

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Blanton, Thomas L., House

Other name/site number: 2894

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 3425 South Seventh Street

not for publication: N/A

City/town: Abilene

State: TX *County:* Taylor

code: 441 *zip code:* 79602

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

<i>Number of Resources within Property:</i>	<i>Contributing</i>	<i>Noncontributing</i>
	<u> 2 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> 2 </u>	<u> 0 </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Texas

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

___ See continuation sheet.

Curtis J. Jernell

2-12-92
Date

Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
___ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

Antoinette Blue

3/23/92

___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain):

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single dwelling

Current: Domestic

Sub: Single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: Prairie School, Bungalow

<i>Materials: foundation</i>	concrete
<i>walls</i>	brick
<i>roof</i>	asphalt
<i>other</i>	cast stone; stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance. See continuation sheet.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Area(s) of Significance: Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1930-1936

Significant Dates: c. 1920

Significant Person(s): Blanton, Thomas L.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. See continuation sheet.

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Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Description:

The Thomas L. Blanton House is a 2-story, frame dwelling with a center passage plan and a gable roof exhibiting characteristics of Prairie School-influenced and Bungalow architecture. The exterior walls are brick veneer and the roof is covered with composition shingles. The house faces north on South Seventh Street in a residential neighborhood.

A one bay gable porch that rests on brick piers and has exposed beams under the eaves extends across the front (north) elevation. This facade is divided into a series of tripartite combinations, such as the three dominant overlapping gable ends, the window groupings, and the single door entrance with its sidelights. A significant feature of the first floor windows on the front elevation is that the tripartite arrangements with transoms are placed within wide arches.

An exterior brick chimney rises from the east elevation. A porte cochere with brick piers accents the west facade.

A 2-story garage/apartment with detailing similar to the main house is at the southwest corner of the lot. It is Contributing.

Statement of Significance:

The Thomas L. Blanton House, built about 1920, is nominated under Criterion B in the area of Politics/Government, for its associations with Blanton, a prominent West Texas attorney, who, while residing in the house, was a powerful and influential member of the U.S. House of Representative during the 1930s. The building is associated with the historic context "The Railroad and Abilene's Development into a Wholesale and Distribution Center in West Texas, 1881-1939." The building is in good condition and retains its integrity.

Blanton owned the house during the early to mid-1930s. An attorney who began his practice in Cleburne but moved to Albany, Texas, where Blanton resumed his legal work. In 1908 he was elected district judge which launched his long political career. In 1916 he was elected to Congress and served until 1929 when he unsuccessfully ran for the Senate. He regained his congressional seat in 1930, following the untimely death of his successor Robert Q. Lee and he remained in the House until his defeat in 1936.

Blanton was a colorful and controversial member of Congress. His anti-union sentiments made him quite unpopular with Samuel Gompers and other labor leaders. In 1924 he introduced legislation to halt immigration in the United States and in 1935 proposed that Communists should be outlawed in this country. From 1932 until 1936 he served on the House Appropriations Committee and gained a reputation as a frugal spender of federal monies. Upon his defeat in 1936

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Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

he practiced law in Washington, D.C., but two years later returned to Albany where he lived until his death in 1957 (Branda 1976:88).

Although Blanton owned the house late in his political career, this is the dwelling in Abilene known to have been owned by him. It was constructed about 1920 and displays characteristics of Prairie School and Bungalow architecture. Blanton occupied the dwelling during his most active and influential period of his political career, from 1930 to 1936.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

x See bibliography for associated historic context.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government (City of Abilene Planning Department)
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Abilene Preservation League

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	14	428120	3589660	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

Verbal Boundary Description:

Don Davis Addition (of Fair Park), Block 7, west 25' of Lot 2, all of Lots 3-6

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the area that has been historically associated with the property and that retains its historic and architectural integrity.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Amy E. Dase, Historian, THC staff)

Name/Title: David Moore, Historian
 Organization: Hardy Heck Moore
 Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande
 City or town: Austin

Date: June 1989; January 1992
 Telephone: 512/478-8014
 State: TX Zip: 78705

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Historic and Architectural Resources
of Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Jhules Reading House
421 Reading
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast
Photograph 41 of 48

Albert S. and Ruth Goodloe House
1302 Sayles Boulevard
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
East facade, camera facing west
Photograph 42 of 48

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1633 South Eighth
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest
Photograph 43 of 48

Thomas L. Blanton House
3425 South Seventh
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas
Photographed by David Moore
Winter 1989
Negative with Texas Historical Commission
North facade, camera facing south
Photograph 44 of 48

2/19/92

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Abilene MPS
TEXAS

Date Listed

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
		12/18/91
92000225	1915 Taylor County Courthouse	3/23/92
92000193	Abilene Christian College Administration Building	5/23/92
91001811	Abilene Commercial Historic District	12/18/91
92000200	Abilene Fire Station No. 2	3/23/92
92000205	Abilene Street Railway Company Barn	3/23/92
92000191	Abilene and Northern Railway Company Depot <i>owned by</i>	3/23/92
92000214	Ackers, William and Mary, House	3/23/92
92000234	Blanton, Thomas L., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000229	Boyd--Hall House	3/23/92
92000206	Caldwell Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000195	Cash, W. A. V., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000218	Castle, David S., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000211	Chambers, Samuel A., House	3/23/92
92000237	Davis, George R., House	3/23/92
92000199	Dillingham, O. D. and Ada, House	3/23/92
92000222	Dodd--Harkrider House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000204	Evans, J. W., House	3/23/92
92000228	Federal Building (<i>now returned</i>)	Ret.
92000210	Finley, Eugene L., House	3/23/92
92000226	First Presbyterian Church <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000215	Fritz, David C. and Docia, House	3/23/92
92000192	Fulwiler, William J., House <i>owned by</i> <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000232	Goodloe, Albert S. and Ruth, House	3/23/92
92000207	Green, Roland A. D., House	3/23/92
92000236	Higginbotham, J. G., House	3/23/92
92000196	House at 1127 Ash Street	3/23/92
92000224	Hughes, Ed S., Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000212	Jones, A. T., House	3/23/92
92000221	Lanius, C. A., House <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000194	Luce Hall <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000220	Magee, J. D., House	3/23/92
92000201	McDaniel, George W. and Lavina, House	3/23/92
92000219	McDonald Hall	3/23/92
92000209	McMurry College Administration Building <u>Substantive Review</u>	3/23/92
92000198	Minter, William A., House	3/23/92
92000216	Motz, Charles, House	3/23/92
92000230	Parramore, D. D., House	3/23/92
92000223	Radford, James M., Grocery Company Warehouse	3/23/92
92000231	Reading, Jhules, House	3/23/92
92000235	Roberts, Nathan J. and Nancy, House	3/23/92
92000233	Sacred Heart Catholic Church	3/23/92

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92000234 Date Listed: 3/23/92

Thomas L. Blanton House

Property Name

Taylor
County

TX
State

Abilene MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

fr *Anthony J. Daze*
Signature of the Keeper

3/25/92
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Under Significant Dates, c1920 is removed.

This information was confirmed with Amy Daze of the Texas State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Blanton, Thomas L., House

MULTIPLE NAME: Abilene MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Taylor

DATE RECEIVED: 2/19/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/06/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/22/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/04/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000234

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/23/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Thomas S. Blanton House is significant for its association with Blanton, a powerful and influential member of the U.S. House of Representatives. He occupied the house during his ^{most} active and influential period of his political career.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept / B
REVIEWER Antoinette J. Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE 3/23/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR YN

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

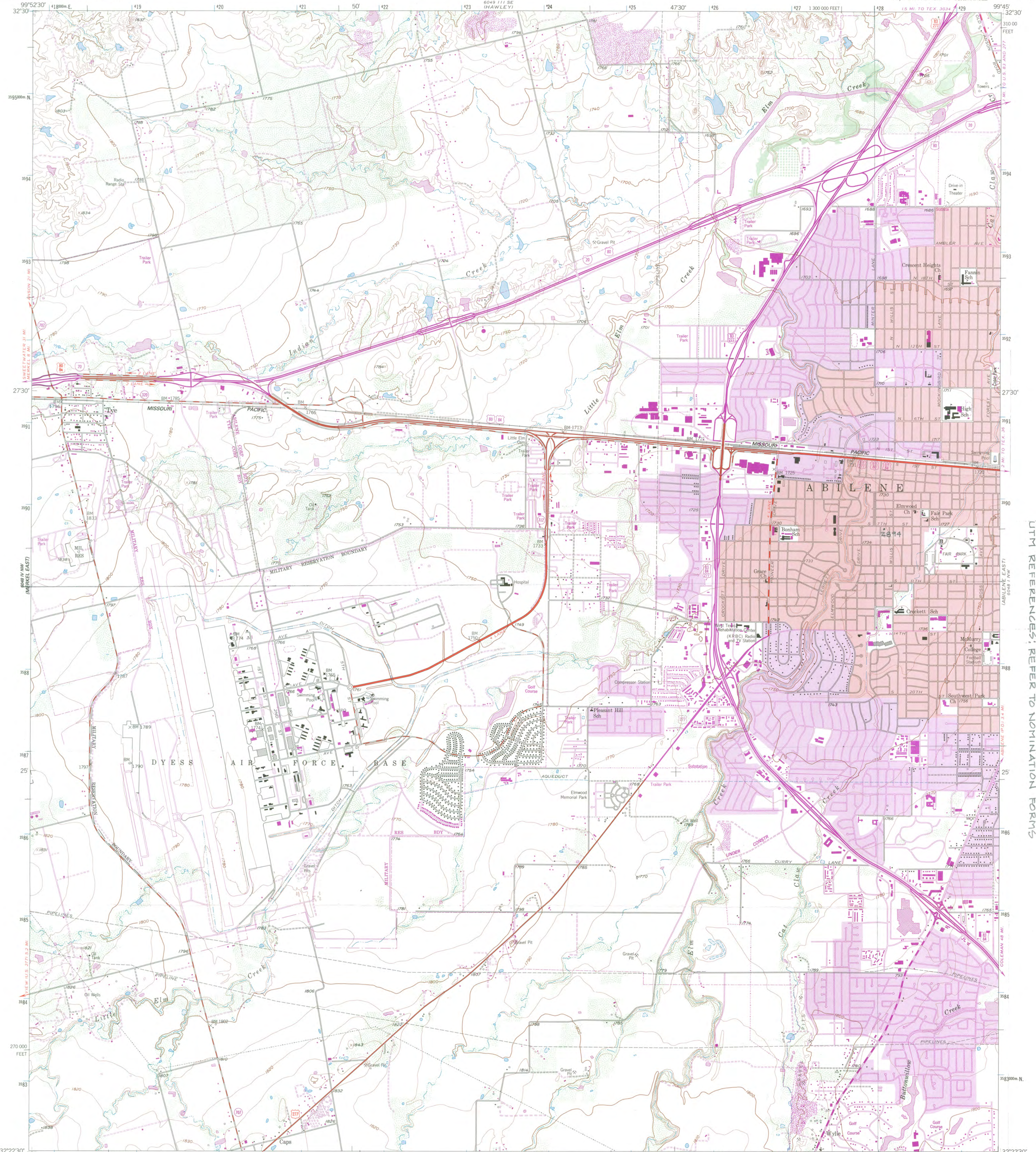
Signed

Date



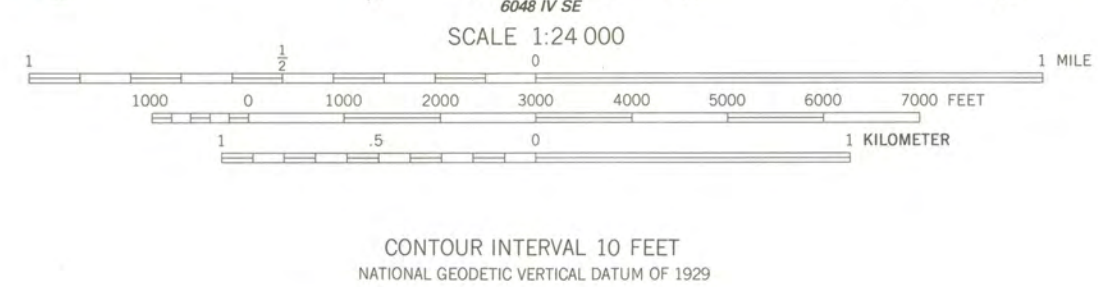
THOMAS L. BLANTON HOUSE
3425 SOUTH SEVENTH
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 44 of 48



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
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 10 meters south and
34 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1984 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1987
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

ABILENE WEST, TEX.
NE/4 BUFFALO GAP 15' QUADRANGLE
32099-07-TF-024
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1987
DMA 6048 1V NE - SERIES V882

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

3299-234

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF ABILENE, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCES; REFER TO NOMINATION FORMS