

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED  
JUL 28 1992  
NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Chi Omega Greek Theatre; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

other name/site number: WA0348

2. Location

street & number: Dickson Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Fayetteville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Washington

code: AR 143

zip code: 72701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Structure

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| _____        | _____           | buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | sites      |
| <u>1</u>     | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u>        | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940

=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn I. Byrd \_\_\_\_\_ 7-14-92  
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
**5. National Park Service Certification**  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

~~Entered in the~~  
~~National Register~~  
Alvina Byrd 9/4/92

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: College  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: EDUCATION Sub: College  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
**7. Description**  
=====

Architectural Classification:

Classical  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof N/A  
walls Concrete other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1927-1940

Significant Dates: c. 1927

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   1  

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### **Summary**

The Chi Omega Greek Theatre at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is a large, open, elliptical amphitheater that is constructed of concrete steps and seats surrounding an oval concrete stage flanked by a pair of Classical pavilions connected by an open colonnade.

### **Elaboration**

The Chi Omega Greek Theatre at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is a large, open, elliptical amphitheater that is constructed of concrete steps and seats surrounding an oval concrete stage flanked by a pair of Classical pavilions connected by an open colonnade. The seats are divided into four symmetrical sections by three aisles, and the audience is oriented to face east while viewing the performance. The seats are placed against the side of a hill with the stage at the bottom, thus creating a natural, sloping arena that provides ample viewing of the staged event for all audience members. The seating area is accessed via a network of modern concrete sidewalks at the top of the amphitheatre and at the bottom, flanking either side of the stage area. The Chi Omega Greek Theatre measures approximately 150 feet from the rear of the stage to the rear of the seating area to the northwest, and the entire seating area measures approximately 200 feet across at its widest point, at the bottom of the hill next to the performance area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Chi Omega Greek Theatre; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville**

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville was officially founded as a federal land grant university in 1871 through the passage by the Arkansas state legislature of "An Act for the Location, Organization, and Maintenance of the Arkansas Industrial University, with a Normal Department Therein." The state had been empowered to establish such schools since March 2, 1827, when Congress passed an act that set aside two townships within the Territory of Arkansas to be selected from the best federal land and sold for the sole purpose of establishing a state university; yet for reasons that were primarily political, this did not occur until after the Civil War.

The board of trustees oversaw the financing and construction of University Hall -- affectionately known as "Old Main" (NR-Listed 6/15/70) -- as the first building erected on the campus. The University continued to grow gradually throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, responding to increased enrollment, an expanding curriculum, and greater emphasis upon extracurricular activities. This trend continued during the 1920's and did not abate in the 1930's in spite of the Depression. As was the case with many public sites and institutions around the state, the labor force was largely contributed by the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA), the federal agency established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to hire the nation's unemployed for the purpose of carrying out a broad variety of projects in the public interest. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were all subsidiary organizations whose work in Arkansas was overseen by the ERA.

The Chi Omega Greek Theatre was constructed c. 1927. Its eastern orientation is typical of Greek theatres, as it allowed for dramatic early morning performances in the Greek tradition. It features clear Classical influences in its use of the arched pavilions and the semi-circular plan of the seating area, and is the only such outdoor theatre area constructed during this period that has been documented for the entire state. It was built during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*, and stands as an unusual example of a concrete masonry amphitheater designed in what can best be described as the Classical tradition. Its use during this period as an educational and dramatic performance space for a public university clearly identifies it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion A through its direct associations with the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period, and under Criterion C as the best example locally of this application of the Classical idiom to this particular construction type.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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See "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" Multiple Property Form, Section H.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

|   |           |               |                |   |     |       |       |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|---|-----|-------|-------|
| A | <u>15</u> | <u>394320</u> | <u>3991800</u> | B | ___ | _____ | _____ |
| C | ___       | _____         | _____          | D | ___ | _____ | _____ |

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running along the northern edge of Dickson Street with a perpendicular line running parallel to the theatre's eastern elevation and located approximately 20 feet to the east thereof, proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the theatre's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the theatre's western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of Dickson Street; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both the historic resource and all the surrounding property known to have been historically associated therewith that retains its integrity.

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 13, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS  
ARKANSAS

|  | Date Listed    |
|--|----------------|
| COVER <del>Substantive Review</del>  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001115 Aggie Hall  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001113 Aggie Workshop  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001098 Agriculture Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001125 Alco School   | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001203 Bergman High School   | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001214 Berryville Agriculture Building   | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001215 Berryville Gymnasium  | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001178 Boswell School <del>Substantive Review</del>  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001112 Bruno School Building   | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001128 Buford School Building <del>Substantive Review</del>  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001099 Business Administration Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville                            | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001194 Cafeteria Building--Cleveland School  | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001200 Calico Rock Home Economics Building   | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001213 Caraway Hall--Arkansas Tech University  | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001217 Cedarville School Building  | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001206 Center Valley Well House  | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001100 Chemistry Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001101 Chi Omega Greek Theatre--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville                                     | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001202 Clarksville High School Building No. 1  | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001123 Coal Gap School   | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001122 Damascus Gymnasium  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001118 Dodson Memorial Building  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001121 Durham School   | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001192 Enterprise School   | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001110 Eros School Building  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001205 Everton School  | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001116 Fairview School Building  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001120 Fishback School   | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001212 Girls' Domestic Science and Arts Building--Arkansas Tech University <del>Substantive Review</del> | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001196 Guy High School Gymnasium   | <u>9/10/92</u> |
| 92001197 Guy Home Economics Building   | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001114 Hirst--Mathew Hall  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001102 Home Economics Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville                                     | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001210 Hughes Hall--Arkansas Tech University <del>Substantive Review</del>                               | <u>9/4/92</u>  |
| 92001106 Jamestown School  | <u>9/4/92</u>  |



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Chi Omega Greek Theatre--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

MULTIPLE NAME: Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 7/28/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/14/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/30/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/11/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001101

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/4/92 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

historic       current

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DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

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SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 applicable criteria  
 justification of areas checked  
 relating significance to the resource  
 context  
 relationship of integrity to significance  
 justification of exception  
 other

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps     USGS maps     photographs     presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



CHI OMEGA GREEK THEATER  
FAYETTEVILLE, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY  
MARCH, 1990  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



CHI OMEGA GREEK THEATER  
FAYETTEVILLE, WASHINGTON Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY  
MARCH, 1990  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500028