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SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: City of Orangeburg Multiple
Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: Dukes Gymnasium

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

LOCATION: On campus of South Carolina State College,

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: South Carolina State College Trustees
c/o President M. Maceo Nance, Jr.
South Carolina State College
Orangeburg, SC 29117

DESCRIPTION

Dukes Gymnasium is a two-story, brick building with a full basement and a gable-on-hip roof. It was constructed in 1931. The brickwork is common bond; the roofing is red tile. The facade features a five-bay brick arcade. Under the arcade single, multi-light windows flank each side of three modern double-door entrances with frosted glass transoms. The outer bays of the facade feature triple, multi-light windows with modern metal awnings on both the first and second stories. There are triple, multi-light windows on the basement of the facade. A concrete water table runs between the basement and first story. Side elevations have double, six-light windows with concrete lugsills on all levels. The windows are separated by brick pilasters. The rear elevation has a double-door entrance with a hipped-roof hood supported by knee brackets on each end; double, six-light windows on the second story; and rectangular brick wall pilasters on the first story.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFANCE: Black History
Architecture
Education

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE S (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dukes Gymnasium is significant for its association with a pioneer black South Carolina architect, Miller F. Whittaker and a South Carolina State College mechanical arts student, John H. Blanche. The building was designed by Blanche as a graduation thesis in the department of mechanical arts under the supervision of Whittaker. Thomas J. Entzminger, a black carpenter from Columbia, was the chief building supervisor. Instructors in mechanical arts courses at the college installed the steel framing, plumbing, and electrical systems and supervised other parts of the construction. Funding for the building was provided by student recreation fees.(1) The collaboration of Whittaker and Blanche demonstrates the expanding competence of blacks in the field of architecture and the expansion of the college's educational parameters. The building itself, the tangible evidence of these efforts, is well-proportioned and solidly built.

ACREAGE: Approximately .63 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the Dukes Gymnasium, South Carolina State College nomination is shown as the bold black line on the accompanying Orangeburg County Aerial Tax Map #192-03 with a scale of 100 feet to the inch. The nominated property includes only the historic building and its immediate setting.

QUAD NAME: Orangeburg South

QUAD SCALE: 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/513890/3706230

FOOTNOTES

(1) Nix, p. 123; 1931 Commencement Exercises Program, South Carolina State Agricultural and Mechanical College, Miller F. Whittaker Library, South Carolina State College, Orangeburg, SC.