

## TIME LINE

- 1894 Schoolhouse constructed
- 1895 Common School District No. 38 established
- 1919 Became part of Goose Creek School District
- 1922 Closed for the first time
- 1925 Reopened for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades; back door added
- 1930 David G. Burnet Elementary opened; Wooster School closed
- 1930's Used as voting place and Sunday School for Wooster children of all ages
- 1937 Reopened for use as 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom for Burnet; moved across gully to be nearer Burnet
- 1938 Converted to lunchroom for Burnet
- 1952 New cafeteria for Burnet opened; Wooster school moved farther back for use as music room
- 1970 In the spring, David G. Burnet Elementary closed and in the fall, Goose Creek CISD's Special Education Department moved into Burnet and schoolhouse again used
- 1980 Wooster School retired
- 1986 Relocated to Republic of Texas Plaza to be used as a living history museum

Historic buildings are open to the public during special events and from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the last Saturday of each month except on holiday weekends and in inclement weather. Additional tours can be arranged by phone or email.



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## WOOSTER COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 38



*Republic of Texas Plaza Park  
5117 North Main Street  
Baytown, Texas*



## Wooster School No. 38

Wooster Common School is believed to be the oldest existing one-room frame schoolhouse indigenous to Harris County. The school was planned by Mr. Quincy A. Wooster and built in 1894 on land donated by Mr. Junius Brown. The original location was at the corner of what is now Arbor Street and Bayway Drive.

Mr. Wooster and Mr. Brown had been prominent citizens from Monona County, Iowa and had been connected with community service and education before coming to Texas.

Builders of the school included Bert Brown, Ernest Crow, Steve Steinman, W. A. "Will" Shreckengaust, John L. Wooster, and other young men of the Wooster Community. The little school, though not fancy, was a source of pride for the small Wooster community. Cypress was chosen for the frame and exterior siding, and long leaf heart pine for the interior. When finished, the school boasted a real slate blackboard

and new desks purchased in Houston and delivered by steamboat.

Intended to educate the children in grades one through seven, the little Wooster School was much more. In its early days, it served as a meetinghouse for the community. Old letters attest to the various socials held there, such as box suppers, Christmas festivities, Easter egg hunts, and picnics on the grounds. Nighttime programs put on by the children were very special events, attended by all.

In 1922, after previous consolidation with Goose Creek, the decision was made to close the school and transport the Wooster children to Baytown. The little school, however, was not to stay closed for long. In July of 1925, the school board ordered remodeling of the Wooster Schoolhouse, that it might serve as a primary school for first and second graders.

In the fall of 1930, a new modern elementary school, David G. Burnet, was opened and the little schoolhouse closed again.

However, 1937 saw the Wooster School reopened to again assist in the educational process of the growing Wooster community. Burnet Elementary had become overcrowded and the little Wooster Schoolhouse was needed to hold the fifth grade until additional classrooms could be completed. During the fall, while the fifth grade was given a week off, the

schoolhouse was moved across the gully and placed behind the Burnet building. After the 1937-38 term, the old building was converted to the lunchroom for Burnet. It served as a lunchroom until a new cafeteria was completed in 1952. Following completion of the new cafeteria, the old schoolhouse/lunchroom was used as the music room. In this capacity it served until Burnet was closed as a regular elementary school in 1970.

Still, the little schoolhouse was not to be retired. The district's Special Education Department moved in to occupy Burnet, and for ten more years, Wooster School served as an educational facility.

In 1986, the building was relocated to the Republic of Texas Plaza. Restoration was completed in December 1987.

Today, Wooster School continues serving Baytown and its contiguous areas as a living history museum.

