

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUN 11 1982

date entered

1. Name

historic U. S. Weather Bureau Building

and/or common Old Weather Bureau

2. Location

street & number 1482 N. 1st St. N/A not for publication

city, town Abilene N/A vicinity of congressional district 17

state Texas code 048 county Taylor code 441

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Will D. Minter, Jr.

street & number 1411 Tanglewood

city, town Abilene N/A vicinity of state Texas 79605

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Taylor County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Abilene state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 12/73 federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The U.S. Weather Bureau Building, completed in 1909, was one of a series of similarly styled weather bureau offices constructed throughout the country by the government in the early 20th century. Built in the Classical Revival style to house the official weather observatory and living quarters, this building is one of the oldest representations of this style in Abilene. The symmetrical composition of this structure, enriched with simple classical detail, emphasizes its formal stately arrangement. Notable features of the Neo-Georgian style, such as the high exposed basement, central pavillion, and fine brickwork, are exhibited, while design elements are also combined to give a local interpretation of the style.

This two-story office structure with a high exposed basement wall consisting of five banded coursings is rectangular in plan and measures 42 feet by 32 feet, 9 inches. Projecting a few feet from the west wall, the principal-south-facade is the longer side and faces N. 1st Street. Construction of the exterior walls is red English bond masonry with white wood trim and porches. Some sandstone is used for window ornamentation and is complimented by a stone water table which encircles the house. Floor levels are not indicated by courses, although there is a sandstone beltcourse between the basement and the first floor which continues around the east and west sides of the building.

The formal and symmetrical composition of the building is adhered to in the fenestration and division of bays on the east, west, and south sides, and the spatial arrangement of the interior. Bays are evenly spaced on the main, south facade with three and the west side with five. The front entrance is balanced with two rooms of about equal size flanking a central hall that extends through the depth of the house. The basement is divided by the hallway into four rooms.

Dominating the south facade, the double door with transom culminates a flight of steps and is set within a single story balustraded porch with complete classical order. Two pairs of Doric squared pillars flanked by smaller Ionic columns rest on coursed brick pedestals and support an entablature with dentiled cornice. Further emphasizing the facade's central bay are two brick wall pilasters which extend above the porch to the small central pediment with a Roman arch vent. Identical corner pilasters also define the rear north wall. A dentiled cornice which barely projects beyond the eaves encircles the building. In addition, a brick parapet wall with painted white sheet metal coping extends around the roofline to the rear of the house. The roof is flat and contains a single chimney and flat-roofed wood frame observation tower which is aligned with the central bay of the west side.

Additional porches include a small, roofed porch with squared pillars and balustrade over the rear single transomed door and a more prominent balustraded tetrastyle Ionic portico on the west side. A single door is located at the south end of the three-bay portico which, like the south front porch, contains a deck.

Fenestration of the structure is symmetrical and consists of numerous double-hung sash type windows with varied numbers of lights over a single lower unit. Exceptions include the two-over-two light windows flanking the rear door on the north facade and the single, double-hung with decorated leaded glass window in the east wall. In addition, there is a small west window set in the architrave trim surrounding the building whose function is to light the landing of the interior staircase.

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Continuation sheet

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Small basement windows consist of six-over-one and four-over-one lights and are accentuated with brick flat arched window heads. Exterior openings to the basement below the south and west porches are covered with lattice work. First and second floor windows consist of either three-over-one or two-over-one lights. Openings on the first level are crowned with flat arched window heads with sandstone keystones, while the wooden architrave trim encircling the building forms the head of the second story windows. All windows are surrounded by architrave trim and sandstone sills.

Since the Weather Bureau Building was designed not only as a public office, but a residence for the director's family, the interior displays delicately carved features and formal, but finely crafted classical details. The interior of the first and second floors is largely intact. The upstairs mantle, which has been painted, and tile mantle on the first floor are original. Other noteworthy original features include the fine mouldings around the doors and windows and the leaded glass on either side of the entrance hall.

Some alterations and additions to the structure have been necessary and include installation of central air and heat, a fire escape, new wiring and plumbing, and the lowering of ceilings. These and other minor repairs have not seriously affected the building's architectural integrity. Since the purchase of the property by Will Minter, Jr. in early 1980, plans have been made to renovate the building for office space.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1909

Builder/Architect

Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed as a permanent U. S. weather office in Abilene during the first decade of the twentieth century, the Georgian Revival building at the northeast corner of N. 1st and Beech Streets is one of the oldest in the city. One of four existing examples of twenty weather bureau buildings constructed by the U. S. government between 1909-14, the Abilene weather office with living quarters combines finely crafted interior and exterior features with a local interpretation of Neo-Georgian detail. An excellent representation of an historic era in Abilene, the U. S. Weather Bureau Building is tied to the early days of weather reporting as a legitimate science and the transition of the area from a range country to one of the most successful and profitable agricultural sections in the southwest.

The first U.S. weather observation station opened in Abilene on September 15, 1885 and was moved three times before the present Weather Bureau Building was completed in 1909 at a cost of \$15,176.00. Dr. Isaac M. Cline, who received a special commendation from President Herbert Hoover for his accomplishments in weather services, headed the first station which was operated by the U.S. Signal Corps until 1890. Cline was succeeded by two directors before W. H. Green and his family occupied the first permanent Weather Bureau Building in January, 1910. W. H. Green retired as weather director in 1944, and his successor, C. E. Sitcheler, occupied the structure until 1946 when the housing was phased out. A supplementary weather station was opened in 1931 at the former Abilene municipal airport. The current weather office is based at the present municipal airport.

Between 1946 and 1961, the building was used for storage by the Soil Conservation Service and the National Guard. Purchased by Helen Gail Robinson in 1961, the structure functioned as a business college until 1975. O. B. Stephens, Jr. bought the property in September, 1977 and remodelled the interior for office spaces. The present owner, Will D. Minter, Jr., who purchased the building in early 1980, plans to renovate part of the interior and occupy the office spaces.

Facing south toward the railroad tracks that were in part responsible for Abilene's founding and later prosperity, the U.S. Weather Bureau stands in a transitional residential/commercial area on the western edge of the city's central business district. The surrounding substantial turn of the century residences have largely been demolished, leaving the weather office as the chief reminder of the neighborhood's historic significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Abilene East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 14 430580 3591360
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

The building is located at the northeast corner of N. 1st and Beech Streets, and occupies all of lots 12-15, Block 79, of the original town of Abilene.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara C. Nagel, Research Assistant

organization Texas Historical Commission date January 9, 1981

street & number P. O. Box 12276 telephone (512) 475-3094

city or town Austin state Texas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3 May 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 7/8/82

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Abilene Reporter-News, Aug. 16, 1955, Feb. 24, 1957, July 3, 1961.

Abilene Daily Reporter, May 11, 1908.

Interview with J. W. Green, April 21, 1980, Abilene.

Frank R. Praslicka, General Services Administration, Historical Officer, Region 1, Ft. Worth, Tx. Oct. 26, 1977, letter. Richard Dillard, Taylor County Historical Commission.

Carl M. Reber, Executive Officer, National Weather Services, Ft. Worth, Tx. June 29, 1979, letter. Abilene Preservation League.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

82004524

Working No. 6/11/82-1742

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83

Date Due: 7/8/82 - 7/26/82

Action: ACCEPT 7/8/82

Entered in the RETURN

National Register REJECT

U.S. Weather Bureau Building,
Taylor County,
TEXAS,

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Federal Agency: _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



U.S. Weather Bureau Building
1482 N 1st St.
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Will D. Minter, Jr. March 1982
Negatives at 1482 N 1st St Abilene, Texas

South Elevation; Camera facing north
Photo # 1 of 4



U.S. Weather Bureau Building
1482 N. 1st Street
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Kenneth Wellborn December 1978
Negatives filed at the Texas Historical Comm.
Austin, Texas

Southwest Oblique; Camera facing northeast
Photo # 2 of 4



U.S. Weather Bureau Building
1482 N. 1st Street
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Will D. Minter, Jr. March 1982
Negatives filed at 1482 N. 1st Street
Abilene, Texas

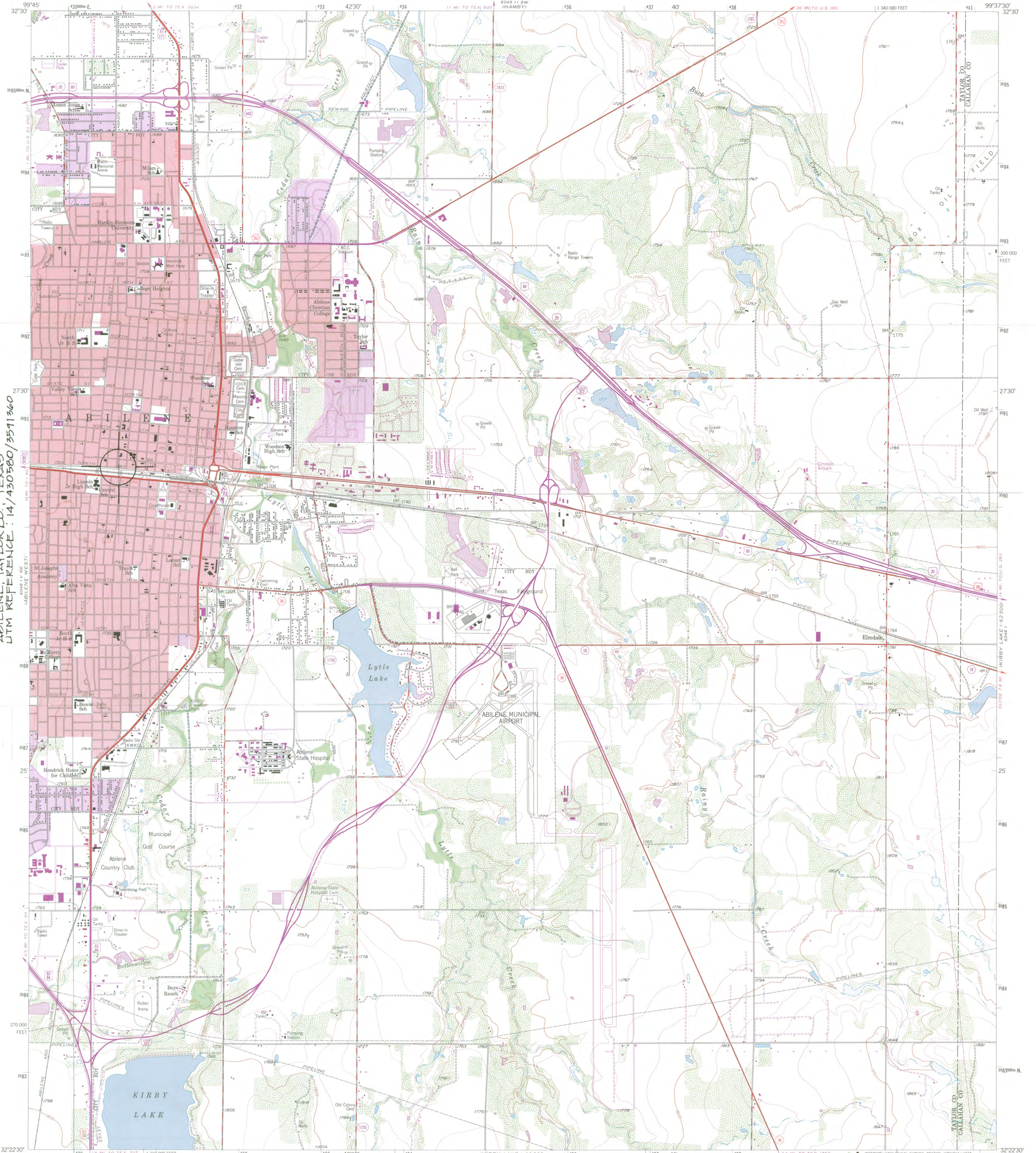
West Elevation; Camera facing east
Photo # 3 of 4



U.S. Weather Bureau Building
1482 N. 1st Street
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

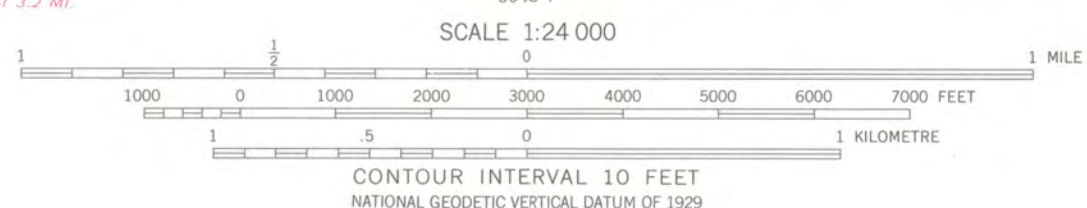
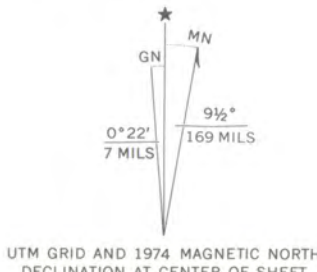
Will D. Minter, Jr. March 1982
Negatives filed at 1482 N. 1st Street
Abilene, Texas

Northwest Oblique; Camera facing southeast
Photo # 4 of 4



U.S. WEATHER BUREAU BLDG.
1482 N. 1ST STREET
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/430580/3511360

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography from aerial photographs by ER 55 plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1957
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north central zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1967 and 1974. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

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

3299-243

ABILENE EAST, TEX.
NW/4 KIRBY LAKE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3222.5—W9937.5/7.5
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1967 AND 1974
AMS 6048 I NW—SERIES V882