

In the Matter of Locating the

Texas  
Technological  
College

Submitted in Behalf of  
Dernon, Texas

91764  
T35586  
#35



THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR  
CIRCULATION



917.64  
T35586  
#35

## Supplemental Brief For Vernon, Texas

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Locating Board of  
the Texas Technological College:

This is a supplemental brief filed in behalf of the  
City of Vernon, in its application to have the Texas  
Technological College located at Vernon, Texas.

We desire, first of all, to call your attention to cer-  
tain advantages offered by the City of Vernon as a  
site for the proposed college. Vernon is situated about  
equa-distant from three important centers of the  
Southwest, viz: Fort Worth, Oklahoma City and Ama-  
rillo. The distance in Texas from Fort Worth to Ama-  
rillo is 336 miles. This territory is the most populous  
and most highly developed of any similar section of  
West Texas, and there is not now located on the Ft.  
W. & D. C. Railway any state educational institution.  
We believe that the present development of this sec-  
tion and the certainty of future development entitles  
Vernon to a peculiar claim upon the consideration of  
your Committee as a site for the College. In the State  
of Texas there are twenty-four counties from which  
Vernon can be reached in six hours ride by railroad.  
These twenty-four counties have a population accord-  
ing to the last U. S. Census of slightly in excess of  
Five hundred thousand. In addition to the population  
in the counties referred to in the State of Texas,  
nearly as large a population in the State of Oklahoma  
can reach Vernon by railroad in six hours ride. Our





Wilbarger County Courthouse



Federal Building.

purpose in calling your attention to this fact is to impress upon your Committee the need of a territory containing approximately one million inhabitants for a first class educational institution.

#### TRANSPORTATION.

Vernon is served by the Ft. W. & D. C. Railroad, one of the best trans-continental lines traversing the State of Texas, and is within easy reach of connections at Wichita Falls, Chillicothe and Quanah with other important railroads serving West Texas. The adjacent territory in Oklahoma is served directly from Vernon over the Frisco Railroad. In addition to the Railroads, we have two important highways: The Colorado to Gulf Highway paralleling the F. W. & D. C. Railroad and the Lee Highway coming into Texas near Vernon and extending West through the Plains Country into New Mexico and California. Still another Highway crosses Wilbarger County from North to South, giving automobile connections with counties south and west of Vernon in Texas, and North and Northwest of Vernon in Oklahoma.

Our Railroad and Highway facilities make it possible for Vernon to be reached within twelve to eighteen hours from any point in the territory in which the proposed college is to be located.

#### FACILITIES.

Vernon has ample facilities for taking care of a great State Institution such as the college will certainly become in the next few years. We already have ample boarding house and hotel facilities, which will naturally be augmented if the college is placed here. Ample provisions will be made for taking care of stu-





City and County Library.



First Methodist Church

dents who may not care to be domiciled in dormitories that will form a part of the college plant proper.

We also have three modern, well equipped, private hospitals capable of taking care of a much larger population than we now have. Modern Church plants and strong church organizations indicate beyond a doubt that the Citizenship of Vernon and Wilbarger County is the type of people among whom the people of Texas can well afford to risk their sons and daughters while securing an education.

We are in position to guarantee that electric service and other City conveniences will be extended to either of the sites which have been submitted to you.

Site No. 1 lies adjacent to the City Limits of Vernon and a paved road is already built through this land. The gap between the City paving and the County paving will be filled in in case your Committee selects this site. We will also be able to build a side-track connection with the Ft. W. & D. C. Railway to this site from a point about one mile east of the City of Vernon.

Site No. 2, known as the Bourland farm, is located on the Railroad, and it would be a simple matter to build track extensions to meet the needs of the college, and we have been assured that there will be no difficulty in obtaining from the Ft. W. & D. C. Railroad the designation of a station at whatever point may be decided upon by the College authorities. Site No. 2 is already served by a paved road leading from the City of Vernon through the site to Oklaunion and other points eastward.





First Baptist Church



Central Christian Church.

#### WATER AND SOIL.

Vernon has been peculiarly blessed with the nature of the soil surrounding it and the abundance of very fine water at a shallow depth below the surface. On both of the sites which have been shown you, water of splendid quality in unlimited quantities can be obtained at a depth varying from ten to twenty feet. Site No. 1 is traversed by a small running stream. Much of the land on Site No. 1 is sub-irrigated, and the land on Site No. 2 is what might be called dry farming land, but the water is at such shallow depth that crops when properly cultivated readily withstand drouths.

The soil on either of the proposed sites is capable of producing practically all of the staple crops of the Temperate Zone, including alfalfa, wheat, oats, barley, corn, cotton, grain sorghums, melons and fruits. The nature of the soil varies from a tight loam to a sandy loam, well adapted to growing crops abundantly under the normal rain-fall of 26 inches, which is the average annual rainfall for this section of the State.

#### ARGUMENT.

There may be a question in the minds of some of the members of your Committee as to the advisability of locating the college in a city near the border of the State, but we wish to show that first of all such a policy has never been followed in locating the educational institutions of Texas, which course, we think, has been wisely followed in the past. The most important thing in locating an institution like the Technological College is not merely the geographical location. We have already directed the attention of your Committee to the large number of people living within the terri-





Parker Ward School Building



Private Sanitarium

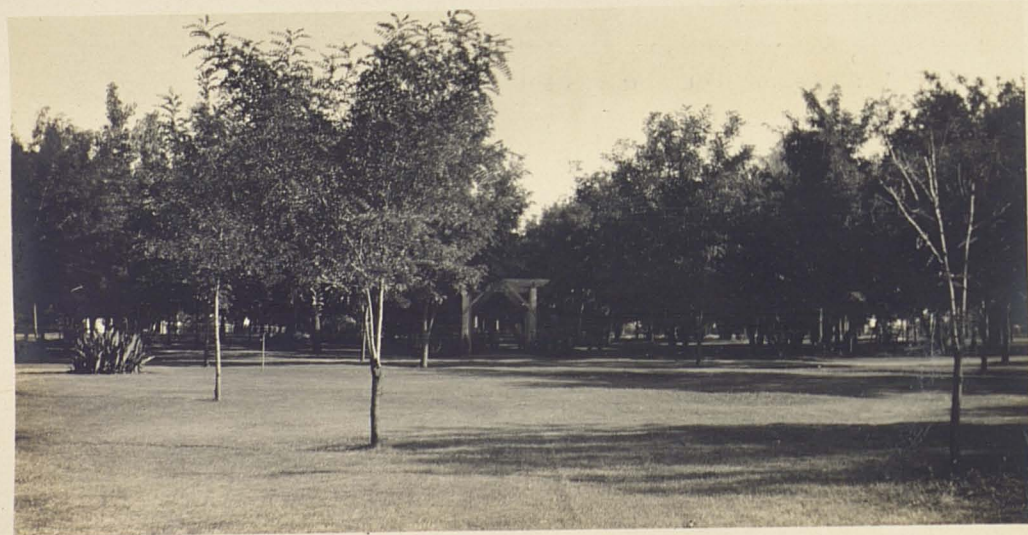
tory accessible to Vernon. We submit that Vernon can be more easily and conveniently reached by more people than any other city which has offered a site. We also understand that the College is to be an institution that will serve the technical educational needs of the entire southwest. It will have no competitor for hundreds of miles; and while it is to be a Texas Institution, established and maintained by the people of Texas, yet its doors will be thrown upon to students from throughout the world. Neighboring States, therefore, will make much use of the advantages to be offered by the college. The Neighboring State of Oklahoma is densely populated and has no such institution within her borders. Other States, Louisiana, Arkansas, New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas will be served by this institution, and we submit that Vernon offers an ideal location for the college when one takes a broad view of the future usefulness to the great southwest. But even if we are to consider the college purely a Texas Institution, your Committee will readily see that the railroad connections make Vernon accessible to every part of the State. There is no large city or railroad center within the territory prescribed by law in which the college is to be located, and Vernon railroad connections with such centers outside of the territory in which the school is to be located reveal certain advantages as a location which we feel sure your Committee cannot ignore.

As we understand the law establishing the college, it is to be a technological college primarily, but will teach subjects which are ordinarily covered in the curriculum of the Texas A. & M. College. The territory surrounding Vernon offers peculiar advantages for the teaching of scientific agriculture. Wilbarger





Hillcrest Country Club House



Scene in Allingham Park

County is situated at what might be called the dividing line between the East and West. We are free alike from the unusual drouth conditions of certain sections of West Texas and the uncertainties of farming conditions in those sections of Texas which are infested with boll weevil, floods and other enemies of agriculture. Wilbarger County combines, as perhaps no other county in Texas does, the best advantages to be offered by both Eastern and Western parts of the State.

As a site for a technological college, we believe that Vernon offers certain advantages which other cities in the territory do not possess. We are situated at the very edge of one of the greatest oil and gas fields of the southwest. We are within the cotton belt, and the certainty that the leading industrial concerns will within the next few years give more and more attention to the establishment of factories and mills in the cotton belt, we believe that Vernon offers special advantages for technological training. There is now on foot a movement which we hope will result in the establishment of a great cotton mill at Vernon within the near future.

The need of a great experimental farm in West Texas under the direction of the best experts obtainable cannot be doubted. The present A. & M. College of Texas is rendering a great service to the State, but agricultural conditions of West Texas differ from agricultural conditions in East Texas so radically that it is impossible for the present A. & M. College to render as much service as the people of Texas have a right to expect.

We have already called your attention to certain





Kell Milling Company Plant



Residence of T. H. Shive

advantages of soil and climate, but we wish to emphasize the special opportunity which will be offered to the college, if located in Vernon of the great irrigation project which is now near completion on the Wichita River immediately south of Vernon. Students of agriculture and water engineering will find in this great project a splendid opportunity to obtain first-hand invaluable information as to the best methods of dealing with irrigation and flood control in the southwest.

We feel that we can safely pledge your Committee and through you, to the State of Texas, the unqualified support and co-operation of the people of our City and County in furthering the interests of the Technological college. You could not place this institution among a more loyal people than ours. We believe in Texas and her institutions. We believe in her educational leaders, and we are glad to join hands with them in placing Texas where she belongs—at the head of the states of the Union in educational matters. And if you, in discharging the duty which the Legislature has placed upon you, decide that the college should be placed in some other city than Vernon, we wish to assure you here and now that the College will receive the same generous and loyal support of our people as it would if it were located in our community.

We thank you for your visit to our city and for the courtesy and consideration which you have shown us and our claims for the college.

Respectfully submitted,





Birdseye View of Vernon Looking South  
from Courthouse.



Birdseye View of Vernon Looking North  
from Courthouse.

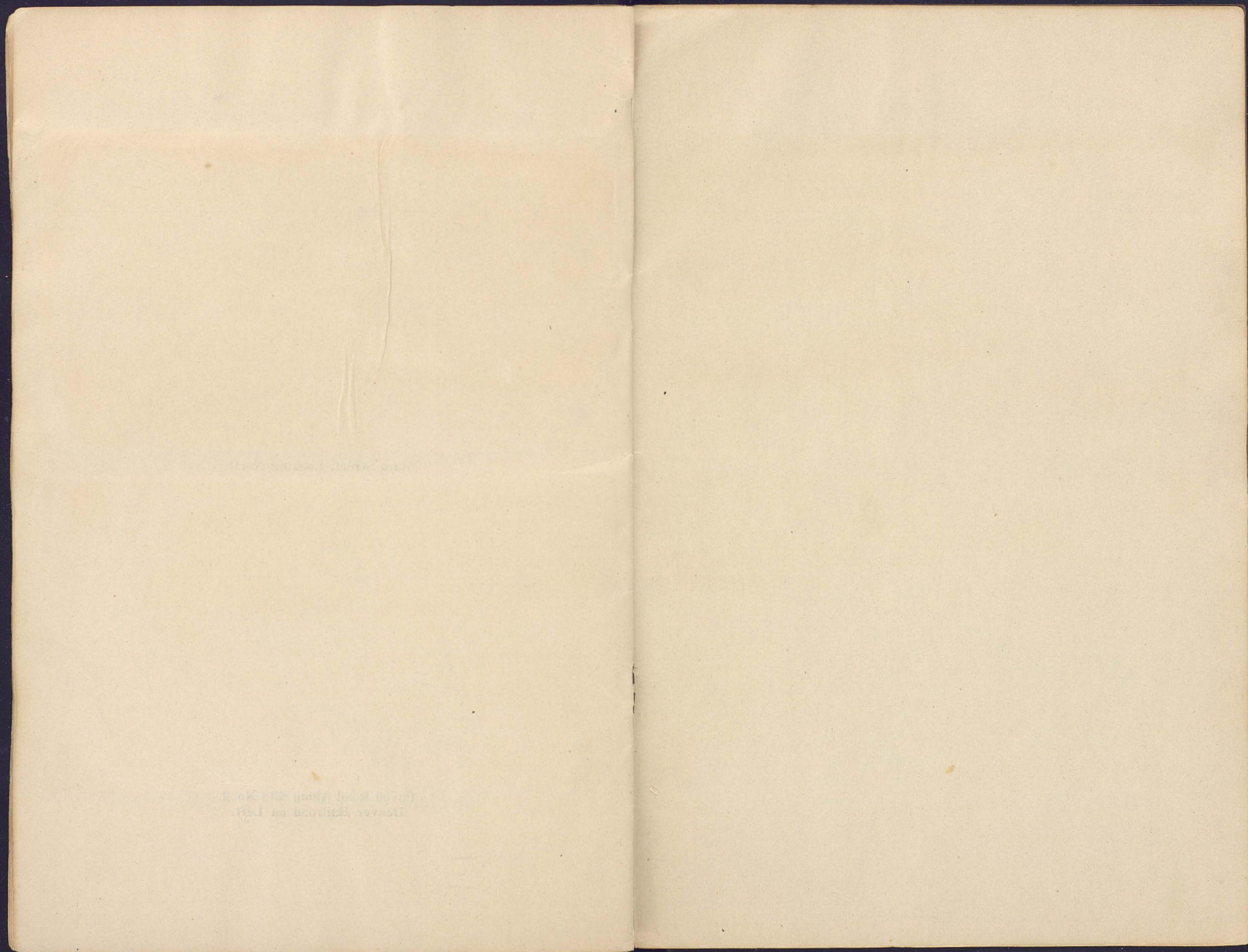


Main Street, Looking North

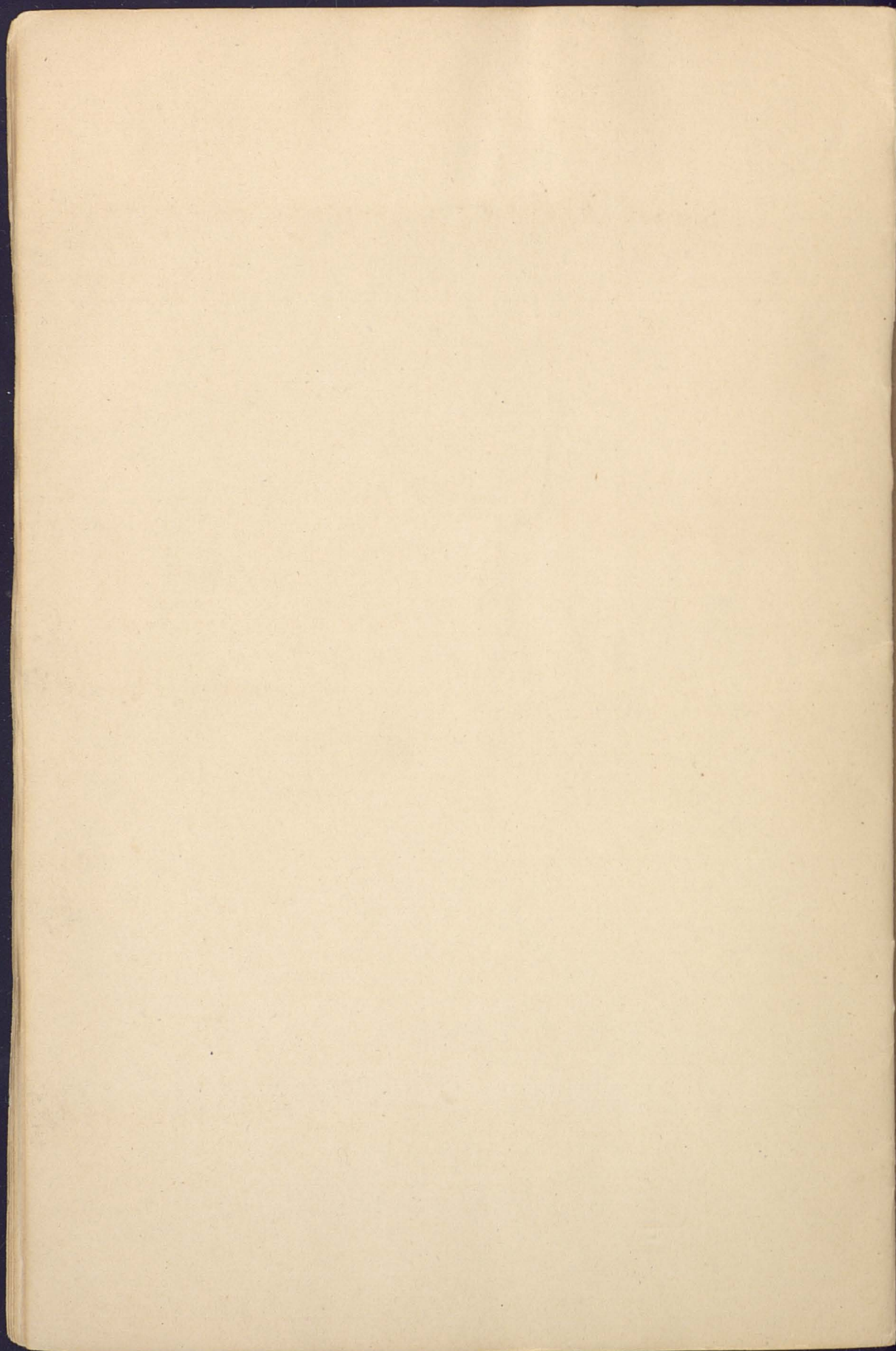


Paved Road Along Site No. 2.  
Denver Railroad on Left.

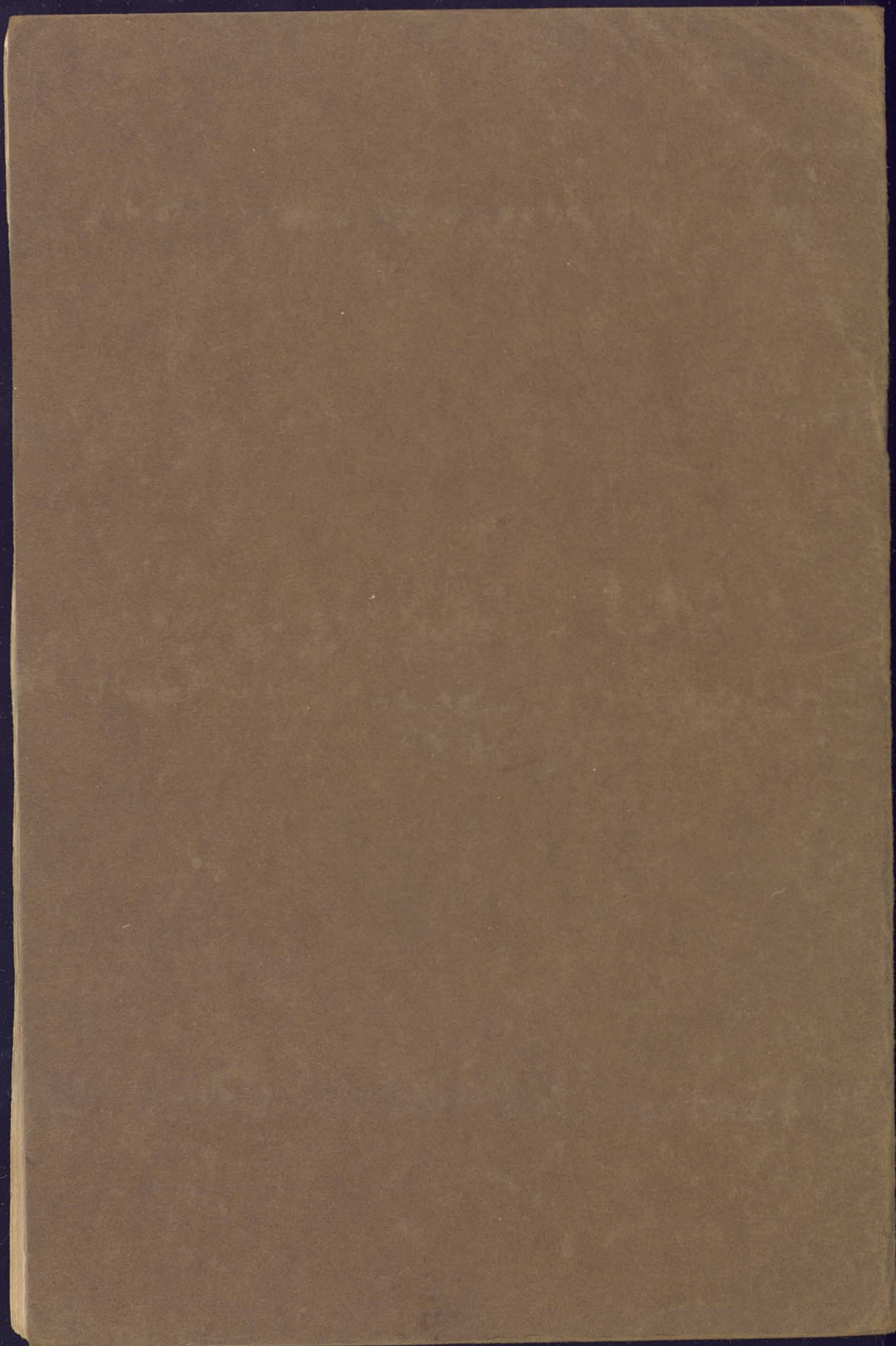




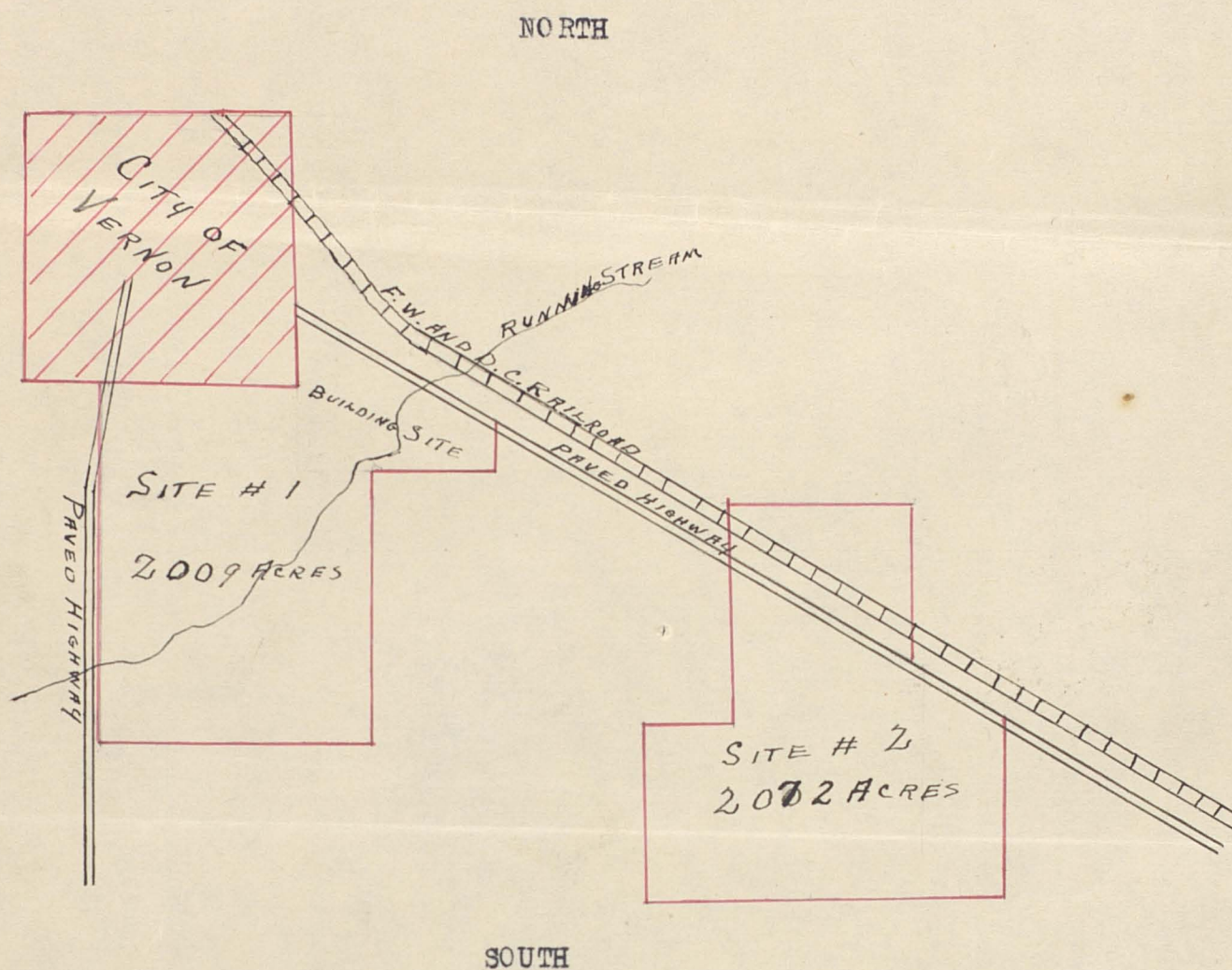












Drawing of Sites No.1 and No.2 offered by Vernon, Texas, to  
the Technological Locating Board



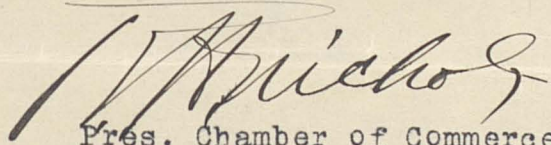
Supplemental brief, covering the campus site  
submitted by Vernon, Texas to the Texas Technological Board:

This tract embraces approximately 300 acres of land adjoining the city limits of Vernon on the Southeast. This tract is ideally located for a campus site for the proposed college. A high ridge runs through the tract affording a splendid view of the city and the surrounding country. It is well watered by a small stream which runs through the tract from the Southwest to the Northeast. Well water can be obtained at a depth varying from 5 to 20 feet on any part of the land. It is located on the paved road running East from the city, which forms a part of the important Colorado-to-the Gulf Highway. The tract is situated at its nearest part at about 200 yards from the Ft Worth & Denver Railway.

The campus site adjoins Site No. 1 on the East and the 2,000 acres could thus be obtained in one body, lying South and Southeast of the city limits, and accessible to water, sewer, electricity and other city conveniences. This would also make it possible for students to obtain board in nearby residences. The campus site is also included as a part of Site No. 2, situated East of Vernon on the paved road.

The proposed campus site being situated as it is on the Highway and adjacent both to the Ft Worth & Denver and Frisco Railways, makes a splendid setting for the Technological College buildings. People traveling through Vernon both by Highway and by Railway would be afforded a splendid view of the college plant.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. A. Nichols". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pres. Chamber of Commerce.



Vernon, Texas.

April 5, 1923.

To the Honorables,

S.B. Cowell, Chairman,

S.M.N. Marrs,

R.E. Vinson,

F.M. Bralley,

W.B. Bizzell,

W.R. Nabours, Secretary,

Locating Board, Texas Technological College,

Austin, Texas.

Gentlemen:

Wilbarger County and Vernon its County seat, hereby respectfully ask for the location of the West Texas Technological College for the following reasons:

1st. We can and will secure for you, at a price not to exceed One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars, a tract of approximately two thousand acres of land situated immediately south of the City of Vernon, this land will commence just about one half mile from our City limits and will continue in a southerly direction covering the required acreage. This acreage will take in three different stratas of land; the first will be of a sandy loam, which has proven to produce the most delicious fruits, grapes, vegetables, sweet potatoes, cantaloupes and melons of all kinds.

2nd. Is sub-irrigated land which has proven to raise the best of alfalfa and all kinds of feed stuffs even in the driest of years.

3rd. The darker variety of land especially adapted to wheat, cotton, oats and other products of that nature, also subject to irrigation. Through this tract of land there traverses a creek and which flows practically the year round, the water is good, dams could be made very cheap and irrigation used with small cost. This land is also located within twenty miles of the great Wichita Irrigation Dam project and good roads leading thereto will



enable students to study irrigation from a practicable standpoint. The County already has a concrete road extending from the City limits to greater portion of the land offered you, the City is now negotiating to pave the City streets to connect with county paving, hence you will have concrete road and cement sidewalks all the way to your property.

If you accept our location you will also be able to extend and have access to our city sewerage and water works, although all north of this creek, you will be able to get all the water needed from wells at a depth of 30 to 45 feet with good water.

The water supply of Vernon is the most adequate of any town in the Western part of our State, thirteen wells of a thirty five foot depth has supplied this City with water and we have water works and sewerage systems in perfect working condition. Recently the City purchased property and improved our water system and get water from springs just two miles west of us with an abundant flow and supply unlimited with the following analysis:

Calcium Carbonate	1.95
Magnesium Carbonate	.54
Magnesium Sulphate	.53
Sodium Sulphate	.58
Sodium Chloride	1.35
	<hr/>
	4.95 pure

parts in million gallons.

Our City charges are,

First 4000 gallons (Minimum charge ) \$1.00. All over of 16 cents thousand gallons, however, with wells, same quality/water you can have your system and connect only with the sewerage. Quantity is permanent and unlimited. One well furnishes the Frisco Railroad round house.

Our 1250 feet of altitude with the summer breeze from the South takes us out of the extreme hot zone in summer, still we are not sufficiently high to have such extreme cold in winter, hence, we have a delightful climate and one well calculated



to animate and stimulate one to activity at all times. Absolutely no malaria in this section.

Below you will find an average for nine years monthly:

Temperature		Rainfall
January	45	1.12
February	43	.92
March	53	1.55
April	60	2.11
May	70	3.17
June	77	3.77
July	79	2.73
August	79	2.44
September	74	2.40
October	60	.287
November	51	1.50
December	42	1.41
	<u>61</u>	<u>25.03</u>

Snowfall about 8 inches annually.

We are located on the Fort Worth and Denver Railway running through the entire part of this section of Texas beginning at Texline and reaching Ft. Worth. At Dalhart connection is made with the Rock Island, at Amarillo with the Santa Fe, at Quanah with the Quanah, Acme & Pacific, at Chillicothe with the Orient, at Wichita Falls with the Wichita Valley and The Wichita Falls Southwestern, hence it is quite easy to reach here by rail.

We are also located on the Colorado-to-Gulf Highway running entirely through the county, contract is awarded and work now in progress concreting said highway. We are also designated to get the Lee Highway running from New York to California, which will traverse nine counties west of us with a well established and well kept highway.

Wilbarger County has a population of over twenty thousand, Vernon seven thousand, with seven good churches, one high and three ward schools, five miles of paved streets, twenty five miles cement sidewalks, Carnegie Library, Oil Mill, Flour Mill, Compress, Electric Light Plant and Ice Factory, Candy Factory, Mattress Factory, Ice Cream Factory, Bottling Works and Oil Refinery. Any and all plants would be open to classes desiring knowledge as to their line of work.



no details in this section.

to estimate and approximate one to estimate at all times. Absolutely

Last year we raised over 27,000 bales of cotton, 518,000 bushels of wheat, 1, 800,000 barrels of oil, 400,000 bushels of oats, sold \$320,000 worth of poultry products. We have 3200 actual farmers in the county and not only believe but practice diversification and have proven most successful.

1922 Valuation, Wilbarger County \$15,886,987

1922 Valuation, Vernon 5,744,458

Number of Scholastics in County 5,000.

I need only refer you to any of our churches, Parent-Teachers Association, Rotary, Lion or Federated Clubs as to morality, our citizenship is law abiding and all believe in upholding the law in all respects, spiritually, morally and legally.

The finest farming area in the entire state lies in Wilbarger County, we do not ask that our word be taken, but we point with pride to comments offered freely by the experts from the A & M. College of our State.

The City of Vernon with its abundant supply of good water claims the distinction of possessing <sup>many</sup> beautiful homes, grassy lawns, shady avenues and parks. Its fair weather and hospitality endows it with a natural attractiveness that yearly brings many permanent residents within her gates.

WE THEREFORE ask that you visit us and permit us to show you what we have and I then believe that you will render your decision that Vernon is the best and most logical place for the College.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Chamber of Commerce,

A. M. Townsend  
President.

J. V. Townsend  
Secretary.



44-2-22

44-2-22

212

April 9<sup>th</sup> 1923

Al R. M. Jones  
Secty

Rich

4168 Ave. 2.  
Anchorage, Alaska

Amherst, Texas