

SPUR-TEXAS

ITS ADVANTAGES IN LOCATION
FOR THE
TEXAS TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE



Spur Texas
11 1/8" x 8 7/8"
2400

June 8, 1923



ONE OF SPUR'S FIVE HOTELS.

A Brief Respectfully Submitted April 1, 1923

TO

The Locating Committee

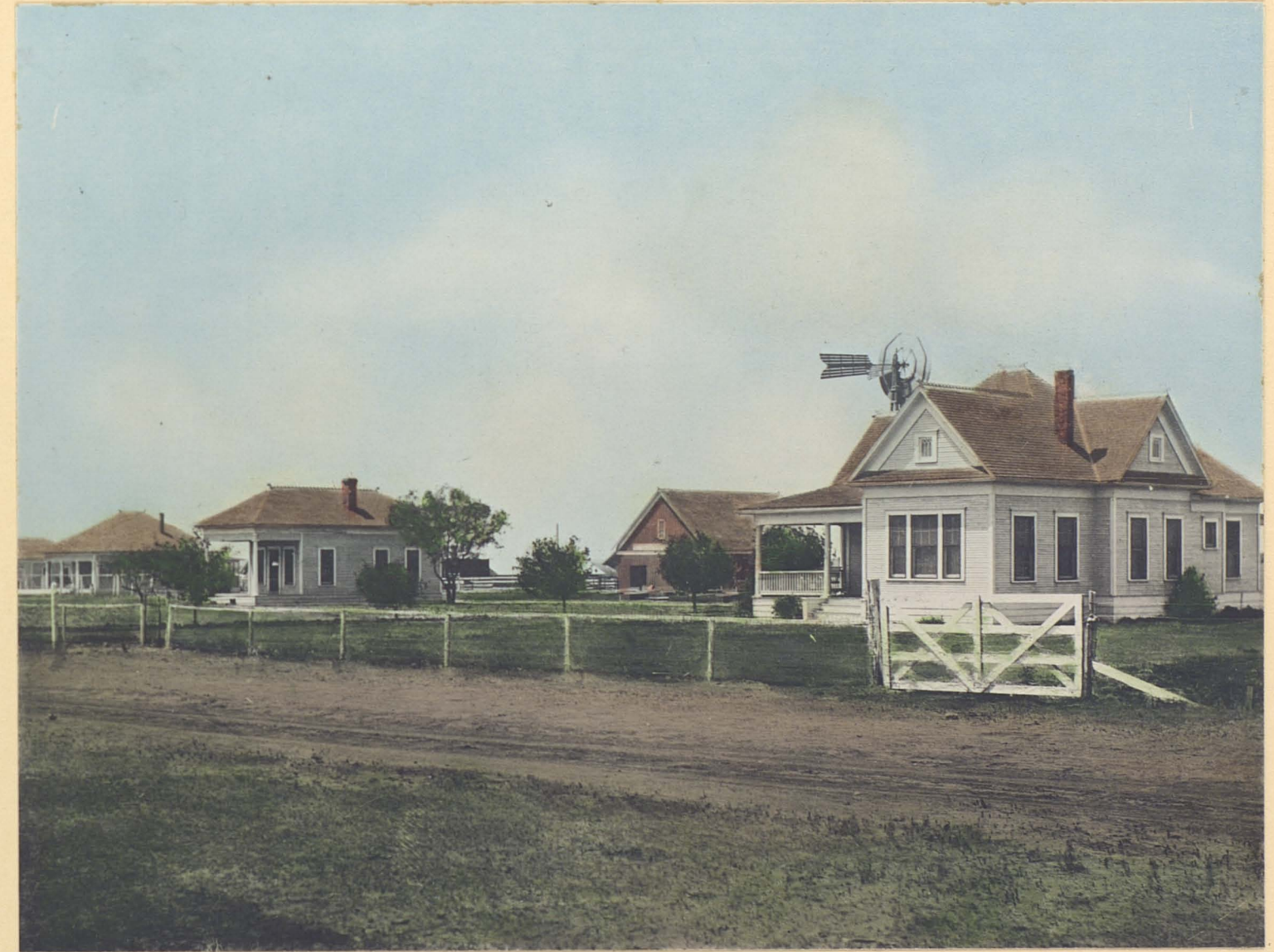
Honorable S. B. COWELL, Chairman, State Board of Control.

Honorable S. M. N. MARRS, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

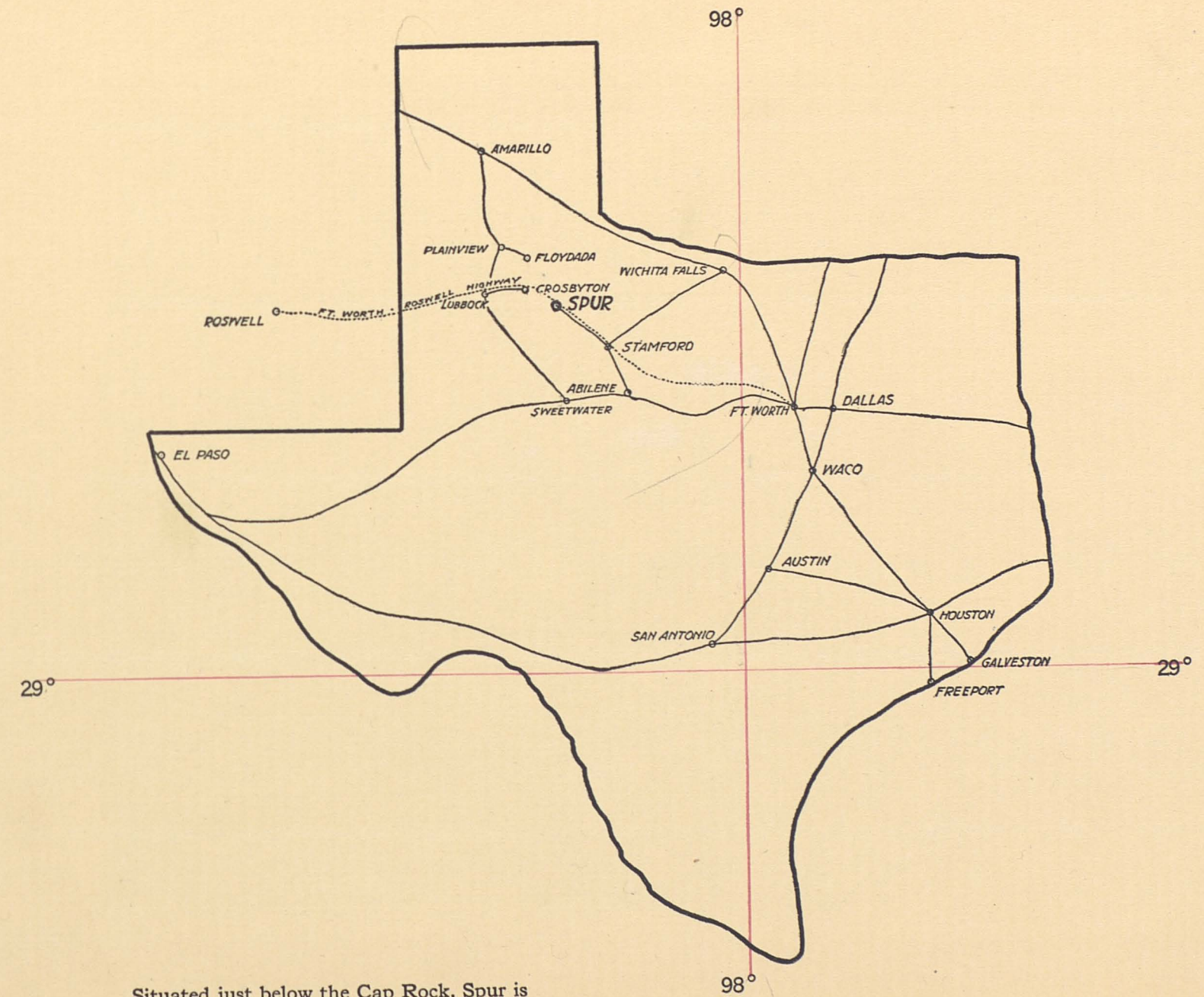
Honorable R. E. VINSON, President of the University of Texas.

Honorable F. M. BRALLEY, President College of Industrial Arts.

Honorable W. B. BIZZELL, President A. and M. College.



SOME OF THE STATE EXPERIMENT STATION BUILDINGS.



Situated just below the Cap Rock, Spur is
 282 miles Northwest from Fort Worth,
 192 miles Southeast from Amarillo.



UNIRRIGATED ALFALFA.

Spur, Texas

GEOGRAPHICAL:

Spur, an incorporated city, is in Dickens County, Northwest Texas, on the Wichita Valley Railroad (a part of the Burlington System), and on the Fort Worth-Roswell Highway, which is a portion of the Seven Percent System as adopted by the State Highway Department of Texas.

Spur is, close to the geographical center of the territorial limits defined by the Bill creating the Texas Technological College.

ALTITUDE:

2,274 feet. An ideal elevation for health.



NO BOLL WEEVIL AT SPUR.

GREAT RANGE OF SOIL TYPES:

According to Soil Surveys made in the year 1919, in Western Texas, by the Bureau of Soils, United States Department of Agriculture, Dickens County contains representative types of most of the important agricultural soils occurring throughout West Texas, and large bodies of the best types.*

Situated in that gently rolling agricultural region which begins at the foot of the Plains, the Cap Rock of which is fourteen miles from Spur and in plain sight therefrom, the farming country about Spur is composed of widely varying conditions of soil typical of the great area from which will come the students for the College. The sons of farmers who receive their education here will, on returning to their homes, be able to apply knowledge obtained in an environment closely akin to their home situations and without the necessity of readjusting themselves to widely differing conditions of soil and climate. This variety of soil will enable the full demonstration of the principles of diversification, which is the true foundation for the successful Texas farmer of the future.

The escarpment of the High Plains, so close to Spur, and the adjacent Croton and J-2 Breaks, afford unexcelled opportunities for the student of Geology. Recognizing the fact that the territory immediately adjacent to Spur is very rich in Geology and Paleontology, Universities of distant States have for years sent their experts here.

Spur's close proximity to the Plains, and easy accessibility thereto over splendidly graveled roads, compel the conviction that the location of the College at Spur would permit an observation of every type of West Texas farm operation.

* See "Reconnaissance Soil Survey of Northwest Texas,"
By W. T. Carter, Jr.



MILO.

HEALTHFUL CLIMATE:

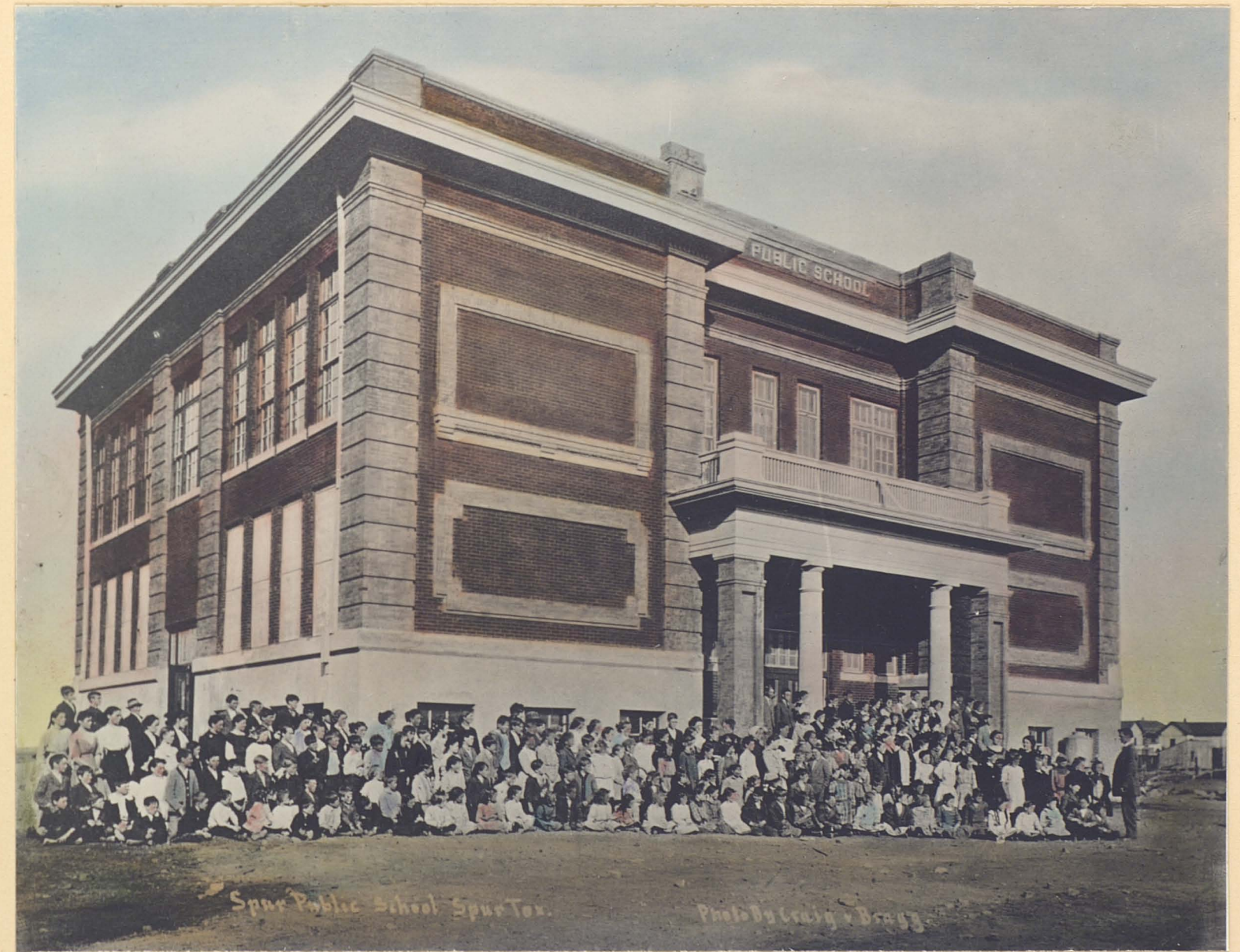
Physicians are agreed that this portion of Texas, with an altitude of about 2,500 feet, provides the ideal climatic conditions for the average person. There is probably no factor of more absolute value to the College. There is no malaria in this region. The climate is not merely healthful, it is distinctly invigorating, and will enable the students and faculty to cover their work without the brain-fag, bodily fatigue and nervous strain which is the inevitable result of scholastic work in an enervating climate. Education fails of its best results if the physical forces are not kept up to a buoyant standard. Under the climatic conditions of this country, students will graduate with healthy bodies.

PRACTICAL ENGINEERING PROBLEMS:

A short distance from Spur the Croton and J-2 Breaks, with their varying depths of several hundred feet, offer a miniature Grand Canyon of the Colorado. Students in Engineering will here and elsewhere about Spur find interesting opportunities to put in practice the running of levels, ascertainment of elevations, etc. This practical work in the field with instruments will tend to perfect them in their work and lend interest to the engineering course.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS:

Spur is amply able to meet this important necessity of a college town, with its five hotels, one of which, in its appointments and cuisine, has a State-wide reputation.



SPUR PUBLIC SCHOOL.

GREAT FERTILITY OF SOIL:

Spur is in the heart of a rich, fertile land, reliably producing cotton, hay and grain crops. A portion of the land in this neighborhood is possible of irrigation.

Cotton is' certain of large average yields, the State Experiment Station at Spur having realized as much as 794 pounds of lint cotton from one acre, which considerably exceeds 1½ bales.

Milo maize and other grain sorghums are profitable and certain of maturity, 80 to 90 bushels of milo being frequently harvested under favorable climatic and soil conditions with good farming methods.

Unirrigated alfalfa is frequently cut four times at Spur in one season, yielding slightly more than four tons to the acre. Natural inoculation, abundance of lime and sub-irrigated condition of much of the land makes a valuable demonstration that alfalfa can be successfully grown in many parts of West Texas without surface irrigation. A study of how these results can be achieved in territory similar to that of Spur will mean much to the farms to which the students will return.

A considerable portion of the large area below the Cap Rock is suitable for wheat and oats production, while practically all of the soils on the Plains closely adjacent to Spur are ideal for the small grains.



THE CROTON BREAKS NEAR SPUR.
(Problems for the Class in Engineering.)

PERMANENT OPPORTUNITY FOR STUDY OF RANGE CATTLE:

The lands of Spur fortunately include a percentage of range lands better suited for stock raising than for agriculture, so that those students who intend to include stock raising in connection with farm operations, or exclusively, will have unequaled opportunities to observe the business. The ranches nearby will show the problems of the range, while the finishing and feeding pens will show the final result in a way which will enlist the earnest interest of the student, so that he will leave the institution with a foundation of practical knowledge based on first-hand information and observation instead of theories to be tested later. The necessary knowledge for developing farm stock to its greatest possibilities is a most important factor in the success of the farm. The student of Animal Husbandry can thoroughly equip himself here.

STATE EXPERIMENT STATION MAY BE UTILIZED:

The State owns and operates at Spur its second largest Experiment Sub-station, and the only one which combines extensive work in Agronomy with the breeding and feeding of live stock. This big plant immediately adjoining the land offered for the location of the Texas Technological College would be of inestimable value to the school, and would obviate the necessity of duplicating this equipment at large expense.



SHEEP GRAZING ON SUDAN GRASS AT SPUR.

RAINFALL AT SPUR
1913 - 1922

	Average
January.....	.301
February.....	.414
March.....	1.053
April.....	2.552
May.....	3.616
June.....	2.624
July.....	1.296
August.....	2.692
September.....	3.290
October.....	2.973
November.....	.907
December.....	.670
Yearly Average.....	22.388

Summer and Winter Averages for Above 10 Year Period:

Rainfall during six summer months.....16.070 Inches
Rainfall during six winter months..... 6.318 Inches

The average summer rainfall is therefore 71.7% of the annual rainfall, and is adequate for the production of high crop yields. The fall and winter months, with less rainfall, offer splendid conditions for the harvesting of crops and preparation of land.

The average monthly wind movement for the above period of ten years was 5018 miles, or approximately seven miles per hour. The greatest wind movement is in the month of March with an average of 8.5 miles per hour. There is an average wind movement of 6.3 miles per hour during the months of July and August, which makes the climate very pleasant.

The average last killing frost in the spring is on March 28th, and the first in the fall is November 1st, which gives an ample growing period of 218 days.

There is an average of 291 clear days, 44 partly cloudy, and 25 cloudy days during the year.

MEAN TEMPERATURE
(Monthly Average)
1913 - 1922

	Maximum	Minimum
January.....	55.31	30.38
February.....	61.00	31.46
March.....	64.17	35.67
April.....	75.87	45.05
May.....	82.76	56.20
June.....	92.08	62.90
July.....	95.27	66.45
August.....	94.04	65.25
September.....	86.37	64.00
October.....	77.44	46.03
November.....	66.25	35.63
December.....	56.08	30.00

The maximum temperatures during the summer months are seldom high enough to be uncomfortable, while the minimum temperatures during the winter months are seldom low enough to be disagreeable. The winter cold-spells are dry ones, and outside operations are possible practically the entire year.

MEAN TEMPERATURE
(Monthly Average)
1912 - 1913

Month	Mean Temperature	Maximum Minimum
January	22.31	10.33
February	21.00	21.42
March	24.17	22.21
April	25.27	22.22
May	27.76	22.20
June	27.08	22.20
July	27.27	22.20
August	24.04	22.20
September	20.37	22.20
October	17.49	22.20
November	12.23	22.20
December	20.08	22.20

RAINFALL AT SPUR
1912 - 1913

Month	Rainfall
January	1.001
February	1.414
March	1.023
April	2.222
May	2.416
June	2.024
July	1.222
August	1.002
September	2.200
October	1.012
November	0.907
December	0.910
Yearly Average	22.222

The maximum temperatures during the summer months are seldom high enough to be uncomfortable. While the minimum temperatures during the winter months are seldom low enough to be disagreeable. The winter cold spells are dry, clear, and windy. Conditions are possible practically the entire year.

The average monthly wind movement for the above period of ten years was 2012 miles, or approximately seven miles per hour. The greatest wind movement is in the month of March with an average of 65 miles per hour. There is an average wind movement of 65 miles per hour during the months of July and August, which makes the climate very pleasant.

The average last falling frost in the spring is on March 18th, and the first in the fall is November 1st, which gives an ample growing period of 112 days.

There is an average of 101 clear days, 44 partly cloudy, and 22 cloudy days during the year.

Summer and Winter Average for Above 10 Year Period:

Rainfall during six summer months 16.010 inches
Rainfall during six winter months 6.518 inches

The average summer rainfall is therefore 2.668 inches of the annual rainfall, and is adequate for the growth of high crop yields. The fall and winter months with less rainfall, offer splendid conditions for the harvesting of crops and preservation of land.



ONE OF SPUR'S BANKS.

BUILDING MATERIALS:

At Spur there is a great abundance of gravel and sand, whose quality engineers and contractors have declared is unsurpassed for building purposes, and which would be available *without cost* for use in the construction of the College buildings. This would make a great saving in the cost of construction.

FURTHER RAILROAD FACILITIES:

As previously stated, Spur is now the terminus of the Wichita Valley Railroad, operating daily trains between Stamford and Spur. The gap between Spur and two other railroad termini—the Santa Fe at Crosbyton (30 miles from Spur) and the Quannah, Acme and Pacific at Roaring Springs (33 miles from Spur)—is now covered by regular automobile service on a two hour schedule.

We have every confidence that the Locating Committee will recognize, and believe they will take into account, the fact that the establishment of the Texas Technological College at Spur would undoubtedly hasten railroad extension. Surveys have already been made, and the completed profiles and locations show a standard 6/10 of 1% grade to the top of the Plains. Except for the fact that railroad construction is practically at a standstill in the United States, this contemplated railroad extension probably would already have been accomplished. The present available tonnage and traffic justify it.

GROWTH OF SPUR COMMUNITY:

According to the United States Census Report of 1920, Dickens County made the largest gain of any County in the State of Texas below the High Plains for the previous decade, in increase of number of farms. The Town of Spur has grown satisfactorily and substantially. Its type of buildings reflects this condition.



THE APPROACH TO SPUR OF THE FORT WORTH-ROSWELL HIGHWAY.

CHURCHES:

Six denominations hold service in Spur, the leading ones having erected churches, showing the Christian character of the community, and assuring full opportunity to those of nearly every faith to attend religious worship.

WATERWORKS:

The Municipality of Spur owns and operates a modern, all-sufficient Waterworks plant. Spur has an inexhaustible supply of good water, the source of which is a battery of bored wells forty feet in depth, three-quarters of a mile from the City. At insignificant expense additional wells may be added to the present battery as necessity requires.

A Water Main of ample size would be available at the College Site without expense to the College.

ELECTRIC CURRENT:

The Spur Electric Light Plant is well equipped and capable of supplying all needed current to the College Site. The poles and transmission line would be available at the College Site without expense to the College.

MORAL CONDITIONS:

Spur is a young, thriving city, which reflects in its religious, educational, commercial and social life the best elements of American civilization; a city in which no vicious resorts are tolerated. It so conducts its municipal affairs as to make it an ideal college town, and thus extends to a student body the most wholesome influences.



AT THE EDGE OF SPUR, SHOWING TYPE OF STEEL BRIDGE AND GRAVEL ROAD.

DESCRIPTION OF LAND OFFERED FOR THE TEXAS TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE:

The Two Thousand (2,000) acres offered to the State adjoin the State Experiment Station, whose location was selected from a vast unsold body at the very inception of Spur.

This land lying in one body is within one mile of Spur. There is a suitable variety of soil and a sufficient amount both for cultivation and pasture. The property lying between the Site offered and the Town of Spur is available, and for years has been reserved, for additional residential property. Twenty acres of this residential property immediately adjoining the townsite is offered to the State should the College desire to utilize it.

A considerable portion of this land is of a dark chocolate loam of the type which has shown the best results at the State Experiment Station. Tested with a sampling tube, the soil is rich and very deep. There is no hard-pan, and its mellow nature promises freedom from the objectionable features of some soils. Superintendent R. E. Dickson, of the Experiment Station, is authority for the statement that the Site offered contains our best type of land. Some of the soil is of mixed sandy nature, prized for its conservation of moisture.

The grazing land is of good turf, rolling, principally of mesquite, gramma and buffalo grass. Large mesquite trees afford summer and winter protection.

Spur has the authority to offer this land upon whatever basis would be agreeable to the Locating Committee. That is to say, the Two Thousand (2,000) acres are available at no cost to the State of Texas, or at whatever value the Locating Committee, or other property authority, should place upon the land; provided, they should feel that that is a preferable plan.



A COW COUNTRY PAR EXCELLENCE.
(Copyrighted by Erwin E. Smith, Bonham, Texas.)

IN CONCLUSION:

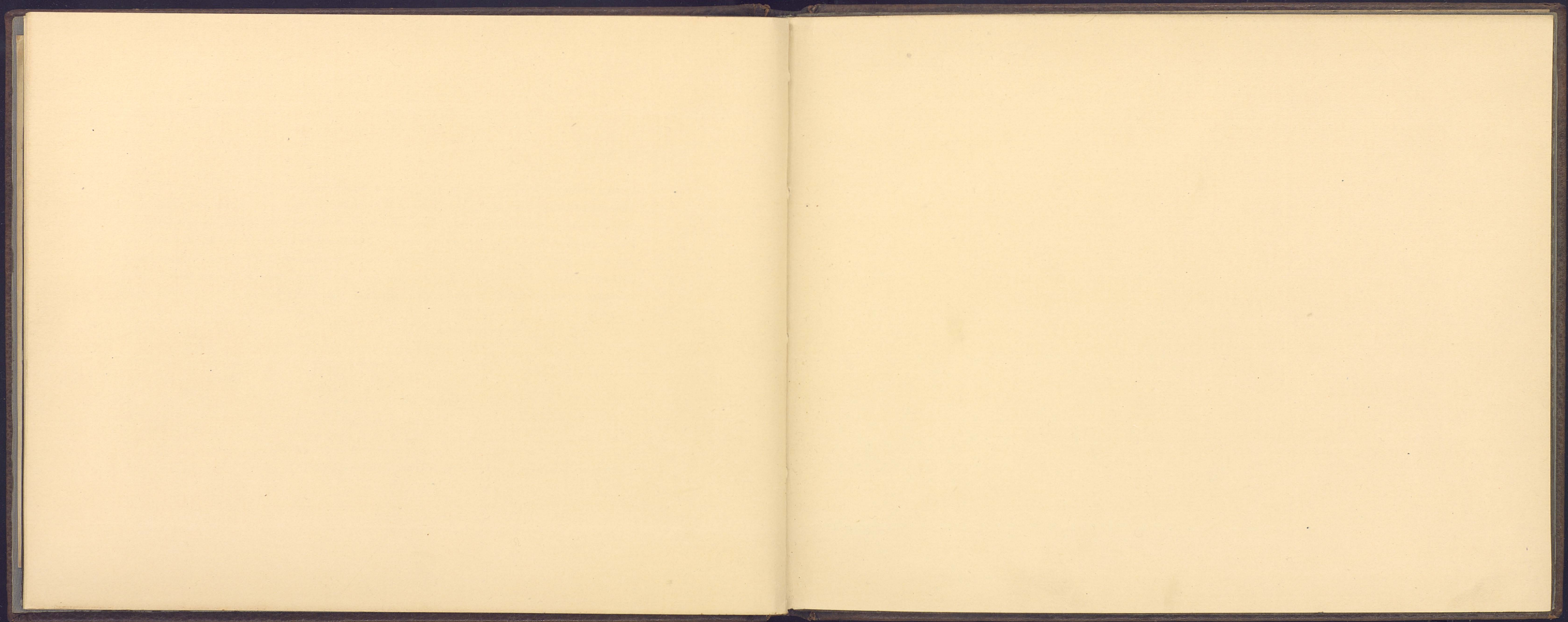
Spur fulfills each, every and all of the requirements of the Bill created to provide for the location of the Texas Technological College. We realize that the competition for the College will be great, and that the Committee will likely eliminate a considerable number of contestants without visiting them. We sincerely hope and believe that the advantages of Spur are real, and that the interest of Texas will be best served by locating the College here: that the Locating Committee will be sufficiently convinced by this presentation to include it in the itinerary of the places seriously to be considered. When you come, it will be our great pleasure to show you the Site, and, as thoroughly as you will permit, the general advantages which suggest its acceptance as the final choice of the Committee.

Respectfully submitted by

THE CITY OF SPUR,

COMMITTEE	{	GEO. S. LINK
		W. B. LEE
		E. C. EDMONDS
		NED HOGAN
		W. W. SAMPLE
		CEPHUS HOGAN
		W. F. GODFREY
		CLIFFORD B. JONES *

*Resigned account appointment to Board of Directors, Texas Technological College.



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