

HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY CAMPUS

A RESEARCH PAPER

Approved:

T. S. Montgomery
8/11/30

HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY CAMPUS

A SUPERVISED RESEARCH

Submitted to the Faculty of
Sam Houston State Teachers College
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the Degree

MASTER OF ARTS

By

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Huntsville, Texas

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I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Dr. Harmon Lowman for making his files accessible to me and interest he has shown in the study.

I also wish to express my appreciation to my husband, Elliott, for his suggestions.

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CHAPTER I

NEED FOR THE STUDY

There is a need to preserve valuable facts and information concerning the Country Campus. The Country Campus is the largest gift ever received by Sam Houston State Teachers College. Facts and details of a project this large become distorted and confused in time if not carefully recorded. Dr. H. L. Lowman, President, Sam Houston State Teachers College, is desirous that a thorough record be written so all the facts concerning the Country Campus may be compiled into one report.

THE STUDY AND ITS SCOPE

This study concerns itself with the History of the Country Campus. The major aspects of the study are as follows:

(1) Original Status of the Country Campus; (2) Status During War Period; (3) Acquisition of Property by Sam Houston State Teachers College; (4) Reconstruction Period at the Country Campus; (5) Current Status; and (6) Future Developments.

DEFINITION

The term "Country Campus" means a campus in the country. It is a campus of Sam Houston State Teachers College, located eight and one-half miles north-east of Huntsville, in Walker County, Texas; on highway 45 East, on a 807.25 acre tract of land given to the college on June 2, 1946, by the Federal Farm Mortgage Cor-

poration, Surplus Property Disposal Agency; and accepted by the Board of Regents of the State Teachers Colleges of Texas on June 8, 1946, plus 55 acres bought from Mrs. D. B. Dominey in July, 1949 for the sum of \$1,787.50. Total number of acres owned by Sam Houston State Teachers College at the Country Campus is ¹ 826.25 acres.

SOURCES OF DATA

Data relating to this problem were obtained from the following sources:

(1) records of the County Tax Assessor of Walker County; (2) photographs taken by the United States Army Engineers; (3) interviews of fifty persons who had worked on the project; (4) minutes of the Board of Regents meetings of the State Teachers Colleges of Texas; (5) records of the Walker County Abstract Company; (6) records of the Country Campus at the Student Union Building; (7) newspaper articles appearing in: The Houstonian, The Country Campus Journal; The Houston Post; The Houston Chronicle; and The Huntsville Item.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

The report of the study is submitted in the following order: Chapter II, describes the location of the Country Campus, the use made of the land, its owners, and the purchase of the land by the

1 Files in the office of Sam Houston State Teachers College Property Coustodian

War Department. Chapter III discusses the development of the Prisoner of War Camp, the buildings, personnel, purpose, activities and the educational program. Chapter IV deals with the transfer of the property, both real and personal, from the War Department to Sam Houston State Teachers College. This chapter explains how the program was initiated and who were instrumental in the transfer. Chapter V deals with the reconstruction of the Country Campus from war usage to peace time living. Such topics as the following are considered: conversion plans, cost, activities, and formal occupancy by students and faculty. Chapter VI deals with present day living at the Country Campus: what use is being made of buildings and classrooms, number of students, and activities of the residents. Chapter VIII gives a summary, conclusions and recommendations.

RELATED STUDIES

To the best of the writer's knowledge no other study on any phase of this subject has been made. In the summer of 1948 Mr. Hervey McDonald, who was in charge of Physical Education at the Country Campus, began a thesis on, The Development of the Recreational Program at the Country Campus. This study was never completed because of the untimely death of Mr. McDonald.

CHAPTER II

THE ORIGINAL STATUS OF THE COUNTRY CAMPUS

This chapter is presented as a background for the study.

The divisions are under the following headings:

- (1) Location
- (2) Use of the Land
- (3) Acquisition by the War Department
- (4) Owners of the Land

LOCATION

The Country Campus in 1940 did not exist as such but only as farm land owned by twenty-five different people and estates. There were 807.25 acres in this tract of land which was located on Highway 45 East, eight and one-half miles east of Huntsville, in Walker County, Texas. Having rolling land, a beautiful pine forrest, a clear creek, a stream filled with fish, abundance of wild game, and green pastures made this property one of unusual natural beauty. The land had good drainage into Chaney Creek and then into the Trinity river three miles away. Another important feature was the abundant water supply.

USE OF THE LAND

In 1940 this land was being used as homesites for a few Negro people who raised mostly cotton and a little grain for their livestock and a few vegetables for their table. The remainder of the land¹ was used to graze cattle, or lie idle.

ACQUISITION BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT

December 7, 1941, was the fateful day when the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor, and then on December 8, 1941, a state of war was declared by the United States Congress against Japan and in the following days against Germany and Italy. As soon as was de-

1 Interview with Arthur Williams, land owner on this property

clared the War Department had to find suitable sites on which to build prisoner of war camps. It was on February 10, 1942, that Colonel Zilagi of the Army Engineer Corp came to Huntsville looking for a camp site. He went out the old Phelps road but the property would cost one hundred (\$100.00) dollars an acre to clear. Next he went out by the College Farm, but it was too close to town, then to Wynn Prison Farm which still didn't suit him. Finally Col. Zilagi and Mr. Gene Berry, a lawyer and partner in the Walker County Abstract Company, the firm that was to handle the transfer of the property, went out to Dodge. The Colonel became excited when they approached the land that is now the Country Campus. It was a beautiful tract of land and all cleared, but did it have water, lights, and gas available, was it near a railroad, and a highway? All of these questions were quickly answered. The Fuller's Earth Plant just out of Riverside, Texas, a small town three miles from the camp site had a spur line that ran in back of this property and also had water, lights, gas and telephone.

OWNERS OF THE LAND

Col. Zilagi with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, the college, and Mr. Berry sent in his report and was authorized by the government to buy the land at \$25.00 per acre. Some land was declared more valuable than other; therefore, Mrs. Ike Harrison received thirty two dollars and twenty four cents (\$32.24) per

acre and Mrs. D. B. Dominey asked sixty dollars (\$60.00) for her land. She took the case to the county court and they allowed forty dollars (\$40.00) per acre. She wasn't satisfied and took it to the district court and they only allowed her thirty seven dollars and fifty cents (\$37.50) which she accepted.²

The following people owned the land:

Brown, Edgar	34.48 acres
Brown, Edgar	36.00 acres
Brown, Edgar	36.00 acres
Brown, Edgar	36.00 acres
Dominey, D. B.	9.41 acres
Dominey, D. B.	280.00 acres
Dominey, Goree	71.56 acres
Dominey, Guy	71.56 acres
Dominey, J. B.	5.00 acres
Dauget, Larry	2.95 acres
Hall, W. B.	43.00 acres
Liveston, Will	10.00 acres
Warren, Scot	35.00 acres
Williams, Arthur	50.00 acres
Wright, Leslie	49.00 acres
Wright, L. W.	5.00 acres
Wright, Will	30.50 acres

The remaining eleven and eighty two hundredths (11.82) acres were owned by estates whose portion is too small to enumerate. The total amount of land purchased by the War Department was 807.25³ acres.

Arthur Williams, a negro, moved his house from the camp site to a site just across the highway. He said, "The land has been good to us and we have made enough money to send our daughter

2 Interview with Mr. E. R. Berry, Huntsville lawyer and partner in Walker County Abstract Company

3 Files in Walker County Abstract Company

to college. Now she teaches in the Riverside Colored School."

It was on May 22, 1942, that the property to be known as the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp became the property of the War Department. Construction of the camp had begun on May 12, 1942, before all the legal details were cleared. The Huntsville Chamber of Commerce and Civic Clubs used their influence and sought the assistance of our congressmen bringing this camp to Huntsville. Employment for carpenters, plumbers, electricians, office workers and many kinds of laborers brought money to Huntsville. A number of the officers brought their families and rented apartments in Huntsville. When the soldiers came to town they spent money heavily which helped the business men.

SUMMARY

In this second chapter is discussed the original status of the land, its use and location. Then because of World War II the War Department bought the 807.25 acre tract from the owners to build an alien internment camp. The next chapter will discuss its status during the war, when it was built, number of buildings, cost, purpose, personnel and activities.

CHAPTER III

STATUS DURING WAR PERIOD

This chapter is presented to show the construction and background of the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp which eventually was to be the Country Campus of Sam Houston State Teachers College. The division is organized under five headings:

- (1) Alien Internment Camp Built During World War II
- (2) Buildings and Grounds
- (3) Personnel
- (4) Purpose
- (5) Activities

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ALIEN INTERNMENT CAMP

The Huntsville Alien Internment Camp construction was begun on May 12, 1942, and formal opening ceremonies were held on September 18, 1942. This camp, composed of four hundred and five (405) buildings at a cost of over three million (\$3,000,000) dollars was built to house German and Japanese prisoners of war.¹ On Friday, September 18, 1942, Col. H. E. Fischer, commanding officer of the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp held "open house". Mr. Tom Ball was at the entrance gate and sold five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars in U. S. war bonds. The public was shown through the gymnasium, mess halls, hospital and dental units, barracks and post exchange. Approximately five hundred United States soldiers were on hand to direct traffic and guide the public.²

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The Huntsville Alien Internment Camp was a city in itself, having four hundred five (405) buildings, four deep water wells that supplied enough water for ten thousand people. A modern sewage disposal plant and a huge incinerator were built to maintain good sanitation. The incinerator had a special device that strained and saved all grease from the trash and garbage that was burned. They made soap for the kitchen from the grease. This was valuable in war time when soap was scarce.³

1 The Huntsville Item, September 17, 1942

2 The Huntsville Item, September 24, 1942

3 Interview, Dr. Harmon Lowman, President, Sam Houston State Teachers College

The camp had its own laundry, bakery, clothing shop, barber shop, Post Exchange, commissary, cafeteria, officers mess, officers club, "nom com" club, a huge gymnasium with solid maple floors, guard house, fire station, barracks for officers, barracks for enlisted men, and barracks for the prisoners. The motor pool took care of all buses, trucks, gasoline and maintenance equipment.

The largest, best constructed, and most expensive building was the hospital. The camp was built with the purpose of taking American soldiers with minor physical defects requiring clinical treatment before they were ready for field service and using them as guards until such time as they should be ready for more strenuous duty. Also, the German and Japanese prisoners were given medical treatment.

The hospital is built of pine lumber and oak floors with a life expectancy of twenty-five years. It is comprised of seven long wings for just hospital beds, and one wing for the cafeteria. There is one wing for dental care, having five complete dental units. The entire front portion of the hospital contains the doctors' offices, reception room, laboratory, pharmacy, and an x-ray room and operating room which is air conditioned. Just the x-ray machine cost five thousand (\$5,000.00) dollars. Special rooms were built with bars on the windows and doors for patients who became violent.

The hospital is the only large building with wood siding. It is painted white with a grey composition roof and a huge red cross

4 Interview with Dr. Ray Black, M. D., Huntsville, Texas

painted on the roof. The entire building is steam heated and has an automatic sprinkler system in case of fire.

The other buildings are the typical temporary type, heavy tar paper covering over a frame built of pine and gum lumber. The roofs are also of composition paper which is fire resistant. Five years is the life expectancy of these buildings, but with a little re-
5
conditioning could be made to last much longer.

Surrounding the camp was a fence and around the prison compound was a high fence with barbed wire electrically charged at the top. Guards in twenty high watch towers with machine guns and powerful spot lights kept watch over the prisoners. Even with all of these precautions a few prisoners did escape but were found a few miles from the camp by using some of the Texas Prison System's
6
blood hounds.

PERSONNEL

Colonel H. E. Fischer was the commanding officer and Captain G. L. Smith was quartermaster of the Huntsville Prisoner of War Camp. There was a large number of Medical Officers. Only about seven hundred enlisted men were stationed there as guards and to manage the different phases of army life. The number of soldiers and prisoners at any one time is still a military secret but it has been estimated by men who worked at the camp by the amount of

5 Files from the office of Dr. Lowman, President, Sam Houston State Teachers College

6 Interview with Mr. Tom Woods, maintenance man at the Prisoner of War Camp

food purchased and prepared each day that there were as many as five thousand in 1944 and 1945.

The Huntsville Prisoner of War Camp was the only one in Texas to house Japanese prisoners. They also had German prisoners. The first prisoners to be sent to the Huntsville camp were Rommel's Afrika Korps troopers, detachments cut off during his retreat to the coast and his paratroopers.⁷ About a month after being captured they arrived in Riverside, Texas, via troop train. All were dirty, clothed mostly in rags, not a bath in over a month and some injured. Residents of Riverside said you could actually smell them coming for there was an odor worse than a cattle car. As soon as the command to "fall in" was given they were again straight-marching, goose-stepping, arrogant German soldiers, even in defeat. They marched in perfect columns and sang German marching songs all the way to the camp which was three miles away. Instead of singing as most groups they sang in four part harmony and held their heads high to show how proud they were to be Germans.⁸ When later prisoners arrived they were brought by army trucks to the camp.

PURPOSE

The Huntsville Alien Internment Camp had a two fold purpose. The War Department knew that in time a place would be needed to keep prisoners. At the beginning of the war there were many men

7 Files in President Lowman's office

8 Interview with Mrs. Bill Fitzgerald, resident of Riverside, Tex.

who were not physically fit enough for combat. Some of them needed dental work, others had syphilis, poor eyesight, some were slightly crippled. The War Department put a modern well equipped hospital at the Huntsville camp to attend to the needs of our soldiers and then also to be used for the injured prisoners.

ACTIVITIES

The American soldiers stationed at the Huntsville camp had a well rounded recreation program. The gymnasium was used for basketball games, wrestling matches, picture shows, and about once a month the U.S.O. from Huntsville would bring out bus loads of girls to dance. They had a library, a P.X., a non-com club and an officers club. There were baseball and football games between their own groups. Pool tables and domino tables were available.

The Japanese prisoners enjoyed having small garden plots of their own. The German prisoners used the library, worked in the bakery, garment factory, did craft work and built their own church where they held services. While these prisoners were in our camp they were shown and taught a little about democracy and how it works.

The last group of prisoners brought to the Huntsville camp was a select group of about fifty Japanese who were well educated and many held the rank of colonel and one general. The Sam Houston State Teachers College with its staff of capable teachers, Dr. F. A. McCray, Dr. J. L. Clark, Dr. L. A. McGee, Dr. Don Mitchell,

and Dr. R. E. Melton worked on a course of study on Democracy. These Japanese were sent here from prison camps all over the United States. The name of the course was "School of Democracy". ✓ This was taught by the lecture method with the aid of interpreters who knew both the English and the Japanese languages well. The prisoners asked any question they desired on the workings of a democracy. After the war was over and the prisoners were sent home one of the prisoners wrote a book on democracy. Dr. Clark, one of the teachers of the course, said that he had heard that it had been accepted as a text book in Japan.⁹ No one will ever know the influence of this course on the destiny of Japan.

There were many prisoners brought to the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp and there is reason to be proud of the way they were treated. They were given good food, housing, medical attention, recreation and pay. Surely after living here in America for a while they learned to like our way of life and, when they returned home, to want to pattern their new life after ours.

SUMMARY

From May 22, 1942, until June 20, 1946, the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp existed as such, but after that date it was known as the Country Campus of Sam Houston State Teachers College. In Chapter III we see the beginning of World War II and the converting of farm land into a prisoner of war camp. This is the only

9 Interview with Dr. J.L. Clark, head of social science department, Sam Houston State Teachers College

Prisoner of War Camp in Texas to have any Japanese prisoners. German prisoners are also impounded here. The number, kind and size of the buildings is discussed. Also photographs of various buildings while under construction is presented. The purpose of the camp, its personnel and activities are discussed. An account is given of the "School of Democracy", sponsored by the War Department, and taught by some of the faculty members of Sam Houston State Teachers College to a select group of Japanese prisoners.

CHAPTER IV

ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY BY SAM HOUSTON STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE

This chapter is presented to show how we acquired the Country Campus. Dr. Harmon Lowman is a far-sighted man who knew that when the war was over the college would have its largest enrollment. Because of the "G. I. Education Bill" many men came to college who would otherwise have had to forego educational benefits. Many of these veterans were married and had families so housing was very important. This chapter is divided into two parts:

- (1) How the Transaction Was Initiated
- (2) Who Were Instrumental in Transfer

HOW TRANSACTION WAS INITIATED

After the surrender of Germany and World War II was drawing to a close Dr. Harmon Lowman could visualize the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp as an answer to the housing problem which was sure to come as soon as our soldiers returned and resumed their education. During the war there had been no construction of houses or apartments in Huntsville and most of these returning veterans had families. Before the war there were very few married couples going to college because of the expenses involved. The "G.I. Bill" paid single boys sixty-five (\$65.00) dollars a month and later seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars for as long as they had earned by their war service. The married veteran at first received ninety (\$90.00) dollars a month and then it was raised to one hundred ten (\$110.00) dollars and one hundred twenty (\$120.00) dollars if they had children. This is not a large sum of money but with this monetary aid, a determination, careful management, and perhaps a part-time job a veteran and his family can get along. ✓

The Huntsville Alien Internment Camp had been built at a cost of three million (\$3,000,000) dollars but after the war was over the War Assets Corporation decided to dispose of the camp for six hundred thousand (\$600,000.00) dollars. ¹ Sam Houston State Teachers College needed and wanted this property but did not have the money with which to buy it. Dr. Lowman and Mr. ✓

1 Files in Dr. Lowman's office

D. C. Holleman, business manager for the college, decided to try to find a way to acquire this property as a gift by showing the government the national benefits which would accrue from this transaction. The following letter is a copy of one written by Dr. Harmon Lowman, Sam Houston President, to Lt. Gen. Edmund B. Gregory, Chairman of the Board of Directors, War Assets Corporation, Washington, D.C. Letter follows:

April 22, 1946

Lt. Gen. Edmund B. Gregory, Chairman
Board of Directors
War Assets Corporation
Railroad Retirement Building
Washington, D.C.

Re: Huntsville POW Camp
Supplement to Appli-
cation filed February
22, 1946, by Sam
Houston State Teachers
College

Dear Sir:

In the application previously filed in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 8305.12 (h) (5), a sum of \$600,000 was offered by the Sam Houston State Teachers College for the purchase of the Huntsville POW Camp. The College wishes to amend its offer to equal the amount of the current market value and it requests a 100 per cent discount therefrom because of the National benefits which will accrue from the proposed utilization.

Under (a), page 2 of the application, we request the following corrections and additions be made:

(a) In a six-year period (it is believed that because of the temporary nature of the POW Buildings most of them will not be suitable for occupancy longer than six years) the total benefits accruing will be \$2,044,460.00, distributed as

follows:

1. Tuition. The Veterans Administration allows \$500 per year for tuition. The cost of classroom instruction in the camp where buildings are already constructed is \$250.00. This is a saving of \$250.00 a year. Revised plans make it relatively certain that 1,000 students of agriculture and other vocational subjects instead of 635 can and will be housed in the Camp. Of this number 750 or more will be veterans. The annual saving of \$250.00 on 750 students would be \$187,500.00 and in six years this will total \$1,125,000.00.

2. Taxes. The additional income of a trained man over an untrained man increases the income tax collections approximately \$179.00 a year. If incomes are increased for 187 graduates (allowing for the number equal to one normal class to graduate in six years) annually, this will increase the annual amount collected for income tax \$23,473.00, and in twenty years (expectancy of life), this will total \$469,460.00.

3. Cost to Veterans. There will be a saving of \$10.00 per veterans per month on housing and messing, which will amount to \$100.00 a year of ten months. For 750 veterans this is a saving of \$75,000.00 annually, and in six years the total will be \$450,000.00.

4. Recapitulation of savings

Tuition	\$ 1,125,000.00
Taxes	469,460.00
Housing for Veterans	450,000.00
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$ 2,044,460.00

For your consideration the above facts are respectfully submitted.

Very truly yours,

Harmon Lowman, President

The college not only wanted the camp as a housing unit but also for its hospital, shops, and farm land. The agriculture department wanted to put registered cattle on some of the land and to grow feed and experimental garden crops. Each department at the college thought of some way their department at the outset make use of the camp's facilities. The gymnasium at the camp was much larger and better than the one the college had in town. Every spring the college entertained all surrounding high school basketball teams and tournament were held. The camp had an ideal place for this with places for the boys to eat and sleep. The art department wanted a building to decorate and use for a work shop. History, physics, chemistry, and government teachers found uses they could make of the camp. The procedure for obtaining the title to the prisoner of war camp is as follows:

A letter to the Board of Regents

Huntsville, Texas
May 30, 1946

To the Members of the Board of Regents:

In order that you might more quickly understand our problems, I shall attempt to make a brief, concise statement of each.

1. THE "USE PERMIT" FOR THE HUNTSVILLE ARMY CAMP

For the purpose of relieving housing conditions on the campus, I have repeatedly urged Washington to make the transfer of the camp before the beginning of the summer term. When I

met with the Federal men last Monday, they offered the college an interim occupancy permit, giving us the right to use the buildings until the deed could be prepared and the sale of the camp advertised. The following explanations were made about deed preparation and advertising the camp:

(a) Deed preparation. - Abstracts on the several tracts bought by the Government must be secured from Federal files before deed is written. This could take several months.

(b) Advertisement of Camp. - Governmental regulations list priority ratings: first, Federal agencies; second, state agencies; third, land owners; fourth, non-profit institutions, etc. Within a reasonably short length of time, before transfer, a newspaper advertisement must be run notifying priority holders of sale. These priority holders (in this case Federal agencies) have ten days to exercise their priority. The War Assets Administration in Washington told me that they had circularized Federal agencies and that none of them wanted the camp.

2. OPERATING COST

It will cost the college approximately \$1,200 a month to operate the camp. This is the standby or initial cost. We estimate that we can move about 100 married GIs into the camp immediately if we accept the "use permit;" on the other hand, if the deed is given during the middle of the summer session, we probably would not have more than a dozen renters before the middle of September.

3. CONVERSION PLANS

Our present program is to convert the barracks into living quarters as the demand requires at the lowest possible cost. We are investigating the use of linoleum on the floors, gypsum sheathing on the interior, and composition shingles on the outside. We

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are considering moving a barrack (a section of it to be used as a kitchen) across the ends of two other barracks, making the letter U, and building porches around the interior with a covered passage to a bath house.

4. FINANCIAL PROBLEM OF CONVERSION

In Washington I talked with the Reconstruction Finance Corporation's chief engineer in charge of self-liquidating projects. He believed a five-year loan could be arranged to convert the barracks into living quarters. We propose to liquidate this loan by renting the apartments for about \$15 cash and 24 hours of labor a month, the \$15 to pay for utilities and loan (used to buy materials) and the 24 hours of labor to go into the work of building apartments. We are also thinking of using the hospital wards for single girls and a number of the barracks for single boys.

5. TRANSPORTATION

The Federal Public Housing Authority expects to furnish the college with buses.

6. CURRICULA AT CAMP

We proposed to the War Assets Administration that sections of the Department of Agriculture, certain equipment from vocational shops for sheet metal training, garment making, furniture manufacturing (for men who need furniture), and possibly other departments would be moved to the camp.

7. FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OTHER THAN HOUSING

For administrative offices, shops, classrooms, etc. money will be needed. The last Legislature appropriated \$45,000 to complete the Josey shops. When we let the contract to build the foundry approximately \$20,000 will be left in this fund. I would like for the Board to propose to

Governor Stevenson that this \$20,000 be allowed to revert to the State, and that he give us a deficiency warrant for \$35,000 for the purpose of making the camp usable.

8. DISTRIBUTIVE EDUCATION

There is a demand in Texas for Distributive Education. I would like for the Board to approve the offering of such courses along the lines of our Veterans School of Small Businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Harmon Lowman, President

Before Dr. Lowman could enter into negotiation with the Surplus Property Disposal Agency concerning the Huntsville Prisoner of War Camp he had to obtain permission from the board of regents to do so. The following minutes of the board relate to the obtaining of such permission:

PRISONER OF WAR CAMP

On the recommendation of President Lowman, the following resolution was offered by Dr. Miles, seconded, by S. A. Kerr and unanimously adopted:

"Whereas, the Sam Houston State Teachers College, Huntsville, Texas, is badly overcrowded in several of its departments, particularly in the agriculture department; and

"Whereas, the college is in great need of housing for veterans wishing to attend the institution:

Be It Resolved, that President Harmon Lowman be authorized to enter into negotiations with the Federal Government in order to secure the used of the Huntsville prisoner of war camp to relieve the congested conditions of the Sam Houston State Teachers College, the cost of the purchase or of the lease to be liquidated in terms of public service rendered through the

educational use of the camp by the college." 2

After Dr. Lowman had secured permission to negotiate for the Huntsville Prisoner of War Camp from the Texas Board of Regents of State Teachers Colleges he wrote to Mr. C. W. Moehring who was Regional Supervisor of the Surplus Property Disposal requesting that the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp be given to Sam Houston State Teachers College to be used for health and educational purposes.

The letter follows:

June 5, 1946

Mr. C. W. Moehring, Regional Supervisor
Surplus Property Disposal
Federal Land Bank
Houston, Texas

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the attached "offer to Purchase Real Estate" representing the offer of the real and personal property constituting the Huntsville Prisoner of War Camp at Huntsville, Texas. The undersigned is an instrument of the state of Texas and as such is entitled to acquire this property under a priority as set forth in the published notice of sale of this property which appeared in the Huntsville Item on May 30, 1946.

All of this property, both real and personal, can and will be used for educational and health purposes and on the basis of such proposed utilization by the undersigned application is hereby made for a discount of 100% from the total sales consideration of \$901,195.00 because of the national benefits which will result from the proposed utilization.

The Sam Houston State Teachers College is a senior college with a graduate school. It is a

2 Supplementary Report of the minutes from Board of Regents meeting of the State Teachers Colleges of Texas, Feb. 8, 1946

member of the Southern Association of Colleges, the Association of Texas Colleges, and the American Association of Teachers Colleges. The legislative act creating the college as a state teacher training institution was passed April 21, 1879. The control of the college is vested in a Board of Regents appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Texas Senate.

The Sam Houston State Teachers College proposed to locate at the camp its Department of Agriculture and other vocational departments, utilizing the facilities of the POW Camp. The college will operate a non-profit vocational training center for 1,000 young men and women from anywhere in the United States, giving preference to ex-service men and women. While the curriculum of the college is not and never will be set in a rigid pattern, it is contemplated that the following subjects will initially be offered; forestry, dairing, beef production, poultry, horticulture, agronomy, soil conservation, pork production, courses in trades and industry and distributive education.

The school will be located in the buildings now comprising the POW Camp, and it is intended that the hospital facilities will be maintained for treatment and care of the students, who are receiving treatment from the Veterans Administration through the local physician. The present kitchens, bakery, and other similar facilities will also be maintained and conducted for the benefit of the students. Satisfactory utilities are installed; the college is prepared to maintain and operate these. The existing recreational facilities will be maintained and the students will be encouraged to utilize them to the fullest extent.

The Sam Houston State Teachers College will cause to be installed in the school livestock, agriculture machinery, machine tools and equipment of an estimated value in excess of \$100,000 for use in student instruction and, in addition, will furnish such other paraphernalia as required to fully equip and operate an agriculture school.

The POW Camp is about eight miles from Huntsville, and college buses will make regular schedules, enabling students living at the Country Campus to take regular courses other than agriculture. The college is doing everything it can to meet housing needs of veterans, but there are now approximately 300 waiting for housing. The barracks are temporary; the cost of moving them would equal their value. The college plans to use student labor to veneer those used for housing with native stone and tile roofs or other materials to make them permanent dwellings.

The proposed operation of the Sam Houston State Teachers College will provide for fuller utilization of the buildings and equipment than any other use to which it could be put, thus providing the greatest salvage to the United States.

Through the method of administering theory with practice, the student upon graduation is in a position to command sufficient salary to maintain decent standards of living for himself, his wife and family. This has a two-fold benefit to the Government in that it tends to raise the standards of living of the community in which the student resides and tends to insure that the student and his family will not become a charge upon the Government through unemployment.

The type of training which the student will receive from the college will provide a reservoir of men trained in agriculture and industry which will be invaluable in the event of a National Emergency such as we have just experienced. In a six year period the total benefits accruing to the United States will be \$2,044,460.00 distributed as follows:

1. Tuition. The Veterans Administration allows \$500 per year for tuition. The cost of classroom instruction in the camp where buildings are already constructed as \$250.00 a year. This is a saving of \$250.00 a year. Revised plans make it certain that 1,000 students of agriculture and other vocational

subjects can and will be housed in the camp. Of this number 750 or more will be veterans. The annual saving would be \$187,500.00 and in six years this will total \$1,125,000.00.

2. Taxes. The additional income of a trained man over an untrained man increases the income tax collections approximately \$179.00 a year. If incomes are increased for 187 graduates (allowing for the number equal to one normal class to graduate in six years) annually, this will increase the annual amount collected for income tax \$23,473.00 and in twenty years (expectancy of life) this will total \$469,460.00.

3. Cost to Veterans. There will be a saving of \$10.00 per month on housing and messing which will amount to \$100.00 a year of ten months. For 750 veterans this is a saving of \$75,000.00 annually and in six years the total will be \$450,000.00.

4. Recapitulation of Savings

Tuition	\$ 1,125,000.00
Taxes	469,460.00
Housing for Veterans	450,000.00
	<hr/>
TOTAL	\$ 2,044,460.00

National Benefits From Hospital

A.

Health Care Program for Students

The Sam Houston State Teachers College purposes for its student body of approximately three thousand a ten month period health care program to include:

1. Complete medical professional service
2. Complete nursing care
3. Complete hospitalization
4. Emergency dental care

The facilities required will be the two hundred and ten (210) bed hospital at the camp, which will provide six beds for each one hundred students and thirty beds for emergency.

B
Cost to College to Administer and Operate
Hospital

1. <u>Professional Staff</u>	
a. Full-time medical officer	\$6,000.00
b. Two full-time nurses	4,800.00
c. Part-time Dental, Nursing and Medical Officer	8,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$18,800.00
d. Estimated life of hospital and equipment is 15 years; therefore, during this period the total professional cost would be \$18,800 annually or for 15 years	\$282,000.00
2. <u>Replacement of Supplies</u>	
\$6,000.00 annually or in 15 yrs.	\$ 90,000.00
3. <u>Emergency Supplies</u>	
\$1,000.00 annually, or in 15 yrs.	15,000.00
4. <u>Other Expenses</u>	
Cared for by State Appropriations	
Maximum Total Operation Expenses in 15 years	<hr/> \$387,000.00

C
Cost to Students in College

It is proposed to charge not more than \$10.00 per year per student for the College Health Program thus:

3,000 students at \$10.00 per year	\$ 30,000.00
Estimated life of hospital, etc. at 15 years or	450,000.00

D
Cost Under Average Voluntary Pre-payment Plan
for Medical Care

Estimated average cost per month for each person	\$ 5.00
10 month period yearly cost per student	50.00
Number of students	3000
	<hr/>
Total Yearly Cost to Students	\$150,000.00

E
Savings to Students

Private Cost	\$2,250,000.00
School cost, per program scheduled here	450,000.00
in Total Benefits to Students	\$1,800,000.00

F
National Benefits

If an average of one-half of the students during this period is veterans, then the savings to the Federal Government under the Veterans Administration Medical Care Program will be \$900,000.00 (or one-half of \$1,800,000.00). E above.

The purchaser represents that it is a instrumentality of the State of Texas and warrants that it intends to use the property purchased for educational and health purposes and is not buying such property for re-sale; and the purchaser represents and warrants that it is a state educational institution and hospital which is exempt from the payment of Federal income taxes under section 101 (6) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This application for discount is hereby made in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 8305.12 (h) (5). The certificate by an authorized official of the buyer of the buyer is an instrumentality of the state of Texas is attached.

Your favorable consideration for a 100% discount from the stipulated purchase price is requested on the basis of the above information.

Yours very truly,

Sam Houston State Teachers College
By Harmon Lowman
Authorized Official

OFFER TO PURCHASE REAL ESTATE

To: Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation,
Disposal Agency
c/o C. W. Moehring, Regional Supervisor,
Surplus Property Disposal
c/o Federal Land Bank Houston, Texas

The undersigned offeror claims priority as State of Texas for the use and benefit of the Sam Houston State Teachers College.

The undersigned, State of Texas for the use and benefit of the Sam Houston State Teachers College (hereinafter called "offeror", whether one or more) hereby offers to purchase from the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation, Disposal Agency, acting under the authority of the Surplus Property Act of 1944, any acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, and designations and delegations of authority made pursuant to such act or acts, (hereinafter called "seller") as a tract and not by the acre, the property situated in Walker County, State of Texas, described as follows:

The real property constituting the Huntsville Prisoner of War Camp, Highway 45, and being southeast of said highway, together with all improvements there on; also all personal property described in inventories and reports dated April 24, 1946, and all supplemental inventories thereto, copies of which are attached hereto; containing 807.25 acres, more or less; to be conveyed by quit claim deed, subject to all existing rights-of-way, leases, reservations, easements, encumbrances, and servitudes, if any.

Offeror hereby agrees to pay seller for the above described real estate and personal property the sum of nine hundred one thousand and one hundred ninety-five (\$901,195.00) dollars less such discount as may be allowed under or pursuant to application for discount filed in connection with this application.

This offer may be withdrawn by offeror at any time before acceptance by seller; But Such Withdrawal Shall Not Be Effective Unless and Until Written Notice Thereof Signed By Offeror is Received By Seller at 430 Lamar Street, Federal Land Bank Building, Houston, Texas.

It is further understood and agreed that:

1. Any check or money order accompanying this agreement may be collected by seller at any time and the proceeds of such collection may be deposited to the credit of seller or to the credit of the United States or any agency, officer, or

employee thereof, and neither the collection of such proceeds shall constitute an acceptance of this offer. In the event this offer is withdrawn by offeror or is rejected in writing by the seller or another offer applicable to the same subject matter is accepted by seller the amount so collected is to be returned promptly without interest.

2. If the offeror is a priority holder, neither this offer or any contract resulting from its acceptance nor any rights that might accrue hereunder or thereunder are transferable, except with the written consent of the seller.

3. Title of seller to the above described real estate will be conveyed by quit claim deed, and seller is not obligated to furnish any abstract or to obtain any extension or supplement of any revenue, sales, or stamp taxes that may be required by law. However offeror, or anyone authorized by him, shall have the right to inspect any abstracts and other title papers related to the above described real estate, at the project office, but shall not have the right to remove any abstract or papers therefrom. If the sales is completed by full payment of the purchase price, and if in the opinion of seller the abstract is no longer needed, it will be delivered to offeror upon payment of such charges, if any, as may be required by seller.

4. In the event this offer is accepted, offeror shall be entitled to possession on the date of delivery of deed if the property is not then leased and if the property is then leased, offeror shall be entitled to possession at the end of the lease period or on such earlier date as may be agreed upon between him and the lessee. However, except as between himself and offeror, seller shall not be obligated to deliver possession to offeror, and subject to the terms and condition of this offer, responsibility for obtaining possession shall rest upon offeror. If all or all portion of the above described real estate is leased on the date of delivery of deed, seller will assign and transfer to offeror as of such date all of its rights, title, and interest, as lessor or as assignee of lessor, in and to such lease. Full information concerning any such lease may be obtained at the project office. Seller shall be

entitled to all rentals which become due and payable after such date.

5. No buildings or improvements on the above-described land are insured, and no insurance will be obtained unless by offeror and at his expense.

6. No agreements or representation not stated in this offer shall be deemed a part hereof and neither offeror nor seller shall be bound thereby. Offeror has personally inspected the above-described real estate, and this offer is made solely on the basis of his judgement as to the approximate area and present condition of the property.

7. The deed is to be made to The State of Texas for the use and benefit of Sam Houston State Teachers College at Huntsville, Walker County, Texas.

8. If this offer is accepted and if offeror fails or refuses to pay the entire purchase price promptly on the date specified herein, then seller, at its option, shall have the right to cancel the contract and retain as liquidated damages the cash paid hereunder.

9. This offer may not be accepted during the priority period applicable to the above-described real estate, unless offeror is a "Government Agency" as defined in the Surplus Property Act of 1944, and except as authorized in said act or in regulations issued pursuant thereto; and after acceptance of this offer offeror shall have no right to withdraw this offer or to cancel the contract resulting from its acceptance.

10. This offer shall be construed as being accepted at the time, and only at the time, when written notice of acceptance by seller is mailed by registered mail to offeror at his address given below.

Offeror represents, and it is a condition of acceptance of this offer, that no member of or delegate to Congress (or resident commissioner) shall be admitted to any share or part of this offer or contract, or of any benefits that may arise thereupon, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to any contract if made with a corporation for its general benefits.

There are no other conditions or agreements except as follows:

Subject to reservation by the United States of America, in accordance with Executive Order No. 9701, approved on March 4, 1946 (11F.R.2369), of all fissionable materials in the above described land, together with the right of any and all times to enter upon the lands and prospect for, mine, and remove such materials and supplies and

Subject to the condition that if any discount from the purchase price is authorized by the Administration of the War Assets Administration that title to all real and personal property will revert to the United States of America should this property or any part thereof be utilized by the Sam Houston State Teachers College for other than educational or health purposes during the period of five years from date of conveyance thereof.

Dated this 8th day of June, 1946

State of Texas for the use and benefit of the Sam Houston State Teachers College

Huntsville, Texas
(address of offeror)

By Harmon Lowman, President
(authorized official)

Dr. Lowman had secured permission from the Board of Regents to enter into negotiations with the Federal Government to try to obtain the Prisoner of War Camp at Huntsville for Sam Houston State Teachers College. The Federal Government had offered to give at a 100% discount, the Camp to the State of Texas and to be used by Sam Houston State Teachers College for health and educational purposes. Dr. Lowman had to have a special call meeting of the

Board of Regents to accept the camp. The minutes of that meeting are as follows:

Call Meeting

V. A. Collins,	Chairman Presiding
Present:	Collins, V. A., of Libingston
	Beretta, Mrs. J. K. of San Antonio
	Kerr, S. A., Jr., of Jacksonville
	Eidson, Dr. M. C., of Houston
	Thomas, R. L., of Dallas
	Woodul, Walter E., of Houston
	Harrell, Newton, of Claude
Secretary:	Turner, H. A., of Austin
Presidents:	Lowman, Dr. Harmon of Huntsville
	Whitley, Sam H., of Commerce
Absent:	William L. Kerr, of Midland

The main purpose of the meeting was stated to be the consideration and action on a proposition for the Sam Houston State Teachers College, Huntsville, to purchase from the Federal Government the Prisoner of War Camp located near Huntsville, and to use same for the college. President Harmon Lowman presented to the Board the above documents relative to the acquisition of the Huntsville POW Camp by the Sam Houston State Teachers College.

After a thorough discussion it was moved by Mrs. Beretta and seconded by Mr. Woodul that the above document be approved and made a part of the minutes of the Board. Motion Carried.

The following motion was made by Mrs. Beretta, seconded by Mr. Woodul and adopted.

Resolved; "That President Harmon Lowman of the Sam Houston State Teachers College is hereby authorized to execute such documents as are required for the acquisition and purchase of the Huntsville POW Camp property, both real and personal, as set forth in the College's application of June 8, 1946."

The following motion was offered by Dr. Eidson, seconded by Mrs. Beretta, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved; That the Sam Houston State Teachers College be authorized to hold \$20,000 of its biennium appropriation for the purpose of reverting this amount

to the State Treasury under "Item 100. To complete shop building, \$45,000 for year ending Aug. 31, 1946." (Under appropriations Educational Institutions Chapter 377, General and Special Laws of the State of Texas passed by the Forty-ninth Legislature.)

In lieu of this \$20,000 turned back to the State Treasury, the Sam Houston State Teachers College is authorized to request a deficiency warrant of \$50,000, for the purpose of converting the buildings of the POW Camp into classrooms, shops, administrative buildings, pay for the maintenance of such buildings including their proportionate share of the expense of utilities and fire protection, and such other necessary expenses incident to the maintenance and operation of the POW Camp as an educational center of the college. 3

The certificate of title follows:

In Support of Application For Discount Pursuant
To Paragraph 8305.12(h)(5)

State of Texas §
County of Walker §

Harmon Lowman, being first duly sworn on oath says that he is president of the Sam Houston State Teachers College which is a non profit institution, supported and controlled by the State of Texas through the Board of Regents of the Texas State Teachers Colleges and that the college is exempt from taxation under the Internal Revenue Code.

The Sam Houston State Teachers College plans to utilize the Huntsville POW Camp solely for educational purposes for young men and young women from anywhere in the United States, with preference being given to ex-service men and women. As the

3 Minutes of Special Call Meeting of Board of Regents Held in Austin, June 8, 1946, Driskill Hotel

Sam Houston State Teachers College is a state supported institution, it has the financial means to maintain and operate the property for educational purposes. Transfer of title may be made on condition that the property revert to the United States if the Sam Houston State Teachers College or its successors cease to use the property within five years for educational purposes.

Harmon Lowman further deposes that he is the agent of said Board duly authorized to sign this instrument.

(Signed) Harmon Lowman

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of June, 1946

(Signed) D. C. Holleman

(Seal) Notary Public in and for Walker County, Texas.

PERSONS AND AGENCIES INSTRUMENTAL IN THE TRANSFER OF THE PROPERTY

The college and the Board of Regents are indebted to a number of people for their active help in securing this camp for educational purposes. The Congressman of the Seventh Texas District, Tom Pickett, gave his individual attention to the project, ably assisted by the two Texas Senators, Tom Connally and W. Lee O'Daniel. The Governor of Texas, Coke Stevenson, personally endorsed the transfer; while the Board of Control

through its chairman, Weaver Baker, rendered aid promptly whenever opportunity permitted. Other organizations and political bodies active included the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, the Huntsville civic luncheon clubs, the Commissioners Court of Walker County, the Huntsville City Council; the Trinity Independent School District; the United States Public Health Service; the Veterans Administration; and the Federal Public Housing Administration.

4 Files in Dr. Lowman's office. "Acknowledgements", concerning Country Campus

SUMMARY

This chapter shows the various steps that had to be taken before Sam Houston State Teachers College obtained the title to the Prisoner of War Camp at Huntsville. These steps are as follows: Dr. Lowman asks permission from the Board of Regents to enter into negotiation with the War Assets Corporation; letters written to different Federal agencies requesting the right to purchase the camp; offer of the Federal Government to give the camp to Sam Houston State Teachers College; Dr. Lowman requesting permission from the Board of Regents to accept the offer; Board of Regents accepts the offer for the benefit of Sam Houston State Teachers College and to be used for health and educational purposes.

Mention is also made of persons and agencies instrumental in the transfer of the Prisoner of War Camp to Sam Houston State Teachers College.

CHAPTER V

RECONSTRUCTION PERIOD AT THE COUNTRY CAMPUS

Chapter V is concerned with the reconstruction period at the Country Campus. The discussion is organized in four divisions as follows:

1. Conversion Activities
2. Conversion Costs
3. Formal Occupancy
4. Early Activities

This chapter describes the changes and growth of the Country Campus and some of the human interest elements.

CONVERSION ACTIVITIES

Now that the college owned the property of the Huntsville Prisoner of War Camp, both real and personal, a name had to be selected. Dr. Lowman and Mr. D. C. Holleman, Business Manager for the college, thought of the name, "Country Campus", and this it has been ever since. The big problem facing the college now was how to convert the Prisoner of War Camp into apartments and classrooms for the college at nominal expense.

To make apartments from army barracks and a dormitory from a hospital takes planning, time, and money. The college had little time because they wanted the apartments and dormitory ready for the opening of the fall term on September 16, 1946. Dr. Lowman asked the Board of Regents for permission to negotiate a loan, and the board acted. A letter from Mr. H. A. Turner, Secretary to the Board of Regents of the State Teachers Colleges of Texas, is as follows:

June 12, 1946

Board of Regents

Secty H. A. Turner

Dr. H. Lowman, Pres.
Sam Houston State Teachers College
Huntsville, Texas

Dear Dr. Lowman:

I hand you herewith two copies of the resolutions adopted by the board June 8, 1946 for negotiating a loan of not more than \$300,000.00 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to convert into living quarters the POW Camp, and the other to authorize you to seek a deficiency appropriation of \$50,000.

You left a number of these resolutions, but only two had the certificate for myself to execute.

If you want more copies kindly advise me, and they will be forthcoming. ¹

Cordially yours,

H. A. Turner, Secty

As soon as the college received the \$50,000 a contractor was hired so the building program could begin. Mr. Peter Wickland of Huntsville, Texas, was the contractor engaged. Contract to Mr. Wickland reads as follows:

Contract to Peter Wickland, Contractor, Huntsville, Texas; in the amount of \$20,000 including monthly compensations for superintendency and management at the rate of \$400.00 per month, and the fixed consideration fee of \$700.00. Mr. Wickland, the lowest bidder, is authorized to take every measure to forward the work through its completion in the most advantageous and expeditious manner. ²

However, before this contract became effective many of the faculty members moved to the Country Campus in August and early September, before the students arrived. Mr. Earl Moore, College Photographer, was the first to move in. He converted an army dispensary into a home as did John Bertrand, Dean of Men. Mr. Henry Maxwell, Store Manager, used the back of a ware house for his quarters. Mr. Elliott Bowers, Assistant to the Dean of Men, took the east front wing of the hospital which had formerly been the reception room, doctors' offices and laboratory for his apartment. Mr. Hart Gerry, a fireman for the POW Camp, stayed on in the same capacity and added some rooms to the fire station for his family. Dr. and Mrs. Lowman

1 Letter to Dr. Harmon Lowman, President, from Mr. H. A. Turner, Secretary to Board of Regents

2 Files in President Lowman's office

moved into the "Little Grey House" located at the entrance of the Country Campus which had formerly been Col. Fischer's house. Before school started Mr. W. T. Creager replaced Mr. John Bertrand as Dean of Men and moved across the street from Dr. Lowman. Dr. James G. Gee, Dean of the College, took one wing of the hospital which had been a dental unit and had it converted into a desirable home. All of this reconstruction was done at the occupants' expense. If a faculty member agreed to come to the Country Campus and convert a building into living quarters at his own expense he would be charged \$10.00 a month rent, which was to cover utilities, for as long as he wished to stay; but when he moved he could not charge the college or the next occupant for any improvements that had been made.

For the purpose of publicizing the fact that Sam Houston State Teachers College now owned a branch college and had furnished apartments available, a letter to prospective students was prepared. Summary of the letter sent by Sam Houston State Teachers College to prospective students is as follows:

The Country Campus was formerly a Prisoner of War Camp located on Highway 45, near the Trinity River, eight and one-half miles from Huntsville, Texas. The buildings of the prison camp are to be converted into apartments for married couples, and single students. Plans are to house 200 co-eds in the hospital wards, 200 single men in the army barracks and 800 married students in the apartments.

Six large buses have been obtained from the Federal Public Housing Authority to transport students to the main campus, but where there are as many as twenty students in the same class they will be taught on Sam Houston's Country Campus.

Ten buildings have been set aside for classrooms and administrative offices.

The courses offered will be the usual ones now given at the college. In addition to these the Country Campus will offer unusual advantages in the field of vocational agriculture and trades and industries. Branches of the Veterans School of Small Businesses will teach courses preparing veterans to engage in small businesses of their own. Some weeks ago General Bradley recommended that colleges and universities operate nearby army camps as branch colleges to relieve the congestion at the main campus. The army installation at Huntsville is the first one deeded to a college for that exclusive purpose. The Board of Regents plans to spend about \$350,000 in converting the camp into a branch college. While the final decision on rent cost cannot be made until after the conversion plans have been completed and contracts awarded, the college administration expects to be able to rent the apartments for \$32.00 a month or \$20.00 a month and an average of one hour of labor a day (20 hours a month) by each renter; for single veterans and young women the tentative cost is \$8.00 which includes all utilities and transportation.

Several married couples have moved to the Country Campus; the formal opening will not take place until September 16, 1946, the beginning of the 1946-47 school year. Over three hundred married veterans have made reservations with the business office for apartments and it is believed the Country Campus will be filled for the fall semester.

The Country Campus has many recreational facilities: an excellent gymnasium with a maximum basket ball floor; seats for one thousand spectators, and a large stage for entertainment or movies. There is a large enclosed recreational field of about ten acres, containing space for a football field, a baseball diamond, tennis courts, and the like. A creek fed by perpetual springs flows through the campus. This will be dammed for a lake. Barns and stables provide for forty saddle horses. A landing strip is being enclosed and hangers will be provided for faculty members and students who own their own airplanes and live at the Country Campus.

Sam Houston State Teachers College is a training institution primarily for teachers. Approximately one hundred different subjects are taught in the public

school system of Texas. A teacher-training institution should, if it does the thing for which it was established, prepare teachers for these various subjects.

In the Josey School for Vocational Education, the Sam Houston State Teachers College has the finest vocational shops in the entire country. Here the idea prevails that education is condensed experience, and men and women who teach at Huntsville combine practical experience with theory. In each case the instructors are individuals who came to Sam Houston with years of successful experience in their respective fields.

At the branch campus in addition to the usual liberal arts courses the following vocational subjects are to be offered: aeronautics, commercial art, business administration, laboratory technician's training, home economics, trades and industries, library science, music, coaching, photoengraving, heavy dirt moving, furniture making, sheet metal, and other courses will be added as there is a need for them. 3

After this letter had been distributed, hundreds of applications for apartments were received. The letter had the Country Campus pictured as a reality. To these veterans all over the United States it sounded like an ideal place. They came from everywhere expecting to find plush apartments with country club facilities for entertainment. Everything the letter said was on the "planning board", but it takes years to develop a golf course, swimming pool, stables, baseball diamond, air field and furnished apartments. It was a sad and disappointed group of veterans who came and found big black tar paper buildings without plumbing or partitions. The reconstruction of the camp didn't begin until fall because of the lack of money. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Fisher, mature students from Ohio, had a disappointment at their first sight of the Country Campus but started to work immediately on a big army barracks and converted it into an attractive and livable apartment.

Mr. Fisher who was an industrial arts major, put in plumbing and made a tile drain for a sink, put in a fireplace, painted and air-conditioned his apartment. He left everything as rustic as possible with beamed ceilings and dark panelled walls. A carport was built using cedar posts with the bark left on as supports. In his yard he built a fountain, strung colored lights and landscaped his premises.

Other young couples "let themselves go", so to speak, and tried colors and designs on their apartments that they never would have dared to do if it had been their own house; consequently, many of the apartments are unusual, interesting and delightful.

CONVERSION COSTS

The apartments rented for \$25.00, \$30.00 and \$32.00, a month depending upon the number of bedrooms. If a student wished he could pay \$20.00 a month and work an hour a day to pay the remainder. Rooms for single students were \$8.00 a month.

The first money appropriated for any reconstruction of the POW Camp was \$50,000 requested by the Board of Regents from the State Treasury. In October, 1946, Dr. Lowman secured a loan of \$200,000.00 from the Underwood Bonding Company for the purpose of converting buildings into apartments, and furnishings for the apartments. Next, the federal government gave \$350,000.00 to the college to be used to convert buildings into classrooms. In 1947 the State Legislature appropriated \$104,000.00 to be used for the

Country Campus. The total amount of appropriations is \$704,000.00, but only the \$200,000.00 loan is to be repaid. Every payment due to date has been made to the Bonding Company's account at the Commercial National Bank in Houston, Texas.

FORMAL OCCUPANCY

On September 16, 1946, Sam Houston State Teachers College began its fall semester with a new branch college at the Country Campus. Dr. and Mrs. Lowman moved out to the "Little Grey House" and also stayed in the dormitory at the Country Campus. Veterans with families came in all sorts of contraptions, anything with four wheels that would run. Most of them brought baby beds, ironing boards, chairs, mattresses, boxes of dishes and clothes.

After the first few days all reconditioned apartments were taken but students kept coming. Some grumbled and complained and left; others grumbled and complained and stayed. Most of the students were willing to do their part and make the best of the situation. In a few days the big mowers from the college were brought out and all the weeds cut. The barracks were sprayed with a D.D.T. solution which helped kill the mosquitoes. None of the barracks had any plumbing, so latrines for men and latrines for women were designated close to each living area. The water had not been used in several months so it had a bad taste and foul odor. Everyone was encouraged to use all the water he could, and the big lines were left open to flow. In a few days the water became clear and very good. Everyone was busy trying to finish his apartment,

4 Interview with Mr. D.C. Holleman, Business Manager of Sam Houston State Teachers College

and one could hear hammers ringing out until two A.M. and starting again by six A.M. Sometimes two couples stayed in one barracks with a clothes line stretched across the middle of the building hung with sheets to offer a little privacy.

Dr. Lowman made a short speech to the students who ate at the cafeteria welcoming them to the Country Campus and promising them that if they would stay he would soon have the money to begin real reconstruction. Dr. and Mrs. Lowman, Mrs. Bernice Newsome, Director of the Girls' Dormitory, Mrs. Ann Smith, Director of the Boy's Dormitory, and Mr. Elliott Bowers, Assistant to the Dean of Men, gave all the assistance possible. There were many things that had to be done, beds put up in dormitories, latrines cleaned, study tables and chairs arranged, students placed, bus schedules made and many questions to be answered.

EARLY ACTIVITIES

At night after the evening meal, with nothing to do, the freshmen boys would climb the watch towers and set off the escape sirens and spot lights. This made an eerie sound that could be heard for miles, and the spot lights flashed their penetrating beams into every corner of the camp. The terrifying noise would continue until Mr. Woods, the maintenance man, climbed the towers and disconnected the electrical power.

The first night the alarm was sounded Dr. Lowman was on the front porch of the dormitory and exclaimed, "My, what is that, what has happened?"

A freshman boy sitting on the steps said dryly, "Maybe, a

student escaped."

After this happened several times and the terrifying noise had caused babies to cry all night and some of the veterans who had been prisoners of war and were still very nervous decided to take steps of their own. They said that they would shoot any person they saw who set off the alarm again. The alarm was not set off, no shots were fired, because the camp electrician cut all wires leading to the towers.

The wives of the students formed a club called "Lakota Guild" or friendship club. They had meetings, covered dish suppers, water-mellon feasts, and dances, and it was an excellent way for the wives to get acquainted. Then the men formed some clubs. The camp being composed mostly of veterans caused them to form their own American Legion Organization.

A meeting of all the men students of Country Campus was held and a mayor and city council was formed. The campus was to be managed by the students in a democratic way. This proved very satisfactory.

In the fall of 1946 five wings of the hospital were used as a girls' dormitory. There was one huge room in each wing which had formerly been a ward in the hospital. This was where the girls slept. Some preferred private rooms and could have them if they wished, but these were small and rather hot. Approximately ten girls lived in each ward and slept on hospital beds. There was a plentiful supply of showers, commodes, lavatories, and a few bath tubs. Every wing had two forty-eight inch attic fans, steam heat, and an automatic sprinkler system in case of fire.

By January, 1947, the building program was in full swing. At first the single boys used the plain unaltered army barracks as their dormitory and slept on "G.I." beds. These buildings had no sanitary facilities and the boys had to use the latrine building which was convenient to their barrack. Now the barracks were being made into apartments and private rooms. Plumbing, closets, chests of drawers, and more chairs and study tables were installed. The barracks were covered with red, green, or grey composition siding and new fire resistant roofs put on. The windows which had been high were lowered and made wider. This made the buildings look better, heat and cool better and less of a fire hazard.

The boys and girls ate in the same cafeteria which was used by the army. The cafeteria equipment was in good condition. It consisted of a steam oven, steam vats, three gas stoves, a deep freeze, a walk-in cooler, a cold storage room, electric mixers, dish washer and sterilizer and all types of kitchen utensils and equipment. Mrs. Doc McCollough was the first dietitian at the cafeteria and her orders from Dr. Lowman were "to feed the students well and plenty of it." Dr. Lowman knew that college students liked to eat and the Country Campus became known for having the best dining hall at Sam Houston State Teachers College. The cafeteria is equipped to serve 250 at one time but usually there are not that many.

Mr. Emil Schmidt came to Huntsville in 1947 as director of all dining halls of Sam Houston State Teachers College. Mrs. McCullough was transferred to the campus dining hall and Mrs. Tom Wood took Mrs.

McCullough's place.

Mrs. Ann Smith was the first director of boys. She was there for two years and then Mr. Glyn Turner was put in charge.

In July, 1948, the girls moved to town because the new girls' dormitory, Buccanan Hall, was completed. Most of the boys then moved into what had been the girls' dormitory at the Country Campus. This dormitory had all been remodeled and each boy had a private room with a desk, chair, closet and bed. Louvers were put on all doors so they could be closed and still have air circulation. The name, Lowman Hall, was selected in honor of Dr. Lowman who had worked diligently to make the Country Campus a success.

SUMMARY

The chapter discusses the changes and growth of the Country Campus. The sum of seven hundred four thousand (\$704,000.00) dollars was spent for conversion. The formal occupancy was on September 16, 1946, with several hundred residents present. The average population is seven hundred fifty (750) with more students in the summer terms. Various activities, clubs, and form of government are discussed.

CHAPTER VI

CURRENT STATUS

Chapter VI is concerned with present day living and management of the Country Campus. The discussion is organized in five divisions as follows:

1. Personnel
2. Buildings and Grounds
3. Educational Program
4. Activities
5. Utility Purposes

This chapter discusses the current status, the present day affairs and activities engaged in by the residents of the Country Campus.

PERSONNEL

By 1948 the Country Campus was well established, approximately eight hundred people lived there, making it the second largest town in Walker County. Two hundred three (203) apartments for student families, thirty eight (38) staff and faculty apartments, thirty two (32) single men's apartments for a total of two hundred seventy three (273) apartments had been built. The dormitory has rooms furnished for one hundred forty (140) boys. Mr. Charles Lindsay, Assistant Dean of Men, is in charge of the Country Campus. He has six full time employees and thirty part time employees to assist him in the many phases of work needed to maintain successful operations.

Some of the employees at the Country Campus are Mrs. Tom Woods, Dietitian; Mr. Jack Bonds, Superintendent of the Disposal Plant; Mr. Tom Woods, Maintenance Man; Mr. G. J. Jernigan, Assistant Maintenance Man; Mr. Henry Maxwell, Store Manager; Mr. J. C. Capps and Mr. Henderson Pegoda, Firemen; Mr. John Snellgrove, Farm Manager and Mr. Glyn Turner, Director of Boys' Dormitory.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

The following is part of the inventory list of buildings and equipment at the Country Campus:

UNIT	VALUE
Country Campus Equipment	\$ 100,782.97
Country Campus Store	3,793.50
Country Campus Apartment Buildings	385,875.00
Country Campus Classroom Buildings	108,315.00
Country Campus Site	40,362.50
Country Campus Dormitory Area	110,640.00
Country Campus Non-converted Barracks	50,300.00

1 Interview with Mr. Charles Lindsay, Assistant Dean of Men, Sam Houston State Teachers College

UNIT	VALUE
Ware Houses and Barns	\$ 89,204.00
Meat Processing Plant	30,000.00
Photoengraving Building	28,755.68
Country Campus Utilities	213,785.61
Heavy Equipment	80,712.32
Swimming Pool	1,000.00
Dean's Residence	12,925.00

The Country Campus apartments are furnished with furniture made at the Country Campus furniture shop. This equipment consists of chairs, chests of drawers, dining tables, vanity dressers, and divans made by adding a back to a "G.I." bed. The Texas Prison System took surplus mattress covers from the camp and made mattresses for the divans. Coolerator ice boxes and small gas stoves are in each apartment. The furnishings are not elaborate, but are suited to the locale. Most of the students add lamps, easy chairs and pot plants to make their apartments more attractive and comfortable.

A list of buildings and grounds is as follows:

1. Student Union Building
2. Gymnasium
3. Fire Station
4. Furniture Shop
5. Metal Shop
6. Heavy Dirt Moving Building
7. Farm Shop
8. Barns
9. Post Office
10. Grocery Store
11. Laundry
12. Meat Packing Plant
13. Photoengraving
14. Church
15. Library
16. Nursery Building
17. Home Economic Buildings
18. Theater Building
19. Disposal Plant
20. Naval Reserve Radio Building
21. Clinic

2 Files from the office of Sam Houston State Teachers College Property Custodian

22. Physics, History, Art, and Biology Buildings
23. Apartments and Dormitory
24. Golf Club House and Course
25. Stables
26. Baseball Diamond
27. Lake
28. Chaney Creek and Picnic Grounds
29. Forests
30. Swimming Pool
31. Croquet, Tennis and Volleyball Courts
32. Reservoir
33. Pump Houses
34. Farm and Grazing Land ³

A description of various buildings and grounds of the Country Campus is as follows:

1. The Student Union Building is the information center for the Country Campus. A directory with a listing of all residents and their apartment numbers is to be found here. This building is air conditioned and used as a recreational center throughout the year. Dances, parties, suppers, and meetings are held here. Ping pong, pool and bridge tables are available. A piano, radio and phonograph are at the student's disposal. In the back part of the Student Union the college "Y" organization manages a snack shop. Mrs. Edward Rider is in charge here.

2. The gymnasium is a huge building with seating capacity for one thousand spectators. The college plays some of its basketball games here. In the spring the Country Campus plays host to visiting high school basketball teams and a tournament is held. There are usually enough beds to furnish sleeping facilities for all these boys but in 1950 several thousand boys came and pallets were laid on

³ Files in Mr. Charles Lindsay's office at the Student Union Building, Country Campus, Texas

the gymnasium floor. ⁴ Free square dance classes have been held at the gymnasium, also, coronations and dances are enjoyed.

3. The fire station has been in use since 1942, but only on three or four occasions has it been called to fight a fire. They have calls to remove cats from trees, children from locked bathrooms, and to locate residents who have no phone but have a long distance call. A pay phone is located in the fire station where local and long distance calls may be placed.

4. The furniture shop is managed by Mr. T. C. Cryer, where most of the work is done by Josey School Rehabilitation students. All of the furniture for the college Country Campus apartments was made here.

5. The sheet metal shop is located next to the furniture shop, most work being done by Josey School students. They learn to make cisterns, and gutters, and tin smithing.

6. In the heavy dirt moving building classes on how to operate bull dozers, side dozers, side by side dizers, drag lines and maintainers is taught. Most of the class work is done by the students on these different machines.

7. In the farm shop farm equipment is repaired.

8. Barns are located in different parts of the camp. Kinds of barns include one hay barn, four livestock barns, one horse barn, one shop barn, one hog barn and one sheep and goat barn. ⁵

9. A United States Post Office at Country Campus, Texas, was established September 1, 1948. Previous to this time all mail was

⁴ Interview with Mr. Ben Hightower, P.E. Director at Country Campus

⁵ Interview with Mr. John Snellgrove, Country Campus Farm Manager

received at the Country Campus Grocery Store. When the Post Office first opened it was classified as a fourth class office but because of the diligent work of its Post Mistress, Mrs. Mary D. Maxwell, it is now a third class office.

10. The Country Campus Grocery Store is in the building formerly used by the army as a commissary. This is a modern grocery, selling such merchandise as meats, fresh vegetables, canned goods, toilet articles, home permanents, and thread. The meat sold by the Country Campus Store is usually from the college farm, butchered by a college class, and stored in the college cold storage plant.

11. The laundry building has modern equipment and launders clothes cheaper than it can be done at home. They wash and rough dry but do not iron the clothes.

12. The meat packing plant was a cold storage plant when the army used it. The college added a kill floor, cooling room and butchering room. Much of the meat used in the college dining rooms is processed here.

13. The photoengraving building is the only one in the United States operated by a college. This plant was made by converting three large barracks into one building. Huge cameras with lens costing as much as \$5,000 each are housed here. The "dark rooms", or film developing rooms are all air conditioned. All plates of pictures seen in the college newspapers are completely processed by the photoengraving students.

14. The Country Campus church is non-denominational, has Sunday school classes at 9:00 A.M. and church at 10:00 A.M. The

minister has an early service at the Country Campus and then goes to another town. This church with a membership of two hundred was built and decorated by the Country Campus residents with the help of the college. It was dedicated on October 31, 1948, and has grown in members each year.⁶ In the summer a two weeks bible school is held for the children. Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon Fisher donated the church bell which calls the people to worship on Sunday mornings.

15. The Country Campus Library was opened at the beginning of the spring semester of 1948. Mrs. Arthur Curry, a trained librarian, is in charge of the 7,100 volumes. All residents of the Country Campus may check out children's books, technical, historical or fictional books. Magazines and other literature are also available.

16. The nursery is under the direction of Mrs. Oda B. White and is a cooperative program. A mother may leave her children from 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. every afternoon except Saturday and Sunday free, but in return gives one afternoon of her time to help in the nursery. The nursery building is made from a converted barracks. Baby beds have been made from "G.I." beds; small chairs, tables and toys are available. There is a large enclosed yard with a sand pile, swings, and see-saws.

17. The home economics building is in two sections, one for foods and one for clothing. Electric and gas stoves and refrigerators are used and electric and pedal sewing machines. Mrs. Oda B. White is the instructor.

18. The theater building was built for the purpose of showing

⁶ Interview with Mr. Sheldon Fisher who is on the Board of Stewards for the Country Campus church.

movies twice a week. The seating capacity was about one hundred. The building has not been used as such in several years because most residents had rather spend a little more money and go to an air-conditioned theater in town.

19. The disposal plant is one of the best sanitary facilities of the camp. All sewage is processed to kill all harmful bacteria.

20. The Naval Reserve radio building was a barracks converted to resemble the inside of a radio room of a naval vessel. Mr. George Conrey was the first commanding officer of the Naval Reserve Training Unit. In 1949 Mr. Melvin Burks was commanding officer. A two weeks "cruise" was held in the summer of 1949 and they never left the Country Campus.

21. The clinic is open two afternoons a week in the old hospital building which is now Lowman Hall. Dr. M. E. Curtis is on duty. If a student is seriously ill he goes to the College Hospital for treatment.

22. There are some converted barracks made into classrooms where history, biology, physics, art and government are taught.

23. Apartments and the dormitory now house 833 residents, or approximately 400 students, 200 wives and 233 children.

24. The golf club house is located on the golf course and Mr. D. H. Fischer, Golf Course Manager, keeps miscellaneous golf equipment, soft drinks, cigarettes, candy, and golf balls to sell. The golf club house with its long covered porch facing the golf course has seats for spectators and in the afternoon is always delightfully cool.

25. In the stables are twelve horses but only ten which may be ridden. The college physical education department teaches a class in

horseback riding and the horses may be rented by other students for twenty-five cents an hour.

26. The baseball diamond is a large well-lighted field with seats to accomodate several hundred spectators. This field is used by children, college baseball teams, and a woman's team composed of girl students and students' wives.

27. The Country Campus lake was built by the heavy dirt moving class of the Josey Vocational school, and was completed in the spring of 1950. This lake contains 9.5 acres, has a dam, spillway and drain. To get the proper drainage on the land to cause the lake to be filled with water the college had to buy fifty five acres more land. This land is used for grazing and barns and two stock tanks have been built on it. The lake is to be stocked with fish in the fall of 1950 and by spring boating, swimming and fishing may be enjoyed.

28. Chaney Creek runs through the back part of the Country Campus making a delightful place for children to wade, swim, or to picnic. Some portions of the creek contain fish. Close to the front entrance of the Country Campus the college has picnic tables and benches placed under shade trees.

29. Surrounding the Country Campus are sycamore, oak, pecan, cottonwood, willow and pine trees. In these forests as late as 1947 some boys were hunting and saw eleven deer around one watering hole. During the fall and winter months the college boys enjoy hunting squirrels, rabbits, deer, ducks, quail, and doves.

30. The Country Campus swimming pool was built by the heavy dirt moving class in the summer of 1949. It is divided into a shallow pool for children and a deeper pool for good swimmers. There is no

admission fee to the pool, therefore it is extensively used. Because the pool is lighted many go swimming at night. The pool is located behind the fire station and the firemen change the water once a week.

31. Croquet and volley ball courts are set up each summer. Two tennis courts with clay tops are being constructed now.

32. To the west of the fire station is the resevoir where the water is stored. In 1948 a new tin roof was put on.

33. There are four pump houses but only two are needed to furnish an abundant water supply.

34. The Country Campus agriculture program has one hundred sixty eight (168) acres under cultivation. Most of the land is planted in lespedeza, sorghum and corn. Mr. Snellgrove, Farm Manager, has twelve (12) goats, fifteen (15) sheep, one hundred fifty (150) cows, thirty (30) pigs, one thousand (1000) chickens, twelve (12) horses, and eight (8) bee hives. One Hereford bull owned by the college is valued at three thousand (\$3,000) dollars. There is enough feed grown at the Country Campus this year to feed the farm animals all winter. The cattle grown at the Country Campus are sold or butchered by the college for use in the college dining rooms.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The following subjects are listed by the Sam Houston State Teachers College Catalogue as being taught at the Country Campus:

Spring	1947	Instructor
369 - Art - Art in Advertising and Illustrations		Pledger
469 - Art - Art in Advertising and Industry		Pledger
Summer	1947	

None listed

Fall - 1948 and Spring - 1949		Instructor
Art		
268 (sp.)	Drawing and Painting	Pledger
271 (sp.)	Sculpture and Ceramics	Pledger
Biology		
162 - 161	General Biology	
English		
161 - 162	English Composition	Turner
261 - 262	Survey of English Lit.	Turner
Government		
261 - 262	American Government	McLeod
History		
163 - 164	History of United States	McLeod
Journalism		
471	Photoengraving	Wolfe
Agriculture		
376	Cutting and Curing of Meat	Maxwell

Summer - 1949

Chemistry		
162	General Organic Chemistry	Perry
Government		
261	American Government	Gates
262	American Government	
163	History of United States	
164	History of United States	
Journalism		
461	Small Daily and Weekly Newspapers	Cunningham
471	Photoengraving and Graphic Arts	Wolfe Roebuck
Vocational Agriculture		
279	Poultry Production	Vick
375	Care and Management of Livestock	Burks
568	Farm Meats	Epps
369	Economic Entomology	Shackelford
376	Cutting and Curing of Meats	Maxwell
379	Farm Accounting	Spivey
485	Livestock Production	Burks

1949 - 1950

Art		
360	Introduction to Advanced Art	Geeslin
368	Art Production	Geeslin
369	Art in Advertising and Illustration	Reat Geeslin Geeslin
468	Advanced Workshop	

469	Advanced Art in Advertising	Geeslin
Government		
261 - 262	American Government	Rider
History		
163 - 164	History of United States	Rider
Journalism		
461 - 461	The Small Newspaper	Roebuck
Physical Education for Men		
111 - 112	Physical Education	Hightower
211 - 212	Physical Education	Hightower
Vocational Agriculture		
211 - 211	Milk Production	Burks
212 - 212	Beef Production	Burks
213 - 213	Pork Production	Burks
214 - 214	Poultry Production	Burks
215	Bee Production	Burks
216	Gardening	Burks
279	Poultry Production	Vick
372	Breeds of Farm Animals	Burks
376 - 376	Cutting and Curing of Meats	Maxwell
379	Farm Accounting	Spivey
461	Agriculture Economics	Letts
469	Livestock Judging	Burks
471 - 471	Vocational Agriculture Course of Study	Robinson

Summer - 1950

Art		
360	Introduction to Advertising Art	
368	Art Production	
369	Art in Advertising and Illustration	
Chemistry		
161	Introduction to Chemistry	Perry
162	General Inorganic Chemistry	Perry
Government		
261	American Government	Rider
262	American Government	Rider
History		
163	History of United States	Rider
164	History of United States	Rider
Journalism		
266	Typography, Make-up	Cunningham
377	Advanced Make-up	Cunningham
Physical Education for Men		
212	Physical Education (Golf)	Hightower
112	Physical Education (Golf)	Hightower
216	Equitation	Wilson

Other educational courses that were taught were some non-credit courses in home economics taught by Mrs. Oda White. The following

6 Sam Houston State Teachers College Catalogues, 1947-1948, 1948-1949, 1949-1950

courses were taught to veterans' wives without cost to them: Courses in low cost meal planning and serving, clothing remodeling, canning, ceramics, upholstering, weaving, and metal craft. Mrs. White's aim was to teach her students to do the best they could with what they had. Many who had never sewed learned to make their own clothes. They especially enjoyed their foods classes and learned how to prepare a well balanced meal on a small budget.

The Josey Vocational School of Photoengraving was started in September, 1947, under the direction of Mr. Jim Roebuck. The course in photoengraving began under the administration of the academic department of journalism and will continue under this department. Officially, the course of study in photoengraving is thought of as the vocational division of the academic department of journalism. Since its inception in September, 1947, photoengraving has been associated with art as well as the academic department of journalism.

There are twenty students taking the course of photoengraving. Some students only stay a few months and the desire to go to work for a good salary which they can demand causes them to quit. Most of the students stay eighteen months. The beginning salary is from \$50.00 to \$65.00 a week. Some of the students have advanced to \$112.00 a week.

The Country Campus Journal, a weekly newspaper about the Country Campus and its residents was to serve as a laboratory medium for the sixty four journalism majors who were enrolled in the department during the year 1946-1947.

Students who have trained here are now in business in New York,

Tennessee, Illinois, California, New Jersey, Missouri, and other states.⁷

The furniture shop is managed by Mr. T. C. Cryer. The boys taking this course are rehabilitation students whose tuition is paid for by the State of Texas. All the boys are handicapped in some way, crippled, hare-lipped, feeble minded or polio victims. They learn every phase of reupholstering furniture. Fifty boys in the Josey Vocational School are taking upholstery. When they finish the twelve months course the government gives them a complete set of tools valued at one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00). With these tools and their training they are able to make their own living. Veterans may take this course in upholstery and furniture making which is set up as a one year course or a two year course. The furniture shop has made two thousand six hundred (2,600) straight chairs, one thousand (1000) chests of drawers, hundreds of dining tables and vanity tables.

Most of the lumber used at first came from Mississippi, now most of it comes from East Texas. Gum and oak are used for all of the furniture.⁸

ACTIVITIES

The residents of the Country Campus engage in the following activities: golfing, swimming, baseball, basketball, raising a garden, raising cows, chickens, pigs or other farm animals, ball-room dancing, square dancing, using the library, attending adult

8 Interview with Mr. T. C. Cryer, specialist in the Josey Vocation School of Furniture Making.

home economic classes, attending college credit classes, picnicking, fishing, horse-back riding, attending club meetings, helping at the nursery, keeping their apartments, visiting with neighbors and enjoying the Student Union facilities.

UTILITY PURPOSES

The Country Campus houses more than eight hundred persons, has ten educational buildings and farming and grazing land.

Every summer a few days after summer school at the college is over the Methodist church holds a "School of Missions" for five days. There are from three to five hundred men, women and children present for the school. They stay in apartments or in the boys' dormitory and eat their meals in the Country Campus Cafeteria. The recreational facilities of the Country Campus are at their disposal. Classes are held in the classroom buildings. The children are kept in the nursery and a registered nurse is on duty at all times.

The college plays host to visiting ball teams, visitors from Mexico and other countries, church organizations, conventions and rallies.

All state rehabilitation students who attend the Josey Vocational School are housed at the Country Campus.

SUMMARY

This chapter discusses the current status of the Country Campus. The personnel and their duties are discussed. Use made of the buildings and grounds is enumerated. The educational program is presented. The activities of the Country Campus residents are listed, and the utility purposes are summarized.

9 Interview with Mr. Glyn Turner, Director of Lowman Hall

CHAPTER VII

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Chapter VII is concerned with the future developments of the Country Campus. The discussion is organized in four divisions as follows:

1. Experimental Farm
2. Vocational School
3. Housing Unit
4. Other Uses

The ideas and opinions on the future development and utilization of the Country Campus presented in this chapter are not necessarily those proposed by college authorities.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM

The college now has one hundred sixty eight (168) acres under cultivation at the Country Campus. This is mostly in grain and feed for the cattle. If the Agriculture Department desired it could use this land as an experimental farm, for it offers sufficient variety of soils, topography and native plants to provide a laboratory unequaled by any other facility now used by the college. Many students go to Texas A. and M. College to study at their experimental farm who would come to Sam Houston State Teachers College if the course was offered.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

The Josey Vocational School teaches courses in furniture making, upholstering, sheet metal, photoengraving and heavy dirt moving at the Country Campus. All the Josey Vocational School could be moved to the Country Campus and additional subjects in garment making, toy making and cleaning and pressing could be offered.

HOUSING UNIT

As veterans and other students begin to find adequate housing more conveniently located to the main campus, many apartments at the Country Campus will become vacant. Also most veterans have used all of their educational privileges guaranteed by the "G.I. Education Bill" and enrollment will be less. The housing units at the Country Campus could provide adequate quarters for the Josey Vocational School's Rehabilitation Students. Because of the vastness of the Country Campus an R.O.T.C. or Armed Service Unit could be trained there.

OTHER USES

The college could sell the Country Campus to a private concern for salvage. They could sell it to the State of Texas to be used as a prison farm. There are two prison farms near Huntsville and the State Penitentiary is located in Huntsville, Texas. The state could buy the Country Campus and use it as an eleemosonary institution, as they did the Prisoner of War Camp in Mexia, Texas. Representative Tom Pickett is using his influence in Washington to locate an Atomic Bomb or Hydrogen Bomb Plant in East Texas. The Country Campus has abundant water supply, electricity, gas, housing units for workers, and is on a paved highway and near a railroad, far from a big city and a distance of nearly one hundred miles from the coast. The college could keep the Country Campus as a housing unit, classroom area, experimental farm and recreational area for the college. The Methodist Conference utilizes the Country Campus every summer for its "School of Missions", therefore, there is the possibility they would like to purchase the Country Campus for a church school, retreat area, conventions or rallies.

SUMMARY

The ideas listed in this chapter are those of the writer, but when the time to sell the Country Campus comes some of these ideas may be useful.

CHAPTER VIII

SUMMARY

This study has undertaken to examine all the available facts leading to the building of the Huntsville Alien Internment Camp and the transfer of this property to Sam Houston State Teachers College to be used for its Country Campus. The cost, size and purpose of the Alien Internment Camp were studied. From May 22, 1942, until June 20, 1946, when the Board of Regents of the State Teachers Colleges of Texas signed the Certificate of Title this enclosed property was a Prisoner of War Camp, but after that date it became the Country Campus of Sam Houston State Teachers College. This study has attempted to relate in a logical manner the various steps necessary in obtaining the Prison Camp for Sam Houston State Teachers College. This was the largest gift ever made to Sam Houston State Teachers College. The value of the Prison Camp was three million (\$3,000,000.00) dollars, but at the time Sam Houston State Teachers College acquired it the War Assets Corporation had it for sale for six hundred thousand (\$600,000.00) dollars. The administrators of Sam Houston State Teachers College presented facts to the War Assets Corporation that the National Benefits derived from the use of this camp for health and educational purposes by Sam Houston State Teachers College would greatly offset the selling of the camp to any private concern. After the transaction was made the college had to find ways and means of converting the army barracks into classrooms, apartments and dormitories. The sum of seven hundred four thousand (\$704,000.00) dollars has been spent on the ten classroom buildings and equipment, the 273

apartments and furnishings, and a one hundred-forty-bed dormitory and its furnishings, and on the land and other necessary buildings. Only the two hundred thousand (\$200,000.00) dollar loan is to be repaid. All other money came as gifts from the State and Federal Government.

A list of numerous buildings and their use is presented. The educational program at the Country Campus is of two types, the college credit courses, and the Josey Vocational course. Activities engaged in by the Country Campus and its residents are presented. The utility purposes of the Country Campus with the mention of the State Rehabilitation Students and their vocational training are discussed. Future developments of the Country Campus were suggested by the writer.

CONCLUSIONS

Following the war the enrollment of Sam Houston State Teachers College was greatly increased due to the rapid influx of veterans. The Country Campus has adequately served its purpose: to provide needed classrooms and housing facilities for the Sam Houston State Teachers College students. It is a success because it is still in operation. Sul Ross State Teachers College in Alpine, Texas, was given the use of the Marfa Air Base at Marfa, Texas, for the same purpose as the Country Campus. It has been discontinued. Southwest State Teachers College at San Marcos, Texas, was given the use of the San Marcos Air Base and it has been discontinued. Not only does the Country Campus aid the students of Sam Houston State Teachers College, but people from all over the state come to the

"Methodist School of Missions". During the terrible hurricane of 1949 refugees from many coastal towns were brought to the Country Campus and housed there until conditions permitted the people to return home.

Facts and details concerning the Country Campus have been presented and a chapter in the life of Sam Houston State Teachers College has been written.

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Snellgrove, John, Manager of College Farm, Country Campus, Texas

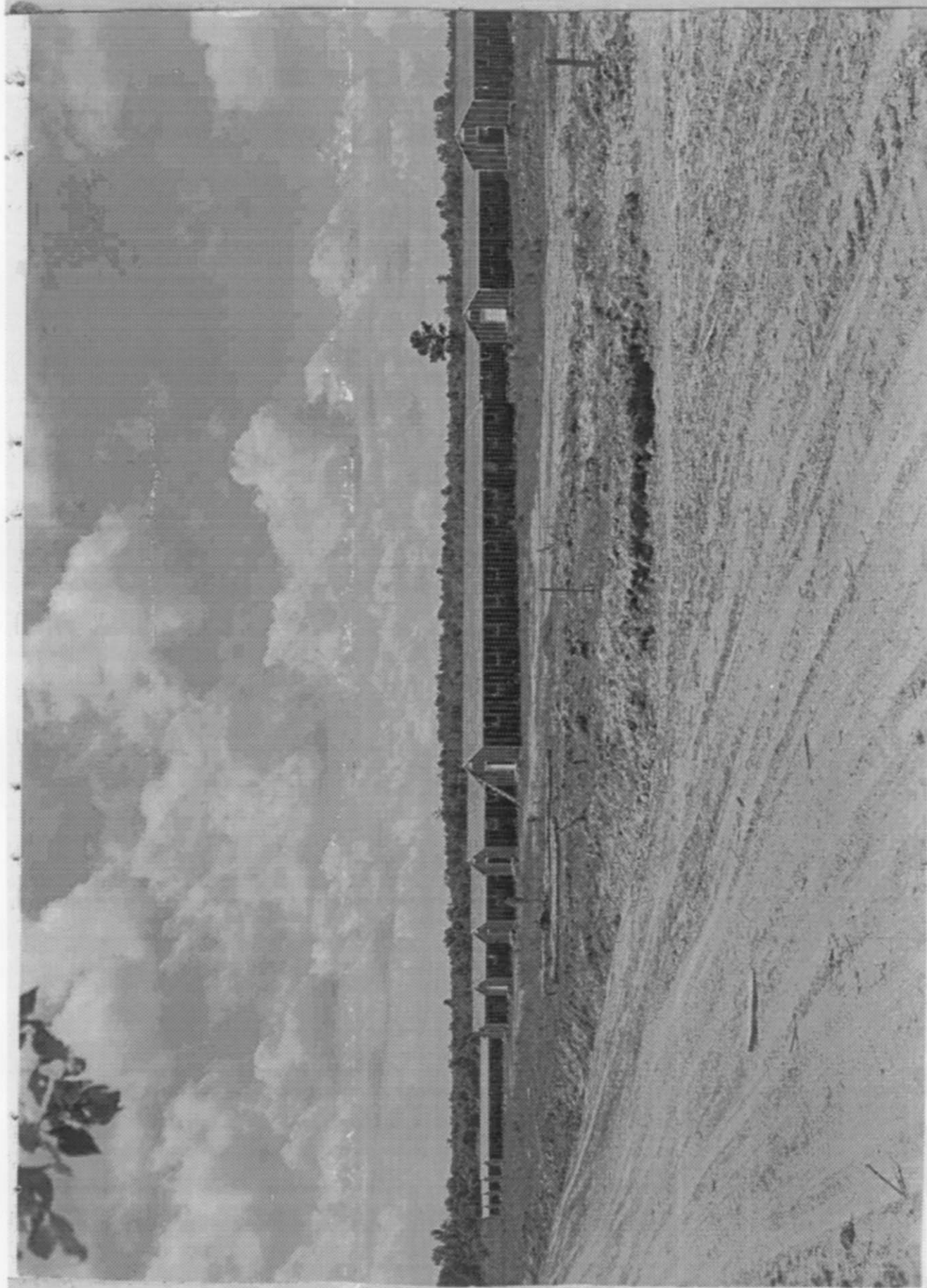
Turner, Glyn, Director of Boys' Dormitory, Country Campus, Texas

White, Mrs. Oda B., Supervisor of Home Economics, Country Campus, Texas

Williams, Arthur, Land owner, Walker County

Woods, Mrs. Tom, Director of the Country Campus Cafeteria

Woods, Tom, Maintenance Supervisor, Country Campus, Texas



U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE

WAR DEPARTMENT

GALVESTON, TEXAS

HUNTSVILLE ALIEN ENEMY INTERNMENT CAMP - HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

Looking S.W. at Compound #1 from 5th St. & H.I. Road

July 9, 1942

Contract No. W-359-eng-4273

May 12, 1942 Photo No. 26

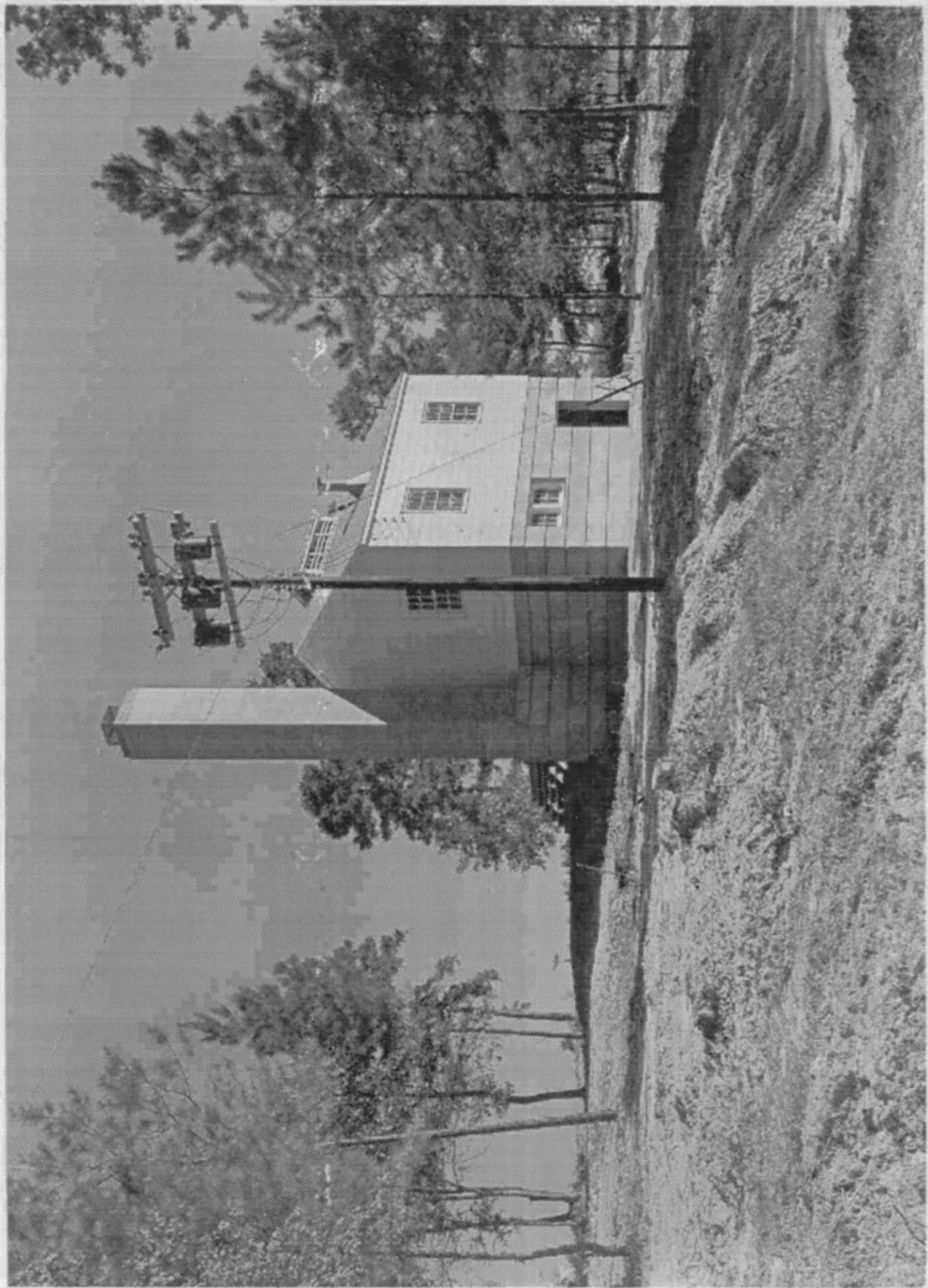
Fretz Construction Co.

COUNTRY CAMPUS ENTRANCES





LOMAS HALL



U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE

WAR DEPARTMENT

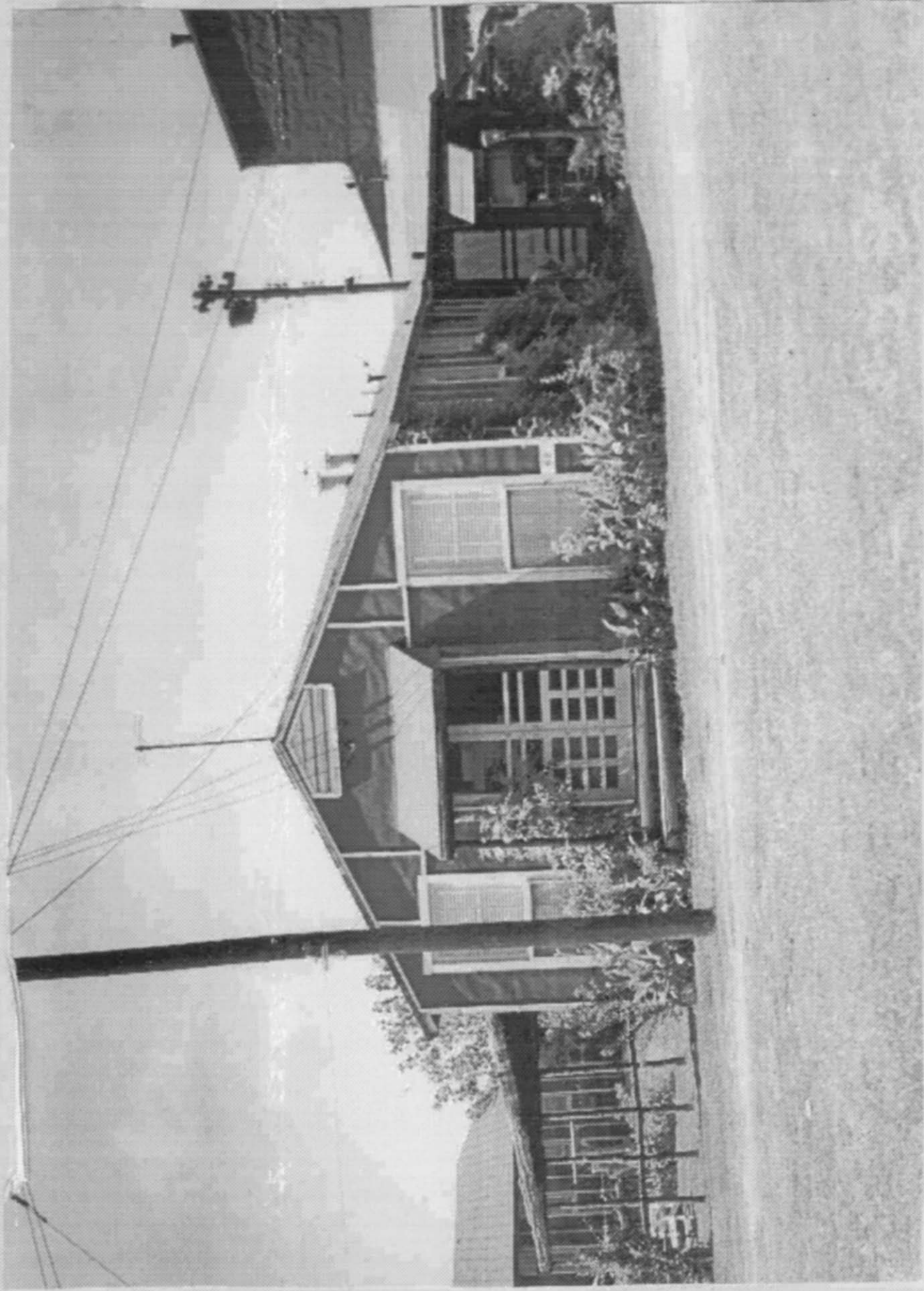
GALVESTON, TEXAS

ALIEN ENEMY INTERNMENT CAMP - HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

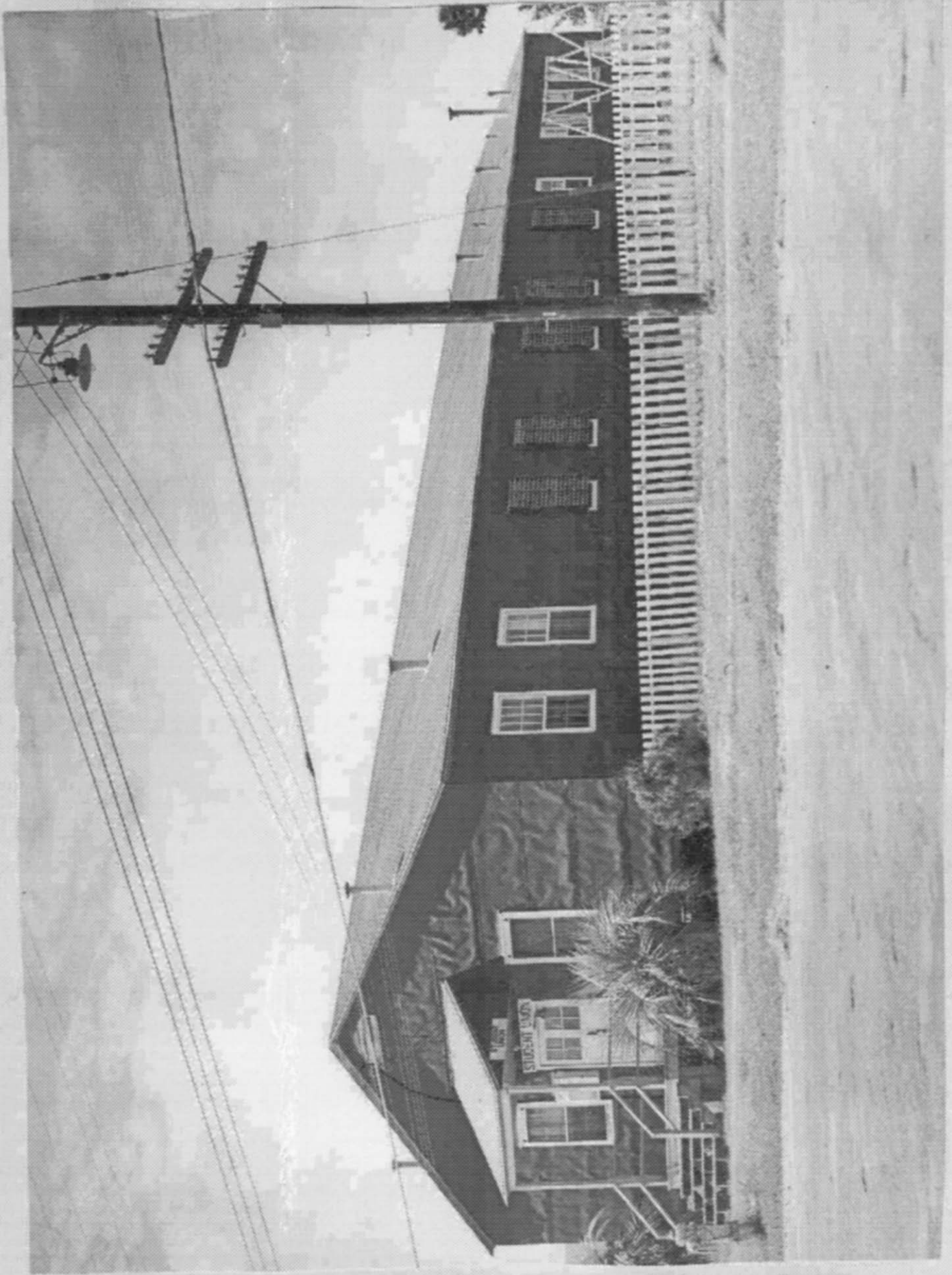
Incinerator - Looking Northeast
Fretz Construction Co.

Contract No. W-359-eng-4273
May 12, 1942
Photo No. 41

Oct. 6, 1942



STUDENT APARTMENT



STUDENT UNION BUILDING



U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE

WAR DEPARTMENT

GALVESTON, TEXAS

HUNTSVILLE ALIEN ENEMY INTERMENT CAMP - HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

Looking Across Central St. towards Officers Quarters

Fretz Construction Co.

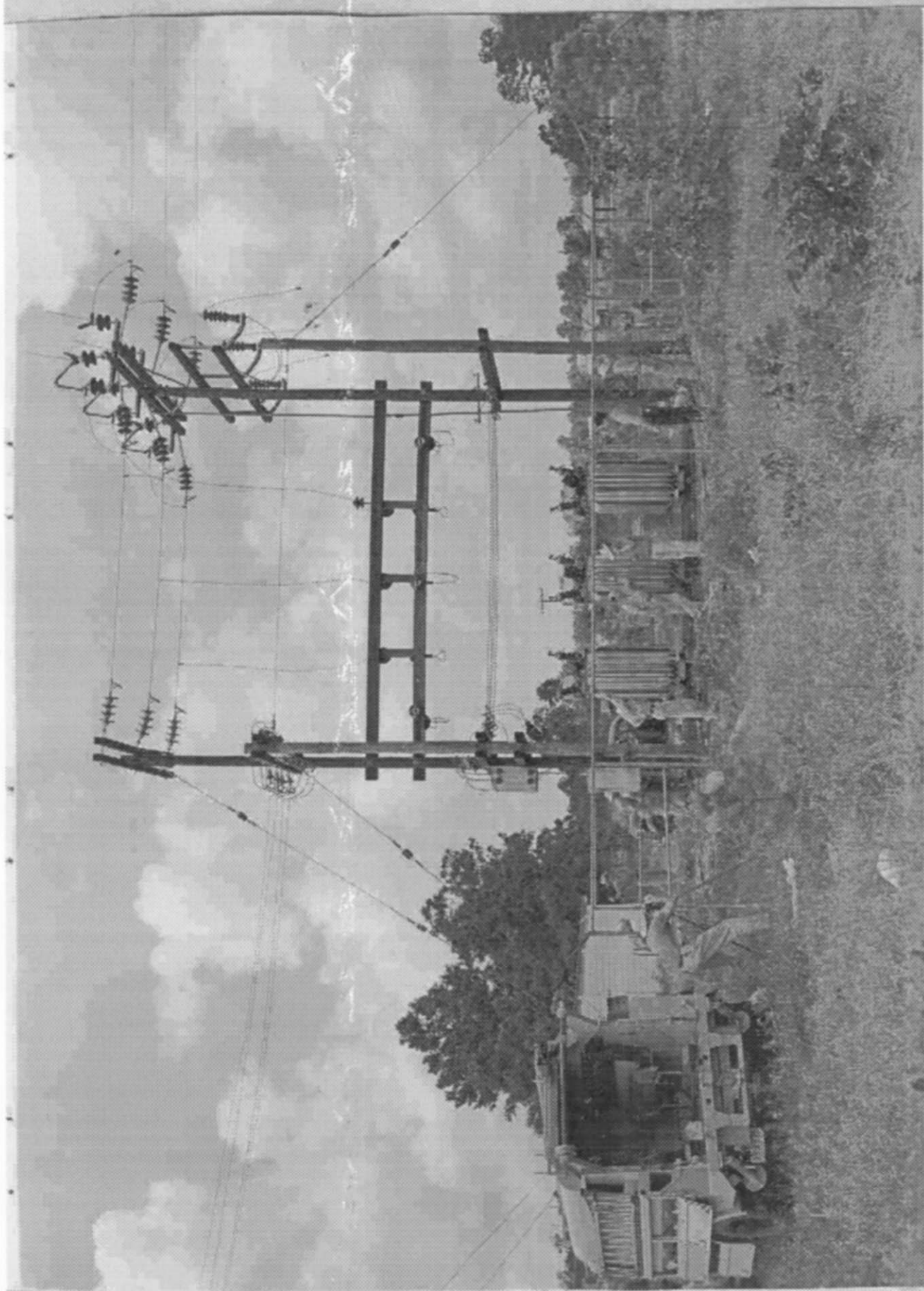
Contract No. W-359-eng-4273

July 9, 1942

May 12, 1942 Photo No. 13



GOLF COURSE



U. S. ENGINEER OFFICE

WAR DEPARTMENT

GALVESTON, TEXAS

ALIEN ENEMY INTERNMENT CAMP - HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS

Main Transformer Bank
Fretz Construction Co.

Aug. 19, 1942
May 12, 1942

Contract No. W-359-eng-4273

Photo No. 55



FACULTY APARTMENT