

PH035158P

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 31 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 30 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *nr*
****** Orr School
AND/OR COMMON

City Federation Community Center

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
831 Laurel Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Texarkana

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Miller

CODE
091

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
City Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

STREET & NUMBER
831 Laurel Street

CITY, TOWN

Texarkana

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER
Miller County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Texarkana

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Orr School in Texarkana, Arkansas, is a rectangular-shaped building sheathed in white shiplap. The rectangular building is divided by a long central hall. The building is topped with a hip roof supported by exposed rafters.

The facade features an arched entry with double doors. A decorative recessed, fan-shaped transom is located over the doors. An overhang supported by brackets serves as an entry cover. Centered above the entry, a dormer with hip roof extends from the roof of the building. This dormer features two louvered air vents.

The northwest and southeast elevations of the building feature two separate sets of five double-hung windows with nine lites in each sash. To the southwest of these sets of windows on each elevation is a set of five double-hung windows identical to the sets toward the facade on each elevation.

According to city records, Orr School was constructed c. 1880 as a two-storey structure. In 1920 the second storey was removed and additions made onto the rear elevation (beginning with the small sets of windows) and the hip roof constructed to cover the enlarged structure. The City Federation of Women's Clubs purchased the building from the Texarkana (Arkansas) School System in December, 1958, at a cost of \$8,000. At this point, money was obtained from the Model Cities Program by the Women's Club, and the building was painted, central heat installed, some of the interior paneled and new front and rear doors added.

Despite the alterations, Orr School is an important historical structure. In excellent condition and on its original site, Orr School is representative of much black history.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Orr School in Texarkana, Arkansas, is a significant historical structure in its association with composer Scott Joplin, who is universally accepted as the "Father of Ragtime Music." Joplin was one of the most influential persons in the formation of twentieth century American music. Joplin attended Orr School and formulated many of his ideas there. Constructed c. 1880, Orr School is the only building still standing which can be directly associated with Joplin in his home town of Texarkana. Also, as a former black school, the building is a significant representative of minority history.

Scott Joplin was born on November 24, 1868, in Texarkana, Texas. His parents were an ex-slave, Giles Joplin of North Carolina, and Florence Givens Joplin, a free woman from Kentucky. Joplin was a serious and intensely musical child who played the guitar and bugle; he took music lessons from a local German music teacher. He was encouraged to play his white neighbors' pianos while his mother did their laundry. When he was in his teens, Joplin struck out on his own, taking the only career available to a black musician in the Mississippi Valley region during the 1890's -- an itinerant pianist entertaining the clientele at pool halls, saloons, bordellos, tenderloins, medicine shows and vaudeville tent shows.

These places were undoubtedly a rough "music conservatory" for a teenager, but one of vitality. Surrounded by the musical pulses and melodies Joplin began to absorb and define his own personal rag style. There was no "art" to rag music when Joplin found the basic elements in his youth. His style combined black rhythmic patterns to white honky-tonk tunes. A white boy of his talents would have been sent to Germany to study, but because of his poverty and race, Joplin was instead thrust into his "hard-living folk-conservatory of music."

In the 1890's Joplin began to center his life around St. Louis and Sedalia, Missouri. In 1899 music publisher John Stark heard Joplin play the piano and bought the piece of music on the spot for fifty dollars. This piece, The Maple Leaf Rag, became the first great instrumental sheet music hit in America (a million copies had been sold by 1904).

The royalties from this freed Joplin from financial problems, allowing him to spend all his time teaching and composing. In 1907 he moved to New York, met and married his second wife and began working on Treemonisha. Even though none of Joplin's famous works were written in Texarkana, he never

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arkansas Gazette. September 10, 1972.
- Atkins, Jerry L., Texarkana Centennial Program 1973, "Scott Joplin - American Master Composer."
- Collier, James Lincoln. "Scott Joplin Rag", New York Times Magazine, September 21, 1975.
- The Community Developer. March, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

130								
A	1, 5	4, 0, 3, 0, 9, 0	3, 6, 9, 9, 2, 6, 0	B				
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
C				D				

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-9-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

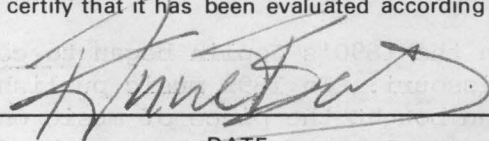
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 3-9-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles W. ...
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 7.30.76

ATTEST: Charles W. ...
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7.30.76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 31 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 30 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

forgot about his early musical heritage. The scene of Treemonisha was in the Red River Valley and the dense forest areas of eastern Texas and western Arkansas. The opera was published in 1911. By this time the ragtime craze and interest in Joplin's music was on the wane. Joplin became obsessed with producing the opera and poured his own finances into an informal, unstaged production which was a failure.

Joplin, defeated by the failure of his cherished opera, began to suffer from a serious mental depression and was committed to Manhattan State Hospital in the autumn of 1916, where he died the following April.

"What is scurrilously called ragtime is an invention that is here to stay," wrote Scott Joplin in 1908 in the introduction to his School of Ragtime, a book of six piano exercises designed to teach amateur rag players how to achieve that "weird and intoxicating effect intended by the composer." However ragtime flourished between 1895 and 1915 and was then replaced by another form of music called "jazz."

Joplin's complete catalogue of published piano works includes forty-four original pieces. His music has been arranged for the harpsichord, organ, violin, orchestra and even the Moog synthesizer. The academy-award-winning movie, "The Sting," introduced millions to ragtime by using a soundtrack score based entirely on Joplin's music. His opera, Treemonisha, has recently been produced on Broadway.

Joplin's musical genius is an accepted fact in the history of American music. He represents some of the most revered ideals of this country. He was born in poverty, and grew up in an environment where he was treated as a second-class human being. Yet Joplin achieved an originality in American music which is quite unique. The Orr School, as the only standing structure associated with Joplin in his home town, stands today as a reminder of the composer. The community takes great pride in the fact that Joplin originated there and is determined to see that he is given worthy recognition.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

p. 3.31.76
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 8 1976

DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

Orr School

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Eighty-nine-year-old George Mosley of Texarkana recalls the Texarkana of his youth quite vividly. He attended Orr School with Joplin. Mosley remembers the school when it was a two-storey structure and offered "primer" (first through ninth grade) education. Mosley grew up in the same Laurel Street neighborhood as Joplin and attended the same church and school. To Mosley, Joplin and other residents of the Laurel Street area, the neighborhood was their world, Orr School a center of the children's life.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 31 1976

DATE ENTERED

JUL 30 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Daily, Georgia, Personal Interview at Orr School, Texarkana, Arkansas,
December 11, 1975.

Demopulos, Nick, Bicentennial Coordinator, Texarkana Joint Bicentennial
Commission, Personal Interview, Texarkana, Arkansas, December 11, 1975.

Secrease, Juanita, President, City Federation of Women's Clubs, Personal
Interview, Texarkana, Arkansas, December 11, 1975.

Property Orr School

Miller Co.

State Ark Working Number 3.31.76.2909

76000434

TECHNICAL

Photos 3

Maps 1

2 cont. sheets

History record

8.2.76

CONTROL

OK ^{cm} 4.6.76

Talks only of Joplin, not of building. Doesn't it have importance to other blacks who attended there? Did Joplin ever mention the school?

Called hold See cont. sheet

HISTORIAN

~~ALL~~ ACCEPT
LIVINGOOD
28 May 76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
D. Looch
9 July 1976

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Cole
8.1.76

KEEPER

Hung
8.4.76

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 9-7-76

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUL 30 1976

INT:2106-74



1. Orr School

MILLER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

FACADE AND SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

- 1) Orr School
- 2) Texarkana, Arkansas Miller Co.
- 3) Sandra Taylor
- 4) November, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Facade and southeast elevation viewed from the east
- 7) 1 of 2

JUL 30 1976 Doc

MAR 31 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



2. Orr School
Miller County, ARKANSAS
Northwest Elevation, Viewed

- 1) Orr School
- 2) Texarkana, Arkansas *Miller Co.*
- 3) Sandra Taylor
- 4) November, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Northwest elevation, viewed from the northwest
- 7) 2 of 3

JUL 30 1976 Doc

MAR 31 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



3. Orr School

MILLER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ENTRY ON FACADE, NOTE FANLITE

- 1) Orr School
- 2) Texarkana, Arkansas *Miller Co.*
- 3) Sandra Taylor
- 4) November, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Entry on facade, note fanlite over doors
- 7) 3 *43*

JUL 30 1976 *Doc*

MAR 31 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 31 1976
DATE ENTERED	JUL 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Orr School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Texarkana

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Miller

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

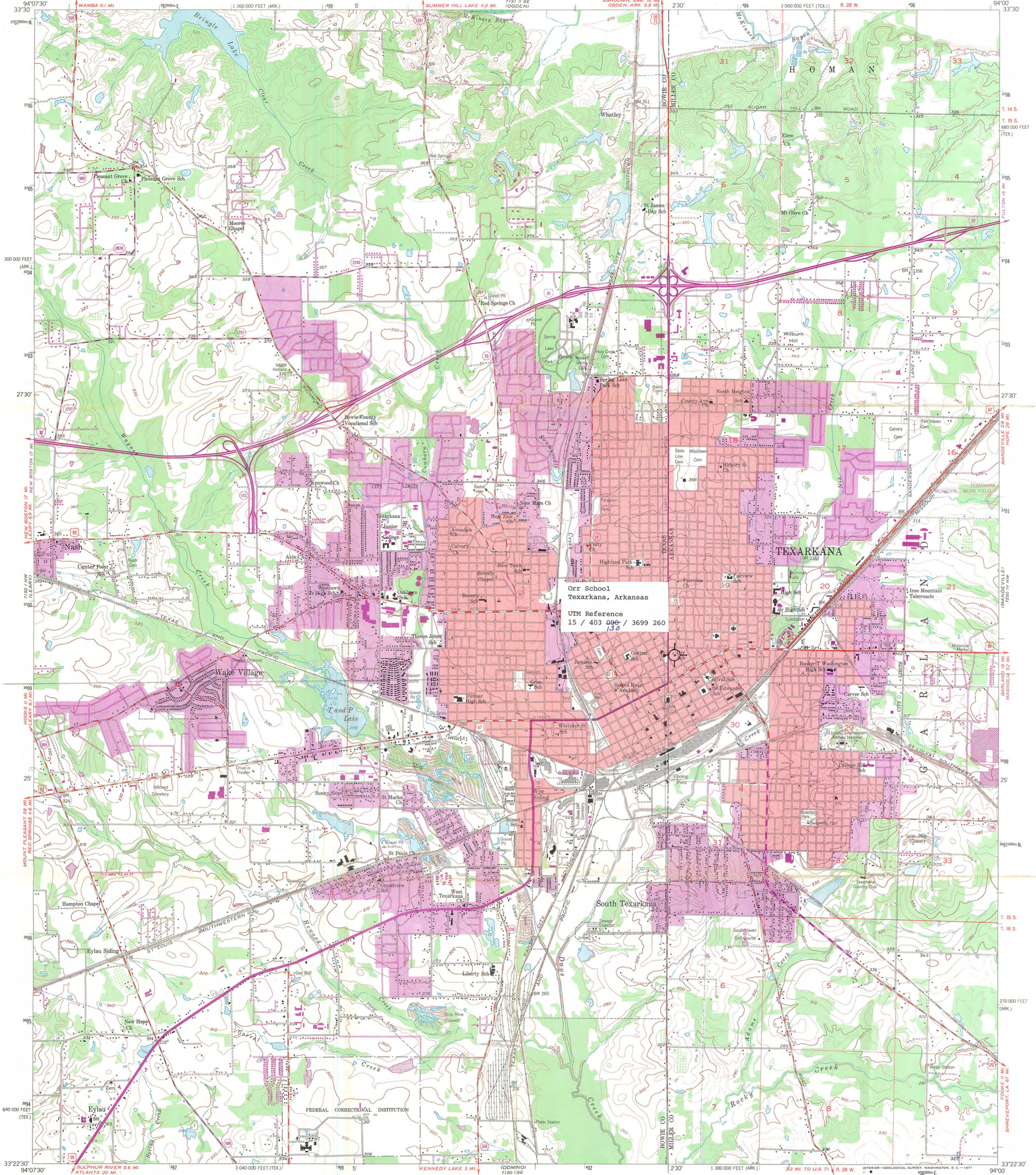
SCALE 1:2400

DATE 1954 (photo revised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



Orr School
Texarkana, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 403 090 / 3699 260

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1953. Field check 1954
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north central zone and Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1970. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



SCALE 1:24,000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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



TEXARKANA, TEX.-ARK.
NE/4 TEXARKANA IS QUADRANGLE
N322.5—W9400/7.5

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 7150 1 NE—SERIES V882

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



JUL 3 0 1976

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered JUL 30 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Orr School	Texarkana Miller County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Dale Bumpers
Hon. Ray Thornton
Regional Director, Southwest
Region

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

PR

MMott/row

8/5/76

MD
SM

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 28 May 76
Reviewer INITIALS: [Signature]

NR DOE JUL 30 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: ¹ Orr School

OTHER NAMES: City Federation Community Center - SEC

LOCATION:
STREET & NUMBER: 331 Laurel St.

CITY, TOWN: Texarkana VICINITY OF: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 4th

STATE: Ark 05 COUNTY: Miller code: 091

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline): FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):
NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST
SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR EXTERIOR ENVIRONS
- Substantially intact-1 - Substantially intact-2 - Substantially intact-3
- unknown - 4 - unknown - 5 - unknown - 6
- not applicable - 7 - not applicable - 8 - Not applicable-9

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - EXCELLENT DETERIORATED UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
GOOD RUINS ALTERED MOVED
FAIR UNEXPOSED Reconstructed Unknown
Unexcavated Excavated

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- SCHOOL

now- COMMUNITY CENTER

SIGNIFICANCE:

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION -10
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW/Gov't/politics
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC -19
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)
- entertainment
- health
- recreation
- settlement
- socio/cultural
- urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: Black

NAMES:

(label role & appropriate date)

personal Scott Joplin, attended 1875-1885

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1880

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1920 second story removed & addition

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1958 purchased by City Federation remodeled

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

less than 1

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Frame, clapboarding; 1 story, rectangular, with overhanging eaves, wood frame, white shiplap, hip roof, hipped roof front. hipped louvered ventilative dormer, front entry entrance with fanlight, window rows. Bungalow elements.

~~hip vent & dormer~~

~~Rectangular~~

~~double front door with fanlight~~

~~altered interior for use by women's clubs.~~

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

Only remaining building associated with the Texarkana childhood of Scott Joplin, famous ragtime composer.