

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-2016

HLC DATE:

June 27, 2016

July 25, 2016

PC DATE:

APPLICANT: Historic Landmark Commission

HISTORIC NAME: Russell Lee (formerly Robert E. Lee) Elementary School

WATERSHED: Waller Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 3308 Hampton Road

ZONING FROM: P-NP to P-H-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from public, neighborhood plan (P-NP) combining district to public- Historic Landmark – neighborhood plan (P-H-NP) combining district zoning.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:

Architecture and historic associations.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: **June 27, 2016:** Initiated the historic zoning case. Vote: 7-0 (Clites, Osburn, and Trevino absent; Reed off-dais).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The school is listed in the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984) but without a priority for research.

CITY COUNCIL DATE:

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:

Hancock Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

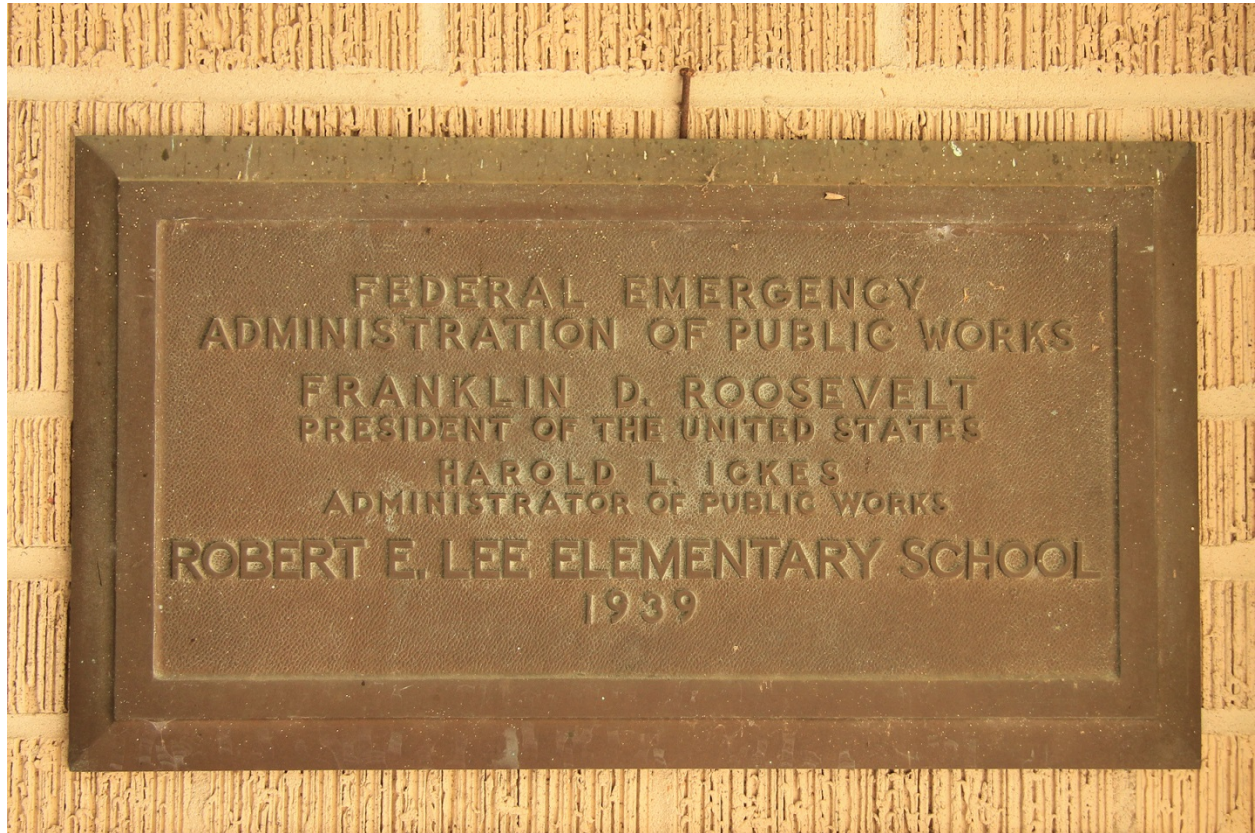
Architecture:

Two-story, rectangular-plan flat-roofed brick school building with Art Deco detailing. The school is mostly buff brick, with limestone bands and red brick spandrels; glass block sections above the double-leaf entries. A cafeteria and gym designed by Roy Thomas were added to the building in 1952. In 1986 three new kindergarten classrooms were completed on the north side of the auditorium, and a 1998 library building was designed by Coffee, Crier & Schenck on the north side of the school. Elevators and electrical renovations were completed in 2006 and a ramp was added at the north entrance.

Historical Associations:

The school was built in 1939 by the Austin School Board with funds from the federal Works Progress Administration. The architects for this project were local: Giesecke and Harris, with

Roy L. Thomas as an associate. The school was designed as a modern facility, with natural gas rather than coal fueling its heat. Before being named after Robert E. Lee at the suggestion of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the school was known as the North East Elementary School. The school was again re-named in 2016 to honor Russell Lee, a nationally-known photographer who documented the working people for the Farm Security Administration, and a long-time resident of the neighborhood. He was the first professor of photography at the University of Texas.



On October 31, 1938, the Public Works Administration offered the City of Austin a grant not to exceed \$613,127 to cover 45% of the costs of school buildings, a stadium and field house, a central heating system, an underpass, an arcade and additions and alterations to existing school buildings, including necessary equipment and acquisition of necessary land under PWA Docket No. Texas-2134-F. Robert E. Lee Elementary School was one of the new schools built with this grant.

PARCEL NO.: 0216070111

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: LOT 17 * & 1.06ACR OF LOT 18 OLT 6-9 DIV C BEAU SITE

ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: N/A

APPRAISED VALUE: \$11,032,639

PRESENT USE: Grade school

CONDITION: Excellent

PRESENT OWNERS: Austin Independent School District

DATE BUILT: ca. 1939

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Additions in 1952, 1986, and 1998.

ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Austin Independent School District

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: None.



Art Deco-style lettering on the school