

Samuel Clemens High School: A Historic Landmark

One of the hallmarks of American society is the development of the modern community. Since its founding in the 20th century, the city of Schertz has evolved into such an example. Much of this development is due to the city's infrastructure- including public works, roads, postal services, and of course, schools. Samuel Clemens High School has evolved from a five-room building on Main Street- known at the time as Schertz Cibolo School, to the massive complex it is today on Elbel Road.

Since its construction in 1967, Samuel Clemens has had a major impact on this community in diverse ways that go beyond the traditional reading, writing, and arithmetic. Samuel Clemens High School has impacted the Schertz, Cibolo, and Universal City communities by producing graduates that have gone on to be successful in sports, media, culinary, medical services, military service, education, and business. Over the years, Clemens has given back to the community by performing community services and hosting regional events that highlight accomplishments of the city. Most of all, Samuel Clemens High School was a product of the community and through the years, the community is now a product of Samuel Clemens High School.

The Samuel Clemens History Club of 2022/2023 took on the task of researching the history and contributions of Clemens. The club focused on the first ten years of Samuel Clemens High School and its impact on the community during that period of time.

"For it is within a school that we find many areas and decisions in which we each participate. These areas could not function without the school or its members, and the school wouldn't be able to operate without them." (1969 yearbook)

This quote from the 1969 yearbook perfectly summarizes the worth of Samuel Clemens and its students. The school and the community share a symbiotic relationship.

In the 1967/1968 yearbook, the iconic "Buffalo" was selected to be the symbol and mascot of Samuel Clemens High School. Even through naming the school, special attention was given to acknowledge the historical significance of the surrounding area. The 1970 yearbook stated that, "...district enrollment increased from 1,500 to 3,000." This data shows that as the community grew, Clemens grew to meet the demands of population growth.

"Every student who has or ever will graduate from SCHS forms a part of a never-ending picture that represents a school. Not just a building or a name, but a school - - with its ups and downs, its faults and merits, its ideals, goals, traditions, and hopes." (1968 yearbook)

Even as early as the first year of the school, students realized that the legacy of Clemens is that it represents the community and wherever the graduates go, they represent Clemens.

"The paper received the Award of Achievement from the Interscholastic League press conference (ILPC). Staff members Attended the press conference in Austin to learn new Journalistic techniques." (1978 yearbook)

Within just the first decade, Clemens was represented at the state level. According to the 1979 yearbook, AFJROTC represented Clemens by hosting "...the first statewide aerospace symposium". Clemens eventually evolved into a destination for other organizations and events.

Even in Clemens' early years, the school saw the value in supporting the community and community service became a core value. In the 1972 yearbook, one entry stated that the National Honor Society of Clemens gave out a turkey at Thanksgiving and a basket of food at Christmas to needy families in the area. Eventually, other Clemens organizations and clubs began to support the community, such as, "Heath Occupation collected toys for children, and FCA collected gifts for the needy," according to the 1978 yearbook. Clemens NHS valued community service to the degree that it is now a requirement for participation in the program, as the 1979 yearbook stated, "the national honors society sponsored a food and clothing drive for the needy".

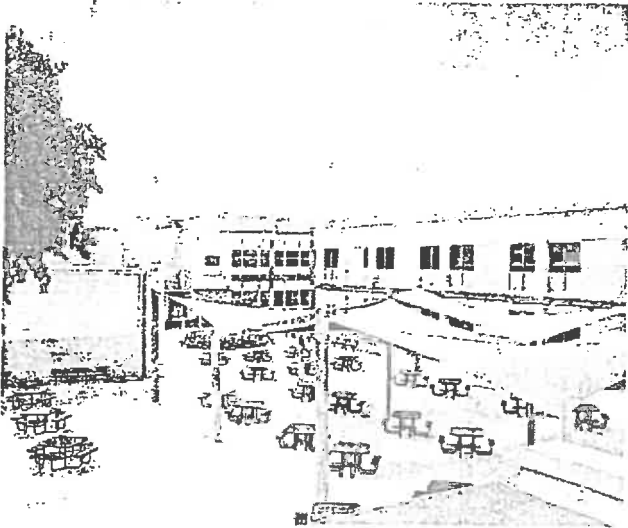
Samuel Clemens High School is a historic landmark for the city of Schertz, Texas. This community would not be the community it is without the contribution of the school, and without the community, Clemens would not have had the impact on the students, residents, businesses, and the legacy that is the Mighty Buffaloes. "Once a Buff, Always a Buff"

Sources:

Samuel Clemens Yearbooks 1968-1979

Google Images





APPENDIX C

Schertz Historical Preservation Committee

Application for
Landmark Property or Heritage Neighborhood
Designation

This application is to serve as the means by which citizens may apply for approval to have a structure, residence, neighborhood, or designated area within the city limits and/or Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) of Schertz, Texas, designated as either a "Landmark" property or a "Heritage Neighborhood."

"Landmark Property" shall mean any site or structure, designated by the Schertz Historical Preservation Committee (SHPC) and declared as such by a majority vote of the Schertz City Council that is of exceptional cultural, archaeological, or architectural significance.

"Heritage Neighborhood" shall mean a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites or structures united architecturally, archaeologically, or culturally, by plan or physical development in the past.

NAME OF APPLICANT / NOMINATOR: Samuel Clemens History Club

ADDRESS DESIGNATION: Samuel Clemens Highschool
1001 Eibel Road Schertz TX 78154

CONTACT INFORMATION (PHONE, EMAIL): (210) 945-6501 Ext. 1052
mthornton@SCUB.txd.net

NOMINATION FOR (Check One):

- Landmark Property
 Heritage Neighborhood)

COMMITTEE NOMINEE: _____

STATEMENT OF JUSTIFICATION:

Samuel Clemens High School is a historic landmark for the city
of Schertz. This community would not be the community it is without
the contribution of the school, and without the community Clemens would
not have been the same.
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SECTION B. SCHERTZ HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE ACTION

- Approved
- Approved with Modification
- Denied

Chairperson's Signature

Date

SECTION C. CITY COUNCIL ACTION

- Approved
- Approved with Modification
- Denied

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