UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

STATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 2 9 1975

APR 3 0 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME HISTORIC Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College AND/OR COMMON Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 1600 High Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT** CITY, TOWN Little Rock VICINITY OF Second STATE CODE COUNTY CODE Arkansas 05 Pulaski 119 **CLASSIFICATION** CATEGORY **OWNERSHIP** STATUS **PRESENT USE** __DISTRICT __PUBLIC X OCCUPIED _AGRICULTURE __MUSEUM X_BUILDING(S) X_PRIVATE _UNOCCUPIED __COMMERCIAL _PARK _STRUCTURE ROTH _WORK IN PROGRESS X_EDUCATIONAL __PRIVATE RESIDENCE __SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** _ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS _OBJECT _IN PROCESS _YES: RESTRICTED __GOVERNMENT _SCIENTIFIC __BEING CONSIDERED X YES: UNRESTRICTED _INDUSTRIAL _TRANSPORTATION _NO __MILITARY _OTHER: 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY NAME Arkansas Baptist College, Dr. J. E. Oliver, President STREET & NUMBER 1600 High Street CITY, TOWN STATE Little Rock Arkansas LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office STREET & NUMBER Pulaski County Courthouse CITY, TOWN STATE Little Rock Arkansas REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE DATE __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY _LOCAL **DEPOSITORY FOR** SURVEY RECORDS CITY, TOWN



__EXCELLENT

_GOOD

XFAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED

CHECK ONE CHECK ONE

RUINS

X_ORIGINAL SITE _MOVED

DATE.

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

_UNALTERED

X_ALTERED

The construction of "Main Building" of Arkansas Baptist College was begun in 1893. Original plans called for a four-storey brick building with a cross-gable roof; however, the plans were altered during construction, resulting in the present structure. As completed around the turn of the century, Main Building consists of a full basement of rough-faced cut-stone supporting a two-storey, brick-facade building with a mansard roof of slate.

A college catalogue published in 1910 describes Main Building as follows:

The main building has a stone basement, two stories of brick and a mansard roof covered with slate. This is practically a four-storey building, 50 x 100 feet. It serves as a girls' dormitory, chapel, office rooms, dining room and kitchen. It is designed as a central building, so that the addition of wings will double its present capacity for all the foregoing purposes.

Though the building's use has changed slightly, and the proposed wings were never added, the general description of the structure remains accurate. Built of red brick with a tall bell tower and mansard roof, Main Hall typified college buildings in late nineteenth-century Arkansas.

About 1965 the square bell tower, which early dominated the roofline of the building, was removed. Other roofline features which have been removed (date unknown) include the six tall chimney stacks which originally rose from the north and south side of the mansard roof.

All windows on the north, west and south elevations have lintels and lugsills of rough-faced cut stone. The windows on the east elevation have arched heads cut from one piece of stone. Projecting from the slate roof are gable dormers, each containing a window set in plain wood framing.

Separating the stone basement and first storey of brick is a water table of cut stone. A simple brick stringcourse divides the first and second stories of the building. Beneath the mansard roof, the building is surrounded by a simple cornice and undecorated frieze.

Both the north and south elevations have eight bays, seven of which feature single double-hung windows on each storey and in the dormers. The two entrances to the building are located on these elevations, each on the second bay from the east. These entry bays feature paired windows set into the dormers, second-storey keystone arches, and double doors with transoms opening onto the first storey.

Small flat-roofed porches with delicate Victorian trim originally covered the two entrances. The trim has been removed from these porches, and original divided wooden stairways have been replaced with wide cast-stone steps leading directly to the entries. In addition, a small enclosed foyer has been added at the north entry.

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The east elevation features a projecting arch around the center bay on the basement and first-storey levels. Worked in stone and brick, the arch has a triangular head with corbelling beneath. An inner arch of brick and cut stone is set inside the triangular arch, and covers paired, round-arched windows. Small windows infill the spandrels above these round-arched windows. Though no entry was ever cut into this east elevation, the decorative brickwork suggests that this elevation was originally planned to serve as the building's facade.

Still in use as a men's dormitory and housing the campus chapel, Main Building is an integral and functional part of Arkansas Baptist College. The Building remains on its original site, a landscaped city block near Arkansas' State Capitol.

Twenty-Seventh Annual Catalogue of the Arkansas Baptist College, Little Rock, Arkansas (1910-1911).

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

_INVENTION

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	**XRELIGION
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1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	X_EDUCATION	MILITARY	XSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	_ ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_X1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

November 2, 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed at the close of the nineteenth century, "Main Building" at Arkansas Baptist College is significant in several areas of Arkansas history. Architecturally, it is typical of the red-brick, mansard-roof structures built on Arkansas college campuses in the late nineteenth century. The building dates among the oldest facilities for higher education still standing in the state. Built by Baptists, Main Building illustrates the important historic role of religious groups in furthering education in Arkansas. However, most importantly, Main Building represents an important aspect of Negro history in Arkansas.

Arkansas Baptist College originated in 1884 at the annual meeting of the Negro Baptist Convention of Arkansas. At their convention in Hot Springs this group voted to establish a school for the training of Negro ministers and teachers. In November, 1884 the first classes were held in the facilities of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Little Rock. Ironically, the first teacher-administrator hired to operate the school was a white minister, the Reverend J. P. Lawton of Joplin, Missouri.

Operating for a short time as "The Baptist Institute," the school was incorporated as "Arkansas Baptist College" in 1885. Since that time it has been continually operated under the leadership of Negro administrators. In the late nineteenth century, Arkansas blacks considered Arkansas Baptist College to be the state's only Negro college which was completely free from white influence.

After operating the school in various Little Rock churches, the board of trustees voted to purchase land on which to permanently locate the school. For \$5,000.00 a Little Rock city block at the corner of 16th and High Streets was purchased. Several frame structures were built, but in March, 1893, a fire destroyed the central building. Within a very short time plans were drawn and construction begun on a replacement for the school's first administration building. The result was Main Building, the college's first brick structure, and Arkansas' oldest Negro college building.

Main Hall was originally designed as a four-storey structure with a cross-gable roof. Contempory accounts in the <u>Baptist Vanguard</u>, a weekly newspaper published by the trustees of the college and edited by the school's president, indicate that financial difficulties forced modification of the original plans. As completed about the turn of the century, Main Building is a two-storey, brick structure with a full basement of rough-faced cut stone and a mansard roof of slate.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRA	APHICAL REFE	RENCES		
Arkansas Baptist Coll College, 1910- Arkansas Gazette, Jan	1911. Archives, A	nth Annual Cata Arkansas Histor	logue of the Arkar y Commission.	nsas Baptist
The Baptist Vanguard,		93 - March 11,	1897. Microfilm,	Arkansas Hist
Bullock, Henry Allen. Publishers, 19	A History of Nec	gro Education i	n the South. New Y	York: Praeger
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one

For several years following 1893, the <u>Baptist Vanguard</u> records a number of financial appeals for the construction of Main Building. On the first Sunday in October, 1893, the morning collection in each church affiliated with the convention was to be used to help finance construction of the building. With the announcement that the cornerstone was to be laid on November 2, 1893, the <u>Vanguard</u> reported that, "It is expected to be the grandest occasion that ever happened among the colored people of Little Rock, and the state of Arkansas."

In Feburary, 1894, the <u>Vanguard</u> announced that the "Sister's Association to Work for Arkansas Baptist College" had been established. This organization of Baptist women was formed to raise money for the school. On March 11, 1897, an appeal for funds was accompanied by a sketch of the building as completed to that date, consisting of the full stone basement and one brick storey above. The publicity and numerous advertisements in the <u>Vanguard</u> helped achieve the eventual completion of Main Building.

In addition to their property in central Little Rock, the school also owned a farm across the river near North Little Rock. This 100-acre farm, purchased through a financial gift from Miss Helen Griggs of Chicago, was used to provide agricultural training for the students. Somewhat like Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute, Arkansas Baptist College emphasized agricultural and industrial training for its non-ministerial students. Nevertheless, the primary aim of the school has always been to provide training for young Negro ministers and teachers.

The man most responsible for the early success of Arkansas Baptist College was the Reverend Joseph A.Booker, who served as president from 1887 until his death in 1926. When President Booker began his career at Arkansas Baptist College, the school had only 30 students, held classes in church rooms and rented lodge halls, and had only one teacher besides Booker himself. By 1910, over 400 students were enrolled, the school had acquired land and buildings valued at more than \$75,000.00, and there were fifteen faculty members on the payroll. President Booker's work at Arkansas Baptist College made him one of the states' most influential Negro educators.

In 1859 Joseph A. Booker was born to slave parents in Ashley County, Arkansas. He was educated in the county's rural schools, and in 1878 entered the Branch Normal College at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Three years later Booker began studying at the Nashville (Tennessee) Institute, and in 1886 earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. In later years he was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from State University at Louisville, Kentucky, (1901) and Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, (1902).

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PAGE two

After becoming president of Arkansas Baptist College in 1887, Joseph Booker quickly became a leader among Arkansas' Negro population. In January, 1891, he was one of the principal speakers at a rally against passage of Arkansas' first "Jim Crow" law, requiring separate but equal railroad coaches and depot waiting rooms for the black and white populations. However, Booker's proposal that first and second class railroad service be instituted was rejected, and the Tillman bill, requiring racial segregation on Arkansas railroad facilities, became law.

Though Booker failed in his fight against racial segregation in Arkansas, he won an important place in history of Arkansas education. In 1910 the Southern author G. P. Hamilton described Booker as "...the most influential educator of the race in the State of Arkansas." ³ Having been constructed under the leadership of Dr. Booker, Main Building is an appropriate landmark to be associated with this important Negro leader.

Main Building at Arkansas Baptist College is one of the most significant structures associated with Negro history in Arkansas. In addition its continual use as an educational institution, its close association with Dr. Joseph Booker and its mansard-roof architectural style further enhance the historic significance of Main Building.

Arkansas' other historic educational structures include Arkansas College in Batesville and Old Main at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, both of which are listed on the National Register, and Main Hall at Central Baptist College in Conway, recently nominated to the National Register.

Baptist Vanguard, October 20, 1893, p. 1.

G. P. Hamilton, <u>Beacon Lights of the Race</u> (Memphis: F. H. Clarke and Brother, 1911).

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- Works Progress Administration. "Survey of Negroes in Little Rock and North Little Rock." Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

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Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED NPR 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

AND/OR COMMON

Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

_VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Little Rock

Arkansas

Pulaski

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET South elevation, viewed from the southeast

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Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College Little Rock, Arkansas

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTER OR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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1 NAME

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AND/OR COMMON

Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

____VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY Pulaski

Little Rock

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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North elevation, viewed from the northwest

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Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College Little Rock Arkansan

Pg 115 3

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

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Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

AND/OR COMMON

Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

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3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey, Little Rock Quadrangle

SCALE

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4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE Arkansas

Date Entered

APR 301976

Name

Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

Van Buren Historic District

Burns, Bob House

Location

Little Rock Pulaski County

Van Buren Crawford County

Van Buren Crawford County

Also Notified

Hon. Dale Bumpers Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Regional Director, Southwest Region

PR-M. Mott:fdf 5-4-76

State Historic Preservation Office Ms. Anne Bartley Acting Director, Department of Natural and Cultural Heritage The Old State House 300 West Markham Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

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1	APPLICANT duly authorized by the governing body				1	Services							
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1	ance is approved.				(2)				H H				
-	23.		NAME AND TITLE			b. SIGNATURE	1	T	c. DATE S				-
1	REPRE-		Bartley -		istoric	INTE	2 .10.			Year	month	day	
55	OLIVIANIE		ervation O	fficer		1 June -	3 arre			19			
								25. APPLI	CA- Year	r mon	th day	,	
	Department of the Interior 26. ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT Service 27. ADMINISTRATIVE OFF								RECEIVED	197	11.	22	7
				BCTVICC					28. FEDE	RAL APP	LICATI	ION	
Ĕ	29. ADDRESS		iservation	ervation & Recreation Grants Administration Di					-				_
5			Streets NW	Wachin	aton D	20240			30. FEDERAL GRANT				
31. ACTION TAK			Streets NW, Washington, D. 132. FUNDING			C. 20240 Year month day			05-8798 Year month day			_	
2	S. AWARDED S. FEDERAL		E. FEDERAL	EDERAL \$ 106,000 .00		22 ACTION CATES 40 TO 0			STARTING	78	month 8	day	
3	b. REJECTED		b. APPLICANT	106,		35. CONTACT FOR AD	DITIONAL INFO	RMA-	DATE 35.	19		-	_
1	c. RETURNE		c. STATE		.00	TION (Name and te	lephone number)		ENDING	ar so	_		
	AMENDIA		d. LOCAL		.00	Stephen I	O. Newman 23-5472		37. REMA	19 80	9	30	-
5	d. DEFERRE		e. OTHER		.00				J. REMA	ADL	20		
7	. WITHDRA	WN	f. TOTAL	\$ 212,0					☐ Ye	s No			
	38.		siderad. If agency f	esponse is que i	ments received f	ts received from clearinghouses were con- b. FEDERAL AGENCY A			A-95 OFFICIAL				
	A-95 ACTION		It has been or is ber	ng made.	promatoria o	one of the official M-35,	(Name and to						
_		-			-				as #3!				
	424-101	JUN	2.0 1978		y, 20 Spins	A Section of the sect	Prescribed by	GSA, F	RD FORM	424 PAG	Gircul	(10-75 ar 74-	7
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OMB Approval No. 2)-RO218