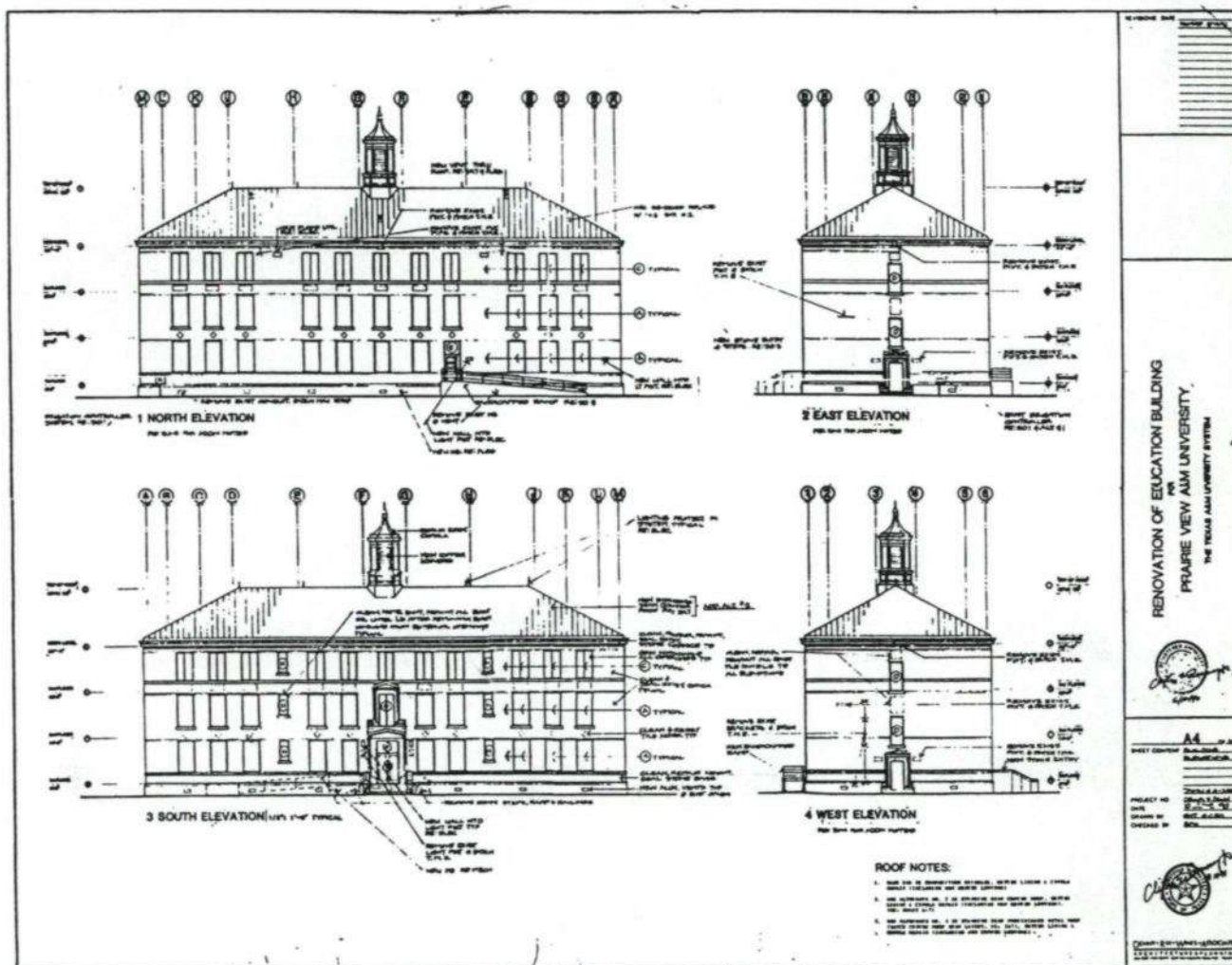
G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building (0503) is located within the quad on A.G. Cleaver Street. Constructed in 1932, the building originally served as the Education Building. This Georgian Revival building reflects the same masonry characteristics found throughout the university campus. It was designed by architect Frederick Ernst Giesecke. The building retains sufficient integrity of location, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association to remain recognizable to its period of significance.

Elegant Mexican tile placed on the second and third floor lines distinguish the building. The high pitch of the roof exposes a single copper cupola intended to encase a clock. Special attention was placed on the main entrance way with the more subdued pilaster rising to an additional pilaster line to expose the grandeur of this structure. The Mexican tile-work is continued around the base of the roof and on all four corners are the owl-faced gargoyles. The main building components of the building are brick, masonry, detailed tile-work and copper.

During the 1987 Rehabilitation and Repair Project the entire interior was rearranged. The entire building was air conditioned and the asbestos roof shingles were removed. The ADA compliance requirements were met by the installation of a ramp located at the rear. This required the construction of a back entrance, which subsequently reduced the size of the large lecture room (108) on the first floor. This also allowed for the addition of an elevator and the restrooms were relocated to either side. The classrooms on the main floor on the outer west and east end changed very little in size. However, the most change came on the third floor where the Stack room (305) and Reading Room (302) were divided into small office spaces to accommodate the enlarging faculty and staff. At this time the Education building was put on line with the computerized control room in the power plant for heat, air and fire alarm monitoring. Throughout this project special attention was placed on the plants and trees. Special notes with instructions regarding the replanting, tree protection and underground irrigation lines were incorporated within the A/E's design plans.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

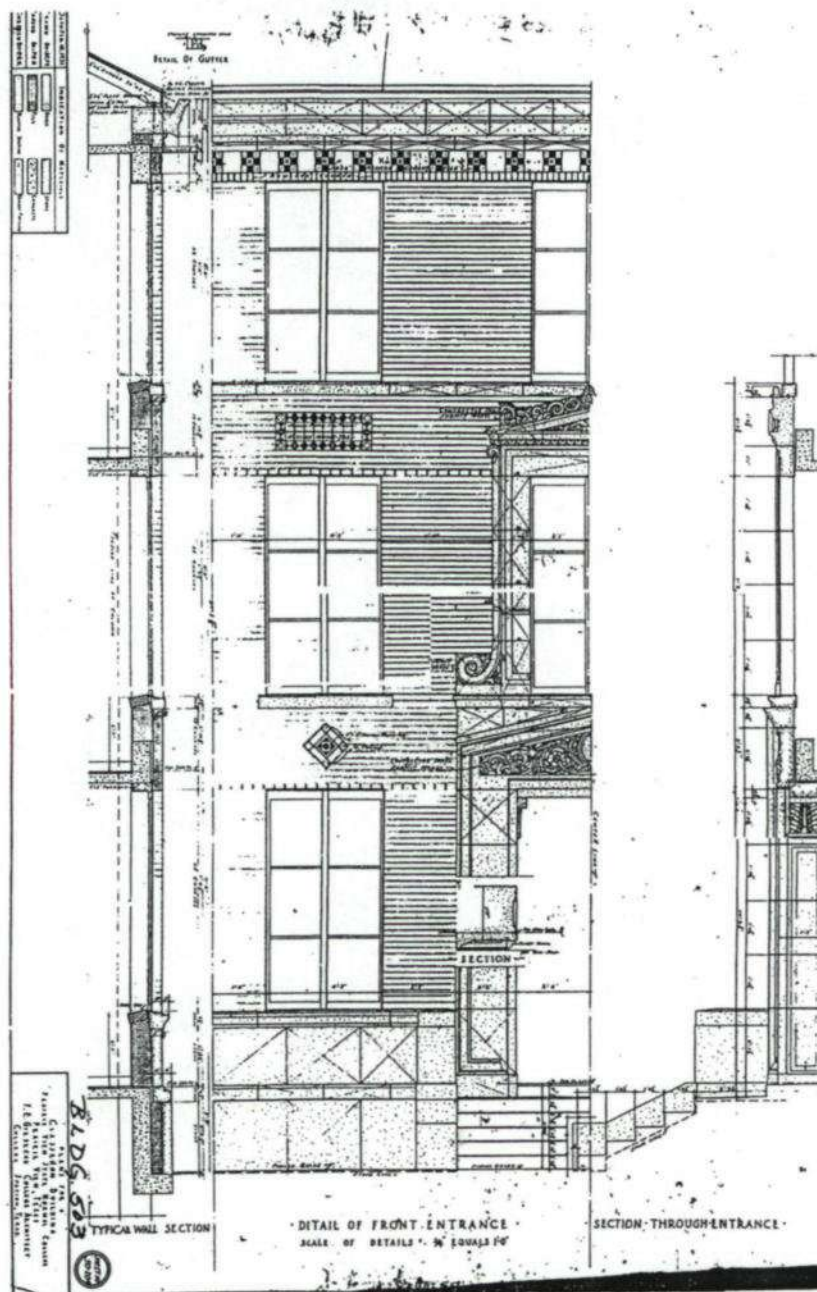


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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

[illegible]

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

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

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Education; Social History**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1932 - 1948**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1932**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** Woolfolk, George Ruble**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Giesecke, Frederick Ernst (Architect)**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-10).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-11).**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

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

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

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

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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1932, the G.R. Woolfolk Social and Political Science Building was erected to house the university's Education Department. The building is related to the historic context, *Development of Prairie View A&M University, 1876-1998* and is nominated under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage at a state level of significance.

Dr. Frederich Ernst Giesecke (1869-1953)

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

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

Dr. Giesecke designed the laundry building (1916), the Spence Agricultural Building (1918), and the George R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building (1927, originally the Education Building) on the Prairie View campus. He collaborated with Prairie View's own College Architect, Louis Fry for the design of the Hospital

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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
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(1928) and worked with Prairie View Mechanical Engineer C.L. Wilson to design the Animal Industries Building (1920), L.C. Anderson Hall (1933), and Hilliard Hall (1939). Giesecke created a sense of continuity between the buildings he designed for the campus and three buildings in particular show similar detailing. L.C. Anderson Hall stands as an excellent example of traditional campus gothic design and is similar in style to G.R. Woolfolk Hall. A 3-story gabled and parapetted ornamental stone entryway distinguishes Anderson Hall. Two bays with flattened arches flank this central entrance, while upper portions of the entry are framed by tapering piers. Despite much more modest detailing, the G.R. Woolfolk Hall, with its pedimented central entrance and balance resembles Anderson Hall. Architectural embellishment linking Anderson and Woolfolk Halls includes stone owl head detailing, stone embellishment and grand entrances of the two buildings. Similar tile embellishment visible on the exteriors of Woolfolk and Hilliard Hall link those buildings as well.

George Ruble Woolfolk

George was born in Kentucky in 1915, the fourth son of Lucien and Theodosia Woolfolk. He received the Bachelor of Arts Degree at Louisville Municipal College, the Masters of Arts Degree from Ohio State University and the Doctor of Philosophy Degree from the University of Wisconsin. He joined the history faculty at Prairie View A&M in 1943. Within a few years he met and married Douglass, who became his devoted wife and lifelong partner. They had one son, George R. Woolfolk Jr., who resides in Dallas.

Dr. Woolfolk's performance as a research scholar, teacher, and chairman of Division of Social Science earned him listing in the Directory of American Scholars, Who's Who in the Southwest, Who's Who in the South, Who's Who in America, Outstanding Educators of America, and Contemporary American Writers. Dr. Woolfolk received an appointment as Admiral in the Texas Navy from Dolph Briscoe, and was recognized as Minnie Stephens Piper Professor for 1973. In 1992, he earned the American Historical Association's Award for Scholarly Distinction.

While serving on the Prairie View A&M University faculty, and as Professor Emeritus, Dr. Woolfolk continued to pursue his professional growth. He became a community resource through memberships and affiliation with such organizations and commissions as: Waller County Historical Commission, the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, the American Association of University Professors, the Texas State Teachers Association, the Organization of American Historians, the American Historical Association, and the Panel of State, Local and Regional Research Studies of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Among his publications are *The Cotton Regency: The Northern Merchants and Reconstruction, 1866-1880* (1958, reprinted in 1979), *Negro Colleges, Texas* (1962), *Prairie View: A Study in Public Conscience, 1878-1946* (1962), and *The Free Negro in Texas, 1800-1860* (1976).

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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

Summary

The George Ruble Woolfolk Building on the Prairie View A&M University campus is a lasting testament to his 40 years of distinguished service. Doctor George Ruble Woolfolk departed this life June 12, 1996. It is also important because it reflects the changing needs of the university throughout the building's period of significance and as it relates to the historic context, *Development of Prairie View A&M University, 1876-1998*. The building is therefore nominated under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage at a state level of significance.

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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(See historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Prairie View A&M University*, Waller County, Texas)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	212940	3332860

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-12)**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** (see continuation sheet 10-12)

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

NAME/TITLE: Karen Charleston, Staff Assistant**ORGANIZATION:** Prairie View A&M University**DATE:** March 19, 1999**STREET & NUMBER:** P.O. Box 519**TELEPHONE:** 409/857-3200**CITY OR TOWN:** Prairie View**STATE:** TX**ZIP CODE:** 77446-0519

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS**MAPS** (see continuation sheet Map-13)**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet Photo-14)**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Prairie View A&M University**STREET & NUMBER:** P.O. Box 519**TELEPHONE:** 409/857-3200**CITY OR TOWN:** Prairie View**STATE:** TX**ZIP CODE:** 77446-0519

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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is a rectangular parcel of land measuring 68.5 feet x 150.0 feet, whose northwest corner is 18.0 feet in a northwesterly direction from the northwest foundation corner of the W.R. Woolfolk Building and whose southeast corner is 21.1 feet in a southeasterly direction from the southeast foundation corner of the W.R. Woolfolk Building.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

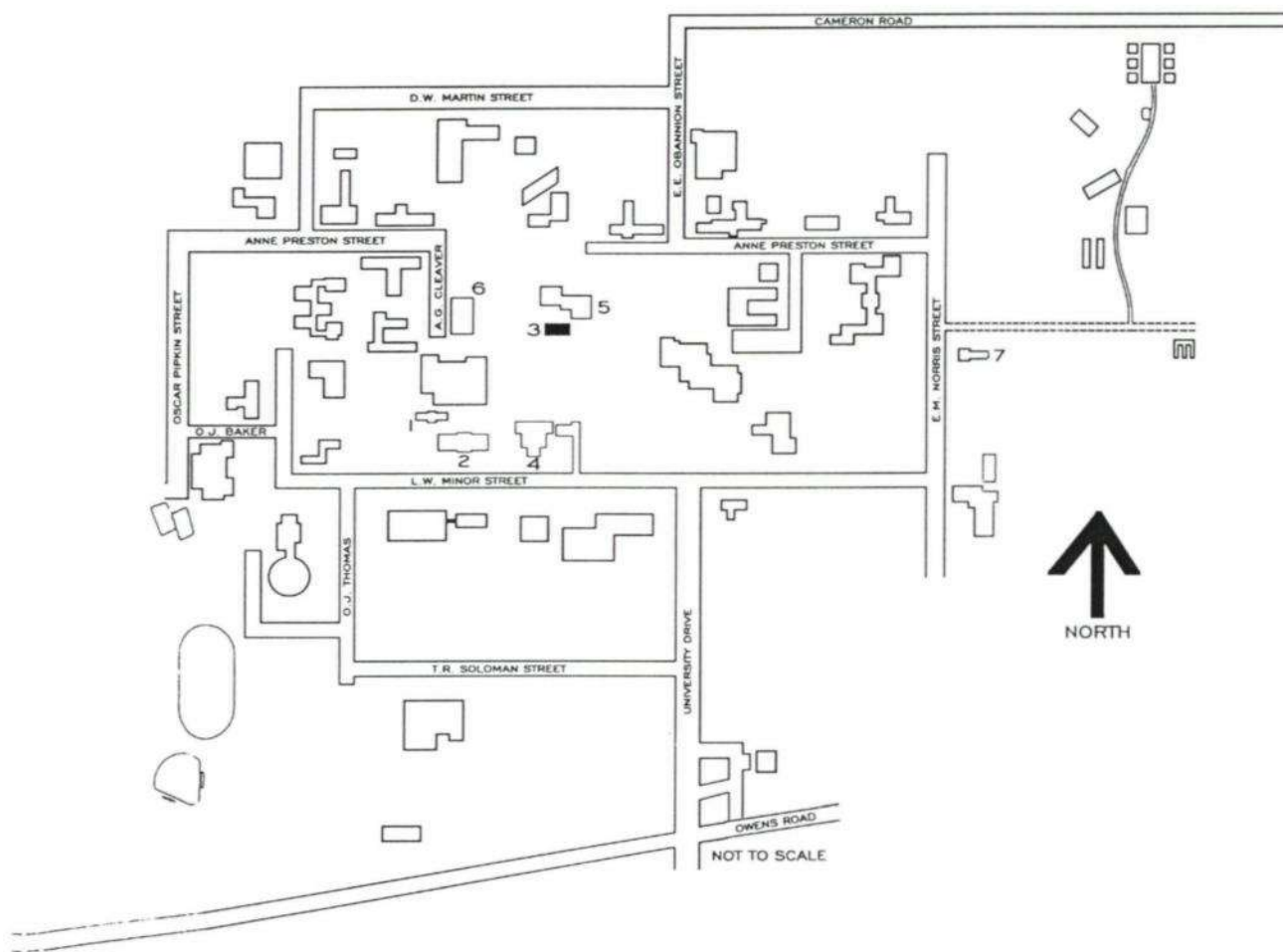
The boundaries include resources associated with the 1932 college building that retain sufficient historic and architectural integrity.

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G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas



BUILDING KEY

1. L.C. ANDERSON HALL-#0541
2. ANNIE LAURIE EVANS HALL-#0544
- 3. G.R. WOOLFOLK SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE BUILDING-#0503
4. W.R. BANKS LIBRARY -#0508
5. FRY-THOMAS POWER PLANT-#0529
6. HILLIARD HALL -#0537
7. VETERINARY HOSPITAL -#0517

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Section PHOTO Page 14

G.R. Woolfolk Social & Political Science Building
Prairie View, Waller County, Texas

PHOTO LOG

(Photos taken in 1997 by Charles Peveto, staff member of the Texas Historical Commission)

- 1) Front and east facades
Camera facing northwest
- 2) Front façade
Camera facing north

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Woolfolk, G.R., Social and Political Science Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE Praire View A&M University MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Waller

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

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000616

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/3/99 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

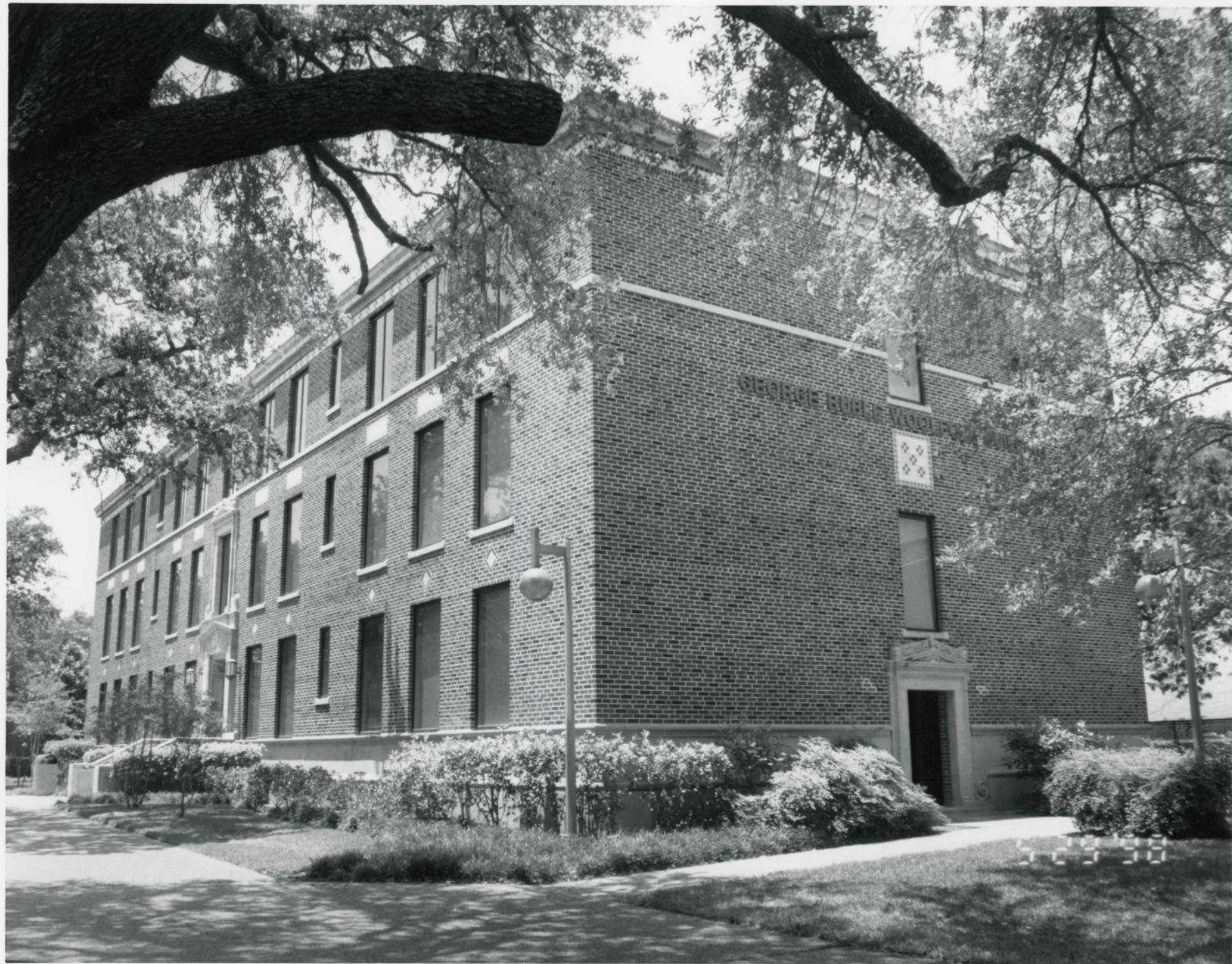
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



GR. WOOLFOLK SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE BLDG.
A.G. CLEAVER STREET, BUILDING #0503
PRAIRIE VIEW, WALLER CO., TEXAS

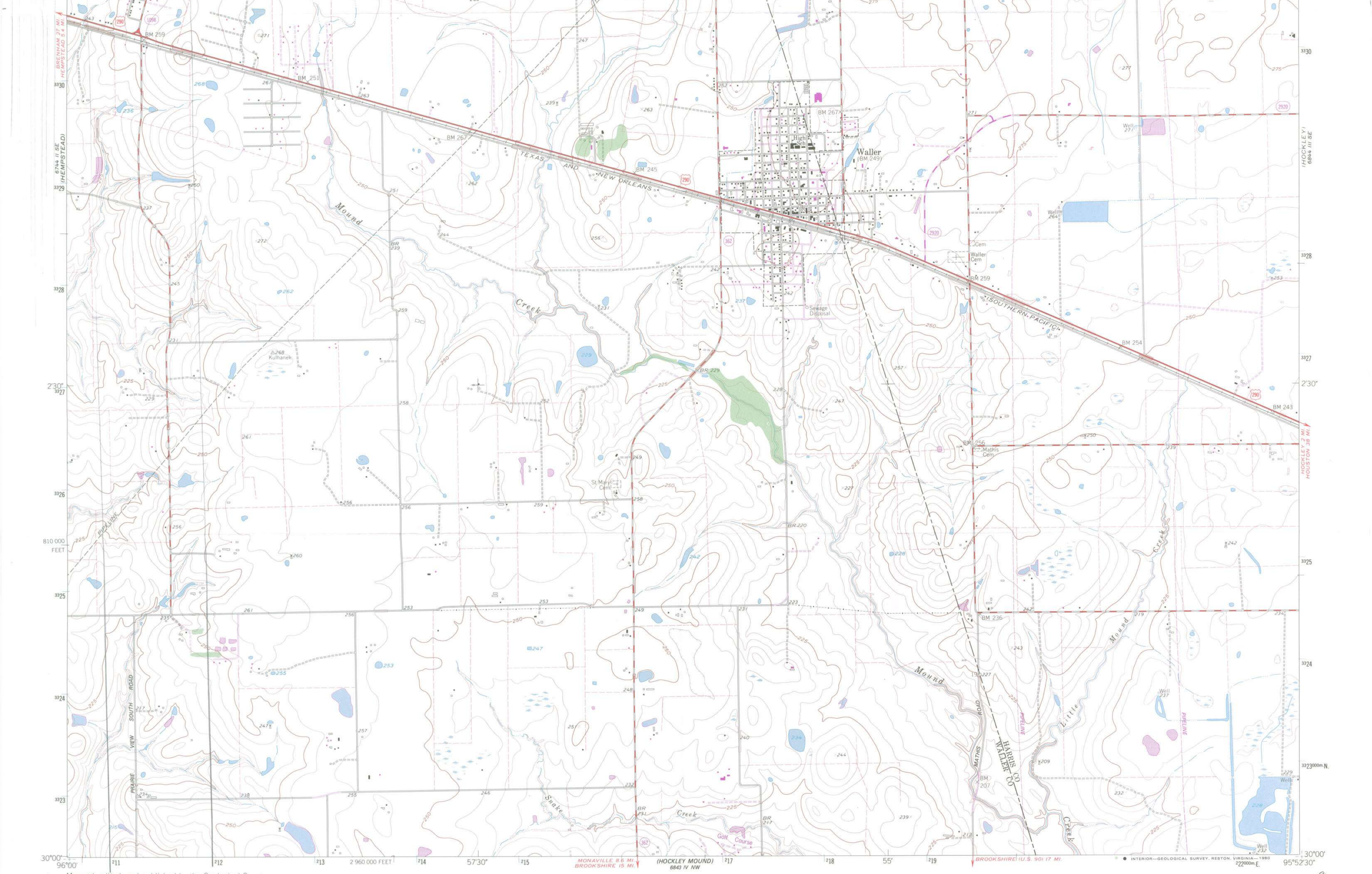
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 2



G.R. WOOLFOLK SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE BLDG
A.G. CLEAVER STREET, BUILDING # 0503
PRAIRIE VIEW, WALLER CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 2

GIR. WOOLFOLK SOCIAL & POLITICAL SCIENCE BUILDING
A.G. CLEAVER STREET BUILDING #0503
PRAIRIE VIEW, WALLER CO. TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 151212340/3332860



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

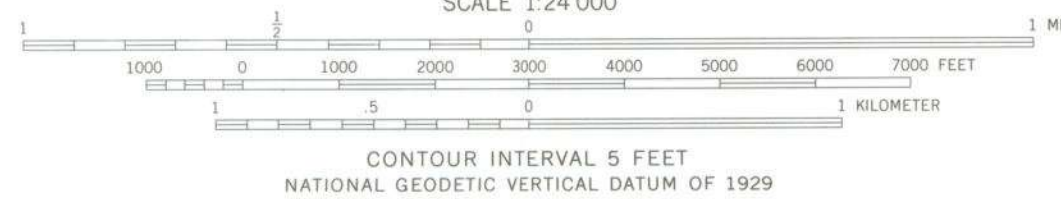
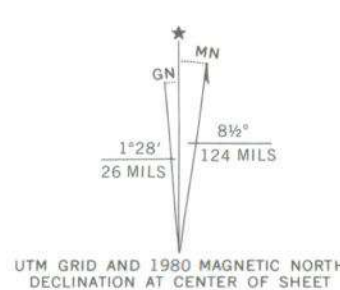
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1958. Topography by planetable surveys 1960

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000 foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, south central zone. 1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 19 meters south and 23 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1980



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

ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route



3095-222

WALLER, TEX.
N3000-W9552 5/7 5
MILLER BLUEPRINT CO. 1960
P.O. BOX 2065 78768 501 W 6TH 78701
AUSTIN, TEXAS PH. #512-478-2583
1-800-252-3469 FAX #512-478-7089
TOPOREVISED 1980
III SW-SERIES V882