

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED  
AUG 07 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Williamson Hall - Arkansas Tech University

other name/site number: PP0046

2. Location

street & number: North El Paso Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Russellville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Pope

code: AR 115

zip code: 72801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	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 A. Byford \_\_\_\_\_ 8-2-92  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ M. J. M. W. J. 9/18/92  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Historic: EDUCATION Sub: School

Current: EDUCATION Sub: School

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**7. Description**

=====

Architectural Classification:

Colonial Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Ceramic tile  
walls Brick other \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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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  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1940

Significant Dates: 1940

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: National Youth Administration

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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### Summary

Williamson Hall at Arkansas Tech University is two story, brick masonry classroom building designed in the Classical Revival style. Its plan is "E"-shaped, as its central gable roof section is flanked on either side by two long, flat roof, single story sections, and a central flat roof section also projects from the rear of the center of the gable roof section. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof section and built-up tar roofs cover each of the flat roof sections. The brick walls are supported upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

### Elaboration

Williamson Hall at Arkansas Tech University is two story, brick masonry classroom building designed in the Classical Revival style. Its plan is "E"-shaped, as its central gable roof section is flanked on either side by two long, flat roof, single story sections, and a central flat roof section also projects from the rear of the center of the gable roof section. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof section and built-up tar roofs cover each of the flat roof sections. The brick walls are supported upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

The eastern or front elevation consists of the side gable wall of the two-story connecting section -- dominated by the central, white, pedimented two-story entrance portico -- and the end walls of the two flanking single story, flat-roof sections. The portico is ornamented with a pediment that is blank save for the central oculus window with its Colonial Revival detailing, and that is supported upon six Doric wood columns resting upon a concrete deck. The double-leaf entrance behind is framed by a transom and a Colonial Revival decorative crown, featuring a broken pediment. A single window is placed to either side of the entrance, and three more single windows are placed in the wall directly above the entrance, but beneath the portico ceiling. The walls to either side of the portico are symmetrical on both floors. Each is three window bays in length, with each window bay containing a pair of windows. The walls of the flat roof sections to either side are each lighted with two symmetrically-placed window bays. The western elevation opposite is also symmetrical, with the central, flat roof, projection section being divided equally by a central, double-leaf entrance that is flanked on either side by a pair of windows. The two-story walls behind are each three window bays long, though the number of windows in each bay differs between them, and between floors. The walls of the flat roof sections to either side of the main section are symmetrically-divided by a central, double-leaf entrance with a single window bay to either side, each filled with a pair of windows.

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The inside of the northern projecting end bay is lighted with three pairs of windows; the inside of the southern projecting bay is lighted with four pairs of windows. The side walls of the central projecting section is lighted with three pairs of windows on its north elevation and four pairs of windows on its southern elevation.

The northern and southern elevation are each divided into six bays. The northern elevation is lighted with six pairs of windows; the southern elevation is lighted with one window bay to the east, four more to the west, and a double-leaf entrance bay in between.

Williamson Hall has suffered the replacement of virtually all of its original windows; otherwise the building is largely intact and unaltered. It is in good condition.



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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Williamson Hall; Arkansas Tech University**

Arkansas Tech University was founded in 1909 when the Arkansas General Assembly created four Agricultural School Districts, with the Second District being formed by the twenty counties of northwest Arkansas. The city of Russellville offered the governor-appointed Board of Trustees four-hundred acres adjoining the city limits and a cash bonus of several thousand dollars, and was thus selected as the site of the new school.

The Second District Agricultural School -- as it was initially known -- first matriculated students in the fall of 1910. The school was planned to function initially as an agricultural secondary school and to grow into a four-year college-level institution as soon as possible. It first offered a freshman year of college work in 1921-22, and instituted second, third and fourth years in each of the succeeding academic years, respectively, so that by 1925 both a four-year high school and a four-year college were operating on the same campus. This progress was acknowledged by the Arkansas General Assembly in 1925 when it changed the name of the school to Arkansas Polytechnic College and awarded it the power to grant degrees. However, this ambitious program proved beyond the resources of the school, and by 1927 it became a two-year junior college. It remained so until 1948, when the Board of Trustees re-instituted its degree-granting status with a plan to return to a four-year school. The General Assembly officially changed the name to Arkansas Tech University in 1976.

The 1930's heralded one of the most ambitious periods of construction on the campus. 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.

Williamson Hall was constructed in 1940 by the National Youth Administration. As such, 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 outstanding example of a large, brick masonry classroom building with an "E"-shaped plan designed in the Classical Revival style (e.g., the absolutely symmetrical composition of the front facade and the pedimented Classical central entrance portico with its four Doric columns that dominates the composition). Its use during this period as an educational classroom building for a public university clearly identifies it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion

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A through its direct associations with both the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period and the N.Y.A. It is also eligible under Criterion C as the best example locally of this application of the Classical Revival style to this particular floor plan.

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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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Acreage of Property: Approximately two

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>487560</u>	<u>3905050</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 western edge of North El Paso Street with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the north thereof, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a line running parallel to the building's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of North El Paso Street; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 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 16, 1992

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

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

Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS  
ARKANSAS

		Date Listed
92001195	Liberty School Cafeteria	9/10/92
92001107	Locust Grove School	9/4/92
92001124	Luber School <i>Substantive Review</i>	9/4/92
92001199	Maxville School Building	9/10/92
92001201	Melbourne Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001103	Men's Gymnasium--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001109	Moorefield School	9/4/92
92001207	Mountain View School	9/10/92
92001216	Mountainburg High School	9/10/92
92001218	Mulberry Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001220	New Liberty School	9/10/92
92001211	Physical Education Building--Arkansas Tech University	9/10/92
92001193	Plumerville School Building	9/10/92
92001198	Poughkeepsie School Building	9/10/92
92001111	Pyatt School Building	9/4/92
92001126	Quitman High School Building	9/4/92
92001127	Quitman Home Economics Building	9/4/92
92001219	Smithville Public School Building <i>Substantive Review</i>	
92001119	Spring Valley School District 120 Building	9/4/92
92001104	Student Union Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001108	Thida Grove School	9/4/92
92001117	Tontitown School Building	9/4/92
92001204	Valley Springs School	9/10/92
92001105	Walker, Vol, Library--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001208	Williamson Hall--Arkansas Tech University <i>Substantive Review</i>	
92001209	Wilson Hall--Arkansas Tech University <i>Substantive Review</i>	
92001351	Center Cross School	<i>Entered in the National Register</i>
93001255	Big Flat School Gymnasium	<i>National Register 10/8/92</i>
9309461	Solomon Grove Smith-Hughes Building	<i>National Register 11/19/93</i>
		<i>Entered in the National Register 12.9.94</i>

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001208

Date Listed: 9/18/92

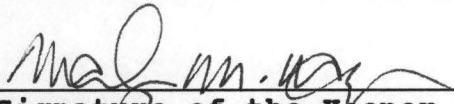
Williamson Hall, Arkansas Tech Univ.  
Property Name

Pope  
County

ARKANSAS  
State

Public School in the Ozarks MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

10/23/92  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 6

This nomination is amended to show both the historic and current functions of the property as Education/College. What is now Arkansas Technical University was initially established as a secondary school. During the period of significance for this building, however, the institution was a two year junior college, which it had become in 1925. It became Arkansas Technical University in 1976.

This change has been confirmed by phone with the Arkansas SHPO (10/23/92).

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**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Williamson Hall--Arkansas Tech University

MULTIPLE NAME: Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pope

DATE RECEIVED: 8/07/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/21/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/06/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/21/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001208

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/18/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This large classroom building, constructed in 1940 by the National Youth Administration, is a good example of educational buildings constructed by Federal Depression-era relief agencies.

The reconstruction requirements of the MPS have been met.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A+C  
REVIEWER Hamper  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 9/18/92

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



CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_ count      \_\_\_ resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_ historic      \_\_\_ current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_ architectural classification  
\_\_\_ materials  
\_\_\_ descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_ acreage      \_\_\_ verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_ UTM's      \_\_\_ boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_ sketch maps      \_\_\_ USGS maps      \_\_\_ photographs      \_\_\_ presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This large classroom building, constructed in 1900 by the National Youth Administration, is a good example of educational culture's contribution to the Depression-era relief efforts.*

RECOM. ACETIBLIA  
REVIEWER  
DISCIPLINE  
DATE





WILLIAMSON HALL; ATU

BUSSELLVILLE, POPE Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST



WILLIAMSON HALL; ATU  
RUSSELLVILLE, POPE Co., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE  
JANUARY, 1990  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM WEST

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500028