

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received JUN 5 1980

date entered AUG 6 1980

1. Name

historic Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College

and/or common Dunbar High School

2. Location

street & number Wright Avenue and Ringo St. not for publication

city, town Little Rock vicinity of congressional district Second

state Arkansas code 05 county Pulaski code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u> </u> district	<u>X</u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture <u> </u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial <u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u>X</u> educational <u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment <u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government <u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial <u> </u> transportation
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military <u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Little Rock Board of Education

street & number West Markham and Izard

city, town Little Rock vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Assessor's Office

street & number Wallace Building, Markham and Main

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition
☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one
☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one
☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College opened in 1929 as the Negro School of Industrial Arts. The school is located in a residential area south of downtown Little Rock. The edifice, built on a southeast/north-west axis, was designed by George H. Wittenburg and Lawson L. Delony. Both architects contributed to the design of Little Rock Central High School (1927; listed on National Register: 1977) located nine blocks west of Dunbar. Dunbar was designed to accommodate an academic curriculum as well as the more traditional vocational programs often considered the limit of education for blacks.

Though their experience with Central High influenced the architects' design of Dunbar, the latter structure is on a smaller scale and has a less ornate exterior. The symmetrical three-story building was constructed of red brick, concrete and native stone. A variety of brickwork techniques were employed to embellish the facades. For example, the use of brick pilasters, capped with stone, between the window bays defines the wall surfaces and demonstrates an interest in articulating verticality. This subtle emphasis on verticality is also achieved with the stone coping that rises above the roof line and continues around the building.

The principal elevation is set back, almost in a U plan, with two flanking wings extending toward the entrance section. This arrangement, with its open landscape to the street, conveys a court-like impression. The pre-dominate entrance towers are raised above grade and reflect the medieval influence present in many early 20th century educational structures. The crenellation of the towers and the pilasters gives the towers a strong verticality. Each tower has three tall and thinly rounded arches which incorporate two ranges of rectangular windows. Two thin pilasters separate the arches and a brick basket weave pattern divides the second and third floor windows. The tympanum of the arches are filled with decorative cast concrete while the panels above display polychrome brickwork in a checker-board pattern. The stone architraves, double leaf doors with sidelights, and concrete stairways are flanked by a pair of stone capped pilasters. Horizontal crenellations emphasize the division between the towers and the entrance.

The less decorative secondary facades reflect the character of the principal elevation and the nature of the expansive plan. The solid brick wall is decorated with corbelled brick and courses of raised brick capped with stone. Another noteworthy element of the secondary facades is the tall round arch windows of the auditorium. The secondary entrance towers exhibit the same crenellation and pilaster elements that distinguish the main entrances. The secondary towers, however, lack round arches and decorative brickwork.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED JUN 5 1980

DATE ENTERED AUG 6 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The interior has changed little since 1929. The design of the classrooms, laboratories and hallways facilitates circulation, ventilation and the distribution of natural light. The corridors are characterized by terrazzo floors, arched beams and buff brick wainscotting.

The terrazzo is composed of black marble from Belgium, yellow marble from Italy and white marble from the United States. The hardwood classroom floors are now covered with tile. Throughout the structure the walls are composed of fireproof tile covered with plaster and trimmed with oak.

Dunbar has recently undergone minor modifications, including the installation of aluminum door and window frames and enclosing the auditorium windows. There have been no major alterations to the structure or in the utilization of its floor space.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1929

Builder/Architect George H. Wittenburg & Lawson L. Delony

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of Dunbar Junior High School derives both from the unique place it occupies in the history of education in Arkansas and from the modern architectural concepts with which it was designed. Completed in 1929 Dunbar was a center of quality education for black Arkansans in the state's segregated public school system, functioning as a junior high school, high school and junior college until its last high school and junior college classes graduated in 1955. The outstanding educational opportunities for blacks offered by the school during the 1929–1955 period are reflected in the institution's admittance to the North Central Accreditation Association in 1931–1932, its distinction as one of only two industrial arts schools in the south to attain junior college rating, also in 1931–1932, and the recognition and acceptance of the Dunbar curriculum as basis for admission to colleges and universities throughout the United States. In 1943 the school was involved in a controversy concerning equal pay for black and white teachers in the Little Rock school system which was resolved in 149 F. 2d 703 Morris v. Williams, heard before the United States Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. This was a landmark case in establishing the principle of "equal pay based on professional qualifications and services rendered." The architects' achievement in designing an architecturally eminent setting for this progressive passage in Arkansas' history is also noteworthy. With an eye toward form following function, the plan of the building promotes maximum usage of space and expedient circulation. Esthetically the building is decidedly modern with decorative brick and stone work and striking towers reflecting an interest in the Art Deco style of the period. Dunbar's prominence is underscored by a number of personalities who visited the school including Eleanor Roosevelt, Duke Ellington, Count Basie and Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Sr.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bush, Alice S. and Rosalia Torrence, "Paul Laurence Dunbar High School" unpublished manuscript.

Dunbar Alumni Association, Inc., Little Rock Chapter, "Fourth Reunion of the Classes," July 17-22, 1979 (mimeograph). SEE Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.83 acres

Quadrangle name Little Rock, AR

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References

A 1 5 5 6 5 3 6 0 3 8 4 3 4 0 0
Zone Easting Northing

UTM NOT VERIFIED

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Blk. 278, lots 4 - 15 and part of 16. Original City of Little Rock.
(South 4 ft.)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Don Brown, Historian/Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian

organization Ark. Historic Preservation Program

date January 8, 1980

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building

telephone 501/371-2763

city or town Little Rock

state Arkansas 72201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national X state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Jean W. Baldridge

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5.28.80

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Bruce Van Donge

date 8.6.80

~~Keeper of the National Register~~

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Attest:

Beth Grosvenor

date

8/1/80

~~Chief of Registration~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED	

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

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#9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Anne Abrams, Interview, October 10, 1979.

Property

Dunbar Junior and Senior High
School and Junior College

State

AR, Pulaski

Working Number

6.5.80.1464

80000782

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

8
1

CONTROL

Center of quality education for black students during AR's period of segregated
public schools; involved in landmark court case in equal pay for equal work issue.
An attractive and little altered example of the Art Deco style.

HISTORIAN

accept
Groover
8/4/80

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
Groover
8/4/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Send-back

Entered

AUG 6 1980

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Southeast elevation from east

1 of 8

AUG 6 1980
JUN 5 1980



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979

Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Southeast elevation from southeast

2 of 8

JUN 5 1980

AUG 6 1980



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979

Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Detail of main tower from southeast

3 of 8

JUN 5 1980

AUG 6 1980

JUN 5 1980

JUN 5 1980



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
East elevation from east

4 of 8

AUG 6 1980



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979

Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Northeast elevation from northeast

5 of 8

JUN 6 1980
JUN 5 1980





DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Southwest elevation from southwest

6 of 8

APC 6 1980
JUN 5 1980



DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979 AUG 6 1980

Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

South elevation from southeast

JUN 5 1980

7 of 8



Dunbar Junior & Senior High School and
DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL *College*

Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, November 14, 1979
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

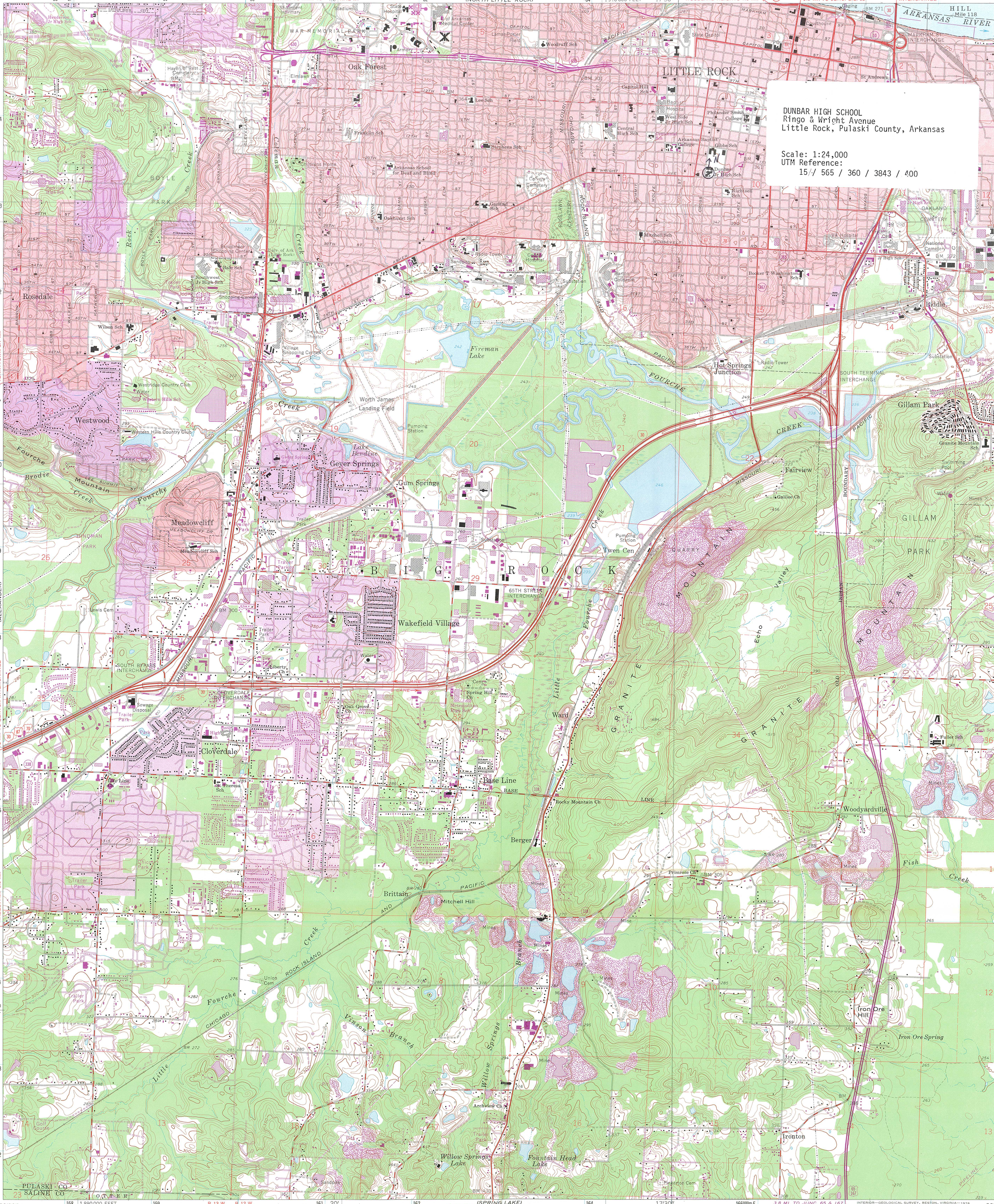
A main lobby area from northwest

3 of 8

AUG 6 1980
JUN 5 1980

DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL
Ringo & Wright Avenue
Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Reference:
15 / 565 / 360 / 3843 / 400



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1961

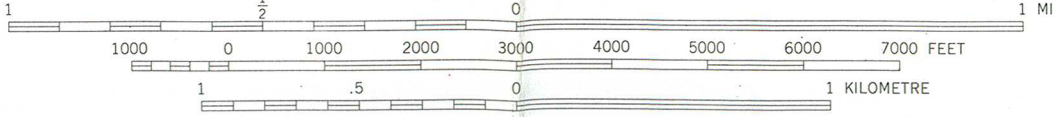
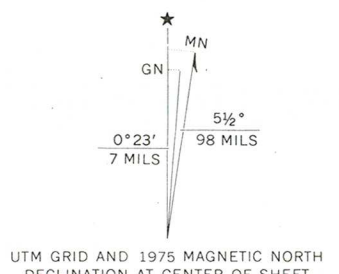
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

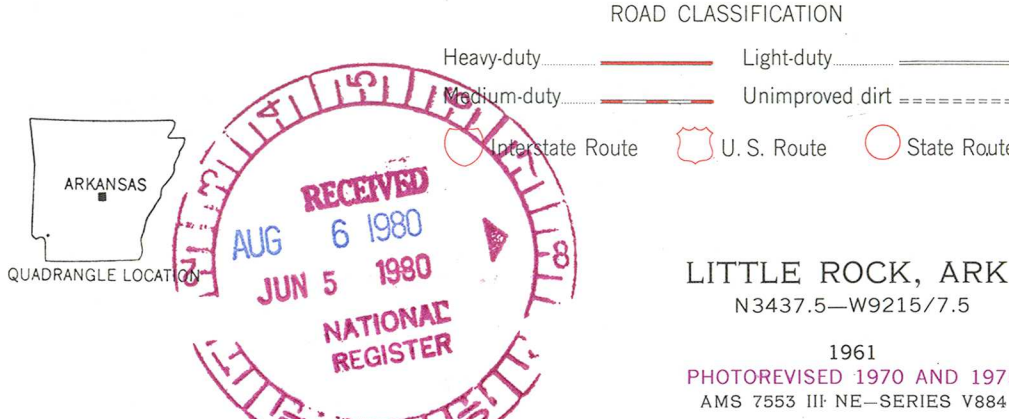
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1970 and 1975. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC DATUM OF 1929

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



LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
N3437.5-W9215.7/5

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1970 AND 1975
AMS 7553 III NE-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building · Markham and Main · Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: (501) 371-2763

May 22, 1980

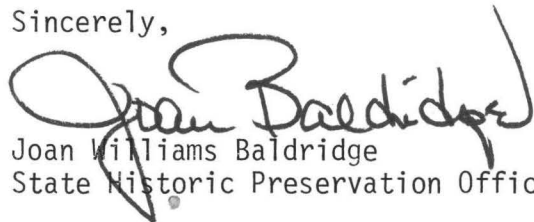
Ms. Carol Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the nomination for the Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College which has been approved by the Arkansas State Review Committee at their January 22, 1980 meeting.

I hereby certify that the owner listed in Section 4 of the nomination is the legal owner of the property.

Sincerely,



Joan Williams Baldrige
State Historic Preservation Officer

JWB/db

Enclosure



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered AUG 6 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dunbar Junior and Senior High School and Junior College	Little Rock Pulaski County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Honorable David H. Pryor
Honorable Ed Bethune

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Joan Baldrige
Director, Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NR

Byers/mjd

8/14/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.