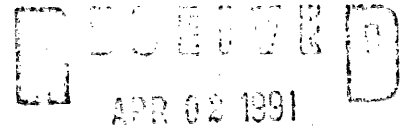


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Phoenix Union Colored High School

other names/site number George Washington Carver High School

2. Location

street & number 415 East Grant Street

NA not for publication

city, town Phoenix

NA vicinity

state Arizona code AZ

county Maricopa

code 013

zip code 85012

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Sherene Lerner

Date: 3/25/91

State or Federal agency and bureau: State Historic Preservation Officer

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.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper: Melissa Byers

Date of Action: 5/2/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: Office and Storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

20th Century:Commercial

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Cement over brick

walls Stucco over brick

roof Built-up roof

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY

Carver High School is a circa 1926 two-story symmetrical commercial style building, located in the warehouse district of Phoenix, Arizona. It stands four blocks east and six blocks south of the intersection of Central Avenue and Washington Street. The exterior walls are brick with a stucco covering, and the building's roof is flat. Two major periods of alterations have affected Carver's appearance. The first occurred in 1948 when a two story addition was added to the southwest corner of the school. The second period, in the late-1950s, was when the school was closed and the building was converted to offices and a storage facility. At this time some classrooms were partitioned and major alterations were done to the auditorium. These changes are reversible and do not adversely impact the integrity of the building. Except for sixty-five years of normal aging, Carver's exterior and interior is essentially intact. Carver remains on the original site that the school board purchased in 1925.

DESCRIPTION

Framing and Construction: Carver High School is a two-story symmetrical commercial style building with a flat roof. Brick covered with cement forms a foundation that rises approximately three feet above the ground making the first floor level nearly three feet above grade. The exterior walls are brick with stucco siding. The front entrance has a Renaissance-style arch with recessed double doors and a non-functioning arched transom. Major accents are enriched classical door surroundings with inset columns. Above the entrance, at the roof line, is a simple roof parapet with decorative cartouche accent. Leading up to the entrance are four cement steps with a landing and metal hand rails. Carver has inset, wooden, double hung windows. These windows are six pane over six pane with the bottom sash having a cantilevered opening system. The windows are in symmetrical rows along the first and second floor, with seventeen windows on the second floor and twenty windows on the first floor. Rectangular shaped accents with interior one piece geometric ornamentation, decorate the area above the second floor windows. Cartouches just under the roof line decorate the corners and entrance parapet of the building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Abbey, S. W. "The Ku Klux Klan in Arizona, 1921-1925." Journal of Arizona History. Vol. 14, Spring 1973, pp. 10-30.
- Lawrence, H. W. "A History of Phoenix Union High School System, 1895-1948." M.A. Thesis, Arizona State University, 1949.
- Luckingham, Bradford. Phoenix: The History of a Southwestern Metropolis. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1989.
- Mawn, Geoffery. "Blacks of Phoenix, 1890-1930." Arizona Historical Foundation, Arizona State University, 1984.
- Phoenix Union High School District. A Bicentennial Commemorative History of the Phoenix Union High System, 1895-1976. Phoenix: PUHS Press, 1976.
- United States Bureau of the Census. 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th Census of the United States. Washington, DC: GPO.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.87 acres

UTM References

A

1	2
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4	0	0	7	5	0
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3	6	0	0	2	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	2
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4	0	0	8	8	0
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3	6	0	0	4	8	0
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B

1	2
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4	0	0	7	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	6	0	0	4	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D

1	2
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4	0	0	8	8	0
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3	6	0	0	2	6	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated property are the north 146 feet of the west 354 feet of the east 1054.95 feet of the north 600 feet south of Grant Street, Linville's Addition Book 2 Page 62.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire 4.87 acre parcel defined when the land was purchased for the high school in 1925. This is the historic and present extent of the property.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Todd Thibodeau

organization Arizona State University date December 1990

street & number 909 South Terrace Road telephone (602) 784-0823

city or town Phoenix state Arizona zip code 85281

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Current Appearance and Alterations: Over the years Carver has endured two major periods of renovation. In 1948 a two story addition was added to the southwest corner of the building. This addition was constructed in an "L" shape and connected the back of the west side of the building to the back of the auditorium. The newly constructed wing formed a courtyard between the auditorium and the new addition. This addition utilized essentially the same building style as the original structure, but without the exterior building accents, and had metal six pane casement windows instead of the wooden sash type windows. The new addition is entirely to the rear of the building and not visible from the street. This addition contained the new cafeteria and additional classrooms. In the same year, a separate fifty by ninety foot two-story rectangular shop building was constructed adjacent to the southeast corner of the school. Before construction of this structure was completed a forty by fifteen foot one story addition was added to the northeast corner of the new building. The style of this new building is identical to the addition that was added to the school that same year, brick covered stucco with no exterior accents and metal casement windows. In 1948, a new forty by 130 foot cement stadium replaced the wooden grandstand which was built in 1927. The grandstand was made of cement, and the area underneath the seating was enclosed by stucco over brick walls and metal casement windows. This enclosed area under the stadium contained the new physical education and music classrooms.

In the late-1950s, a second major period of modification occurred. The school was closed in 1955 and converted to the district services offices for the Phoenix Union High School District. Several changes were made to accommodate the building's new function. Many of the old classrooms were partitioned to make new offices. Most partitions are temporary and can be easily removed. The auditorium was converted to be the main storeroom for the school district. For this reason, all of the interior entrances to the auditorium were sealed. The balcony in the auditorium was modified and enlarged to make a second floor and increase storage space. Shelving was installed across the entire first floor of the gymnasium, but the original floor is still intact. Another change was converting the main entrance and another entrance on the west side of the front of the building from double doors to single doors. Six second story windows, three on the east and three on the west side of the building, were boarded up. Two windows in the rear, or south face of the building, were also boarded up when air conditioning was added.

Also in the late-1950s, several new buildings were added to the grounds to accommodate its new function. The caretaker's house, located between the stadium and the school, was torn down and a ninety by one hundred foot square corrugated metal storage shed with a moderately-pitched gabled roof was constructed. Where the football field had been

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located, an eighty-five by 240 foot rectangular corrugated metal storage shed with a low-pitched gabled roof was constructed. The workshop, which had been built in 1948, was enlarged on the south side by constructing a fifty by 135 foot rectangular corrugated metal shed with low-pitched gabled roof. To the south end of this shed, a twenty by 160 foot vehicle maintenance building of corrugated metal with a half-gable roof was constructed. On the southwest corner of the property are the paint storage sheds and work areas. These buildings are constructed of corrugated metal, have flat roofs, and cover an area of fifty by eighty feet. On the southeast corner of the grounds is a twenty by eighty foot covered equipment storage building, also built of corrugated metal with a flat roof.

Interior: The interior of Carver High School has twelve foot high ceilings with plastered walls and ceilings. The stairs are made of cement and there are hardwood floors throughout the building. Interior accenting is minimal, save for a painted one by four inch board that runs the length of the hallway about three feet above the floor, and a wall dado approximately one foot from the ceiling.

Site: Carver High School is located on 4.87 acres of land, at 415 East Grant Street, in the heart of Phoenix's warehouse district. The site was originally a garbage dump, but was filled in 1925. Controversy arose over the choice of the site for the school due to its close proximity to railroad tracks, the warehouse district, and other potentially harmful elements within the city. The school board acceded to build a fence around the property to help improve security. This fence was constructed of brick piers with iron fencing interconnecting the piers. Only four piers and the iron fencing between them, located immediately in front of the main entrance, remain of the original fence. The part of the fence that still remains is a remnant of the original entrance to the school grounds. A metal cyclone fence now surrounds the entire property.

INTEGRITY

Since 1960, little has been done to alter the exterior of Carver High School. The building's roof and foundation are sound, and all stucco is intact. Visible signs of weathering can be seen on the wooden window frames. On the interior several doorways have been sealed, and several classrooms have been partitioned. In many places the hardwood floors have been covered over with tile, but the original floors are still intact. The original ceilings are also unaltered, but in many rooms acoustical tiles have been placed over them, or drop ceilings have been installed. The auditorium has been greatly

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altered, but the original gymnasium floor is still visible under the shelving units. The grounds around the school look somewhat different, due the construction of the numerous storage sheds in the late-1950s. The continuity of the front approach to the school has endured little change since it was constructed in 1926. Most of the alterations to the school are reversible and do not adversely impact the integrity of the building.

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Phoenix is dramatic during this period, but the rise in the black population is truly remarkable.

POPULATION

	<u>Phoenix</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>% Total Pop.</u>
1900	5,544	- -	148	- -	2.7
1910	11,134	100.8	328	121.6	2.9
1920 3.7	29,053	160.9	1,075		227.7
1930 4.9	48,118	65.6	2,366		120.1
1940 6.5	65,414	35.9	4,263		80.2

For several reasons anti-black sentiment in Phoenix increased after World War One. One of the most important factors was that the socio-economic makeup of the black community in Phoenix had changed. Before 1920, the majority of blacks who came to Phoenix were from urban areas of the Midwest or Mid-south. They came to Phoenix seeking a lifestyle similar to the metropolitan environment they left behind, and hoped that many opportunities would await them in Arizona's most rapidly expanding urban center. Although the immigrant black families did not find perfect equality, Phoenix did offer them a more progressive social atmosphere than many other areas of the country where the patterns of prejudice had been established for generations. This early group of black immigrants were predominantly middle-class, educated, active within the community, and sought the advantages of black-oriented organizations. In 1910, almost ninety percent of the blacks in Phoenix owned their own home, and in 1920, the figure remained at over seventy-five percent. Through the 1930s, Phoenix area blacks had more than a ninety percent literacy rate. At the same time a large number of churches, community organizations, associations, businesses, and services were developed and maintained by the black community. This high level of home ownership, literacy, organization, and participation within the black community of Phoenix would decrease dramatically by 1930.

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After World War One, the majority of blacks who came to Phoenix were from the rural areas of the South and the Texas Panhandle. These people were apt to be less educated and from a lower socio-economic group than had the first wave of black immigrants. They also tended to remain in the lower paying agricultural positions that they had held before their move. Prior to World War One, the Valley's agricultural base would not have been able to absorb the large influx of black workers. But by 1925, Valley farmers actively encouraged black laborers to migrate from the South. Between 1925-1930, the black population in Phoenix more than doubled. However, Anglos, Hispanics and the resident Phoenician Blacks were each threatened by the large influx of blacks that arrived in the Salt River Valley. Anti-black sentiment increased, and impacted both the newly arrived and the established black populations..

As Phoenix continued to evolve into a modern city, it began to more closely reflect the racial attitudes that were apparent in other American cities. In April 1921, the first representative of the Ku Klux Klan, arrived in Phoenix, seeking to enlist citizens who would work to attain the groups goals of increased law-and-order and white supremacy. Nationally the Klan enjoyed a re-birth in the 1920s, and between 1921 and 1925, it flourished in Phoenix and Tucson before spreading to the rural and mining communities of Arizona.

By 1920, blacks constituted Phoenix's second largest minority group and were growing at a rate faster than any other ethnic population. Regardless of their social or economic status, blacks in Phoenix were forced to live in or near one of two segregated black neighborhoods. Real estate companies, loan institutions, and local white citizens controlled housing patterns. By the 1920s, it became common for Realtors to advertise property as "highly restricted" or with "race restrictions." The two black neighborhoods were divided mainly along socio-economic lines. The professional and middle-income blacks lived in the Jefferson neighborhood, bounded by Central Avenue on the west, and 16th Street on the east, and East Buckeye Road on the south to Madison Street on the north. The lower-income blacks resided in the Washington neighborhood, which was bounded by 7th Avenue on the east and 17th Avenue on the west, and from West Buckeye Road on the south and to Madison Street on the north.

Phoenix's two black neighborhoods were quite distinctive. Homes and services were more attractive in the Jefferson neighborhood. When Booker T. Washington Elementary School was built in Jefferson, it was the best black school in the city. To please both neighborhoods the black high school needed to be built in an area with easy access to both neighborhoods. The location at 4th and Grant streets fulfilled this requirement.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT-George Washington Carver High School

In 1895, Arizona's Territorial Legislature passed a law stating that high schools could be formed in districts with a minimum of two-thousand residents. Many residents of Phoenix jumped at the chance to form a new a high school. In September of that year, the high school class met for the first time on the second floor of the Central elementary school building with approximately ninety students. It cannot be determined if any of these students were black. By 1897, it was evident that the Central building was inadequate to serve the needs of both a elementary school and a high school. That year voters passed a bond to purchase the Churchill mansion and convert it to Phoenix Union High School. The building was enlarged and remodeled in 1899.

In 1912, due to an increase in population, Phoenix residents approved a \$150,000 bond to start the Phoenix Union High School complex. In 1913, Elizabeth Harris, the first recorded black student, graduated from Phoenix Union High School. As more black students attended classes at Phoenix Union a separate black high school was proposed.

When Arizona achieved statehood in 1912, only two laws addressed the question of segregation. One of these laws prevented "...intermarriage between persons of Caucasian blood and their descendants with negroes". The other law provided for the establishment of segregated elementary schools. Only the states of Arizona and Kansas mandated that elementary schools were segregated, allowed integrated high schools, and made no provision for separate colleges. By 1925, Phoenix had three black elementary schools, Dunbar, Frederick Douglass, and Booker T. Washington. Phoenix was not required to build a separate black high school and did not for several years. It was only after anti-black sentiment increased following World War One, that it was deemed necessary to separate black and white high school students. In 1918, the "Department for Colored Students", later known as the Phoenix Union Colored School, was established. This school had only one teacher, Mrs. C. B. Caldwell, and was housed in a rear room of the Commercial building. As separatist sentiments in Phoenix became more pronounced and black enrollment increased, these students were sequestered into two small cottages separated from the main campus by an irrigation ditch. On September 15, 1923, the school board appropriated \$125 a month to rent a house for the black students on the corner of 9th and Jefferson Streets. In 1924, a special provision was passed by the state legislature that allowed Phoenix to pay for a separate black high school. On August 18th, 1925, the School Board passed a resolution which allowed the city to purchase a 4.87 acre dump at 415 East Grant Street for \$11,000.

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The black community protested the selection of this site at a community meeting on August 28, 1925. They stated that, "the site is undesirable because it is bounded on the north and east sides by a growing industrial district. The high school board has admitted that the site is of such location that it will require the services of a watchman to protect children going to and from school that the district just south of the proposed site is admitted by physicians to be a hot bed and nucleus of virulent contagious diseases to which we do not want our children exposed." That same year the dump was filled in and on December 21, 1925, Pierson and Johnson General Contractors, who submitted a bid of \$110,000, were awarded the construction contract. Phoenix Union Colored High School, the only structure in Arizona's history built to be a black high school, was completed and opened on September 16, 1926.

In succession, Mrs. C. B. Caldwell, Millard T. Woods, Roy A. Lee, and W. A. Robinson served as principal of the school. All were well-qualified and aggressive administrators, and helped make Carver High School an excellent educational institution. Principal Robinson traveled throughout the United States recruiting master's degree instructors even before an M. A. was required. He stated, that "students were deserving of the best materials, equipment, and facilities." This he worked vigorously to provide. In 1948 under his leadership, Carver received much needed remodeling and enlargement. While Robinson's energetic leadership was vital, the renovations were also completed because Phoenix's white community acknowledged that the school needed improvements to remain open and maintain segregation. In spite of the acknowledged deficiencies of Carver's facilities, students were able to acquire a quality education. Many graduates have held professional and management positions. Carver graduates include Doug Nelson, Assistant Chief of Police for Phoenix, Dr. William Maxwell, President of Fresno Community College, Dr. Morrison F. Warren, Professor Arizona State University, Hadie Redd, Assistant District Attorney in San Francisco, and Calvin C. Goode, Phoenix City Councilman.

Carver High School had a high profile in the black community. The faculty's determination to provide a quality education instilled pride within the community. Carver's auditorium was Phoenix's largest public facility that housed black activities. Sporting events, plays, lectures and other social events were held there. During the depression, Carver provided adult evening school, to retrain out-of-work black Phoenicians. Carver also turned out quality athletic teams and concert bands. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Carver's football, basketball, and track teams all won state championships. In 1952, Leon Jordan was nominated for Arizona Basketball Coach of the Year. In both 1952 and 1954, A. H. Shaw was nominated for Arizona Football Coach of

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the Year. In 1949, Carver's concert band was noted for its excellence and won the statewide trophy in the Phoenix J. C. Rodeo.

In 1943, under pressure from area blacks, Phoenix Union Colored High School was renamed George Washington Carver High School. Perhaps sensing the changing political climate in the United States, on July 7th, 1953, the Phoenix Union School Board voted to end segregation in the school system. In 1955, the school closed for the last time and all remaining students were sent to other Phoenix Union schools. Shortly after this the building was converted to office space and storage for the Phoenix Union High School District. From 1956 to 1960, several of the old class rooms were partitioned to increase the amount of offices. The auditorium was modified to increase its storage capacity, and the main entrance was modified from a double door to a single door entrance. The grounds behind the school were converted from athletic fields and open space to storage and maintenance structures for the Phoenix Union School District. The complex has functioned in this capacity almost unaltered since 1960.

INTEGRITY

Despite a change in function from high school to offices and storage, Carver High School still retains excellent integrity. Most structural modifications are clearly reversible and the school has been well maintained. Carver High School was the only building constructed to serve the black high school students of Arizona, and was a focal point of the black community in the city of Phoenix.