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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

AUG 1 3 2003

NAT. REGISTER OF HIST COPLACES
and districts. See Instructions in How to Complete the National Register item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and

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RECEIVED

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name Old Earle High School other names/site number Site #CT0008
Site #C10006
2. Location
street & number Northeast corner of Ruth Street and High 2 nd Street (US 64B) not for publication city or town Earle vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Crittenden code 035 zip code 72331
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide locally dee continuation sheet for additional comments.) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program State or Federal agency and bureau
A. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that the property is:

Old Earle High School Name of Property		Crittenden County, Arkansas County and State				
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources w (Do not include previously liste				
□ private☑ public-local□ public-State□ public-Federal	☑ building(s)☐ district☐ site☐ structure	Contributing 1	Noncontributing	buildings sites		
	object	1	1	structures		
		2	1	objects Total		
Name of related multiple pr (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instruct	ions)			
EDUCATION/School		EDUCATION/School	EDUCATION/School			
		VACANT/NOT IN USE				
7. Description						
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) LATE 19 th AND 20 th CENTU		Materials (Enter categories from instruction Brick	ions)			
	ICI ICE VI VALS					
Mission/Spanish Colonial Rev		walls Brick				

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Old	Earle	High	School	
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Name of Property

Crittenden County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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SUMMARY

The Old Earle High School is located on the northeast corner of Ruth Street and High 2nd Street (US 64B) on the west side of Earle, Arkansas. The school was built in 1919, and is a three story building built in the Mission/Spanish Revival style. It is constructed out of red brick and has stone trim. An auditorium wing built in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to replace the previous auditorium and gymnasium is located on the rear of the building. In addition to the school, the site also contains sidewalks inscribed with names of students from the time of the building's construction up until the opening of the new high school. A sculpture of a bulldog, which was built c.1970, is located in front of the school, but does not contribute to the significance of the property.

ELABORATION

The Old Earle High School is a three story red brick building with stone trim built in the Mission/Spanish Revival style. It is located on the northeast corner of Ruth Street and High 2nd Street (US 64B), which is one of the main east/west streets in town. The main building was built in 1919, and the current auditorium wing was built in 1940 by the WPA to replace the previous one, which was damaged by a tornado in 1939. A small computer wing, built in the mid-1970s, is located on the west side of the auditorium and another small classroom wing, built in 1986, is located on the rear of the building.

In addition to the school building, the site also has sidewalks that are inscribed with the names of graduates from the time that the building was built until the new high school opened. A bulldog sculpture is also located on the grounds, but since it was built c.1970, it does not contribute to the property's significance.

Front/South Façade

The front façade faces south towards High 2nd Street (US 64B), and is symmetrically oriented around a central entrance. The central section of the building has six steps leading up to a three-arched loggia. The main entrance to the building is located in the central bay of the loggia. The loggia has stone bases, brick columns, and stone arches. Above the entrance, a central stone plaque says "EARLE HIGH SCHOOL", and is flanked by two smaller square stone plaques. The first floor is separated from the second floor by a stone beltcourse.

In the central section of the second floor is a group of three, two-over-two metal-framed windows with stone sills. Additionally, a single two-over-two metal-framed window with stone sill is on either side of the central group. The central portion of the façade has brick quoins on each side and is crowned by a mission style parapet with stone coping. The east and west sides of this central section have a single two-over-two metal-framed window with stone sill on the first floor level, and paired two-over-two metal-framed windows with stone sills on the upper two floors.

Old Earle High School	
Name of Property	

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The central section of the building is flanked on each side by a recessed intermediary section. The intermediary sections have a group of three two-over-two metal-framed windows with stone sills on each of the three floors. The windows are placed in the center of the sections. In addition, the three floors of the sections are separated by stone beltcourses, and the top of each section has stone coping.

Moving outward from the center of the building, the east and west ends of the building have projecting wings. A single two-over-two metal-framed window with stone sill is placed in the center of the south side of each wing. The floors are separated by stone beltcourses, and the upper two stories have brick quoins at the corners. The top of each wing is crowned by a mission style parapet with stone coping.

Side/West Façade

The original section of the west façade is divided in half by a downspout running down the length of the façade. On each side of the downspout on the bottom floor are four evenly spaced two-over-two metal-framed windows with stone sills. (The center two windows on the left side of the downspout have been boarded up.) On the upper two floors, the downspout is flanked by a band of five two-over-two metal-framed windows with stone sills. As with the south façade of the building, stone beltcourses divide the floors and a mission style parapet with stone coping crowns the façade.

To the rear, or north, of the original building are the computer classroom wing and the current auditorium. The façade of the current auditorium currently has four evenly spaced one-pane replacement windows in the locations of the original large windows. Below these windows, the computer classroom wing, which was built in the mid-1970s, projects out to the west. The north and south facades of the wing are lined with six-paned metal-framed windows. The west façade of the wing has no fenestration. The computer classroom wing has a south-sloped shed roof.

To the north of the auditorium, the stage area projects out to the west of the façade. The stage area has one boarded up window. Attached to the north side of the stage area is another small classroom wing with north-sloped shed roof. This wing was built in 1986, and has one metal door at the southern edge of the west side.

Rear/North Facade

On the top floor of the original building's rear façade are at least four large window openings that are currently boarded up. In each of the intermediary sections flanking the central section of the building is an entrance with double glass doors approached by six steps. Above each entrance, in between the second and third floors, is a paired two-over-two metal-framed window with stone sill. The rear façades of the outermost wings of the original building each have a single two-over-two metal-framed window with stone sill. The corners of the outermost wings are adorned with brick quoins, and the tops of the wings are decorated with mission style parapets and stone coping.

Old	Earle	High	School	

Name of Property

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The north façade of the auditorium wing is encompassed with the 1986 classroom addition. It has three evenly spaced bands of three-pane metal-framed windows. The roof is punctuated by three metal chimneys, and a small gable (on the north side of the stage area) sticks above the classroom wing's shed roof.

Side/East Facade

Like the west façade, the original section of the east façade is divided in half by a downspout running down the length of the façade. On the north side of the downspout on the bottom floor are four evenly spaced window openings with stone sills. However, the windows have been boarded up. On the south side of the downspout are two evenly spaced two-over-two metal-framed windows with stone sills, followed by a paneled door, and then followed by a two-over-two metal-framed window with stone sill. On the upper two floors, the downspout is flanked by a band of five two-over-two metal-framed windows with stone sills. As with the west façade of the building, stone beltcourses divide the floors and a mission style parapet with stone coping crowns the façade.

To the rear, or north, of the original building is the current auditorium. The façade of the current auditorium currently has four evenly spaced one-pane replacement windows in the locations of the original large windows. To the north of the auditorium, the stage area projects out to the east of the façade. The stage area has one boarded up window. Attached to the north side of the stage area is another small classroom wing with north-sloped shed roof. This wing was built in 1986, and has one metal door at the southern edge of the east side.

Integrity

For the most part, the original 1919 portion of the Old Earle High School retains good integrity. The original doors and wood-framed multi-pane windows of the building have been replaced, and were replaced prior to 1972. However, the current windows fill the original window openings. Although the original auditorium was damaged by a tornado in 1939, the current auditorium was built in 1940 by the WPA, and now contributes to the significance of the building. The two classroom additions, one built in the mid-1970s and one built in 1986, are small in scale and built on the side and rear, and only minimally detract from the building's integrity. Overall, the Old Earle High School is a good example of an early twentieth-century school building.

Old Earle High School	Crittenden County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) LOCAL
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1919-1953
☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) Property is: A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Dates 1919 1940
B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
 C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance. D a cemetery. 	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Works Progress Administration, Builder (Auditorium/Gymnasium)
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of	r more continuation sheets.)
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	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository: Earle School District
Record #	

Old Earle High School	
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Crittenden County, Arkansas

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SUMMARY

The Old Earle High School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion** A for its association with education in Earle and Crittenden County. The Old Earle High School served as Earle's high school from its completion in 1919 until 1978. Even today, the renovated auditorium continues to serve the needs of students in the Earle School District, and a new use is being sought for the classroom portion of the building.

ELABORATION

Crittenden County was formed by an act of the Territorial General Assembly on October 22, 1825, and was approved by Governor George Izard. It was named after Robert Crittenden, who was the first Secretary of the Territory of Arkansas. Originally, Crittenden County included all of the land between the Mississippi River west to the St. Francis River and the Missouri/Arkansas border south to approximately the location of Marianna, Arkansas, in neighboring Lee County. The size of Crittenden County shrank over the years as land was taken to form St. Francis County in 1827, Mississippi County in 1833, Cross County in 1862, and, finally, Lee County in 1873.¹

The City of Earle and neighboring Norvell (also called Brown and New Earle in the 1880s) developed almost simultaneously in the late nineteenth-century, and were separated for many years only by a boundary line along Ruth Street, which was formerly known as Watt Street.² Earle was named for Josiah Francis Earle who owned extensive amounts of land in the area, and who built the first weatherboard house in Crittenden County after the Civil War. When Josiah Earle died in 1884, he left his landholdings to his wife, Louisa, and when the railroad was constructed through the area in 1888, she constructed a one-room building along the line in order to get the railroad to stop at the community.³

The fact that the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern railroad chose to construct their line through Earle meant that the eventual demise of Norvell was inevitable. Even so, both towns incorporated, with Norvell's incorporation being approved on June 27, 1904, and Earle's incorporation being approved on February 20, 1905. Because of the proximity of the two communities to one another, a merger was first considered in 1913. However, the merger of the communities would not take place until August 24, 1978, and even then most of Norvell's residents opposed it.⁴

¹ Margaret Elizabeth Woolfolk. <u>A History of Crittenden County, Arkansas</u>. Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1993, pp. 2-3.

² Woolfolk, p. 166.

³ Woolfolk, p. 170.

⁴ Woolfolk, p. 166.

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The first school building was built in Earle in 1895, and was a one-room log structure. Like many of the early buildings in Earle, it faced the railroad line, and the teachers would let the children go to the door to watch the passing trains. It was only used approximately five years before the second school building, a two-room frame building, was built in Earle c.1900. It was later expanded to four rooms once music classes were offered to the students.⁵

The present campus where the Old Earle High School is located was first built on in 1909 when Earle's third school building was built for \$20,000. It served all of the grades in Earle until the Old Earle High School was built in 1919. Once a Primary Building was built in 1928, Earle's third building housed third through sixth grade until 1952. It was demolished in 1962.

Due to the increase in students and the need for a modern facility, a new junior and senior high building (Old Earle High School) was planned in 1919. Professor O.E. Van Cleave, who was Superintendent of the Earle Public Schools at the time, wrote:

...In the spring if this year four additional acres were added to the campus and the contract let for the erection of a \$100,000 junior and senior high school building. When the new building is completed and the old one is released from the repairs now being made, the Earle public schools will be modern in every respect and one of the best equipped institutions in the state.

The new building will be a three-story structure embodying all the modern ideas of convenience, light, heat and utility. It will contain ten class rooms, a gymnasium fifty feet by eighty, an auditorium that will seat eight hundred and fifty-four people without crowding or discomfort, a library, a teacher's rest room and the office of the superintendent. The furniture and fixtures of this building have been carefully selected and it is believed that a better selection could not have been made.⁷

The 1930 Sanborn map for Earle, which is the first map that the building appears on, indicates that the building had steam heat and electric lights. It also indicated that the rear of the building had a gym on the first floor and an auditorium on the second floor. The rear wing also had pilastered walls and a wood truss roof.⁸

⁸ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1930.

⁵ Information provided by Jimmie Barham, Earle, Arkansas.

[°] Ibid.

⁷ Rev. A. A. Weeks. A History of Crittenden County, Arkansas. Unknown publisher, 1919. (Provided by Jimmie Barham.)

Old Earle High School	
Name of Property	

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At the time that the building opened, students in the graduating classes began the tradition of inscribing their names and year of graduation in the sidewalks around the building. This tradition, which has occurred at many schools around Arkansas, continued up until the building closed as a high school in 1978. These sidewalks still remain on the grounds, and contribute to the significance of the school.

In 1939, a tornado struck Earle and caused damage to the Old Earle High School and the third school building, which stood just to its east on the campus. On the third school building, the tornado damaged the distinctive twin towers, and it damaged the auditorium and gymnasium wing of the high school. As a result, the top floor auditorium and its balconies were removed. Construction of a new auditorium/gymnasium began at once, with construction being handled by the WPA, and the new wing was dedicated on May 3, 1940. When the current Marvin Bird Gymnasium was built in 1962-1963, the auditorium/gymnasium of the Old High School was renovated to serve only as an auditorium.⁹

Other modifications to upgrade the building have taken place in the last thirty years. Circa 1970, a bulldog sculpture on a brick base was constructed in front of the building, and dedicated to the memory of Jimmy Choate by the Junior Class of 1970. In the mid-1970s, a small computer room was added to the west side of the auditorium. Also, prior to 1972, the original windows were replaced with the metal-frame windows that are currently in the building. In 1986, in order to provide more classrooms, a classroom addition was added to the north side of the building. Currently, the rooms are being used for 7th and 8th grade classrooms.

The Old Earle High School continued to serve the students of Earle until 1998 when Dunbar High was opened on the southeast side of town. Although the auditorium portion of the building is still used today for students in other buildings on the campus, the classroom portion is currently vacant. However, the Earle School District is currently seeking to find a use for the classroom portion of the building. ¹⁰

For almost 90 years the Old Earle High School has served the educational needs of the students of Earle. Although the building has had some modifications over the years, it is still easy to recognize the 1919 building that Professor Van Cleave boasted was "modern in every respect and one of the best equipped institutions in the state." In addition, the fact that the Earle School District is currently seeking a new use for the classroom portion of the building speaks to the love of and commitment to the building on behalf of the Earle School District.

⁹ Information provided by Jimmie Barham, Earle, Arkansas.

¹⁰ Jack Crumbly, Earle School District Superintendent. Interview with the author. 15 January 2003.

¹¹ Rev. A. A. Weeks. <u>A History of Crittenden County, Arkansas</u>. Unknown publisher, 1919. (Provided by Jimmie Barham.)

Old Earle High School	Crittenden County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Earle High School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with education in Earle and Crittenden County. The Old Earle High School served as Earle's high school from its completion in 1919 until 1978. Even today, the renovated auditorium continues to serve the needs of students in the Earle School District, and a new use is being sought for the classroom portion of the building.

Old Earle High School	
Name of Property	

Crittenden County, Arkansas

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United States Department of the Interior

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Crumbly, Jack, Earle School District Superintendent. Interview with the author. 15 January 2003.

Information provided by Jimmie Barham, Earle, Arkansas.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Earle, Arkansas, 1930.

Weeks, Rev. A. A. <u>A History of Crittenden County, Arkansas</u>. Unknown publisher, 1919. (Provided by Jimmie Barham.)

Woolfolk, Margaret Elizabeth. <u>A History of Crittenden County, Arkansas</u>. Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1993.

Old Earle High School	Crittenden County, Arkansas	
Name of Property	County and State	
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property Approximately one acre.		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)		
1 _15 _ 730016 _ 3905818 _	3	
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
2	4 See continuation sheet	
	See continuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)		
Boundary Justification		
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)		
11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator		
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	date _ July 31, 2003	
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street	Telephone (501) 324-9787	
city or town Little Rock	state AR zip code 7220	1
Additional Documentation		
Submit the following items with the completed form:		
Continuation Sheets		
Maps		
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's l	ocation	
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large ac	eage or numerous resources.	
Photographs		
Representative black and white photographs of the property.		
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)		
Property Owner		
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)		
name Earle School District		
street & number PO Box 647	telephone 870-792	2-8486
city or town Earle	state AR zip code 7233	31

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Old Earle High School	
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Crittenden County, Arkansas
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point at the northeast side of the intersection of High 2nd Street (US 64B) and Ruth Street, proceed northerly 310 feet, then proceed easterly 185 feet, then proceed southerly 105 feet, then proceed easterly 65 feet, then proceed southerly 205 feet to High 2nd Street (US 64B), then proceed westerly along High 2nd Street (US 64 B) to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Old Earle High School.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Earle High School, Old NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Crittenden
DATE RECEIVED: 8/13/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/15/03 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/01/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/03 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000956
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
VACCEPT RETURN REJECT 92705 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in the National Register
RECOM./CRITERIA
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
DOCUMENTAL DOC GOOGOTTOG COMMENTED 1/11 DOC GOOGOTTOG DELL 1/11



KodakProfessional Kodak Professional OLD EARLE HIGH SCHOOL

CRITTEN DEN COUNTY, AR

KARA MILLS

C. 2000 PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
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OLD EARLE HIGH SCHOOL

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, AR

KARA MILLS

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ARKANSAS HISTORIL PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR NORTH FACADE, LOOKING SOUTH



OLD EARLE HIGH SCHOOL CRITTENDEN COUNTY, AR

KARA MILLS

C. 72000

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR GYM/AUDITORIUM EAST FACADE, LOOKING NORTHWEST



OLD EARLE HIGH SCHOOL OLD EARLE HIGH SCHOOL

CRITIENDEN COUNTY, AR

KARA MILLS

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The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

> 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184 tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org website: www.arkansaspreservation.org August 7, 2003

Carol D. Shull Chief of Registration United States Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 8th Floor 1201 Eye Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

> RE: Old Earle High School - Earle, Crittenden County, Arkansas

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 1 3 2003

Cathie Matther

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Singerely,

Cáthie Matt

State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure



