

DATA SHEET

PHO 699 071

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 5 1979
DATE ENTERED	MAR 23 1979

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 Steele Hall, ~~LEMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE~~

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

Le Moyne - Owen College Campus

STREET & NUMBER
Walker Avenue and McDowell Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Memphis VICINITY OF Eighth
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Tennessee CODE 047 COUNTY Shelby CODE 157

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
LEMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE

STREET & NUMBER
807 Walker Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Memphis VICINITY OF _____ STATE Tennessee 38126

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER
Shelby County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Memphis STATE Tennessee 38103

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historical and Architectural Survey

DATE
October 12, 1978 ___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Tennessee Historical Commission, 170 Second Avenue, North

CITY, TOWN
Nashville STATE Tennessee 37201

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Steele Hall, the original building on the present LeMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE campus, is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of McDowell Street and Walker Avenue in Memphis. At one time the only building on the campus, Steele Hall now anchors a corner of a greatly expanded collegiate complex. Designed by Tandy and Foster, James Alexander constructed the building in 1914 for a contract price of \$32,000.

Steele Hall is a two-story brick building with a brick foundation and a flat tar and gravel roof. Below the concrete watertable the basement area is also used for academic purposes. The original facade faced north onto Walker Avenue and incorporated two balancing principal entrances; both of these have now been closed and their flanking brick pillars topped by small concrete balls have been removed. Presently, single doorways in the west and in the east elevations provide the main entrances. These doorways retain their original detailing which is a slightly smaller version of the closed north-side entrances.

Constructed with a limited budget, this educational building has no architectural pretensions. Instead, its appearance is characterized by a grid of interesting lines formed by the horizontal bands of the banks of windows (mostly triple) and vertical pilaster-like decorative elements accenting the fenestration pattern. Additional horizontal emphasis is provided by the wide watertable, flat concrete window sills and lintels, and a concrete band on top of the roof parapet. Concrete squares and diamonds provide a slight decorative touch and another horizontal line over the windows.

The original plan has been somewhat altered. Today a center hallway, running east to west, is flanked by classrooms and other academic offices. Although some new partitions have been inserted, a large part of the original interior woodwork remains. A one story brick addition was added to the south side of the building ca 1930 and was long used for a library.

The property included in this nomination is a lot which measures 275 feet by 300 feet. While this is only a small portion of the 15-acre LeMOYNE-OWEN campus, it does contain Steele Hall.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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

1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Tandy and Foster

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The American Missionary Association (AMA) dispatched Lucinda Humphrey to Camp Shiloh near Memphis shortly after that city surrendered to the Union forces in 1862. She established a school for the "contraband" Negroes who were leaving the plantations in the surrounding states and arriving in large numbers in Memphis. A year later the school moved to Memphis. By 1866 it was called the Lincoln School; that year, during the race riots, the school was fired, but it was rebuilt a year later and reopened with 150 students and 6 teachers.

Dr. Francis Julius LeMoyné, a prominent Washington, Pennsylvania, physician and AMA member, rescued the Lincoln School from financial difficulties; he contributed \$20,000 to found a school in Memphis. The Lincoln School was reorganized and renamed the LeMoyné Normal and Commercial School in 1871 and a campus was established on Orleans Street, near Beale Street. In 1901 a secondary program was added to the curriculum of the school; this was the only Negro high school in Memphis until Booker T. Washington High School was built in 1923. A year later the name changed to LeMoyné Junior College and in 1932 LeMoyné College, now a four-year institution, awarded its first bachelor's degrees.

In 1954 the Tennessee Baptist Missionary and Education Convention established S. A. Owen Junior College (later called Owen College). The school was named for a prominent religious and civic leader. LeMoyné and Owen Colleges merged in 1968. The present LeMoyné-Owen College is a four-year, private, liberal arts, co-educational, commuter college with a fifteen-acre campus.

LeMoyné Normal and Commercial School, with the assistance of the AMA and LeMoyné alumni, acquired land at the intersection of Walker Avenue and McDowell Street in late 1912 or early 1913. Steele Hall, the school's first and presently its oldest building, was completed in 1914. Tandy and Foster designed, and James Alexander built, the two-story, brick building which housed the normal and secondary programs; the construction cost amounted to approximately \$32,000. The building was named for Andrew Steele, principal of the Normal Institute from 1871 to 1908. LeMoyné campus moved from Orleans Street to its new permanent location in south Memphis in 1914.

Steele Hall, which served as Memphis' only Negro High School from 1914 to 1923, was for many years the only permanent building on the LeMoyné campus. Although Steele Hall has undergone some changes, it is still a key building on the campus. Today it houses the college's Career Service Center, Counseling Services, Student Health Center, Learning Resources Center, Financial Aid Offices, and Art Department. The building remains in good condition and LeMoyné-Owen College plans to continue using this building.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Information provided by Charles L. Dinkins, Development Director, LeMOYNE-OWEN COLLEGE, Memphis, Tennessee.

Information provided by Clifton H. Johnson, Executive Director, The Armistad Research Center, Dillard University, New Orleans, Louisiana.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.9

QUADRANGLE NAME Southwest Memphis, Tenn.-Ark.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 770150 3890080

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H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property nominated is a rectangular tract which measures approximately 275 feet by 300 feet and is bounded as follows: beginning at southeast corner of the intersection of McDowell Street and Walker Avenue; thence east approximately 300 feet along the south

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Barbara Hume Church, Architectural Historian
Robert E. Dalton, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE January 14, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 170 Second Avenue, North

TELEPHONE (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN Nashville

STATE Tennessee 37201

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL X

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

Herbert L. Hagen

TITLE Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE 2/1/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>Charles L. Dinkins</i>	DATE <u>3/23/79</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
ATTEST: <i>Robert E. Dalton</i>	DATE <u>3/22/79</u>
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION	

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LeMoyne College was for many years the only college available to the Memphis black community, and it has served and continues to serve as a training ground for Negro leaders. Countless teachers were trained in the Normal Institute and the long-range effect of this training is incalculable. Among its prominent graduates are Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director, and Jesse H. Turner, Sr., national treasurer of the NAACP; linguist Dr. Juanita Williamson, author Dr. C. Eric Lincoln, and A Maceo Walker, Sr., president of Universal Life Insurance Company and president of the Tri-State Bank in Memphis. Other national and local leaders--U.S. Congressmen, college and school administrators, judges, state legislators, city and county officials--are also included among the alumni of LeMoyne-Owen College

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curb of Walker Avenue to a point; thence south approximately 275 feet to a point; thence west approximately 300 feet to the east curb of McDowell Street; thence approximately 275 feet along the east curb of McDowell Street to the beginning.