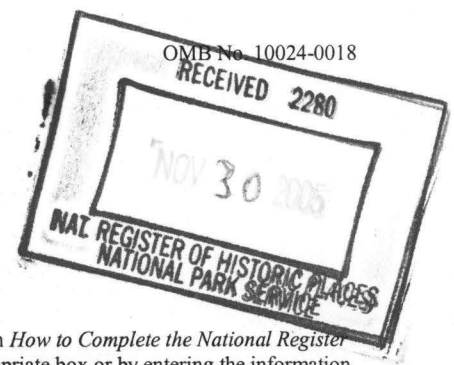


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name John Brown Watson Memorial Library Building

other names/site number Student Services Center, R.C. Childress Hall/JE0202

2. Location

street & number 1200 North University Drive

☐ not for publication

city or town Pine Bluff

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Jefferson code 069 zip code 71601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cecelia Thacker
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/28/05
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) _____

for Daniel J. Kiser
Signature of the Keeper

1/13/06
Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/art deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK, STONE/Limestone

roof OTHER

other SYNTHETICS/Plaster, METAL/Aluminum,
STONE/Marble**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The John Brown Watson Memorial Library Building is located on the northeast side of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff campus in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas. In 1939 it was known simply as the "Library Building" and was named after John Brown Watson in 1958. The John Brown Watson Memorial Library is a two-story art deco style cream brick and concrete structure designed by McAninch and Anderson, built in 1939 by Rock City Construction Company.

ELABORATION

The Watson Memorial Library is unique on the University of Arkansas Pine Bluff campus because it is the only building on campus clad in cream brick. The base of the building is defined by several courses of red brick with red mortar wrapping around the entire building. The building is also accented by two bands of alternating courses of cream and red brick sandwiched between limestone courses. These bands define the roofline, massing, and floor levels as well as add style to the building façade. The Art Deco style is also carried out in sculptural relief panels, lintels, and frieze work found around the building. The building has replacement windows and doors which are reflective of the original configurations and have thus not gravely affected the historic appearance of the library. Presently, the building houses the University Museum, Title III Program, and University Relations office with a lounge, conference room, and break rooms.

South Elevation - Front

The south façade is the main façade of the building. A set of bronze lions set atop red brick columns with concrete caps followed by a small seating area (not attached to the building) lead to the front door. This façade is faced with matte-face cream brick. The two story building has several decorative masonry features. The base of the building is defined by trim of red brick and red tinted concrete. The façade is organized into three separate masses. Each sits on a different plane. The block to the far left sits forward the most. This block stands two stories high and has two decorative bands of brick defining the floor levels. The brick bands are composed of a pattern of horizontal limestone rows sandwiching seven alternating courses of red and cream brick. The first floor hosts a large window opening with six modern fixed-pane windows in a two-by-three configuration filling the space. An identical window fills the wall space on the second floor. Each window has a limestone sill and they are separated by a band of the patterned brick. The second patterned band is above the second story window and extends to the top of the building, much like a frieze.

The next section of the south façade is setback from the first, and is the main entrance to the building. It is nearly a half story higher than the previous section, helping to make it the focal point of the front façade. The patterned band of brick visually separating the first and second floors carries over to this block of the building. However, the band remains on a continuous plane so it acts as a cover for the front door entrance. The band extends the length of this block of the building and terminates in a moderne curve at the far right corner. The front door is centered on this plane of the wall. The door is not original to the building, yet it

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

does reflect the original configuration of double doors, sidelights and transom. It consists of two tinted glass panel doors flanked by a grid of twelve glass panes and aluminum and a six pane glass transom above. The second story wall has a large window opening with limestone sill and eight modern fixed pane windows in a two-by-four configuration. A carved limestone band runs across the façade marking the height of the façade section to the left. A matching band runs across the top of the building on this section. There are four square art deco inspired limestone panels laid in the brick between the bands. The panels are centered above each of the four fixed window panes in the opening below.

The final section of the south façade is to the right of the main entrance and is only one and a half stories high. However, this section is longer than the combined length of the first two. Six large windows along this wall indicate that it was the intended reading room for the building when it served as a library. The windows presently consist of two fixed-pane modern windows with one sitting atop the other. The window openings are nearly a full story high and have limestone sills and lintels. The lintel on each window has a round sculptural element stylistically similar to the panels found in various locations on the façade. There are decorative limestone panels centered above the windows along this wall. The roofline also has limestone trim matching that on the previous section. There is a small section of wall on the far left side of this façade that is taller than the rest. It is approximately an extra half story in height. This is the only visual evidence of since reversed alterations to the roofline done in the 1970s. The present addition remains as it accommodates stairs and an elevator inside the building.

West Elevation – Left Side

The west façade serves as the secondary entrance to the building, mainly serving those coming from the adjacent parking lot. This façade of the building has three visually distinct sections. The section to the far left is the shortest of the three. It is just one story high and is capped with a band of alternating courses of red and cream brick sandwiched between two rows of limestone. Centered on the wall are two window openings with four modern fixed-pane windows in a two by two configuration. Each has a limestone sill.

The section to the immediate right is the focal point of this façade. It extends forward from the remainder of the façade and stands a full two stories high. A door is centered on this section of wall on the first floor. The door is aluminum with a small tinted glass panel on the top right side and a maroon awning above. Centered between the first and second floor above the door is a window opening (the odd location of the window suggests that the door below leads into a stairwell). The opening contains two modern square fixed-pane windows. A small rectangular sculptured panel is laid in the brick above the window. This section is capped with a band of cream and red brick.

The section of the façade to the far right is also a full two stories high. However, this section is set back from the middle section and is on the same plane as the far left end. There are eight window openings along this section of the wall. There are four on the first floor and four on the second, all vertically aligned. The four

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

openings to the far left each contain two square modern fixed-pane windows stacked one atop the other. The remaining four windows are clustered on the right end of the façade and contain four square modern windows in a two by four configuration. All windows have limestone sills. This section is also defined by the bands of red and cream brick which wrap around from the front of the building. There is a band between the first and second floors which wraps around from the front and terminates at the middle section of this façade. Another band is at the top of the second floor continuing from the front side and onto the middle section. Historically, a larger limestone frieze was located on this façade, but it was later moved to the east façade after the renovation project around 1970.

North Elevation - Back

The north façade is the rear of the building. Like the other facades, it is a composition of various planes and wall heights. It has four defined sections. The section to the far left is set back the most and is plain. It is one and a half stories tall and has a single metal door to the right side. This section is a later addition and houses a stairwell. However, it is a seamless addition and nearly exactly matches the rest of the building. To the right of this section is another section that is one and a half stories high. This section has four window openings evenly spaced along the wall. Each has two modern square fixed-pane windows stacked on top of each other filling the window openings. They also each have concrete sills and lintels as well as rectangular sculptural panels centered in the wall space above. The wall is capped with a limestone frieze.

The next section of wall is slightly shorter than the previous two; however, it still accommodates one and a half stories. Centered on this section of wall are eight sets of narrow windows consisting of rectangular tinted glass panes above and below a rectangular concrete panel. There is a limestone frieze topping this section of wall as well.

The final section of this wall is to the far right and is the shortest of the four sections on this side of the building. The band of cream and red brick continues from the west façade to this section and terminates at its left end. Beneath the band is a window opening centered in the wall space. This opening has six modern fixed pane windows in a two by four configuration. The window has a limestone sill.

East Elevation – Right Side

The east elevation is the most austere side of the building. Like the other elevations, it is characterized by several different planes. However, on the east side this is primarily the case due to the aforementioned stairwell addition, rather than intentional design. The addition is centered on the middle of the original east wall. The east face of the addition has a limestone sculptured panel that was on the original east wall, but was removed when the addition was built and reaffixed to the new wall. There are no doors or windows

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

along this wall. The other notable feature of the east elevation is the decorative limestone frieze. It was moved from the west wall of the building, and it is more ornate than the frieze on the remaining sides of the building. It has a sun and sunray relief pattern. There is another east facing wall to the far right of the wall described above. This section of wall is one and a half stories tall. It has a large square vent opening on the far left side, with a metal louvered screen in the opening. There are four window openings on the right side of the wall. They are configured in identical sets of two. Each set has a lower and upper window opening. All have two modern fixed-pane windows set one atop the other within the opening. Each opening has a limestone sill.

Interior

In the early 1970s the library was renovated as part of a campus wide project to update facilities. These alterations were later reversed. According to the Nelson Architectural Group, the architectural firm that did the most recent renovation, a portion of the second floor that was added in the 1970s renovation was removed; a new HVAC system was installed along with new lighting, plumbing fixtures, piping, ceilings and floor coverings. The Italian marble in the reception hall, molded plaster trim and ceilings, and the plaster rosettes in the lobby have also been restored. A wireless system, new signage and a new elevator has been installed along with handicap access on the south and west façades. The old reading room has been transformed into a reception hall and lounge. The other spaces have been transformed into office spaces, a conference room, gallery, and museum. The original aluminum handrail that is attached to the stairs (considered modern for the era) is still there.

INTEGRITY

The building has maintained much of its integrity through the years, but not without going through a great deal of change. The aforementioned renovation from the 1970s added a pitched metal roof that significantly changed the character of the building. The metal roof added weight that eventually caused structural damage. A transitional roof structure was added to facilitate access to the added second floor of the original second floor. A stairway was also added on the east end at that time. Windows and doors throughout the building were replaced, the Art Deco band articulating the roofline was disrupted, and the overall proportions of the structure were impacted by the addition of the pitched metal roof. However, much of the 1970s renovation has been reversed due to preservation efforts by the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The restoration was completed in 2003. It included a return to the original roofline through removal and replacement of the pitched metal roof with a membrane roof. Windows and doors could not be identically replaced; however modern materials were used and installed in the original configuration. Additional work included restoration of masonry and stone and repair of structural damage caused by the metal roof. The entire current renovation was done by the Nelson Architectural Group and was contracted by Carson and Associates.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B.** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1939-1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

McAninch and Anderson, Architect

Rock City Construction Company, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

The Nelson Architectural Group

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

In 2000 the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) began the process to nominate the John Brown Watson Library to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program determined that the building was not eligible for the National Register due to extensive alterations resultant from the 1970s building renovation. In response to this decision UAPB began a project to restore the building. The restoration was completed in 2003 and has made the building eligible for National Register listing. The John Brown Watson Memorial Library Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **statewide significance** under **Criterion A** because it is the first free standing library to be built on the Arkansas Mechanical and Normal College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) campus and is associated with education in Pine Bluff. The John Brown Watson Memorial Library is being nominated with **statewide significance** because of its association with the University of Pine Bluff which is widely considered the premier African American higher educational institution in the state of Arkansas. It is the best example of a historic educational library with African American heritage in Arkansas.

ELABORATION

The first established settlement in Pine Bluff is recorded around 1819 when Joseph Bonne built a cabin on the south side of the Arkansas River on a bluff covered in pine trees. James Scull established himself on the north side of the river a few years later, and was appointed postmaster of Pine Bluff in 1828. The following year, Jefferson County was established from parts of Pulaski and Arkansas Counties, and Pine Bluff was the natural choice for county seat.

The city of Pine Bluff was incorporated on December 12, 1848, after which the city began more rapid development. Between 1850 and 1870, Pine Bluff grew immensely and industry became an important part of the local economy. In 1873 the Little Rock, Pine Bluff and New Orleans Railroad connected Pine Bluff to the Mississippi River, greatly improving their possibility of exporting manufactured goods.

The success and growth of Pine Bluff made it a logical place for a higher education facility. In 1873 the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff was established by an act of the Legislature as a branch of the Arkansas Industrial University (now the University of Arkansas). It opened with seven students as Branch Normal College on September 27, 1875. In 1882 the state designated funds contributed to the construction of the school's first building on a fifty-acre plot just outside the city. The two-story brick structure operated as the whole of Branch Normal College until 1927 when the school began an expansion project.

The governor appointed an independent board of trustees for the school. The state appropriated \$275,000 for construction of a new physical plant just outside of town. The remaining funds came from the General

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Education Board and the Rosenwald Fund, giving \$183,000 and \$33,000 respectively. By 1929 the school became a standard four-year degree granting institution and was certified as a standard four-year college in 1933. In 1935 a new building program allowed for construction of new residences for instructors and a gymnasium. The John Brown Watson Memorial Library was built in 1938-1939 as part of the next building phase which included its construction along with two new dormitories. During the late 1940s a building project began which eventually doubled the size of the campus, and established it as an important educational facility in the state. The school was then called the Arkansas Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College. In 1972 it merged with the University of Arkansas and became the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

The John Brown Watson Memorial Library Building was part of a PWA construction project. A grant of \$89,960 was allotted for its construction, while the estimated cost was set at \$200,522. A contract of \$185,768 was awarded on August 29, 1938 and construction began September 2, 1938. The Art Deco style two-story structure of matte-face cream color brick was originally built as the library on campus. The library stacks, reading room, periodical room and offices were located on the first floor. The second floor housed the art department along with classrooms and offices. The rear wing contained the workroom with book stacks on the second level. The building was simply known as the Library Building until 1958 when it was renamed in honor of the late university president John Brown Watson.

The library effectively served the campus for nearly thirty years when talk of expansion began. After lengthy consultations, the estimated costs of an annex to the library sufficient to handle projections through 1980 were deemed impractical. It was then decided most feasible to construct a new building. After the library moved to its new facilities in 1968, the former library space (first floor) was used to house the Financial Aid offices and later other services including Student Affairs, University College, Counseling, Testing and Assessment. The building underwent a major renovation during the 1970s when the school began a renovation on all existing buildings on campus.

The building continued to serve the needs of students until the fall of 2003 when it was again renovated to house the University Museum, a conference room and a reception hall. The building also houses the Office of University Relations and Development and the Title III program. The facilities for each of these programs include a suite of offices, a workroom and break room. The museum also has a large exhibition room, archival document room and office spaces. The building received a new name as part of the 2003 renovation. It was rededicated as R.C. Childress hall after Dr. Rufus C. Childress, a prominent leader in education development and reform in Arkansas. The more recent 1968 library building now bears the name John Brown Watson Memorial Library. However, many people on campus still refer to the building as the Watson Library Building and took little notice of the name change.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 2000 the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB) began the process to nominate the John Brown Watson Library to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program determined that the building was not eligible for the National Register due to extensive alterations resultant from the 1970s building renovation. In response to this decision UAPB began a project to restore the building. The restoration was completed in 2003 and has made the building eligible for National Register listing. The John Brown Watson Memorial Library Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **statewide significance** under **Criterion A** because it is the first free standing library to be built on the Arkansas Mechanical and Normal College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) campus and is associated with education in Pine Bluff. The John Brown Watson Memorial Library is being nominated with **statewide significance** because of its association with the University of Pine Bluff which is widely considered the premier African American higher educational institution in the state of Arkansas. It is the best example of a historic educational library with African American heritage in Arkansas.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Archives of Mr. Henri Linton, UAPB Art Department, 1939.

Correspondence from Mr. Edward Fontenette, UAPB Library, 1939.

University Archives, University Museum and Cultural Center.

Correspondence from The Nelson Architectural Group.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | <u>15</u> | <u>590213</u> | <u>3789559</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| name/title | <u>Elizabeth A. James/ National Register Historian</u> | | |
| organization | <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u> | date | <u>November 28, 2005</u> |
| street & number | <u>323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building</u> | telephone | <u>(501) 324-9789</u> |
| city or town | <u>Little Rock</u> | state | <u>Arkansas</u> |
| | | zip code | <u>72205</u> |

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets**Maps**A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locationA **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|-------------------|
| name | <u>University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff</u> | | |
| street & number | <u>1200 North University Drive</u> | telephone | <u> </u> |
| city or town | <u>Little Rock</u> | state | <u>AR</u> |
| | | zip code | <u>71601</u> |

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

LEGAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point at the intersection of University Drive and John Kennedy Drive proceed westerly 165 feet along John Kennedy Drive to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning proceed southerly 103.1 feet, thence proceed westerly 123.7 feet, thence proceed northerly 103.1 feet, thence proceed easterly 123.7 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes the John Brown Watson Memorial Library and its immediate setting.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: John Brown Watson Memorial Library Building
Jefferson County, Arkansas

Reference Number: 05001073

Reason for Return:

This nomination is being returned because of technical errors and questions concerning the integrity of the resource. While the property is clearly significant in the history of African American education in Arkansas (Criterion A), the nomination contains what appear to be erroneous references to a previously submitted nomination. In addition, the acreage of the nominated property has been omitted, and the nomination does not adequately justify the integrity of the building. As a result, the nomination must be revised before the property can be listed in the National Register.

According to the nomination, the property "was nominated in 2000 and failed to be listed due to failure in compliance with building materials" (Sec. 8, pp. 1 and 3). This appears to be erroneous. We have no record of having previously received a nomination for this property. Is it possible that the property was previously considered for listing (at the state level) but never nominated to the National Register? We recommend that the nomination be revised to clarify this issue. Any references to previous attempts to nominate the property should be clear and accurate. Moreover, if the revised nomination includes any such references, it should also state that the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer did not previously nominate this property to the National Register under the provisions of Section 60.6 of the National Register regulations (36 CFR 60).

The discussion of integrity (Sec. 7, p. 4) does not adequately address the changes made during the recent renovation. As a result, it is unclear if the building retains integrity under Criterion C.

Although the renovation removed the modern pitched metal roof that severely compromised the historic appearance and character of the building, it also installed what appear to be new windows. The configuration and appearance of these windows differ markedly from the originals. Have the new windows compromised the integrity of the building? Does the building still convey its architectural significance? What features best convey its Art Deco styling? Do the replacement windows substantially compromise the appearance of the building, or does it still convey its overall appearance and character? We recommend that the discussion concerning integrity be revised to better explain the visual effects of the new windows and to justify the integrity of the building under Criterion C.

Finally, under Section 10 of the registration form, no acreage has been provided for the property. Please provide the acreage of the nominated property before resubmitting the nomination.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You may reach me at (202) 354-2252 or by email at <Dan_Vivian@nps.gov>. We hope these comments assist you in revising the nomination.

Daniel Vivian, Historian
National Register of Historic Places

September 30, 2005

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Watson, John Brown, Memorial Library Building

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 8/17/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/13/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/28/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/30/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001073

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 ___ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Return. Please see attached comments.

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER Daniel Vivian

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE (202) 354-2252

DATE 9/30/05

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Recommendation: SLR_Return Action: SLR_Return None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: AR County Name Jefferson Resource Name Watson.. Mem. Lib. Bldg.

Reference No. 05-1073 Multiple Name _____

Solution: Return: ① minoration (Sec. 8) includes erroneous references
to previously-submitted nomination. Need to be removed.
② accreage needed in Sec. 10
③ justification for integrity - changes made in
rehabilitation
Discussed w/ Ralph Wilcox 9/30/05. JTW

Problem: No accreage, coded 21 acre.

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Watson, John Brown, Memorial Library Building
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 11/30/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/13/06
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05001073

DETAILED EVALUATION:

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The John Brown Watson Memorial Library Building is significant statewide under Criterion A for its role in the history of Arkansas Mechanical and Normal College (today the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff). The first freestanding library building erected on the campus, the library was built with funds provided by the Public Works Administration. Construction began in September 1938. When completed the following year, its Art Deco styling made it one of the most distinctive buildings on campus. It was known simply as the "library building" until 1958, when it was renamed in honor of the late university president John Brown Watson. In 1968, the library moved to a new building, and the university renovated the former library building for use by administrative offices. In 2003, a major renovation restored the building to its original appearance. It is currently occupied by the university museum and also houses a conference room and reception hall. Today, the John Brown Watson Memorial Library retains integrity from its period of significance and reflects the institutional history of the Arkansas Mechanical and Normal School.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER Daniel Vivian

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE (202) 354-2252

DATE 1/13/06

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



JOHN BROWN WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

JEFFERSON COUNTY, AR

SARAH JAMPOLE

JUNE 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

SOUTH FACADE, LOOKING NORTH

#1



JOHN BROWN WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
JEFFERSON COUNTY, AR

SARAH JAMPOLE

JUNE 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
SOUTH FAÇADE AND WEST SIDE ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTHEAST
#2



JOHN BROWN WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY
JEFFERSON COUNTY, AR

SARAH JAMPOLE

JUNE 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

WEST FAÇADE, LOOKING EAST

#3



JOHN BROWN WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

JEFFERSON COUNTY, AR

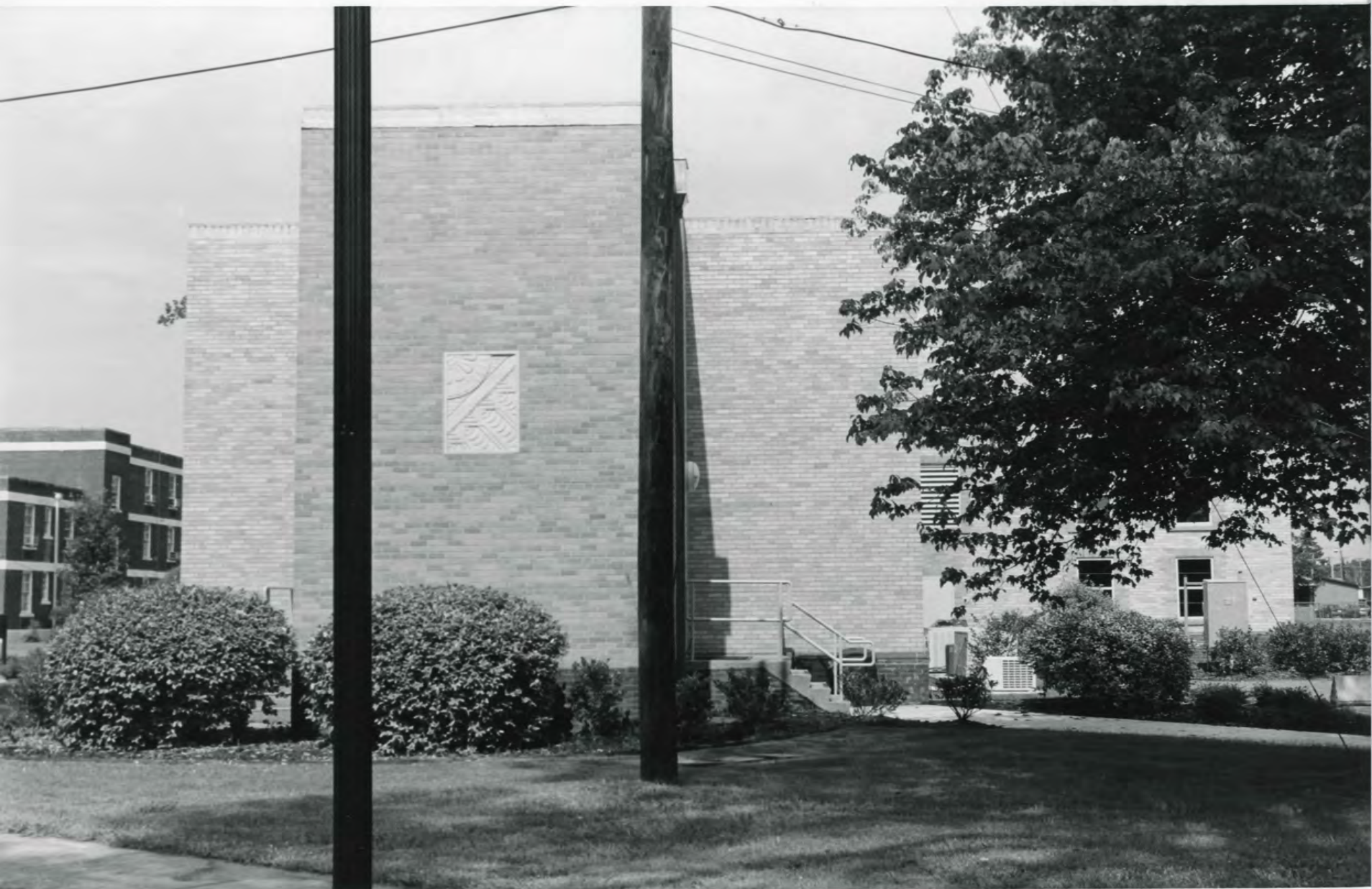
SAKAM JAMPOLE

JUNE 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

NORTH FAÇADE, LOOKING SOUTH +

#4



JOHN BROWN WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

JEFFERSON COUNTY, AR

SARAH JAMPOLE

JUNE 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

EAST FAÇADE, LOOKING WEST

#5



925 M407

JOHN BROWN WATSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

JEFFERSON COUNTY, AR

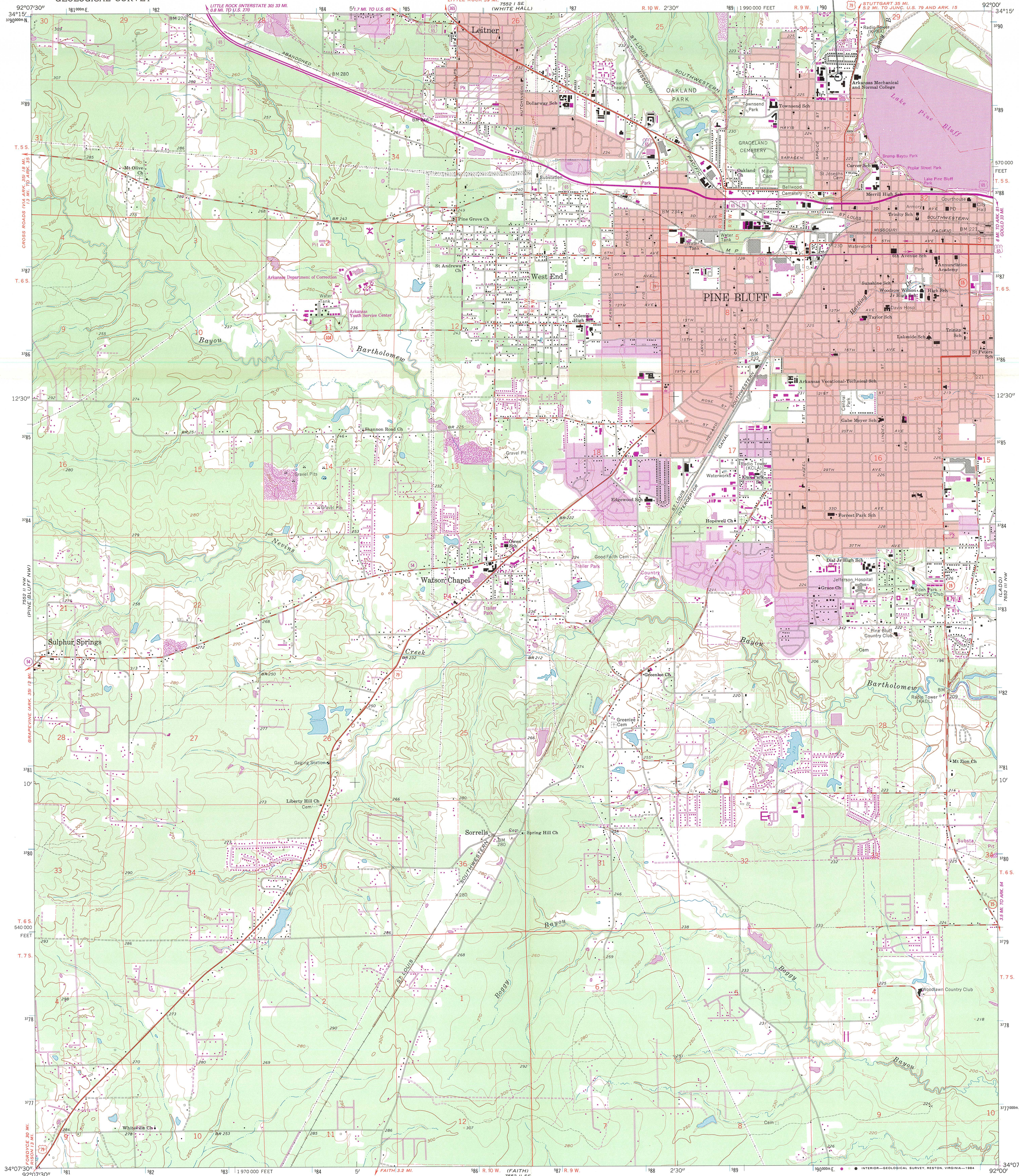
SARAH JAMPOLE

JUNE 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

SOUTH FAÇADE DETAIL, LOOKING WEST

#6



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs

taken 1961. Topography by planetable surveys 1961-62

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,

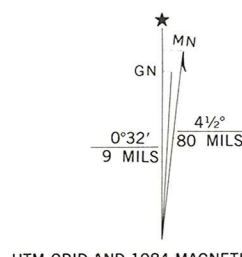
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,

move the projection lines 9 meters south and

13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



UTM GRID AND 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET

DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS

NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL 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



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy duty ——— Light duty ———
Medium duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

PINE BLUFF, ARK.
34092-81-TF-024

1962
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 7552 II NE—SERIES Y884

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from
aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1984
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer



August 3, 2005

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: John Brown Watson Memorial Library – Pine Bluff,
Jefferson County

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure

AUG 17 2005



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
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Delta Cultural Center

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tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer



November 28, 2005

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: John Brown Watson Memorial Library – Pine Bluff,
Jefferson County

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. Please accept this nomination with changes. We received your request for additional information and have made all efforts to comply. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

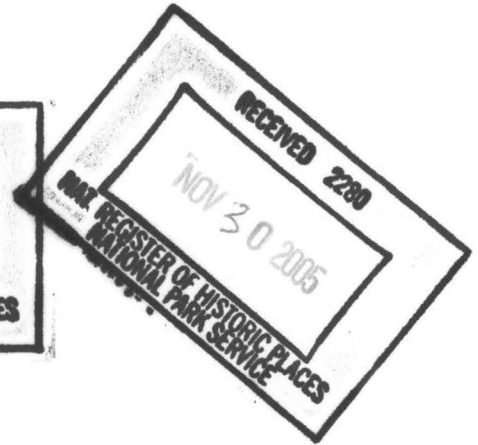
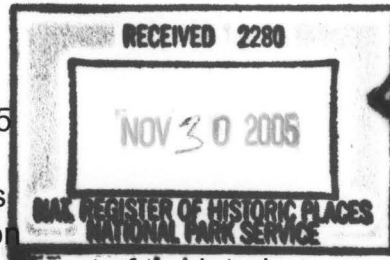
If you need further information, please call Elizabeth A. James of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:eaj

Enclosure



NOV 30 2005