



Sketch of the 1939 Native Rock Gym after anticipated restoration is by Lisa Meier, Art Teacher at San Augustine High School.

December 6, 2018

Dear Friends and Alumni of our San Augustine Schools:

To all of us, she is simply “The 1939 Native Rock Gym”... a memorable part of our past. Today, this nearly eighty-year-old gymnasium faces an uncertain future, with her doors and windows in dire need of replacement or repair! SAISD Trustees have approved the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Application recently submitted to the Texas Historical Commission in order to save her for generations to come! To do so, windows and doors must be returned to their original configuration.

We hope you will consider this letter of request an opportunity to assist with restoring the rock gym! Your tax-deductible gift, in whatever amount you choose, is sincerely appreciated! Information with exact cost figures for the restoration/replacement of the doors and windows is enclosed with this letter. Already contributions are being received “In Memory Of” or “In Honor Of” former SAISD students, athletes, and family members who attended our San Augustine Schools.

The gym’s remarkable history began during the Works Projects Administration (WPA) days of the late 1930s and early 1940s. More than 200 young men from the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp built the gym from native sandstone/iron ore rocks, quarried just a few miles from the SAISD campus on Highway 147 North. During World War II the San Augustine Defense Guard practiced their maneuvers in the rock gym, as recorded in the images by Office of War Information (OWI) photographer John Vachon when he visited San Augustine in 1943. Activities in the rock gym went well beyond basketball games and physical education classes...there were festivals, plays, band concerts, and pep rallies over the years until the 1980s, when the new, larger gymnasium was built. The still-sturdy rock gym is used today by students and faculty for recreational and educational events.

Thank You for your consideration, and if possible, for your contribution to the restoration of the 1939 Native Rock Gym!

Sincerely,

Dr. Virginia Liepman, Superintendent
San Augustine Independent School District

Betty Oglesbee, Marker Chair
SA County Historical Commission

The 1939 Native Rock Gym Restoration Project

Staff members from the Architecture Division of Texas Historical Commission visited the 1939 Native Rock Gym on the campus of SAISD High School/Junior High Campus, and made recommendations concerning the restoration project. Replacing, repairing, and/or replicating the windows and doors to their original configuration are required. Roof repairs have already been addressed by the School District.

Tim Marsh Waterproofing, Inc., the masonry professionals who recently restored the 1919 San Augustine County Jail, has submitted itemized cost figures for the Rock Gym Project. Breakdown is as follows:

For the front of the rock gym, facing East:	
Two sets of double doors with skylights, replicating those shown in the 1948-49 Wolf Pack Yearbook...each...	\$ 4,250.00
	4,250.00
Three large arched windows between the front doors @ 1600.00 each...	4,800.00
34 additional windows on the North and South sides of the rock gym @ 800.00 each...	<u>27,200.00</u>
Total project cost...	\$ 40,500.00

Some former graduates have indicated their desire to make donations "In Memory Of" and "In Honor Of" various class members. Your gifts will go exclusively to the Rock Gym Project.

Contributions in any amount are welcome, and are fully tax-deductible.

Make checks payable to: **SAISD** (Please add "Rock Gym Project" in the notation)

Please mail your donation to the following address:

**San Augustine ISD
1002 Barrett Street
San Augustine, TX 75972**

THANKS!