

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Greek Amphitheatre

other names/site number CO0250

2. Location

street & number Intersection of East Lane Drive, E. University Street & Crescent Drive

☐ not for publication

city or town Magnolia

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Columbia code 027 zip code 71754

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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Debbie Macchiusi
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/7/05
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

6/1/05
Date of Action

Greek Amphitheatre
Name of Property

Columbia County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☒ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☒ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls N/A

roof N/A

other

Narrative Description

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

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SUMMARY

Nestled on the quiet southeast corner of Southern Arkansas University (SAU), Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas, the Greek Amphitheatre is the only theatre of its kind in South Arkansas, with the only other open-air amphitheatre associated with an Arkansas state college being the Chi Omega Greek Theatre; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (NR 8/04/1993). Remaining virtually unaltered since construction was completed in 1938, the amphitheatre is an impressive example of the combined effort between the 1936 Sophomore (Graduating) Class of Magnolia A & M (as SAU was formerly known) and Columbia County National Youth Administration (N. Y. A.) participants to leave a lasting memorial to future generations of students and supporters of the institution. The structure is constructed of concrete and it approximately 103 feet from one side of the bleachers to the other, and 83 feet from the rear of the bleachers to the rear of the stage area.

ELABORATION

Nestled on the quiet southeast corner of Southern Arkansas University (SAU), Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas, the Greek Amphitheatre is the only theatre of its kind in South Arkansas, with the only other open-door amphitheatre associated with an Arkansas state college being the Chi Omega Greek Theatre; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (NR 8/04/1993).

The structure, a good sized, open, elliptical amphitheatre, is constructed of concrete that forms most of the elements of the amphitheatre—bleachers, sidewalks, steps, staging area and columns. The only element of the amphitheatre not constructed of concrete is the orchestra pit, which lies at the bottom of a flight of eight steps from the bleacher area and three steps from the staging area.

Situated on either end of the bleacher span are two concrete benches. The bench on the southwest end bears the letters “N Y A” in relief, while the bench on the northeast corner bears no marks. A decorative fence made of concrete and wrought iron sits a few feet east of the southwesterly N. Y. A. bench.

At the entrance of the amphitheatre, accessed via a long walkway that extends from East Lane which runs along the east side of campus, is a waist-high obelisk which offers credit for the construction of the project. It reads: BUILT BY/NATIONAL YOUTH/ADMINISTRATION/IN COOPERATION WITH/A & M COLLEGE/ MAGNOLIA/ ARKANSAS/1937-1938. Two concrete urns rest on the sidewalk a few feet from the obelisk, just at the edge of the flight of stairs that leads from the bleachers to the orchestra pit.

The bleachers are divided into two symmetrical sections by one aisle, and the audience is oriented to face southeast while viewing performances. The bleachers consist of seven risers, which are supported by concrete posts, creating a sloping arena that provides ample viewing of the staged event for all audience members. A combination of concrete walks and steps shape the interior of the seating area, and merge to form the small oval concrete stage.

Three clusters of classical Greek columns decorate the stage; one cluster of four columns sits center-stage, and two clusters of six columns each flank either edge of the stage. All of the columns host a fluted shaft resting atop a round base, with no decorative capital present. Large concrete slabs cap each cluster of columns. The names of the 1936 Sophomore (Graduating) Class that voted to leave as their memorial to the college the amphitheatre are etched into the cement floor of the stage on either side of the columns. The two steps that approach the stage area from the orchestra pit bear the inscription “CLASS/1936.”

The Greek Amphitheatre measures approximately 83 feet from the rear of the bleachers to the rear of the stage in the southeast, and the entire seating area measures approximately 103 feet across at its widest point, marked by the two concrete benches.

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INTEGRITY

The Greek Amphitheatre; Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, maintains a high amount of integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. A few small patches of cement have been applied during minor repairs over the structure's 69 year history. Not showing its age, the theatre has withstood many years of Homecoming activities, student plays, and campus-related ceremonies. The location and setting of the theatre remains pristine, nestled on the southeastern edge of the campus, surrounded by a thin screen of pine trees that provides privacy from passing traffic on East University Street. The amphitheatre also retains integrity of association with the work projects undertaken in Arkansas by the National Youth Administration, one of several relief programs established during the depression by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, under the Works Projects Administration (W. P. A) umbrella.

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.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **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.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

PERFORMING ARTS

Period of Significance

1936-1955

Significant Dates

1936

1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**Architect/Builder**

Prof. S. D. Dickinson and the Magnolia A & M 1936
Sophomore Class, and the N. Y. A.

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 or 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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☒ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Southern Arkansas University

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SUMMARY

The Greek Amphitheatre, located on the campus of Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Columbia County, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a fine example of a collegiate amphitheatre with Classical Greek influences. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with the National Youth Administration, a social works project of the 1930s. Though the N. Y. A. is credited with the construction and completion of the entire project, in all actuality, the N. Y. A. was more handsomely involved with the construction and completion of the sidewalks, stairs and bleachers, while the 1936 Sophomore Class of Magnolia A & M State College should be credited with the design and development of the entire structure itself, and more specifically the orchestra pit and staging area. The structure is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with the performing arts, as the solution for a "suitable place" to perform the Greek play, *Antigone*, during the state's centennial celebration held in Columbia County on May 14, 1936.

ELABORATION

Southern Arkansas University (SAU) is located in Magnolia, Columbia County, roughly 50 miles southeast of Texarkana, at the junction of Arkansas Highway 19 and U.S. Highway 82. The town of roughly 15,000 is steeped in a strong agricultural-based tradition, and that tradition is reflected in local business. Besides agriculture, industrial, timber, and oil-producing ventures are also prominent in the town and its culture.

Formerly State Agricultural and Mechanical College, SAU was established by an Act of the Arkansas Legislature in 1909 as a district agricultural school for southwest Arkansas. At the time the school was created by Governor George W. Donaghey, three other agricultural high schools were also created to benefit both men and women throughout the state. These institutions are now: Arkansas State University (First District Agricultural School) in Jonesboro, Craighead County; Arkansas Tech University (Second District Agricultural School) in Russellville, Pope County; and University of Arkansas at Monticello (Fourth District Agricultural School) in Monticello, Drew County.

From January 1911, when the first term began, until 1925, the curriculum carried only subjects at the secondary school level. In 1925, the State Legislature authorized the school to add two years of college work to its curriculum and to change its name from "Third District Agricultural School" to "Agricultural and Mechanical College, Third District." Magnolia A & M carried both high school and junior college courses until 1937 when the high school courses were discontinued. For the next 12 years, the college continued to serve southwest Arkansas as an A & M educational institution.

In the fall of 1949, the Board of Trustees, exercising authority vested in it by the State Legislature, decided to turn the college into a four-year, degree-granting institution. Set to begin in the fall semester of 1950, the Board authorized the addition of third-year college courses, with fourth-year courses offered in the 1951 fall semester. On January 24, 1951, Act Eleven by the State Legislature changed the name of the institution to "Southern State College (SSC)." In January 1975, SSC was approved and accredited to offer a Master of Education degree.

On July 9, 1976, the Arkansas Board of Higher Education, with the approval of the Board of Trustees, changed the name of the institution to Southern Arkansas University in accordance with Act 343 of the General Assembly.

As was common back in the school's early days, the 1936 sophomore (graduating) class of Magnolia A & M voted to leave as their memorial the amphitheatre that stands on the southeast corner of the campus, on a slope before a grove of pines. Exclusive of the labor, which was provided by the N. Y. A., the project cost was estimated at \$200, with the college and the 1936 graduating class supplying the funds and the materials.

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According to S. D. Dickinson, a former instructor of anthropology (and a man referred to as the "Father of Arkansas Archeology" by Dr. Frank Schambach, Survey Archeologist at SAU), the amphitheatre would be at the time of its construction the only one in South Arkansas. This holds true today, 69 years after the project officially began.

In addition to the 1936 Sophomore class's desire to leave the amphitheatre as their memorial to the college, a second reason exists for the amphitheatre's construction: the need for a "suitable place" to perform the Greek play, *Antigone*. The play's Greek genre, is the simple reason behind the amphitheatre's name. The play was presented on May 14, 1936, in Columbia County in celebration of Arkansas' Centennial. Townspeople, as well as every member of the 1936 Sophomore Class, actively participated in the production of the play. Lighting was provided by a large spotlight, which the Arkansas Power and Light Company had sent in from Pine Bluff—a request made by Dickinson to his good friend, Leland Longino, then-Vice President of the company.

At the time of the play's presentation to the community, the staging area of the theatre remained incomplete, as it does today. Dickinson writes:

In her final soliloquy, the character "Antigone" stood on top of the central group of columns on the stage. We took advantage of the fact that the cornice had not been constructed.

The steel rods that were to connect the cornice to the base are still exposed. Without the cornice the stage is not in proportion.

The persons who planned the permanent seating didn't consult me. The cornice could easily have been included in NYA construction. The planners, I assume, were not curious about those exposed rods.

The Saturday, April 14, 1936, edition of the school newspaper, *The Bray*, boasts a short editorial regarding the amphitheatre. Titled "Need of a Greek Theatre," the author stated:

[The] Greek theatre, which the Sophomore class is leaving as a memorial on the campus this year, will fulfill a great need. For years our institution has lacked a suitable place for out-of-door celebrations and the staging of spectacles. In the future a theatre will be an appropriate setting for commencement, May Day and Homecoming exercises, and other activities.

The Sophomores' gift should mean more than a mere mass of concrete, bricks, and earth does. It should be an expression of desire to be eternally linked to classic standards. Classicism is not dead. The people, however, who fail to live up to the "classic" or "best" are moribund. Our Greek theatre must be a place where we renew our acquaintance with the philosophy of Aristotle, the architecture of Vitruvius, the poetry of Virgil, the drama of Sophocles, and the music of Wagner. Let us in the creation of this theatre and in the enjoyment of it express once more the Greek definition of art, "beauty of life and in harmony with nature."

As the author, who many associated with the college assume is S. D. Dickinson, states above, the amphitheatre was, and continues today, to be an apt setting for many campus activities, among them: Homecoming pep rallies and Court presentation, and many social Greek organization functions.

As the months and years progressed, so did the work on the theatre. A reporter for *The Bray*, in the Saturday, January 30, 1937, issue states that a new N. Y. A. project will be the addition of concrete seats, shrubbery and walks. M. B. Talley, the N. Y. A. director at the school, mentions that "this new plan to landscape" the theatre area of the campus will be undertaken by N. Y. A. boys from across the entire county. He also states that "College N. Y. A. workers will be used whenever necessary." In an undated letter, Dickinson states, "At least half of the class was working his or her way through college, earning 25 cents an hour under the federal NYA Program." Besides mentioning that the above mentioned work will complete the project, the article also updates the readers of the status of N. Y. A. members on A & M's campus. In addition to the lasting impression the N. Y. A. left on campus in

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the form of the theatre, it is worth noting that one of the men's dormitories bears the name Talley, after the college's N. Y. A. director.

Several months later, on Saturday, April 16, 1937, we are once again updated on the progress of the amphitheatre. A short article in that week's edition of *The Bray* mentions that the concrete steps are progressing, and that the forms for the columns (which are located on the stage) are in the process of being constructed. The article states that the construction of footing for the columns has been completed at the time, and that more men have been added to the ranks working on the project, making it possible to have two work crews focused on the project. According to G. W. Phillips, project foreman, "this will speed the work up considerably." The mold for the columns was made by one of the vocational classes on campus under the direction of their regular instructor, and the class members themselves poured the concrete, according to Dickinson.

"Work on Theatre Near Completion" is the headline in the Saturday, April 2, 1938, edition of *The Bray*. The article states a May 1, 1938, deadline for work on the amphitheatre to be completed, and notes that portions of the sidewalk and three flights of stairs have yet to be built, and several sections of bleacher seats need to be put in place. The drama, *Midsummer Night's Dream* is scheduled for performance on May 6, 1938, to coincide with A & M's Homecoming celebration. The article offers a brief recap of the project, citing Dickinson and a student by the name of Sterling Cook as the project designers, the rationale behind the project (the need for an open-air venue on which to present the Greek play, *Antigone*), and the different entities involved in the project (labor was initially donated by Dickinson's classical history students; surveying and cement work was supervised by engineering students; materials were supplied by Magnolia A & M; and post-1937 labor was provided by Columbia County and A & M N. Y. A. employees). The reporter also points out, "The necessity of having an orchestra pit in front of the stage made it more practical to begin a permanent theatre." Regarding the orchestra pit, Dickinson stated, "Students themselves dug the orchestra pit and poured the concrete. I still do not know where they got the cement, rocks, sand and gravel and lumber for the stage."

Finally, the project was completed, as reported in the Thursday, May 19, 1938, issue of *The Banner News*, the local Magnolia paper. During the college's Homecoming festivities, the theatre was dedicated by national, state and local N. Y. A. officials. O. A. Overstreet, Magnolia A & M President lead the dedication ceremony, with Garth Arkridge, former El Dorado, Arkansas, resident and the regional director of the N. Y. A. for the 12 Southern States made the dedicatory address. In this last article relating to the construction of the Greek Amphitheatre, the theatre is described as "an elliptical oval, it follows the lines of Greek architecture." The theatre seats roughly 700. While in town for the theatre's dedication, the N. Y. A. officials also inspected the campus residential training facility that employed 35 "boys" who received training in "vocational agriculture and construction."

The National Youth Administration (N. Y. A.) was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's economic relief efforts in the 1930s. Falling under the umbrella of the Works Projects Administration (W. P. A.), over 3.5 million people were employed by various W. P. A. programs. In addition to the N. Y. A., other programs included the Civilian Conservation Corp (C. C. C.), and the Public Works Administration (P. W. A.). The director of these programs was Harold Ickes, the Secretary of the Interior.

In regards to the W. P. A. programs of the 1930s, Francis Perkins, Secretary of Labor in FDR's first cabinet, commented:

The National Youth Administration helped young people squeezed by the depression to get an education by providing work and study for them, and saved many colleges and universities from the ravages of the depression. This a whole generation of young people who would have missed that training because of poverty were educated.

Officially, the purpose of the N. Y. A., which was established in 1935 under the W. P. A. umbrella, was to help men and women between the ages of 16 and 25. These students were given part time jobs because they wanted to continue their education. More than 2.1 million students (and 2.7 million young people who were out of work) enrolled in this program between the years 1935 to 1943. The youths who participated in the program were selected based on need, and being from a family on relief was a prime indicator of the youth's need. The median annual income for an N. Y. A. student's family was \$645 in 1939-40 (or \$8,584 today),

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and earnings were limited to \$6 per month for primary and high school students, while undergraduate college students were limited to \$20 a month.

When designing the N. Y. A., critics and pundits looked to other New Deal programs of the era, keeping in mind their purpose to educate and employ youths during the depression. When the C. C. C. was studied, it was realized the program did not meet the most urgent need of youths during the depression. Although Corps members were paid wages for their work, and the program provided a physically healthy and disciplined environment, the program left former members with no specific work experience for existing jobs. Furthermore, it excluded women. For many members, after leaving the Corps, they returned to the economically-deprived conditions they had attempted to elude.

Besides drawing on the work of the C. C. C., a number of other programs in this country were studied to formulate the N. Y. A. plan. One program studied was associated with a rural Louisiana technical training school in the southwestern part of the state. This program's basis for operation was a simple, practical solution to the question of whether or not boys from relief families would benefit more by feeding and lodging them, on-site, since these students lived too far away from the institution to profit by part-time elementary courses. Another program studied was the four work-study-homes that had been established in Arkansas in response to the depression. Their results in combining work—the growing of food—with studying and an alternative home life gained national attention. They were found to promote “a degree of job training, health, enthusiasm, and good citizenship.” The idea behind these two relief programs—work, learning, and living—were given serious consideration when designing the N. Y. A.

According to Patrick Boyle in his article “How FDR’s New Deal for Youth Got Decked,” the in-school program, such as the one at Magnolia A & M, primarily involved work projects that might otherwise not have been done, such as renovating schools (painting or repairing buildings); building schools, student desks; refurbishing books; and constructing running tracks and tennis courts. The program, which was primarily concerned with vocational education and training, allowed for each participating school to choose the youths involved, approve the work projects, and disburse the money, keeping the students and projects on a locally-approved level, rather than running the risk of regional, or higher, interference with personnel or monetary issues. At the end of the article, Boyle sums up the end-result of the N. Y. A., “By providing youth with an articulate agency for the expression of their needs and a focal point of direct action in meeting them, the National Youth Administration has helped to restore their morale.”

The program was transferred to the Federal Security Agency in 1939. In 1942, the program was placed under the War Manpower Commission, a move which ultimately lead signaled the impending end of the program. As unemployment decreased and war approached, emphasis gradually shifted from vocational training to providing youths with skills in defense-related industries. Shortly after moving under the War Manpower Commission, all N. Y. A. activities not contributing to the war effort were dropped.

In late 1943, the activities of the National Youth Administration ceased despite its successes, due mainly to Congress’ refusal to continue to fund the program as wartime spending increased.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFANCE

The Greek Amphitheatre, located on the campus of Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia, Columbia County, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a fine example of a collegiate amphitheatre with Classical Greek influences. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with the National Youth Administration, a social works project of the 1930s. Though the N. Y. A. is credited with the construction and completion of the entire project, in all actuality, the N. Y. A. was more handedly involved with the construction and completion of the sidewalks, stairs and bleachers, while the 1936 Sophomore Class of Magnolia A & M College should be credited with the design and development of the entire structure itself, and more specifically the orchestra pit and staging area. During the period of construction from 1936 to 1938, roughly 35 N. Y. A. members from A & M and Columbia County were involved in bringing anthropology instructor S. D. Dickinson’s vision to fruition. In a statement that was made in the early phases of the project, and continues to ring true today, Dickinson remarked the amphitheatre would be “the only one of its kind in South Arkansas.” The only

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other open-air amphitheatre associated with an Arkansas state college is the Chi Omega Greek Theatre; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (NR 9/04/1993). The structure is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with the performing arts, as the solution for a "suitable place" to perform the Greek play, *Antigone*, during the state's centennial celebration held in Columbia County on May 14, 1936.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Articles

"Homecoming Celebrated by A. and M.," *The Banner News*. Thursday, May 19, 1938.

"Amphitheatre Will be Left by Class," *The Bray*. Saturday, April 4, 1936.

"Greek Play is Presented," *The Bray*. Saturday, May 16, 1936.

"N. Y. A. to Complete Theatre Project," *The Bray*. Saturday, January 30, 1937.

"Work Progresses on Greek Theatre," *The Bray*. Saturday, April 10, 1937.

"Work on Theatre Near Completion," *The Bray*. Saturday, April 2, 1938.

Boyle, Patrick. "How FDR's New Deal for Youth Got Decked." www.youthtoday.org/youthtoday/aaDecJan2004/story2.html

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www.infoplease.com/ce6/history/A0834975.html

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www.nps.gov/elro/glossary/nya.htm

www.oddstatehouse.com/educational_programs/classroom/arkansas_news/

www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/USARnya.htm

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www.wcmo.edu/wc_users/homepages/staff/brownr/ArkansasCC.htm

Interviews

Rankin, Dr. David. Conversation with the author, December 17, 2004.

Reeves, Tiffany. Conversations and emails with the author, December 2004-January 2005.

Willis, Dr. James. Conversations and emails with the author, December 2004-January 2005.

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Books and Other publications

General Catalog, 1991-1993, Southern Arkansas University: Magnolia Campus. Volume LXXI. Edited by

Perkins, Francis. The Roosevelt I Knew. New York: Viking Press, 1946.

Southern Arkansas University, The Mulerider: 1995, Vol. 74. Delmar Printing & Publishing Company, Inc. Charlotte, NC: 1995.

Southern Arkansas University, The Mulerider: 1994, Vol. 73. Jostens Publishing Co. Topeka, KS: 1994.

Greek Amphitheatre
Name of Property

Columbia County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 478182 3683350
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

☐ 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 Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date January 17, 2005
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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 location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage 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 Southern Arkansas University; Dr. David F. Rankin, President
street & number 100 E. University telephone 870-235-4000
city or town Magnolia state Arkansas zip code 71754

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.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the SE corner of East University Lane and East Lane, proceed 124 feet northerly to the point of beginning. Proceed 165 feet northerly, thence easterly 165 feet, thence southerly 165 feet, thence westerly 165 feet to the point of beginning.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Greek Amphitheatre; Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Greek Amphitheatre
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Columbia

DATE RECEIVED: 4/18/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/17/05
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/01/05 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/01/05
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 05000488

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 6/1/05 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

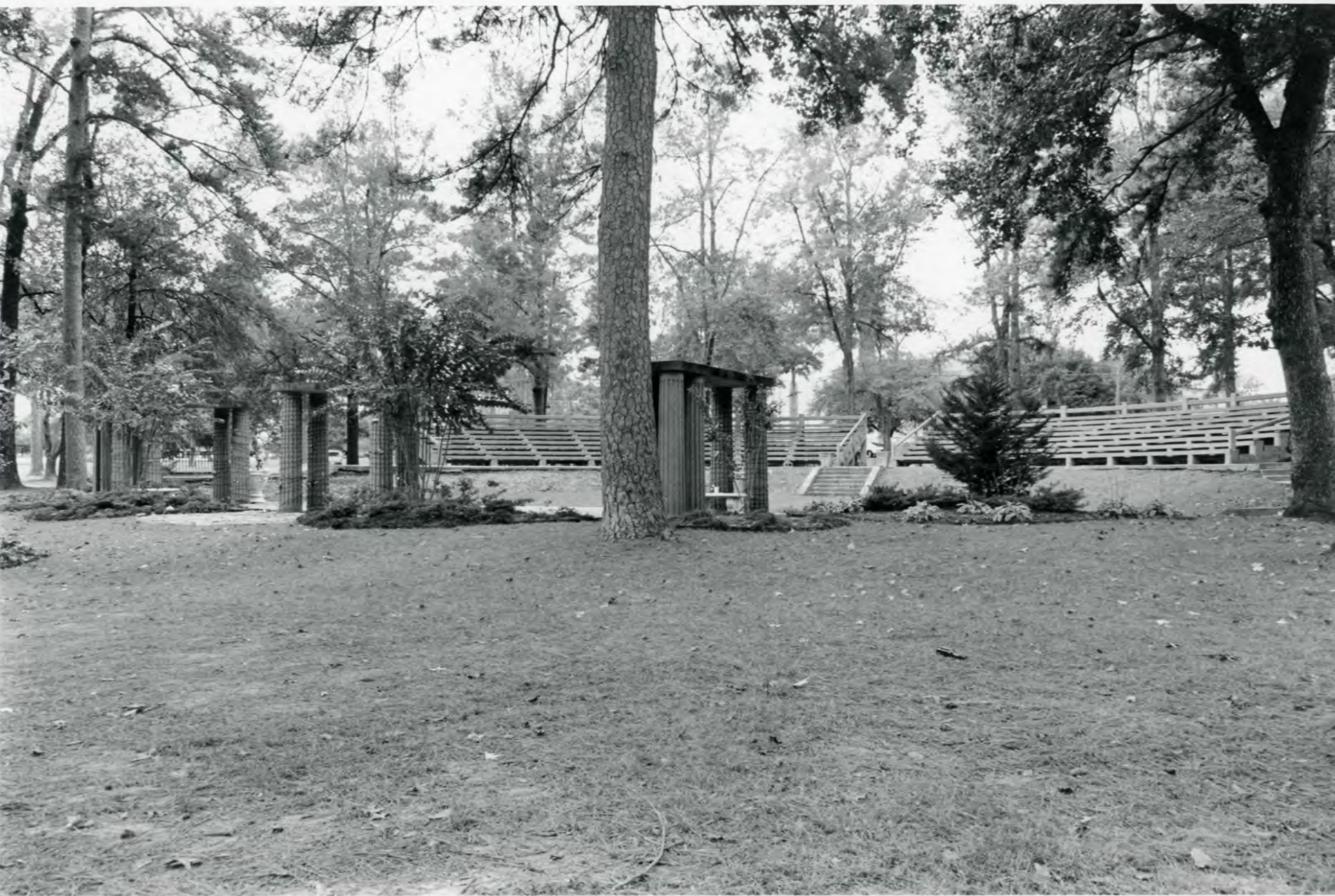
RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHPD
6. SE elevation looking north
7. #1




1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHPP
6. SW corner looking northeast
7. #2



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHDP
6. Stage area, looking Southeast
7. #3



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jamboe
4. October 2004
5. AHDP
6. Walkway and stairs and orchestra pit,
looking northeast
7. #4

A black and white photograph of a stone monument in a park-like setting. The monument is a large, rectangular stone block with a flat top. On top of the block is a smaller, rectangular stone plaque with engraved text. The text on the plaque reads: "BUILT BY NATIONAL YOUTH ADMINISTRATION IN COOPERATION WITH A. & M. COLLEGE MAGNOLIA, ARKANSAS". Below the plaque, the date "1937 — 1938" is engraved into the main stone block. The monument is situated on a concrete walkway. In the background, there are concrete steps and railings leading up a hill. The area is surrounded by tall, thin trees, likely pines, and a grassy field. The lighting suggests it is daytime, with shadows cast on the ground.

BUILT BY
NATIONAL YOUTH
ADMINISTRATION
IN COOPERATION WITH
A. & M. COLLEGE
MAGNOLIA,
ARKANSAS

1937 — 1938

1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHPP
6. NYA Plaque, looking southeast
7. #15



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2005
5. HHDP
6. Bleachers, looking northeast
7. #6



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. HHPD
6. Bleachers, looking southwest
7. #7



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHDD
6. Bicycle rack, looking north
7. #8



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, NY
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHPP
6. NYA bench, southwest side, looking northwest
7. #9



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHDP
6. Steps from orchestra pit to stage, detail,
looking southeast
7. #10



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHPP
6. Columns on SW side of stage, looking
Southwest
7. #11

EVA HUBBARD
REIDA OGDEN
HOYER
SELMA OWENS
VIVIAN POWERS
HELVIS PULLEN
JOE POKK
SID PORTER
JOHN PHILLIPS
NORMAN POWELL
FRANCES PRATCHER
CLAUDE PRICE
PANSY RUCKET
DAVE RANEY
MARIE SHORT
TOM PICKNEY
OPAL SIMMONS
ANNE SMITH
ELIZABETH SALMON
JAMES SHAHAN
JAMES STEED
FLORENCE SEAFORD
DORIS TORRY
EVANGELINE SUTHERLAND

1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHDP
6. Names of 1936 Sophomore (Graduating) class,
inscribed on stage floor, under columns on
SW side of stage, looking southeast.
7. #12



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHPP
6. Columns on center of stage, looking
northwest
7. #13

CLASS 1936

BERTIE MAE STEVENS

EDWIN WADE

HARRY TILLESON

HORACE WADE

WARREN STANFORD

DAVIS WARREN

GERALDINE WALLER

BROUGH TILLEY

FRANCIS TAYLOR

STUART TRIBBLE

COYE WILLIAMSON

ROBERTA WARREN

ANNE YELVINGTON

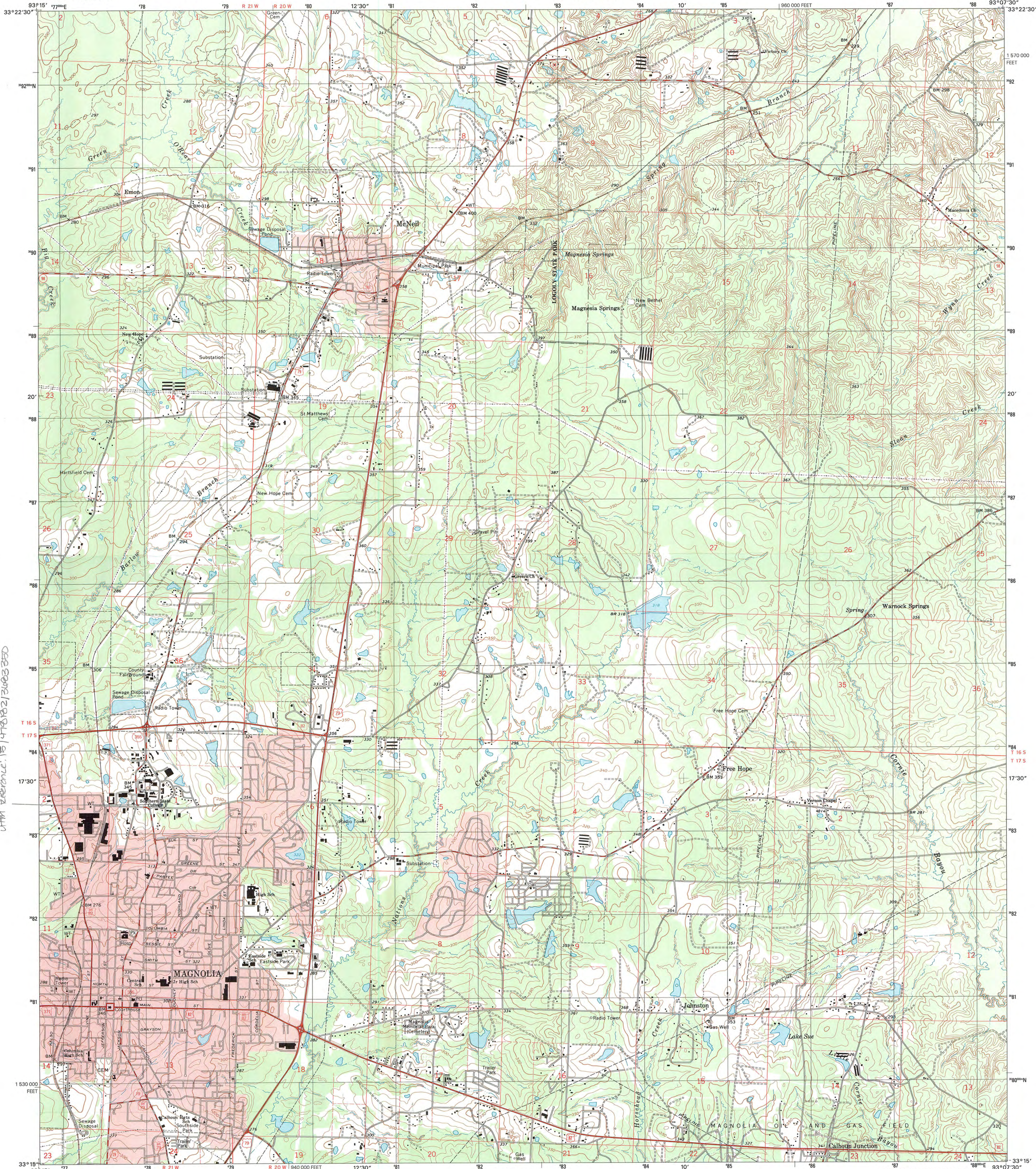
1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHPP
6. Names of 1936 Sophomore (Graduating) class, inscribed on stage floor, under columns on center of stage, looking southeast
7. #14



1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. A4HDP
6. Columns on NE side of stage,
looking northeast
7. #15

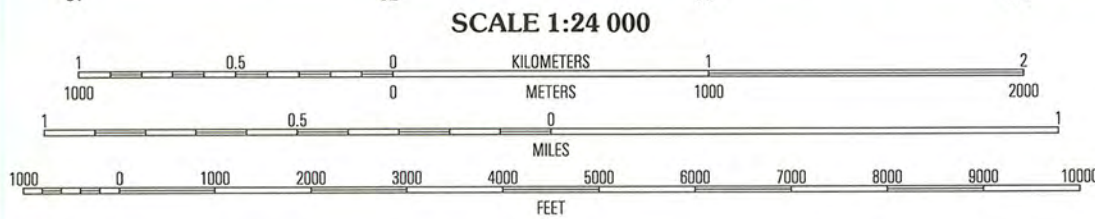
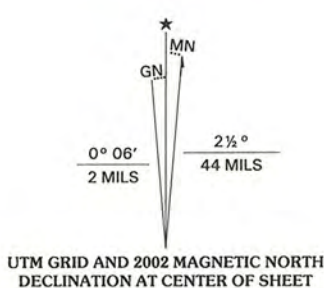
[illegible]

1. Greek Amphitheatre
2. Columbia County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. October 2004
5. AHDP
6. Names of 1936 Sophomore (Graduating) class, inscribed on stage floor under columns on NE side of stage, looking southeast
7. #14



Girok Amphitheatre
Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas
UTM Reference: 15 1780R213603350

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Arkansas Geological Commission
Topography compiled 1965. Planimetry derived from imagery
taken 2000 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and
survey control current as of 1968. Boundaries current as of 2002
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and
1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15
10 000-foot ticks: Arkansas Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and
NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from
National Geodetic Survey NADCON software
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map
Houses of worship, schools, and other labeled buildings verified 1968



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway
hard surface
Secondary highway
hard surface
Unimproved road
Light-duty road, hard or
improved surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

1	2	3	1 Lamartine
4	5	6	2 Magnolia NW
7	8	9	3 Stephens
			4 Waldo
			5 Village
			6 Macedonia
			7 Calhoun
			8 Spottville

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLES

MAGNOLIA, AR
2000

NIMA 7350 1 SW-SERIES V884





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:

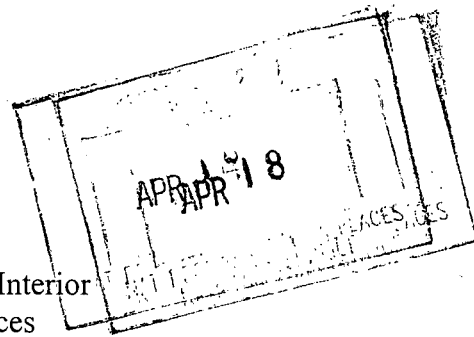
info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

April 6, 2005

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, D.C. 20005



RE: Greek Amphitheatre; Magnolia, Columbia County

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.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:sj

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

