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UNITED STATES DEPARTME **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**  FOR NPS USE ONLY

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#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES JUL 2 0 1978 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM **DATE ENTERED** SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS 1 NAME HISTORIC Southwestern At Memphis Historic District AND/OR COMMON 2 LOCATION STREET & NUMBER 2000 North Parkway NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Memphis 8th Congressional District VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY STATE CODE 157 V Tennessee Shelby 47 3 CLASSIFICATION **CATEGORY OWNERSHIP PRESENT USE STATUS** XDISTRICT XOCCUPIED PUBLIC \_\_AGRICULTURE ....MUSEUM \_\_BUILDING(S) X\_PRIVATE ....UNOCCUPIED \_COMMERCIAL \_\_PARK \_\_STRUCTURE \_\_вотн X EDUCATIONAL \_WORK IN PROGRESS \_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE \_\_SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** \_\_ENTERTAINMENT \_\_RELIGIOUS \_\_OBJECT \_YES: RESTRICTED \_IN PROCESS \_GOVERNMENT \_SCIENTIFIC XYES: UNRESTRICTED \_\_BEING CONSIDERED ...INDUSTRIAL \_\_TRANSPORTATION \_\_NO \_\_MILITARY \_OTHER: OWNER OF PROPERTY and a proportion of the contract of the contra 23 x 1 40 Ex Southwestern At Memphis STREET & NUMBER Tel ..... 2000 North Parkway STATE

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Shelby County Office Building, 160 North Main Street STATE

Memphis, Tennessee 38103

### REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Tennessee Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE

\_\_FEDERAL X\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL January 1978

DEPOSITORY FOR

Tennessee Historical Commission SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

<u>Nashville</u>

Tennessee

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Southwestern At Memphis Historic District is comprised of a thirteen acre portion of the one-hundred acre Southwestern campus, located opposite Overton Park in midtown Memphis. Included in the historic district are the five original Collegiate Gothic buildings, dating from 1925, as well as seven later structures all constructed in the same style and utilizing the same materials as the original buildings. Originally designed by Henry C. Hibbs with Charles Z. Klauder, consultant, the district represents one of the finest and most harmonious groupings of Collegiate Gothic architecture in the nation.

The southern boundary of the historic district is located 250 feet north of North Parkway. Along the west boundary, formed by University Street, is located the main entrance to the campus, marked by Hunt Memorial Gateway (A). From this gateway a double lane driveway extends east, past the Harris Memorial Building (1), until it is visually terminated by Burrow Library (36). To the south of this driveway is located Fisher Memorial Garden and an avenue of Water Oak trees planted in 1925. Immediately to the south of Burrow Library another grouping of oak trees form the letter "S". These trees, which were grown from acorns taken from the campus of Southwestern's parent institution in Clarksville, Tennessee, were planted on the occasion of the relocation of the college to Memphis in 1925.

Extending along the north side of the driveway are Palmer Hall (35), the main administrative building with the more recent Richard Halliburton Memorial Tower (34) at its west end; Ashner Memorial Gateway (B) and Ellett (3) and Bellingrath (2) Residence Halls. Entering through Ashner Memorial Gateway (B) with its carved stone Lynxes and ornate bronze lanterns, access is afforded to a loose quadrangle defined by the five original buildings. To the west is the block of interconnected dormitories composed of White Hall (4), Robb Hall (5), and Neely Hall (6) with its kitchen (7). To the east is Kennedy Hall (33). In addition to these five original buildings, the space is further defined by the Catherine Burrow Refectory (8) and the Moore Moore Infirmary (9), both appended to the north end of the Neely Hall kitchen (7).

To the west of the block of interconnected dormitories a newer quadrangle has been formed between Bellingrath (2), Ellett (3), White (4) and Robb Halls. In keeping with the Collegiate Gothic style, these buildings are linked to each other by covered passageways featuring compound pointed arched doors and windows, carved limestone tracery, and stone vaulting. The result is the creation of a well-defined open space of human scale.

The Southwestern campus includes a total of some 43 buildings, all except two of which have been constructed of the same Arkansas sandstone. For the most part the more recent buildings have been placed to the east and north of the original

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grouping of five structures so that the current center of the campus is the area dominated by the Frazier-Jelke Science Center (31) to the north of Palmer Hall (35) and east of Kennedy Hall (33).

In all cases the newer buildings have faithfully followed the lead of the original structures in terms of building materials, scale, and detailing. The result is a strong sense of continuity and harmony between old and new which pervades the entire campus.

#### Buildings and structures contributing to the character of the district

- 1. Harris memorial Building: ca. 1925, Collegiate Gothic cottage, 1 story, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, wooden porch, slate roof, and multi-flued brick chimney.
- 4. White Residence Hall (formerly Calvin Hall): 1925, Collegiate Gothic dormitory, 3 stories, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof.
- 5. Robb Residence Hall: 1925, Collegiate Gothic dormitory, 3 stories, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof, multi-flued chimney.
- 6. Neely Hall: 1925, Collegiate Gothic dining hall, 1 story, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof, belfry containing original bell brought from Southwestern Presbyterian University at Clarksville, Tennessee.
- 7. Kitchen: 1925, Collegiate Gothic, 1 story, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim.
- 33. Kennedy Hall: 1925, Collegiate Gothic science classroom building, 4 stories, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof, vaulted stone porches.
- 35. Palmer Hall: 1925, Collegiate Gothic academic and administration building, 3 stories, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof, contains Hardie Auditorium and groin-vaulted limestone entry foyer.
- B. Ashner Memorial Gateway: 1925, two 11 foot high Arkansas sandstone pillars with limestone trim surmounted by carved limestone Lynxes bearing shields. On each pillar is mounted an ornate gothic bronze lantern.

Form No. 10-300a

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### Moseonforming intrustions detracting from the integrity of the district

- 2. Bellingrath Residence Hall: 1961, Collegiate Gothic dormitory, 3 stories, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof.
- 3. Ellett REsidence Hall: 1946, Collegiate Gothic dormitory, 3 stories, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof, multi-flued brick chimney, foundation laid in 1925.
- 8. Catherine Burrow Refectory: 1957, Collegiate Gothic dining hall, one story, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof.
- 9. Moore Moore Infirmary: 1962, Collegiate Gothic, one story, Arkansas sandstone, limestone trim, slate roof.
- 34. Richard Halliburton Memorial Tower: 1962, Collegiate Gothic campanile, 140 feet high, and 4 story administrative office building, Arkansas sandstone and limestone, adjoining west end of Palmer Hall.
- 36. Burrow Library: 1953, Collegiate Gothic, 6 stories, Arkansas sandstone with limestone trim, slate roof, multi-flued brick chimney, contains some 150,000 volumes.
- A. Hunt Memorial Gateway: ca. 1940, Collegiate Gothic, Arkansas sandstone with limestone and slate trim.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### INTRODUCTION

Southwestern At Memphis has for more than fifty years been recognized as the finest liberal arts college in the mid-south region and is considered to rank among the best colleges and universities in the nation. Since its origin as a Masonic academy at Clarksville, Tennessee, founded in 1837, Southwestern has received widespread recognition for its innovations in the field of higher education, as well as for its high standards of academic excellence. Numbered among its faculty, administration and alumni have been numerous individuals of prominence in many diverse fields. The original award-winning buildings, constructed in 1925 on the 100 acre campus in mid-town Memphis, represent one of the finest and most cohesive groupings of Collegiate Gothic architecture in the nation.

#### HISTORY

The origins of Southwestern are in Clarksville, Tennessee, where the Clarksville Academy was founded in 1837. In 1848 the Academy was merged with the new Masonic University of Tennessee, becoming Montgomery Masonic College. In honor of its well-known President, William M. Stewart, the institution's name was changed to Stewart College in 1855, the year in which it came under the control of the Presbyterian Synod of Nashville. In the wake of the Civil War and the resulting schism of the Presbyterian Church into northern and southern factions, the Synods of the "Southwest" united to reorganize the college to serve Presbyterians of Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas. As a result, Stewart College became Southwestern Presbyterian University in 1875. In order to take advantage of the educational and financial resources of an urban center, the college was relocated in Memphis in 1925, under the leadership of President Charles E. Diehl. Its name was changed to Southwestern.

From its early days in Clarksville, Southwestern's administration and faculty have included individuals of prominence. President William M. Stewart was among the founders of the Academy of Science in Philadelphia and President Charles E. Diehl served as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States and as President of the Association of American Colleges. The Southwestern faculty has included such individuals as Professor Joseph R. Wilson, father of Woodrow Wilson; and Professor and Pulitzer Prize winner, Robert Penn Warren.

9 MAJOR BIB	LIOGRAPHICAL REFE	RENCES		
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In keeping with its liberal arts philosphy, Southwestern alumni have achieved prominence in a wide diversity of fields. These include Justice Abe Fortas of the United States Supreme Court, Mignon Dunn of the Metropolitan Opera, artist Carroll Cloar, and former United States Attorney General Thomas Watt Gregory.

#### EDUCATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Southwestern has been designated as "a regional center of excellence" by the Ford Foundation and in 1973 was ranked third (behind Rice and Vanderbilt) among all institutions of higher education in the south-central United States. In 1974 it was rated among the top ten church-related institutions in the United States.

The model for Southwestern's liberal arts curriculum was the English system as employed at Oxford University. When Southwestern instituted its tutorial plan in the early 1930s, it was only the second American institution (after Harvard) to offer such a program of individualized study. Its success was in part due to the unusually large number of Rhodes scholars on the faculty; almost 25% in 1936. Southwestern was the first college in the nation to offer courses in Bible and to make a knowledge of the Bible a requirement for its Bachelor's Degree. The Department of Physics, which is equipped with the largest telescope in the south, possesses a worldwide reputation for its contributions to astrophysics. Southwestern's programs in Adult Education, begun in 1944, have received widespread recognition, as has its program for undergraduate summer study at Oxford University. Each year a student-run symposium entitled "Dilemma" brings to Memphis such nationally known speakers as Gerald Ford, Allen Ginsberg, Senator Sam Ervin, and Ralph Nader. Seventyfive per cent of the Southwestern faculty hold their Ph.D. degrees and students may choose from 23 major fields of study, plus numerous interdisciplinary and individualized programs.

#### ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The original buildings of the Southwestern campus, completed in 1925, constitute one of the finest examples of the Collegiate Gothic style in the nation. In 1929 the gold medal of the Southern Chapters of the American Institute of Architects was awarded to Henry C. Hibbs of Nashville for his design of the buildings at Southwestern. Hibbs, who also designed Scarritt College in Nashville, was assisted by the well-known Gothic Revival architect, Charles Z. Klauder, who acted as design consultant. Klauder's best known works include the Cathedral of Learning at the University of Pittsburgh, the Drexel Bank in Philadelphia, and the Peabody Museum at Yale University.

<sup>1 &</sup>quot;The College Rater", Allentown, Pa., 1973.

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Included in the Southwestern At Memphis Historic District are two groups of buildings - those comprising the original campus of 1925, and those new structures and additions to the original buildings constructed at later dates. Entered from the South via the Ashner Memorial Gateway (B), the original campus quadrangle consisted of five buildings - Palmer Hall (35); the Science Building, now Kennedy Hall (33); Calvin Hall, now Gordon White Hall (4), Robb Hall (5), and Neely Hall (6) and kitchen (7). The foundations of a third dormitory, Ellett Hall (3), had been laid in 1925, but it was not until 1946 that the building was completed, with Henry Hibbs as architect. Other buildings and additions within the boundaries of the District include the Harris Memorial Building (1), Bellingrath Residence Hall (2), Catherine Burrow Refectory (8), Moore Moore Infirmary (9), Richard Halliburton Memorial Tower (34), Burrow Library (36), and Hunt Memorial Gateway (A).

Palmer Hall (35), constructed in 1925 as the main academic and classroom building, is a large three story structure extending in an east-west direction facing North Parkway. Using the Collegiate Gothic motif of steeply pitched dormers and gables, projecting balconies and bay windows, the mass of the building is effectively broken down to a more human scale. Windows, which are trimmed in grey limestone, are glazed with small multicolored panes, thus further contributing to a richness of exterior detail. The main entrance to Palmer Hall is provided through a stone groin-vaulted foyer at the base of the central tower which also serves to connect the central open space of the campus on the north side of the building with the main entrance driveway to the south. In addition to classrooms and administrative offices, the building contains Hardie Auditorium on the second floor. Adjoining the west end of Palmer Hall is Richard Halliburton Memorial Tower (34). recent addition consists of a 140 foot campanile and four story administrative office building. The tower has been gracefully proportioned according to the Golden Section and Fibbonacci series and is constructed of Southwestern's characteristic Arkansas sandstone and limestone. It constitutes a harmonious addition to the older Palmer Hall and provides a distinctive landmark for the campus.

The block of original residence halls, consisting of Robb (5) and White (4) Halls, perhaps best exemplifies "the infinite variety and charm" which led President Charles E. Diehl to select the Collegiate Gothic style. Along with Neely Hall (6) and kitchen (7), this block of buildings was the beginning of what has become a semi-enclosed residence quadrangle, in fullfillment of the original campus master plan laid out by Henry Hibbs. These buildings symbolize architecturally the concern for the individual student which has long characterized Southwestern's educational philosophy. The articulation of individual interior spaces through

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the use of dormers, gables, porches, and carefully scaled windows glazed with colored panes set in leaded mullions, all serve to break down the larger building masses into a series of human-scaled parts. Yet the continuity of the whole is maintained by the consistent use of sandstone with limestone trim and pitched roofs of grey slate. Within these buildings is a hierarchy of spaces ranging from 2-student suites to oak panelled lounges with stone fireplaces, to the large dining hall of the refectory with its exposed ceiling beams.

Kennedy Hall (33), formerly the Science Building, stands apart from the other original structures. Groin-vaulted entry porches on the south and east sides stand awaiting connection to some future adjoining building. Again, as at Palmer Hall, the large sandstone building mass has been successfully broken down into a more intimately-scaled whole by a series of wings accented by gables, dormers, and carved limestone pinnacles.

It is an unusual and significant feature of the Southwestern Campus that both the original buildings and those constructed later share in common the Collegiate Gothic vocabulary expressed through the consistent use of Arkansas sandstone, trimmed in limestone, with roofs of grey slate. In order to insure this uniformity of building materials, the college purchased in the early 1920s its own sandstone quarry located in Bald Knob, Arkansas. The original buildings formed a loose quadrangle, and adherence to the spirit of the original quadrangular campus plan over the years has resulted in a series of open spaces which afford a strong sense of harmony and spatial continuity. While the Gothic detailing of the buildings is of fine quality, with its array of dormers, turrets, leaded glass windows and multi-flued chimneys, it is this overall cohesion between buildings and open spaces which distinguishes the Southwestern Historic District from its surroundings and gives the campus its strong sense of place.

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feet. From there (UTM PT. B) it turns north and runs a distance of 350 feet, passing behind Burrow Library (36). It then turns west and runs 95 feet to the southeast corner of Palmer Hall (35). From there it turns north and runs 100 feet, passing between Palmer Hall (35) and Clough Hall (37). It then turns west and runs 255 feet along the north side of Palmer Hall (35). From this point it turns north and runs 240 feet, along the east side of Kennedy Hall (33). It then turns west and runs along the north side of Kennedy Hall (33) a distance of 160 feet. From there it turns north and runs 115 feet along the east side of Moore Moore Infirmary (9). From there it turns west and runs 200 feet along the north side of Moore Moore Infirmary (9) and Catherine Burrow Refectory (8). From this point it turns west and runs 240 feet to the east edge of University Street, passing the south side of Glassell Hall (10). From there it turns south and runs 605 feet along the east edge of University Street to the beginning point of the boundary (UTM PT. A).