



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ashbel Smith Elementary



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High Schools & Others: [Goose Creek Memorial](#) | [Impact Early College High School at Lee College](#) | [John M. Stuart Career Center](#) | [Peter E. Hyland Center](#) | [Robert E. Lee](#) | [Ross S. Sterling](#) | [School Community Guidance Center](#)

403 E. James Street

Ashbel Smith Elementary School was built in 1927. The school was named for Dr. Ashbel Smith. It was first located at 603 N. Ashbel Street. After the communities of Goose Creek, Pelly and Baytown consolidated in 1948, the street name and address was changed to 403 E. James Street.

Dr. Ashbel Smith was named President of the newly established University of Texas Board of Regents in 1881. He also helped to establish the U T medical branch in Galveston. Ashbel Smith Elementary was moved to the West Town Complex in 1990-91, because of mold and mildew in the old school building. Fifteen different United States presidents have served in the White House since it first opened. A new school was built on the first location in 1996.

RENOVATIONS

1941 -
1949 -
1963 -
1967 -

ASHBEL SMITH

Dr. Ashbel Smith (August 13, 1805-January 21, 1886) was a physician diplomat and official of the Republic of Texas. He was born in Hartford, Connecticut. He graduated from Yale University at age 19 and then graduated from Yale medical school in 1828. Smith moved to Texas in 1837 and quickly became friends with Republic of Texas President Sam Houston. Sam Houston appointed him as the Surgeon General of the Republic of Texas Army. In 1839, he purchased land and built his plantation, Evergreen, in what is now Baytown, Texas. In Houston's second term (1841-1844), Dr. Smith was named Plenipotentiary Minister (Ambassador) to the Great Britain, Ireland and France.

Texas President Anson Jones appointed him Secretary of State in 1845. Smith served as a surgeon in the Mexican-American War (1846-48). He also worked at the U. S. Military Academy in 1848.



In the early 1850s, he worked with Gail Borden to develop a dried beef biscuit. In 1855, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. Smith served as a captain in the Confederate Army and was designated as a commissioner to negotiate peace terms for Texas with Union officials in New Orleans.

The Texas Historical Society was organized in 1870 with Smith as its president. He led the drive for public education for blacks and women. Governor Richard Coke appointed him as a commissioner, which led to the establishment of Prairie View A & M University in 1878.

Smith was again elected to a two-year term to the Texas House of Representatives in 1878 and his main goal was to establish a public university with a medical school. He was named President of the newly-established University of Texas Board of Regents in 1881. He also helped to establish the UT medical branch in Galveston. He never married and died on January 21, 1886, at his Evergreen Plantation in Baytown, Texas. He is buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin, Texas.

Source: [wikipedia.org](#)

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Physical Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
4544 Interstate 10 East
Baytown, Texas 77521
281.420.4800

Mailing Address:
Goose Creek Consolidated
Independent School District
P.O. Box 30
Baytown, Texas 77522
281.420.4800

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