

SBR Draft

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Baylor University Female Department
Other name/site number: Independence Academy (1837-1845), Baylor University (1845-1851), Baylor University Female Department (1851-1866), Baylor Female College (1866-1886) William Carey Crane College/Binford University (1886-1889), Baylor University at Academy Hill (present)
Name of related multiple property listing: Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial

2. Location

Street & number: [REDACTED]
City or town: Independence State: Texas County: Washington
Not for publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
 national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

	State Historic Preservation Officer
_____ Signature of certifying official / Title	_____ Date
Texas Historical Commission _____ State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

_____ Signature of commenting or other official	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action

Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	1	buildings
1	0	Sites
0	2	structures
3	0	Objects
4	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Education: college

Current Functions: Recreation and Culture: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification: NA

Principal Exterior Materials: Stone: limestone

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-14)

Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
<input type="checkbox"/>	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input type="checkbox"/>	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: A (Religious Properties)

Areas of Significance: Education, Archaeology: Historic/Non-aboriginal

Period of Significance: 1845-1889, 1936-1939

Significant Dates: 1845

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): Anglo American, African American

Architect/Builder: NA

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-15 through 8-40)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-41 through 9-46)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. Part 1 approved on (date)
- 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, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University: Baylor University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: [REDACTED]

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Verbal Boundary Description: [REDACTED]

Boundary Justification: [REDACTED]

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Carol Macaulay-Jameson, Senior Lecturer
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Date: September 1, 2020

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-47 through Map-52)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-53 through Figure-60)

Photographs (see continuation sheets Photo-61 through Photo-70)

Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Baylor University Female Department
Location: Independence, Washington County, TX
Name of Photographer: Carol Macaulay-Jameson
Date of Photographs: February 1, 2019

Photo 1: 2019 photograph of the academic building ruins (Contributing Resource 1, Feature A) frontal view facing west.

Photo 2: 2019 photograph of academic building ruins (Contributing Resource 1, Feature A), side view looking north.

Photo 3: 2019 photograph of the kitchen duplex ruins (Contributing Resource 1, Feature B) facing north.

Photo 4: 2019 photograph of the college well (Contributing Resource 1, Feature C), located between the two kitchen structures.

Photo 5: 2019 photograph of the college well (Contributing Resource 1, Feature C).

Photo 6: 2019 photograph of the field where the boarding house (Contributing Resource 1, Feature D) once stood, looking northwest.

Photo 7: 2019 photograph of the large mound (Contributing Resource, Feature E), located to the east (right) of the kitchen duplex ruins, looking north-northwest.

Photo 8: 2019 photograph of the possible location of the dining hall (Contributing Resource 1, Feature F), directly to the west (left) of the restroom, nooking north.

Photo 9: 2019 photograph of the two entrance gate pillars (Contributing Object, Resource 2), looking west into the Academy Hill site.

Photo 10: 2019 photograph of the north entrance gate pillar (Contributing Object, Resource 2), looking west into the Academy Hill site.

Photo 11: 2019 photograph of the northeast corner boundary marker (Contributing Object, Resource 3), looking west.

Photo 12: 2019 photograph of the 1936 Texas Centennial historical marker #8415 (Contributing Object, Resource 4), located on the right side of the column-portico wall of the academic building.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D.C.

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Narrative Description

Independence, Washington County, Baylor University Female Department is primarily an archaeological site that once was a 19th-century college campus with a three-story Greek Revival academic building, dormitory, dining hall, and kitchen. The remains of these and other features are collectively counted as one contributing site. It also contains three contributing objects—a historical marker plaque, a boundary marker, and gate pillars—that are direct and in-direct products of the 1936 Texas Centennial, the context of which was recorded in *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas* MPS. Three non-contributing resources are mid- to late-20th-century park improvements to the nominated property. Initially the site of Independence Academy (1838), the nominated property was the campus of Baylor University Female Department (later Baylor Female College) from 1845 to 1886. Along with the Male Campus (nominated separately), the sites were the original home Baylor University in Independence. Following the university's removal to Belton and Waco in the late 19th century, the nominated property continued to operate as an educational institution until approximately 1889. Areas of the known site, [REDACTED], are restricted from survey, and the boundary was drawn [REDACTED] of the portion that is accessible. Investigations show [REDACTED] boundary includes the core area of the campus. The site remains relatively undisturbed and demonstrates high integrity.

Environment

The Baylor University Female Department is an archaeological site in southeast Texas in Washington County, approximately 90 miles northwest of Houston (**Map 1**). The nominated site is located on a high point [REDACTED] an unincorporated village. The property is [REDACTED] on the south and private property on the east, north, and west (**Maps 2-5**). The primary entrance [REDACTED] which is flanked by two stone gate pillars, [REDACTED], runs west into the property and makes a sharp curve to the north, bisecting the property and the features. After [REDACTED] begins and follows the northern and western boundary of the property and intersects with FM 390 to the south. The site is covered with grass and numerous live oak trees, many of which are more than a century old.

Time Period of Occupation/Use

The nominated site was used for educational purposes from 1838 to 1889 and was originally part of the Thomas S. Saul Survey. During the period of significance, the Baylor Female Department property was between four and fourteen acres (**Map 9**). In 1852, university trustees added eight acres (two 4-acre blocks) to the original four-acre parcel, and in 1861 Sam Houston sold approximately 1.8-acres to Principal Horace Clark. It is not known if the institution used the added eight acres of property immediately northeast of the nominated boundary, which was once owned by Principal Clark. Between 1838 and 1889, the Washington County Clerk recorded many land transactions in which Baylor trustees or faculty sold whole and partial blocks to local citizens. The nominated [REDACTED] is the core of the historic campus with data that can give insight into Baylor's significance to the early history of higher education in Texas. Furthermore, it was the area identified and retained by the citizens of Independence for continued educational efforts in the late 19th century and preserved as a commemorative property in the 20th century.

In 1838, Ann Koontz (formerly Baker) sold four acres and a two-story building to the Trustees of Independence Academy to establish a coeducational school.¹ The property became known as Academy Hill. In 1845, the school failed financially, and the property and building were sold at a sheriff's auction to Edward M. Taylor.² During this

¹ [REDACTED]

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time, prominent Baptists in Washington County formed the Union Association and established the Education Society to consider forming a Baptist university for Texas. In 1845, Baylor University was chartered by the Republic of Texas and Independence was chosen as the location of the university because it had become a prominent community in terms of wealth and population; and also because Taylor offered the Independence Academy property to the bid proposal. In 1846, Baylor began coeducational classes as a preparatory school in the former Independence Academy building. The following year, its collegiate program began.³

In 1851, the male and female student body was separated. The Male Department transferred to a new building [REDACTED] and the Female Department continued to use the old Independence Academy building. In 1852, the Board of Trustees purchased eight acres and a building adjoining the Independence Academy property, with the building to be used as the residence of the Female Department's principal, his family, and female boarding students.⁴ [REDACTED] (Map 9), this area is not part of the nominated boundary. In 1855, construction began on the academic building, and by 1858, the campus consisted of an imposing three-story academic building, a large boarding house, kitchen, well, and dining hall. In 1886, the then-named Baylor Female College relocated to Belton, following Baylor University's move to Waco and merge with Waco University. A new school, William Carey Crane Male and Female College, occupied the former Baylor Female College site. The school was plagued by financial problems for several years before the Union Association sold the property to Trustee John Thomas Hairston in 1912 and the site was virtually abandoned. In 1900, the buildings were damaged by a massive hurricane originating in the Gulf of Mexico and they continued to fall into ruin in intervening years.⁵

From 1932 through the 1960s, the site, known as Independence State Park, was a public/private park maintained by the State Highway Department (now called the Texas Department of Transportation) to commemorate the legacy of Baylor University's first campus. In 1939, two entrance gate pillars and [REDACTED] were constructed on the property. Independence State Park (also known as Old Baylor Park) was established in 1947, but the state subsequently deeded the land back to Baylor University in 1965. That year, Baylor then transferred the property to the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), which made improvements to the property. In 2012, BGCT conveyed the property to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Baylor University, who agreed to operate it jointly as a public park.⁶

³ Michael A. White, *History of Baylor University 1845-1861* (Waco: Texian Press, 1968), 3-6, 13-16, 55;

Louis Smith Murray, *Baylor at Independence* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 1972), 6-7, 23, 26, 44-45, 70, also see "Charter of Baylor University" in Murray on pp. 353-356.

⁴ Washington County Deed Records, Vol. L, Pages 110-112, March 1, 1852. Brenham, Texas. The trustees then conveyed the land to Horace Clark. Washington County Deed Records, Vol. M, Pages 117, July 31, 1952. Brenham, Texas.

⁵ Murray, 104, 113-114, 118, 154-155, 238-240, 304-305, 307-309; White, 24, 40, 57; J. M. Carroll, *A History of Texas Baptists Comprising a Detailed Account of Their Activities, Their Progress and Their Achievements* (Dallas: Baptist Standard Publishing Co., 1923), 526; Bess H. Habekotte, "Fourth and FINAL revised family history, as reported by Mrs. Rankin B. Carter (Hazel Hairston), June 27, 1973" (The Texas Collection, Baylor University).

⁶ The Baptist General Convention of Texas, "Administration Support Committee and Finance Subcommittee Report," May 21, 2012 (Baptist General Convention of Texas Archives, Waco, Texas); Thomas L. Charlton, "Independence State Park Timeline," July 31, 2009 (The Texas Collection, Baylor University); "History of Baylor, Independence Texas" (Unpublished document in The Texas Collection, Baylor University); "Baylor at Independence," Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>; Tim Woods, "Baylor Helping to Preserve its History in Small Town Independence," *Waco Tribune Herald*, August 1, 2010; "Sigma Tau Delta to Hold Picnic at Independence," *Lariat*, Volume 35, Number 119, May 5, 1933, describing the transfer from J.T. Hairston to Baylor University; Independence State Park is established by the State Legislature in 1947 (BU Records: Baylor at Independence Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); Texas State Parks Board transfers Independence State Park to Parks and Wildlife Department (BU Records: Baylor at Independence Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission quitclaim Independence State Park to Baylor University (BU Records: Baylor at Independence Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); Baylor University quitclaim Independence State Park to the

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Site Features ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

⁷ "Baylor at Independence," Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

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few limestone rocks protruding along its northern edge (**Photo 7**). A 1912 photograph of the boarding house depicts a

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Non-Contributing Resources 5-7

5. Restroom (1966)

The restroom facility was constructed approximately 100' north of McCrocklin Rd. It is located along the north property line and is located west of the kitchen duplex ruins (**Photo 8**). The facility is composed of a limestone exterior with a gabled roof and an extended porch on the south elevation held up with limestone columns. The gabled side of the roof is made of wood siding and the roof is shingled. Two metal doors on the south elevation mark the entrances to the male and female restrooms. The facility was re-roofed and re-painted blue in 2012.⁹

⁸ Lily Russell, Speech given on June 8, 1852 at the dedication of the restoration of the columns on Academy Hill (BU Records: Baylor Historical Research Office #BU/103, Box 8, Folder 10, The Texas Collection, Baylor University), 17. This speech mentioned the inscriptions on the bronze plaques that previously adorned the gates.

⁹ Restroom facility construction date recorded in "Restoration of the Nancy Lea Rock Vault," re-roofing and repainting of facilities gleaned from "Statement by Kathy Killman, June 14, 2013" (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 5, Folder 33, The Texas Collection, Baylor University).

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6. Picnic Tables (1966, 2019)

Three concrete picnic tables located underneath the shade of the large oak trees were added by the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1966.¹⁰ The concrete foundations measure 10'x9'7". In 2019, they were replaced with ADA-accessible metal picnic tables and are bolted to the slabs of the old concrete tables.

7. Swing Sets (1966)

Two swing sets were donated by the Sun Oil Company in 1966 to the park.¹¹ One set lies southeast of the ruins of the academic building and the other to the south of the academic building mound. One set consists of four swings and the other consists of two swings. A 14' pole, parallel to the ground lies slightly west of the larger swing set, possibly used as a balance beam.

Other Objects at the Nominated Site

The following objects are not enumerated in the resource count because the historical markers are not particularly large in size or scale nor are they important to the history of the nominated property.

Historical Marker #8299: Baylor University (1967)

The 18"x28" bronze commemorative marker is mounted to the right side of the academic building portico.

Historical Marker #8325: Horace G. Clark (1970)

The 6'6" tall metal marker is located where the boarding house once stood. The plaque portion measures 18"x28" in size and recognizes Dr. Horace G. Clark as principal and second president of Baylor Female College.

Historical Marker #8328: Davis Family (1973)

The 6'6" tall metal pole marker is located just to the east of the Horace G. Clark marker. The plaque portion is 18"x28" in size and recognizes the Davis family, singling out Martha Davis Clark, the wife of Dr. Horace Clark.

Historical Marker #8298: Old Baylor Park (1973)

The 6'6" tall metal pole marker stands in front of the right entrance gate pillar when approaching the site from the east. The plaque portion measures 18"x28" in size.

Likely Appearance of the Property During Occupation

The appearance of the property, and its subsequent degradation, is well-documented by historic sketches, lithographs, and photographs. Georgia Burleson, the wife of Baylor University's second president, drew two sketches of the original campus (Independence Academy) in the early 1850s which included a two-story wood-frame building (ca.1835), approximately 33'x35' in size. In 1846, when Baylor acquired the building, it underwent renovations. The second floor was completed, a chimney was added on the east elevation, windows were added, and the building was weather-boarded and painted. Georgia Burleson, wife of Baylor's second president, created a sketch of this building (**Figure 1**). After twenty years of use, this building was eventually removed from the property by John R. Collins in 1857-1858 after the new academic building was completed.¹²

¹⁰ "Baylor at Independence," Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² White, 14; Murray, 70, 72, 151; Georgia Jenkins Burleson Collection (Accession #136, Box 2, Item 3, undated, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); Minutes of the Board of Trustees 1845-1888, *Copy of the Minutes of the Proceedings of the Board of Trustees Minutes of Baylor University, Independence, Texas, from the Commencement in 1845 to the End, Together with All Other Entries and Proceedings, Recorded in Said Volume*, compiled and typed by Royston C. Crane,

In 1852, the Board of Trustees purchased an adjoining eight acres and a building from W. H. Cleveland to house the university's principal and to board students. The boarding house is shown in an 1880 lithograph and in photographs taken in 1884, 1912, ca. 1920, ca. 1930, and in 1952 (**Figures 3, 6-8, 11**). It is hypothesized that this three-story structure was approximately 70' east-west by 50' north-south. The walls of the first story of the structure were composed of uniformly-cut limestone rock. The frame of the second and third stories was constructed from wood, with horizontal wood planking and a side-gabled roof on the attic. Entry stairs in the center of the front elevation led to the second floor. The attic space, marked by four dormer windows, was used as sleeping quarters for the female students. Exterior ornament and form reflect Louisiana-style antebellum architecture with a symmetrical facade, central passage, a three-sided porch, and square-cut post columns.¹³

Located behind the boarding house site are two limestone rectangular structures and a well which together, have historically been referred to as the kitchen. It is unknown when these structures were built, but it is possible that they pre-date Baylor's acquisition of the property. A photograph taken in 1912 depicts the two kitchen structures with shingled roofs (**Figure 7**). An historical account describes the kitchen as having a second floor.¹⁴ The wall construction is crude, built from irregularly-sized limestone cobbles and boulders, many of which exhibit no signs of being cut and shaped, and do not resemble the finely-faceted limestone rock used in the construction of the first floor of the boarding house. Only the stones used in the corners and doorways were cut and shaped. Each structure had a gabled roof on its long ends. The eastern-most structure appears to have one doorway facing the back of the boarding house and the western-most structure appears to have two doorways also facing the back of the boarding house. In between these structures is a limestone-lined well. No footprint of a fireplace or chimney has been identified in the ruins, but in a 1939 proposal written by the Baylor Historical Society, the organization had hoped to receive a bid to restore the fireplace. The fireplace may have been built on the western or northern wall of the eastern-most structure, which is currently covered with a large pile of limestone rubble. Depicted in a lithograph from the 1880-1881 Catalogue of Baylor Female College (**Figure 3**) is a structure located behind the boarding house with what appears to have a chimney located along the north wall.

Shown in the 1884 photograph of the boarding house (**Figure 6**) is a wooden structure located behind and to the left of the boarding house, which possibly is the dining hall. The 1857 Catalogue of Baylor University's Female Department (**Figure 13**) stated that "a large dining hall has been added."¹⁵ Nothing about its construction has been found in the Minutes of the Board of Trustees.

The academic building, completed in 1857, was a three-story limestone 40'x70' rectangular Greek Revival building with an octagonal cupola atop its hipped roof and featured a two-story portico supported by four Doric orders. Originally slated to be two-stories, prominent Independence resident Dr. Asa Hoxey donated \$1,000 to the project. The building had four stone chimneys with two on the north side and two on the south side. Fenestration was symmetrical with 6/6 wood frame windows. The 1857 Catalogue of the Female Department provides a sketch (**Figure 2**) of the building and a description:

Sweetwater, Texas, (Independence, Box V-1, The Texas Collection, Baylor University), October 9, 1846, 23; Legal Contracts (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 1, Folder 10, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); Sketch of the Independence Academy campus by Georgia Jenkins Burleson (Georgia Jenkins Burleson Collection, Accession #136, Box 2, Item 3, Scrapbook, undated).

¹³ "French Creole Architecture," National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/louisiana/architecture.htm> (accessed June 5, 2019).

¹⁴ Murray, 133.

¹⁵ Murray, 154.

Edifice is an elegant building of stone, three stories in height, and contains, besides a spacious Audience Hall, a school room, library and apparatus room, and fine ample recreation rooms, each 13 by 28 feet. It is handsomely finished throughout, can be thoroughly ventilated in summer, and comfortably warm in winter. The grounds are handsomely enclosed, and afford abundant space for sports and exercise. Ample accommodations are provided for 250 or 300 pupils.¹⁶

It was also described as “a large and airy building of well-dressed rock... situated upon a beautiful eminence, from which we can view the surrounding country for 20 miles.”¹⁷ *The Galveston News* noted Principal Horace Clark as the designer, solicitor of funds, and supervising architect of the “magnificent conception so wisely planned, with its massive stone columns, easy stairways, convenient recitation rooms and beautifully arranged auditorium.”¹⁸ The earliest photograph of the building dates to 1884 (**Figure 4**), and subsequent images chronicle its deterioration between 1900 and 1930.

University catalogs highlighted the beauty of the female campus on Academy Hill. Live oak groves surrounded the hilltop site, and young live oak trees were planted on campus (**Figure 4**). Other landscaping included the planting of shrubs along the carriage drive and the construction of fence enclosures around some of the buildings.¹⁹ According to Charles R. Matthew’s thesis on the landscape history of Independence:

It is likely that this property was kept clear of vegetation other than shade trees, planted shrubs, and garden plots for the kitchen and Principal Horace Clark’s residence, though the girls would sometimes go “dewberrying” or picnicking near the campus...The 1857 Catalogue of the Female Department states that “the grounds are handsomely enclosed and afford abundant space for sports and exercise.”²⁰

The 1880-1881 lithograph and the 1884 photographs (**Figures 3, 4 and 6**) also show the general layout of the college campus, secondary-site elements (like fences), and landscaping. After the academic building was completed in 1857, the Board of Trustees asked the builder, John R. Collins, to build a fence around the buildings of the Female Department as well as to remove the old Independence Academy building from the campus within the year. After 20 years, the academic building fell into “an impaired and critical condition.” Repairs were made in 1877, but in 1879, a portion of the wall gave way and monies had to be borrowed to pay for the repairs.²¹

After Baylor Female College relocated to Belton in 1886, the buildings were leased to William Carey Crane College for a few years, reorganized as Binford University in 1889, but eventually folded that year. To pay off the debt of both Baylor University and William Carey Crane College, the property was sold to John Thomas Hairston in 1889.²²

¹⁶ White, 57; Murray, 148-155, 162-163, *Catalogue of the Trustees, Faculty and Students of Baylor University 1857 (Female Department)*, (Digital Collections, University Catalogs, The Texas Collection, Baylor University).

¹⁷ *Texas Baptist Herald*, March 18, 1857, in White, 57.

¹⁸ *The Galveston News*, July 12, no year, in Murray, 155.

¹⁹ Thomas W. Crumpton III, “The Oaks of Independence: A Landscape History of the Original Site of Baylor University and the Potential Surrounding Historical District,” Master’s Thesis, Baylor University, 2011, 116.

²⁰ Crumpton, 116-117.

²¹ Murray, 306; Carroll, 393, 538-539.

²² Murray, 307, 309; Bess H. Habekotte, “Fourth and FINAL revised family history, as reported by Mrs. Rankin B. Carter (Hazel Hairston), June 27, 1973” (The Texas Collection, Baylor University); R. C. Crane, “William Carey Crane College,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbw18> (accessed June 3, 2019).

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Photographs of the academic building and the boarding house were taken during the early 20th century and chronicle how the buildings slowly fell into ruin. A barbed-wire fence was erected around the boarding house ruin and later, the eastern portion of the boarding house was removed (**Figures 7-8**).

Current and Past Impacts and Integrity

After the school campus was abandoned in 1889, the property was left undisturbed until the late 1930s. In 1938, Mary McCauley Maxwell obtained leftover centennial money to erect entrance gate pillars and build a road through the site. In 1952, the columns of the academic building were stabilized with iron rods and supports which were added to the columns and the portico wall. The ground was stabilized behind the columns, electrical lights were installed, the well was cleaned, a pump house was built for onsite water, and three underground pipes leading from the well were installed to provide water for landscape maintenance.²³ **Figures 10-12** depict Academy Hill as it appeared in 1952 with the entrance gate in the foreground, the first-floor limestone walls of the boarding house standing behind them, and the academic building columns. Based on photographic evidence, sometime in the mid-1950s to early 1960s, the first-floor ruins of the boarding house were removed; possibly bulldozed to the northeast corner of the property, represented today by a large mound of limestone rock covered with dirt and grass. In 1966, the Baptist General Convention of Texas built a restroom facility and concrete walkway west of the kitchen ruin and Sun Oil Company donated swings and picnic tables.²⁴ In the early 1970s, three historical markers were dedicated. A white picket fence was installed around the academic building and the kitchen duplex ruins, but they have since been removed.

As for the current impacts to the property, in 2012, Baylor University and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor acquired the property and by 2013, had restored the columns and renovated the restrooms. The iron rods and supports were removed from the walls and the column stones were reset in new mortar.²⁵

The integrity of the site remains high. The mound located behind the columns of the academic building protects its foundations and the floor of the ground level. The wall fall of the kitchen duplex has covered, thus protecting, the floor of the interior space of these structures. The location of the Independence Academy building is unknown but is likely located on the unimproved southern portion of the property. As for the boarding house, the excavations on the male campus found that the limestone foundations of three of its academic buildings, razed in the 1930s, remained intact, therefore, it is possible that the limestone foundations of the boarding house are also intact. Its location can be deduced from the 1952 photographs of Academy Hill (**Figures 11-12**).

²³ Russell, 16-18; "Sigma Tau Delta to Hold Picnic at Independence" (*Lariat*, Vol. 35, No. 119, May 5, 1933); Credit was given to Mrs. A. R. Wilson, the Baylor Historical Society Vice-President in 1943 for the creation of Old Baylor Park. She had hoped that not only the columns be restored, but also the boarding house, which then consisted of the limestone walls of the first story (BU Records: Baylor Historical Society, Accession #BU/0028, Box 4, Folders 2, 3 and 26, The Texas Collection, Baylor University); The Baptist General Convention of Texas, "Administration Support Committee and Finance Subcommittee Report," May 21, 2012 (Baptist General Convention of Texas Archives, Waco, Texas); Report on the Restoration by Baylor Historical Society President Frank Burkhalter (BU Records: Baylor Historical Society, Accession #BU/0028, Box 4, Folder 28, The Texas Collection, Baylor University).

²⁴ The Baptist General Convention of Texas, "Administration Support Committee and Finance Subcommittee Report," May 21, 2012 (Baptist General Convention of Texas Archives, Waco, Texas).

²⁵ "History of Baylor, Independence, Texas" (Unpublished document in The Texas Collection, Baylor University); Baptist General Convention of Texas to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Baylor University: Quitclaim Deed, Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 1407, Page 936, May 22, 2012.

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Statement of Significance

The Baylor Male and Female Department archaeological sites in Independence, Washington County document the earliest period of higher education development in Texas. Religious organizations and private interests led the 19th-century college founding movement in Texas, and the first generation of institutions opened in the period between independence from Mexico (1836) and statehood (1845). By 1860, there were 25 denominational and private colleges in Texas. Briefly occupied by Independence Academy (1838-1845), the Union Association of the Baptist Church established Baylor University in 1845. The nominated property is the first campus of that institution, which is the state's oldest university operating under its original charter. When a second campus for male instruction [REDACTED] in 1851, the nominated site became the Baylor University Female Department and, later, Baylor Female College (1866). Until it moved to Belton, Bell County in 1886, the college offered female students from across the South progressive courses of study in classical instruction and ornamental training. From 1887-1889, William Carey Crane Male and Female College and Binford University operated briefly at the former Baylor site.

The Baylor University Female Department site is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the statewide level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Education and Criterion D in the area of Archaeology. As the only known archaeological sites of its type in Texas, the Baylor University Female and Male Departments can yield important information about 19th-century collegiate education and the cultural history of the men and women who lived, studied, and worked there. Established by the Union Association of the Baptist Church and currently jointly owned by Baylor University and the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, the nominated property meets Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) because it is evaluated for its historical and archaeological significance. In the late-1930s, the State of Texas, Baylor University, and alumni placed a commemorative Centennial marker on the academic building ruins and erected entrance gates to the property. Like the site, these resources are significant under Criterion A in the area of Education because they represent an effort by state and private organizations to recognize the Baylor University's founding and pay homage to the institution's original site by establishing a state park. Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) is not claimed, however, because these are minor objects of secondary significance to the archaeological site. The period of significance is 1845-1889 and 1936-1939, representing the period the nominated property served as an institution of higher education and years during which the State of Texas and private citizens erected the commemorative properties.

Historical Context

When Baylor's founders chartered the institution in 1845, the Republic of Texas was months away from U.S. annexation. Instability characterized the decade between independence from Mexico (1836) and statehood (1845). Political turmoil, public debt, diplomatic uncertainty, and ongoing disputes with Mexico plagued the Republic's leadership. Annexation ushered in an era of security, stability, and growth for the State of Texas. The U.S.-Mexico War set the international border at the Rio Grande, and U.S. military forces established forts and built roads that enabled the state's frontier boundary to move further west. Antebellum Anglo settlement, however, concentrated in East Texas (east of modern-day Interstate 35) where rivers, like the Colorado and Brazos, were vital arteries of communication and transportation.²⁶ Baylor University, founded in Washington County, reflected the socioeconomic character of East Texas that developed between statehood and the Civil War.

²⁶ Campbell further specifies this as the "eastern two-fifths" of Texas bounded roughly by the Lamar County at the Red River (north), Louisiana (east), Calhoun County on the Gulf Coast (south), and the 98th meridian (west). Here lived 93-percent of the state's free population and 99 percent of the slave population. Richard Lowe and Randolph B. Campbell, "Wealth-holding and Political Power in Antebellum Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 79, no.1 (July 1975): 23.

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Education, early Texan leaders believed, was paramount to the Republic's future success. President Mirabeau B. Lamar—sometimes called “Father of Texas education”—promoted funding public universities as part of his vision for an empire, writing, “The cultivated mind is the guardian genius of democracy.” Lamar's legislative counterparts shared the view that tied education with moral fitness, democratic principles, and economic success:

Nothing is so essential in a free government as the general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence of every kind. Education confers private happiness; gives political strength and importance; it exalts the mind, refines the passions, polishes the manners, and promotes virtue; it is the foundation of civil and religious liberty, and constitutes national strength and glory.²⁷

Funding public education, however, proved to be the financially strapped Republic's largest hurdle to the establishment of state universities until after the Civil War. Thus, Protestant and Catholic settlers who opened private denominational institutions led the early development of higher education in Texas.

The Republic of Texas did have one source of wealth: its vast public lands that the state retained after its annexation by the United States in 1845. A generous land grant policy, which started in 1836 to reward Texas Revolution participants and induce settlement, continued throughout the late-19th century. Cheap land lured thousands of immigrants—European and Anglo American—to antebellum Texas. At the same time, enslaved men, women, and children involuntarily arrived with their Anglo owners or through the domestic slave trade. In 1836 there were approximately 38,470 people (Anglo, enslaved Black, and Mexican American) living in Texas. According to historian Randolph B. Campbell, the total population (excluding Native Americans) grew from approximately 142,000 in 1847 to 212,295 in 1850, and the U.S. Census enumerated 604,215 Texans in 1860. During that thirty-year period, the state's population increased 325 percent.²⁸

Anglo American southerners and southern interests dominated the state in the pre-Civil War era.²⁹ Most immigrants to East Texas were natives of Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In Washington County, for example, between 40-50 percent of the immigrant population were from the above listed states.³⁰ They immigrated to Texas at a time when the South experienced a cotton boom, market revolution, evangelical revival, and growing sense of sectional identity.³¹ From that context, settlers imported their social structure, religion, and political ideology; and they made a predominantly agricultural, slave-holding economy in the region that came to resemble the larger South.³² This is not to say that the area was culturally homogenous—German, Irish, Polish immigrants and Tejanos were among the groups well represented in East and Southeast Texas.³³ Native southerners, however, headed three-quarters of Texas families in 1850 and were overwhelmingly farmers, Democrats, and Protestant; 25 percent of this group also owned at least one enslaved person.³⁴

Affluent Texans represented less than a quarter of the total population but held a disproportionately large share of the

²⁷ E.W. Cullen, Chairman of the Committee on Education, “A Report to the Third Congress of the Republic of Texas,” *Telegraph and Texas Register*, January 12, 1839.

²⁸ Randolph B. Campbell, *Gone to Texas: A History of the Lone Star State* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003): 207.

²⁹ Campbell, 209.

³⁰ Terry G. Jordan, “The Imprint of the Upper and Lower South on Mid-Nineteenth-Century Texas,” *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 57, No. 4 (December 1967): 673.

³¹ Sean Michael Kelley, “Plantation Frontiers: Race, Ethnicity, and Family Along the Brazos River of Texas, 1821-1886,” PhD diss., University of Texas at Austin, 2000, 23.

³² Campbell, 207.

³³ For more information on the unique diversity of the middle Gulf coast region, see Sean Michael Kelley, “Plantation Frontiers: Race, Ethnicity, and Family Along the Brazos River of Texas, 1821-1886,” PhD diss., University of Texas at Austin, 2000.

³⁴ Campbell, 207.

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state's wealth and power. Professionally, the economic elite were mostly large-scale planters who cultivated labor-intensive cash crops, like sugar and cotton.³⁵ Families in Texas' planter class were two-to-four times wealthier than the general population with property valued at least \$10,000 (in 1860); held more than 1,000 acres and owned 10 or more bondsmen. Slaveholding Texans (farmers and non-farmers) dominated politics, too. For example, Campbell found in 1860 slaveholders held almost 69 percent of all elected federal, state, and county offices but only represented 27 percent of the total population.³⁶ These wealthy families were concentrated in the middle Gulf Coast region, which includes Washington County, between the Brazos and Colorado rivers where rich soils supported cotton and sugar cultivation.

The planter class enjoyed privileges, like access to higher education, that the average Texan could not afford. Before the Civil War, there was no public education system—primary, secondary, or collegiate-level. Thus, private schools with requisite expenses were the only options in this period. In her examination of Sallie McNeil, granddaughter of a wealthy Brazoria County plantation owner, historian Rebecca Sharpless noted that “only the financially elite enrolled their daughters at Baylor.”³⁷ Campbell's research confirmed Sharpless' statement was universally applicable to students of both sexes and for all antebellum Texas colleges:

A five-month session typically cost from \$15 per student in the primary department up to \$30 for senior-level instruction. “Ornamental” courses such as instrumental music bore an additional cost. Books and supplies were an additional expense, and students who boarded had to pay for a room and food. Considering in most parts of antebellum Texas an acre of land cost less than \$10 and a bale of cotton brought less than \$50, it is clear that relatively few families could afford education for their children.³⁸

After the Civil War, railroad development, streams of incoming European and southern immigrants, economic turmoil, urbanization, and Reconstruction-era politics re-shaped late 19th century Texas. The success of antebellum-era institutions, culture, and individuals in postbellum Texas required adaptation. In the 1880s, more than 6,000 miles of railroads were constructed with major lines that connected Texas markets with that of the nation. New communities emerged alongside new rail lines while once-prominent towns (like Independence) that were bypassed declined in its wake. Although Texas remained a primarily rural state, inland cities grew in size and importance. Economic diversification remained limited as cotton continued to be one of the state's most lucrative exports. Railroads opened inland regions, like Central Texas, for cotton cultivation and processing, which boomed in the 1870s and 1880s. Cheap land continued to lure European immigrants to Texas, which diversified East Texas counties like Washington. African Americans, free from bondage, gained autonomy over and access to their own communities, churches, and schools. As citizens, they took part in Texas politics and, for a time, served in positions of power. In the late 19th century, Baylor University struggled to compete against other colleges in the context of these geographical, cultural, economic and political shifts. Its future success depended on the institutions' move away from the declining town of Independence to Central Texas—both Belton and Waco—where strong economies, railroad infrastructure, and political power promised decades of progress for Baylor University and Mary Hardin-Baylor University.

³⁵ Other professions of Texas' wealthy included attorneys, physicians, merchant capitalists, and railroad developers. See Ralph A. Wooster, “Wealthy Texans, 1860,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 71, no.2 (October 1967).

³⁶ Richard Lowe and Randolph Campbell, “Wealthholding and Political Power in Antebellum Texas,” *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* 79, no. 1 (July 1975): 25; Campbell, 214.

³⁷ Rebecca Sharpless, “Sallie McNeil: A Woman's Higher Education in Antebellum Texas,” in *Texas Women: Their Histories, Their Lives* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2015):86-87.

³⁸ Campbell, 230.

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Town of Independence, Washington County, Texas

Baylor University Female Department, the institution's inaugural campus, lies one-half mile west of Independence, a rural town in Washington County and twelve miles northeast of Brenham, the county seat. During the Spanish era, the area was sparsely populated. However, its location along La Bahia Road meant that explorers and traders were familiar with the territory and eventually recognized its potential for settlement and agricultural production. One early visitor described the prairies as "large, with groves of timber interspersed, soil very fertile, and mostly of deep rich loam."³⁹ European settlers began moving into the region in 1821, under the Mexican *empresario* system. Anglo-American colonizer Stephen F. Austin settled Texas' first American immigrants in a broad area that included Washington County. Mainly from the Trans-Appalachian South—Louisiana, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri—the American immigrants imported their culture to what was the Mexican state of Coahuila and Texas (*Coahuila y Tejas*). As the population rose and tensions mounted between Anglo immigrants and the Mexican government in the 1830s, Washington area settlers petitioned for local autonomy. Although the government granted the request in 1835, within a year the area became Washington County following the Anglo-led seizure of Texas under the Republic of Texas.⁴⁰

The town of Independence originated as Coles' Settlement on land patented to John P. Coles in 1824 as part of *empresario* Stephen F. Austin's first colony. It was renamed Independence shortly after the signing Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836 and the capital of the Republic was established at nearby Washington, just 15 miles east of Independence.⁴¹ The town was selected as the site for Baylor University in 1845. Independence reached its peak during the 1850s when it was recognized as a cultural, economic, and religious center, as well as one of the wealthiest communities in Texas. Because the economy was based primarily on slave-based agriculture, it suffered during the Civil War and Reconstruction. The community continued to decline after Independence and university officials refused to allow the Santa Fe railroad to come to the town. Much of the agricultural trade was diverted during the 1880s to towns that were closer to railroad access. Without train access, students and teachers found it increasingly difficult to get to and from Independence. In 1886, both campuses of Baylor University left Independence, which began its transition to a quiet rural settlement.⁴²

³⁹ Richard S. Hunt and Jesse F. Randel, *A New Guide to Texas Consisting of a Brief Outline of the History of its Settlement, and the Colonization and Land Laws: A General View of the Surface of the Country; its Climate, Soil, Productions, & etc. with a Particular Description of the Counties, Cities, and Towns* (Austin: Jenkins Publishing Co., 1845, New York: Reprinted by Sherman and Smith, 1970), 51; La Bahia Road is one of the oldest roads in Texas. Originally an east-west Indian trail in southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas, French and Spanish explorers utilized it as early as the late 1650s. Its importance grew as it became a primary corridor for the movement of people and goods from the well-established Spanish (and later Mexican) settlements, missions and presidios of south and east Texas to Louisiana.

⁴⁰ Paul Fisher, Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, Seward Plantation, Independence, Washington County, Texas. National Park Service, 2012, National Register #12001250, 17-18; James L. Hailey and John Leffler, "Washington County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw04> (accessed January 28, 2020); "Introduction to Washington County," Baylor at Independence, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/independence/index.php?id=83294> (accessed January 28, 2020); Eugene C. Barker, "Stephen Fuller Austin," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fau14> (accessed June 28, 2019); Carol E. Christian, "Washington-on-the-Brazos," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvw10> (accessed June 1, 2019).

⁴¹ Noel Grisham and L. W. Kemp, "John P. Coles," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fco21> (accessed February 18, 2020); Byron Augustin and William L. Pitts, "Independence, Texas (Washington County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed February 18, 2020); Washington was later renamed Washington-on-the-Brazos after the Civil War.

⁴² White, 3-4, 14; Murray, 44-45, 302-303, 307, 314; "History of Baylor at Independence," Baylor at Independence, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/independence/index.php?id=83295> (accessed January 20, 2020); James L. Hailey and John Leffler, "Washington County," *Handbook of Texas Online*,

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Natural disasters also added to Independence's woes. An 1873 fire destroyed several businesses, to be followed by a tornado in 1882 and a hurricane in 1900. Despite these events, there was a brief building boom in Independence during the late-1930s, when the stone and other resources from the Baylor buildings on the male campus were used for new buildings and repairs across Independence. Despite this development, Independence continued to decline. In 1958, the post office closed and in 1966, the population of Independence had declined to 200. In 2000, Independence had 140 residents.⁴³ Although the Civil War, the lack of a railroad, and Baylor's relocation in 1886 altered the Independence economy, the surrounding farmland remained productive. Despite this, the area has never achieved the agricultural success of its early history. Today, livestock ranching has replaced cotton farming as the most prevalent activity in the county.⁴⁴

19th-Century Higher Education in Texas

The Baylor Male and Female Department archeological sites in Independence, Washington County are among the few extant properties that document the early development of higher education in Texas. Religious organizations and private interests led the 19th century college founding movement in Texas, and the first generation of institutions opened in the period between independence from Mexico (1836) and statehood (1845). By 1860, there were 25 denominational and private colleges. Antebellum-era colleges and universities were in East Texas, then the state's most-populated region, until late 19th century railroad construction shifted settlement patterns west and north. Early Texas colleges, reliant on parishioner funding, struggled constantly to remain solvent. Half of the state's colleges closed after the Civil War. Despite setbacks, college founding was prolific and, by the 20th century, public universities and dozens of private, denominational, and normal institutions opened across Texas. Generally speaking, higher education in the 19th century was a privilege of Texas' Anglo-American racial majority and, before the Civil War, students at colleges like Baylor represented the elite planter class. During Reconstruction, new institutions opened enrollment to African Americans, Hispanic Texans, and a broader cross-section of economic classes. Texas' early collegiate institutions reflected contemporary pedagogical methods and offered students advanced courses of study in theological training, classical instruction, law, and medicine. Graduates became the state's first native-born professional class of politicians, attorneys, physicians, and businessmen. In an era when many regarded higher education as a civilizing force and the bedrock of democratic society, the success of Texas universities and colleges was a direct reflection of the state's progress.

The Old Three Hundred, Stephen F. Austin's first colony, consisted of families who were financially better off than most pioneers. All but four heads of households from this group could read and write; an extremely larger percentage at this time.⁴⁵ Once settled, these families sought educational opportunities for their children. Frances Judith Trask's boarding school for girls, established in Coles' Settlement in 1834 is an example of this.

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw04>; Byron Augustin and William Pitts, "Independence, Texas (Washington County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed January 28, 2020); Fisher, 17-18.

⁴³ Byron Augustin and William Pitts, "Independence, Texas (Washington County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed January 28, 2020); Fisher, 18.

⁴⁴ Murray, 289; Byron Augustin and William L. Pitts, "Independence, Texas (Washington County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hli03> (accessed February 18, 2020); James L. Hailey and John Leffler, "Washington County," *Handbook of Texas Online*,

<https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcw04> (accessed January 28, 2020); "History of Baylor at Independence," Baylor at Independence, Baylor University,

<https://www.baylor.edu/independence/index.php?id=83295> (accessed January 20, 2020).

⁴⁵ Charles R. Matthews, *Higher Education in Texas, Its Beginnings to 1970* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2018), 5.

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The first educational institutions, except for three, that were chartered by the Republic of Texas were organized by independent, non-denominational groups. These three include two sponsored by the Methodist Church (Ruterville College in southeast Texas and Wesleyan College in east Texas) and one by the Union Association of the Baptist Church (Baylor University in southeast Texas). Of the 19 institutions chartered, nine were never opened; seven closed in the 1840s-1860s, two were incorporated into the public school system, and one is still in existence, that being Baylor University.⁴⁶ During this time, the legislature passed a number of bills to establish two public universities and policies to fund education, but no further action was taken.

When Texas joined the Union in 1845, the new state constitution did not mention higher education. However, in 1854, Congress passed a bill to establish the University of Texas and allocated \$100,000 in U.S. bonds. In late 1859, Governor Houston asked that the university funds be used instead, for the protection of the frontier. Although no public university was established during the years of early statehood (1845-1861), a number of Christian denominations – Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians, and Lutherans, did so. The first institution of higher learning established by the Catholic Church did not occur until 1868 with the founding of Our Lady of the Lake in Castroville. These schools operated with funds obtained primarily from donations and from tuition and are discussed below.⁴⁷

The Methodists, the most prolific religious group in founding colleges, established 21 by the end of the 19th century. Its first institution – Ruterville College, received its charter from the Republic in 1840, and opened in 1841 with 60 students in LaGrange, in Fayette County. By 1850, it had an enrollment of 800 students, most of which attended on a part-time basis. But enrollment declined and the college merged with a military institute in Bastrop and eventually closed in 1856. The Texas Conference of the Methodist Church replaced Ruterville College with the acquisition of the non-denominational Chappell Hill Male and Female Institute (also known as Chappell Hill College, located in Washington County, 15 miles southeast of Independence) in 1855. The Conference formed Soule University from the institute's male department and Chappell Hill Female College from the female department. Both received charters in 1856. Despite the Civil War, two fires, and yellow fever epidemics, Chappell Hill Female College remained open, constructed a new building in 1872 and added a dormitory and music hall in the 1880s. During the Civil War, Soule University closed and the Confederate Army used the university building as a hospital and the university's library and equipment were destroyed or lost. Although Soule University reopened in 1867, the yellow fever epidemics and the changing economy and demographics caused the university to close in 1887. Chappell Hill Female College used Soule's building until it closed in 1912.⁴⁸

The University of San Augustine, chartered by the Republic as a non-denominational college, fell under the leadership of the Presbyterian Church in 1845, but disputes between San Augustine Presbyterians and Methodists over who should control the college, led to the creation of a Methodist university – Wesleyan College. Both schools closed in 1847 and were consolidated into the University of Eastern Texas in 1848, but the attempt was unsuccessful and the school soon closed.⁴⁹

⁴⁶ Murray, 4.

⁴⁷ Matthews, 14-60, 75-76, 86.

⁴⁸ Matthews, 77-78, 94-95, 287, 302, 305-306; Carole E. Christian, "Chappell Hill Female College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbc15> (accessed May 21, 2020); Carole E. Christian, "Soule University," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbs24> (accessed May 21, 2020), the development and growth of, the enrollment, and the socioeconomic problems of the two institutions established in Chappell Hill by the Methodists are very similar to those of Baylor University.

⁴⁹ Matthews, 78, 165-166, 312.

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The history of Texas Baptist colleges is rooted in the denomination's efforts in the larger South. Baptists joined other Protestant evangelicals in the college founding movement in the early 19th century to bring ministerial training and general education to southern states where no Baptist institutions of higher learning yet existed.⁵⁰ In 1813, some estimates counted 90,000 Baptists living in southern United States and at the first Southern Baptist Convention in 1845, leaders enumerated its membership was approximately 350,000. By 1891, there were approximately 1.3 million Southern Baptists.⁵¹ Increasing access to higher education was the initial motivation for Baptists to establish new colleges in the 1820s-1850s. Previously, southerners traveled to northeastern states at great expense and time to attend Baptist colleges, which prevented many from attending. The first Baptist college in the South opened in South Carolina (Furman College) in 1826 followed by Kentucky (Georgetown College) in 1829. In the 1830s, more colleges opened in Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia. Baylor University was among several colleges founded by Baptists in the 1840s.⁵²

Baptist schools in southern states were considered "local colleges" that served an in-state student population and drew many from area communities. Students of other denominations were welcome at Baptist colleges, and although church attendance was a requirement, individuals were free to attend services at the church of their faith. Between 1850 and 1880, more than 90% of Baylor's student body were from Texas; a pattern repeated in Baptists colleges of other southern states for the same period.⁵³

Baptist colleges helped expand the denomination's foothold in the South during a period of increasing sectionalism before the Civil War. In 1845, the year of Baylor's charter, the Southern Baptist Convention formed after years of intense disagreements with northern counterparts on the issue of slavery. As the abolition-slavery issue intensified, the bitter sectionalism it spurred intersected with higher education. Historian Leslie Beckham observed, "the idea that a Southerner could receive a Northern education that equipped him for Southern leadership became more and more implausible in the Southern mind."⁵⁴ Texans, many of whom came from states in the lower South, agreed that the best schools to educate their children were those in their home state. Northern colleges, many believed, posed an intellectual threat to impressionable students. The 1857-58 Baylor University catalog articulated this belief:

It is a source of great regret to see Texans patronizing Northern or distant colleges where our youth will imbibe sentiments...antagonistic or alien to our own; when by giving Texas schools and colleges their patronage they would grow up and reflect glory and luster on our young and growing state. A young man, educated in Texas will have peculiar advantages... [as they would learn] the genius, character, and wants of the people with whom [they were] to live and act.⁵⁵

In 1841, the Union Association of the Baptist Church in Texas created the Education Society to lead the denomination's effort to establish the state's first Baptist college and preparatory school. Baylor University received its

⁵⁰ Johnson, 4.

⁵¹ Robert A. Baker, "Southern Baptist Beginnings," baptisthistory.org, <http://www.baptisthistory.org/baptistorigins/southernbaptistbeginnings.html>, accessed April 15, 2020.

⁵² Two important studies on the history of Southern Baptist higher education are: Charles D. Johnson, *Higher Education of Southern Baptists: An Institutional History, 1826-1954* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 1955), HathiTrust.org, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x001910915&view=2up&seq=34> and Leslie Christopher Beckham, "Making Good Sons, Useful Citizens, and Christian Scholars: Southern Baptists Higher Education in the Nineteenth Century," (PhD diss., University of Kentucky, 2002).

⁵³ Beckham, 68-73.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 83.

⁵⁵ Baylor University, "Fifth Annual Catalog of the Trustees, Professors, and Students of Baylor University 1857 – Male Department," 19.

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charter from the Republic of Texas in 1845. Other Baptist institutions opened in later decades. Waco Classical School, the forerunner to the modern Baylor University, opened as a preparatory academy in the late 1850s. Baylor Female College, which received its own charter in 1866, eventually transferred from Independence to Belton, 40 miles south of Waco. Sabine Baptist College opened in 1858 in Milam (south-central Texas) under the auspices of the Central Baptist Association. The institution, closed during the Civil War, opened again in 1868, but because of financial difficulties, it was closed in 1870. Northwest Baptist College was founded as a junior college at Decatur (north-central Texas) in 1891. Financial problems led to the school's closure in 1896. The Baptist General Convention purchased the college and the name changed to Decatur Baptist College, eventually moving in 1965 to Dallas, becoming Dallas Baptist College. In 1985, it added graduate courses and became Dallas Baptist University. Two additional Baptist colleges were opened during the last decade of the 19th century. These were Abilene Baptist College in 1891, later becoming Hardin-Simmons College, and South Texas Baptist College in Waller (south Texas) in 1898.⁵⁶

In 1846, a group of Cumberland Presbyterians founded the town of Larissa in Cherokee County, located in east Texas and organized its first school. In 1850, a three-story frame academic hall and two dormitories were built, and the school became known as Larissa Academy. In 1855, the Brazos Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church assumed responsibility for the school, renamed it Larissa College, and established male and female departments and a preparatory school. The charter was approved by the state legislature in 1856. From the beginning, however, the school was plagued by financial problems. However, enrollment rebounded before the Civil War, but after the war began, the college was forced to close. It reopened after the war, but in 1866, the Brazos Synod withdrew its support after the decision was made to establish one large school, Trinity University, rather than finance several smaller colleges.⁵⁷

The Presbyterian Church established Austin College at Huntsville, located in east Texas in 1849 and Aranama College, at Goliad, in south-central Texas in 1852. Austin College was prosperous and well patronized until the Civil War. In 1876, the Texas Synod moved the college to Sherman which opened in 1878. Aranama College began as a preparatory school and by 1857 and began offering college courses. In 1860, the college had a preparatory program, a four-year Bachelor of Arts degree, and a scientific degree. Although financial problems burdened the college throughout most of its existence, it remained open until the Civil War. During the war, the school building was used by both Southern and Northern armies. After the war, the church was unable to keep the college in operation.⁵⁸

Colorado College, the first Lutheran College in Texas was founded in 1857 at Columbus, in south-central Texas. Enrollment reached as high as 300 and continued to operate until 1886.⁵⁹

The colleges and universities that were established during the Republic and early statehood had much in common. They struggled financially and had difficulty building endowments based primarily on private donations and tuition. They operated preparatory departments and emulated the college curriculums of eastern universities. Most of these institutions closed during the Civil War and the facilities at a number of these were occupied by military forces. Many did not reopen after the war. In 1860, an estimated 2,400 students were enrolled in Texas colleges and universities, but in 1870, that number had decreased to 800.⁶⁰ The institutions that did survive consolidated with other institutions or moved their locations to more populous centers in central and north-central Texas.

⁵⁶ Matthews, 80, 82-86, 164, 257, 313. Vivian Elizabeth Smyrl, "Waco University," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbw04> (accessed May 21, 2020).

⁵⁷ Matthews, 99-101, 296; Christopher Long, "Larissa College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbl07> (accessed May 21, 2020).

⁵⁸ Matthews, 98-99, 113, 281-282; Craig H. Roell, "Aranama College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kba13> (accessed May 21, 2020).

⁵⁹ Matthews, 91.

⁶⁰ V. R. Cardozier, "Higher Education," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/khhxr> (accessed June 1, 2019).

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During the last quarter of the 19th century, approximately 84 institutions of higher learning were established. These included church-sponsored as well as state-funded colleges and universities.⁶¹ A number of church-sponsored institutions were established for African Americans, these include Howard Payne University, Paul Quinn College, and Bishop College, sponsored by Baptist organizations, Tillotson College of the Congregational Church, and Wiley College of the Methodist Episcopal Church.⁶²

When Texas reentered the Union, it became eligible for the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862, which provided public lands to establish colleges “to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts.”⁶³ This act funded the creation of two colleges – the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas (now Texas A&M University), which opened in 1876, and Alta Vista Agricultural College (now Prairie View A&M University) for African-American youth which opened in 1878. The 1876 State Constitution called for the establishment of the University of Texas (opened in 1883) and set aside one million acres to fund a Permanent University Fund.⁶⁴

During this time, Texas had a serious teacher shortage, but with the support of the Peabody Education Fund, the state legislature passed a bill in 1879 establishing Sam Houston Normal Institute, the first state school that was established to train white teachers in the state. In 1887, Prairie View Normal School was established to train teachers for black schools. Others followed in 1899, including Southwest Texas Normal School in San Marcos and North Texas Normal College in Denton.⁶⁵

⁶¹ Matthews, Chapter 13: Texas Colleges Past and Present, 255-319.

⁶² Mathews, 193-194.

⁶³ Wikipedia, “Morrill Land-Grant Acts,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morrill_Land-Grant_Acts (accessed May 20, 2020).

⁶⁴ Matthews, 31-32, 59-60, 204-205; V. R. Cardozier, “Higher Education,” *Handbook of Texas Online*.

<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/khhxr> (accessed November 6, 2019).

⁶⁵ Matthews, 110-118.

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Baylor University at Independence (1845-1886)⁶⁶

Timeline of the Property's Historic Names

Name of Institution	Period	Comments
Independence Academy	1837-1845	Independence Academy was the first school established on the property. Today, the site is known colloquially as "Academy Hill."
Baylor University	1845-1851	Establishment of Baylor University; the campus provided coeducational instruction.
Baylor University Female Department	1851-1866	The name change occurred following the completion of buildings on a separate, second campus for male students of Baylor University.
Baylor Female College	1866-1886	The Female Department of Baylor University received its own charter and its own Board of Trustees and was renamed Baylor Female College.
William Carey Crane College/Binford College	1886-1889	Following the closure of Baylor Female College at Independence, the Union Baptist Association established a new college on the property.

After the Texas Revolution, the citizens of Coles' Settlement (Independence), petitioned the Texas Congress for a preparatory school. The school charter that was granted in 1837 established Independence Academy. The following year, Ann Koontz sold a four-acre tract of land and a two-story 33' x 35' wood frame building to the Trustees of Independence Academy (**Figure 1**).⁶⁷ The property became known as Academy Hill. Contemporary advertisements indicate that by May 1839, Independence Academy had more than 50 students and in 1841, 75 students, boys and girls, ranging in age from 6 to 25. It operated until 1845, first under Colonel J.C. Giddings and finally under Henry Gillette, until 1845.

In 1841, the Union Association of the Baptist Church organized the Education Society with the purpose of establishing a Baptist university in Texas. Robert Emmett Bledsoe (R.E.B.) Baylor (1793-1873), William M. Tryon (1809-1847), a Baptist missionary, and J.G. Thomas wrote the petition for its charter, which the Republic of Texas issued on February 1, 1845. Named for R.E.B. Baylor, the new university opened the following year in Independence.⁶⁸

Although several towns competed for Baylor University, the bid put forward by Independence was of the highest value. Edward M. Taylor, who bought Independence Academy at sheriff's auction in 1845, offered the property, cash, and goods (valued at \$7,925) to the university.⁶⁹ Nineteenth-century school catalogs also credited the economic wealth,

⁶⁶ Sources of the information in this section come from Lois Smith Murray, *Baylor at Independence* (Waco: Baylor University Press, 1972), Michael A. White, *History of Baylor University 1845-1861* (Waco: Texian Press, 1968), *Baylor at Independence*, online course (Waco: The Texas Collection, Baylor University); and Thomas W. Crumpton III, "The Oaks of Independence: A Landscape History of the Original Site of Baylor University and the Potential Surrounding Historical District," Master's Thesis, Baylor University, 2011; "Baylor at Independence," Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/> (accessed January 20, 2020).

⁶⁷ Washington County Deed Records, Vol. H, Pages 75, May 5, 1838. Brenham, Texas.

⁶⁸ White, 1-4, 9; Murray, 15-26; Also see "Charter of Baylor University" in Murray on pp. 353-356 and the "List of the Trustees of Baylor University in Independence" in Murray on pp. 361-363; Carroll, 132-134, 150

⁶⁹ Washington County Deed Records, Vol. H, Pages 86, March 4, 1845. Brenham, Texas; Murray, 44.

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accessibility to railroads in nearby Brenham, cultural affluence, and beauty of Independence as part of the inducement for its selection, adding “No spot in Texas presents lovelier landscapes than do the hills, the valleys, and the live-oak groves around Independence.” Importantly, it was a suitable environment for impressionable students who would find in Independence, “a refined community, undisturbed by the vices incident in large towns.”⁷⁰

Baylor University established two campuses in Independence: what became the Female Department (the former campus of Independence Academy on Academy Hill) and Male Department. The second campus developed south of the town square atop Windmill Hill on 13 acres of land purchased from William W. and Elutia Allen, Henry and Ann Koontz, and John McKnight. Eager to begin instruction, Baylor University opened as a preparatory school in 1846 with 24 students under the temporary supervision of Henry F. Gillette in the former Independence Academy building on Academy Hill. By the end of the first semester, enrollment increased to 70 students. In January 1847, Baylor’s first President, Henry Lee Graves (1813-1881), assumed his responsibilities and developed a college-level curriculum. That spring, the coeducational university began its first collegiate program in addition to the preparatory department. Early success led to the development of the Male Department campus in 1848.⁷¹

The administration of Rufus C. Burleson (1823-1901), who accepted the presidency in 1851 when Graves resigned due to health issues, ushered in a decade of growth and prestige for the university. Within the first year of his tenure, Burleson convinced the Board of Trustees to establish an endowment, increased enrollment to 181 students, added needed laboratory equipment and books to classrooms, issued the university’s first catalog, and coined the university’s motto, *Pro Ecclesia, Pro Texanna*. Burleson also liberalized and broadened the curriculum to include ancient and modern literature, philosophy, political economy, civil engineering, Evidences of Christianity, and added Spanish and German to the modern language course listing. Professional programs included a permanent law department, biological and natural sciences, and the theology school started in 1859. Baylor University graduates filled Baptist pulpits and entered into legal, medical, business, and other professions. As a result of Burleson’s efforts, Baylor University’s first degrees were awarded to Stephen D. Rowe in 1854 and Mary G. Kavanaugh in 1855.⁷² Importantly, Burleson created distinct Male and Female Departments and designated Baylor University’s two campuses to the segregated groups. Academy Hill (for female students) and Windmill Hill (for males) “were divided by some distance and a small creek called the ‘Jordan,’ which separated the male students from the ‘Promised Land’ to the west.”⁷³

As enrollment grew in the 1850s so did the need for more faculty and buildings, which placed a strain on the university’s finances. University agents raised what money and donations they could from private citizens and Baptist churches across the United States. Despite these solicitations, the university continued having difficulties paying its bills. Burleson mortgaged land from his father’s estate to finance the construction of a three-story, octagon-shaped building which later served as the president’s residence and male dormitory. By the mid-1850s, the Male Department campus consisted of Graves Hall (a \$6,000 masonry building completed in 1850), the Burleson Domicile, Creath Hall for the ministry program, three dormitories, and plans to build a second academic building. The female campus also expanded when the Board of Trustees purchased eight acres and a house adjacent to the Academy Hill property in 1852 to serve as the residence of the Female Department’s principal, his family, and female students. The following year, a resolution was passed to build a “main building” for the Female Department. Originally a two-story structure was planned, but after receiving a \$1,000 donation, a third floor was added. A 40’x70’ structure with portico and cupola was designed. Construction began in 1855 and it was completed in 1857. That year, a temporary setback occurred when a devastating year-long drought caused major cotton and corn failures in Texas. Enrollment dropped

⁷⁰ Crumpton, 66-67.

⁷¹ Murray, 67-70, 77-78, 88; White, 15-16; “Henry Lee Graves,” Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89254> (accessed February 20, 2020).

⁷² Murray, 102-109, 111, 121, 128, 133; First graduates, see Murray, page 384; White, 24.

⁷³ Crumpton, 87.

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from 355 to 275 because parents, who relied on those crops, were unable to afford tuition. By 1860, however, the university had a promising future. The Female Department had a new academic building, a large boarding house, a dining hall, and kitchen for its 166 students. The Male Department had two academic buildings, a large dormitory, four additional buildings, and 235 students. Baylor was well-known across the South and was catalogued by the *London Times* as a leading institution of higher learning in America.⁷⁴

In 1861, President Burleson resigned his office, taking the majority of the male faculty and senior class with him. The Civil War had suspended operations at most of the universities of the South, but Baylor remained open even though over 150 students mustered into the Confederate Army. The enrollment at the Female Department was not as affected by the war; in fact, it remained steady with approximately 160-180 students throughout the war years. During the first three years of the war, all but one of the buildings located on the male campus were used as a Confederate training facility. The male students who remained on campus participated in military drills. Former trustee and professor, George Washington Baines (1809-1882), agreed to serve as president, which he did for two years, working to rebuild the male department and keeping the university open.⁷⁵

After Baines resigned due to poor health, William Carey Crane (1816-1885) became Baylor University's fourth president in 1863. He reclaimed the buildings occupied by the Confederate Army on Windmill Hill, which were severely damaged by the soldiers. Crane then turned his attention to increasing the size of the student body, which he did, due in part to accepting land, livestock, goods and services to pay tuition and fees. He worked tirelessly to keep the university solvent during the years of Reconstruction and the economic depression of the 1870s, often using his own funds to settle debts that the university accrued. He personally bought laboratory equipment, repaired buildings, and paid the room and board of struggling students. He continuously solicited contributions from Texas Baptists for the university endowment and scholarships; grew the campus to 32 acres, served as the first president of the Texas State Teachers Association, and worked to improve the public-school system.⁷⁶

To create financial security for the university, President Crane came up with a land grant scheme, modeled on a program that funded denominational universities in Louisiana. In 1866, he wrote a bill which would appropriate 10,000 acres of land to each college and university that had been operating successfully since 1855. It occurred to him that if the Female Department was granted its own charter, the university could obtain twice as much land. He drew up the act of incorporation for Baylor Female College and it was sanctioned by the Board of Trustees. In September 1866, the Texas Legislature separated the Male and Female Departments and called for an election of the Board of Trustees for the newly chartered Baylor Female College. The land grant bill never materialized.⁷⁷

For the next 20 years, both institutions enjoyed healthy enrollment numbers. Fine arts education at Baylor was particularly excellent. From approximately 1871 to 1886, noted artist Henry McArdle taught male and female students painting, sculpting, and engineering in the basement of the academic building on the Academy Hill campus. During his professorship, McArdle completed the first version of his famous painting *Dawn at the Alamo*.⁷⁸

⁷⁴ Murray, 142-143, 154-155, 183, 194-195, 379; White, 34, 36-37, 40, 59; "Rufus C. Burleson," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89255> (accessed February 20, 2020).

⁷⁵ Murray, 192, 194, 204, 205, 208, 379; List of Baylor Confederate enlistees, see in Murray, pp. 387-390; White 46-51; "William Carey Crane," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89256> (accessed February 20, 2020).

⁷⁶ Murray, 222, 228, 230, 288, 290, 300, 310; William Carey Crane," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89256> (accessed February 20, 2020).

⁷⁷ Murray, 237-240; "William Carey Crane," Baylor Presidents, About Baylor, Baylor University, <https://www.baylor.edu/about/index.php?id=89255> (accessed February 20, 2020).

⁷⁸ Murray, 278-279; "Baylor at Independence," Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

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Several factors led to the closing of Baylor University in Independence. Initially one of the wealthiest communities in the region, Independence declined economically after the Civil War, and new immigrants and freedmen diversified the once-Baptist community. Railway lines bypassed Independence in 1880s, which increased the development of the new county seat, Brenham, and counties in central Texas became the state's new centers for political and cultural institutions. The shift of population and economic centers to central Texas, competition with other universities for enrollment, and discord among Texas Baptists about supporting two universities in Independence and Waco, all laid the groundwork for the closure of the schools. In 1886, the Baptist General Convention consolidated Baylor University (the male school) with Waco University in Waco, and Baylor Female College moved to Belton.⁷⁹

Baylor University Female Department/Baylor Female College

The Academy Hill campus, which consisted of the old Independence Academy building, became the home of the Female Department of Baylor University (1851-1866) and later Baylor Female College (1866-1886) after the male faculty and students moved to Windmill Hill in 1851. Students originally boarded with families who lived in Independence, but in 1852, the Board of Trustees purchased a lot and house to serve as the residence of the principal (and later presidents) and female students (**Figures 3 and 6**).⁸⁰ The following year, plans were made to build an academic building. Local builder John P. Collins constructed a three-story Greek Revival building that was completed in 1857 (**Figures 2-4**). Washington County deeds recorded Collins and the old Independence Academy building was removed from the property.⁸¹

Throughout the 1850s and during the Civil War, enrollment grew, from 71 in 1852 to 180 in 1865. No enrollment records exist for the years 1866-1886 for Baylor Female College, although it is known that 111 students were enrolled in 1880. The primary scholastic programs awarded students a Maid of Arts or Maid of Sciences degree. Supporting coursework included: mathematics courses in algebra, geometry, and trigonometry; sciences including anatomy, chemistry, astronomy, and meteorology; Latin, French, and English composition; philosophy, logic, and rhetoric; Evidences of Christianity; various music courses that included voice, harp, piano, and guitar; as well as courses in drawing, painting, embroidery and physical fitness. Each professor taught several different courses and served in several administrative roles. For example, Martha D. Clark taught English and history, served as governess of the Music Department, and superintendent of the boarding house.⁸²

The daily lives of students at on Academy Hill included classes each day of the week in four, one-hour sessions. Every morning, they attended an opening exercise in which a passage from scripture was read, prayers offered, and hymns sung. Before study, they cleaned the boarding house meticulously and received demerits when not done by school standards. Students received grades on their recitations and writing assignments daily. They were expected to dress modestly in simple dresses and bonnets without jewelry. The finances of the female students were monitored. Accounts with merchants could only be opened with the permission of parents or guardians and only items of utility or necessity could be purchased and these had to be supervised by a teacher. Students boarding at the school were required to attend a Sunday school of their choice. They could have visitors only at the discretion of the principal. Their social lives involved attending church, going on picnics, picking dewberries, attending speeches, concerts, and parties. After students had completed their course of study, they had to show their competency before a visiting examination board, which could last for days. The principal, Horace Clark, (and later all presidents of Baylor Female College) would send recommendations to the Board of Trustees for graduation. The commencement exercise lasted

⁷⁹ Murray, 314; "Baylor at Independence," Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

⁸⁰ Washington County Deed Records, Vol. L, Pages 110-112, March 1, 1852. Brenham, Texas; Washington County Deed Records, Vol. M, Pages 117, July 31, 1952. Brenham, Texas.

⁸¹ Murray, 104, 114, 116, 118, 154-155; White 56-57.

⁸² Murray, 155, 288, 366, 379; White 62-63.

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most of the day, with prayers, the reading of essays, music, and the awarding of diplomas.⁸³

Although the lives of students and teachers at the Female Department of Baylor University/Baylor Female College were recorded in letters, diaries, and university publications, there are aspects of the site's social history that are still unknown.⁸⁴ Exclusions in the historical record have led to questions about the presence and contributions of servants, cooks, and laborers—enslaved and/or paid—in the building and maintenance of both Baylor University campuses in Independence.

In 1886, Baylor Female College relocated to Belton in Bell County after that city offered the college \$31,000, an 11-acre hilltop site, and a new building. The building was completed in September and contained classrooms, a library, a chapel, and a dormitory and dining hall for students and teachers. Known today as the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, the 300-acre campus now has 23 buildings, nearly 3,900 students, and an endowment of over \$88 million. It is ranked #43 in Best Colleges is Regional Universities West and #25 in Best Colleges for Veterans as reported in the *2020 U.S. News & World Report*. The university is comprised of eight colleges, offers bachelor's degrees in 47 undergraduate majors, seven masters, and three doctoral degrees. Notable ex-students include: Miriam 'Ma' Ferguson, Texas' first female governor; Oveta C. Hobby, the first woman appointed as a commanding officer of a military unit, the first director of the Women's Army Corps, and the first Secretary of the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare; and numerous writers, artists, and professional athletes.⁸⁵

William Carey Crane College/Binford University (1886-1889)

Following the transfer of Baylor from Independence to Waco, the Union Association founded William Carey Crane College (named for the recently deceased President of Baylor University). The female and male departments were located at the Academy Hill and Windmill Hill campuses. Unable to maintain stable financing, the Union Association first sold the property on Windmill Hill, and the departments were combined in coeducational instruction at the former Baylor Female Department. Sources are unclear about the final years of the college's existence. It is thought that R.E. Binford took over the college and renamed it Binford University in 1889, but other sources called it Baylor-Crane College. Nevertheless, educational instruction continued at the property until 1889.

Upon its closure, a group of citizens collectively purchased some of the former Baylor properties in an effort to retain an educational institution in Independence. The citizens of Independence bought the less than 2-acre property that held the boarding house and some acreage formerly owned by President Clark.⁸⁶ By 1934, the group retained only the

⁸³ White, 61-69; Murray, 110, 155-156, 165; "Baylor at Independence," Online Course, Baylor University, <https://baylor.catalog.instructure.com/>.

⁸⁴ Two diaries of significance are: Gertrude Osterhout, "Journal of Gertrude Osterhout at Baylor Female College, 1880-1883," book, October 20, 1880, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph243997/> (accessed December 1, 2020), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/>; crediting Rice University Woodson Research Center and Ginny McNeil Raska and Mary Lynn Gasaway Hill, eds., *The Uncompromising Diary of Sallie McNeil, 1858-1867* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2017).

⁸⁵ Eleanor James, "University of Mary Hardin-Baylor," *Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbu05> (accessed October 22, 2019); *U.S. News and World Report*, "University of Mary Hardin-Baylor," <https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/mary-hardin-baylor-3588> (accessed October 22, 2019); Paul A. Romer, "Back Roads: UMHB's 'campus boys' faced 20-1 ratio in classes," *Temple Daily Telegram*, May 4, 2009; *Texas State Library and Archives*, "Miriam Ferguson," <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/governors/personality/index.html> (accessed October 20, 2019); *Social Security History*, "Oveta C. Hobby," <https://www.ssa.gov/history/hobby.html> (accessed October 20, 2019).

⁸⁶ Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 27, Page 346, June 6, 1889. Brenham, Texas.

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boarding house property which, in an effort to preserve it, sold it to the State of Texas.⁸⁷

The physical plant fell into disrepair, and following an immense hurricane in 1900, the buildings quickly fell into ruin. **(Figure 5)** In 1912, the Union Association sold the original four-acre parcel on which Independence Academy and Baylor were established, having decided that “the property had been abandoned for school purposes and [was] no longer of any use or value,” to Dr. T.C. Hairston for \$150.⁸⁸ In 1937, the Hairston family conveyed the property to the State of Texas to be developed into a park. In 1939, two entrance gate pillars and Old Baylor College Rd. were constructed on the property. Independence State Park (also known as Old Baylor Park) was established in 1947, but the state subsequently deeded the land back to Baylor University in 1965. That year, Baylor then transferred the property to the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT), who made improvements to the property. In 2012, BGCT conveyed the property to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Baylor University, who agreed to operate it jointly as a public park. Alumni from both universities have not forgotten their roots as Crumpton noted:

Occasionally, representatives or Alumni from Baylor (Waco and Independence) would make pilgrimages back to Independence to view and document the ruins, remember stories, and experience their heritage. The *Baylor Round-Up*, the yearbook published annually by the University, often included notes on, or photos of, the original campus to remind students of the storied past of their Alma Mater. In 1922, Baylor Female College (now the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor at Belton) published a touched-up photo of the main building on the Female campus in the *Bluebonnet* showing damage from the hurricanes.⁸⁹

Commemoration of Baylor University in the late-1930s

The 1936 Texas Centennial was the first statewide, systematic effort by Texans to commemorate historical events, places, and people. Centennial organizers used the year 1836, when Texas became an independent Republic from Mexico, as a symbolic starting point for a broad celebration of the state’s history. Between 1935 and 1939, more than 1,100 properties—buildings, monuments, and markers—were erected across the state to honor 100 years of Texas independence.⁹⁰

Ahead of the centenary celebration, the State Highway Department initiated statewide infrastructure projects to facilitate thousands of expected motoring tourists from one historic locale to another. In Washington County, the agency’s highway program spurred the development of the nominated site into a public park. As early as 1933, former Texas Governor and Baylor University President Pat Neff worked on behalf of the institution to acquire the property that contained the former Baylor Female College from its owner, Dr. Thomas Coke Hairston.⁹¹ When the deal fell through, a local women’s group lobbied Senator Albert Stone to negotiate a conditional agreement with the highway department. Their efforts were successful, and the State of Texas acquired three tracts—including Hairston’s—and the

⁸⁷ Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 109, Pages 517-518, November 21, 1934. Brenham, Texas.

⁸⁸ Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 62, Page 202, February 1, 1912. Brenham, Texas. The Baptist General Convention conveyed this same property to the Union Baptist Association in 1891. Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 22, Pages 417, December 29, 1891.

⁸⁹ Crumpton, 72-74.

⁹⁰ National Register of Historic Places, *Monuments and Building of the Texas Centennial*, Statewide, Texas, National Register #100002344.

⁹¹ One of the most prominent supporters and organizers for the Texas Centennial was Pat M. Neff (1871-1952), Governor of Texas from 1921 to 1925. Neff, a native of Coryell County, earned two degrees from Baylor University in 1894 and 1898 before launching a successful legal and political career. Following two terms as governor, Neff held appointments on several state and federal commissions. In 1932, he resigned from the Railroad Commission to become the President of Baylor University.

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right-of-way to the historic campus.⁹² The 5-acre property included the historic ruins of the academic building, the site of the boarding house and kitchen, and one acre parcel along the roadway. The agency, which at the time also oversaw the state's historic parks, paved a circular road around the site of the female academic building in 1936. In 1939, the Texas State Garden Club raised funds to erect stone gates (1939) made from rocks previously used in buildings on the male campus at the park entrance (**Figure 12, Photos 9-10**). A stone boundary marker present at the site may also date to the late 1930s.⁹³ In 1947, the nominated property officially became a State Historical Park.

In 1936, Neff leveraged his political influence and close connection with Lou Kemp, Chairman of the Advisory Board of Historians for the Texas Centennial, to secure state-sponsored historical markers and statues to commemorate Baylor University. These include the R.E.B. Baylor statue, sculpted by Pompeo Coppini and erected on the Waco campus, a granite historical marker on the Baylor male campus in Independence, and two bronze historical markers (**Photo 12**) on the site of the female campus in Independence. The monuments and markers collectively observed the university's long-standing contributions to higher education in Texas.⁹⁴ The Centennial marker on the nominated property, placed on the ruins of the academy building in 1936, reads as follows:

ON THIS SITE
STOOD THE FEMALE DEPARTMENT OF
BAYLOR UNIVERSITY
INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, FEBRUARY 1, 1845
HENRY L. GRAVES, FIRST PRESIDENT,
WAS ELECTED JANUARY 12, 1846
PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
WAS OPENED MAY 18, 1846
WITH H.F. GILLETT AS TEACHER
RUFUS C. BURLESON BECAME PRESIDENT IN 1851
IN 1886 WHEN BAYLOR MOVED TO WACO AND
CONSOLIDATED WITH WACO UNIVERSITY
THE FEMALE DEPARTMENT MOVED TO BELTON AND
NOW BEARS THE NAME OF
MARY HARDIN-BAYLOR COLLEGE

MARKED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS
1936

In 1965, the State Highway Department transferred its ownership of Baylor University Female Department to Baylor University, which then transferred the property to the Baptist General Convention of Texas (BGCT). BGCT made improvements to the property, like picnic areas, and modern historical markers to inform the public about the site's storied past. In 2012, BGCT conveyed the property to the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Baylor University,

⁹² "Senator Stone Given Assurance Independence Road Be Designated a State Highway with Conditions," *Brenham Banner*, August 2, 1934. Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 109, Pages 517-518, November 21, 1934. Brenham, Texas; Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 117, Pages 125-126, August 2, 1937. Brenham, Texas; Washington County Deed Records, Vol. 261, Pages 523-526, July 16, 1952. Brenham, Texas.

⁹³ "Original Baylor Campus Designated as State Park," *Waco News-Tribune*, June 7, 1947, <https://newscomwc.newspapers.com/image/47944532> (accessed November 18, 2020).

⁹⁴ Thomas E. Turner, "Neff, Pat Morris," *Handbook of Texas Online*, (accessed November 17, 2020). <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/neff-pat-morris>.

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who agreed to operate it jointly as a public park.

Criterion D: Archaeology

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⁹⁵ Matthews, 255-322.

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⁹⁶ S. B. Hilliard, *Hog Meat and Hoecake* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 1972).

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⁹⁷ Marianne Marek, *Historical and Archaeological Investigations at San Felipe de Austin (41AU2): 2002-2006*, Prepared for the Texas Historical Commission, 2011; Shawn Bonath Carlson (editor), *The Anson Jones Plantation: Archaeological and Historical Investigations at 41WT5 and 41WT6, Washington County, Texas* (College Station: Center for Environmental Archaeology, Texas A&M University, 1995); J. David Ing and John Hart, *Archeological Investigations at Fanthrop Inn State Historical Site (41GM79) Grimes County, Texas, Spring and Fall 1982* (Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Historic Sites and Restoration Branch, 1987); Joan Few, *Sugar, Slaves, and Convicts* (Gold Hill, Colorado: Few Publications, 2006); Amy C. Earls and Marybeth S. F. Tomka, *Historic and Prehistoric Archeological Excavations at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park, Brazoria County* (Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Public Lands Division, Cultural Resources Program, 1994); The archaeological collections, field notes, and reports on excavations at Velasco and Quintana in Brazoria County are curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas.

⁹⁸ James S. Belew, *Windmill Hill: An Archaeological Study of the Main Campus of Baylor University, Independence, Texas* (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #BU/220, Box 3, Folders 5-29, The Texas Collection, Baylor University Collection, Baylor University, 1989), 129-130.

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⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Marianne Marek, *Historical and Archaeological Investigations at San Felipe de Austin (41AU2): 2002-2006*, Prepared for the Texas Historical Commission, 2011; Shawn Bonath Carlson (editor), *The Anson Jones Plantation: Archaeological and Historical Investigations at 41WT5 and 41WT6, Washington County, Texas* (College Station: Center for Environmental Archaeology, Texas A&M University, 1995); J. David Ing and John Hart, *Archeological Investigations at Fanthrop Imm State Historical Site (41GM79) Grimes County, Texas, Spring and Fall 1982* (Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Historic Sites and Restoration Branch, 1987); Joan Few, *Sugar, Slaves, and Convicts* (Gold Hill, Colorado: Few Publications, 2006); Amy C. Earls and Marybeth S. F. Tomka, *Historic and Prehistoric Archeological Excavations at Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historical Park, Brazoria County* (Austin: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Public Lands Division, Cultural Resources Program, 1994); The archaeological collections, field notes, and reports on excavations at Velasco (41BO125) and Quintana (41BO135) in Brazoria County are curated at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin, Texas.

¹⁰² Belew, 1989, 146 (five cultural layers for Houston Hall), 170 (five cultural layers for Tryon Hall).

sandstone.¹⁰³ Based on what Belew encountered at Windmill Hill, the A horizon yielded distinct cultural strata

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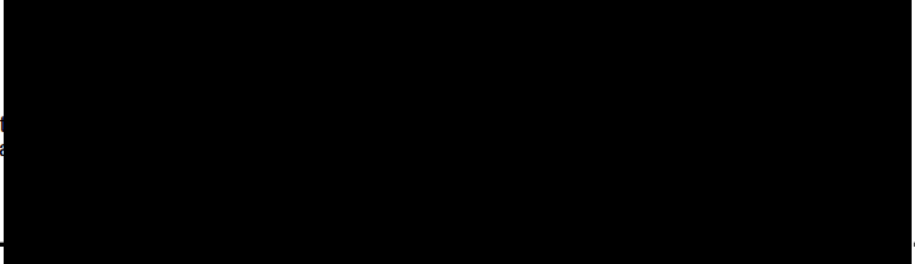
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¹⁰³ *Soil Survey of Washington County, Texas*, USDA Soil Conservation Service in Cooperation with Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, 1981, Map 8, 29, 70.

¹⁰⁴ Integrated Environmental Solutions, LLC, *Cost Proposal for Geophysical Survey of Academy Hill in the Town of Independence, Washington County, Texas* (Submitted to Paul Fisher, Assistant Director of the Texas Collection on Feb. 19, 2019).

¹⁰⁵ Mark D. Groover, *An Archaeological Study of Rural Capitalism and Material Life, The Gibbs Farmstead in Southern Appalachia, 1790-1920* (New York: Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers, 2003).



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¹⁰⁶ David M. Armine, *Nail Distributions As Structural Insight At The Beaver Creek Trail Crossing Site (25SW49), Seward County, Nebraska* (Master's Thesis, Department of Anthropology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2010).
¹⁰⁷ Randall W. Moir, *Windows and Pane Fragments: Sources of Chronological Data for Historic Archaeologists* (Dallas: Department of Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, 1982); Jonathan Weiland, A Comparison and Review of Window Glass Analysis, *Approaches in Historical Archaeology Technical Briefs in Historical Archaeology* (4): 29–40, 2009.
¹⁰⁸ Stanley South, *Methods and Theory in Historical Archaeology* (New York: Academic Press, 1977).

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¹⁰⁹ Joan Few, *Sugar, Planters, Slaves, and Convicts* (Gold Hill, Colorado: Few Publications, 2006).

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Conclusion

The Baylor University Female Department in Independence, Washington County is significant for its association with 19th-century higher education in Texas. Briefly occupied by Independence Academy (1838-1845), the Union Association of Baptist Church established Baylor University in 1845 and the nominated property is the first campus of that institution. As the only known archaeological sites of its type in Texas, the Female Department of Baylor University and the Baylor Male Campus have the potential to yield important information about 19th-century college campuses. The property is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the statewide level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Education and Criterion D in the area of Archaeology. Established by the Union Association and currently owned by the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Baylor University, the nominated property meets Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) because it is evaluated for its historical and archaeological significance. In the late-1930s, the State of Texas, Baylor University, and alumni placed a commemorative Centennial marker on the academic building ruins and erected entrance gates to the property. These resources, like the site, are significant under Criterion A in the area of Education because they represent an effort by state and private organizations to recognize Baylor University's founding and pay homage to the institution's original site by establishing a state park. Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) is not claimed, however, because the park features are minor objects of secondary significance to the archaeological site. The period of significance is 1845-1889 and 1936-1939, which represent the period the nominated property served as an institution of higher education and years that the commemorative properties were built.

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Maps

Map 1: Washington County is in southeastern central Texas.



Map 2: Independence, Washington County. (Google Maps, January 9, 2020.)



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Figures

Figure 1. Scanned copy of a sketch of the Independence Academy campus by Georgia Jenkins Burleson. (Georgia Jenkins Burleson Collection, Accession #136, Box 2, Item 3, Scrapbook, undated.)

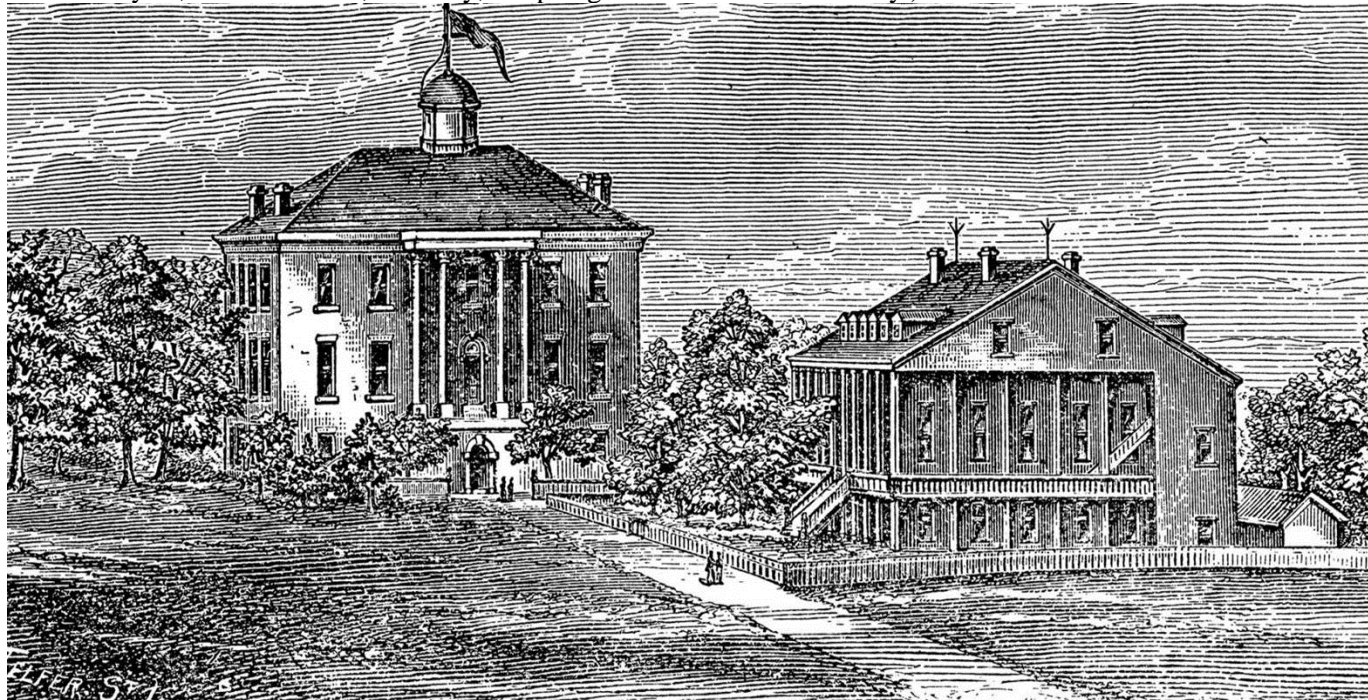


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Figure 2: Copy of lithograph of the academic building from the 1857 Catalogue, looking west.

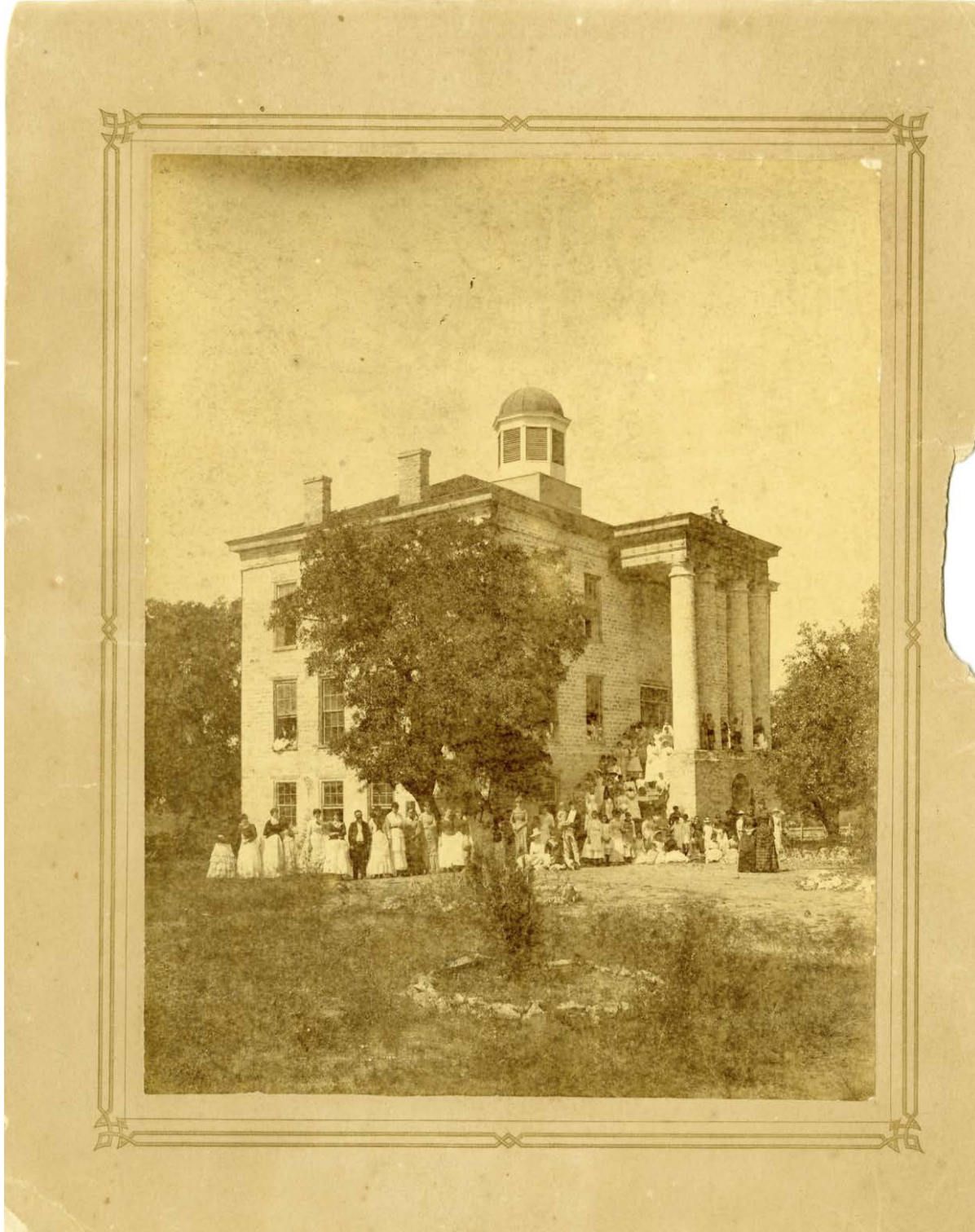


Figure 3: Copy of the lithograph from the 1880-1881 Catalogue of the Academy Hill campus. (University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, About UMHB, "History," <https://go.umhb.edu/about/history>.)



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Figure 4: 1884 photograph of the academic building, looking northwest. (BU Records: Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



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Figure 5: Academic building (ca. 1900), looking west. (Texas Escapes.com, "Independence," <http://www.texasescapes.com/TOWNS/Independence/IndependenceTexas.htm>.)



Figure 6: 1884 photograph of the boarding house on Academy Hill, facing north. (BU Records: Baylor at Independence, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



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Figure 7: 1912 photograph of the boarding house and kitchen, looking east. (Royston C. Crane papers, Accession #0069, Box 17, Folder 24, Scrapbook, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



Figure 8: Boarding house in ruins, ca. 1920s-1930s. (BU Records: Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



Figure 9: Early 20th-century photograph of the kitchen ruins. The space between the two buildings is where the college well is located (BU Records: Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



Figure 10: 1952 photograph of the academic building after stabilization. (BU Records: Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



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Figure 11: 1952 photograph of the boarding house ruins, first story. (BU Records: Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)

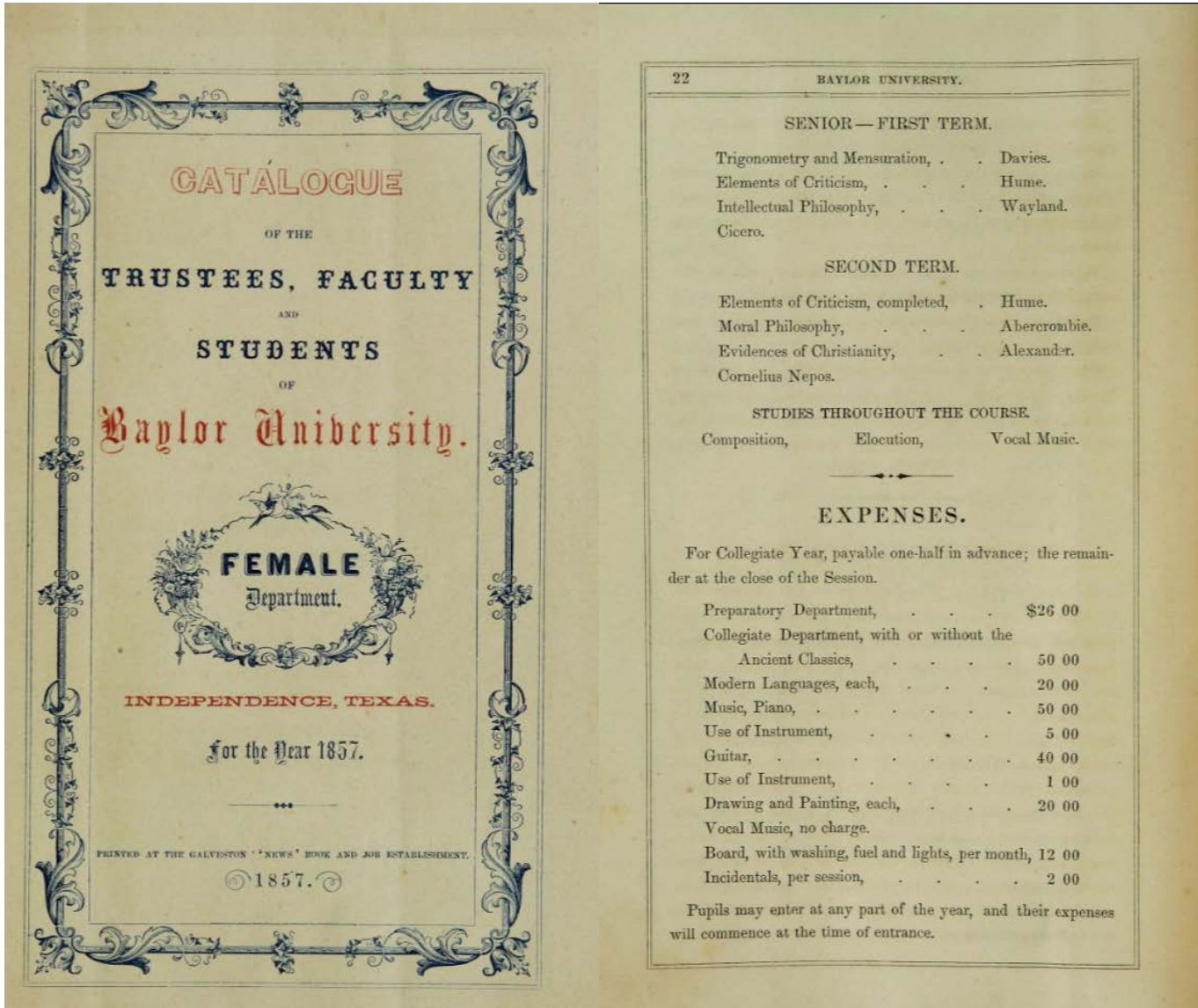


Figure 12: 1952 photograph of the east entrance of Academy Hill, the first floor of the boarding house ruin is located directly behind the right entrance gate and the academic building ruins are in the background. (BU Records: Photographs, Accession #22.01, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



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Figure 13: Baylor University published annual catalogs for the male and female departments that advertised the region's healthful climate, locational convenience, expenses, schedules, curriculum, faculty, and students. (*Catalogue of the Trustees, Faculty and Students of Baylor University, 1857 (Female Department)*, Digital Collections, University Catalogs, The Texas Collection, Baylor University.)



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photographs

Female Department of Baylor University
Independence, Washington County
Carol Macaulay-Jameson

Photo 1: 2019 photograph of the academic building ruins (Contributing Resource 1, Feature A) frontal view facing west.



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 2: 2019 photograph of academic building ruins (Contributing Resource 1, Feature A), side view looking north.



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 3: 2019 photograph of the kitchen duplex ruins, (Contributing Resource 1, Feature B) facing north.



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 4: 2019 photograph of the college well, located between the two kitchen structures (Contributing Resource 1, Feature B and C).



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Photo 5: 2019 photograph of the college well (Contributing Resource 1, Feature C).



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Photo 6: 2019 photograph of the field where the boarding house (Contributing Resource 1, Feature D) once stood, looking northwest.



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 7: 2019 photograph of the large mound (Contributing Resource 1, Feature E) located to the east (right) of the kitchen duplex ruins, looking north-northwest.



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 8: 2019 photograph of the possible location of the dining hall (Contributing Resource 1, Feature F), directly to the west (left) of the restroom, nooking north.



Photo 9: 2019 photograph of the two entrance gate pillars (Contributing Object, Resource 2), looking west into the Academy Hill site.



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 10. 2019 photograph of the north entrance gate pillar (Contributing Object, Resource 2), looking west.



Photo 11: 2019 photograph of the northeast corner boundary marker (Contributing Object, Resource 3), looking west.



Baylor University Female Department, Independence, Washington County, Texas

Photo 12: 2019 photograph of the 1936 Texas Centennial historical marker #8415 (Contributing Object, Resource 4), located on the right side of the column-portico wall of the academic building.



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