

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1341
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Forrest City High School

other name/site number: "Old Central"

2. Location

street & number: Rosser Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Forrest City

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: St. Francis code: AR 123 zip code: 72335

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> 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: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

9-1-92
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

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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

Delores Byrd 10/8/92

for Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

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Historic: EDUCATION

Sub: School

Current: EDUCATION

Sub: Education-related

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick other Concrete and Formed Stone Trim

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: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1915-1934 _____

Significant Dates: 1915 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Lester, W. C.
Hollingsworth, J. E.

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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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Forrest City High School is a two-story, brick masonry school building designed in a restrained interpretation of the Classical Revival style. Constructed in 1915, it has since been augmented by three additions -- two historic, one non-historic -- all of which are also of brick masonry construction. The projecting decorative cornice and the exterior window trim throughout are all of cast concrete, as is the foundation.

Elaboration

The Forrest City High School is a two-story, brick masonry school building designed in a restrained interpretation of the Classical Revival style. Its plan consists of a T-shaped original section (constructed in 1915) that has since been augmented by three additions -- two historic, one non-historic -- all of which are also of brick masonry construction. Thus the current plan consists of an asymmetrical front section (the asymmetricality being created by the addition to the southern end) oriented with its long side facing the street, and a "T" section extending from the western or rear elevation that consists of the original auditorium section, to which was first added the larger gymnasium section, and then the non-historic kitchen/classroom section. Two brick chimneys rise from the building: one adjoining the rear wall of the original section and the other rising from the western wall of the gymnasium addition. The brick walls are covered with a combination composition shingle/built-up tar roof and supported by a continuous, cast concrete foundation.

The eastern or front elevation is composed of the original, symmetrical facade to the north with the later, compatible addition placed to the south. The projecting entrance bay consists of a central, double-leaf entrance flanked by two pair of one-over-one windows on the first story and two pair of identical windows flanking a central, triple window on the second story. The walls to either side feature a single, smaller one-over-one sash window and a grouped set of five sash windows on each floor. The addition to the south repeats the grouped set of five windows on each floor. The entire facade is united by a bracketed cornice that continues from this elevation over to the northern and southern elevations. A raised brick parapet, coped with concrete, finishes the elevation.

The northern and southern elevations are more complex, largely due to the additions that have occurred to the rear of the building. The eastern end of the northern elevation consists of the projecting end of the original building, which itself is punctuated with a central, double-leaf

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2

entrance on the first floor and a central arched window above, and otherwise ornamented with a rectangular band of inset trim on each of the flanking wall surfaces. To the west, the wall is lighted on both storys by two pair of one-over-one sash windows, set into segmental arch openings. The wall then projects forward and features a single rectangular window followed by three arched openings (now filled) on the first floor, and four symmetrically-placed rectangular windows on the second floor (the arched openings originally provided access to a recessed porch beneath). The gymnasium next to the west is lighted on the second floor by five bays of compound, multi-pane windows, and with four bays on the first floor, with the second floor windows being taller than those below. The last bay on the first floor at the western end of the gymnasium contains the former location of a large entrance, now filled with brick. The elevation is completed by the projecting, flat roof end of the new, non-historic addition, which is blank. The southern elevation opposite is virtually identical, the sole exception being the fact that the arched openings at the rear of the original ell have not been filled, and thus continue to provide access to the entrances placed within the recessed porch.

The western elevation is composed by the rear of the most recent, single-story addition to the building. This facade is symmetrically-composed, with the two entrances placed between the three stationary composite windows. The rear wall of the gymnasium rises directly behind, though it is blank. The rear wall of the main classroom section to the east is lighted with a series of one-over-one sash windows on both floors.

The significant exterior details are largely limited to the Classical entrance, the arched entrances and window openings, the Classical cornice that wraps around the northern, eastern and western elevations, and the concrete and formed stone trim applied around the exterior of the window openings.

The interior, though simply appointed, has always been so, and is largely intact. Such details as stained wood door and window trim, arched openings between hallways, original stairwells and steps, and the original auditorium, complete with stage, balcony and pressed tin ceiling.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Forrest City High School is eligible under Criterion C as the best extant example locally of the Classical Revival style. Such features as the projecting Classical cornice, the arched windows and the blind pediment above the main entrance are all typical of this style.

Elaboration

Though St. Francis County was first formally organized in 1827, with its first county seat located at the home of William Strong, one of the county's first settlers, the community of Madison (located in the geographical center of the county) served as the county seat for the majority of the years prior to the Civil War. Forrest City was first surveyed and platted in March of 1869 by J.C. Hill, the county surveyor, largely due to its strategic location at the intersection of the proposed railroad lines that would connect Memphis, Tennessee and Little Rock via the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad, and the line that would connect this line with the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad to the north that ran between St. Louis and Texas. Because of its newly-acquired status as the regional transportation, commercial and communications hub, by 1874 it became the county seat. Due largely to the railroad and the prosperity it brought to the city, Forrest City grew at a fairly steady rate throughout the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and could boast of over 4,000 residents as of the turn of the century. By 1908, the city owned its own water works and electric light plant. It had also largely installed a network of concrete sidewalks throughout the city. An abundance of churches thrived throughout the various residential neighborhoods that surrounded the downtown commercial section centered around the railroad intersection.

Forrest City was first declared a special school district in 1884, though public education was conducted with varying degrees of success during its first few years. The first brick masonry public school building was constructed in 1892, though the dramatic growth in the local population necessitated a sizeable addition not long thereafter. This growth continued unabated and by the second decade of the twentieth century Forrest City could boast of a large mercantile store and cotton gin as two of its principle businesses, and two banks that each advertised its respective total assets at approximately \$90,000. Other enterprises included a hotel and opera house, and planned projects included the construction of a new railroad station, a new post office, and a city park. Several local newspaper articles of the period noted the demands being placed upon the existing school facilities by this growth, and the urgent need of the city to address this pressing issue.

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Section number 8 Page 2

The city responded by constructing a brand new school building in 1915, on a newly-acquired site on North Rosser Street. The new Forrest City High School (also known locally as "Old Central") was designed by the architect W. C. Lester and built by J. E. Hollingsworth. The original building featured a symmetrical front facade organized around a slightly projecting central entrance bay. The design was symmetrical in plan also, with the axis extending from the central entrance through to the rear of the auditorium section. And though significant additions were made to the building in 1928 (the southern addition), 1934 (the western gymnasium) and 1958 (the classroom section at the western end), all have been constructed of brick masonry, and all have respected the essential Classical Revival character of the original 1915 structure. The projecting, bracketed terra cotta cornice and the molded terra cotta window trim, the pedimented front entrance and the inset, flush terra cotta trim around the other entrances and arched windows all combine to render this building the finest extant example of this style in Forrest City.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X 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:

X 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 3.2

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 701730 3876900 B

C D

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running parallel with the southern elevation of the building and located approximately 25 feet to the south thereof with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of Rosser Street, proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 400 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 350 feet to its intersection with the eastern edge of Division Street; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 400 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 350 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 31, 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 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Forrest City Daily Times; February 20, 1914.

Forrest City High School Manuals of Course and Study; 1908 and 1915.

Forrest City High School yearbooks; 1924, 1925 and 1928.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Forrest City High School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, St. Francis

DATE RECEIVED: 9/08/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/22/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/8/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/23/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001341

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 10/8/92 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

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
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL

FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

MARCH, 1992

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST



FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL
FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
MARCH, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST



FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL
FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
MARCH, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
DETAIL OF ENTRANCE ARCHES FROM SOUTH



FORREST CITY HALL SCHOOL
FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
MARCH, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR DETAIL



FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL
FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
MARCH, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
ENTRANCE DETAIL



FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL
FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
MARCH, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL
FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
MARCH, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
VIEW OF GYMNASIUM

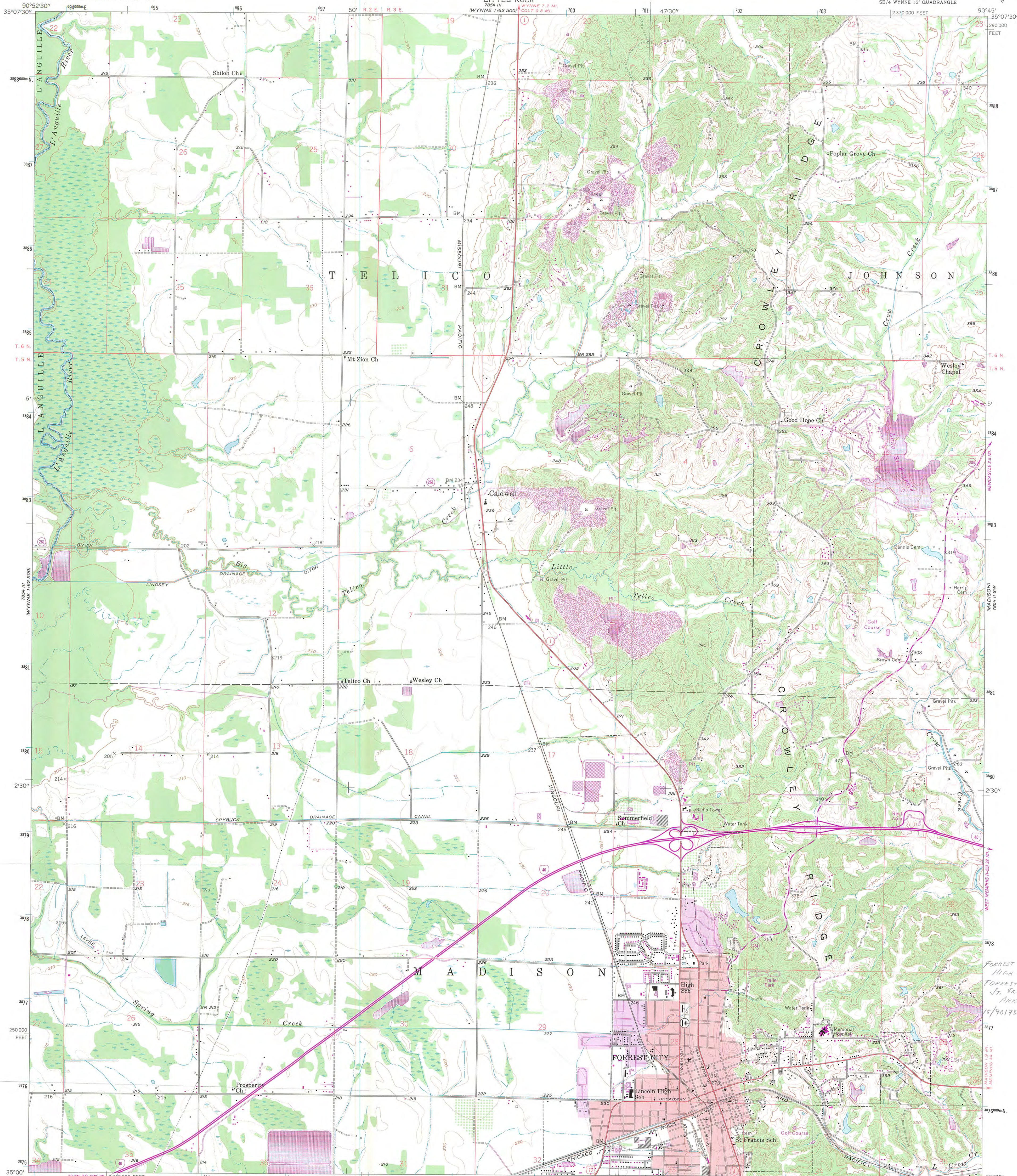


FORREST CITY HIGH SCHOOL
FORREST CITY, ST. FRANCIS Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
MARCH, 1992
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR DOOR TRIM DETAIL

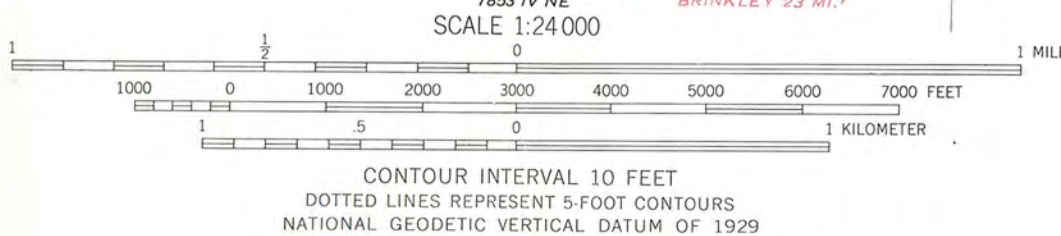
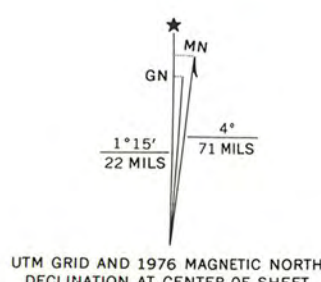
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

FORREST CITY QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-ST. FRANCIS CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE/4 WYNNIE 15' QUADRANGLE



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
and by planetable surveys 1958. Aerial photographs taken 1957
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1976. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway,
hard surface
Secondary highway,
hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

FORREST CITY, ARK.
SE/4 WYNNIE 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3500 - W 9045/7.5
1958
PHOTOREVISED 1976
AMS 7854 III SE-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

RECEIVED
SEP 08 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

September 1, 1992

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Forrest City High School
Forrest City, St. Francis County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

