

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Huston-Tillotson College
Other name/site number: Samuel Huston College (1875-1952); Tillotson College (1877-1952); Huston-Tillotson University (2005-present)
Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of East Austin

2. Location

Street & number: 900 Chicon Street
City or town: Austin State: Texas County: Travis
Not for publication: Vicinity: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

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 11/29/2021
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

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10	7	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
11	7	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Education: college

Current Functions: Education: college

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Modern Movement: International Style, Brutalism; Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival; Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Prairie School; Late Victorian: Romanesque; Other: None

Principal Exterior Materials: Stone, Brick, Glass, Concrete Block

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-16)

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis 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.
	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" 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.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: A (Religious Properties)

Areas of Significance: Education, Ethnic History: Black; Architecture (*state level of significance*)

Period of Significance: 1911-1974

Significant Dates: 1911, 1952

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

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Kuehne, Brooks and Barr; Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White (architects)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-17 through 8-41)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-42 through 9-44)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Huston-Tillotson University, Austin History Center

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 19.8 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. **Latitude:** 30.266731° **Longitude:** -97.722542°
2. **Latitude:** 30.266041° **Longitude:** -97.720598°
3. **Latitude:** 30.262652° **Longitude:** -97.722144°
4. **Latitude:** 30.263358° **Longitude:** -97.724088°

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated boundary is the legal parcel, also the historic boundary, for Huston-Tillotson College described by Travis CAD as Property ID# 193101 "ALL OF LOT 7 *LESS W 16FT OF DIVISION B" and shown on Map 2.

Boundary Justification: The nominated boundary includes all property historically associated with the college campus.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Cara Bertron, Deputy Historic Preservation Officer
Organization: City of Austin
Street & number: P.O. Box 1088
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78767
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Date: 12/4/2020

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets MAP-45 through MAP-47)

Additional items (see continuation sheets FIGURE-48 through FIGURE-67)

Photographs (see continuation sheets PHOTO-68 through PHOTO-81)

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, DC.

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Huston-Tillotson College
Location: Austin, Travis County, Texas
Photographer: Cara Bertron, City of Austin
Date of Photographs: 3/13/2019, 4/8/2020, 11/17/2020, 12/4/2020

Photo 1: Evans Industrial Hall, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southeast. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 2: Administration Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southeast. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 3: Conner-Washington Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking east. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 4: Mary E. Branch Gymnasium and Auditorium, Huston-Tillotson University, looking west. Austin, Texas, 11/17/2020.

Photo 5: Dickey-Lawless Science Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 6: Dickey-Lawless Science Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southeast. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 7: Allen-Frazier Residence Hall, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northwest. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 8: Allen-Frazier Residence Hall courtyard, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 9: Beard-Burrowes Residence Hall, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 10: Downs-Jones Library, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 11: Davage-Durden Student Union, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 12: Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northwest. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 13: Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 14: Jackson-Moody Humanities Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 15: Jackson-Moody Humanities Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking south. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 16: King-Seabrook Chapel, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 17: King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower, Huston-Tillotson University, looking north. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 18: Quadrangle, Huston-Tillotson University, looking north. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 19: Quadrangle, Huston-Tillotson University, looking south. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 20: Greek plot in Quadrangle, Huston-Tillotson University, looking south. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 21: East Security Station, Huston-Tillotson University, looking south. Austin, Texas, 3/13/2019.

Photo 22: North Security Station, Huston-Tillotson University, looking east. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photo 23: West Security Station, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. Austin, Texas, 11/17/2020.

Photo 24: Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. Austin, Texas, 4/8/2020.

Photo 25: Storage Building (northeast), Huston-Tillotson University, looking northwest. Austin, Texas, 11/17/2020.

Photo 26: Storage Building (east), Huston-Tillotson University, looking east. Austin, Texas, 11/17/2020.

Photo 27: West Security Station, Huston-Tillotson University, looking west. Austin, Texas, 11/17/2020.

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Narrative Description

Huston-Tillotson College (now Huston-Tillotson University) has been a nexus of African American higher education since the Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute purchased the property in 1877. The 19.8-acre district is in Central Austin, Travis County and includes 20 resources, 13 of which contribute to Huston-Tillotson College's historical and architectural significance. Four contributing buildings were constructed during Tillotson Institute's tenure; the remaining ten contributing resources were built to accommodate a larger, more modern institution after the 1952 merger with Samuel Huston College. The earliest contributing buildings date from the 1910s and are 2½-story institutional buildings designed in the Romanesque and Prairie styles; a 1930s contributing house-scale building features Classical Revival influences. Contributing buildings built in the 1950s-70s were constructed in the Modern, Brutalist, and New Formalist styles, sharing simple 1- to 3-story forms and horizontal planes; brick, stucco, and concrete cladding with geometric designs; and restrained ornamentation. The district, which retains excellent integrity, is nominated under *Historic Resources of East Austin MRA*¹, which the National Park Service approved in 1985.

Previously Listed National Register Properties in the Proposed District

- Administration Building, NR #86003845² (Total Resources = 1)
- Evans Industrial Building, NR #82004525³ (Total Resources = 1)

Setting

Huston-Tillotson College (now University) is a 19.8-acre rectangular campus in Central East Austin bounded by E. 11th Street (North), Chicon Street (East), E. 7th Street (South), and Chalmers Avenue (West). Sited atop a bluff that runs along E. 7th Street, one can see the State Capitol and downtown Austin from the campus. Blocks west, north, and east of Huston Tillotson are residential in character with nearby landmarks that are associated with East Austin's historic African American community: Blackshear Elementary, Holy Cross Catholic Church, and Mount Olive Baptist Church. The Texas State Cemetery is less than 0.5 miles west of Huston-Tillotson. East 7th Street is a business corridor connecting downtown to Highway 183 at the eastern edge of the city limits. Extensive redevelopment and rapid gentrification that today characterizes East Austin make efforts to preserve places associated with the city's BIPOC community, like the university, all the more urgent.

Huston-Tillotson College

The nominated district is a historic college campus comprised of 20 resources (13 contributing, 7 non-contributing) arrayed around a central quadrangle. Although Huston-Tillotson was established in the late 19th century, mid-20th century Modern Movement educational buildings characterize its current appearance. These nine resources (#4-12) and central quad (#13) reflect the institution's implementation of a 1954 plan to modernize the HBCU in the wake of integration. All were designed by Austin firm Kuehne, Brooks and Barr (later Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White) and built between 1952 and 1974.

Two dormitories at the north end of campus comprise a gateway from E. 11th Street. The low-rise buildings are of similar height and closely spaced, with walkways threading between them that connect buildings and surrounding streets. The campus terrain is gently rolling, with a notable rise and fall in elevation at the southeast end. The campus can be accessed on foot from access points on all four sides and by car from Chicon Street, E. 11th Street, and

¹ National Register of Historic Places, Historic Resources of East Austin, Austin, Travis County, Texas, National Register #64000840. <https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/64000840/64000840.pdf>.

² National Register of Historic Places, Administration Building, Austin, Travis County, Texas, National Register #86003845. <https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/86003845/86003845.pdf>.

³ National Register of Historic Places, Evans Industrial Building, Austin, Travis County, Texas, National Register #82004525. <https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/82004525/82004525.pdf>.

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Chalmers Avenue. Non-historic gateways mark each automobile entrance, and a prominent modern sign faces E. 7th Street.

The district's earliest extant buildings are Evans Industrial Hall (1911) and the Administration Building (1914). The Mary E. Branch Gymnasium was dedicated before the 1952 merger of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson Institute and completed in 1953. After the merger, the campus developed rapidly: over the next 16 years, six buildings were constructed to expand educational programs, house the library and student union, and expand on-campus student housing. In the meantime, 19th-century buildings dating from Tillotson College's early history were razed. By 1974, when the King-Seabrook Chapel, Bell Tower, and Jackson-Moody Building were constructed, the campus was built out.

The campus's earliest buildings are designed with Romanesque influences (Evans Industrial Hall) and the Prairie style (Administration Building). All but two of the historic-age campus buildings constructed after the merger were designed by variations of the partnership between Austin architects Kuehne, Brooks and Barr. Five of the buildings constructed immediately after the merger are designed in a pared-down Modern style, with brick cladding, stone detailing, and strong horizontal emphases. The Downs-Jones Library has New Formalist influences, with Classical columns and concrete screens (since removed). The King-Seabrook Chapel, Bell Tower, and Jackson-Moody Building have Brutalist influences, with massive walls and limited narrow window openings.

Inventory
(See Map 3)

Resource # / Map ID	Name	Year Built	Type	NR Status	Photo(s)
1	Evans Industrial Hall	1911	Building	Previously listed, contributing	1
2	Administration Building	1914	Building	Previously listed, contributing	2
3	Conner-Washington Building	1936	Building	Contributing	3
4	Mary E. Branch Gymnasium and Auditorium	1953	Building	Contributing	4
5	Dickey-Lawless Science Building	1954	Building	Contributing	5-6
6	Allen-Frazier Residence Hall	1956; addition 1965	Building	Contributing	7-8
7	Beard-Burrowes Residence Hall	1956; addition 1965	Building	Contributing	9
8	Downs-Jones Library	1960	Building	Contributing	10
9	Davage-Durden Student Union	1963	Building	Contributing	11
10	Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building	1968	Building	Contributing	12-13
11	Jackson-Moody Humanities Building	1974	Building	Contributing	14-15
12	King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower	1974	Building	Contributing	16-17
13	Quadrangle, including Greek plots	c. 1955	Site	Contributing	18-20
14	East Security Station	1994	Building	Noncontributing	21

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Resource # / Map ID	Name	Year Built	Type	NR Status	Photo(s)
15	North Security Station	Unknown	Building	Noncontributing	22
16	West Security Station	Unknown	Building	Noncontributing	23
17	Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center	2015	Building	Noncontributing	24
18	Storage Building (northeast)	c. 2015	Building	Noncontributing	25
19	Storage Building (east)	c. 1990	Building	Noncontributing	26
20	Temporary Building (west)	c. 2015	Building	Noncontributing	27

Resources



Resource 1

Name: Evans Industrial Hall

Resource Type: Building

Stylistic Influence: Romanesque

Year Built: 1911

Status: Previously listed; contributing

Photo(s): 1

Evans Industrial Hall is a rectangular-plan 2½-story building capped by a hipped roof, with hipped dormers and a chimney. It is clad in rusticated cut stone and features 6:6 wood-sash windows and exposed rafter tails. A formal double-access staircase leads to a hip-roofed entry porch on the primary (west) façade. The building retains a high degree of integrity.



Resource 2

Name: Administration Building

Resource Type: Building

Stylistic Influence: Prairie School

Year Built: 1914

Status: Previously listed; contributing

Photo(s): 2

The Administration Building’s modified Prairie style has been called “typical of the urban Southwest during the early 20th century.” The rectangular-plan 2½-story building is capped by a hipped roof and clad in scored concrete block, with 4:1 windows topped with 4-lite transoms. The central portion of the building is flanked by recessed wings with paired covered entrances to the basement level and the ground floor. The interior features pressed tin ceilings, hardwood floors, wooden staircases, and door trim. The building retains a high degree of integrity.

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Resource 3

Name: Conner-Washington Building

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: Classical Revival
Year Built: 1936
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 3

The Conner-Washington Building is a rectangular-plan 2-story building capped by a side-gabled roof with a central brick chimney. It is clad in vinyl siding and features 4:4 vinyl-sash windows with decorative shutters (not original). A second-floor entrance with a wood staircase and sliding fully glazed door has been added to the north (side) elevation. Though the building's materials have been modified, it retains a moderately high degree of integrity and represents a period from which no other campus buildings survive.



Resource 4

Name: Mary E. Branch Gymnasium and Auditorium

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: Modern
Year Built: 1953
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 4

The Mary E. Branch Gymnasium was designed by Kuehne, Brooks and Barr and constructed of brick, with clean lines and strong horizontal elements. The rectangular plan building primarily consists of an open gymnasium/auditorium space capped by an arched roof with a low parapet. A one-story, flat-roofed L-shaped entrance with a deep entry overhang is located on the east side. The front wall and walls above the side elevation windows are clad in vertically scored concrete. The gymnasium level features 3-lite windows with an operable lower sash, casement metal-sash windows on the primary (east) façade, and 1:1 aluminum-sash windows on the ground floor (north elevation). Renovated in 2019, the building retains a high degree of integrity. Lobby doors have been replaced, and a secondary lobby entrance on the south elevation has been enclosed with siding and high windows.



Resource 5

Name: Dickey-Lawless Science Building

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: Modern
Year Built: 1954
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 5-6

The Science Building was designed by Kuehne, Brooks and Barr. The irregular-plan 3-story building is capped by a flat roof and clad in brick and scored stucco, with tile cladding under the south elevation windows. It features 2:2 aluminum-sash windows and fixed multi-lite aluminum-sash windows. Ornamentation includes broad flat overhangs articulating the entrances and separating the floors on the south elevation, the public face of the building. The elevation facing the interior is less dramatic, with an irregularly shaped brick-clad protrusion housing the auditorium. The building retains a high degree of integrity.

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Resource 6

Name: Allen-Frazier Residence Hall

Resource Type: Building

Stylistic Influence: Modern

Year Built: 1956; addition 1965

Status: Contributing

Photo(s): 7-8

Allen-Frazier Residence Hall (the Women's Dormitory) was designed by Kuehne, Brooks and Barr. The original portion of the 3-story building was rectangular-plan. Brooks and Barr designed a C-plan addition finished in 1965, which was connected to the existing dormitory via an entrance foyer and lounge areas. The addition created an O-shaped building with a central courtyard.

The building is capped by a flat roof with a low parapet, clad in brick with stucco accents, and features small sliding and full-sized 1:1 and 2:2 aluminum-sash windows. Ornamentation includes flat stucco overhangs separating the floors of the 1956 building. The 1965 addition features a continuous overhang at the second floor and the primary entrance, separated stucco overhangs over ground-floor windows, exposed stucco supports at the foyer, and a second-floor walkway facing the courtyard with pebbled concrete panels set in a metal railing. Renovated in 2004, the building retains a high degree of integrity. Jalousie windows on the original portion of the building were replaced with new aluminum-sash windows at an unknown date.



Resource 7

Name: Beard-Burrowes Residence Hall

Resource Type: Building

Stylistic Influence: Modern

Year Built: 1956; addition 1965

Status: Contributing

Photo(s): 9

Beard-Burrowes Residence Hall (the Men's Dormitory) was designed by Kuehne, Brooks and Barr. The original portion of the 3-story building was rectangular-plan. Brooks and Barr designed a two-wing addition finished in 1965, which was connected to the existing dormitory via an entrance foyer and lounge areas. The addition created a three-wing building connected by a central entrance.

The building is capped by a flat roof with a low parapet, clad in brick with stucco accents, and features small sliding and full-sized 1:1 aluminum-sash windows. Ornamentation includes flat stucco overhangs separating the floors of the 1956 building and vertical stucco accents between windows. The 1965 addition features flat stucco overhangs over window bays and the primary entrance, exposed stucco supports at the foyer, and pebbled concrete panels set in a metal railing on the secondary (east) elevations. Renovated in 2004, the building retains a high degree of integrity. Jalousie windows on the original portion of the building were replaced with new aluminum-sash windows at an unknown date.

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Resource 8



Name: Downs-Jones Library

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: Modern, New Formalist
Year Built: 1960
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 10

The new library was designed by Kuehne, Brooks and Barr, who continued the low-slung horizontal emphasis of the Science Building and new dormitories and constructed by the B. L. McGee Company. The design featured a concrete overhang, square supporting columns, decorative concrete or tile screens, and a large entrance pavilion on the west elevation facing the campus quadrangle; the unadorned north elevation was similar in composition and materials to the dormitories. The tile screens have been removed and windows on the north elevation have been replaced, but the rest of the design remains intact. The building is clad in brick and stucco, with fixed multi-lite aluminum-sash windows. Renovated in 2013, the building retains a moderate degree of integrity.



Resource 9

Name: Davage-Durden Student Union

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: Modern
Year Built: 1963
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 11

Designed by Brooks and Barr with J. Roy White, Resource 9 is clad in pebbled concrete panels and brick and features fixed aluminum-sash windows. The primary (south) entrance faces a large courtyard with integrated planters and concrete walls. Ornamentation includes a deep articulated overhang over the primary entrance, which is repeated over the secondary (west) entrance. Renovated in 2016, the building retains a high degree of integrity.



Resource 10

Name: Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: Modern
Year Built: 1968
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 12-13

Designed by Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White, the Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building is a brick clad 3-story, T-plan building with small triple 1:1 and fixed windows separated by shallow brick pilasters and capped by shaped concrete hoods on the north and south elevations. The east elevation facing the campus quadrangle has few window openings, a plain entrance, and a clock. The south entrance features a prominent staircase and a large, curved mass. Other ornamentation includes concrete floor and bay dividers and a simple concrete cornice. A few windows have been replaced, but the building retains a high degree of integrity.

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Resource 11

Name: Jackson-Moody Humanities Building
Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: Brutalist, New Formalist
Year Built: 1974
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 14-15

The Jackson-Moody Humanities Building was constructed in a combined project with the King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower. The complex was designed by Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White Architects. The 2-story, rectangular-plan Humanities Building is clad in brick, with narrow casement aluminum-sash windows set in reverse-corbelled arrow-slit openings. Ornamentation includes deep brick pilasters with corbelled capitals and broad etched stucco intermediate and finishing cornices. The building retains a high degree of integrity.



Resource 12

Name: King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower
Resource Type: Building and Structure
Stylistic Influence: Brutalist
Year Built: 1974
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 16-17

The King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower were constructed in a combined project with the Jackson-Moody Humanities Building. The complex was designed by Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White Architects in the Brutalist style. The rectangular-plan Chapel is capped by a combination flat and shed roof. It is clad in brick with stucco accents, with narrow fixed aluminum-sash and stained-glass windows. Ornamentation includes broad etched stucco accents. A free-standing brick clad bell tower is northeast of the building.



Resource 13

Name: Quadrangle
Resource Type: Site
Stylistic Influence: n/a
Year Built: Ca. 1954
Status: Contributing
Photo(s): 18-20

The Quadrangle is a rectangular grassy open space bounded by the contributing buildings and the Security Stations. It is accessed by vehicle from the east and north, with pedestrian access from the north, east, southeast, and west. Concrete sidewalks link buildings, roads, and a parking lot. Two Greek plots constructed of concrete curbs and benches are located at strategic points in the Quadrangle; five other plots are located across the campus. Broad pebbled concrete staircases with concrete-capped brick railings and metal handrails provide access to the buildings at the south end of campus, where the elevation increases noticeably.

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Resource 14
Name: East Security Station
Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: None
Year Built: 1994
Status: Noncontributing
Photo(s): 21

The East Security Station is a small 1-story, rectangular-plan building capped by a hipped roof. It is clad in stucco and features fixed aluminum-sash windows. The building is noncontributing due to its age.



Resource 15
Name: North Security Station
Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: None
Year Built: Unknown
Status: Noncontributing
Photo(s): 22

The North Security Station is a small 1-story, rectangular-plan building capped by a hipped roof. It is clad in stucco and features sliding aluminum-sash windows. Though the construction date is not known, the building appears to have been constructed after 1974 and is noncontributing due to its age.



Resource 16
Name: West Security Station
Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: None
Year Built: Unknown
Status: Noncontributing
Photo(s): 23

The West Security Station is a small 1-story, rectangular-plan building capped by a gabled roof. It is clad in wood and features sliding and single-hung vinyl-sash windows. Though the construction date is not known, the building appears to have been constructed after 1974 and is noncontributing due to its age.



Resource 17
Name: Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center
Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: None
Year Built: 2015
Status: Noncontributing
Photo(s): 24

The Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center is a 1-story irregular-plan building capped by a flat roof and clad in brick with limestone accents. It features fixed aluminum-sash windows. A metal deck with metal railings provides access to the primary entrance on the south elevation. Ornamentation includes metal overhangs with trellised bars over the windows and entrances.

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Resource 18

Name: Storage Building (northeast)

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: None
Year Built: c. 2015
Status: Noncontributing
Photo(s): 25

The northeast Storage Building is a small 1-story, rectangular-plan building capped by a gabled roof. It is clad in metal and features metal doors. The building was located on campus in 2015 or 2016, according to Google Street View, and is noncontributing due to its age.



Resource 19

Name: Storage Building (east)

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: None
Year Built: c. 1990
Status: Noncontributing
Photo(s): 26

The east Storage Building is a small 1-story, rectangular-plan building capped by a gabled roof. It is clad in metal and features a metal rollup door. The building was located on campus between 1987 and 1997, according to historic aerial photographs, and is noncontributing due to its age.



Resource 20

Name: Temporary Building (west)

Resource Type: Building
Stylistic Influence: None
Year Built: c.2015
Status: Noncontributing
Photo(s): 27

The west Temporary Building is a small 1-story, rectangular-plan building capped by a flat roof. It is clad in wood and features sliding aluminum-sash windows. The building was located on campus between 2015 and 2017, according to historic aerial photographs, and is noncontributing due to its age.

Integrity

Huston-Tillotson College (now University) retains a high degree of integrity to communicate its significance as a historically and architecturally significant HBCU. The district retains integrity of **location and setting** as the original site of Tillotson Institute (1875), which later evolved into Huston-Tillotson College, on rolling property overlooking downtown Austin. Out of 21 total resources, 14 contributing buildings are excellent examples of popular 20th century architectural styles and, built between 1911 and 1974, reflect sixty years of the institution's pedagogical evolution. Integrity of **design** is excellent and continues to show the implementation of Huston-Tillotson's architect-designed 1954 campus plan. Buildings retain their historic spatial relationships around the campus periphery with a center quad. Furthermore, contributing resources demonstrate a high degree of integrity of **materials and workmanship**. The oldest buildings (previously listed in the NRHP) are recognizable examples of early 20th century construction methods (using concrete block and rusticated stone) that were built, in part, by students and faculty. Architect-designed

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resources dating from 1953-1974 have few exterior alterations and demonstrate postwar changes in construction methods and building styles. Non-historic intrusions (7 resources) to the campus do not detract significantly from the district's essential physical features: individual buildings and their spatial relationships on the intact campus. Due to a preponderance of integrity for the above aspects, Huston-Tillotson College retains excellent integrity of **association and feeling** as a significant Texas HBCU.

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Statement of Significance

Huston-Tillotson College (now Huston-Tillotson University) is a Historically Black College University (HBCU), Austin's oldest institution of higher learning, and a centerpiece of the city's African American community. Chartered by the American Missionary Association in 1877, Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute opened to African American students in 1881 on a rectangular 19.8-acre property in East Austin, Travis County. Both Tillotson and nearby Samuel Huston College (1877) were established at the end of Reconstruction to educate formerly enslaved people and their descendants. For many African American Texans, the two colleges were their only opportunity at higher education and career training until the mid-20th century. In the wake of integration, Huston and Tillotson colleges merged in 1952 to operate cooperatively instead of competitively. Under a new administration and board of trustees, the Huston-Tillotson College implemented an ambitious building campaign planned by prestigious Austin firm Kuehne, Brooks, & Barr. Between 1952 and 1974, Huston-Tillotson added nine substantial educational and residential buildings with a central quad, funded through the United Negro College Fund's mobilization program. The result was an excellent examples of postwar Modern Movement institutional buildings that reflect the theory's transition from of clean-lined, low-slung buildings to New Formalist ornament and Brutalism's concrete sculptural forms.

Huston-Tillotson College is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Compared to other Texas HBCUs, Huston-Tillotson is a remarkably intact university campus with a high concentration of contributing buildings that demonstrate the institution's 20th century historical and architectural development. The institution is recognized for its centripetal role in the cultural, political, and social lives of Texas' African American community. Huston-Tillotson alumni, faculty, and presidents are a Who's Who of African Americans in academia, education, arts, politics, science, medicine, business, and sports with local, state, and national influence. Two of the nominated district's contributing resources integral to the district's significance are less than fifty years old: the Jackson-Moody Humanities Building (Resource #11) and King-Seabrook Chapel (Resource #12). Although built in 1974, both buildings were planned in 1954 as part of the larger capital improvement program that followed Huston and Tillotson's merger. The buildings' completion marks a logical end date to a discrete period of significance, 1911-1974, defined by the campus's earliest and oldest resources. Thus, it is not necessary to prove the district's exceptional importance under Criteria Consideration G (Properties Less Than 50 Years Old). Finally, Huston-Tillotson College meets Criteria Consideration A (Religious Properties) because the district derives its primary significance from its historical association and architectural distinction.

Austin, Texas

Huston-Tillotson College (now University) is in East Austin, near the historical centers of Austin's African American and Mexican American communities described in *Historic Resources of East Austin MRA* (1985)⁴ as:

an area lying east of downtown and north of the Colorado River [that] has been typified for well over a century by rich ethnic, social, and cultural traditions... Located only a mile to a mile and a half from the city's center of commerce on Congress Avenue, much of the land was ideally suited to building residences, for the area was topographically varied... By 1900,... East Austin was institutionally, commercially, and residentially well-developed.

A racially varied population was one of the hallmarks of East Austin until World War I, but after that date, *de facto* segregation, which intensified in the 1920s, accelerated the migration of White families [predominantly European immigrants] out of the area and migration of Blacks and Hispanics into it. These segregation patterns were

⁴ Although the 1985 Historic Resources of East Austin MRA identifies the property's significance in the area of Education, the then 50-year threshold rendered the university ineligible as a district for nomination.

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accelerated both by the gradual deterioration of the area's infrastructure—created by the refusal of the City of Austin to upgrade utility and transportation lines—and by the construction in the 1950s of IH-35, a major interstate highway, along the old route of East Avenue. Where once commercial and social traffic flowed freely between East Austin and the downtown, now a physical and visual barrier existed between the two parts of the city.⁵

IH-35 was a physical manifestation of the effective divide created by the 1928 Koch and Fowler City Plan—Austin's first city plan—which established a "Negro district" to concentrate African Americans east of East Avenue. The plan mandated that schools, parks, and libraries that served African Americans be located in East Austin and restricted public services like paved streets, running water, and electricity for Black households to the same area (though the City was slow to provide public utilities and street paving, which were often substandard when they were constructed). East Austin was already home to a number of predominantly Black neighborhoods that had grown out of Reconstruction-era freedmen's communities, as well as important African American institutions such as Tillotson Institute, Samuel Huston College, schools, and churches. However, Austin itself was not historically segregated: Black families lived throughout the city and in old freedmen's communities in West Austin, such as Wheatville and Clarksville. Faced with the loss of schools and other essential public services and facilities as a result of the 1928 plan, African American families were forced to move to East Austin.

For decades afterward, racially prejudiced policies and practices meant that Black renters and homebuyers had few options outside East Austin. Racially restrictive covenants placed on individual deeds prohibited sales to Black families in predominantly white neighborhoods. Using "redlined" maps adopted by the Federal government during the New Deal, financial institutions frequently denied mortgages to Black homebuyers, citing higher risk based on a discriminatory race-based classification. Even when banks did grant loans, they imposed lending caps that dictated how much house an African American family could afford to build or buy. Generally, lack of access to capital meant that Black homeowners had to use savings or very small loans when rehabilitating or adding to their homes.

With a concentrated Black population and segregation preventing access to many downtown businesses, E. 11th and 12th streets emerged as vibrant business and entertainment corridors for Austin's African American community. Stores, restaurants, grocery stores, drugstores, beauty salons and barber shops, theaters, and more served Black residents, and African American doctors and attorneys also located their offices along the corridors. Samuel Huston College stood at East Avenue and E. 11th Street as a gateway to East Austin and the E. 11th commercial corridor, while Tillotson Institute was located a few blocks east of the commercial activity, in a low-rise institutional node that included churches and Blackshear Elementary. Though not subject to the same racial discrimination, Austin's Mexican American population had moved east as well, forced by downtown development in "Little Mexico" and community institutions' shift eastwards. E. 1st (now E. Cesar Chavez) and E. 7th streets became home to a concentration of Mexican American businesses.

⁵ "Historic Resources of East Austin," National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form, Entered 9/17/1985.

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African American Education in Texas in the Reconstruction Era and Beyond

In the late 19th century, Samuel Huston College and Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute were founded by church-affiliated organizations to educate formerly enslaved people.⁶ Additional goals included preparing graduates for the workforce, building strong character, inculcating habits for responsible living, instilling a community service ethos, and advancing racial progress. Reflecting the broader goals of social good, both institutions sought to educate teachers and ministers who would work with former slaves and their children.

At the time, educational opportunities were severely limited for African Americans at all levels, following a period of rapid progress during Reconstruction. Black churches, benevolent organizations, and White allies opened twenty-two Black colleges in the U.S. between 1865 and 1869.⁷ These colleges typically were “normal schools” that trained teachers, but the majority of their students were in elementary and secondary divisions, seeking to catch up from state-mandated illiteracy during enslavement.⁸ As late as 1916, a federal study of Black colleges noted that, in most schools studied, fewer than ten percent of students were doing college-level work.⁹ In Texas, private Black colleges enrolled nearly 2,200 students, just six percent of whom were in college-level courses; the Black public college, Prairie View, had 552 students, none at the college level.¹⁰

Reconstruction-era efforts to educate formerly enslaved Texans began quickly. The federal Freedmen’s Bureau opened one school in Galveston in 1865; a year later, it operated 100 schools across the state with a combination of government subsidies and funds from volunteer civic and religious groups.¹¹ Though the level of Black literacy rose quickly, stringent White opposition hampered educational efforts.¹² White Texans staunchly refused to teach in Black schools and discriminated against Northern teachers through denying lodging, threats, assaults, and even murders.¹³ Soon, missionary groups that recruited teachers could not persuade a sufficient number to brave the dangers.¹⁴

The Freedmen’s Bureau left Texas in 1870 when military rule ended, returning control to the state and leaving an educational system that the U.S. Commissioner of Education described as “the darkest field, educationally, in the United States” in 1871.¹⁵ The Texas legislature soon repealed the liberal Reconstruction-era laws, and Texas’s 1876 constitution codified a segregated educational system and withheld public funds from integrated schools, promising separate schools and a separate university for African Americans.¹⁶ Prairie View A&M College was created that year and opened in 1878, two years after Texas A&M College Station. As an agricultural training institute, student enrollment was low; it rose the following year when the institution was renamed Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College with a focus on training teachers. Supporters reasoned that this focus would produce well-trained

⁶ J. Mason Brewer, “H-T College has two-part history,” *The Austin American*, 8/12/1956.

⁷ Ernie Suggs, “HBCUs: Born in the North but most needed in the South,” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* 2/8/2018, <https://www.ajc.com/news/local/hbcus-born-the-north-but-most-needed-the-south/Q7NI3b0Gnnzak6eWX6p3BJ/>.

⁸ Nia Imani Cantey, Robert Bland, LaKerri R. Mack, and Danielle Joy-Davis, “Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Sustaining a culture of excellence in the twenty-first century,” *Journal of African American Studies* vol. 17, no. 2 (June 2013); Suggs.

⁹ Michael Robert Heintze, *A History of the Black Private Colleges in Texas, 1865-1954* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University, 1981), 5.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* 121.

¹¹ *Ibid.* 34; Amilcar Shabazz, *Advancing Democracy: African Americans and the Struggle for Access and Equity in Higher Education in Texas* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2004), 14.

¹² Shabazz 10-11; Heintze 35-36.

¹³ Heintze 35-36.

¹⁴ *Ibid.* 38.

¹⁵ Shabazz 10-11; Heintze 37.

¹⁶ Shabazz 15.

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Black educators, circumvent White resistance to White teachers from the North, and satisfy “the great want of the schools in Texas... qualified teachers.”¹⁷

According to Amilcar Shabazz, Texas’s segregated universities at first “were not vastly unequal.” However, the University of Texas at Austin’s creation in 1881 and opening in 1883 was not mirrored by the creation of a branch for African Americans, as required by the constitution and an 1882 popular vote. The disparity grew from there. The equality component of the Supreme Court’s 1896 “separate but equal” ruling in *Plessy v. Ferguson* was as unheeded in Texas as in other states. By 1961, Texas had established 17 public universities for Whites, while a chronically underfunded Prairie View remained the only public option for African Americans seeking higher education in Texas.¹⁸

Prairie View subscribed to the skills-focused industrial education model popularized by Booker T. Washington’s Tuskegee Institute.¹⁹ From Washington’s perspective, the model inculcated moral values, taught practical skills, and asserted that African Americans preferred to be educated separately from Whites.²⁰ This was supported by many Whites who felt that African Americans were better suited for vocational training than a liberal arts education due to lower aptitude, available jobs, and less prominent societal roles.²¹ This model was called “unjust, illogical, spurious” by the Colored Teachers State Association of Texas (CTSAT), an organization founded in 1884 with L. C. Anderson (then Prairie View’s principal) as one founding member.²² CTSAT’s advocacy for a broader curriculum succeeded in 1901, when Texas A&M approved the addition of liberal arts college courses at Prairie View.²³ In both Samuel Huston College (est. 1876) and Tillotson Institute (est. 1877), college-level courses followed a liberal arts model championed by W. E. B. Du Bois, with some technical vocational training as well.

Still, college options for Black students in Texas were limited, both in public and private settings. The state had only 129 Black college students in 1914, a tiny fraction of the 690,049 African Americans who lived here.²⁴ The number more than quadrupled by 1921-22 as wages and demand rose in the postwar era, but it was still low. This growth is reflected in the entire South: between 1900 and 1935, the number of Black college and professional students increased from 3,880 to more than 29,000.²⁵ In a similar period (1915-27), the balance of students in Black colleges in Texas shifted from elementary-level (9 percent) to mostly high school (30.5 percent) and college-level (60.5 percent).²⁶

A 1916 federal study highlighted multiple shortcomings in equipment, facilities, and organization for Black colleges across the country.²⁷ This held true in Texas: A 1925 evaluation of the Prairie View Normal and Industrial School plainly called out the need for more resources for the state’s only Black college, as well as the expansion of fields of study:

The library needs more generous support, more cows are needed, and a more adequate training program should be provided. In short, the standard of support, in general, is too low. The general spirit

¹⁷ Freedmen’s Aid Society (1877), qtd. in William R. Davis, *The Development and Present Status of Negro Education in East Texas* (New York: Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1934), 101, qtd. in Heintze 37.

¹⁸ Shabazz 17.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* 18.

²⁰ *Ibid.* 18; Walter R. Allen, Joseph O. Jewell, Kimberly A. Griffin and De’Sha S. Wolf, “Historically Black Colleges and Universities: Honoring the past, engaging the present, touching the future,” *The Journal of Negro Education* vol. 76, no. 3 (Summer 2007), 268.

²¹ Allen et al. 267.

²² Qtd. in Shabazz 18.

²³ Shabazz 18.

²⁴ *Ibid.* 18-19.

²⁵ Allen et al. 268.

²⁶ Heintz 125.

²⁷ *Ibid.* 4.

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of the institution and the conduct of its students are very creditable. Plans should be laid now for the early provision of professional education for negroes in such lines as law and medicine.”²⁸

These recommendations aligned with a national survey of Black colleges a few years later, which stated that “national social and economic life demands the training of many more negro professional and technical leaders.”²⁹ The survey also pointed out serious issues with overworked and underpaid professors, leading to substantial faculty turnovers; and vastly under-resourced libraries—products of a chronic and pervasive lack of resources.³⁰ These challenges remained for decades, even as more institutions for Black higher education were established, total enrollment increased, and endowments grew.³¹ Michael Robert Heintze’s dissertation chronicles in detail the shift from vocational classes to broader curricula.

Advocacy efforts to expand African American access to higher education began to coalesce in the 1930s. Texas’s emerging Black professional class organized to demand better access to this key steppingstone.³² Though this socioeconomic stratum was small—composed of just over 10,000 of the state’s 390,000 African American residents in 1930—the community groups formed by its members were determined. Their goals were threefold: for the state to fulfill its constitutional responsibility to establish a Black branch of UT Austin, to secure more financial support for the Black branch of Texas A&M College at Prairie View, and to win financial support from the state for Black students to study out of state.

At the same time, the annual Prairie View Educational Conference highlighted the state of Black education in Texas and stimulated “educational planning,” beginning in 1930.³³ The 1937 conference focused on making public education more available for African Americans and underscored that Black schools were not receiving the financial support they needed for success. This shortfall in public Black higher education was true across the country: in 1932, of approximately 23,000 African American college students, nearly 60 percent studied at private Black colleges.³⁴ I. Q. Hurdle, the CTSAT president at the time, predicted that the “University for Negroes in Texas” would soon be established.³⁵

Prairie View began offering graduate study courses in 1937, but its offerings were limited.³⁶ A bill was proposed that year to offer state support for Blacks who could not receive advanced degrees in Texas, similar to provisions in other Southern states whose Black residents studied professional and graduate courses at out-of-state institutions.³⁷ Some Black supporters called the bill an interim measure for a Negro branch of UT, while many Whites saw it as a way to maintain segregation in higher education. After much legislative foot-dragging and strategic pressure campaigns, the bill passed in 1939.

This was a substantial victory for advocates, but the next 15 years saw even more monumental changes. From the Texas University Movement’s campaign to open traditionally White institutions to Black students to *Brown v. Board of Education*’s national ban on school segregation in 1954, Black professionals were at the forefront of a major civil

²⁸ L. D. Coffman et al., *Texas Educational Survey Report: Higher Education*, vol. 6 (Austin: Texas Educational Survey Commission, 1925), 73, qtd. in Shabazz 20.

²⁹ Arthur Klein, *Survey of Negro Colleges and Universities*, Bulletin no. 7 (Washington: GPO, 1929), 3, qtd in Shabazz 21.

³⁰ Klein, qtd. in Heintze 7-9.

³¹ Heintze 11-13.

³² Shabazz 25.

³³ *Ibid.* 21.

³⁴ Heintz 83.

³⁵ Qtd. in Shabazz 24.

³⁶ Shabazz 21.

³⁷ *Ibid.* 27-31.

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rights struggle. Though their numbers remained small, their social status and sense of personal mission were magnified by scarcity, circumstance, civic and civil rights organizations like the NAACP, the Black press, and a series of reports.³⁸

In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that African Americans could not be barred from voting in the Texas Democratic Party primary, an NAACP victory that galvanized the state's branches. The same year, a report by the *ad hoc* Bi-racial Commission on Negro Education in Texas highlighted Prairie View's inadequate funding and the lack of graduate and professional education for Black people.³⁹ The report, which assessed Black colleges across Texas, repeated the criticisms found in earlier studies and surveys: faculty were underpaid, and facilities like libraries and laboratories were inadequate.⁴⁰

Generally, the Commission report accepted segregation as a given, endorsing a) a new Black University of Texas that was separate but genuinely equal, or b) expanding funding for and non-vocational course offerings at Prairie View.⁴¹ However, African Americans, especially the professional class, demanded integration after decades of unequal resources—such as makeshift “graduate schools” held in basements with just a few students—and injustice in the courts and even death by lynching. A 1946 editorial from Carter Wesley, the prominent publisher of the *Informer* chain of weekly newspapers, called the Bi-racial Commission's work a “hoax.”⁴²

The struggle over integration versus equal resources for Black institutions continued as Heman Sweatt's 1946 lawsuit wound through the courts. Thurgood Marshall stated, “There is hardly a Negro in Texas today who is not convinced that segregation is not only bad, but cannot be tolerated”; however, a contemporary poll showed majority support for a separate Black University of Texas among both African Americans and Whites surveyed.⁴³ The Texas legislature sought to reinforce the separate but equal infrastructure and stave off integration by creating the Texas State University for the Negro (TSUN) in 1947. By the time the Supreme Court ruled in 1950 that the University of Texas at Austin Law School must admit Sweatt, many Black students had filed applications for admission to all-White institutions rather than enroll in the course- and resource-limited TSUN.⁴⁴

Meanwhile, Black colleges like Tillotson College, Samuel Huston College, and others around the country continued to serve Black students. In 1953, private Black colleges in the U.S. had more than 32,000 students, while Black public colleges had more than 43,000 students.⁴⁵ Yet the NAACP's position was clear: “For desegregation efforts to succeed, all Jim Crow schools had to be condemned without pity.”⁴⁶ Black colleges were often portrayed as mediocre and inferior to White schools. One Black college president wrote, “The aim of all segregated institutions should be to work themselves out of a job.”⁴⁷

Austin's Black colleges actively fought for integration. Professor “Little Doc” Morton taught at Samuel Huston College and was president of the local NAACP branch; W. Astor Kirk, the chair of Tillotson's Department of Government, applied for admission to UT, refused a segregated arrangement, and led HT students in protesting

³⁸ *Ibid.* 32-33.

³⁹ *Ibid.* 36.

⁴⁰ Heintze 19.

⁴¹ Shabazz 36.

⁴² Qtd. in Shabazz 50.

⁴³ Memorandum to Gloster B. Current from Thurgood Marshall, 7/8/2947, Marshall File, NAACP Papers, qtd. in Shabazz 54; Shabazz 56.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.* 75.

⁴⁵ “Historically Black Colleges and Universities and higher education desegregation,” U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20202-1100 (March 1991).

⁴⁶ Shabazz 55.

⁴⁷ John W. Davis, as quoted in the *Houston Defender* 3/9/1946, qtd. in Shabazz 70.

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segregated public facilities. Student chapters of the NAACP coordinated with the national organization to protest policies and cross the racial barriers to admission.⁴⁸ A 1949 mass action by 37 Blacks seeking to enroll in three branches of the University of Texas used Tillotson College as a base, meeting on campus before the UT action, then returning for lunch before a march on the state capitol.⁴⁹ A Samuel Huston College graduate, Herman Barnett, was admitted to the UT Medical Branch at Galveston that year in the absence of a Black medical school—though he initially was classified as a TSUN student.⁵⁰

Indeed, Black colleges and universities across the country (now known as historically Black colleges and universities, or HBCUs) were at the forefront of the civil rights movement: “They provided foot soldiers for mass protests, leaders for the Movement, lawyers to argue cases before courts, and a credentialed intelligentsia equipped to take advantage of hard-won opportunities,” writes Allen et al. The Black professional-managerial class that led essential advocacy and legal efforts was enabled and empowered by HBCUs.

Heman Sweatt’s victory at the Supreme Court in 1950 was not absolute. The Court had refused to reconsider the educational segregation in primary and secondary schools that *Plessy v. Ferguson* had codified, and the University of Texas agreed to admit Black students only for courses not offered or planned by TSUN or Prairie View. UT’s president wrote to the TSUN president, “It is not the desire of the U of T to compete with your institution in the graduate field.”⁵¹ Of the 32 Black students who applied for admission to the University of Texas system between June and early October 1950, 22 were admitted.⁵² The Sweatt decision inspired many Black students to apply to colleges around Texas. Some cities and towns created or expanded Black junior colleges in response, a few junior colleges voluntarily desegregated.

Brown v. Board of Education and a subsequent ruling (1954-55) abolished the separate but equal doctrine for all schools, but the Supreme Court did not mandate quick action, instead of instructing that schools should be integrated “with all deliberate speed.” In Texas, White supremacists and all-White institutions resisted well into the 1960s with slow legal maneuvers, property destruction, threats of job loss and bodily harm, and violence, even as suburbanization and White flight meant that many local school districts remained majority-White or majority-African due to residential segregation. The conservative vote handed Allan Shivers the Texas governorship in 1954 partly through race-baiting.⁵³ UT admitted its first three Black undergraduates in 1955 but required them to complete a year at Prairie View first.⁵⁴ Two of those students subsequently withdrew from UT within a few months, likely because of stress, but more than 100 Black transfer and first-year students were admitted in fall 1956. The athletics and drama programs were closed to African American students—UT’s first Black football player took the field in 1970—and dormitories were still segregated by floor as late as 1964.⁵⁵

Each student who attended a formerly segregated college or university in Austin and communities across the state represented a civil rights and personal triumph—and often a legal one, as institutions sought to prevent Black enrollment in the courts or to allow integration only gradually. By 1958, only 642 Black students were enrolled in

⁴⁸ Shabazz 71-73.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.* 76.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* 79.

⁵¹ Qtd. in Shabazz 114.

⁵² Shabazz 115.

⁵³ *Ibid.* 140.

⁵⁴ Shabazz 156-57, 158-59.

⁵⁵ “Austin, TX, U.S. students sit-in for desegregated lunch counters (Austin Movement), 1959-1961,” Global Nonviolent Action Database, Swarthmore College, <https://nvdatabase.swarthmore.edu/content/austin-tx-us-students-sit-desegregated-lunch-counters-austin-movement-1959-1961>.

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Texas colleges, compared to nearly 52,000 White students in the same institutions.⁵⁶ It was 1963 when the Texarkana Junior College finally desegregated. The same year, Prairie View stated that it would accept White students. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 required all colleges receiving public funds to desegregate; the Higher Education Act of 1965 helped fund institutional improvements and more financial aid for students at HBCUs.⁵⁷

In Texas, civil rights momentum was slowed when a state investigation into the NAACP quashed its activities in 1957. Related efforts attempted to tie NAACP activists to the Communist Party. Yet churches and labor unions stepped up to advocate for integration.⁵⁸ The Missionary Baptist General Convention of Texas, the Texas State Council of Methodist Women, the Texas Council of Churches, and the Texas State Congress of Industrial Organizations Council lobbied for racial justice. Between 1950 and 1975, the number of African American college students swelled from 83,000 to 666,000.⁵⁹

Throughout these post-*Brown* shifts, HBCUs have sometimes struggled to adapt. “HBCUs were caught a little off-guard by majority institutions when they integrated, swooped down and took the cream of the crop and then walked away... Somehow, we had conceded that we couldn’t compete,” said Claflin University President Henry Tisdale.⁶⁰ High-achieving African American students suddenly had vastly more choice of colleges to attend, while HBCUs’ longstanding “open door” policies meant that their remaining students were more likely to have academic challenges requiring remediation and additional resources.⁶¹

A 1977 *Austin American-Statesman* article affirmed the value of HBCUs—“a feeling of community” and assistance in making up educational deficiencies—and assured readers that Huston-Tillotson’s enrollment remained steady.⁶² However, it also underscored the need for more funding “for faculty salaries, maintenance, and institutional upkeep to allow the school continued growth,” in quoting college president Dr. John T. King. At the time, Black colleges had produced 75 percent of African Americans with doctoral degrees, 75 percent of Black military officers, 80 percent of Black federal judges, and 85 percent of Black doctors.⁶³ HBCUs were dedicated to “building men: first by enlightening their minds, then by freeing them from the shackles of a psychological condition brought about by nearly two hundred and fifty years of slavery,” wrote Edward A. Jones in a 1967 history of Morehouse College.⁶⁴

In 2008, nearly 90 percent of Black students were enrolled at traditionally White institutions (TWIs), compared to more than 75 percent enrolled at HBCUs in the 1950s; HBCUs now serve 14 percent of Black college and postgraduate students.⁶⁵ Never funded at the same level as their traditionally White counterparts, many HBCUs have seen declines in enrollment, a handful have closed, and a few others have lost their accreditation. And discrimination persists: a 2014 ruling found that Maryland’s educational policies deprived HBCUs “of unique, high-demand programs that would attract a competitive and diverse student body.”⁶⁶ On average, an HBCU in Maryland had just 11 unique programs, compared to 42 at a traditionally White institution.

⁵⁶ Shabazz 197.

⁵⁷ Allen et al. 270.

⁵⁸ Shabazz 194.

⁵⁹ Allen et al.

⁶⁰ Ernie Suggs and Eric Sturgus, “Perilous times for black colleges,” *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, 2/1/2018, <https://www.ajc.com/news/local/perilous-times-for-black-colleges/EhDuhVHMOjZqmskOeKBHoM/>.

⁶¹ Allen et al. 270.

⁶² Ronald Powell, “Huston-Tillotson faces a shortage of finances,” *Austin American-Statesman*, 10/30/1977.

⁶³ Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., “Black and higher education—Some reflections,” *Daedalus* 104 (Winter 1975), 165; qtd. in Heintze 22.

⁶⁴ Edward A. Jones, *A Candle in the Dark: A History of Morehouse College* (Valley Forge: Judson Press, 1967), 9-10; qtd. in Heintze 26.

⁶⁵ Suggs and Sturgus; James T. Minor, “A contemporary perspective on the role of public HBCUs: Perspicacity from Mississippi,” *The Journal of Negro Education* vol. 77, no. 4, 2008.

⁶⁶ Paula Reid, “Historically black colleges still seeking equality in Md.,” CBS News 5/17/2014,

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HBCU leadership and advocates point out that the institutions still play important roles for students, in African American communities, and in the national realm. Scholars note six goals of HBCUs:⁶⁷

- 1) Maintaining the Black American historical and cultural tradition.
- 2) Providing key leadership for the Black American community.
- 3) Providing Black American role models for social, political, and economic purposes in the Black community.
- 4) Assuring economic function in the Black American community.
- 5) Providing Black American role models for social, political, and economic purposes in the Black community to address issues between minority and majority population; and
- 6) Producing Black agents for research, institutional training, and information dissemination in the Black and other minority communities.

Other authors put it more succinctly: “[HBCUs] have been called to preserve a culture, prosper a community, equip a new generation of leaders, and model what is best about America.”⁶⁸ Enrollment figures show a disproportionate impact: In 2009, the country’s 105 HBCUs—comprising 3 percent of all American colleges and universities—enrolled 14 percent of all Black college students, 28 percent of all African Americans who earn a degree, and “the largest number of disadvantaged students in the nation.”⁶⁹ HBCUs retain 82 percent of African American students, compared to a 60 percent retention rate at traditionally White institutions.⁷⁰

Researchers credit several factors, including tuition costs, smaller classes, faculty-student interaction, and culturally sensitive pedagogies. HBCUs’ open-door policy brings students up to college level if they were ill prepared by previous schools. At the same time, HBCUs graduate students who are more likely to pursue masters and doctoral degrees than African Americans who attend traditionally White institutions. In 2004, Richardson and Harris asserted continuing discrimination aimed at HBCUs that need to justify their existence despite having “produced favorable results for African Americans [and] better results than larger and more generously financed White institutions... It is past time for a united social, judicial, and political espousal on behalf of HBCUs like the one that led to *Brown*.”

Huston-Tillotson College

Samuel Huston College (1875-1952)

The institution that would become Samuel Huston College began in February 1876 in the basement of St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church in Dallas, where Rev. George Warren Richardson and his son opened a school to provide African Americans with a quality Christian-based education. By May of that year, enrollment had increased enough for the Rev. Richardson to rent the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church to teach half the students; by November, the school had more than 200 students.

The same month, the West Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church met in San Antonio, recognized Richardson’s school as a model, and adopted it as a conference school. Under this new structure, the school was renamed Andrews Normal College after a Methodist bishop, and Richardson was appointed president. One year later, in November 1877, the West Texas Conference decided that the school should move to Austin because of the city’s more central location to the Conference and its more tolerant racial environment.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/marylands-historically-black-colleges-still-seek-equality-after-brown/>.

⁶⁷ Cantey et al.

⁶⁸ Allen et al.

⁶⁹ Robert Abelman and Amy Dalessandro, “The institutional vision of historically Black colleges and universities,” *Journal of Black Studies* vol. 40 no. 2 (November 2009), 106.

⁷⁰ Jeanita W. Richardson and J. John Harris III, “Brown and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): A paradox of desegregation policy,” *The Journal of Negro Education* vol. 73, no. 3 (Summer 2004).

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

The school opened in Austin in September 1878 as the West Texas Conference School but was beset by difficulties.⁷¹ It was initially located in Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church, an African American congregation housed in the basement of the Tenth Street Methodist Episcopal Church (Brazos and 10th streets) and later at 9th and Neches streets. The West Texas Conference sought funding for construction from the Freedmen's Aid Society, a national Christian organization founded to increase education opportunity for freed African Americans. However, the Society gave preference to Wiley College in Marshall, Texas.

In 1882, the Society eventually purchased six acres of land using \$9,000 from the sale of a farm donated by Samuel Huston, a wealthy Methodist living in Iowa.⁷² The land fronted on East Avenue (now I-35) between E. 11th and E. 13th streets, a quarter mile east of the Capitol. It also sat one mile west of the current Huston-Tillotson campus, which was then occupied by Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute, another Black college. Despite this step, the school closed in 1884 for lack of funds, still without a building on its campus. In December 1885, the West Texas Conference hired Thomas M. Dart to reopen the school at Simpson Tabernacle in East Austin (Concho and Gregory streets). In the early 1890s a building on the East Avenue campus was started, but only the basement was constructed before funds ran out. The basement was enclosed in 1898 as a rudimentary classroom and finished 11 years later.⁷³

The school was renamed Samuel Huston College in November 1900 and finally stabilized, with President Rueben Shannon Lovinggood from Wiley College leading an all-Black faculty. Two buildings were constructed: Burrowes Hall, which initially served as a women's dormitory and later held administration offices, classrooms, and the library; and a home economics department. The school enjoyed strong community support, with local households donating bedding, holding fundraising events, and praying for the institution.

Buildings on campus included:

- Burrowes Hall, a two-and-a-half-story brick building
- Eliza Dee Hall, a women's dormitory located at the northeast corner of E. 12th Street and East Avenue
- Lovinggood Hall, a men's dormitory located on the north side of E. 11th Street and east of East Avenue
- Frazier Hall, which was located on E. 11th Street and held a dining room on the first floor and faculty apartments and a lounge on the second floor
- Science Building, a two-story building located west of East Avenue and E. 12th Street; it held lecture rooms and laboratories
- President's Home, a two-story wood-frame building facing the main campus on E. 12th Street
- Gymnasium, which held 700 viewers for sports events and 1,200 for general assemblies
- Other wood-frame buildings
- Veteran's Trailer Camp, twenty trailers erected behind the Science Building after World War II as emergency housing for veterans and their families under the Federal Housing Administration

In 1910, the State of Texas issued a charter for Samuel Huston College: "a significant accomplishment given the failure record of many so-called colleges for African Americans."⁷⁴ The 1914-15 annual catalogue boasted of a "strong faculty, loyal and enthusiastic body of students, confident and satisfied parents, strong and up-to-date courses, nascent in scholarship, triumph in athletics..."⁷⁵

⁷¹ "Governance Policies and Procedures: Policy Manual, Volume I," Huston-Tillotson University, 2017.

⁷² Heintze 69.

⁷³ *Ibid.* 70.

⁷⁴ Wilhelmina E. Perry and August N. Swain, *The Huston-Tillotson University Legacy: A Historical Treasure*, (Austin: Huston-Tillotson University International Alumni Association, 2007), 12.

⁷⁵ Qtd. in Perry and Swain, 12.

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

In 1916, the U.S. Bureau of Education and the Phelps Stokes Foundation evaluated African American colleges around the country. The evaluation found that only a few colleges were teaching at college levels, with more resources devoted to secondary education programs. It recommended that colleges either divert resources to college-level courses or focus on secondary education until they had sufficient resources to run both programs. Samuel Huston College was a good example of this imbalance: In 1914, it had 18 enrollees in college classes—a fraction of its 405 total students.

Following the evaluation, Huston administrators took decisive action. They cut the elementary school, increased enforcement of entrance of graduation requirements, and separated the high school and college departments in the college's structure. These decisions bore fruit when the Texas State Department of Education accredited Huston College as a class A standard college in 1925.⁷⁶ A 1928 follow-up report from the Bureau of Education and the Phelps Stokes Foundation lauded Huston College as showing "persistence."⁷⁷ By the early 1940s, enrollment had decreased. Rev. Karl E. Downs, appointed president in 1943, knocked on the doors of prospective students in various cities and towns. This strategy was phenomenally successful, and enrollment jumped from 222 students in 1943-44 to 659 students in 1947-48. Rev. Downs also initiated an Artists Series to bring famous performers to the community. The *Houston Informer*, a Black newspaper, celebrated the series thusly: "How refreshing to find a Negro college spending more money for cultural opportunities than athletics."⁷⁸ Not to neglect athletics, Rev. Downs also hired Jackie Robinson to coach briefly at Samuel Huston College in 1946, after Robinson finished his military service.

Tillotson College (1877-1952)

Tillotson College was chartered in 1877 as the Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute. It was sponsored by the American Missionary Association (AMA), which promoted educational institutions to prepare formerly enslaved Black people for citizenship. The AMA was nonsectarian but connected to the Congregational Church, and Rev. George Jeffrey Tillotson was interested in creating a school to train Black teachers to serve their communities. He visited AMA schools for Blacks in the South in 1876, chose Austin for the location of a new school, and proceeded to raise more than \$16,000 for the new college. In January 1877, the first payment was made to purchase land for what is now the Huston-Tillotson campus. It was located on what would be known as Bluebonnet Hill and had a view of downtown Austin and the Colorado River.

The Tillotson Collegiate and Normal Institute opened in January 1881 under the leadership of Rev. William E. Brooks. At the time, no public schools existed for African Americans.⁷⁹ All of Tillotson's faculty were White, and most students were in the lower grades (junior high and high school programs). The total enrollment at the end of the first term was 107 students. The school had powerful supporters, such as Elisha M. Pease, a former Texas governor who served as a Tillotson trustee.

In 1888, Tillotson began offering a four-year college course of study and vocational courses; it became known as Tillotson College in 1894. In 1909, the State of Texas issued a charter for the college. That year, the school enrolled 248 students, 101 of whom were boarders from around the state. A 1913 newspaper article notes that "The outlook...

⁷⁶ Tilden J. LeMelle and Wilbert J. LeMelle note that Black colleges were subject to prejudice in accreditation standards, as "national and regional accrediting associations... had discriminated against [them] by showing the same bias toward them that prevailed in the majority community they represented" (*The Black College: A Strategy for Achieving Relevance*, New York: Frederick A. Praeger, Publishers, 1969; qtd. in Heintze 21).

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, 21.

⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 56.

⁷⁹ "Governance Policies and Procedures."

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

is very bright. The finances of the institution are in good shape, and the school is rapidly growing.”⁸⁰ The industrial training was noted as especially “superior” by another article the following year.⁸¹

Like Samuel Huston College and other Black colleges, Tillotson College was evaluated by the U.S. Bureau of Education and Phelps Stokes Foundation in 1916. At the time, Tillotson had 18 enrollees in college classes, out of a total enrollment of 314 students. Unlike Huston College, though, Tillotson retained its structure after the evaluation, dividing resources between its high school and college departments and continuing its elementary program as a model school for the teacher training program. In 1921, Tillotson College became a training school for teachers.

In 1926, the school became a four-year women’s college, the only one for Black women south of Atlanta. Enrollment increased steadily, with students coming from across Texas and beyond. “It is the hope... that it may grow in order to care for the entire southwest,” reported a contemporary newspaper article.⁸² The college’s 19 faculty members taught liberal arts subjects such as English, music, education, psychology, and sociology, alongside practical skills such as housekeeping, cooking, and sewing. Finances remained a challenge, though, and a 1929 expression of support from the Executive Committee strongly requested a five-year strategic plan that included suggestions for cooperating with other educational institutions.

The follow-up report from the Bureau of Education and Phelps Stokes Foundation in 1928 noted that Tillotson had an excellent campus and buildings, but lacked a clear mission and clear administrative organization, allowed poor record-keeping and cost accounting, and had “no apparent attempt to extend the influence beyond the immediate community.”⁸³

Mary E. Branch was appointed president in 1930 to right the institution, which was struggling with decreasing enrollment, dwindling financial support, and ineffective past leadership. The American Missionary Association was wavering on continuing its financial support as other educational opportunities for African Americans expanded. Originally from Virginia, President Branch was an experienced educator who held degrees from Virginia State College and the University of Chicago.⁸⁴ Soon after arriving at Tillotson, she discontinued the high school department, doubled the size of the college faculty, and hired additional Black faculty, with the requirement that all faculty members have at least a master’s degree. She expanded the library from 2,000 to 21,000 volumes and made the college coeducational again in 1935 at the urging of coeducational alumni.⁸⁵ (That same year, fraternal organizations were allowed on campus.⁸⁶) Campus life became more modern as President Branch abolished mandatory chapel, allowed fraternities and sororities, and encouraged students to form academic and athletic clubs.⁸⁷ She actively supported a more progressive outlook in the local community as well, serving as the Austin chapter president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and closing college accounts with businesses that enforced segregation.⁸⁸

Over President Branch’s fourteen-year tenure, enrollment grew from 140 students to 502.⁸⁹ She recruited students aggressively, inviting high school girls to campus for sports events, sending teachers through the Southwest to recruit

⁸⁰ “Tillotson College to Close,” *The Austin Statesman*, 5/18/1913.

⁸¹ “Tillotson College Closes,” *The Austin Statesman*, 5/28/1914.

⁸² “Recognition helps Tillotson College,” *The Austin American*, 3/3/1929.

⁸³ Perry and Swain, 22.

⁸⁴ Heintze 173.

⁸⁵ Perry and Swain; Heintze 175-76.

⁸⁶ Shackles, “The Inside Story.”

⁸⁷ Heintze 177.

⁸⁸ *Ibid.* 179.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.* 177.

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qualified students, and offering more scholarships.⁹⁰ She encouraged students to work as a “badge of honor,” emphasized work ethic as a tool for empowerment, and oversaw major and widespread fundraising efforts. President Branch “laid the foundation of a new era in the life of Tillotson College, and she thrust this new impulse into the future. To her rightfully must go the acclaim and honor and the praise of the present wholesome outlook of the institution,” acclaimed Dr. William H. Jones, the Tillotson College president who succeeded President Branch after her unexpected death in 1944.⁹¹

In 1933, Tillotson College was approved as a class B college by the Association of College and Secondary Schools of the Southern States—“an honorable rating for a 4-year Black college in those days.”⁹² In 1936, Tillotson College was admitted into the American Association of College. In 1943, it received a class A rating from the Association of College and Secondary Schools of the Southern States; the following year, it was judged as having the best department of education among its peers by the Bi-Racial Conference on Education for Negroes in Texas.⁹³

In Union, Strength: Merging the Institutions

Merging Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College was recommended formally as early as 1928, when the Bureau of Education and Phelps Stokes Foundation follow-up report stated:

It is unfortunate that the two [N]egro colleges... maintained by different northern church bodies, should be located in the same community and both be compelled to struggle with inadequate support. The resources of the colleges, if united, would provide means for one good coeducational institution.⁹⁴

Early efforts were facilitated by presidents Mary E. Branch and Karl E. Downs, who co-sponsored speakers, shared faculty, and held joint summer sessions between their institutions.⁹⁵ That decade, the executive secretary of the American Missionary Association and the secretary of the Methodist Board of Education also proposed a merger of the institutions, with the vision of “a great center of privately-supported and controlled higher education for Negroes [*sic*] in the Southwest.”⁹⁶ However, the AMA Division Committee and Methodist Board of Education did not vote to support the proposed merger until 1945 and 1947, respectively. Detailed discussions began that involved the name, location, and finances of the new institution.⁹⁷

In the meantime, the Samuel Huston College Board spent decades exploring a merger with Wiley College in Marshall, beginning in the 1930s and continuing through the early 1950s. The Board saw Tillotson College as a weaker option, due to Congregationalists’ smaller membership in Texas. In 1948, the Wiley College merger sparked widespread opposition from Huston College alumni, influencing the College trustees. (Samuel Huston College was independently controlled, while Tillotson College was run by the AMA.⁹⁸) Still, prices had risen during World War II, wealthy philanthropists who had supported both Tillotson College and Samuel Huston College were “dwindling in numbers,” and tuition raises for low-income students were impracticable.⁹⁹

⁹⁰ Heintze 176-77.

⁹¹ Qtd. in Perry and Swain, 50.

⁹² *Ibid.* 23.

⁹³ Heintze 110-11.

⁹⁴ Qtd. in Perry and Swain, 22-23.

⁹⁵ Heintze 181, 245.

⁹⁶ Perry and Swain 23.

⁹⁷ Heintze 247-48.

⁹⁸ Heintze 249.

⁹⁹ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 57.

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The merger gained traction in 1951, when the Samuel Huston College Board appointed a committee to initiate “a possible merger with other Negro colleges or universities in Texas.”¹⁰⁰ In January 1952, the committee requested a joint meeting with Tillotson’s Board of Trustees Exploration Committee to discuss an immediate merger. The two groups met on January 26, 1952, and agreed to merge, with final adoption of the merger plan on April 16 of the same year. The move was strongly supported by Huston College’s President Downs, who swung his trustees towards the merger.¹⁰¹

In April 1952, two large meetings were held about the merger, which also garnered national radio and newspaper coverage. Some alumni were concerned about losing the identity associated with their alma maters, but current students were generally supportive.¹⁰² The final edition of *The Samuel Huston Bulletin* in May 1952 stated that the merger “brought into existence a new institution with unlimited possibilities... it was not only wise, but necessary that these two colleges should pool their resources” to compete with land-grant public colleges.¹⁰³ A student spokesperson echoed the sentiment: “The combining of two small schools into one large, well-equipped, adequately financed school promises new heights in the caliber of Negro education for the future.”¹⁰⁴

The Huston-Tillotson University Legacy, a publication of the alumni organization, credited the success of the merger partly to previous cooperation between the institutions. The colleges had held joint summer sessions beginning in 1931 for in-service teachers, alternating campuses and with an equal number of faculty drawn from both colleges; as early as 1904, a summer session for teachers held at Tillotson College featured a lecture from the head of mathematics at Samuel Huston College. Since 1945, the colleges had held joint baccalaureate services around commencement. Longtime Tillotson College faculty member Chrystine Shackles wrote about dances, bridge games, and dinners between the faculty of the two schools in the 1940s and 1950s, as well as connections forged by attending Wesley Methodist Church.¹⁰⁵ Around that time, students had been able to take courses at the other school if the subject were not taught at their own college. A 1952 newspaper article called the merger “just another milestone in the long-time cooperation” of the two institutions.¹⁰⁶

At the time of the merger, the two schools had awarded a total of more than 2,500 degrees.¹⁰⁷

Huston-Tillotson College, 1952-1974

Instruction began at the new Huston-Tillotson College on September 17, 1952, with the charter signed on October 24, 1952. The racial composition of the faculty was mixed, but mostly Black. “All of Texas is eagerly awaiting the occasion of the opening,” *The Austin Statesman* enthused in August 1952.¹⁰⁸ The merged school was located on the former campus of Tillotson College, as the Samuel Huston College campus was next to the I-35 construction project. For a brief time, classes were held on both campuses, with a bus running between the campuses along E. 11th Street. The motto of the new college adopted the merger as a foundational tenet: “In Union, Strength.” Enrollment in 1952-53 was 800 students, making Huston-Tillotson’s the largest student body of any Protestant-affiliated Black college.

¹⁰⁰ Qtd. in Perry and Swain, 25.

¹⁰¹ Heintze 250.

¹⁰² Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 67.

¹⁰³ Qtd. in Perry and Swain, 25.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*, 30.

¹⁰⁵ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 14.

¹⁰⁶ Johnnie Cresens, “Steps to be Taken This Week to Merge Tillotson, Huston,” *The Austin American*, 4/13/1952.

¹⁰⁷ “Huston-Tillotson Looks Forward,” *The Austin American*, 10/18/1953.

¹⁰⁸ J. Mason Brewer, “Huston-Tillotson Merger New Education Experiment.” *The Austin Statesman*, 8/26/1952.

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Dr. Matthew Simpson Davage served as interim president of the new institution, with the immediate past presidents of Samuel Huston College and Tillotson College serving as vice presidents. Davage transformed the Home Economics Practice House into the President's Home, a role it played until 1965. In 1955, Dr. John Jarvis Seabrook became the first official president of the unified Huston-Tillotson College.

A sketch from 1954 projects a clear expectation for an entirely new campus. A chapel replaces Evans Hall, while a new administration building and library replace Allen Hall, which sat directly west of Evans Hall. The Administration Building is replaced by a building for arts, music, and home economics, with a new social science building at its northwest corner. A new classroom building sits at the current location of the library. Faculty residences were proposed to be constructed along E. 11th Street. The sketch also shows the then-locations of existing buildings that were demolished as part of the building campaign: three apartment buildings, a guidance center, and a residence at the location of the library and student union; a residence and storage building where the men's dormitory would later be expanded; a laundry building and Beard Hall where the women's dormitory would be expanded; and small residences, classrooms, and storage buildings on E. 11th Street south of Chalmers.

As Huston-Tillotson undertook its building program, outside policies challenged the college's historical mission. Educational segregation was declared unconstitutional in 1954, destabilizing enrollment at the college as opportunities opened elsewhere for African American students. Financial stability was consequently shaken. This trend was reflected in historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) across the country. In 1956, even as the first class of students who had attended Huston-Tillotson for all four years graduated, a newspaper article reported that "the college is making a serious study of how it may revise its curriculum in such a way that it can be serve the interests of education in an integrated society."¹⁰⁹

In the late 1960s, Huston-Tillotson saw some student protests, but they were mild compared to the unrest on other college campuses. Students demanded that the school reject "white money." Like other colleges at the time, Huston-Tillotson shifted from closely supervising students in an *in loco parentis* approach and towards an emphasis on self-education and personal responsibility.

Huston-Tillotson University, 1974-present

The *Austin American-Statesman* reported on financial woes at Huston-Tillotson in 1977.¹¹⁰ HBCUs "are now endangered by money shortages and competition for students from mostly White universities that 20 years ago either didn't have or didn't want Blacks in their classrooms," wrote the reporter. Huston-Tillotson's enrollment remained steady at around 800 students, but a shift in state and federal funding strategies provided tuition grants directly to students rather than to institutions and left budget shortfalls. Likely to help address this, a merger was proposed in 1982 between Huston-Tillotson, Wiley College in Marshall, and Texas College in Tyler. All the institutions were historically Black colleges that received primary funding from the Methodist Church. The proposal was rejected in 1985. Research could not determine who initially proposed the merger or what determined the outcome.

The 1990s saw continuing financial struggles at Huston-Tillotson, including embezzlement by staff and declining enrollment. A partnership with Austin Community College was proposed, but alumni stringently protested it, worrying that the larger institution would subsume Huston-Tillotson.

¹⁰⁹ "Huston-Tillotson College to Graduate 88 'Firsts,'" *The Austin American*, 5/20/1956; Brewer, "H-T College."

¹¹⁰ Powell.

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In 2005, Huston-Tillotson College was renamed Huston-Tillotson University to make the institution more competitive. *The Huston-Tillotson University Legacy* points out that the university competes with five higher education institutions in Austin, including University of Texas and Austin Community College, both publicly subsidized.

As of 2007, 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) existed in the country.¹¹¹ In 2019, 101 HBCUs existed nationwide, with 10 in Texas.

Community Connections

Huston-Tillotson students have long been keenly interested in the city around them, particularly its politics and history. Historian Chrystine Shackles writes of Tillotson students and faculty:

...often made visits to the Capitol, sat in the galleries of the House and Senate to see how the laws were made—which certainly meant more to the student than just reading such from textbooks. After 1936, the many historical sites in Austin were stressed... Even in the thirties, we did not think that knowledge was gained only from the textbook and the lectures of the professor.¹¹²

During the same period (1930s), Tillotson College helped develop two schools in then-rural Manor and the Pilot Knob community, including the loan or donation of 640 books.¹¹³ Students also conducted surveys, interviews, and studies of Austin and Travis County community members. In 1955, Huston-Tillotson students taught at six “practice schools” in Austin: Anderson High School, Mary E. Simms Elementary, Rosewood Elementary, L. L. Campbell Elementary, Blackshear Elementary, and Kealing Junior High School.¹¹⁴

During her tenure from 1930 to 1944, President Mary Branch modeled community involvement for other members of the college. Branch served as president of the NAACP and joined local clubs.¹¹⁵ She also visited many churches and gave “addresses” in them.

The campus regularly hosted events for community members, including an Artists Series in the 1940s, concerts, and an annual “Arts Fete” including musical performances and a Folk Dance Festival (1950s-60s). President Karl Downs started an Artist Recital Series in 1968 to showcase dance and other performing arts.¹¹⁶ Other events, such as a concert by a noted Black soprano, were sponsored by the college but held in community spaces.¹¹⁷

Architectural Significance

The historic resources in the Huston-Tillotson College Historic District reflect the institution’s priorities from the early 1900s through the 1970s. Students helped construct the earliest surviving buildings, Evans Industrial Hall and the Administration Building, following a popular industrial-skills model while the fledgling Tillotson Institute saved money on labor costs.

Most resources in the district were constructed in the 1950s through the mid-1970s, as civil rights legal victories opened traditionally white institutions to African Americans and eroded HBCU enrollment across the country.

¹¹¹ Perry and Swain, 48, 57.

¹¹² Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 41.

¹¹³ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 44.

¹¹⁴ *The Ramshead* yearbook (1955).

¹¹⁵ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 24.

¹¹⁶ “Novel Dance Presentation at H-T Friday,” *The Austin Statesman*, 2/18/1968.

¹¹⁷ “Maynor Concert Monday Night: Tillotson College Sponsoring Soprano,” *The Austin American*, 2/20/1944.

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Beginning in the early 1950s, Huston-Tillotson's ambitious building program accommodated the merged schools' larger student body and used clean-lined, minimally ornamented architecture to signal that the institution was modern and forward-looking. Indeed, the first building constructed after the merger was a science building prominently located on the bluff at the southern edge of campus. As a further sign of progress, two 19th-century campus buildings and several smaller buildings were demolished in the 1950s and 1960s to "make way for the new."

Local firm Kuehne, Brooks and Barr took the lead in defining the look of the newly merged institution. The firm had a busy practice with other local commercial and institutional designs, including for the University of Texas at Austin—though Huston-Tillotson's 1950s buildings were among the firm's earliest Modern designs and may have (based on timing alone) helped to secure other Austin commissions, including at UT.

Tillotson College and Normal Institute

The earliest substantial building on the Tillotson Institute campus was Allen Hall, the first major building for African American higher education west of the Mississippi. George Tillotson himself had chosen the building's location, close to steps up the hill from E. 7th Street that were intended as the college's main entrance.¹¹⁸ Supporters urged quick construction, worrying that the relocation of the Methodist College (the future Samuel Huston College) to Austin would pose stiff competition. An imposing four-story building constructed in the Second Empire style; Allen Hall was completed in 1881. It served as a dormitory for 75 students and additional faculty, with men and women living on opposite sides of the second floor.¹¹⁹ It also held a 300-seat chapel, dining hall, and music studios on the first floor and space for physical education classes in the basement.¹²⁰ The basement doubled as a space for informal social events such as dances.¹²¹

At the end of Tillotson Institute's first year, additional dormitories and classroom buildings were already needed. The Richardsonian Romanesque-style Beard Hall was completed in 1894 as a women's dormitory; by 1928 it also housed the dining hall, where formal dances were held.¹²²

Evans Industrial Hall was completed in 1911 to hold industrial education classes, and the Administration Building was completed in 1914 to house college administration offices, the library, and classrooms.¹²³ In large part, these two buildings were constructed by students in the college's vocational/technical programs, who manufactured the cement blocks for the buildings and helped hired laborers raise the walls.¹²⁴ This provided hands-on experience in keeping with Booker T. Washington's popular industrial education philosophy—and kept building costs down. It also meant that construction was sporadic, depending on student labor and available funds. The caption of a photograph of the Administration Building under construction in June 1913 notes that construction has stopped until October, "when students will return, and funds now spent will be renewed, we trust, again." Work hours were also erratic, due to the student labor: A contemporary *Austin Statesman* article reported that much of the work on Evans Hall was completed "at odd hours." The 2½-story Evans Hall cost \$6,000, half of which was given by benefactor Ira Hobart Evans, the

¹¹⁸ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 107.

¹¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 13.

¹²⁰ Chrystine I. Shackles, "The Inside Story," in *Ramshead* Vol. 22, 1974. Shackles wrote about the uses of campus buildings ca. 1928; Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 13; "100th year nears: Huston-Tillotson College, 'Bluebonnet Hill,'" *The Ramshorn*, Vol. 32, January 1975.

¹²¹ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 27.

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ "HTU celebrates anniversary," Building File, Huston-Tillotson University Archives.

¹²⁴ "Negro College Addition: Industrial Building to Be Erected on Tillotson Campus," *The Austin Statesman*, 11/18/1911.

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building's namesake; \$1,500 contributed from students and faculty; and the remainder donated by "friends of the college in the North."¹²⁵

When Mary Branch, Tillotson's president beginning in 1930, first approached the campus, one account states that she was "shocked... [by] the physical surroundings. To improve the external conditions was to be first in her planning. She was to come to Texas to save a dying College but at first sight it was already dead."¹²⁶ At least six buildings were constructed during President Branch's tenure:¹²⁷

- A new laundry building to replace a dilapidated structure.
- The Dean's Cottage on E. 11th Street (built 1935 or 1937).
- The College Co-op, which held social events (1936).
- The 2,300 square-foot Home Economics Practice House (1936 or 1938; now called the Conner-Washington Building).
- The Men's Dormitory (1937); and
- The Cottage for the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds (by 1940).

The Home Economics Practice House is the only building from this era that still stands. When it was built, the facility provided in-depth home economics training to female students in a domestic setting; female students lived there with a trained House Mother for several-week stints to gain specialized home economics skills.

There was still no home for the president on campus; President Branch lived in an apartment in Beard Hall. Beginning around the time of the merger, the Home Economics Practice House was used as the college President's home. Later, it served as the Health Center (1969).

By the late 1940s, it was clear that campus facilities were inadequate. Historian Chrystine Shackles provided this inventory:

Buildings: Were badly needed—they were few, old, and lacking in most modern facilities. The womens [sic] quarters although old were neat and fairly comfortable. Those existing were said to be undesirable, especially for men with an absence of adequate sanitary facilities, recreation rooms, and study areas...

There was a need for a fireproof library and administration building. Those evaluations urged the building of a gymnasium—already in the plans of the Trustees.

It was suggested that there be suitable quarters for the married students...

Shackles also mentions the Agard Social Science Building constructed for the Social Sciences department in 1948.¹²⁸ Though a modest wood-frame building, it sparked discussion about a new Science building.

On-campus space for athletics was limited, with practices and games held at the municipal Rosewood Park and Anderson High School in the 1930s.¹²⁹ After President Branch's sudden death, it was determined that a new

¹²⁵ *Ibid.*

¹²⁶ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 23.

¹²⁷ *Ibid.*, 24, 33.

¹²⁸ *Ibid.*, 54-55.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, 15.

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gymnasium would be named for her in honor of her legacy and significant fundraising for the project.¹³⁰ The construction of the 1,000-seat Mary E. Branch Gymnasium—“the first new modern building”—began in 1951 and was completed in 1952.¹³¹ It was designed by local architecture firm Kuehne, Brooks and Barr.

The 1,000-seat building cost \$131,000 to construct and was immediately used. Contemporary yearbook photos feature the gymnasium with the seated Huston-Tillotson Concert Band (1953), the freshman class taking entrance exams (1955), students walking to chapel services (1955), and Senator Lyndon Johnson with students outside the building. The 1962 *Ramshead* called it “our most versatile building serving many functions, more adequately than well.”

Huston-Tillotson College (later University)

At the time of the merger, the Huston-Tillotson College campus included Evans Industrial Hall, the Administration Building, the Mary E. Branch Gymnasium, and the Home Economics Practice House (now the Conner-Washington Building). It also included other buildings that have since been demolished: Beard Hall, Allen Hall, the cottage of the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds, and a few other smaller buildings.

With an increased combined enrollment of more than 800 students in 1952-53, the college undertook an ambitious building program.¹³²

Construction Date	Building	Architect
1954	Dickey-Lawless Science Building	Kuehne, Brooks and Barr
1956-57, 1965	Allen-Frazier Hall for Women	Kuehne, Brooks and Barr
1956-57, 1965	Beard-Burrowes Hall for Men	Kuehne, Brooks and Barr
1960	Downs-Jones Library	Kuehne, Brooks and Barr
1963	Davage-Durden Student Union	Brooks and Barr (Assoc. Architect J. Roy White)
1968	Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building	Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White
1974	King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower	Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White
1974	Jackson-Moody Humanities Building	Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White

The United Negro College Fund, of which Huston and Tillotson Colleges were founding member institutions, financed the \$345,835 construction of the Science Building in 1954, which held classes in the hard sciences and the social sciences, as well as weekend movie screenings.¹³³ Designed in the Modern style, the Science Building heralded a forward-looking era for the newly merged college. Other buildings were funded by the Congregational Christian Churches and the Board of Education of the Methodist Church.

New men’s and women’s residence halls, each erected for more than \$250,000, were first occupied in September 1956; the Seabrook administration soon announced that two more dormitories would be constructed. The “ultra-modern” dormitories “will equal any dormitories in the Southwestern section of the United States,” bragged the 1956 *Ramshead* yearbook. The Men’s Dormitory held 124 students, while the Women’s Dormitory held 150 students; both had quarters for dorm matrons.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*, 49.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, 64.

¹³² At the time, 43 Black colleges operated by various Protestant denominations existed across 14 states. (“Huston-Tillotson nation’s largest,” *The Austin American*, 3/1/1953.)

¹³³ “Construction Starts Monday on H-T’s Science Building,” *The Austin American*, 4/25/1954; Shackles, *Reminiscences*, p. 86.

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In 1956, President Seabrook announced that the Board of Trustees had authorized \$400,000 for construction of a “new spacious, fireproof library.”¹³⁴ It appears that construction was delayed: Two years later, the student newspaper reported that the Board of Trustees authorized immediate construction of a \$350,000 air-conditioned library, for which plans “have been drawn for a number of years.”¹³⁵ The library was completed in 1960 and hailed a few years later as part of a cutting-edge campus: “Our very modern Science Building and our most convenient and up-to-date library.”¹³⁶ In 1960, the Texas Society of Architects selected the library as one of 48 winners for Architecture of Merit in the Past Ten Years, out of 150 entries.¹³⁷ The *Ram’s Horn* article that announced the award lauded the library as both beautiful and functional, a testament to the college and a promise of things to come: “The excellence of the New Library is symbolic of the new spirit that prevades [sic] at Huston-Tillotson College and is reflected in its faculty and administration, in its curriculum, in its membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and in its plans for the future.”

Students had requested a student union building soon after the merger of the two colleges, and President Seabrook named it as a building program priority in the late 1950s.¹³⁸ Students voted to charge themselves a \$10 fee each semester to support construction of the building.¹³⁹ A 1960 *Ram’s Horn* article credited this compelling evidence of student interest with the building’s impending development:

Now if a student wants something badly enough to give up twenty dollars a year... he surely is manifesting some interest in his school. Interest in a project, which has been exhibited by the students, will gradually infiltrate the minds of the higher-ups... Thus, an idea supported by the students, even to the point of self-sacrifice, works its way to the school’s hierarchy who help to make it a reality. So, you see your sacrificing has paid off!¹⁴⁰

The Student Union was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$350,000 and its dedication hailed as “one of the highlights of the year.”¹⁴¹ A contemporary *Ramshorn Journal* article hailed the student union’s importance: “It is not just a building; it is also an organization and a program. Together they represent a well-considered plan for the community life of the college.”¹⁴² Called “one of the most modern buildings upon our campus... the pride and joy of every student,” it held a snack bar, dining hall, bookstore, and mailboxes.¹⁴³

As the campus grew, its visual vocabulary solidified: horizontal emphases, brick or stucco cladding with brick or stucco accents, a keen awareness of broad single-material planes contrasted with voids, solid brick bookend walls, rhythmic stucco hoods defining two- and three-window banks, projecting cornices shielding window openings, deep eaves and flat entry hoods. Beginning in the 1960s, many buildings incorporated a pebbled texture on walls or panels. The quadrangle appears to have been formalized around 1954 in campus plans that show modern buildings grouped around a central open space. Tillotson Institute also had open space in the middle of the campus, but not all buildings were located around it, particularly several smaller house-scale buildings facing E. 11th and Chicon streets.

¹³⁴ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 82.

¹³⁵ “Huston-Tillotson Trustees authorize construction of new library,” *The Huston-Tillotson Ram’s Horn*, Vol. VI, No. I, December 1958.

¹³⁶ *Ramshead*, 1965.

¹³⁷ “H-T Library a prize winner,” *The Huston-Tillotson Ram’s Horn*, Vol. IX, No. 1, November 1960.

¹³⁸ Shackles, “The Inside Story;” Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 87.

¹³⁹ Connie Lindley, “Union Building requires ‘union’,” *The Huston-Tillotson Ram’s Horn*, Vol. VIII, No. 2, March 1960.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 97.

¹⁴² “The Union dream—A reality,” *The Ramshorn Journal*, April 1963.

¹⁴³ *The Ramshead* yearbook (1965); “The Union dream—A reality.”

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It was not uncommon for the college's yearbooks to feature photographs of the campus and its buildings; indeed, student and faculty groups regularly posed in front of buildings. However, the 1963 *Ramshead* yearbook featured an especially proud page highlighting new buildings. The title: "Huston-Tillotson College... A Many Splendored Thing."

At the same time, plans were developing for a new chapel. The chapel was proposed to be located just west of the Science Building, where Allen Hall then stood, and the King-Seabrook Chapel was later built and was designed to emphasize its dramatic south-facing position on the bluff. However, construction did not take place for another decade.

After the 1956 residence halls filled to capacity shortly after construction, both buildings were remodeled and expanded with substantial additions completed in 1965.¹⁴⁴ Construction cost for the expansion was estimated at \$772,000, with some funding from the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency.¹⁴⁵ The expanded dormitories were similar in design to the existing dorms, with strong horizontal lines, aluminum-sash windows, concrete accents, and brick walls. With the existing dorm, the wings of the two-story women's dormitory expansion created a "garden court" that "insur[ed] complete privacy."¹⁴⁶ The men's dormitory expansion was designed as two- and three-story wings. Covered balconies served as corridors between four-person living units with two bedrooms, a study room, and a bathroom. The expansion provided accommodations for 128 women and 96 men.

As part of the residence hall expansion project, Beard Hall (built in 1894) was demolished to create space for what is now the Allen-Frazier Residence Hall. Allen Hall, built in 1881 and hailed as "one of our oldest and most cherished landmarks," was demolished shortly afterwards (1966) to create space for a new chapel.¹⁴⁷

The demolition of the campus's two oldest buildings generated minor controversy. "Make way for the new" was a common refrain among the substantial majority who supported the changes, even as they mourned the buildings' loss. Chrystine Shackles wrote that the demolitions allowed "the Huston-Tillotson family...[to] really realize the effectiveness of the building program."¹⁴⁸ Allen Hall, one writer concluded, represented "a rich heritage that evolved from a hundred years of superbly educational leadership."¹⁴⁹ A rare protest against the demolition of Allen Hall cited the building as a testament to the school's growth, as "a symbol of the educated Negro," and as a prominent local landmark on the level of the State Capitol and UT Tower.¹⁵⁰ "Can we as Negroes afford to reduce such a monument to rubble?" wrote Pat Partridge. "...I know of no other symbol that makes me more proud [sic] to be an alumnus of Huston-Tillotson than Allen Hall."¹⁵¹ Yet the need for additional residential and academic space was clear, and the demolitions went unprotested.

¹⁴⁴ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 101; "Selected views of new dormitories," *The Ramshorn Journal*, January 1965.

¹⁴⁵ "Two new air-conditioned dorms under construction at HTC," *The Ramshorn Journal*, June 1964.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ "100th year nears"; "Do you remember?," *The Ramshorn Journal*, Vol. 16, November 1967.

¹⁴⁸ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 88.

¹⁴⁹ "Allen Hall, a landmark? Yes!" *The Ramshorn Journal*, April 1963.

¹⁵⁰ Pat Partridge, "What's in a building?" *The Huston-Tillotson Ram's Horn*, May 1962.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

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Several smaller buildings were demolished for the building program in “necessary step[s] for building a greater Huston-Tillotson.”¹⁵² These include:

- The Infirmary, a two-story wood-frame building constructed in the 1930s under President Branch, was demolished around 1957. Similar in design to the Conner-Washington Building, the building had served previously as the Home Management House and Guidance Building. The building stood at the northwestern corner of the campus.
- Ramstown, a cluster of one-story apartment buildings built in the 1940s for married students and faculty, was demolished in 1961-62 to make way for the new Student Union Building.
- A one-story building holding faculty and staff quarters was demolished around 1965; it had previously been used as the Music Building. This building may have been in the northwest section of campus.
- The Canteen, built in 1936 as the College Co-op. Located between the Conner-Washington Building and Allen-Frazier Hall, the building was demolished between 1965 and 1976.
- The Men’s Lounge, built in 1937 as the Men’s Dormitory (also called Boys’ Cottage). Located adjacent to Chicon Street, the building was demolished between 1976 and 1997.

Evans Hall and the Administration Building survived the new construction program. The 1965 *Ramshead* yearbook noted, “Upon our campus are still imposed some of our old buildings. These buildings are on good solid foundations and are loved by the whole college family. We propose a salute to these old buildings which have not yet given way to the new.”¹⁵³ Evans Hall was even used for new technological ventures. When Huston-Tillotson and the University of Texas undertook joint educational outreach in the late 1950s-early 1960s, which gave college credit for courses taught on closed-circuit television, filming took place in Evans Hall.¹⁵⁴

President Seabrook prioritized a new administration building in the late 1950s.¹⁵⁵ Through the late 1960s, increased and growing enrollment required additional classroom and administrative space.¹⁵⁶ In 1968, the Social Sciences Building (now the Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building) was constructed south of the Administration Building, which stood vacant beginning in 1969. The building served as an architectural transition between the Modern buildings of the 1950s and early 1960s and the Brutalist Humanities-Chapel Complex completed in 1974. It held social science classes, which had shared space with the hard sciences since shortly after the Science Building was built in 1954.

In 1969, the campus buildings that had been constructed after the merger were named.¹⁵⁷ Each building’s name combined tributes to past presidents of both Samuel Huston and Tillotson colleges.

The Humanities-Chapel Complex, consisting of the Jackson-Moody Humanities Building and the King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower, was constructed in 1974 under the leadership of President John Q. Taylor King. Designed by Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White and built at a cost of \$2,000,000, the complex’s massive brick walls and narrow windows reflected a new era of architecture, while the soaring 100-foot-high bell tower symbolized a beacon for the college and the community.¹⁵⁸ The complex was awarded a 1974 AIA Honor Award from the Austin chapter of the AIA.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵² *The Ramshead* yearbook (1962).

¹⁵³ Building File, Huston-Tillotson University Archives.

¹⁵⁴ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 87.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁶ “Do You Remember?”

¹⁵⁷ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 87.

¹⁵⁸ Shackles, *Reminiscences*, 113.

¹⁵⁹ “New complex is award winner,” *Ramshorn Journal*, Vol. 31, November 1974.

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The campus changed in subtle ways following the major building program of the 1950s and 1960s. By 2001, the E. 11th Street houses and the Cottage for the Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds all served as offices. The E. 11th Street houses were demolished between 2013 and 2018, and a new Health Center was constructed in their place at the corner of E. 11th and Chalmers streets. It is not known when the Cottage for the Superintendent was demolished. Huston-Tillotson also undertook active reinvestment in its existing buildings. The Allen-Frazier and Beard-Burrowes residence halls were renovated in 2004, with updated HVAC systems and substantial interior improvements. The Administration Building was rehabilitated in 2004, with a grand reopening in 2006.¹⁶⁰ The Downs-Jones Library was renovated in 2013, when the interior was opened and new study stations added. In 2016, a federal grant supported a renovation of the Davage-Durden Student Union with expanded student learning spaces and enhanced technology. In 2019, the Mary E. Branch Gymnasium was renovated with new roofing, new flooring, improved restrooms, and equipment upgrades.

Kuehne, Brooks and Barr/Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White, Architects

Kuehne, Brooks and Barr effectively defined the image of the newly merged Huston-Tillotson College, designing at least nine buildings on campus between 1951 and 1974. The local firm employed the clean, forward-looking Modern style to set the tone for a new institutional era—an era with a fresh, ambitious vision and cohesive collegiate spirit.

At the time, Kuehne, Brooks and Barr was one of Austin's largest architectural firms.¹⁶¹ Founded as Giesecke, Kuehne & Brooks in 1942, the firm was reorganized in 1950 as Kuehne, Brooks and Barr after Bertram E. Giesecke died. Hugo Franz Kuehne had been an established architect in Austin for decades, having started UT Austin's architecture program and founded the architecture library in 1910.¹⁶² By the 1950s, he was serving as chairman of the Planning Commission. Kuehne was well known for his Beaux-Arts style, reflected in his design for the Old Austin Library (1933, now the Austin History Center); he also designed the Commodore Perry Hotel (1950) and the Department of Public Safety Building (1952). The formation of Kuehne, Brooks and Barr signaled a shift from more traditional inspirations to modern designs.¹⁶³

In addition to the Huston-Tillotson campus, Kuehne, Brooks and Barr designed a range of public buildings for Austin Independent School District, the City of Austin, the State of Texas, and the federal government, as well as commercial, religious, and industrial buildings.¹⁶⁴ Notable local designs include the American National Bank Building (1953), the Delta Kappa Gamma Headquarters Building (1956), the Sam Houston State Office Building (1956, with other firms) and the J. J. "Jake" Pickle Federal Building (then the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building, with Page Southerland Page). The firm also designed the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and the original complex of buildings for Houston's LBJ Space Center (1963).

In 1961, Hugo Kuehne retired, David C. Graeber and J. Roy White were made partners, and the firm was renamed Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White.¹⁶⁵ It became the consulting architect for the University of Texas system the

¹⁶⁰ "HTU celebrates anniversary with grand opening of their 'Old Building'," *Nakoa*, 10/5/2006, p. 1, 4.

¹⁶¹ Hank Todd Smith, *Austin, Its Architects and Architecture, 1836-1936*, in "Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White Drawings: An Inventory of the Collection," Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White Drawings (AR.2012.033), Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas, <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00309/00309-P.html>.

¹⁶² "Hugo Franz Kuehne Records and Drawings: An Inventory of the Collection," Hugo Franz Kuehne Records (AR.2009.024), Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Texas, <https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00109/ahc-00109.html>.

¹⁶³ Emily E. Ray, "Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Headquarters Building," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, certified 2/8/2012.

¹⁶⁴ Smith, qtd. in Shabazz.

¹⁶⁵ David Graeber obituary, *Austin American-Statesman* March 4, 2010, <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/statesman/obituary.aspx?pid=140282941>

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following year. On UT Austin's campus alone, the firm designed Kinsolving Dormitory (1955), the Thompson Conference Center (1963), J. T. Patterson Laboratories Building (1965), Robert Lee Moore Hall (1968), Calhoun Hall (1968), Jester Center Dormitory Complex (1970), and Earnest Cockrell Jr. Hall (1971), as well as the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library with Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (1970). In 1972, Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White merged with Diversified Design Disciplines, Inc., an environmental design firm.¹⁶⁶ Max Brooks and Roy White retired soon after the merger. The new firm maintained an Austin office until 1978, when Howard Barr retired, and David Graeber resigned.

In 1953, Kuehne, Brooks and Barr designed a new campus for L. C. Anderson High School, Austin's only high school for Black students.¹⁶⁷ Called an "equalization school," Anderson was part of a building boom across the South that attempted to stave off school desegregation by providing better "separate but equal" facilities for African Americans.¹⁶⁸ The high school's architecture reflected national trends in school design and construction: flat roofs, expansive window banks providing ample light and air to classrooms, and a modern heating system. Its concrete and brick construction were typical of the Modern style and reflected continuing steel shortages after World War II.

The Mary E. Branch Gymnasium and Auditorium was another early project for the firm (1951-53) and was undertaken for Tillotson College prior to its merger with Samuel Huston College. Though not as daring as the American National Bank Building designed and built downtown at the same time, the two buildings shared some elements: uninterrupted planes of brick walls, wall extensions framing open spaces, open lobbies, deep eaves and overhangs, and bold massing grounded in simple shapes.

The following year, Kuehne, Brooks and Barr designed the Dickey-Lawless Science Building, which adapted the bold brick end walls and horizontal divisions of the American National Bank Building, banks of multi-lite windows of L. C. Anderson High School, and deep overhang of the Mary E. Branch Gymnasium and Auditorium into a building that projected a confident modernity to passersby on E. 11th Street and clean, simple functionality to the campus quadrangle. The Science Building design also introduced stucco as a complementary cladding material to the brick, which both were carried forward with the Allen-Frazier and Beard-Burrowes residence halls constructed in 1956.

The campus buildings also reflect the firm's contemporary work. The Downs-Jones Library's formal square-columned entrance echoes the New Formalist entrance of UT's Kinsolving Dormitory, built in 1955. *Texas Architect* recognized the library with the "Architecture of Merit for the Past 10 Years" Award.¹⁶⁹ The residence hall additions constructed in 1965 feature stucco-clad pilasters that continue into exposed rafter tails, a smaller-scale version of the structural ornamentation at the UT Research Office Building (also 1965). And a 1963 design for a chapel (not constructed) integrates New Formalist verticality and a stained-glass screen like elements of the U.S. Post Office and Federal Building.

A substantial design shift occurred between the construction of the Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building (1968) and the Jackson-Moody Humanities Building and the King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower (1974), reflected Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White's merger with Diversified Design Disciplines, Inc., departure of Brooks and White, as well as national architectural trends. The new buildings were designed in the Brutalist style, with more massive forms and few narrow window openings, while maintaining the material palette of brick and stucco. The designs also employ whimsy: Bi-level crenellations on the east wall of the Chapel wink at Brutalism's fortress influences, while deep

¹⁶⁶ Smith, qtd. in Shabazz.

¹⁶⁷ Rebekah Dobrasko, "Separate but equal in Austin: L. C. Anderson High School," Preservation Austin newsletter vol. 21 no. 3 (Summer 2017).

¹⁶⁸ Rebekah Dobrasko, "Equalization schools," South Carolina's Equalization Schools 1951-1960, <http://www.scequalizationschools.org/equalization-schools.html>.

¹⁶⁹ *Texas Architect*, October 1960.

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corbelled pilasters on the Humanities Building reference New Formalism. For the first time, two campus buildings were physically connected, with a one-story hyphen between Humanities Building and Chapel recognizing the buildings' functional links. As with the Science Building built on Bluebonnet Hill twenty years earlier, the Chapel and Bell Tower broadcast Huston-Tillotson's modern approach to Austinites passing on E. 7th Street. The firm were recipients of Austin AIA Chapter's Honor Award for both buildings.

Conclusion

Huston-Tillotson University is Austin's oldest institution of higher learning and one of nine HBCUs in Texas: Jarvis Christian College (1913, Wood County), Paul Quinn College (1872, Dallas), Prairie View A&M University (1876, Prairie View), St. Philip's College (1898, San Antonio), Southwestern Christian College (1948, Terrell), Texas College (1894, Tyler), Texas Southern University (1927, Houston), and Wiley College (1873, Marshall). Of these, Texas Southern University, Wiley College, Texas College, and Prairie View A&M are comparable in historical and architectural integrity to the nominated district. **Texas Southern University**, in Houston's Third Ward, is a significant collection of postwar modern educational buildings. Noted Texas architect John S. Chase, FAIA, designed 21 buildings, renovated 15, and helped devise the university's 1978 masterplan. Credited with giving TSU its modern aesthetic, campus landmarks include the 1976 Ernest S. Sterling Student Center and Thurgood Marshall School of Law.¹⁷⁰ **Wiley College**, founded in 1873, includes a discreet collection of 17 administrative, residential, and educational buildings (including a Carnegie Library) built between 1900 and 1940. These represent the institution's development under President Matthew Dogan when the physical plant expanded, and the college became known for its debate and sports teams. Among Wiley's outstanding alumni were civil rights leaders Lawrence A. Nixon, James L. Farmer Jr., Heman Sweatt, and Fred Lewis.¹⁷¹ Tyler's **Texas College** is a campus of 14 buildings constructed in three phases between 1920-1980 made of red brick in Beaux Arts and postwar modern styles. Three Texas College buildings are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Under the **Prairie View A&M University MPS** (National Register #64500650), six buildings are listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under Criteria A and C as Texas' only public university established to educate Black Texans at the collegiate level.

Uniquely, Huston-Tillotson College is the only private HBCU in Texas with a campus that reflects more than a century of its educational and architectural development. Thus, it is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance. Located on one large block in Central East Austin, its contributing resources constitute more than 66% percent of the standing structures and includes the "the Yard," a significant site in the university's cultural history. For more than 150 years, the nominated property has provided educational opportunities for African Americans—from Reconstruction through the Great Depression, Civil Rights Movement, and today during the Black Lives Matter movement. More than "just" a college, Huston-Tillotson is a landmark where national, state, and locally influential Black leaders, educators, and students converged to learn, worship, share, debate, and socialize. Huston-Tillotson College is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and Criterion C at the state level of significance under Education, Ethnic Heritage: Black, and Architecture. The period of significance (1911-1974) includes the oldest and newest contributing resources on campus. It meets Criterion Consideration A (Religious Properties) as the district derives its significance for Huston-Tillotson College's historical associations and architectural distinction.

¹⁷⁰ Tara Dudley, PhD., Andrew Basha, et al., "Mapping John S. Chase," University of Texas School of Architecture. <https://soa.utexas.edu/headlines/mapping-john-s-chase#Insights>. Accessed July 1, 2021.

¹⁷¹ Gail K. Beil, "Wiley College," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 01, 2021, <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/wiley-college>.

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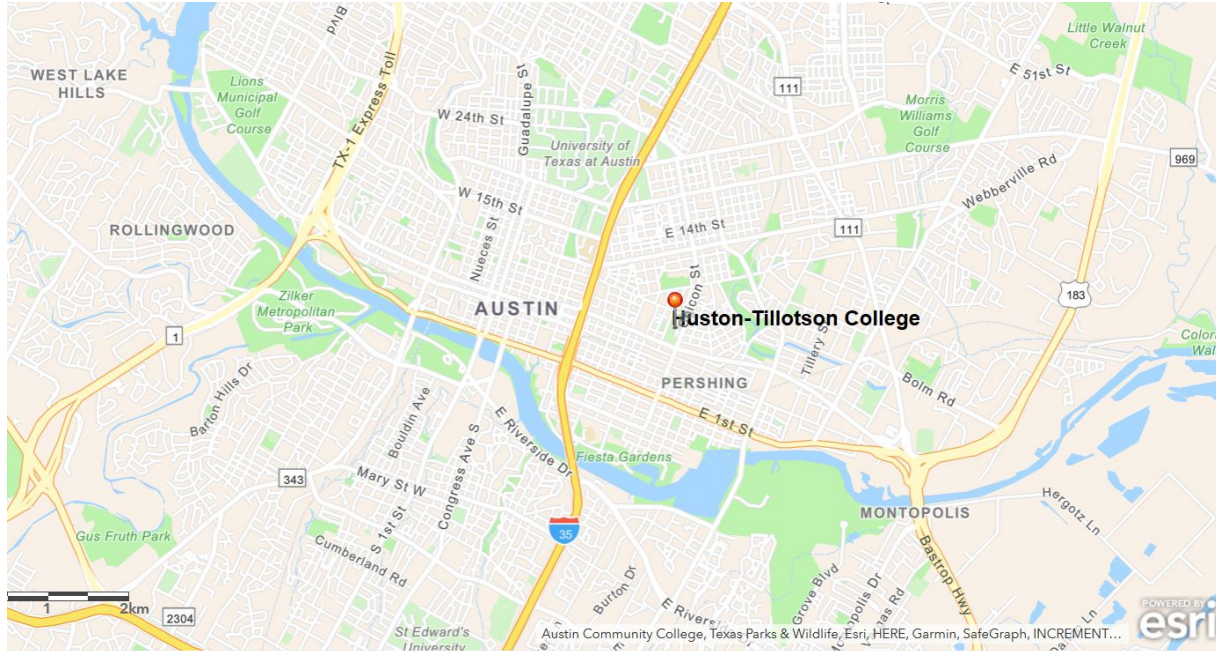
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Maps

Map 1: Austin, Texas

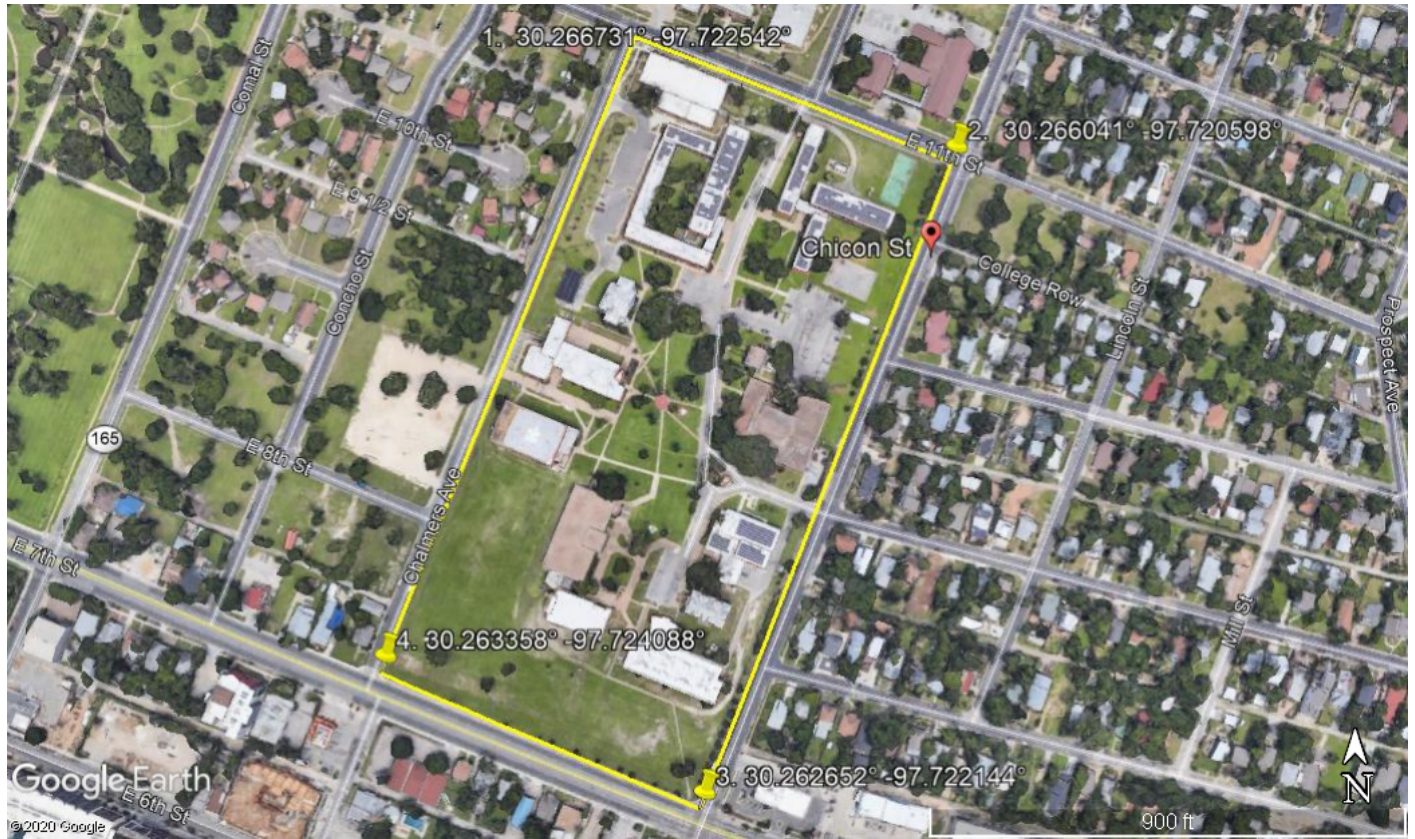


Map 2: The nominated property boundary is the legal parcel.



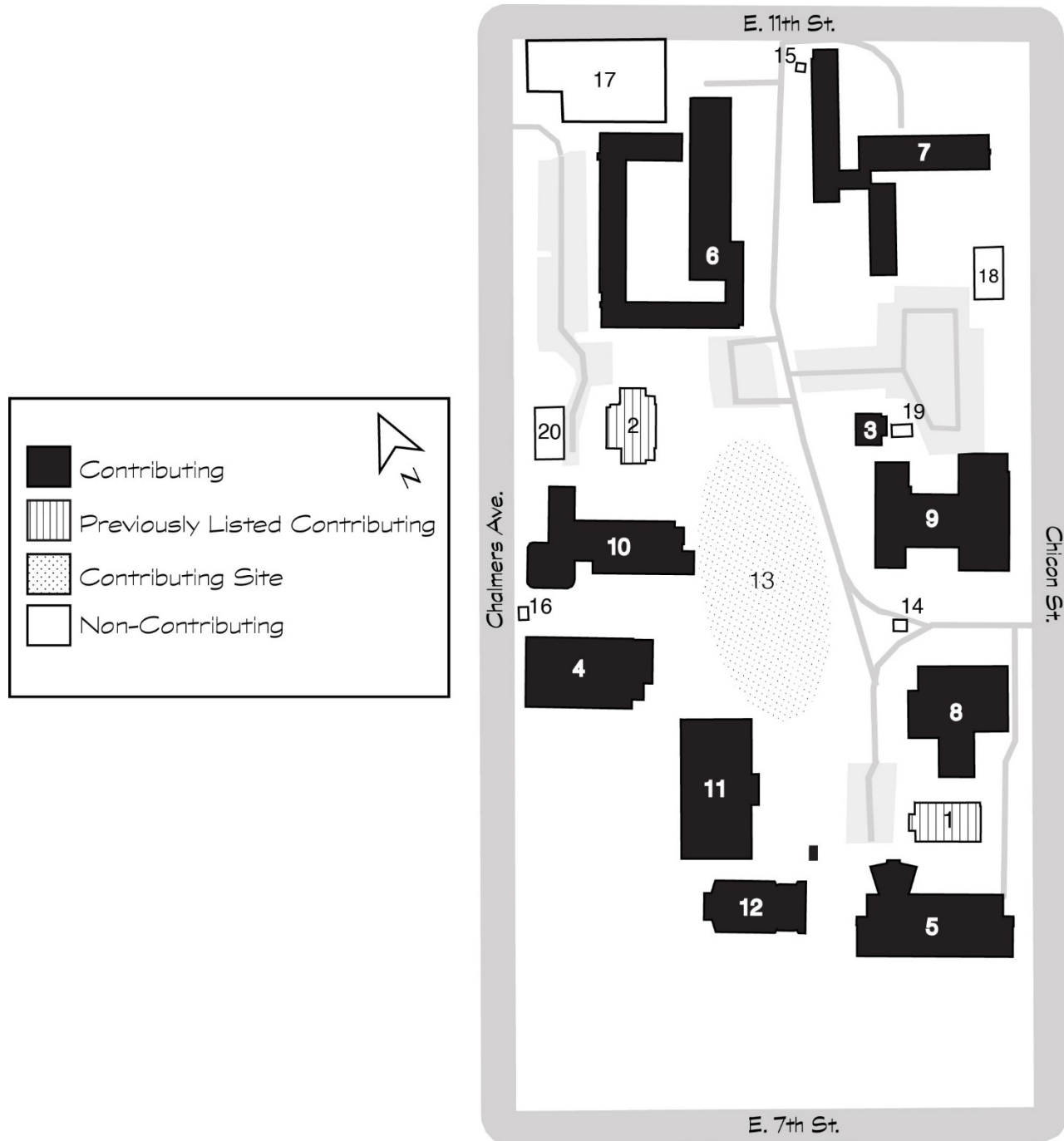
Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Map 3: Google Earth KMZ, accessed April 30, 2020.



Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Map 4: Resource Map (see copy of inventory on next page.)



Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Inventory

Resource # / Map ID	Name	Year Built	Type	NR Status	Photo(s)
1	Evans Industrial Hall	1911	Building	Previously listed, contributing	1
2	Administration Building	1914	Building	Previously listed, contributing	2
3	Conner-Washington Building	1936	Building	Contributing	3
4	Mary E. Branch Gymnasium and Auditorium	1953	Building	Contributing	4
5	Dickey-Lawless Science Building	1954	Building	Contributing	5-6
6	Allen-Frazier Residence Hall	1956; addition 1965	Building	Contributing	7-8
7	Beard-Burrowes Residence Hall	1956; addition 1965	Building	Contributing	9
8	Downs-Jones Library	1960	Building	Contributing	10
9	Davage-Durden Student Union	1963	Building	Contributing	11
10	Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building	1968	Building	Contributing	12-13
11	Jackson-Moody Humanities Building	1974	Building	Contributing	14-15
12	King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower	1974	Building	Contributing	16-17
13	Quadrangle (The Yard)	Ca. 1954	Site	Contributing	18-20
14	East Security Station	1994	Building	Noncontributing	21
15	North Security Station	Unknown	Building	Noncontributing	22
16	West Security Station	Unknown	Building	Noncontributing	23
17	Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center	2015	Building	Noncontributing	24
18	Storage Building (northeast)	Ca. 2015-16	Building	Noncontributing	25
19	Storage Building (east)	Ca. 1987-97	Building	Noncontributing	26
20	Temporary Building (west)	Ca. 2015-17	Building	Noncontributing	27

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

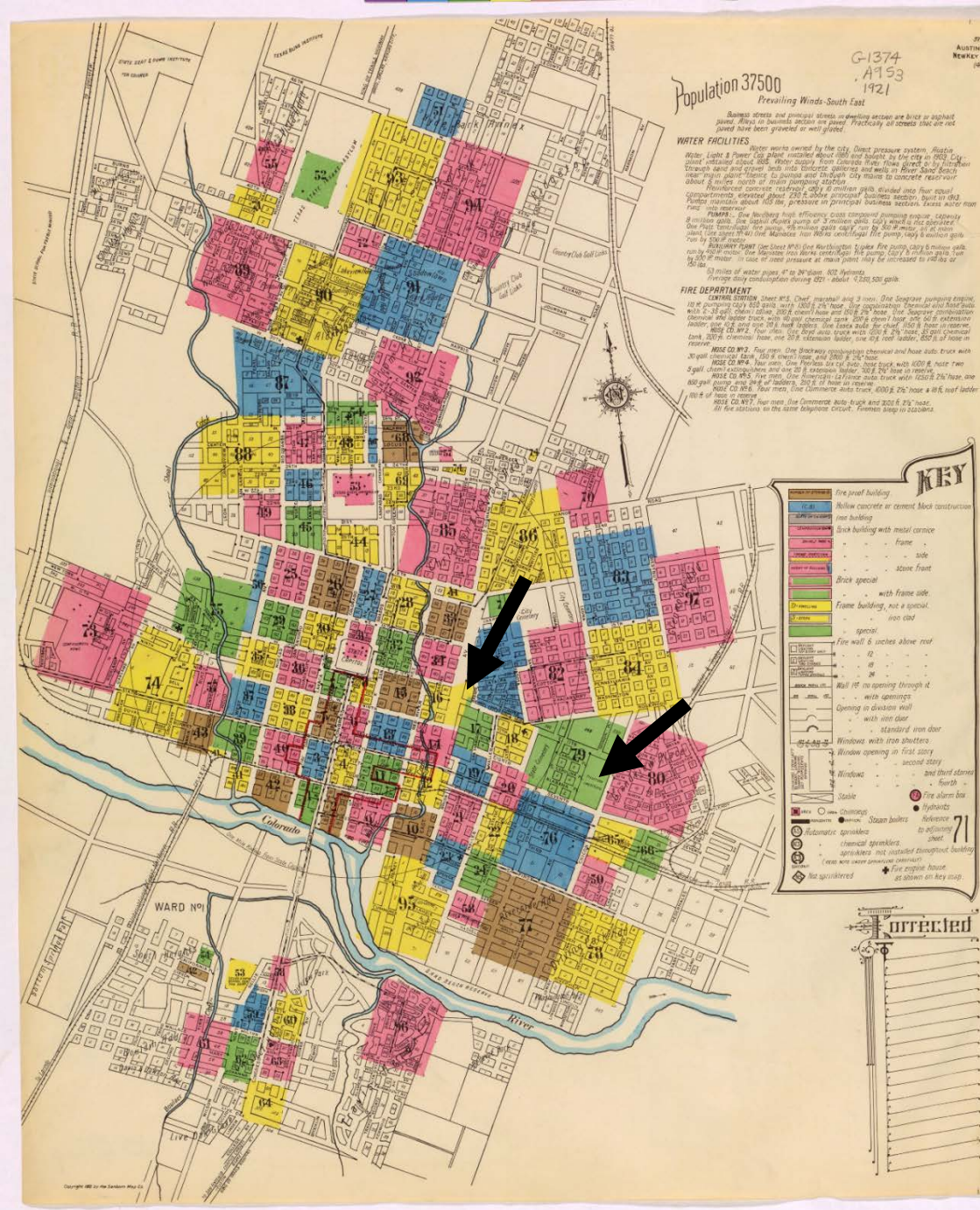
Map 5: Ten contributing resources (in green) were built between 1952 and 1974 as the result of campus plan (Figure 7) created for Huston-Tillotson by Austin firm Kuehne, Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White in 1954. Branch Gymnasium (Resource #4), completed in 1952, was designed by the same firm and incorporated into later campus plan.



Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figures

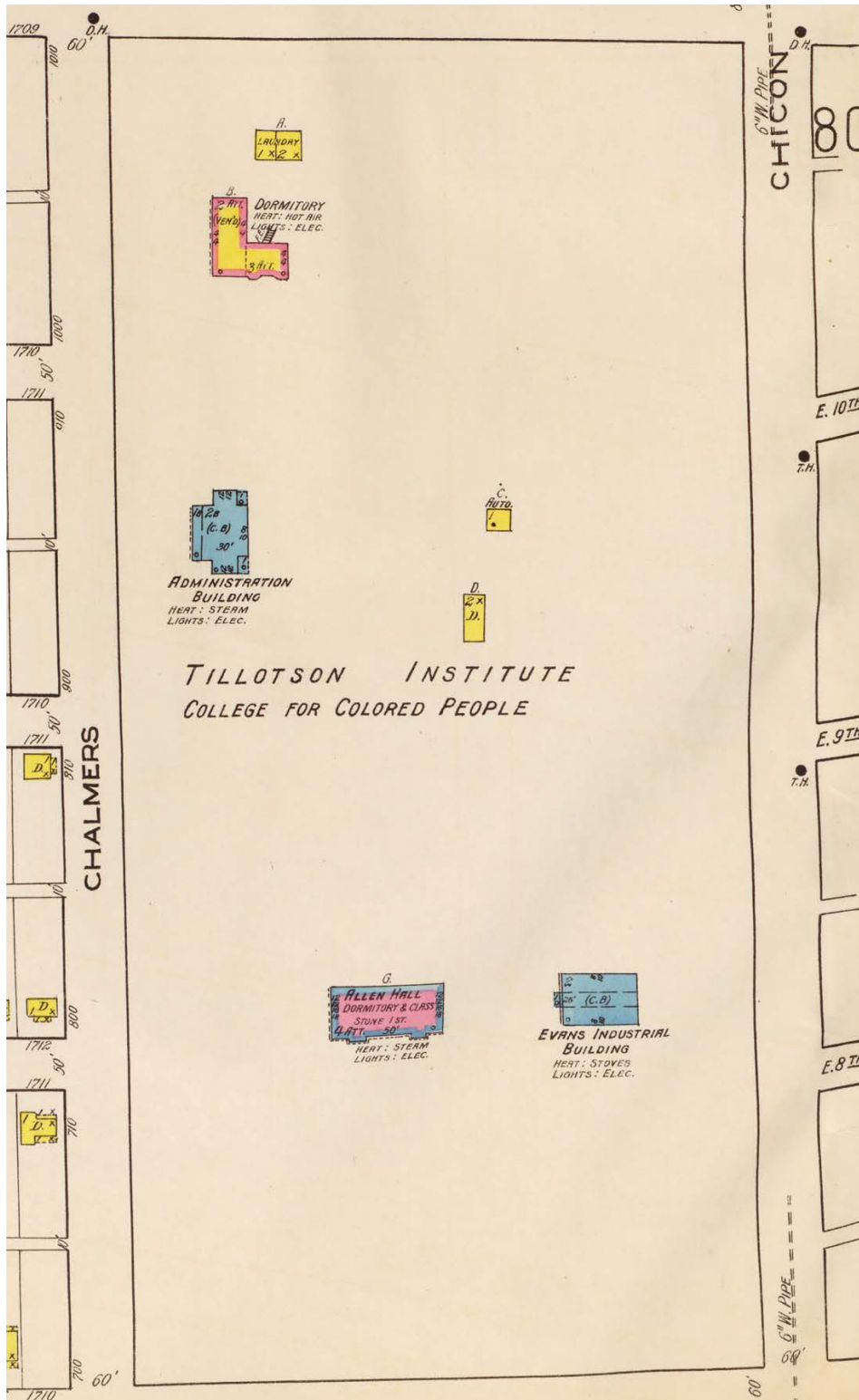
Figure 1: 1900 Sanborn map of Austin. The arrows indicate Tillotson College and Huston College in East Austin.
Source: Perry Castaneda Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.



From the collections of the Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress.

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 2: 1921 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Source: Perry Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas at Austin.



Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 3: 1954 topographic map. Source: University of Texas at Austin.

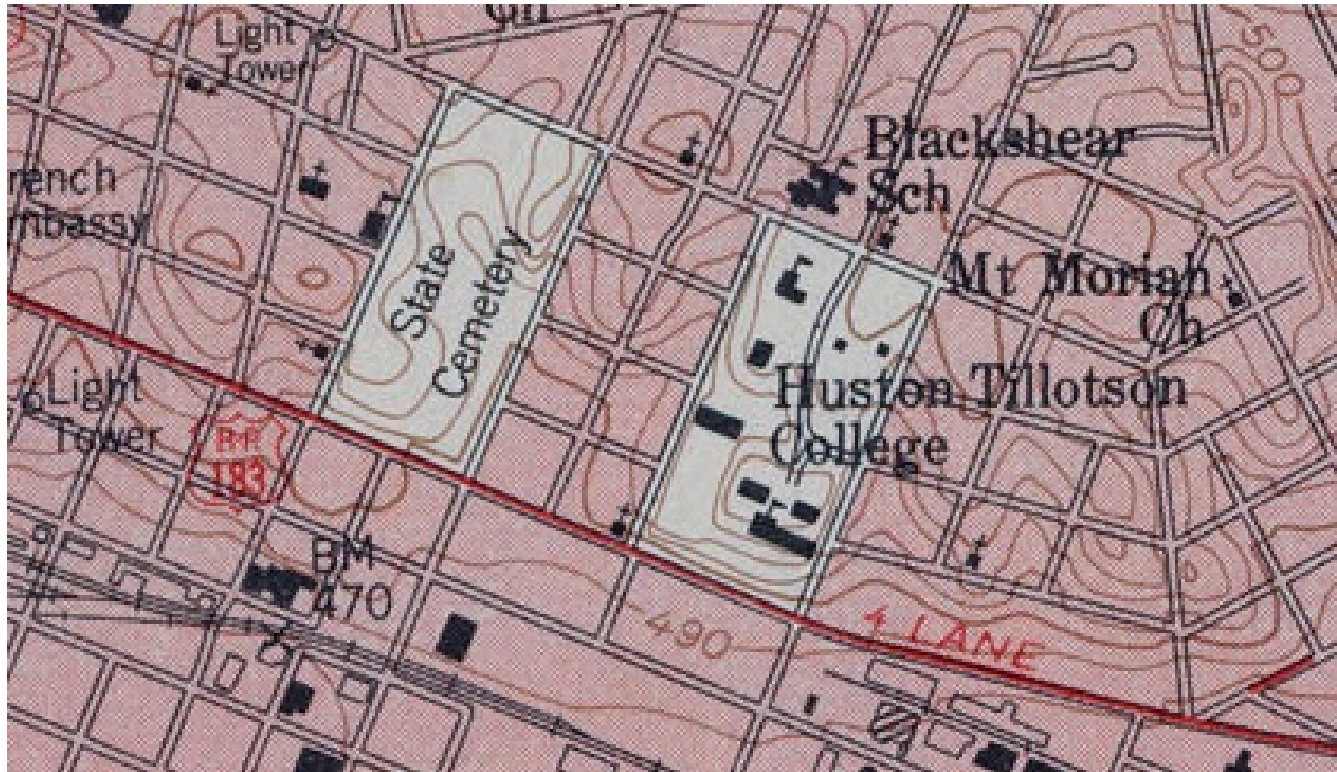
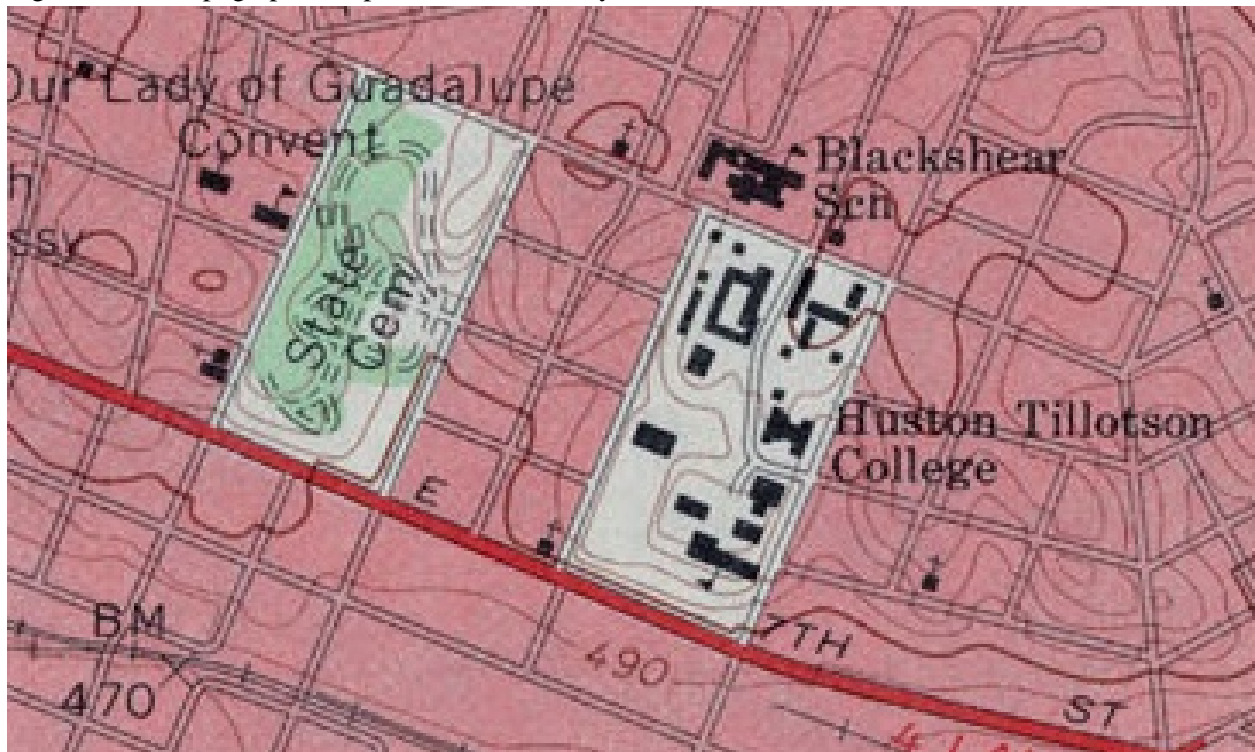


Figure 4: 1966 topographic map. Source: University of Texas at Austin.

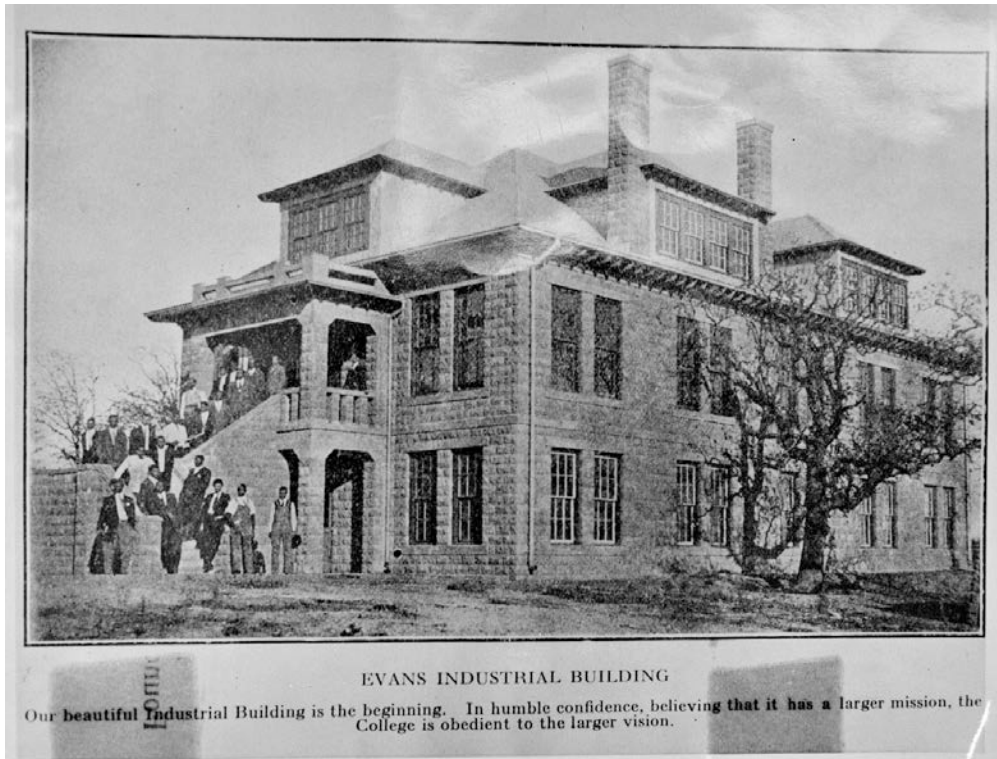


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Figure 5: Administration Building (Resource #2). Building File, courtesy Huston-Tillotson University Archives.

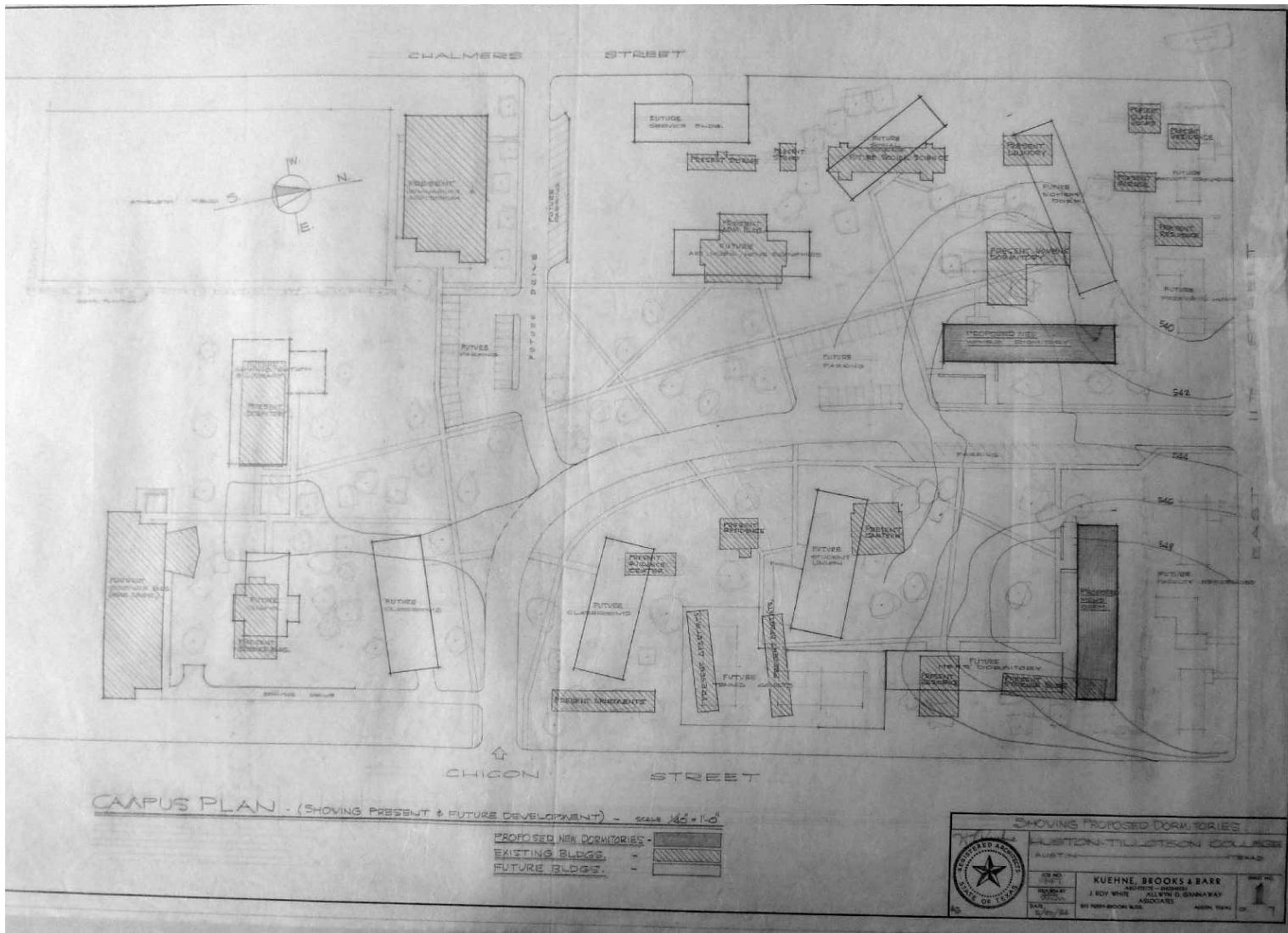


Figure 6: Evans Industrial Building (Resource #1), Huston-Tillotson College, n.d., Texas Historical Commission.



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Figure 7: Kuehne, Brooks and Barr drew a campus plan in 1954 the institution followed and that which is recognizable today. Austin History Center Architectural Archives.

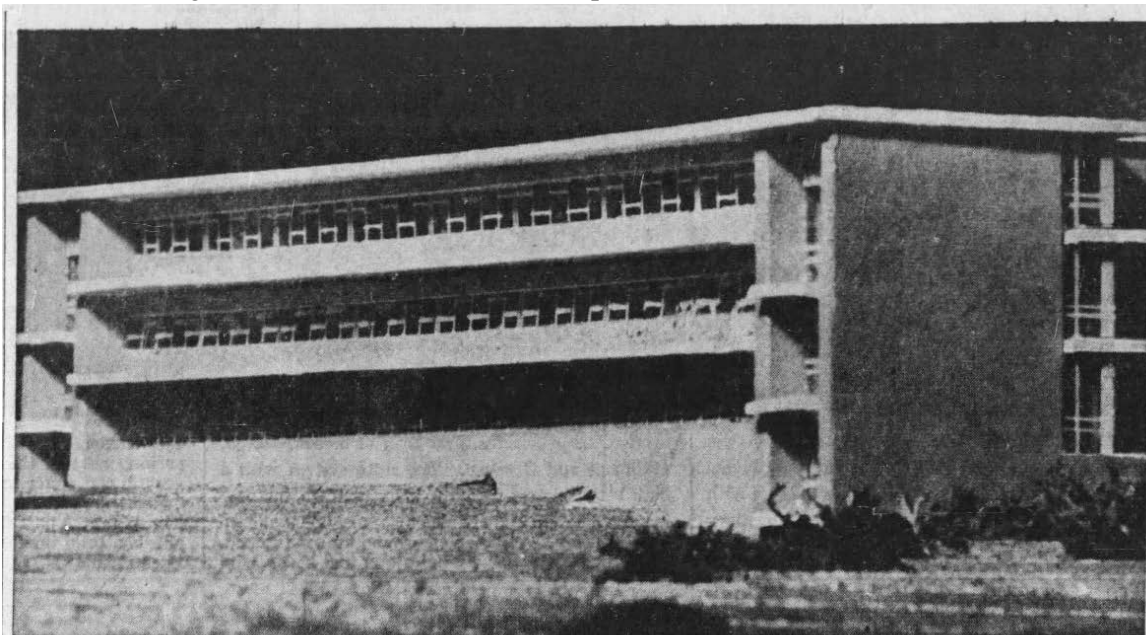


Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 8: Mary E. Branch Gymnasium, c. 1955. (Resource #4). Source: Huston-Tillotson University.



Figure 9: Dickey-Lawless Science Building (1954), Resource 5. Source: "Construction Starts Monday on H-T's Science Building," *Austin American Statesman*, April 25, 1954.



NEW SCIENCE BUILDING—This model shows how the new Huston-Tillotson science building will look when viewed from the corner of Seventh Street and Chicon. The building, on which construction will start Monday, is the first step in a large construction program that eventually will include more than a dozen new buildings. Kuehne, Brooks and Barr of Austin are architects for both the science building and the master plan of development.

Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 10: Downs-Jones Library (Resource #8), ca. 1965. *The Ramshead* yearbooks, courtesy Huston-Tillotson University Archives.



Figure 11: Downs-Jones Library (Resource #8). Mears, Dewey G. Huston-Tillotson Library Interior, January 9, 1963. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



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Figure 12: Davage-Durden Student Union (Resource #9), January 9, 1963. Source: Mears, Dewey G. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



Figure 13: Davage-Durden Student Union (Resource #9), 1962. “Introducing the Huston Tillotson Union” brochure, Building File, courtesy Huston-Tillotson University Archives.

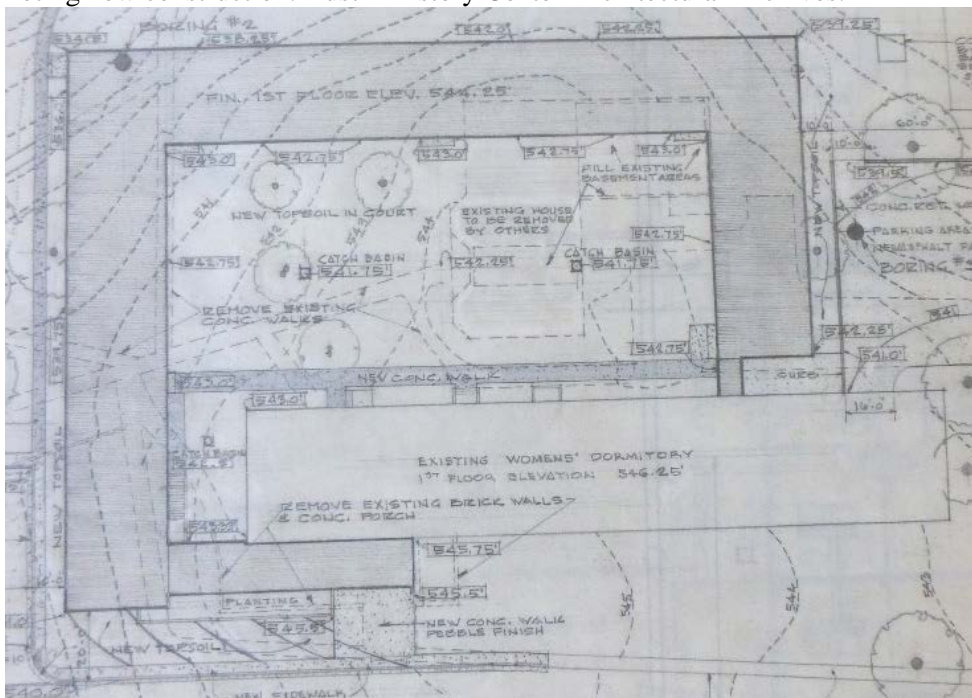


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Figure 14: Residence Halls (Resources #6-7 before additions), October 23, 1956. Source: Douglass, Neal Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.



Figure 15: Site plan for expansion Resource #6/ Allen-Frazier Residence Hall (Women's Dormitory) with shaded area noting new construction. Austin History Center Architectural Archives.



Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure:18 The King-Seabrook Chapel (Resource #12), n.d. Source: Huston-Tillotson University Archives.



Figure 19: “The Yard” (quadrangle) at Huston-Tillotson College in 1975. Source: Negative #075-0654, General Photograph Collection, UTSA Special Collections.



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Figure 20: Campus aerials: 1940 (left) and 1958 (right) show changes to the campus following the 1954 plan. Source: City of Austin.



Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Figure 21: Campus aerials: 1976 (left) and 2021 (right). The district retains excellent integrity. Source: City of Austin.



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Figure 22. Industrial education, ca. 1913. Texas Historical Commission, via Portal to Texas History.

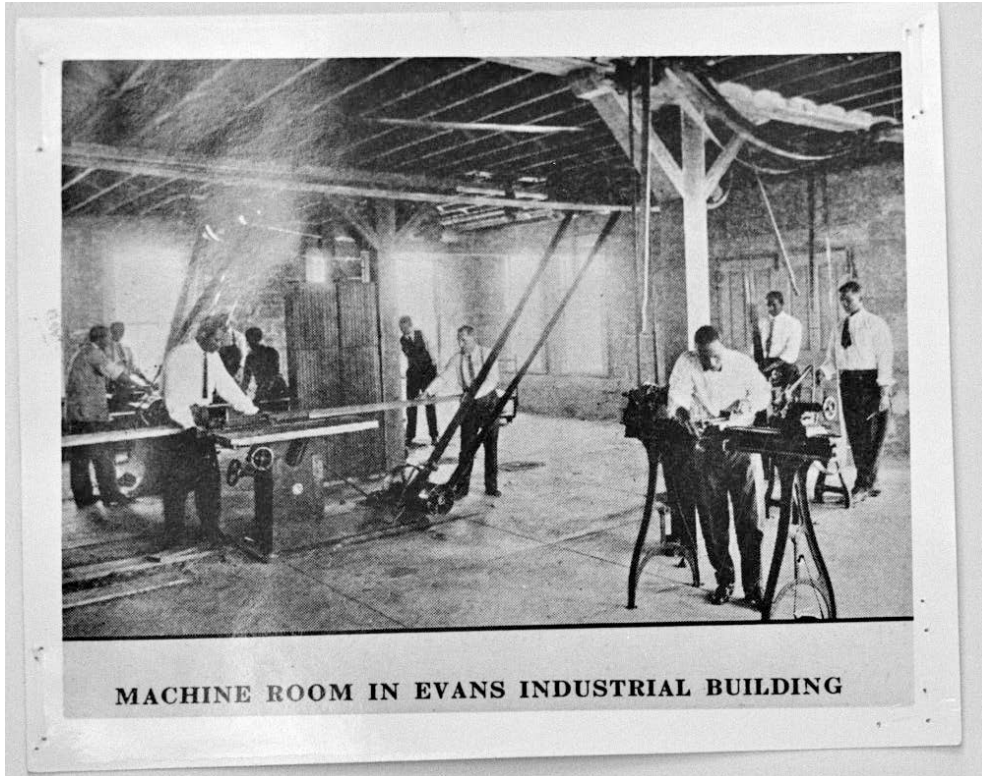


Figure 23: Tillotson College Women's Basketball team, 1934. Courtesy of the Huston-Tillotson Archives.



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Figure 24: Chapel services, c. 1940. Courtesy of the Huston-Tillotson Archives.



Figure 25: Huston-Tillotson Faculty. Courtesy of the Huston-Tillotson Archives.



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Figure 26: Dr. William H. Jones (left), President of Tillotson College; Dr. Matthew Simpson Davage (center), President of the newly formed Huston-Tillotson College; and Dr. Robert F. Harrington (right), President of Samuel Huston College. Source: Huston-Tillotson Charter Day papers. Courtesy of the Huston-Tillotson University Downs-Jones Library Archives and Special Collections, Austin, Texas.



Figure 27: Crowning Miss Huston-Tillotson, 1958. Courtesy of the Huston-Tillotson Archives.



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Figure 28: Graduates, n.d. courtesy Huston-Tillotson University Archives.

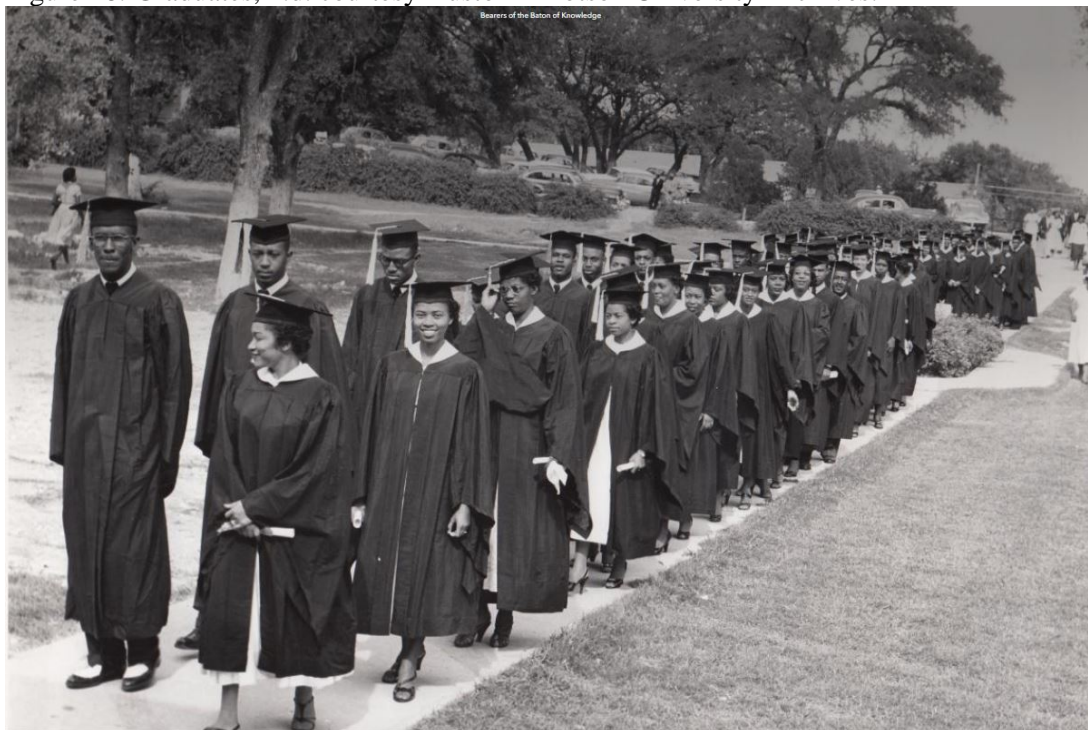


Figure 29: Students playing on campus after a rare snowstorm on February 23, 1966, courtesy of the Huston-Tillotson University Archives.



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Figure 30: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, 1975. Courtesy of Huston-Tillotson Archives.



Figure 31: Huston-Tillotson Students on Campus in 1973, courtesy of the Huston-Tillotson University Archives.



Huston-Tillotson College, Austin, Travis County, Texas

Photographs

Name of Property: Huston-Tillotson College
Location: Austin, Travis County, Texas
Photographer: Cara Bertron, City of Austin
Date of Photographs: 3/13/2019, 4/8/2020, 11/17/2020, 12/4/2020

Photo 1: Evans Industrial Hall, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southeast. 3/13/2019.



Photo 2: Administration Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southeast. 3/13/2019.



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Photo 3: Conner-Washington Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking east. 3/13/2019.



Photo 4: Mary E. Branch Gymnasium and Auditorium, Huston-Tillotson University, looking west. 11/17/2020.



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Photo 5: Dickey-Lawless Science Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. 3/13/2019.



Photo 6: Dickey-Lawless Science Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southeast. 3/13/2019.



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Photo 7: Allen-Frazier Residence Hall, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northwest. 4/8/2020.



Photo 8. Allen-Frazier Residence Hall courtyard, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. 4/8/2020.



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Photo 9: Beard-Burrowes Residence Hall, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. 3/13/2019.



Photo 10: Downs-Jones Library, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. 3/13/2019.



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Photo 11: Davage-Durden Student Union, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northeast. 4/8/2020.



Photo 12: Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking northwest. 3/13/2019.



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Photo 13: Agard-Lovinggood Administration Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. 4/8/2020.



Photo 14: Jackson-Moody Humanities Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. 3/13/2019.



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Photo 15: Jackson-Moody Humanities Building, Huston-Tillotson University, looking south. 4/8/2020.



Photo 16: King-Seabrook Chapel, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. 3/13/2019.



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Photo 17: King-Seabrook Chapel and Bell Tower, Huston-Tillotson University, looking north. 12/4/2020.



Photo 18: Quadrangle, Huston-Tillotson University, looking north. 4/8/2020.



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Photo 19: Quadrangle, Huston-Tillotson University, looking south. 4/8/2020.



Photo 20: Greek plot in Quadrangle, Huston-Tillotson University, looking south. 4/8/2020.



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Photo 23: West Security Station, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. 11/17/2020.



Photo 24: Sandra Joy Anderson Community Health and Wellness Center, Huston-Tillotson University, looking southwest. 4/8/2020.



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Photo 25: Storage Building (northeast), Huston-Tillotson University, looking northwest. 11/17/2020.



Photo 26: Storage Building (east), Huston-Tillotson University, looking west. 11/17/2020.



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Photo 27: Temporary Building (west), Huston-Tillotson University, looking northwest. 11/17/2020.



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