

JOHN COOK
MAYOR



JOYCE WILSON
CITY MANAGER

CITY COUNCIL
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1
SUSANNAH M. BYRD, DISTRICT 2
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3
CARL ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4
RACHEL QUINTANA, DISTRICT 5
EDDIE HOLGUIN JR., DISTRICT 6
STEVE ORTEGA, DISTRICT 7
BETO O'ROURKE, DISTRICT 8

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Susie Byrd, City Representative, District #2

DATE: July 26, 2010

RE: Item #13A – Discussion and Action on placing a Historic Overlay on Houston Elementary located at 2851 Grant Avenue.

Dear Mayor and Council:

On Tuesday, I am asking the City Council to authorize the City Manager to initiate the process to place an Historic Overlay on Houston Elementary. Houston Elementary belongs to the El Paso Independent School District. They recently made a decision to close the school and to try and sell it.

An Historic Overlay will require the owner to protect the historic character of the original contributing building and require that any new structures on the campus be built in keeping with the historic character of the building and the surrounding neighborhood. Additionally, an Historic Overlay requires that a building owner go through a public hearing if s/he chooses to demolish the building and to prove that there is no way to preserve the building prior to it being demolished. There are tax incentives available to property owners who want to renovate historic buildings.

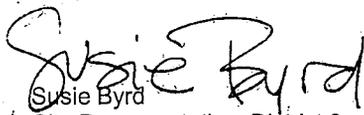
Houston Elementary sits at the base of Manhattan Heights Historic District. As you drive up Piedras into the District, you can see it perched above the skyline. It is a gorgeous building built and designed by Trost and a defining feature of the skyline of Manhattan Heights.

Tony de la Cruz in the Planning Department through a search of old newspaper articles found the following information about the school.

- El Paso Herald Post, March 1, 1921: Location for new high school and athletic field selected. Houston was supposed to be a high school originally but once it was constructed it was actually used as a junior high and was named Austin Junior High
- El Paso Herald Post, January 2, 1922: School board adopts building program for 3 new schools.
- El Paso Herald Post, January 8, 1922: Chain of branch libraries is planned for city schools. (It appears that the first location for a public library branch was at Houston.)
- El Paso Herald Post, January 21-22, 1922: Design of Austin Elementary school awarded to Trost and Trost. (The same firm that designed El Paso High School and a lot of other buildings in El Paso)
- El Paso Herald Post, January 27-28, 1923: El Paso's four newest schools unveiled. (Houston was completed at some time in 1922 along with Bowie High School)
- El Paso Herald Post, October 27-28, 1923: Open air school may be arranged for delicate ones. (Interesting article, the roof was supposedly going to be used to teach and treat kids with tuberculosis).

Thank you for considering this request. I have advised Superintendent Garcia and Trustee Fred Borrego that I will be placing this item on the agenda for consideration. This will start the public process and give plenty of time for all affected parties to participate and weigh in on this.

Sincerely,


Susie Byrd
City Representative, District 2

El Paso in 1922, some of them not yet completely finished, others completed during the year. The picture at the top is the new home of A. H. Goldstein, on Stanton street on the top of the mesa; the picture at the bottom left is "the Electric Home Beautiful" completed Christmas by the electrical interests of the city; the center picture on the left is the new home of postmaster J. J. Ormsbee, in Manhattan Heights; the picture on the right in the center is the new Mecca apartments and the Patterson apartments adjoining; the center picture on the right is of the new Pershing apartments on Pershing drive, near Estrella street.

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El Paso Completes Fine Buildings For Schools But Needs Even More To House Constantly Growing Classes

All the New Schools Are Well
Lighted, Fireproof and
Up to Date.

BY A. H. HUGHEY.
BURLESON SCHOOL, east of Wash-
ington Park, represents the last
expenditure of the building fund
created by the bond issue of Decem-
ber, 1921. Burleson is a modern
school building of 17 rooms on a site
of modern size. By that we mean the
site, of over five acres, is large enough
to give playground, or outdoor facil-
ties, for the children using the build-
ing.

If the school population of this dis-
trict later requires an addition to the
building then the grounds should be
increased also by purchase of adjoin-
ing land.

"Modern School Building."
By a "modern school building" sev-
eral things are meant, as follows:
It is fireproof, being of concrete
construction with only floors, doors
and furniture of wood.

It has full window, or lighting and
ventilating, surface, and adequate
heating equipment.

It has corridors and stairways of
sufficient width and properly placed.

It has adequate provision for special
rooms; offices, storerooms, rest room,
nurses' room, library, study hall, etc.

It has the best modern plumbing,
toilet facilities, drinking fountain, etc.

It has under way a plan of improve-
ment of the grounds, in walks, beauti-
fically not part with grass and flowers,
and leveling of playground and instal-
lation of apparatus.

The \$500,000 school bond issue
of December, 1921, has constructed
the following:

- Austin Junior high school, 29 rooms.
- Bowie school, 18 rooms.
- Morehead addition, 12 rooms.
- Crockett addition, 8 rooms and auditorium.
- Burleson school, 17 rooms.

The above is a total of 84 rooms, but
the net increase is 80 rooms, as some
old rooms where an addition was made
were changed into toilets. Also Lin-
coln park, a county school of 13
rooms, was added to the city with its
school population.

The number of class rooms in all
school buildings of the city last year
was 323. The number now is 416, an
increase of 29 per cent in school room
capacity in one year. Commendable
as this is we had a 14 per cent in-
crease in enrolment in September and
about 130 half-time classes last year
to care for with new rooms.

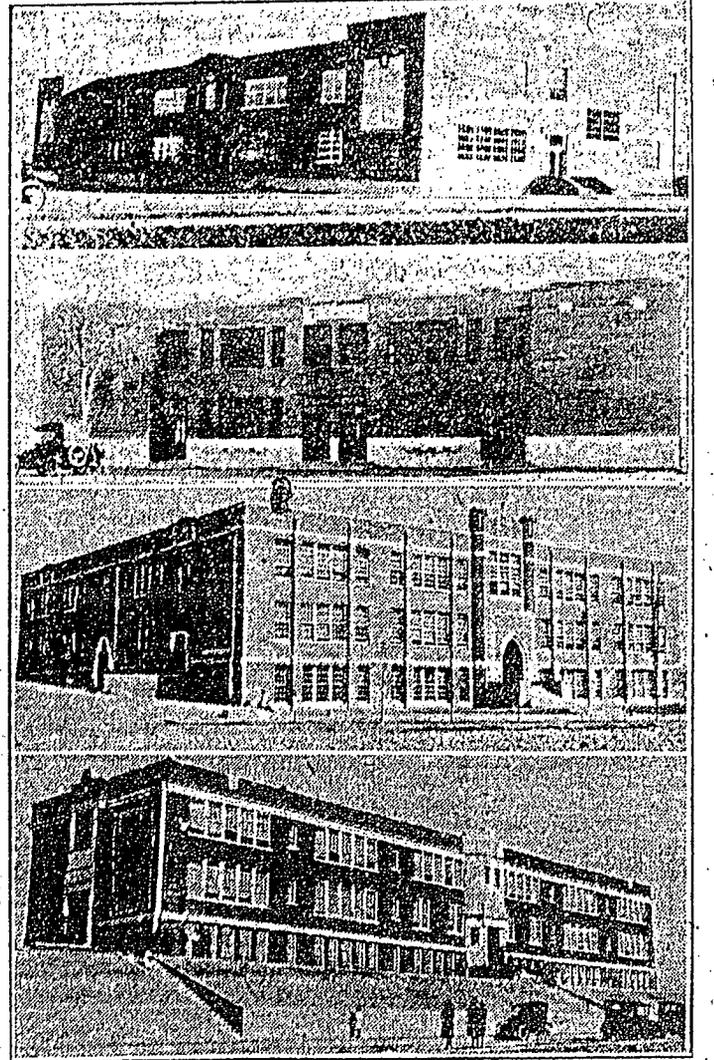
Classes on Half Time.
The final result of our school room
problem is about 75 classes on half
which will be increased by 10 if the
time for the spring term of 1923,
five adobe rooms at Beall school are
torn down as ordered.

The half-time classes are chiefly at
Alla Vista (14), Aoy (36), and Beall
school (18).

It will be remembered that a bond
issue of \$840,000 was asked for by the
school board in the fall of 1921.

This was cut to \$500,000, which
has now been spent. In fact the
obligations in the form of deferred
payments on building sites, etc.,
are much more than could be met
out of the \$500,000. There is a
total of about \$90,000 that should
be met within the next two years
from a building fund, and we
should not be forced to meet it

El Paso's Four Newest Schools



Photos by G. A. Martin.

ABOVE are four of the newest public schools erected in El Paso, all of them
completed during the past year, one of them (Burleson) dedicated only
this month.

The school at the top is Burleson, in Orchard Park; the second from the
top is Bowie School, at Seventh street and Cotton avenue; second from the
bottom is Crockett school, in Manhattan Heights, to which an addition has
just been built; the bottom is Austin Junior High school on Grant avenue.
Crockett school was completed in 1921 and the addition in 1922.

from the maintenance fund (de-
rived from current taxation). This
is one item in a new school bond
issue.

Another factor arises from the fol-
lowing:

The \$840,000 originally proposed
contemplated a cheaper, non-fireproof
building for the new schools below the
tracks.

This plan was changed in using the
\$500,000 issue to constructing the best
type of buildings for these schools,
though it meant fewer rooms to the
building.

Building Needs.

Consequently, our building needs
now are:

30 rooms.

To relieve Alla Vista, a building of
about 20 to 25 rooms.

To relieve all schools, especially
Mexican, a trade school for certain
older children which would cost \$250,-
000 if it serves the purpose which have
already been explained. San Jacinto
could then revert to a regular grade
school as it should be.

To relieve Morehead and north
side schools, a Kern place school
of 10 to 20 rooms. (Whether to
keep Morehead with its small
school ground a junior high or to
build a new north side junior high
is a problem depending on funds.)
To provide for growth in the

Among those buildings
during the year are: Dr. J. J.
Stanton and Blacker streets,
W. H. Peterson, Wheeling
streets, \$15,000; W. H. Peterson,
and San Marcel streets,
H. P. Jackson, Cincinnati street
Kern boulevard; Mr. Flora L.
Copper and Rayner streets,
Orndorff Construction company
ence and Cincinnati streets,
R. A. Whitlock, Aurora and
streets, \$85,000; C. G. Henderso
erview and Courchesne streets,
Judge M. Nagle, Hawthorne
\$7,000; J. E. Naff, Wheeling
Marcel streets, \$8,400.

Apartment houses of high
new design were built during
Some of the larger ones:
F. O. Hughes's three story apa-
ment house at Gold and Piedras
costing \$50,000; W. L. Binney,
and Rio Grande streets, \$41,000
Rigney, Mesa avenue and
street, \$40,000; Lee Glasscock
anna and Maple streets, \$36,000
Minnie S. George, Rio Grande
Newman streets, \$35,000; C. L.
strom, Oregon and Rio Grande
\$35,000; Mrs. Ella Ambrose,
and Stanton streets, \$30,000
Margaret Clark, Schultz and
streets, \$30,000; Mrs. Mary
Pershing drive and Estrella
\$30,000.

Apartment Houses.
Other attractive apartmen-
include: Dr. R. N. Rath, B.
Ochoa streets, \$24,500; John
314 Upton avenue, \$20,000;
vadale," El Paso and Nevada
\$19,950; Lee H. Orndorff, New
Kansas streets, \$15,000; Mrs.
Waller, Los Angeles and
streets, \$14,000; T. H. Spring
Vrain and Wyoming streets,
F. T. Shipp, Arizona and
streets, \$12,000; Morrison ap-
tment, Oregon and High streets;
Mrs. R. G. Jones, Wyoming and
man streets, \$10,000; Elton B.
Randolph street and Yandell
vard, \$10,000; A. H. Goldstein
sas and Blacker streets, \$18,000
Sorenson, 718 River and 701
nia, two, costing \$7,000 each
Bischoff, Missouri and Noble
\$10,000.

M. J. Hall built a \$15,000
and apartment at Maple street

COMPANY WORTH OF HAS STRON

THE Mortgage Investment Co.
built and sold \$1,000,000 in
homes, apartments, commercial
industrial buildings in this
year. A junior high school
in Albuquerque, N. M., for
which brought the building
to a total of \$1,099,050.

The company also built
board of directors of the
Insane asylum, at Las
dition to its property, and

Several large jobs have
started this year. But
will be started within 60
ing to Joseph G. Klapper, vice-
dent of the Orndorff Const-
company, affiliated with the M-
Investment company.

Five New Apartments.
This will be a five-story, 11
apartment house at Arizona
gon streets, to cost \$145,000
be of 50 apartments, three
rooms each, modern in every
This is in line with last year's
most of which was bungalow
apartments.

There will be in this apart-
house a central refrigerating
supplying all apartments; the
type of heating plant; high
Otis elevator; ball room, roof
on; laundry room on roof; lar-
ge, elegantly appointed, and
with fountains and garden
building will compare favorably
the finest type of apartment
Angeles or in the east.

"El Paso with its ideal climate,
Mr. Klapper," and the advertise-
gram planned by the chamber of
commerce and other organizations
for a year or two being now

To relieve Aoy, a building of 25 to

continued on page 4, col. 1, this see-

Was 29 Years
ago, a Conservative



an entirely new picture of
el Gompers, president of the
Federation of Labor,
picture is furnished The
y L. M. Lawson, of the United
clamation service. It was
l in Harper's Weekly of
1894, along with a sketch of
ing American labor leader"
ime—29 years ago.

article sets forth some facts
g the attitude of Mr. Gompers
controversies, which show
was then, as now, a conserva-
and an unbeliever in force
peaceful methods could be un-

he sketch:
merican Federation of Labor,
r Samuel Gompers is presi-
an affiliated membership of
and his attitude is therefore
great importance in any great
in which labor shall be on

and his associates fondly
nued on page 2, column 5.)

imens Read

Both Cook and Cox, in their
trial for using the mails to de-
fraud, smiled grimly as some of
the letters written by the latter
and which flooded the country
were read in court.
Stock sales as a result of the allur-
ing missives mounted high and fast,
additional testimony disclosed.

End Not In Sight.
Federal prosecutors could not give
any information as to when the trial
would end.

Open Air School May Be Arranged For Delicate Ones

The roof of Austin junior high
school is being considered as the
site of an open air school for deli-
cate children, according to J. B.
Rawlings, of the tuberculosis com-
mittee of the Associated Charities.
"For nearly a year we have been
trying to find a suitable place where
children who are predisposed to dis-
ease may be placed in a special
school," Mr. Rawlings said. "The
school board and the city have agreed
to cooperate with the tuberculosis
committee. There has been some talk
of using Fannin school, but that would
probably not be suitable.

Wear Heavy Clothing.
"By using the roof of Austin school,
the children could get all of the fresh
air they needed. The plan is to dress
the children in heavy cloaks and caps,
provide cots on which they may rest
during the day and give them nourish-
ing midmorning and midafternoon
lunches."

The Salvation Army is coming to the
assistance of the undernourished chil-
dren in the city by providing milk for
those 10 percent or more underweight.
Many of the children who are drinking
the milk would be candidates for the
open air school, where rest and fresh
air would also be given to help build
them up.

The Herald will receive subscriptions
to the Salvation Army fund for build-
ing up the bodies of little children.

Scaffold In Texas Jail Is Made Into Sleeping Porch

Austin, Texas, Oct. 27 (By The As-
sociated Press).—Shades of Webster
men who have spent their last few
moments at the end of a dangling
rope fill across the dreams of those

Executive Board

OKLAHOMA CITY, Oct. 26.—
peached and suspended
the state senate, sitting as a
He will be tried by the
composed principally of mem-
is completely dominated by
death struggle several weeks
Official announcement that
of Walton for his "delin-
crimes and misdemeanors"
gin at 10 a. m. next. The
made Friday night.

28 Votes Necessary
Twenty-eight of the 47
the senate must turn
on Walton before he can
be thrown out of office.
find him guilty, however
of the 21 charges brought
by the committee from
house.

The representatives find
peachment of Walton
found him guilty on the
charges, that of "general
fidelity," by a vote of 79 to

The senate, after re-
port of the final vote,
ately ordered the senate
issue a subpoena calling
before it to stand trial.
Speaker McFie of the
appointed a committee
antislavery legislation. It
of A. E. Berry, V. L. Head
S. Vernon.

All Three Klansmen
A. C. Barger jumped
shouted that all three
the committee were
the Klan and challenged
it.

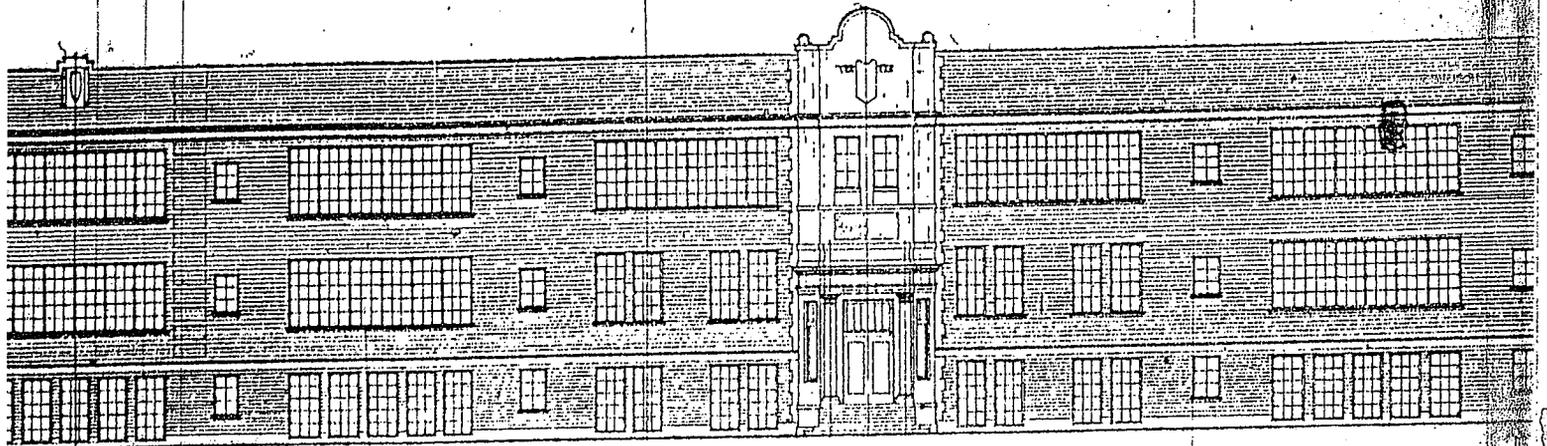
Nobody even thought
dispute Barger's jump
him and went on
business.

Walton Seeks On Pardons Grant

AUSTIN, TEXAS, Oct. 27 (By The As-
sociated Press).—The executive
board of the state senate
has granted a reprieve to
Walton for 30 days, during
which he may apply for
pardon.

EL PASO HERALD

PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL AT FIVE POINTS



KE PROTEST FIVE POINTS SCHOOL HOUSE

Board President Expresses Necessity Of Work Authorized.

Protest against the erection of public school at Five Points, located on Grant avenue adjoining Highland Park school, has been made by women of Manhattan.

The principal reason has been why a new school should be built about three blocks from the Highland Park school, and the very money needed for its erection diverted from the more important legitimate purpose of the present greatly overcrowded Manhattan school," says the

money in hand for the completion of the original Manhattan school and the erection of a new school so near by, we would like to say, but with the money available for school extension, a new bond issue so reduced, badly needed new class room for Manhattan school cannot be added to the school board. We will see how a new school building, not directly tributary to Manhattan can relieve the

ELEVATION of new public school to be erected on land owned by the city near Five Points, on Grant avenue. The plans were drawn by Trost & Trost and work on the building will be started as soon as the money is available, which should be in a short time.

Letters To High School Seniors Why Go To College? The Answer

By H. L. KENT, President New Mexico A. & M. College.

needs of the city that the school at Five Points will be of far greater relief to the children of that district at this time than any other one thing.

"The school at Five Points will consist of 24 rooms and an auditorium, the auditorium being built at this time to prevent the same thing happening there that has happened at the Manhattan school.

"This school will relieve the Manhattan school to a very great extent, as the boundaries of the new school will extend north and east from the E. P. & S. W. tracks. This school will also relieve the Lamar, Highland Park, and Alta Vista schools.

"In regard to the building of auditoriums in the schools to be erected in the south and southeast sections of the city, I am sure it is the only correct policy for the school board to pursue as these auditoriums are the only available places for community meetings of the patrons of the schools in these sections.

"As to the auditorium in the Douglas school, the sum of \$5,000 was set aside in the bond issue for the completion of the same, which was not heretofore completed on account of lack of funds.

GO TO college because the world needs trained men and women, and it will pay you more as a trained man or woman than as an untrained individual.

Brains are cheap—and so is muscle—until they are trained. Both command a high price once they are trained. One man acquires skill and knowledge by years of hard work learning a trade. Another spends four to six years getting his training and acquiring skill at college. Both types of men are in demand. Usually the

college-trained out of life pay.

A college way of bread of money is organized.

You college has eyes for the world. Do you leader.

Go to bring men and

Go to college more to you

Go to college equipped to be ordered in the world

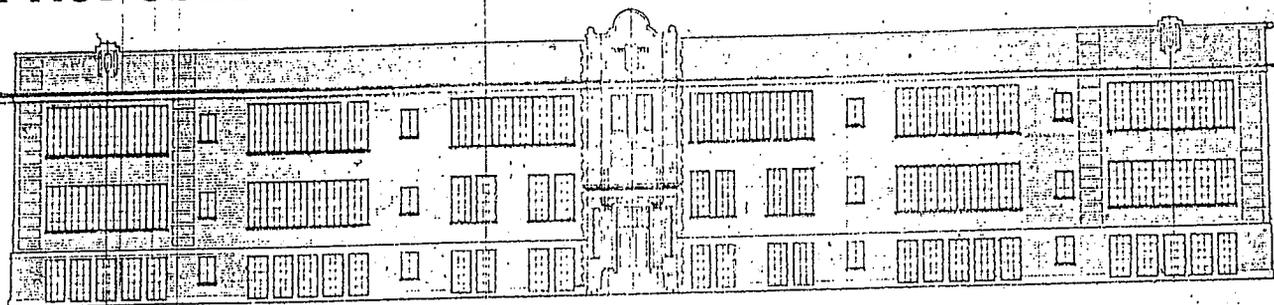
Go to college spend your

TODAY **CRAWFORD** THEATRE
2:30 and 8:15
And Sunday Night.

RALPH DENBARS' **ROBIN HOOD**
Affords

The Reduction

PROPOSED NEW PUBLIC SCHOOL AT FIVE POINTS



MAKE PROTEST AT FIVE POINTS SCHOOL HOUSE

School Board President Explains Necessity Of Work Authorized.

A protest against the erection of a new public school at Five Points, on the site on Grant Avenue adjoining the Highland Park school, has been made by women of Manhattan Heights.

"No logical reason has been advanced why a new school should be erected about three blocks from the Highland Park school, and the very large sum needed for its erection (\$175,000) diverted from the more urgent and legitimate purpose of completing the present greatly overcrowded Manhattan school," says the protest.

"With money in hand for the completion of the original Manhattan school plans and the erection of another school so near by, we would have nothing to say, but with the funds available for school extension under the new bond issue so reduced that the badly needed new class rooms at Manhattan school cannot (according to the school board) be added, we fail to see how a new school in a southern location directly adjacent to Manhattan can relieve the situation.

"Manhattan school is badly overcrowded. Its class rooms, designed to accommodate 35 pupils, average now from 45 to 65 children, and even the basement cooking and sewing rooms are utilized as class rooms. "The excellent body of this school is drawn largely from the newly developed home section immediately adjacent to, and particularly north of the school, therefore the location of a new school, several blocks south-east will not afford relief. Nor can any visits in this section be shifted to Alta Vista or Highland Park, for both of these schools are overcrowded.

"It has been stated that the Manhattan Parent-Teachers' Association was directing its efforts to secure an auditorium for Manhattan school. It is true we have urged that this important feature of the original plan be completed out of the funds allotted to schools, but this was secondary to the additional class rooms provided for in the plans long since approved. We were told, however, by the board of education that the board had no money for auditoriums, yet it appears that a part of the \$175,000 to be expended for the new Five Points school is to be devoted to an auditorium. And it further appears that auditoriums are to be included in the two new schools for the Mexican population and an auditorium added to the Douglas school.

The protest is signed by Mrs. F. R. Russell, chairman; Mrs. John S. Curtis, Mrs. Joseph H. Young, Mrs. William B. Zell, Mrs. Sydney Hockett, Mrs. George Evans, Mrs. Elmer McGregor, Mrs. E. G. Wade, Jr., Mrs. Victor Anderson, Mrs. Alfred F. Kerr, Mrs. Davis Mayfield and Mrs. George Brunner.

President Ward's Statement. President Charles S. Ward of the school board, after reading the foregoing, said to a Herald representative:

"When the Manhattan Heights school was planned, an auditorium was included in the project which later was omitted from the plans on account of the excessive cost of the building of the excessive cost of the building of the available funds.

"In promoting the bond issue, just voted upon and carried, the sum of \$750,000 was first asked for, and upon subdivision to the mayor and city council the sum was reduced to \$500,000.

"The reduction included an item of \$75,000 for an auditorium in the Man-

ELEVATION of new public school to be erected on land owned by the city near Five Points, on Grant Avenue. The plans were drawn by Trust A Frost and work on the building will be started as soon as the money is available, which should be in a short time.

Letters To High School Seniors Why Go To College? The Answer

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"The school at Five Points will consist of 24 rooms and an auditorium, the auditorium being built at this time to prevent the same thing happening there that has happened at the Manhattan school.

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"In regard to the building of auditoriums in the schools to be erected in the south and southeast sections of the city, I am sure it is the only correct policy for the school board to pursue as these auditoriums are the only available places for community meetings of the patrons of the schools in these sections.

"As to the auditorium in the Douglas school, the sum of \$50,000 was set aside in the bond issue for the completion of the same, which was not heretofore completed on account of lack of funds.

"In conclusion I would like to state that the three new schools to be built will cost \$1,200,000 each, or a total of \$3,600,000, which is the available school rooms of the city."

High School Scouts To Have Social Meeting

The Boy Scouts of the high school, who belong to the Senior Scouting club, will hold their first social meeting of the season at the University club Saturday evening, January 28.

Among the guests will be Dr. and Mrs. Frank H. H. Roberts, Prof. and Mrs. C. W. Mottinger, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. B. Mackell, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Byerman and Miss Esther Kluck, secretary of the Boy Scout council. C. A. Gardner, chairman of the boys' work committee of the Kiwanis club, will preside. The boys' club is sponsored by the Kiwanians.

TEXAS GRAND Theatre SAT., FEB. 4, matinee & night only

Anna Pavlova The Incomparable and her Ballet Russe Entire Paris-London

college-trained man gets the most out of life and also draws the larger pay.

A college training is the recognized way of breaking into the "big league" of men and women who are recognized leaders in the world's work. You will live in no age with more college-trained people than the world has ever known before. Can you afford to be one of the untrained group? Do you want to be a follower or a leader?

Go to college because a college brings out the best there is in men and women.

Go to college because with a trained mind, a keen brain, you are worth more to yourself and to the world.

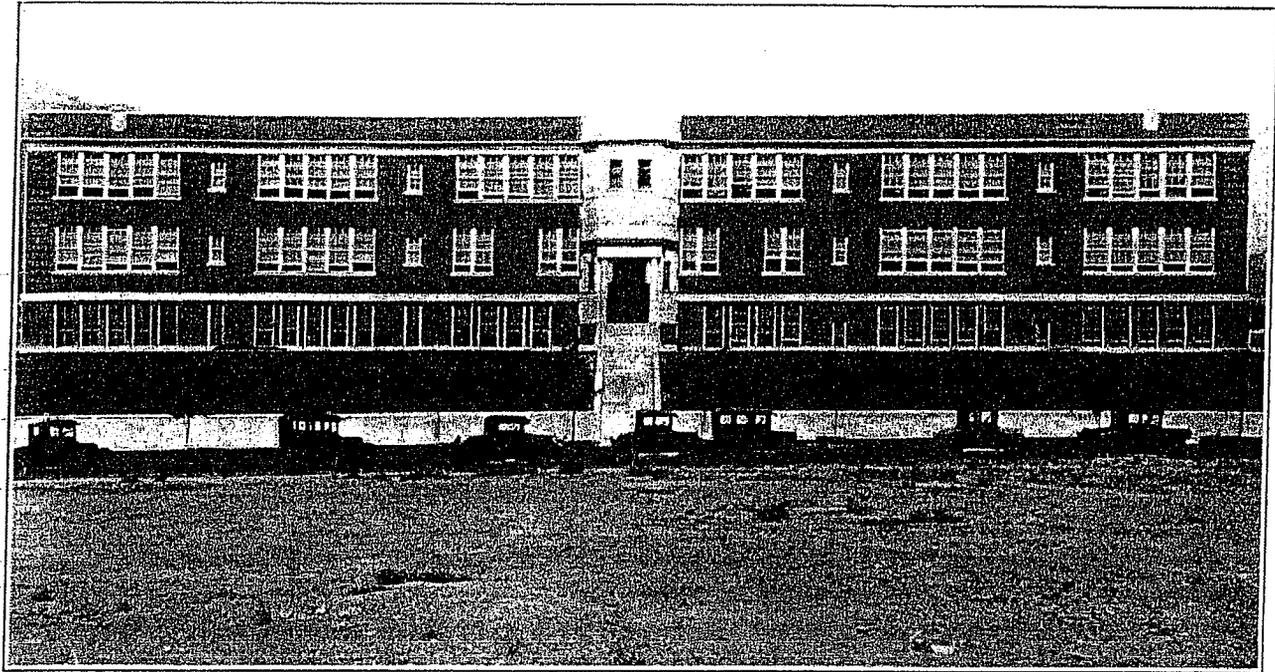
Go to college because you cannot afford to start life unless you are equipped to do your best. You want to be one of the people who do things.

Go to college because you cannot spend your time so profitably in any other way.

TODAY CRAWFORD WEEK THEATRE Jan. 23 to 29 The Robin Hood Opera Production Co. Will Present THE MASCOT A Comic Opera In 3 Acts. 40-PEOPLE-40 POPULAR PRICES

CRAWFORD THEATRE Mon. & Tues. Jan. 30-31 RICHARD G. HERNDON presents NANCE O'NEIL in "The PASSION FLOWER" A DISTINCT DRAMATIC ACHIEVEMENT

This sounds like a Fairy Tale; but it's the Gospel Truth! A CERTAIN amateur film enthusiast, who prefers to remain unknown, decided to take a flier in the picture business on his own account.



Austin Junior High School (1922), grades 6-9. One of newer buildings, site of 10 acres, capacity about 700, eastern section of city, near "Five Points" mercantile district. Picture inadequate.

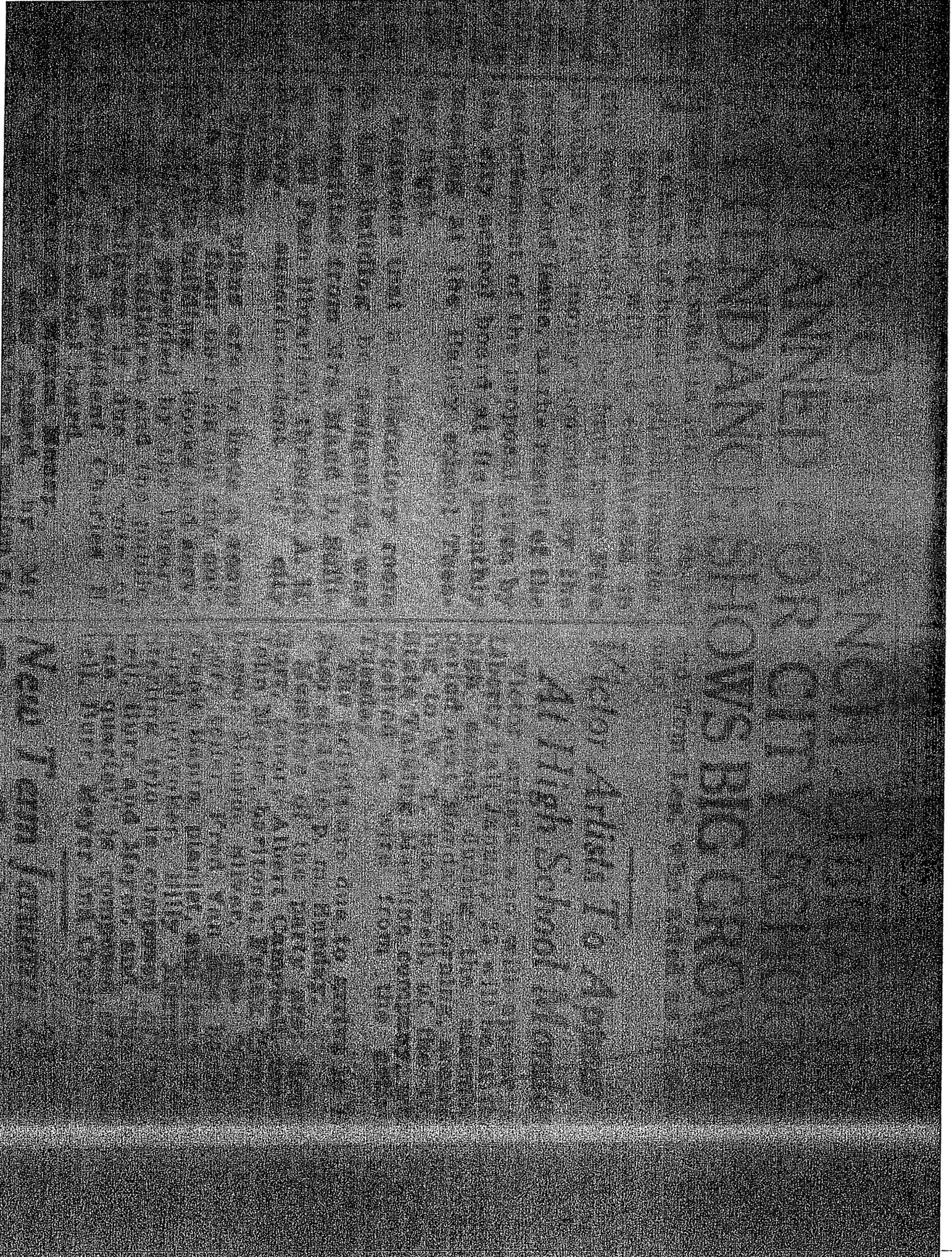
SCHOOL BOARD ADOPTS BUILDING PROGRAM FOR 3 NEW SCHOOLS BY SEPTEMBER 1, TO COST \$400,000

The school board today adopted a program to build three new schools in the city by September 1, at a total cost of \$400,000. The program is the first of its kind in the city's history and is expected to provide additional classroom space for approximately 1,500 students. The schools to be built are located in the areas of [unclear], [unclear], and [unclear]. The board also authorized the superintendent to enter into contracts for the construction of these schools.

None of the money for the program is to be raised from the general fund. Instead, the board has approved a special tax of one mill on the assessed value of all property in the city. This tax will be levied for a period of five years, beginning in 1960. The board also authorized the superintendent to issue bonds to cover the cost of the program.

The board's decision was made after a long and thorough study of the city's educational needs. The board believes that the construction of these three schools is essential to the city's future and that the special tax and bond issue are the most equitable way to finance the program.

The board also authorized the superintendent to begin the process of selecting architects and contractors for the construction of the schools. The superintendent is expected to complete the selection process by the end of the month.



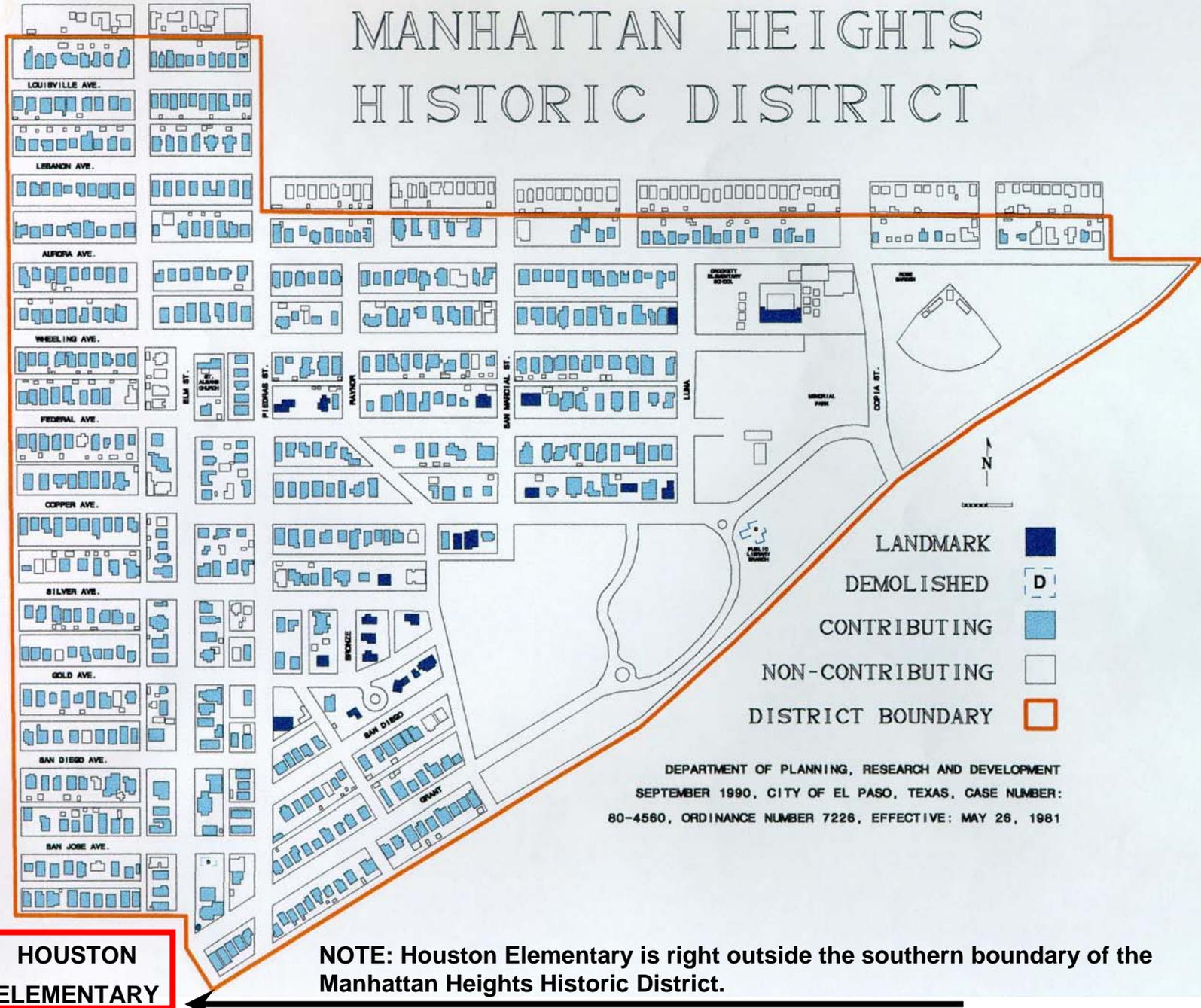
New York

January

3 MEN CHARGED
WITH BURNING
AUTO HOUSES



MANHATTAN HEIGHTS HISTORIC DISTRICT



- LANDMARK
- DEMOLISHED
- CONTRIBUTING
- NON-CONTRIBUTING
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
 SEPTEMBER 1990, CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS, CASE NUMBER:
 80-4560, ORDINANCE NUMBER 7226, EFFECTIVE: MAY 26, 1981

**HOUSTON
ELEMENTARY**

**NOTE: Houston Elementary is right outside the southern boundary of the
Manhattan Heights Historic District.**