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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED  
AUG 07 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Physical Education Building - Arkansas Tech University

other name/site number: PP0050

2. Location

street & number: Southeast corner of North El Paso Street and West "O" Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Russellville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pope code: AR 115 zip code: 72801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940

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#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Byrd  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

8-2-92  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

#### 5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~  
~~National Register~~

- ☒ entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_  
☐ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Deloris Byrd 9/10/92  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

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#### 6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: EDUCATION

Sub: Education-related

Current: EDUCATION

Sub: Education-related

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt  
walls Brick other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1937-1940

Significant Dates: 1937

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Haralson and Mott/Federal Emergency Administration/  
Manhattan Construction Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

The Physical Education Building at Arkansas Tech University is a two story, brick masonry recreational building designed in a relatively erudite rendition of the Classical Revival. Its symmetrical plan features the large flat roof front section and two other flat roof sections to the rear that flank a central gable roof gym section. The gable section of the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, while the flat roof sections are covered with built-up tar roofs. The brick walls rest upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

**Elaboration**

The Physical Education Building at Arkansas Tech University is a two story, brick masonry recreational building designed in a relatively erudite rendition of the Classical Revival. Its symmetrical plan features the large flat roof front section and two other flat roof sections to the rear that flank a central gable roof gym section. The gable section of the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, while the flat roof sections are covered with built-up tar roofs. The brick walls rest upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

The western or front elevation is seven bays in length. The second story is lighted with seven square-headed, twelve-over-twelve wood sash windows set into concrete moldings with decorative keystones. The ends of the first floor are lighted with a single identical square-headed window at each end; the wall surface toward the center is then accessed via two pedimented entrances placed symmetrically. Each is accessed via a double-leaf entry with a transom. The surrounding molding is rusticated and supports an entablature below the pediment. The three windows between the entrances are set within segmental arches with decorative moldings and keystones and contain fifteen-over-fifteen wood sash windows. A cornice molding above is placed just below the raised parapet. The eastern elevation opposite is blank except for the central double-leaf entrance, set into a rusticated arch and placed directly below the gable peak of the gymnasium wall and between the flanking single-leaf entrances with transoms to either side. The projecting corners of the gym wall are ornamented with raised brick quoins.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. The two-story western section is fenestrated with two fifteen-over-fifteen wood sash window on each floor, symmetrically-placed within the wall. The side walls of the single-story, flat roof sections that flank the gymnasium each contain twelve window bays, divided into sections of three by a vertical arrangement of raised brick panels and containing a central awning window between fixed pairs of panes.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

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The Physical Education Building has remained relatively intact and is in good condition.



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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**Physical Education Building; Arkansas Tech University**

Arkansas Tech University was founded in 1909 when the Arkansas General Assembly created four Agricultural School Districts, with the Second District being formed by the twenty counties of northwest Arkansas. The city of Russellville offered the governor-appointed Board of Trustees four-hundred acres adjoining the city limits and a cash bonus of several thousand dollars, and was thus selected as the site of the new school.

The Second District Agricultural School -- as it was initially known -- first matriculated students in the fall of 1910. The school was planned to function initially as an agricultural secondary school and to grow into a four-year college-level institution as soon as possible. It first offered a freshman year of college work in 1921-22, and instituted second, third and fourth years in each of the succeeding academic years, respectively, so that by 1925 both a four-year high school and a four-year college were operating on the same campus. This progress was acknowledged by the Arkansas General Assembly in 1925 when it changed the name of the school to Arkansas Polytechnic College and awarded it the power to grant degrees. However, this ambitious program proved beyond the resources of the school, and by 1927 it became a two-year junior college. It remained so until 1948, when the Board of Trustees re-instituted its degree-granting status with a plan to return to a four-year school. The General Assembly officially changed the name to Arkansas Tech University in 1976.

The 1930's heralded one of the most ambitious periods of construction on the campus. As was the case with many public sites and institutions around the state, the labor force was largely contributed by the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA), the federal agency established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to hire the nation's unemployed for the purpose of carrying out a broad variety of projects in the public interest. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were all subsidiary organizations whose work in Arkansas was overseen by the ERA.

The Physical Education Building was constructed in 1937 under the auspices of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (Project #Ark. 1194-D) according to the designs of the Fort Smith, Arkansas architectural firm of Haralson and Mott; the general contractor was the Manhattan Construction Company. As such, it was built during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*, and stands as an unusual example of a large, brick masonry physical education building with a roughly square plan designed in the Classical Revival style (e.g., the absolutely symmetrical composition of the front facade, the segmental arch windows in the center of the first floor and

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

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the pedimented, Classical entrances). Its use during this period as a physical education building for a public university clearly identifies it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion A through its direct associations with both the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period and the Federal Emergency Administration. It is also eligible under Criterion C as the best example locally of this application of the Classical Revival style to this particular floor plan.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" Multiple Property Form, Section H.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>487610</u>	<u>3905390</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running along the eastern edge of North El Paso Street with a perpendicular line running along the southern edge of West "O" Street, proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's southern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with the eastern edge of North El Paso Street; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both the historic resource and all the surrounding property known to have been historically associated therewith that retains its integrity.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 16, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS  
ARKANSAS

		Date Listed
92001195	Liberty School Cafeteria	9/10/92
92001107	Locust Grove School	9/4/92
92001124	Luber School Substantive Review	9/4/92
92001199	Maxville School Building	9/10/92
92001201	Melbourne Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001103	Men's Gymnasium--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001109	Moorefield School	9/4/92
92001207	Mountain View School	9/10/92
92001216	Mountainburg High School	9/10/92
92001218	Mulberry Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001220	New Liberty School	9/10/92
92001211	Physical Education Building--Arkansas Tech University	9/10/92
92001193	Plumerville School Building	9/10/92
92001198	Poughkeepsie School Building	9/10/92
92001111	Pyatt School Building	9/4/92
92001126	Quitman High School Building	9/4/92
92001127	Quitman Home Economics Building	9/4/92
92001219	Smithville Public School Building Substantive Review	9/4/92
92001119	Spring Valley School District 120 Building	9/4/92
92001104	Student Union Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001108	Thida Grove School	9/4/92
92001117	Tontitown School Building	9/4/92
92001204	Valley Springs School	9/10/92
92001105	Walker, Vol, Library--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001208	Williamson Hall--Arkansas Tech University Substantive Review	
92001209	Wilson Hall--Arkansas Tech University Substantive Review	
92001351	Center Cross School	Entered in the National Register
93001255	Big Flat School Gymnasium	Entered in the National Register
9301461	Solomon Grove Smith-Hughes Building	Entered in the National Register

Date Listed

9/10/92

9/4/92

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11/19/93

12.9.94

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Physical Education Building--Arkansas Tech University

MULTIPLE NAME: Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pope

DATE RECEIVED: 8/07/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/21/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/06/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/21/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 920012111

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/10/92 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA  
REVIEWER  
DISCIPLINE  
DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date







PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING; ATU  
RUSSELLVILLE, POPE CO., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY  
JANUARY, 1990  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW FROM WEST



PHYSICAL EDUCATION BUILDING; ATU  
BUSSELLVILLE, POPE CO., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY  
JANUARY, 1990  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500028