

Executive Summary

Prepared for Board of Trustees Meeting

January 8, 2008

Application for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Calhoun Middle School Main – Denton Senior High

Purpose of Report

The Denton County Historical Commission wishes to work in concert with Denton Independent School District in pursuing an application which would name the Calhoun Middle School Main Building, formerly Denton Senior High (1924-1957) as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL). *The Texas Historical Commission RTHL designation is awarded to historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. This designation is the highest honor the state can bestow on historic structures (Texas Historical Commission brochure).* The designation deals with the exterior features of the building only and does not deal with interior arrangement of spaces.

Objectives

- Recognition that a property is of local, regional or state significance
- Protection for up to 90 days from exterior alterations, including demolition or relocation
- Ad valorem tax exemptions, if granted by local taxing authorities
- Eligibility for state preservation grant funds
- Inclusion in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas <http://atlas.the.state.tx.us>
- Technical preservation assistance through the THC

Excerpts taken from Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks Brochure (THC)

Operational Impact

The operational cost impact would be the cost of the marker which is \$1,600.00 and some time to help the Denton County Historical Commission in the RTHL application process.

Results (A brief summary of what the program or activity for which the report is written can be expected to accomplish. Discuss the advantages *and* disadvantages of the proposal. Include in the report (but not in this summary) any evaluative data which may help illustrate program status or progress.)

There are many positives that Denton ISD can take from this endeavor. The first is a working relationship with the Denton County Historical Commission, Denton Historical Landmark Commission and Oak-Hickory Street Historic District which is adjacent to Calhoun Middle School. The RTHL designation also means technical assistance from the Texas Historical Commission on issues concerning exterior construction and/or maintenance. The district may also be eligible for federal, state or local grant funds. Next, it keeps an important piece of Denton ISD and the City of Denton heritage and gives Calhoun Middle School a sense of itself. Historic structures serve as directories of early residence and reflect the cultural influences that help shape our states communities. The designation is transferable to whoever owns the property.

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If the district wishes to sell the property the main building would be protected. The only caveat is that the district would be restricted from doing any exterior modifications without first notifying the Texas Historical Commission in writing 60 days prior. If there are any appreciable or unwarranted changes observed by the State Marker Review Board, the designation and marker may be removed. Violation of this law is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each day of violation.