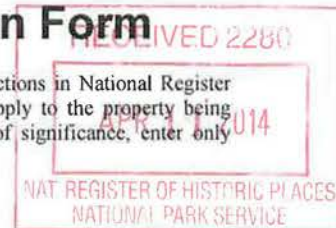


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

245

# 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 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.



## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Morrilton Colored School

Other names/site number: Site #CN0398, L. W. Sullivan High School, Morrilton Child Development Center

Name of related multiple property listing:

Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 906 West Rock Street

City or town: Morrilton State: Arkansas County: Conway

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B     C     D

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <u>Martha Miller</u>  <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>  <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>  <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b> </div> <div style="flex: 0.5; text-align: center;"> <u>3-26-14</u>  <b>Date</b> </div> </div>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>   <b>Title :</b> </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center;"> <b>Date</b>   <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b> </div> </div>	

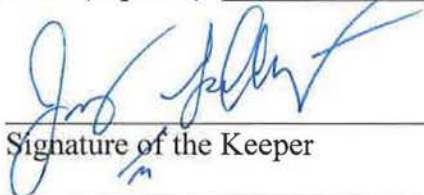
Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

#### 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

5.23.2014  
Date of Action

#### 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 ☐

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>                    </u>	buildings
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	sites
<u>                    </u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register                     

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school  
                                      
                                      
                                      
                                      
                                      
                                    

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

Craftsman

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, BRICK, ASPHALT

### 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.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Located to the northwest of Morrilton's downtown area, the Morrilton Colored School stands in the midst of a residential neighborhood. The building was built c.1934 and is constructed of fieldstone walls and a gable-on-hip asphalt roof. However, stucco was used in the front-facing gable. Currently, the building is fenestrated by one-over-one replacement windows, although it originally had nine-over-nine, wood-frame, double-hung windows. An addition to the building, which was built c.1950<sup>1</sup>, houses the auditorium and is faced with brick.

#### Narrative Description

Located to the northwest of Morrilton's downtown area at 906 West Rock Street, the Morrilton Colored School stands in the midst of a residential neighborhood. The original portion of the building was built c.1934 and is rectangular in plan with fieldstone walls and a gable-on-hip

<sup>1</sup> Although it is not exactly known when the addition was built, it is known that it was built between 1950 and 1953. Dr. Perry Brown indicated it was built after he had moved on from teaching at the school in 1950 ( Telephone conversation with Dr. Perry Brown by the author, 2 January 2014.). However, Margarette Ponds Banks distinctly remembers the addition being there when she graduated from Sullivan in 1953 (E-mail from Margarette Ponds Banks to the author, 3 January 2014.).



Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

asphalt roof. Stucco, on the other hand, was used in the front-facing gable. The original portion of the building rests on a continuous fieldstone foundation. Currently, the building is fenestrated by one-over-one replacement windows, although it originally had nine-over-nine, wood-frame, double-hung windows. An addition to the northwest corner of the building, which was built c.1950, houses the auditorium and is faced with brick. The addition rests on a continuous brick foundation and is also crowned by a gable-on-hip roof covered in asphalt shingles. Due to the addition, the building currently has an L-shaped plan.

***Morrilton Colored School – Contributing  
Front/South Façade***

The front façade of the building is divided into three main sections and is symmetrical in composition. The central section of the building consists of a projecting section with a front-facing gable. The center section of the building is fenestrated by a band of six one-over-one windows. The band of windows, like all of the windows on the original part of the building, has a concrete sill. Above the windows is a cornice line that is currently covered in aluminum siding. The gable is covered in stucco and has a rectangular louvered attic vent in the center that is also covered in aluminum. The soffit is also covered in aluminum as are the rafter tails.

To the left of the building's central section is the west wing of the building. Up against the central section is the entrance which consists of a pair of metal doors with rectangular single-pane windows in the top half. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed extension of the main roof that is supported by a wood post and curved knee bracket. The entrance is approached by a set of concrete steps with a concrete and stone wingwall. To the left of the entrance, the wall is fenestrated by a band of six one-over-one windows.

To the right of the central section is the east wing of the building, which is almost identical to the west wing. Up against the central section is the entrance which consists of a pair of metal doors with rectangular single-pane windows in the top half. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed extension of the main roof that is supported by a wood post and curved knee bracket. The entrance is approached by a sloped concrete wheelchair ramp that replaced the concrete steps. However, the original concrete and stone wingwall is still in place. To the right of the entrance, the wall is fenestrated by a band of five one-over-one windows.

***Side/West Façade***

The west façade of the original portion of the building is devoid of fenestration. The gable end, which originally had a louvered attic vent, is now covered in vertical aluminum siding.

The west façade of the brick addition, beginning at the south end, has an entrance with a metal six-panel door. The entrance is approached by a set of concrete steps. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed extension of the roof that is supported by wood posts and wood brackets. The steps also have a wood railing.

To the north of the entrance there is a blank part of the wall and then the façade is fenestrated by a band of six one-over-one windows. Further north along the façade is another single one-over-one window that is smaller than the other windows. All of the windows have brick sills.

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

### ***Rear/North Façade***

The north façade of the building's addition is devoid of fenestration. As on the west façade, the gable end is now covered in vertical aluminum siding.

The north façade of the original building, at the west end where it abuts the brick addition, is fenestrated by a band of six one-over-one windows. Proceeding east along the façade, after a space of blank wall, the façade is fenestrated by another band of six one-over-one windows.

### ***Side/East Façade***

The east façade of the original façade is devoid of fenestration. Like the west façade of the original building, the gable end, which originally had a louvered attic vent, is now covered in vertical aluminum siding.

The east façade of the brick addition, beginning at the south end, is fenestrated by a single, small, one-over-one window. All of the windows on the east façade of the addition have brick sills. Further north on the façade, it is fenestrated by a band of six one-over-one windows.

Just to the north of the band of windows is an entrance with a metal six-panel door. The entrance is approached by a set of north-facing concrete steps and a south- and east-facing wheelchair ramp. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed extension of the roof that is supported by wood brackets. The steps and ramp have a metal railing.

Finally, near the north end of the façade, it is fenestrated by a single, small, one-over-one window.

### ***Interior***

The interior of the building is arranged so that central hallways separate the banks of classrooms, except in the brick addition. In the addition, two large rooms are separated by a central partition. The partition apparently opens so that the spaces can be merged into a large auditorium space. A raised stage with side rooms is located at the north end of the addition. Also, at the south end of the addition, is an east-west running hallway, and the south wall of the hallway is the original exterior wall of the original building. Although the wall has been painted, the stonework and original window openings are exposed.

The walls in the rooms and in the hallways retain what appear to be the original vertical wood paneling and chair rails. Although some of the doors have been replaced, the doorways retain their original six-pane, wood-framed transom windows. The classrooms appear to retain their original ceiling heights although the ceilings are now covered with acoustical tile. The floors in the hallways are also covered in asbestos tile.

Morrilton Colored School

Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

***Shed – Non-Contributing***

Located just to the northeast of the northeast corner of the original building is a small metal storage shed, likely put in place in the last twenty years. It is square in plan has no fenestration, and has a single metal door in the center of the west façade.

***Playground – Non-Contributing***

The playground is located to the north of the original building and to the east of the 1950s addition. The playground consists of an area with a low curb and a mulch-like material on the ground. The playground set, which is a mixture of plastic and metal consists of a couple of slides and a bridge and a couple of sets of steps. As with the shed, it appears to be less than twenty years old.

***Integrity***

Overall, the Morrilton Colored School has good integrity. The largest change to the building outside of the period of significance has been the replacement of the original windows. Although the windows exhibit a different pane arrangement from the original windows, they do maintain the original size of the window openings, helping the exterior to convey its original design. The other exterior changes, which include the installation of the wheelchair ramps and the installation of aluminum siding have been minor in scale.

The interior of the building also has good integrity. The fact that the building retains its original paneling, chair rails, and transom windows really help the interior to convey the feel of a 1930s school building. In addition, the fact that the ceilings have not been lowered also helps the school to convey its original design and volumes.

The neighborhood around the Morrilton Colored School retains its residential character, reflecting the time of its construction during the 1930s. As a result, the Morrilton Colored School and its setting would be easily recognizable today by students or staff who attended or worked there.

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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

Morrilton Colored School

Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas

County and State

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

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

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**Period of Significance**

c.1934-1965

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**Significant Dates**

c.1934

c.1950

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Morrilton Colored School

Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas

County and State

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

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**Cultural Affiliation**

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**Architect/Builder**

Works Progress Administration, Builder

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**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.)

When it was built c.1934, the Morrilton Colored School became an important component of the education system for African Americans in the Morrilton area. Not only did the school educate students from Morrilton, but several surrounding communities in Conway, Pope, Perry, and Yell counties including Havana, Danville, Dardanelle, Russellville, Atkins, and Bigelow. The school remained an important part of the African-American community until its closure on May 19, 1965. Due to the school's importance to the African-American community and in the educational history of Conway County, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. The Morrilton Colored School is also being nominated under the multiple property listing "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" and the associated historic context "The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."

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

**HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY**

Some of the earliest settlement in Conway County began southeast of the Meniffee vicinity in the Cadron Creek Valley. In 1778 John Standlee and some others explored the area near the mouth of Cadron Creek, and he selected a place that he wished to return to to live. He eventually returned to the site in 1814 and lived there until his death in August 1820. Settlement continued in the area in the 1810s and 1820s with the arrival of John C. Benedict and his family in the



Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

spring of 1818 and B. F. Howard who settled on the Arkansas River above the mouth of Cadron Creek in 1828.<sup>2</sup>

By the 1820s there were enough people in the area for the creation of Conway County, which occurred in October 1825. Conway County was named for the Conway family, and at the time of its creation by the Territorial Legislature, included parts of Faulkner, Van Buren, Pope, Perry and Yell counties. The first county seat was at Cadron.<sup>3</sup>

Railroad construction in Conway County was the single most significant event in the county's development. In 1853, a charter was granted to the Cairo & Fulton Railroad to construct an east-west connecting line from Little Rock to Fort Smith. After two years of little progress on the Fort Smith Branch, a new company, the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad, was formed and chartered in 1855. The railroad moved slowly westward from what is now North Little Rock. Construction was interrupted by the Civil War in 1860 and did not resume until 1866. An initial survey for a potential line west to Fort Smith from Little Rock planned to take the railroad through Lewisburg. Residents of the town were asked to donate money to help build the railroad line to ensure it would pass through their town. They refused to raise the \$2,000 that the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad wanted. The citizens felt the town's position was so strategic in Conway County that the railroad would have to come through it anyway. As a result, the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad re-surveyed the proposed line, and moved it to pass north of Lewisburg.<sup>4</sup>

The "Lewisburg Station" opened for railroad service in November 1870. Although called "Lewisburg Station," its actual location was three miles north of Lewisburg. This railroad station was the genesis of Morrilton.<sup>5</sup>

In 1873, Morrilton was established on property donated from the Morril and Moose Farms. One of Lewisburg's most prominent residents was Edward James Morril. Originally from Massachusetts, Morril moved to the thriving town of Lewisburg in 1840. He was a druggist and quickly established a successful business. Morril had a farm north of Lewisburg, which is the present-day area from Division Street to the Cherokee line, west of Morrilton. George Hall Morril, son of Edward James Morril, was the first of the Morril family to settle in the area. The nearest neighbor was the Moose family who farmed the adjacent land, east of what is now Division Street.<sup>6</sup>

The first "Lewisburg Station" was a boxcar fitted beside the railroad track. Moose and Morril proposed to the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad to give them a town site in order to construct a permanent station. If the railroad station were maintained, then Morril and Moose, in return,

<sup>2</sup> *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890, p. 20.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> Smith, Sandra Taylor. "Morrilton Commercial Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 2002.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

would receive every alternate block within the town site. The railroad station agent, Captain J. W. Boot, is credited with naming the town, choosing between Morril and Moose by a flip of a coin.<sup>7</sup>

The town site was laid out in 1876. Division Street is named for the dividing line between the two farms; the Morril farm to the west and the Moose farm to the east. East Street was the eastern boundary of the town, West Street was the western boundary, North Street was the northern boundary, and Church Street was the southern boundary. The two streets between the east and west boundaries, were named for the town founders, Morril and Moose streets.<sup>8</sup>

The railroad quickly replaced the Arkansas River as the favored means of both commercial shipping and passenger travel. As the railroad became more and more popular, the population of Lewisburg moved to be near the railroad station in Morrilton. However, the early growth of Morrilton scarcely qualified the community as a "Boomtown." It took ten years before Morrilton supplanted Lewisburg as the major community in the area. In January 1880, Morrilton was incorporated, and became the Conway County seat in 1883. Lewisburg still had a population of 1,000 in the early 1880s. However, the residents eventually abandoned Lewisburg. Old cisterns and two cemeteries are the only visible remains of the once thriving town and county seat.<sup>9</sup>

In the 1870s, the remaining Morril family members left Lewisburg to settle in their new town, Morrilton. Edward James Morril died in 1885 in the home that he built near the new railroad and his holdings were divided among his children. The Morril family continued to contribute to the growth and stability of the town named after their father as Morril's children donated lands to various churches and town institutions. One son, Henry Morril, gave the site for the first school in Morrilton.<sup>10</sup>

As Morrilton and Conway County grew, providing educational opportunities for the residents became increasingly important. Although it is not known who the first teacher in the county was, it is known that the first school, which was also used for church services, was built at Lewisburg prior to 1836, and William Watson was the teacher. Other early schools in the area included one at Sardis Camp Ground and Wiley P. Owens taught at a school on Point Remove in 1847.<sup>11</sup>

Although the Civil War disrupted the development of schools and educational opportunities in Conway County, the post-war period brought about great strides in education. By the 1890s, Conway County schools were "in a most healthy and flourishing condition" and there were 76 school districts in the county. A description of the education system in Conway County in 1890 stated:

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890, pp. 25-26.

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

During that year [1889] there were \$27,295.96 paid into the county treasury for school purposes, and \$17,739.40 paid out in teachers' salaries, leaving the abundant sum of nearly \$10,000 still on hand. New school houses are being built in all parts of the county, and an almost unanimous desire is manifested by the citizens to build up and protect this bulwark of the people's intellectual advancement – the public free school.<sup>12</sup>

However, the desire for a good education system in Conway County did not stop with whites, but also included blacks. Very little is known specifically about the state of African-American education in Conway County in the nineteenth century. The addressing of the need for African-American education on a statewide level did not occur until the late 1860s with the passage of the Common School Law of 1868 and the Constitution of 1868. Section 1 of the education portion of the new constitution stated that "A general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence among all classes being essential to the preservation of the rights and liberties of the people, the general assembly shall establish and maintain a system of free schools for the gratuitous instruction of all persons in this state between the ages of 5 and 21 years..."<sup>13</sup>

Although there was some school development in Conway County in the late nineteenth century, it appears to have been very limited. According to a history of Sacred Heart in Morrilton, "Another visionary endeavor of the Sisters of St. Joseph was the establishment of a school for African-American youth. In 1883, they created St. Anne's School on their property in Morrilton. The first class had only six students, but when the Sisters were finally forced by local pressure to close the school in 1898, enrollment was up to 70."<sup>14</sup>

By the 1910s, however, additional efforts, most notably those of the Rosenwald Fund, were occurring in Conway County. The Rosenwald Fund, which had been started by Julius Rosenwald to help construct schools for African Americans across the South, funded its first school in Conway County, a four-room school at Meniffee, in the 1920-1921 budget year. The Fund would continue to fund schools in the county throughout the 1920s, funding its last building, a shop at the Union Chapel School, in the 1929-1930 budget year.<sup>15</sup>

In Morrilton, the first school for blacks was built at the corner of Clifton and St. Joseph streets sometime prior to 1916. In 1916, the property where the Morrilton Colored School is located on West Rock Street was purchased from Henry and Anna Lee, and a four-room frame school building was built on the site. In 1932, the original frame building burned, and classes were held

<sup>12</sup> *Historical Reminiscences and Biographical Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas*. Little Rock, AR: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890, p. 26.

<sup>13</sup> Porter, David. W. "A Brief History of the Julius Rosenwald Fund Building Program with Special Reference to Arkansas." Unpublished Master's thesis, Fisk University, Nashville, TN, 1951, p. 14.

<sup>14</sup> History of Sacred Heart from the *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 22 September 2004, p. 11. In Information on L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.

<sup>15</sup> Porter, David. W. "A Brief History of the Julius Rosenwald Fund Building Program with Special Reference to Arkansas." Unpublished Master's thesis, Fisk University, Nashville, TN, 1951, Appendix A, Table II and Table XI.

Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

in local churches for the next four years until the current building was constructed and opened c.1934.<sup>16</sup>

The construction of the current Morrilton Colored School was a community-wide effort, and also involved aid from the WPA. The rock for the building's construction was provided by Grant (Bo) Oliver, and the stones were dug out and hauled to the site by members of the community. W. P. Brown, J. B. Dorris, Will Shell, Bill Mitchell, Claude Pursley, Ollie Kindle, John Henry (Kiddo) Brewer, Ulysses Brown, and Rev. T. L. Dorris dug and hauled 128 loads of rock in five days during 1934. Teams and wagons to haul the rock were furnished by George McGill, David Wallace, Solomon Murray, Lank Wells, Frank Thornton, and Green Thornton. Members of the community, including W. P. Brown, and Lankford Wells helped to build the school.<sup>17</sup>

When the Morrilton Colored School opened in the 1930s, it originally housed all grades. However, due to students being bussed to school it became necessary to build a separate elementary school. In 1948 and 1949, a frame elementary school was built at the corner of Childress and Rock streets. The new building's cafeteria served both the students at the new school as well as at the original Morrilton Colored School.<sup>18</sup>

Due to the fact that the Morrilton Colored School served such a large area, the use of busses was an important part of getting the students to school on time. Bus drivers that served the school included Frank Ross in Russellville, Forest Bryles in Blackwell, Levi Cunningham in the Happy Bend/Kenwood area, "Doc" Ingram, Lee Stricklen from Morrilton, and Clay Brown from Bigelow. The bus drivers kept the busses at their homes in so that they could pick up students and get them to school on time. Extracurricular activities that required transportation out of town meant that sometimes the coaches, Joe Ben McDaniel and John Sutton, would act as bus drivers.<sup>19</sup>

When the Morrilton Colored School opened, L. W. Sullivan was appointed the first principal, after serving as the principal of the original black elementary school since 1921. Sullivan's family had come to Arkansas in the late 1800s from Laurens County, South Carolina, as had the family of his wife, Alice. In addition to acting as principal of the school, Sullivan was also a teacher and a farmer, owning a farm in Washington Township, Conway County.<sup>20</sup> Sullivan would remain principal of the Morrilton Colored School until his death in 1939.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>16</sup> Banks, Margarette Ponds. E-mail to the author. 2 January 2014.

<sup>17</sup> Information on L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.

<sup>18</sup> Information on L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.

<sup>19</sup> Information on L. W. Sullivan High School provided by Karen Hofford with the City of Morrilton. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

<sup>20</sup> Information on the principals of L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.

<sup>21</sup> Information on L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.



Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

After Sullivan's death, the school had a succession of principals during the first half of the 1940s that included Emmitt Smith, Edward Hancock, Major McCoy, and Rev. Edward I. Jennings. In 1947, Hyman King became principal of the school, and he would serve until the school closed in 1965.<sup>22</sup> King was a graduate of Western University in Kansas and had also done some study at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. His wife, Zeophus Nelson King, also worked at the school as a librarian and teacher.<sup>23</sup>

Prior to coming to work at Sullivan, King began his administrative career in Marion, Arkansas, where he served as the first full-time principal of J. S. Phelix High School from 1939 until 1947 (NR-listed 3/23/1995 as Marion Colored High School). Under the leadership of King, several changes occurred at the school, most notably of which was the renaming of the school as L. W. Sullivan High School, in honor of the school's first principal. In addition, according to *Educating the Masses: The Unfolding History of Black School Administrators in Arkansas, 1900-2000*, "Under King's leadership, Sullivan High School earned a State Department of Education rating of 'A' and was in the process of being evaluated for membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools when it closed. During King's principalship, Sullivan High was noted for the academic achievements of its students and the 100 percent membership in state and national professional education associations."<sup>24</sup> Also, while King was principal a chapter of the National Honor Society, a Mathematics Club, and a Future Teachers of America Club were organized at the school.<sup>25</sup>

King's leadership of Sullivan High School also brought notable physical changes to the building. In the early 1950s, a brick addition was added to the northwest corner of the original building. The addition consisted of a hallway and an auditorium that could be divided into two classrooms. The addition was ready by the close of the 1953 school year, and was used for that year's graduating class' commencement ceremony. The early 1950s also brought about the installation of indoor restrooms which replaced an outhouse on the west side of the campus.<sup>26</sup>

With the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, Morrilton was obligated to integrate their schools. Morrilton's desegregation plan called for the desegregation of the district's upper grades in the 1965-1966 school year and the desegregation of the district's elementary grades during the 1966-1967 school year through the process of freedom of choice. In May 1965, the *Petit Jean Country Headlight* reported that "Of 168 Negro students who normally would attend Sullivan High School next fall, 164 have chosen to enter presently all-white Morrilton High

<sup>22</sup> Some sources also spell his first name "Hyman." Information on the principals of L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.

<sup>23</sup> Information on the principals of L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.

<sup>24</sup> Smith, C. Calvin, ed. *Educating the Masses: The Unfolding History of Black School Administrators in Arkansas, 1900-2000*. Fayetteville, AR: The University of Arkansas Press, 2003, p. 38.

<sup>25</sup> Information on the principals of L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.

<sup>26</sup> Information on L. W. Sullivan High School (aka Morrilton Colored School) provided by Margarette Ponds Banks, January 2014.



Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

School when it begins classes in September in the new building.” Furthermore, it was reported that “...no students chose to switch from Morrilton High to Sullivan.”<sup>27</sup>

Although desegregation proceedings did not specifically come to Sullivan and Morrilton until 1965, it is likely that Sullivan had been affected by desegregation the preceding year. Since Sullivan included students from the surrounding communities and counties, desegregation in those communities, most notably Danville, affected Sullivan. Interestingly, the effects of Danville’s desegregation were apparently reported nationwide. The *Arizona Republic* in Phoenix reported:

School segregation is ending quietly in the Arkansas Valley area of west central Arkansas because it costs too much.

The Danville School Board announced Friday it would admit Negroes to its all-white school for the first time next fall. It had become economically prohibitive to haul the Negro students 50 miles to Sullivan High School at Morrilton and back every day.

The board’s announcement said Dardanelle also was planning to enroll Negro students although the Dardanelle School Board has not officially announced as much. Dardanelle, Ola and Havana have been sharing the cost of the school bus with Danville, which operates it.

An announcement from Dardanelle is expected early this week. Supt. A. E. Caldwell is understood to have told faculty members they can anticipate about 10 Negro pupils next fall.

Danville will have eight Negro students in the first eight grades and four in the upper four grades next fall, Supt. S. C. Tucker said.<sup>28</sup>

During the Morrilton School Board’s special meeting on May 19, 1965, it was decided that Sullivan High School would be closed due to the number of students that chose to attend there. As the newspaper reported, “It would not be feasible to operate Sullivan next year with only four students, [School Board President] Rowell said.”<sup>29</sup> The closure of Sullivan was a controversial move, and the eight teachers who taught at Sullivan were notified in late May 1965 that they would not be hired for the 1965-1966 school year. The newspaper reported that “the eight teachers who taught at Sullivan last year were notified by letter about three weeks ago they would not be hired for the 1965-1966 school year. Contracts which had been sent to Morrilton teachers earlier contained a provision that they contracts would be effective only if the teachers were needed in the school system.”<sup>30</sup> (Although this article reported that eight teachers were notified, another article reports that only seven were notified. Hymon King, who was principal

<sup>27</sup> “Negroes Indicate Preference, Only Four Choose Sullivan.” *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 19 May 1965, p. 1.

<sup>28</sup> “Segregation Too Costly.” *The Arizona Republic (Phoenix)*. 25 May 1964, p. 31.

<sup>29</sup> “Sullivan High Closed, Jobless Negro Teachers Go to Court.” *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 23 June 1965, p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> “Sullivan High Closed, Jobless Negro Teachers Go to Court.” *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 23 June 1965, p. 1.

Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

at Sullivan, was retiring after the 1964-1965 school year and would not have been employed by the district anyway during the 1965-1966 school year.<sup>31)</sup>

Since the closure of Sullivan and the dismissal of the school's teachers without any consideration of possible opportunities in the rest of the district appeared to be discriminatory, Clement Smith, the former Chemistry teacher at Sullivan since 1958, the other teachers, and the Arkansas Teachers Association, Inc., (ATA) an organization of black teachers, filed suit against the Morrilton School Board in U.S. District Court in Little Rock.<sup>32</sup>

The suit charged that the teachers were "denied reemployment solely because of their race or color and because of the defendants' opposition to assigning Negro teachers to school attended by white pupils."<sup>33</sup> The suit also stated that the reason for this was because as Superintendent Terry Humble stated, "white students could not adjust to Negro teachers and, accordingly, that Negro teachers would not be rehired." Finally, the suit alleged that "in anticipation of pupil desegregation...plans were made to avoid faculty desegregation by hiring a number of white teachers beyond their usual requirements in 1964."<sup>34</sup> The lawsuit contained four demands, which were:

- That the Negro teachers at Sullivan who were not hired for the 1965-66 school year be paid for that year.
- That the Negro teachers be employed in the school system during the 1965-66 school year.
- That all elementary grades be desegregated in 1965-66.
- That Negro teachers be employed throughout the Morrilton public school system."<sup>35</sup>

The filing of the lawsuit by Smith and the other teachers from Sullivan received national news coverage. The *Petit Jean Country Headlight* reported on July 21, 1965, that:

One of the former Sullivan teachers, Mrs. Geneva Braswell of Little Rock, was interviewed several days ago by a Columbia Broadcasting System television news team. The interview took place at Arkansas State Teachers College in Conway where Mrs. Braswell was enrolled in a Spanish workshop.

<sup>31</sup> "Humble Says Teachers Will be Hired According to School Needs, Not Race." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 30 June 1965, p. 1. After Hyman King retired from education as the last principal of Sullivan High School, he devoted the majority of his time to the programs of St. Paul A.M.E. Church in Morrilton, where he was a steward and a trustee (Smith, C. Calvin, ed. *Educating the Masses: The Unfolding History of Black School Administrators in Arkansas, 1900-2000*. Fayetteville, AR: The University of Arkansas Press, 2003, p. 38.).

<sup>32</sup> "Humble Says Teachers Will be Hired According to School Needs, Not Race." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 30 June 1965, p. 2B.

<sup>33</sup> "Humble Says Teachers Will be Hired According to School Needs, Not Race." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 30 June 1965, p. 2B.

<sup>34</sup> "Humble Says Teachers Will be Hired According to School Needs, Not Race." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 30 June 1965, p. 2B.

<sup>35</sup> "Sullivan High Closed, Jobless Negro Teachers Go to Court." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 23 June 1965, p. 1.

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

She told a newsman that if she does not receive reinstatement in Morrilton, she will attend the University of Arkansas this fall to work on a master's degree in English. Mrs. Braswell taught English at Sullivan and had been a member of the faculty since 1951.

The interview, including one with [Clement] Smith, was shown over CBS Tuesday on its 5:30 p.m. news program.<sup>36</sup>

The school district's response to the lawsuit was quick. By the middle of July 1965, the Morrilton School Board and Supt. Terry Humble had filed a motion in U.S. District Court to dismiss the suit brought about by Smith and the Arkansas Teachers Association. The *Petit Jean Country Headlight* reported the following:

In their answer, Morrilton school officials disputed whether Smith or the ATA is authorized to represent any Negro teachers or to institute litigation on their behalf. They denied that Smith and the other Negro teachers were denied reemployment "solely because of their race or color and because of defendants' opposition to assigning Negro teachers to schools attended by white pupils." The denial also covered an allegation that Humble stated at a May 28 meeting that white students could not adjust to Negro teachers.

Two sections of the suit were denied in whole. They contained allegations that a surplus of white teachers were hired in 1964 in anticipation of desegregation and that the Sullivan teachers "are threatened with permanent loss of employment" in the Morrilton district solely because of their race.<sup>37</sup>

Although Smith and the ATA lost the initial case, which was dismissed, an appeal was filed with the United States Court of Appeals Eighth Circuit. Newspapers around the state reported:

An appeal has been filed with the U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals at St. Louis challenging a federal court ruling that a school board does not have to offer Negro teachers a job if no vacancies occur in a district when a school is closed.

U. S. District Judge J. Smith Henley dismissed a suit Oct. 8 which challenged the dismissal of eight Negro teachers when all-Negro Sullivan High School closed at Morrilton. The Morrilton School Board did not rehire the teachers after Sullivan closed, saying there were no vacancies at the desegregated Morrilton High School.

<sup>36</sup> "Federal Court Hearing On Smith Suit Set July 29." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 21 July 1965, p. 1.

<sup>37</sup> "U.S. Court Asked To Dismiss Suit." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 14 July 1965, p. 1.

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Henley said, "If a Negro school is closed at a time when there are no vacancies in the remaining schools, the constitution does not require the school board to re-evaluate the entire faculty or replace white teachers with Negroes affected by the closing."<sup>38</sup>

The decision on the appeal was handed down on September 14, 1966, and reversed the lower court's decision. The case was presented before Circuit Judges Van Oosterhout, Blackmun, and Gibson, and the court's decision, which was written by Judge Blackmun, stated in part:

This Board [Morrilton's] maintained a segregated school system for more than a decade after its unconstitutionality was known and before it implemented a plan to desegregate. The employment and assignment of teachers during this period were based on race. Negro teachers were hired and assigned to teach only in all-negro schools; white teachers were hired and assigned to teach only in all-white schools. The use of the freedom-of-choice plan, associated with the fact of a new high school plant, produced a result which the superintendent must have anticipated, despite his testimony that he "rather guessed" that Sullivan would continue to operate; he had also observed from the witness stand, in listing reasons for the Board's decision to begin desegregation with the upper grades, that "the Sullivan High School was not a type plant that the Board or I would like our children to attend school in", and that the Sullivan staff "didn't approach the level of the white slate". All this reveals that the Sullivan teachers did indeed owe their dismissals in a very real sense to improper racial considerations. The dismissals were a foreseeable consequence of the Board's somewhat belated effort to bring the school system into conformity with constitutional principles as enunciated by the Supreme Court of the United States.

... We therefore hold that the Sullivan dismissals, although pursuant to a tradition and policy not invalid on their face, assumed questionable status in the light of the Board's unconstitutional practices in the past which contributed to teacher status in the present. We thus disagree with the district court's conclusion that because the Board's action here only conformed with what had been done in prior school consolidations its present action is immune from constitutional attack.

... We do feel, however, that since the dismissed teachers have been denied the comparative evaluation which was due them and nondiscriminatory consideration for vacancies filled since their

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<sup>38</sup> "Suit Challenges School Board Rule." *El Dorado Times*. 11 November 1965, p. 14. The same article appeared in the *Northwest Arkansas Times* on the same date on p. 18 under the title "Negroes Appeal Decision On Teacher Hiring."



Morrilton Colored School

Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas

County and State

dismissals, they, except for plaintiff Smith, are now entitled, if they so desire, to some preference in the filling of vacancies in the secondary school faculties which exist at the time of this decision or which arise in the future. ...

... The court also will be confronted with the question of damages. Each of the former Sullivan teachers except Smith shall be entitled and shall be afforded the opportunity to establish, if he can, that he was damaged by his dismissal and the amount of such damage. The period for which damage may be shown is the period between the completion of the teacher's service at Sullivan and the filing date of this opinion, except that with respect to any teacher who, pursuant hereto, manifests a desire to obtain reemployment in the Morrilton schools, the period will also include the time between the date of this opinion and the effective date of reemployment offered him. Of course, the normal rules of mitigation shall apply to these damage determinations.

We except plaintiff Smith from the relief to be offered because he testified directly that he did not want his Morrilton work back and would not accept a job there teaching the same courses, and that his Chicago work was the "best thing that ever happened to [him] employmentwise". He thus has made his considered choice and waived any possible claim to relief to which he might otherwise be entitled.

... The judgment of the district court is vacated and the case is remanded for further proceedings consistent with the views herein expressed.<sup>39</sup>

The case did not proceed beyond the appellate level so the ruling handed down by Judges Van Oosterhout, Blackmun, and Gibson stood. The decision in the case was not only important for the teachers at Sullivan, it was also cited in several other Arkansas cases, including *United States v. Cotton Plant School District No. 1* (1973), *Alexander v. Warren, Arkansas, School District No. 1 Board* (1972), *Jackson v. Wheatley School District No. 28 of St. Francis County, Arkansas* (1972), and *Lewis v. Harrison School District No. 1* (1985).<sup>40</sup>

After Sullivan High School closed, the building became vacant and at least the beginnings of an effort to purchase the building were initiated by St. Paul AME Church. An article in the July 21, 1965, edition of the *Petit Jean Country Headlight* reported:

A delegation appeared before the Morrilton School Board last Thursday night asking about the possibility of the St. Paul

<sup>39</sup> Information on *Smith v. Board of Education of Morrilton School District No. 32* found at: [http://www.leagle.com/decision/19661135365F2d770\\_1972](http://www.leagle.com/decision/19661135365F2d770_1972).

<sup>40</sup> Information on *Smith v. Board of Education of Morrilton School District No. 32* found at: [http://www.leagle.com/decision/19661135365F2d770\\_1972](http://www.leagle.com/decision/19661135365F2d770_1972).



Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

AME Church purchasing the building formerly used by L. W. Sullivan High School.

Sullivan, the former high school for Negroes, will not reopen because of the desegregation of Morrilton High School.

The group asking about purchasing the building was led by Hymon King, retired principal at Sullivan. The delegation was asked to meet again with the board at a later date.<sup>41</sup>

Although St. Paul AME Church had considered the purchase of the building, it apparently never happened, and the City of Morrilton took possession of the building after it closed.<sup>42</sup> Today the building is used by the City of Morrilton as a Head Start Center. Although L. W. Sullivan High School has been closed for almost 50 years due to desegregation of the schools in Morrilton, it stands today as an important reminder of the education of African Americans in the Morrilton area.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

From the time of its completion c.1934 until the late 1940s, L. W. Sullivan High School was the only school for African-Americans in Morrilton. In 1948-1949, an elementary school was built near Sullivan High School, since the student population of the school had grown due to bussed students. However, it was still the only high school in the Morrilton area for African-Americans. The importance of Sullivan High School to African-American education is also illustrated by the fact that it served not just students from Morrilton, but students from Ola, Danville, Dardanelle, Atkins, and Russellville.

Sullivan High School was not only a significant part of Morrilton's African-American community when it came to education, but it was also an important aspect of the community's social life. As with churches, schools were often an important part of the African-American community not just during the week, but on the weekends as well, and Sullivan was no exception. News of events at the school was often reported in the *Chicago Defender* under the Arkansas heading. For example, in 1938, it reported that "The eighth grade class presented a play, Sunday, May 8, Mother's day. Rev. J. R. Jamison delivered the educational sermon. The high school glee club furnished the music," and in 1963 it was reported that "Miss Brenda Joyce Henry, Miss Ivory Lucille Gilkey and Luther Thomas Gilkey all appeared on a musical program at the L. W. Sullivan High School at Morrilton Sunday."<sup>43</sup>

However, the importance of Sullivan to the African-American community extended beyond Morrilton. Since students "from Ola, Danville, Dardanelle, Atkins, and Russellville are taken by bus daily to Sullivan High School at Morrilton," Sullivan's importance also extended to those communities, and that was also clear in the *Chicago Defender*.<sup>44</sup> In June 1960, it reported that

<sup>41</sup> "Church Seeks To Purchase Closed School." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 21 July 1965, p. 1.

<sup>42</sup> Brown, Dr. Perry. E-mail to the author. 8 January 2014.

<sup>43</sup> Nelson, Annie H. *The Chicago Defender (National edition) (1921-1967)*; May 21, 1938; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender (1910-1975), pg. 11, and Torrence, Henley R. *The Chicago Defender (National edition) (1921-1967)*; January 26, 1963; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender (1910-1975), pg. 19.

<sup>44</sup> "Negroes' Request Is Under Advisement At Russellville." *El Dorado Times*. 8 April 1964, p. 7.

Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

"The L. W. Sullivan high school held commencement exercises at Morrilton Thursday night. Several [sic.] from here [Danville] attended."<sup>45</sup>

The court case surrounding the dismissal of the teachers and the closing of Sullivan was also significant in that it had influence in other cases in the state (and in other parts of the country). The case *Smith v. Board of Education of Morrilton School District No. 32* highlighted just one instance of "unfair dismissals and demotions [that occurred] during the first two decades of desegregation in Arkansas that forced black administrators and teachers to turn to the federal courts for protection."<sup>46</sup> Several federal court cases in Arkansas and around the country cited the *Smith* case in their opinions, illustrating that the case was influential in subsequent desegregation rulings.

The Morrilton Colored School was an important component of the education system for African Americans in the Morrilton area from the 1930s until its closing in 1965. The school's importance stretched beyond Morrilton to include several surrounding communities in Conway, Pope, Perry, and Yell counties including Havana, Danville, Dardanelle, Russellville, Atkins, and Bigelow. The school was not only a place where African-Americans were educated, but also a place where they held special events. In addition to its role in the educational and social lives of the African-American community, the closing of the school and the lawsuit surrounding it were also a significant event in helping to set legal precedent for future legal decisions. Due to the school's importance to the African-American community and in the educational history of Conway County, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. The Morrilton Colored School is also being nominated under the multiple property listing "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" and the associated historic context "The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."

<sup>45</sup> Torrence, Henley R. *The Chicago Defender (National edition) (1921-1967)*; June 18, 1960; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender (1910-1975), p. 22.

<sup>46</sup> Smith, C. Calvin, ed. *Educating the Masses: The Unfolding History of Black School Administrators in Arkansas, 1900-2000*. Fayetteville, AR: The University of Arkansas Press, 2003, p. 85.

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

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Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

Name of Property

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Torrence, Henley R. *The Chicago Defender (National edition) (1921-1967)*; January 26, 1963; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: Chicago Defender (1910-1975), pg. 19.

"U.S. Court Asked To Dismiss Suit." *Petit Jean Country Headlight*. 14 July 1965, p. 1.

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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

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CN0398

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

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: 35.158725 | Longitude: -92.752938 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

Or

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 522500 | Northing: 3890671 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

Beginning at the north edge of West Rock Street at UTM point 15/522477/3890647, proceed northerly for 175 feet to UTM point 15/522479/3890702, thence proceed easterly to the chain-link fence at UTM point 15/522535/3890700, thence proceed southerly along the chain-link fence to the north edge of West Rock Street at UTM point 15/522534/3890646, thence proceed westerly along the north edge of West Rock Street to the point of beginning.



Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

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

The boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the building.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500  
city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201  
e-mail: ralph@arkansasheritage.org  
telephone: (501) 324-9787  
date: January 10, 2014

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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.)

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

### **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: Morrilton Colored School

City or Vicinity: Morrilton

County: Conway County State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: October 24, 2013

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

- 1 of 12 . View of the south façade, looking northeast.
- 2 of 12 . View of the south façade, looking northwest.
- 3 of 12 . View of the east façade of the original building, looking west.
- 4 of 12 . View of the north façade of the original building, looking southwest.
- 5 of 12 . View of the east façade of the addition, looking southwest.
- 6 of 12 . View of the north façade of the addition, looking southwest.
- 7 of 12 . View of the west façade of the addition, looking southeast.
- 8 of 12 . View of the west façade of the original building, looking southeast.
- 9 of 12 . View of original transom window.
- 10 of 12 . View of a typical classroom interior.
- 11 of 12 . View of the north-south hallway in the original building, looking north
- 12 of 12 . View of the north wall of the original building in the addition.

Morrilton Colored School  
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas  
County and State

**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.



Morrilton Colored School

Conway County, Arkansas

Latitude: 35.158725 Longitude: -92.752938

|-----198'-----|



North









MORRILTON CHILD DEVELOPMENT





MORRILTONCHILDDEVELOPMENT





























**EXIT**

**SALIDA**





EXIT

SALIDA











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Morrilton Colored School

MULTIPLE NAME: Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Conway

DATE RECEIVED: 4/11/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/07/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000245

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5-23-2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Meets Reg. Requirements of NPS*  
*Interestingly, This school was the basis for a lawsuit that provided relief for educators who lost their positions due to desegregation.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Hubbard DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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





THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

April 2, 2014



Mike Beebe  
*Governor*

Martha Miller  
*Director*

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Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

Ms. Carol 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: Morrilton Colored School – Morrilton, Conway County,  
Arkansas

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,

Martha Miller  
State Historic Preservation Officer

MM:rsw

Enclosure



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program



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Little Rock, AR 72201

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