

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to your property, check the box and document, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, use the categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Shaw Consolidated School \_\_\_\_\_

Other names/site number: Shaw High School \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing: \_\_\_\_\_

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

NA

### 2. Location

Street & number: 214 Dean Boulevard \_\_\_\_\_

City or town: Shaw \_\_\_\_\_ State: MS \_\_\_\_\_ County: Bolivar \_\_\_\_\_

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national X statewide \_\_\_ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

<u>Kate Bount</u>	<u>11-28-16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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Mississippi  
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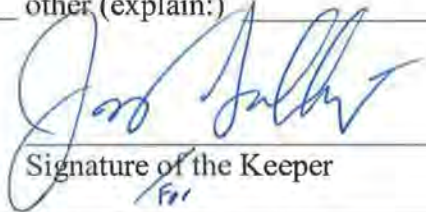
Name of Property

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)



Signature of the Keeper

1-11-2017

Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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**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 the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA           

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Prairie School

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK, CAST STONE, CONCRETE, ASPHALT SHINGLES

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Shaw Consolidated School occupies a large rectangular 11-acre campus on the south side of the small town of Shaw, Bolivar County, Mississippi. A large 1920s administration building, an Equalization-period annex building, a Depression-era gymnasium, and a c.1960 vocational building are packed close together at the campus core, leaving a large grassy lawn with semi-circular drive at the front and a football field (c.1940) at the back of the campus as the main landscape features. The campus was in use until early 2016 when it was temporarily vacated because of a sagging floor structure in the auditorium wing's first floor. The school district plans to reoccupy the campus when the main building is repaired, hopefully by Fall 2017.

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### Narrative Description

Shaw Consolidated School occupies a large rectangular 11-acre campus on the south side of the small town of Shaw, Bolivar County, Mississippi. Located in the central region of the Mississippi Delta, Shaw's topography is almost uniformly flat, except for Porter's Bayou, which runs through the center of town. The campus is bounded by four otherwise residential streets: Dean Boulevard on the north, Jefferson Boulevard on the south, Faison Street on the west, and Walker Street on the east. The multi-story E-shaped administration building is dramatically sited

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on a semi-circular drive, facing west onto a wide grassy lawn that allows views of its long façade. A one-story Modernist annex building (1961) stands on the south side of the administration building, connected by a covered breezeway. A gymnasium built in 1939-40 sits behind the administration building and faces north onto Dean Boulevard. Behind it and separated only by a sidewalk is the former vocational building (c.1960), now functioning as a field house and locker room. A large football field takes up the eastern third of the campus, and a paved tennis court is tucked behind the gymnasium.

### **1. C Administration Building**

**1923**

**N.W. Overstreet, archt.**

This multi-story, tan-brick, E-shaped building is the oldest on campus and originally contained all classrooms, offices, and support spaces such as the auditorium, gymnasium, and library. The building has a high level of integrity, except for replacement of exterior and interior doors and the partitioning of the former gymnasium on the first floor.

A two-and-a-half-story center block with truncated-hip roof is flanked by long two-story flat-roof wings, creating a symmetrical façade that faces west overlooking a semi-circular drive and a grassy lawn. Characteristic of N.W. Overstreet's career before the 1930s, the building's style is eclectic, combining the planar minimalism and long horizontal lines of the Prairie style with classical details reminiscent of the Italian Renaissance Revival. Tan textured brick covers all elevations, but the foundation is a common red brick; a cast stone watertable doubles as a continuous window sill for the first floor, and a cast stone cornice caps the parapet wall on the two wings and creates a continuous window sill for the third floor in the center block.

The center block, which houses the auditorium on the second and third floors, is the most highly decorated, with its red asphalt shingle roof (originally red barrel tile) and wide eaves ornamented with modillions. Two elaborate entrances at the ends of the center block slightly project from the façade and provide vertical relief to the composition; each consists of a double-leaf replacement steel door with 1-light transom set within a cast-stone frontispiece that is composed of unfluted columns with foliated capitals supporting a full entablature topped by an open-book "pediment." Above this frontispiece, cast-stone trim and a tall cartouche outline a tall, narrow stained-glass window that lights the stairway inside. Concrete stairs leading to these entrances are framed by large concrete orbs. Between the two entrances are two groups of five wood, double-hung sash, 4/1 windows with concrete lintels and sills. Narrow, two-story pilasters with plain cast-stone capitals separate the windows and create a visual rhythm. In the attic/balcony story above are paired 2-light wood casement windows in the same fenestration pattern. A cast-stone stringcourse between the second floor windows and the attic level is at the same level as the flat roofed wings, tying the composition together visually; a concrete watertable course also stretches around all elevations.

Both wings are slightly recessed from the center block, terminating in projecting pavilions at the ends. Classroom windows, 4/1 wood, double-hung sash, march regularly down the walls,

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separated by thin plain pilasters with fluted capitals, but the pavilion walls are blank except for a cartouche in the center and two block modillions in the upper corners. North and south elevations are similarly detailed, with a hallway entrance at the centers. These side entrances, filled with replacement steel doors, are finished in a simple cast-stone frontispiece with cartouche in the cornice and are reached by concrete stairs flanked by stepped knee walls.

The rear (E) elevation conveys the building's E-shape, with the center auditorium wing with its modillion cornice projecting slightly past the two outside classroom wings and separated from them by open courtyards. Rear entrances are much simpler than any of the other elevations, featuring only a pent roof supported on sawn brackets and a replacement steel door. Windows on the S and N elevations of the auditorium wing are large 12/12/12 wood double-hung sash with 12-light transoms. Otherwise, all windows are 4/1 wood, double-hung sash matching those on the front and side elevations. A flat-roof, one-story power plant room fills in the end of the south courtyard and projects beyond all the wings, with a plain rectangular chimney rising through the auditorium eaves and piercing the auditorium roof.

Inside, the two short hallways leading from the front entrances function as stairwells and open onto the long main hallway, which runs north and south and terminates on the first floor at the north and south elevation entrances. Stained glass windows light the half-story stair landings. Walls are plaster throughout, with acoustic tile ceilings in the hall and classrooms dropped to the top of the transoms. Original slab wood classroom doors have been replaced with similar plywood doors. All original transoms remain, including the 8-light types above the doors and the 2-light swivel types as hall transoms. Linoleum tile covers original wood flooring in halls and most classrooms. Many classrooms retain their original built-in wood cabinets and blackboards with wooden chalk trays. Original open wooden lockers line the second floor hallway.

The two-story auditorium fills the second and third floors of the center block and is highly intact, although it has not been used in several years due to a roof leak and lack of ADA access. A trabeated proscenium with stained-wood, applied geometric ornament defines the stage, which projects out past the plane of the proscenium. A black valence curtain with an "S" in the center hangs above the stage. Replacement wood stairs ascend to the stage at the center, and a sunken lighting area stretches across the front of the stage. Dressing rooms flank the stage, and stairs ascend to small rooms on the third floor level above. Four original chandeliers light the auditorium, which has a dropped ceiling, but the space receives most of its light through two groups of four triple-hung-sash windows, 12/12/12, with 12-light transoms. A wood chair rail extends around the room. Three sections of wood seating, probably dating to the 1950s, have reeded and curved aluminum sides and molded plywood seats and backs; some rows have been removed. The original wood floor is in place, but linoleum tile has been added over the wood for the aisles. In the balcony, a row of exposed bulbs lines the beam between the balcony and the front two-story section of the auditorium. Aluminum light fixtures with three concentric circles around an exposed bulb light the balcony area. Wood seats, different from the plywood types in the lower seating area and possibly original, remain in place, along with original paired 4-light wood slab doors and 10-light transom.

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Originally, a gymnasium occupied the space on the first floor below the auditorium (Overstreet's original plans show a swimming pool, but this apparently never was built).<sup>1</sup> A library occupies what was once a chemistry lab on the second floor of the northern rear wing, while a large room on the first floor of the southern wing, originally designated for manual training, later became a band hall. This E-shaped layout does not technically meet the definition of an E-plan school, because the E-plan was designed to face either north or south (Shaw faces west) with classroom windows facing east and west. Overstreet's design follows the standards of the early 1920s, which required that there be large banks of windows on one wall in each classroom; standards later in the 1920s required that those classroom windows face east or west.

## 2. C Gymnasium

1940

Overstreet & Town, archts.

This textured tan-brick over concrete building has a flat roof of steel trusses and rests on a concrete foundation with brick veneer. A cast-stone watertable and molded continuous lintel/cornice surround the building on all sides, and the plain parapet has a cast-stone cap. The building carries on many elements from the administration building, including the tan brick, pilasters separating the windows, and cast stone detailing. But the gymnasium design is distinctly Moderne, minimalist, and volumetric, in contrast to the administration building, where Overstreet used ornament and overtly classical elements.

Facing Dean Blvd. on the north (front) façade is a lower section that projects in a semi-hexagonal bay with a center recessed portico with simplified Doric columns *in antis*. Sheltered under the portico are a ticket booth and two flanking double-leaf wood doors with circular windows. Some windows, which are 9/9 wood double-hung-sash, are boarded, but they mostly remain in place. Secondary entrances are double-leaf replacement steel doors on the north and south ends of the east and west elevations. Inside, the two entrances lead to two small foyers that then lead through double-leaf doors with circular windows into the gymnasium proper. Here, two sets of original wooden built-in bleachers with pipe railing face the court from the E and W sides, with the wood-floor court on a north-south axis. The ceiling is open to the steel trusses and

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<sup>1</sup> Overstreet's undated plan set for Shaw Consolidated School shows a swimming pool with changing rooms in the first floor space below the auditorium and a two-story gymnasium wing that projected from the back of the auditorium (see attachment). Physical and documentary evidence indicate that this gymnasium wing was never built. The gymnasium occupied the space that Overstreet had originally proposed for the swimming pool from 1923 through 1940, when the separate gymnasium building opened. The 1955 survey of the Shaw campus indicated, however, that the first-floor gymnasium was still being used, possibly as a girls gym. This space was later converted to office and classroom space, possibly in the 1970s or 1980s. Mississippi Department of Education records, Bolivar County. RG 50, Series 1653. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

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wooden roof joists, and walls are plaster or rubbed concrete. Locker rooms underneath the bleachers are accessed on the north and south ends of the bleachers.

**3. C Cafeteria**

**1960-1961**

**Harold Kaplan, archt.**

**Allen & Sulser Lumber Co., contractor**

This one-story, scored tan-brick, rectangular building has a flat roof and a slab foundation. Windows are 4-light and 5-light steel awning types with concrete sills. Cantilevered concrete awnings cover the five entrances (one on the W, S, and E [rear] elevations, and two on the E elevation, which faces the administration building), and there is a combination of original 3-light steel doors and replacement 1-light steel doors. Inside are linoleum tile floors, dropped ceilings, and painted concrete-block walls. The cafeteria and kitchen occupy the eastern two-thirds of the building.

**4. NC Vocational Building/Locker Room c.1960**

This one-story, scored tan-brick building has a flat roof with shallow eave. Large original windows have been boarded or completely removed, and the two garage doors on the west elevation that were probably original have been enclosed. A single-leaf steel door on the north elevation leads inside, which features painted concrete block walls, carpeted floors, and dropped ceilings. The building is rated as non-contributing because of the removal of the windows and garage doors.

**5. C Hermon (Coach) Smith Memorial Field c.1940**

The field is composed of a standard 100-yard football field, planted in grass and oriented north-south, with goal posts in both end zones, a score board dating to at least the 1960s in the south end zone, and moveable metal bleachers on both long sides of the field.



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## 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance**

1923-1966

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1940

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N. W. Overstreet

Overstreet and Town

\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Shaw Consolidated School in the Bolivar County community of Shaw is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion for association with Education. The school has served the students of Shaw from 1923, although it has been closed temporarily since early 2016 for repairs and renovation. The school is also eligible at statewide significance under Criterion C for Architecture. The administration building is the work of one of Mississippi's premier architects, N. W. Overstreet, who practiced in Mississippi from 1912 to 1968 and is credited with 650 buildings. The Shaw Consolidated School, from Overstreet's early career, is composed of an idiosyncratic blend of Prairie style details and Italian Renaissance classicism. The Art Moderne gymnasium was built as a WPA project in 1939-40; Overstreet was again the architect but this time in the partnership Overstreet & Town, a firm that brought national and international attention to Mississippi for their Modernist school buildings.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Shaw, Mississippi is located in the southeast corner of Bolivar County in the central Mississippi Delta. Bolivar County was created by the Mississippi Legislature on February 9, 1836, and named for General Simon Bolivar, a leader in the South American wars of independence. It was formed from lands ceded by the Choctaw in the Treaty of Doak's Stand in 1820. The earliest American settlers came from Kentucky but were soon followed by migrants from Georgia and the Carolinas. A Kentucky planter named John L. Martin established the first plantation in Georgetown, on the banks of the Mississippi River, with other early settlers remaining near the navigable waterways. They relied on enslaved labor to clear and drain "the fertile lands upon which cotton grew in luxuriant perfection."<sup>2</sup>

The town of Shaw traces its beginnings to a land patent issued to John M. Shannon in 1855. By 1885, part of Shannon's grant came under the ownership of Gus and Thad Shaw, who owned an irregularly shaped parcel on the banks of Porter's Bayou. When the New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Vicksburg and Memphis Railroad completed its line from Memphis to New Orleans in 1885, it fortuitously passed through the Shaws' parcel, who divided their land into lots, with the incorporation of the town of Shaw following almost immediately.<sup>3</sup>

### Education

As in many communities in antebellum Mississippi, public education was slow to develop in Bolivar County. Although the Board of Police approved the establishment of a "common school" as early as 1839, no school commissioners were appointed for seven years. Even then, there was no system of public education in the county until 1886.<sup>4</sup>

The first public school for white children in Shaw was allegedly housed in a former saloon. However, a frame building, also used as a Union Church, opened in 1887.<sup>5</sup> A one-room frame schoolhouse for white children was completed in 1897. This was replaced by a brick building in 1909.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Walter Sillers, "The Creation of Bolivar County," in *History of Bolivar County*, ed. Florence Warfield Sillers, et al. (Jackson, MS: Hederman Brothers, 1948), 1.

<sup>3</sup> Mrs. W. D. Chatham, "Shaw," in *History of Bolivar County*, ed. Florence Warfield Sillers et al. (Jackson, MS: 1948), 363

<sup>4</sup> Eleanor Waters "The History of Education in Bolivar County," in *History of Bolivar County*. ed. Florence Warfield Sillers, et al. (Jackson, MS: Hederman Brothers, 1948), 234.

<sup>5</sup> Source Material for Mississippi History, Bolivar County. RG 60, Series 4475. Folder: Cities, Towns, Communities. Subfolder: Shaw. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>6</sup> Chatham, 368

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Between 1916 and 1923, many small schools in Bolivar County consolidated, allowing for larger and better equipped schools.<sup>7</sup> Shaw consolidated its white schools in 1921. L. G. Dean, a merchant and planter, who also served on the school board, donated land for a new school building.<sup>8</sup> Designed by Jackson architect N. W. Overstreet, the new brick school building, constructed at a cost of \$225,000, contained a music room, twelve classrooms, a gymnasium, a cafeteria and a “commodious auditorium.”<sup>9</sup> Local boosters were proud of the school, calling it “modern and ideally equipped in every way,”<sup>10</sup> with an emphasis on the school’s libraries, one for the primary students and one for junior and senior high schoolers.

A new gymnasium was constructed in 1940 as a Works Progress Administration project. N. W. Overstreet, then in partnership with Hays Town, designed the new building. The construction cost \$45,000 and the gym was named in honor of long-time board member L. G. Dean.<sup>11</sup> The new gymnasium freed space in the administration building for additional classroom space, which had previously housed the gym space on the first floor, under the auditorium.

The state Department of Education reported about Shaw’s facilities in a survey of Bolivar County public schools in 1955:

There are twenty-two classrooms, an assembly room, three offices, two gymnasiums, lunchroom with a seating capacity of 100, and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 100. There is a lighted field and adequate provision is made for home arts. The general physical condition of each building is good.<sup>12</sup>

Shaw Consolidated School served only white students until integration occurred in the 1970-1971 school year. The last all-white senior class shown in the class pictures that still line the hallway graduated in 1976. Previously, African American students went to school in a separate two-story brick building, constructed in 1921. The building had six classrooms and an auditorium seating 300. A one-story block building with four classrooms and a home arts laboratory was added to that campus in 1949.<sup>13</sup> In the 1950s, in an effort to preserve segregated education, the state launched an “equalization” effort to upgrade facilities for African American students. A new school, designed by Greenville architect Harold Kaplan, was built on the north

<sup>7</sup> Waters, p. 236.

<sup>8</sup> Chatham, p. 365

<sup>9</sup> Source Materials for Mississippi History, Bolivar County. RG 60, Series 447. Folder: Schools. Subfolder: Shaw Consolidated High School Mississippi. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>10</sup> Chatham 369

<sup>11</sup> Chatham, 366

<sup>12</sup> Mississippi Department of Education records, Bolivar County. RG 50, Series 1653. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS..

<sup>13</sup> Mississippi Department of Education records, Bolivar County. RG 50, Series 1653. Mississippi of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

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side of Shaw in 1958. The school, now McEvans Elementary School, had 17 classrooms, a gymnasium, cafeteria, library, a science lab and vocational shops for boys and girls.<sup>14</sup>

### Architecture

The administration building and the gymnasium are significant at the statewide level for their architectural design and as works of master architects N.W. Overstreet and A.H. Town.

Noah Webster Overstreet was born in Eastabuchie, Jones County, Mississippi, and graduated from Mississippi A&M in 1908 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. While at A&M, he worked a summer in the office of architect R.H. Hunt, who at that time had several projects at the Mississippi campus. Overstreet continued his education at the University of Illinois at Urbana, graduating in 1910 with a B.S. in architectural engineering. Nathan Ricker, who had founded the school of architecture at Urbana, had studied architecture in Germany and took a practical approach that emphasized materials and structural analysis over pure design.<sup>15</sup>

After graduation, from 1910-1912, Overstreet worked as an architectural designer and engineer in Urbana at the firm of Joseph W. Royer, and he met his future wife, Mabel Kennear in Urbana. He moved to Jackson, Mississippi in 1912, establishing the firm Overstreet & Spencer with Raymond B. Spencer, and continued in this partnership until 1915, when he began practicing independently. His office became Mississippi's largest in the 1920s as he gained major public commissions around the state, the largest being the new state hospital campus at Whitfield from 1926 through 1935. Overstreet's designs from the 1910s and 1920s tended to combine the bold forms and horizontal lines of the Prairie or Arts and Crafts styles with the formal symmetry and detailing of Italian Renaissance classicism. Architectural historian David Sachs notes that Overstreet's strengths lay in developing each building's plan and in engineering the structure, while hiring talented designers to apply particular stylistic details; this meant "that Overstreet's early buildings are related more by consistent planning than by characteristic detail."<sup>16</sup>

In 1931, Overstreet established a partnership with A. Hays Town as Overstreet & Town, which lasted until 1939. Architectural historian David Sachs argues that Overstreet & Town brought Modern architecture to Mississippi. Town graduated from Tulane's school of architecture in 1926 and, on the recommendation of his professor, J. Herndon Thompson, immediately began work as a draftsman in Overstreet's office. By 1929, Overstreet had realized Town's impressive talents as a designer and made him an associate in the firm and chief designer in the office. As Overstreet & Town, the firm was responsible for many of Mississippi's depression-era public

<sup>14</sup> Mississippi Department of Education records. RG 20, Series 1500: School Building Service Record Cards, 1928-1975. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

<sup>15</sup> David Helburn Sachs, "The Work of Overstreet and Town: The Coming of Modern Architecture to Mississippi." (PhD. diss., University of Michigan, 1986): 24-25.

<sup>16</sup> Sachs, "The Work of Overstreet and Town," 118

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works projects. Several of these, including Bailey Junior High School in Jackson (1936), Columbia High School (1937), and Bowmar Elementary and Cherry Street schools in Vicksburg (1939) received national and even international attention in architectural journals for their modernist design and use of concrete.<sup>17</sup> MDAH has documented about 70 major commissions by Overstreet & Town from 1931 to 1939.

After Town left the firm to return to his native Louisiana in 1939, Overstreet established the firm N.W. Overstreet & Associates, succeeded in 1955 by Overstreet, Ware & Ware, and finally by Overstreet, Ware, Ware & Lewis. Overstreet became a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1952, nominated for his "notable and outstanding contribution to the advancement of the profession of architecture by his excellent designs as well as the educational service rendered by him to younger men." Overstreet retired from practice in 1968, at which time he claimed over 650 buildings as his design. At the end of his career, 24 of the then 42 architects working in Jackson has been employed in his office at some time. According to the AIA Fellowship application submitted by the Mississippi chapter, Overstreet was considered a "dean of architects in [the] region."

The administration building at Shaw School is an important work of Overstreet's early career and is an excellent and intact example of his fusion of Prairie and classical design. The building's size and complexity makes it comparable with only a few of Overstreet's other schools of this period; perhaps the best comparison was with the white high school at Inverness, Mississippi, built in 1924 and demolished in 2010, which was not as large but exhibited a similar central block with two entrances and flanking wings. That building featured minimal Craftsman detailing and was not as ambitious stylistically or as ornate on the interior. Another comparable Overstreet-designed school of the period is the former Canton High School (listed NRHP, Nov 1998), which is smaller than Shaw but was also built in 1923 with a central block, two entrances, and eclectic styling that includes Prairie and Tudor Revival details.

The gymnasium, designed by Overstreet and Town but not opened until after Town had left the firm, carries on the scale and materials of the administration building but employs highly abstracted ornament on a stripped-down, early Modernist form. Although the building is a concrete structure, it is veneered with a brick similar to that cladding the administration building, demonstrating that Overstreet valued continuity in his campus planning.

<sup>17</sup> Journals include *Architectural Concrete*, *Architectural Record*, and the French-language journal *Architecture D'Aujourd Hui*. Additional publicity for the work of Overstreet & Town came from the inclusion of Bailey Jr. High School in *Life* magazine in April 1940 and in the 1939 book *Public Buildings*, which highlighted buildings constructed with PWA funding.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Chatham, Mrs. E. D. "Shaw." In *History of Bolivar County*. Edited by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al. Jackson, MS: Hederman Brothers, 1948.

Mississippi Department of Education Records. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS. Series 1653: School Building Surveys from the Act of 1953.

Sachs, David Helburn. "The Work of Overstreet and Town: The Coming of Modern Architecture to Mississippi." PhD. diss., University of Michigan, 1986.

Sillers, Walter. "The Creation of Bolivar County." In *History of Bolivar County*. Edited by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al. Jackson, MS: Hederman Brothers, 1948.

Source Materials for Mississippi History, Bolivar County. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS.

Waters, Eleanor. "The History of Education in Bolivar County." In *History of Bolivar County*. Edited by Florence Warfield Sillers, et al. Jackson, MS: Hederman Brothers, 1948.

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### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Shaw Consolidated School

Bolivar County,  
Mississippi  
County and State

Name of Property

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 011-SHW-0002 \_\_\_\_\_

---

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx 11

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

#### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 33.559528 | Longitude: -90.772124 |
| 2. Latitude: 33.599502 | Longitude: -90.769273 |
| 3. Latitude: 33.598269 | Longitude: -90.769269 |
| 4. Latitude: 33.598187 | Longitude: -90.772143 |

See continuation sheet

Or

#### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |



Shaw Consolidated School

Bolivar County,  
Mississippi  
County and State

Name of Property

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A certain block or parcel of land lying and being situated in the town of Shaw, Bolivar County, Mississippi described as follows, to wit: all of Block D of L. G. Dean's addition to Shaw, Miss. As shown by map or plat of L. G. Dean's addition to Shaw, Miss. Made by James L. Fontaine and Isaac W. Brown, Civil Engineers, dated December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1919 and recorded in map book two at page six of the book of maps of the record of town additions in the Chancery Clerk's office at Cleveland, Bolivar County, Mississippi.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This is the parcel of land historically associated with the Shaw Consolidated School.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Jennifer Baughn Chief Architectural Historian and William M. Gatlin, Architectural Historian

organization: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

street & number: P.O. Box 571

city or town: Jackson state: MS zip code: 39501-0571

e-mail: bgatlin@mdah.ms.gov

telephone: 601-576-6951

date: October 31, 2016

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Shaw Consolidated School

Bolivar County,  
Mississippi  
County and State

Name of Property

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Shaw Consolidated School

City or Vicinity: Shaw

County: Bolivar State: Mississippi

Photographer: Jennifer Baughn and Justin Heskew, MDAH

Date Photographed: October 26, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 26. Administration Building. Exterior. Camera facing east.
- 2 of 26. Administration Building. Exterior. Camera facing southeast.
- 3 of 26. Administration Building. Exterior. Camera facing northeast.
- 4 of 26. Administration Building. Exterior. Camera facing northwest.
- 5 of 26. Administration Building. Auditorium. Camera facing east.
- 6 of 26. Administration Building. Auditorium. Camera facing west.
- 7 of 26. Administration Building. Auditorium balcony. Camera facing north.
- 8 of 26. Administration Building. Second floor hall. Camera facing north.
- 9 of 26. Administration Building. Library. Camera facing east.
- 10 of 26. Administration Building. Typical classroom. Camera facing south.
- 11 of 26. Administration Building. Stair. Camera facing northwest.
- 12 of 26. Administration Building. Representative art glass window. Camera facing west.
- 13 of 26. Administration Building. Typical Classroom. Camera facing southwest.
- 14 of 26. Administration Building. Typical classroom. Camera facing east.
- 15 of 26. Administration Building. Typical lab. Camera facing east.
- 16 of 26. Cafeteria. Exterior. Camera facing southeast.
- 17 of 26. Cafeteria. Exterior. Camera facing southwest.
- 18 of 26. Gymnasium. Exterior. Camera facing southeast.
- 19 of 26. Gymnasium. Exterior. Camera facing southeast.
- 20 of 26. Gymnasium. Exterior. Camera facing north.

Shaw Consolidated School

Bolivar County,  
Mississippi  
County and State

Name of Property

- 21 of 26. Gymnasium. Interior. Camera facing north.
- 22 of 26. Gymnasium. Interior. Camera facing northeast.
- 23 of 26. Gymnasium. Floor logo.
- 24 of 26. Vocational Building/Locker room. Exterior. Camera facing northeast.
- 25 of 26. Smith Memorial Field. Camera facing southeast.
- 26 of 26. Smith Memorial Field. Camera facing southwest.

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Shaw Consolidated School

Name of Property

Bolivar County, Mississippi

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1



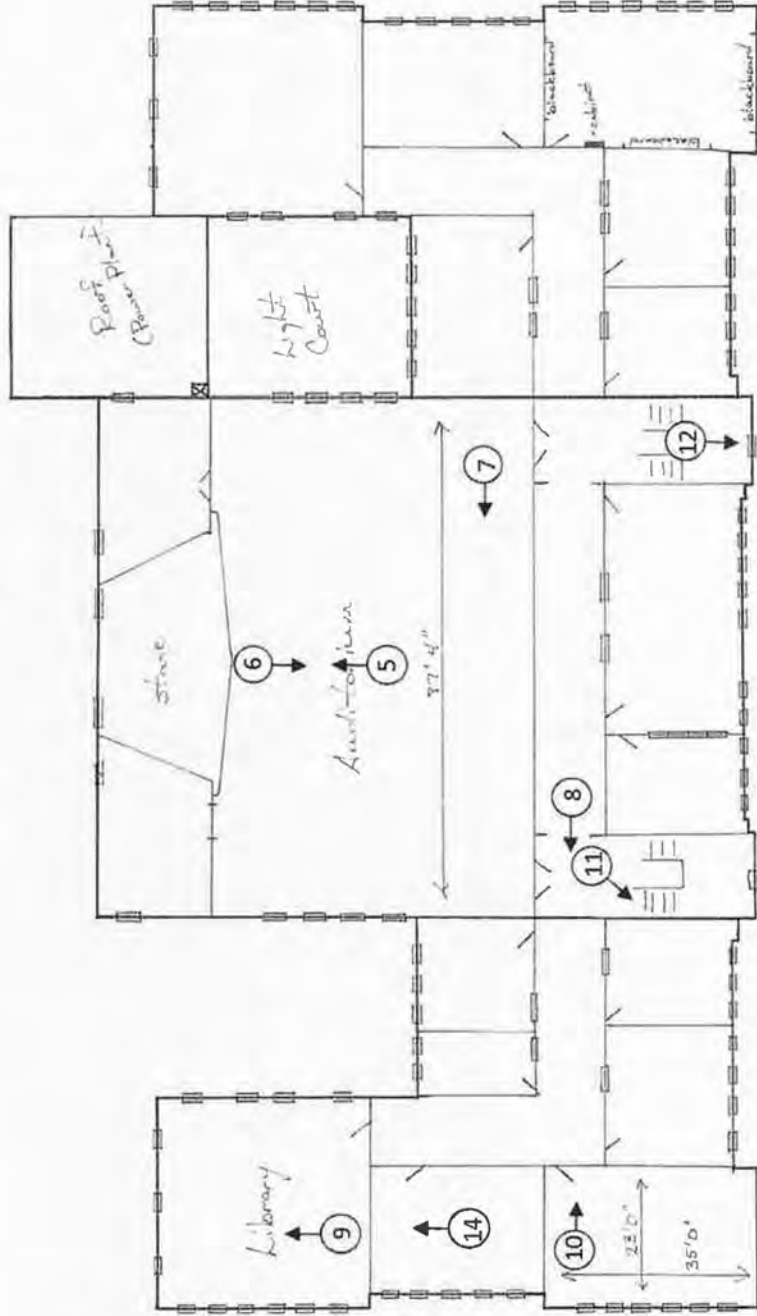
FIRST FLOOR  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
SHAW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



← (13) Photograph Number and Direction

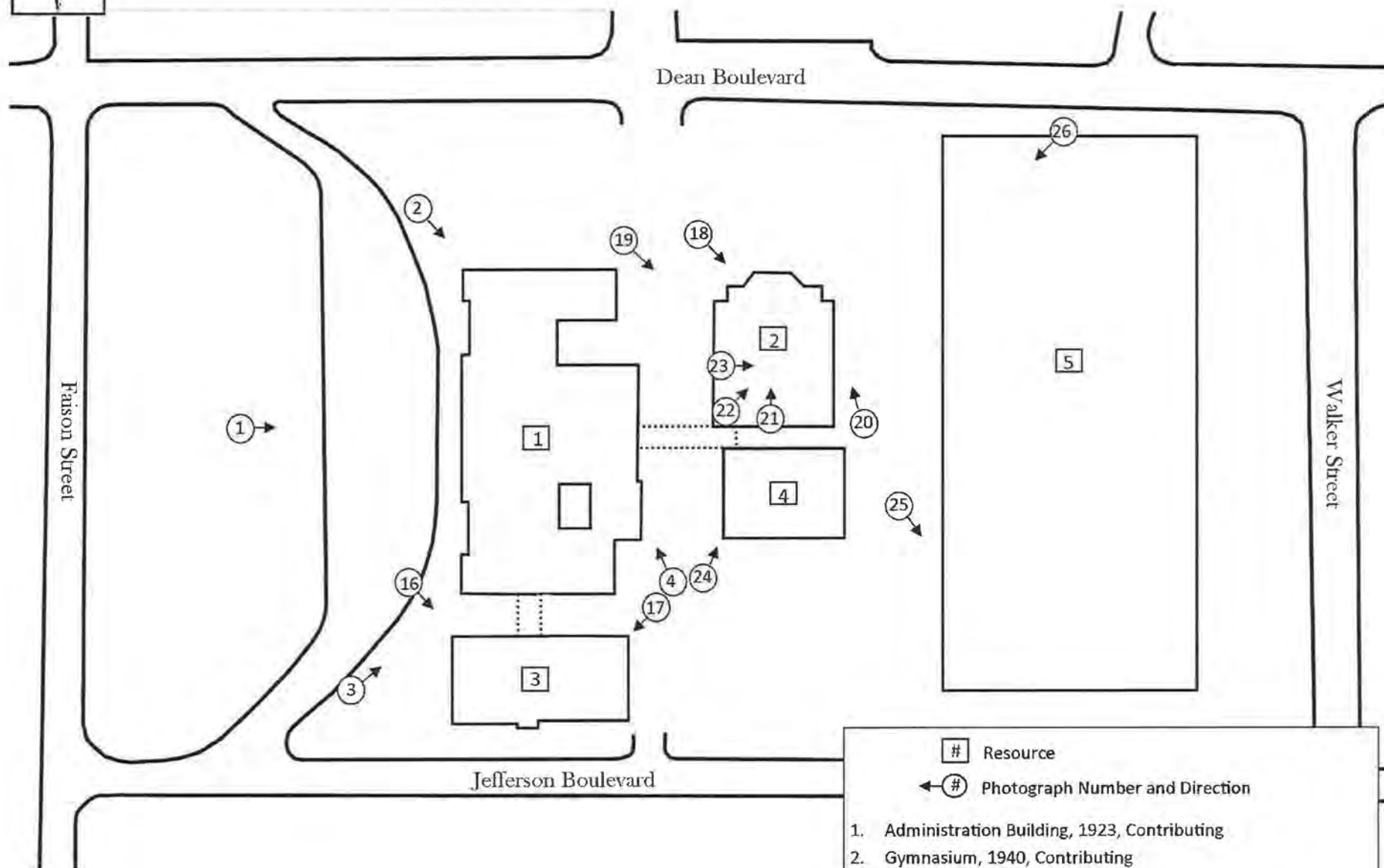
- as of Oct 2016

SECOND FLOOR  
 ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
 SHAW CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL



← # Photograph Number and Direction

# Shaw Consolidated School



#	Resource
← #	Photograph Number and Direction
1.	Administration Building, 1923, Contributing
2.	Gymnasium, 1940, Contributing
3.	Cafeteria, 1960-1961, Contributing
4.	Vocational Building/Locker Room, c. 1960, Non-Contributing
5.	Athletic Field, c.1940, Contributing













S

EXIT

EXIT











Poster on the pillar with the following text:  
Federal Hall  
at Floor  
Security

READ READ

Library





Several papers and a small white box are attached to the door. The papers appear to be notices or forms, and the box has a red circular logo.

A poster is pinned to the left glass door of the cabinet. It features a title, a diagram, and some text, though the details are not clearly legible.

A cardboard box is on the floor in the bottom right corner. It is partially open and has some text on it, including the word "Acho" and "Avery".





Practicing Excellence  
Everyday

Believe in you?



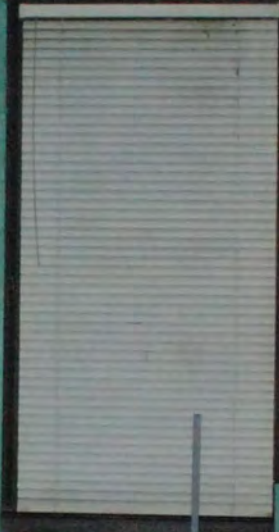


160cm  
12 ML  
100B  
R



VE... HASS  
DE PLAY HANDEL



















HOME VISITOR  
BONUS

SHAW HAWKS



HOME VISITOR  
BONUS



SHAW HAWKS









HOME VISITOR  
DOWN TO GO QTR  
Dr Pepper RC 7UP





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/2/2016      Date of Pending List: 12/27/2016      Date of 16th Day: 1/11/2017      Date of 45th Day: 1/17/2017      Date of Weekly List: 1/17/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      1/11/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
Jim Woodrick, director  
PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
601-576-6940 • Fax 601-576-6953  
mdah.state.ms.us



November 28, 2016

Mr. Paul Loether  
Program Director, National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

Shaw Consolidated School, Shaw, Bolivar County

The property was approved for nomination by the Mississippi National Register Review Board at its meeting on November 17, 2016.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Blount".

Katie Blount  
State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator