SURVEY RECORDS CITY, TOWN

FORM NO. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) PHO664014 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 28 1978

STATE

NVENTORY	NOMINATION F	ORM	DATE ENTERED	SEP.	1 3 1978
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CONDITION

EXCELLENT __DETERIORATED XGOOD _RUINS __FAIR __UNEXPOSED

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XALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

_MOVED DATE.

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The El Dorado Junior College building is a three story brick and frame building in a modified Greek Cross or Swastika plan (see figure 1). The east or main entry facade and the west or rear entry facade are divided into three unequal bays giving the appearance of a central pavillion and wings. The central bay and the recessed bay are of equal width; and the other is slightly narrower. All the bays are symmetrically fenestrated. The narrower bay has two closely spaced windows per floor, while the recessed bay is fenestrated by two widely spaced windows per floor. The central bay has four closely spaced windows on the second and third floors. The same bay subdivision theme is carried out on the ground floor by the frontispiece entry portico flanked by two windows. All windows are 4/4 double-hung, wood, sash windows with white painted concrete lintels and sills.

The central bay is surmounted on both facades by a gabled roof with deeply recessed pediment centered on the bay. The pediment is symmetrically divided by three louvered attic vent windows. The central window being larger and wider than the twin flanking windows. The gabled roof is formed by a returned cornice capping mock pilasters resting on brick corbeling from the facade below the main roof cornice line.

The northern and southern facades are divided into two unequal bays, each symmetrically fenestrated with three windows per floor. The southwest and northwest bays are slightly smaller in width and end in a gable roof with deeply recessed pediment and returned cornices. At the base of the north and south facades, two stairs sink to the basement entry door.

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to J d eg kom n (Mare The main entry facade bay divisions are emphasized by brick corner pilasters. These pilasters step down in width and depth at each floor level. The change is marked by a white-painted concrete stringer course similar to romanesque revival buttressing. The pilasters on the third floor divide into two smaller brick pilasters crossed by horizontal brick bands recalling the lower pilaster's dimensions. The pilasters merge into the roof cornice through a mock entablature with the upper cornice of enriched ovolo moulding tying into the roof soffit by volute and acanthus leaf patterned modillions.

The facade is faced with finish brick in stretcher or American bond down to just below the first floor. There a white-painted concrete veneer is molded to resemble a beveled water table capping a regular smooth stonework foundation. Basement ventilation window formed by segmented arches molded into the concrete veneer are covered with stamped iron plates.

The roof form of shingles (originally slate) is hipped with the previously mentioned north and south gables tying into the hipped roof's northeast and southwest shoulder ridges. The east and west gables die into the roof expanses. (see figure 2). Two interior chimneys served basement boilers. The northern chimney runs east and west; and the southern chimney runs north and south. Two fire escapes descend from the third floor on the north and south facades.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

The frontispiece entry porticos on the east and west facades are formed by paired white-painted Roman doric concrete columns on rectangular pediments which rise to the first floor window sill level. The paired columns are surmounted by an entablature with a cantilevered cornice and a blank frieze bounded by dentil moulding on top and egg and dart moulding below. The frieze rests on square capital plates. Above this cornice, a balcony is formed by two rectangular, recessed, paneled pedestals. In filling between the two, there are alternating turned balusters and narrower rectangular recessed paneled pedestals. The balcony rail is formed by a cornice undulating around the pedestals and over the balusters. The doors are double-paneled and windowed. The doors are crowned by a seven-paved rectangular transom. The lintel and sill are of white-painted concrete.

The interior plan is a central hall running east and west terminating at the entries. There are two rooms to the north and two to the south. On either end of the hall's south side rise single flight, closed string stairs with plain balusters and carpenter doric newells. The rooms have direct entry from the center of the hall; and the northern rooms have a direct entry near the building entries. The southern rooms are separated from the hall by long narrow bath rooms and storage rooms. These originally were cloakrooms to allow direct entry from the center of the hall to the classroom or indirect entry to the rear of the classroom through the cloakrooms. (see figure 1).

The prototypical neo-classical revival brick public building is still sound and only slightly modified from its original form.

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	XEDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DATES

The El Dorado Junior College building is situated on a site which has been used for public education since 1858. The building housed the first junior college in southwest Arkansas. Finally, the building itself is a fine prototype of the neoclassical revival brick public buildings of the 1900-1920 period.

The El Dorado Junior College building is located on lot 98 (The "Academy" lot) of Newton subdivision in El Dorado, Arkansas. The original U. S. patent for the southeast quarter of Section 29, township 17 south, range 15 west, 160 acres, was entered August 4, 1845. The property was sold to Albert Rust, on January 5, 1852 for \$3,000 and a \$520.83 mortgage on a slave girl, Alcey, Age 17. On May 7, 1858, Rust sold 5 acres to the Trustees of the El Dorado Female Institute for \$250. The land was stipulated to be used for a Female Academy. The Trustees were Robert Goodwin, Hezekiah Bussy, Argrove Ammons, Hamilton P. Smead, Hugh P. Marr, William R. Clowser, and James W. Adams. The Female Institute of El Dorado was started by Reverend Lacy, a local Presbyterian Minister, and his wife, who was the first instructor. The earliest recorded trustees were William Rust, John A. Cornish, John R. Hampton, William H. Heines, and Robert M. Hardy. Reverend Lacy was succeeded in his posts as a theologian and educator by Reverend A. R. Bank, who with his wife had been running academies for males and females in Minden; Louisiana. During the Civil War, the structure of the Female Institute, a two story, eight room, frame structure with a long assembly hall in the rear of the building, was used as a hospital for Confederate soldiers and a monument raised on the eastern boundary by the Daughters of the Confederacy. On October 12, the El Dorado Special School District #15 was formed from Common School District #13.

In 1895, the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelth grades were added to the public school system. In the same year, the Chancery Court by degree, deeded the property to the El Dorado Special School District #15, who had been operating the public schools on the property for twenty years. In June of 1896, the first class graduated from high school. The growing number of students required more and better education facilities. As early as June 20, 1903, a committee, chaired by B. W. Reeves, was set up by the School Board to ..."cooperate with Dr. Morgan Smith to ascertain plans and specifications for a brick school building." By February 11, 1904, this had grown into a committee on "...How and when to build a brick school," composed of B. W. Reeves, W. H. Matthews, and D. E. Armstrong. The mortgage proposition was submitted in March; and in May, Dr. J. M. Sheppard and Hugh W. Goodwin, the Finance Committee, were given the power to mortgage Special School District #15 property to finance construction.

June 6, 1904, the motion that "a suitable brick building for all white public

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

U. S. Patent and Deeds tracing ownership to present. El Dorado Special School District minutes. Interviews with early graduates.

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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED SEP 1 3 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

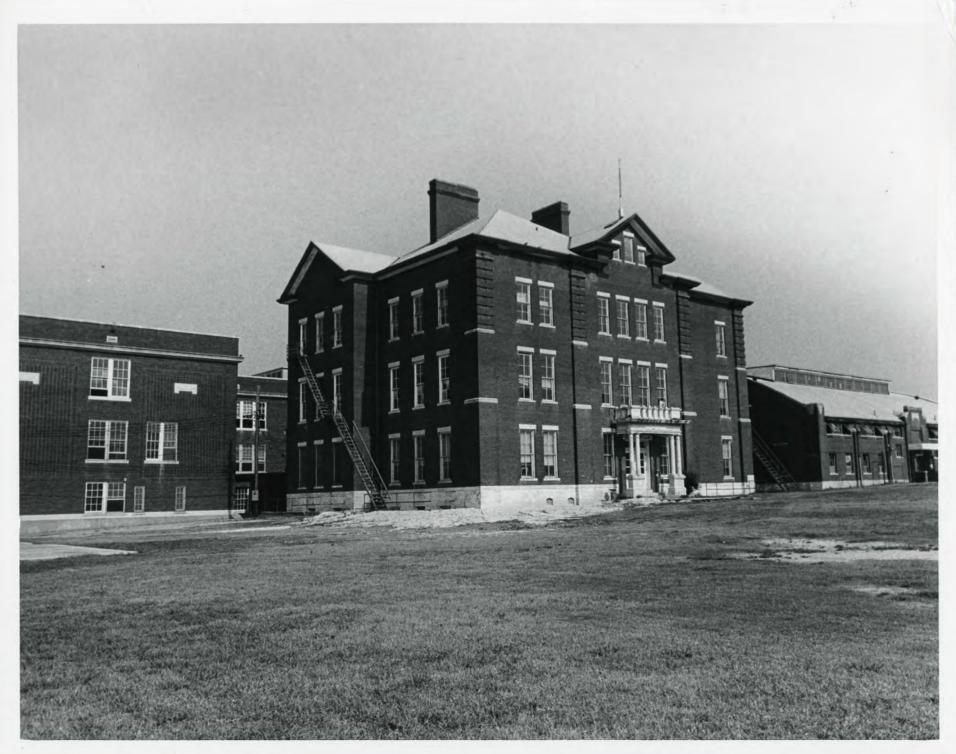
school purposes" be erected "...beginning as early the next spring as practicable"... passed. The building committee were Dr. J. M. Sheppard, B. W. Reeves, and C. P. McHenry. Reverend J. F. McKinzie, Presbyterian minister and brick mason, and Dr. W. J. Anson were selected as consultants. Reverend McKinzie worked in the building as a mason and contributed to its design. The general contractor, J. F. Hanson, from Camden, Arkansas, utilized brick from the El Dorado brickyard and local southern Pine to complete construction in 1905. The school's cost was met by a \$40,000 bond issue to the Mercantile Trust Company of St. Louis.

In April 1909, the Ouachita Presbyterial Coeducational College made arrangements to use some of the building space for a proposed college. Efforts to make the college a going concern failed. By May 1911, the building had been wired for electrical lighting and indoor plumbing installed.

In 1925, the El Dorado Junior College was founded. The college continued for twelve years and matriculated many graduates from its liberal arts curriculum. The college was NEA accredited until its demise in 1937.

The Junior College building was used as part of the High School plant until 1964 when a new high school was constructed. The building continued to be used as a Junior High School until the 1970's when the Junior High School was moved. Presently, the structure is rented by Southern State College for Extension courses.

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1. EL DORADO JUNIOR COILEGE FEB 281978

UNION COUNTY, ARKANSAS

FACADE AND EAST ELEVATION, VIEWED From the NorthEAST

SEP 13 1978

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED SEP 13 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC
El Dorado Junior College Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN El Dorado __VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO July, 1977

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

1 21

PHOTO NO.

Facade and east elevation, viewed from the northeast.

INT: 2983-75

Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE ENTERED

RECEIVED FEB 28 1978

SEP 13 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

El Dorado Junior College Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

El Dorado

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Union

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

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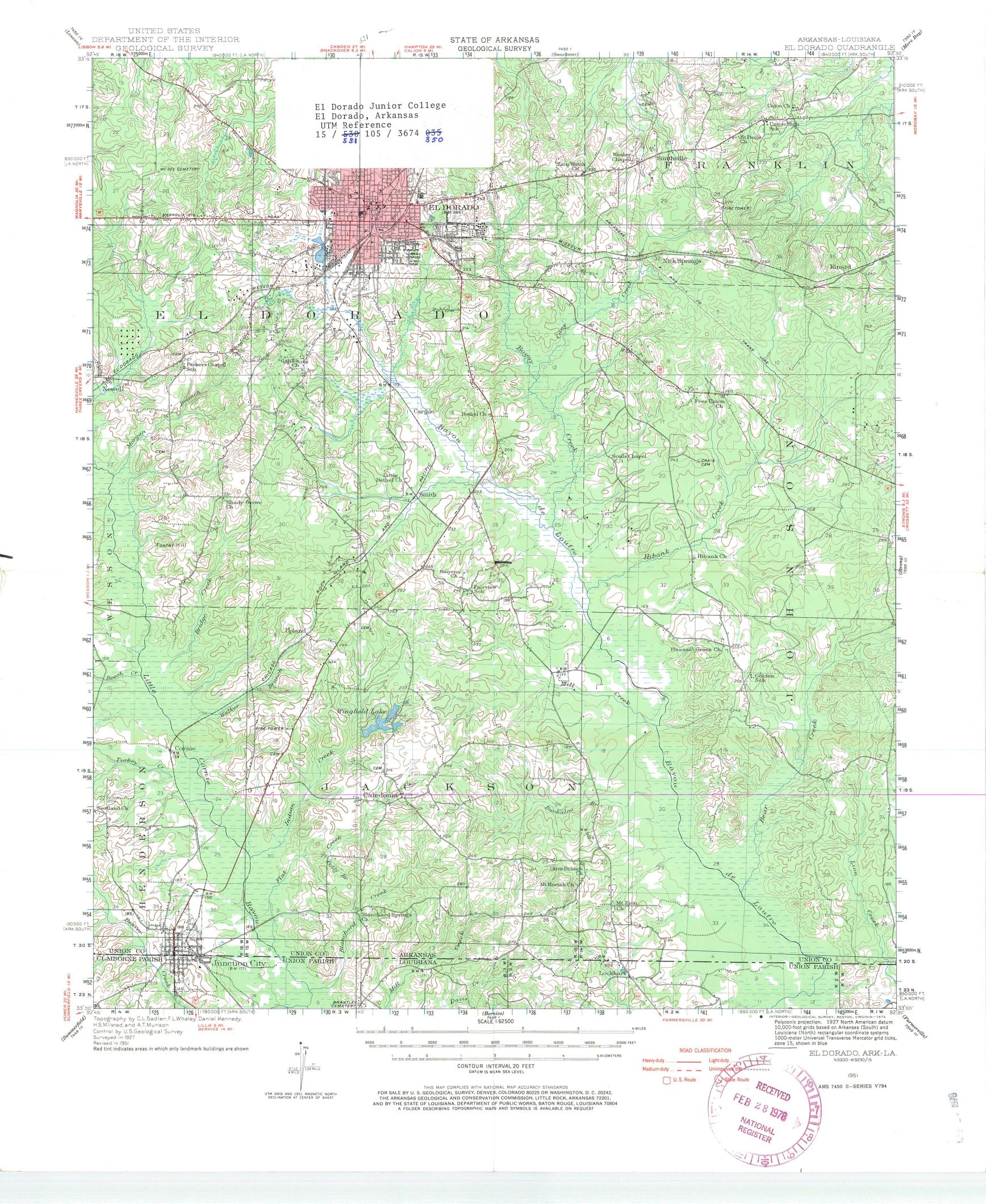
1951

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 2986-75



WASO-166 (August 1971)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

TIME OF CALL

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Date Entered

SEP 1 3 1978

Name

Location

El Dorado Junior College Building

El Dorado Union County

Governor's Mansion Historic District

Little Rock Pulaski County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers

Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr. Honorable Ray Thornton Honorable James G. Tucker, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

ONANES DE 14 DEMOGRADO DE	Cadanal modern		@0	THER NAMES:					le de	ate of entry:	(4) county code:
NAME as it appears on El Dorado Junio	or College Bu	ilding	(2)	THEN WANTES.						1 3 1978	139
(5) LOCATION street & nu	amber	city /	town	vicinity of		state		county	S And	BNPS REGIO	
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NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property
historic name El Dorado Junior College Building – Additional Documentation other names/site number South Arkansas Community College Gym / UN0179
2. Location
street & number 300 South West Avenue
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant attionally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is: centered in the National Register. See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

El Dorado Junior College Bu Additional Documentation	uilding –	Union County, Arkansas	
Name of Property		County and State	
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)	
☐ private ☐ public-local	☑ building(s)☑ district	Contributing Noncontributing	
public-State	site	1	buildings
public-Federal	structure		
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			objects
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Name of related multiple p (Enter "N/A" if property is not part	property listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previous in the National Register	sly listed
N/A		N/A	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
RECREATION AND CULT	ΓURE/sports facility	RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facil:	ity
EDUCATION/school		EDUCATION/college	
7. Description			
Architectural Classificatio		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
Art Deco		foundation Concrete	
		walls Brick	

Concrete Asphalt

Asbestos

Stone

roof

other

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Narrative Description} \\ (\textbf{Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)} \end{tabular}$

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	

Union County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section	number	5	Page	1	

The revised resource count for the El Dorado Junior College Building nomination is:

Contributing Non-contributing

Buildings 2
Sites
Structures
Objects
Totals 2

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	

Union County, Arkansas		
County and State		

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	1	
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SUMMARY

The El Dorado High School Gym is located on the West Campus of South Arkansas Community College in El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas, and is located immediately adjacent to the El Dorado Junior College Building. The El Dorado Junior College Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1978, and the associated Gymnasium is being amended to the Junior College Building nomination. The Gym is located a short distance from downtown in a neighborhood of mixed residential and commercial development. It is a red-faced brick and concrete structure designed by John B. Abbott in the Art Deco style, and built in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). A large barrel vaulted roof with a long eyebrow on each side crowns the building. The interior of the building consists of the large gymnasium space on the main floor with basement space in the four quadrants of the gym.

ELABORATION

The El Dorado High School Gym is located in a mixed-use residential and commercial neighborhood just outside of downtown El Dorado. It is located on the West Campus of South Arkansas Community College. The building was built in 1940 by the WPA, and was designed by John B. Abbott. It is one of the best examples of the Art Deco style in El Dorado.

The Gym is built of concrete and red-faced brick, with a cast concrete foundation. A large barrel vaulted roof with a long eyebrow on each side is on top of the building. Today, the building is virtually unaltered, and still used for recreational and educational activities by South Arkansas Community College.

West Façade

The west façade, like the east façade, is one of the building's main façades. In the center of the façade is the main entrance, which has two, glass-panel doors with a single pane glass transom above. A brick pier with concrete cap is on each side of the entrance and a cast-concrete awning with three horizontal bands is above the entrance. Above the pier on the right side of the entrance is a concrete cornerstone that reads "USA/1940/WPA." The text is surrounded by a shield design. A window of thirty-six glass blocks is located above the entrance, and a recessed row of soldier bricks acts as the lintel. A decorative plaque, which used to have the name of the building on it, flanked on each side by two sloped concrete blocks is located in a parapet above the window. An area of concrete with an incised serrated design tops the parapet.

The central entrance is flanked on each side by three bays separated by brick pilasters with sloped concrete caps. The bays immediately adjacent to the entrance have a six-pane window with concrete sill and a row of soldier bricks for a lintel at the level of the entrance awning. At the level of the entrance bay's glass block window, an eight-pane window with concrete sill is present. These bays are also narrower than the outer two bays.

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	

Name of Property

Union	County,	Arkansas	
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County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Page 2

The next bay out from the central entrance has two, nine-pane windows on the lower level with concrete sills and a row of soldier bricks for lintels. However, the windows towards the center of the building are now covered over. (All of the windows on the building that are covered have been covered since 1977.) On the upper level of the façade is a band of windows with a concrete sill comprised of a central eight-pane section flanked on each side by a six-pane section. Although these windows are covered on the exterior, they are visible on the interior of the building.

The outermost bays of the façade have two covered over windows with concrete sills and rows of soldier bricks for lintels that are the same size as the lower level windows in the adjacent bays. The upper level of the façade is a band of windows with a concrete sill comprised of a central eight-pane section flanked on each side by a six-pane section. Again, although these windows are covered on the exterior, they are visible on the interior of the building.

At the corners of the building are large brick pilasters that extend above the roofline of the building. At the top of each pilaster, in the center, is a T-shaped concrete block with an incised serrated design running down the center flanked on each side by an incised cane shape. The top of the pilaster is capped by an area of concrete with an incised serrated design like that on top of the central parapet.

Towards the top of the barrel vaulted roof is a long clerestory with a very shallow shed roof. The entire length of the clerestory has two rows of panes of glass. Although all of the panes are visible on the interior of the building, only two ten-pane sections, one towards each end, are visible on the exterior.

North Facade

The north façade of the building is divided into seven bays by brick pilasters with sloped concrete caps. The pilasters towards the center of the façade are taller than those towards the ends, which mimics the parabolic top of the façade. The top of the façade is capped with concrete.

The center three bays of the façade have windows towards the top of the façade that are comprised of eighty-one glass blocks. The brickwork below the windows is done in a stack bond as opposed to running bond used for the brickwork on the rest of the building. Also, each window has a row of soldier bricks for the lintel. In addition, the center bay has an eight-pane window with a concrete sill and a row of soldier bricks for the lintel. It is located above the glass block window. Although it is covered up on the exterior it is visible on the interior of the building.

The two end bays of the façade each have a casement window towards the bottom of the wall with a concrete sill and a row of soldier bricks for the lintel. Each sash in the window has six panes of glass. Above those are the former locations of windows that also have concrete sills and a row of soldier bricks for the lintels.

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	_

Union	County,	Arkansas
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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	3	

Although the pane arrangement is unknown, they are similar in size to the lower windows on the east and west façades.

At each end of the façade, the large pilasters from the main façades wrap around. Like the pilasters on the north and south façades, at the top of each pilaster, in the center, is a T-shaped concrete block with an incised serrated design running down the center flanked on each side by an incised cane shape. The top of the pilaster is capped by a row of concrete blocks with an incised serrated design like those on top of the central parapet.

East Façade

The east façade is identical to the west façade.

South Facade

The south façade is identical to the north façade.

Interior

According to the architect, Mr. John B. Abbott, the El Dorado High School Gym was the first structure in the state of Arkansas to use laminated wood arched beams. The five, three-hinged arches, sixteen feet apart, span the inner roofline and represent a unique design. An advertisement for McKeown Brothers Company in Chicago indicates that the arches have a 100-foot span. The arches are hinged once in the middle and once on each side and bolted, and provide both horizontal and vertical support. According to Mr. Abbott, the building has deep footings with extra doglegs in order to support the extreme weight of the bleachers, which are formed from solid concrete.

The hinged arches were constructed of selected structural fir and of glued, laminated construction, stained with Pittsburgh dark oak and varnished with a clear varnish. The gym floor was constructed of Grade Northern hard maple in accordance with grading rules of the Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association. The floors, built with two-by-fours anchored to concrete and covered with sub flooring, feature solid maple finished flooring. To facilitate air circulation under the floor, vents were constructed at the base of the bleachers. The bleachers also form the primary anchor for the structure. Four basement quadrants were built for use as basketball showers and dressing rooms.

Integrity

Although there have been some minor alterations, the Gym has retained its original façade over the years, both in the interior and exterior. Some of the original features have been removed or covered up, but for the most part, it appears today much as it did at the time of the grand opening in 1940. Exterior alterations include the installation of heating and air conditioning systems at an unknown date. In addition, there have

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Jama of Property	

Union County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	4	

been alterations to the interior of the building. In order to upgrade the mechanical systems windows that have been closed to assist with heating and cooling costs and conduits surface-mounted on the concrete walls. Also, vents, which originally provided circulation at the base of the bleachers, have been covered. Cosmetic modifications to the interior include painting white the original varnished and stained wood laminated ceiling beams and ceiling, painting the walls, adding fluorescent lights, and modernizing the goals and scoreboard. The dates of interior alterations are unknown. Although there have been alterations to the building, the majority of them have been minor. As a result, the Gym is still able to convey many of the qualities that it had when it was first built.

El Dorado Junior College Building – Additional Documentation	Union County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) Local
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Education Politics/Government
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1900-1952
□ 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.)	Significant Dates 1940
Property is: A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A
 C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance. D a cemetery. 	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked) N/A
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder Abbott, John B., Architect Works Progress Administration, Builder
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of	or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register Previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey recorded by Historic American Engineering	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University (South Arkansas Community College) Other Name of repository:

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	

Union County, Arkansas	
County and State	

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	1
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RATIONALE

The El Dorado Junior College Building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1978. At the time, the associated Gymnasium, which was built in 1940 by the WPA, was not yet 50 years old, and was ineligible for listing as a contributing resource. The El Dorado Junior College Building was listed in the National Register under Criteria A and C, with local significance in the areas of Architecture, and Education with a 1900-1938 period of significance.

Due to the passage of time, the El Dorado High School Gym is now over 50 years old and contributes to the significance of the El Dorado Junior College complex. As a result, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program seeks to amend the nomination to include the Gym, add the area of significance Politics/Government for its associations with the work of the WPA under the New Deal, and to change the period of significance to 1900-1952.

SUMMARY

The El Dorado High School Gym is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of the Art Deco style of architecture. In addition, it is the largest extant example of Art Deco architecture in downtown El Dorado, and possibly the only building in El Dorado built by the WPA. The El Dorado High School Gym is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion** A for its associations with the activities of the WPA under the New Deal, and for its associations with education in El Dorado.

ELABORATION

The city of El Dorado is rich in history and culture. The revitalized downtown illustrates the community's interest in historic preservation and redevelopment. The renovation of the El Dorado area has primarily built upon the "boom town" days of the 1920's, when the discovery of crude oil altered South Arkansas forever. The West Campus of South Arkansas Community College, an historical site for educational institutions in El Dorado, is located just five blocks from the elegant town square. With the 1905 El Dorado Junior College Building, which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 13, 1978 (also known as the SouthArk Administration Building), now refurbished, school officials are focusing attention on the El Dorado High School Gym as a means of restoring the other significant piece of history that is located on campus.

The El Dorado High School Gym is located on the former Newton Estate, and has served as an educational sports facility since it was built. The Newton Estate is a site that has been used for public education since 1858. This property was purchased by Albert Rust on January 5, 1858 for \$3,000 and a \$520.83 mortgage on a slave girl named Alcey, age 17. On May 7, 1858, Rust sold five acres to the Trustees of the El Dorado

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	_

Union County, Arkansas

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	2	
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Female Institute for \$250. The land carried a stipulation that it be used for a Female Academy. This Academy was started by Reverend Lacy, a local Presbyterian minister and his wife, who was the first instructor. Reverend Lacy was succeeded in his posts as a theologian and educator by Reverend A.R. Bank, who with his wife had been running academies for males and females in Minden, Louisiana. During the Civil War the structure of the Female Institute, a two story, eight room, frame structure with a long assembly hall in the rear of the building, was used as a hospital for Confederate soldiers and a monument has been raised on the eastern boundary by the daughters of the Confederacy. On October 12, 1895, the El Dorado Special School District #15 was formed from Common School District #13.

In June of 1896, the first class graduated from the El Dorado High School. The growing number of students required more and better education facilities. As early as June 20, 1903, the school board agreed to finance construction of a new structure to be used as an all white public school. In June 1909, the Ouachita Presbyterian Coeducation College made arrangements to use some of the building space for a proposed college. It took eleven more years, until 1925, for the El Dorado Junior College to be founded. The Junior College building was used as part of the High School plant until 1964 when a new High School was constructed in another section of town. The building continued to be used as a junior high school until the 1970's when the Junior High School was moved. Presently, this structure functions as the Administration Building for South Arkansas Community College.

The El Dorado High School Gymnasium was constructed by the WPA in 1940. The architect who designed the building, Mr. John B. Abbott, still resides in El Dorado today. Mr. Abbott was an independent architect when the WPA program was initiated. Today, nearing the age of 90, he remains active in his retirement, and serves with distinction on the College's Restoration Committee.

Work began in 1939, and the WPA project construction lasted nine months. The original sponsor for the project was the El Dorado School District. Unskilled laborers were recruited to perform the work and were paid between 30 and 50 cents per hour. There was little interest in acquiring mechanical assistance because the purpose of the program was to provide work to as many individuals as possible. The bricks were manufactured by the Acme Brick Company in Malvern, Arkansas. The total cost of the construction was \$48,241. Of special note in the construction design are the five, three-hinged arches visible inside the gym. The arches are hinged once in the middle and once on each end. Their unique construction, made with laminated wood, span the inner roofline to form the primary support for the ceiling. Mr. Abbott has reported that this gym was the first structure in Arkansas to use laminated wood arches in the design of the building. So impressive were these laminated beams that the McKeown Brothers Company in Chicago featured a photo of the gym in one of their advertisements/sales catalogs of the day.

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	

Union County, Arkansas

Name of Property

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	3	
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When the facility opened in 1940, citizens who recall the event note that the gym soon became the hub of activity, serving as the host facility for not only education-related sporting competitions, but also for such visitors as Goose Tatum and the Harlem Globetrotters. For the most of its years of existence, the gym has been home to local sports teams at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

In 1975, Southern Arkansas University (formerly Southern State College) purchased the property and established Southern Arkansas University-El Dorado Branch the following year. In 1991, South Arkansas Community College was created as a result of the merging of the Branch and the independent Oil Belt Vocational-Technical School in El Dorado.

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	

Union	County,	Arkansas
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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page	1
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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Abbott, John B. Interview with Dr. Kathy Matlock-President, Andrea Tantillo-SouthArk Public Information Officer, and Cynthia Reyna Baston-Assistant to the President. South Arkansas Community College, March 15, 2002.

Correspondence and archival information from Mr. John B. Abbott, architect of the Gym.

Warranty Deed dated May 7, 1858, Title Guaranty and Security Abstract Company, El Dorado, Arkansas.

El Dorado Junior College Building –		ion County, Arkansas		
Additional Documentation	County and State			
Name of Property	Cou	my and State		
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Less than one.				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 15 531150 3674364 Zone Easting Northing	3	Zone Easting Northing See continuation sheet		
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register/Survey Coordinator Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street	D	ate October 1, 2002 one (501) 324-9787		
city or town Little Rock	state AR	zip code		
city or town Little Rock Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Additional Documentation				
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's l	state AR	zip code <u>72201</u>		
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps	state AR	zip code <u>72201</u>		
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's last the A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large actions.	state AR	zip code <u>72201</u>		
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's last the A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large act Photographs	state AR	zip code <u>72201</u>		
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's last the A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large act Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.) Property Owner	state AR	zip code <u>72201</u>		
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's last the A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large act Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)	state AR	zip code <u>72201</u>		
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form: Continuation Sheets Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's last the A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large act Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property. Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.) Property Owner	state AR	zip code 72201 erous resources. telephone 870 862-8131		

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

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

El Dorado Junior College Building –	
Additional Documentation	
Name of Property	

Union	County,	Arkansas	

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	10	Page	1	
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Verbal Boundary Description

From a point on the south side of Block Street 165 feet west of the intersection with South West Avenue, proceed southerly 250 feet, then proceed westerly 125 feet, then proceed northerly 250 feet, then proceed easterly 125 feet along Block Street to the point of beginning, all located within Block 17, Lot 2 within the City of El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the entire parcel of land historically associated with the El Dorado Junior College Building and the associated El Dorado High School Gym.

El Dorado High School Gym Union County, Arkansas Return Comments Sarah Pope, Historian

The National Register is returning the El Dorado High School Gym nomination. From the documentation presented, it appears doubtful that the gymnasium is individually eligible. Rather, the National Register suggests that the SHPO amend the El Dorado Junior College Building nomination (listed in 1978) to expand the boundaries and areas and periods of significance to include this immediately adjacent gym. At the time the Junior College Building was listed, the Gym was not yet 50 years old and perhaps this is the reason it was not included within the boundaries of the Junior College Building. Another issue regarding the individual listing of the El Dorado High School Gym is the fact that the architect, Mr. John B. Abbott, is still a practicing architect. As a policy, the National Register does not individually list buildings by architects who are still in active practice.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION			
PROPERTY El Dorado Junior College Building NAME:			
MULTIPLE NAME:			
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Union Couny			
DATE RECEIVED: 10/17/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/01/02 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:			
REFERENCE NUMBER: 78000633			
NOMINATOR: STATE			
REASONS FOR REVIEW:			
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: Y PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N			
COMMENT WAIVER:N			
ACCEPTRETURNREJECT 11 26 02 DATE			
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:			
This additional documentation adds the & Dordelo High Show			
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: This additional documentation addr the El Dorado High Show upon ar a contributively resource to to the prevously-listed inner College Prinding.			
umor College Frilding.			
RECOM./CRITERIA_A,C			
REVIEWER Pope DISCIPLINE Historian			
TELEPHONE 202 354-2027 DATE 11/10/00			
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N			



El Dorado Junior College Building - Additional Documentation

Union County, AR

Ralph S. Wilcox

April 2002

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR Interior view.



El Dorado Junior College Building - Additional Documentation
Union County, AR
Ralph S. Wilcox
April 2002

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR Interior view



El Dorado Junior Collège Building - Additional Documentation
Union County, AR
Ralph S. Wilcox
April 2002

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR Cornerstone detail



El Dorado Junior Collège Building - Additional Documentation Union County, AR Ralph S. Wilcox April 2002 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR

Corner detail at northwest corner



EI. Dorado Junior College Building - Additional Documentation Union County, AR Ralph S. Wilcox April 2002 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR North and west facades looking southeast



El Dorado Junior Collège Building - Additional Documentation Union County, AR Ralph S. Wilcox April 2002 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR North Facade looking south 



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

> 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)324-9880 fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org

website: www.arkansaspreservation.org October 1, 2002

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Suite 400
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20002

RE: El Dorado Junior College Building – Additional Documentation – El Dorado, Union County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced revised nomination. It has been revised per Sarah Pope's September 19, 2002, comments. 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 consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews

State Historic Preservation Officer

Carni Travely

CM:rsw

Enclosure

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The Department of Arkansas Heritage

October 14, 2002



Mike Huckabee, Governor Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

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

RE:

El Dorado Junior College Building – Additional Documentation – El Dorado, Union County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing the map and photographs for the above-referenced nomination. The revised nomination that these should accompany was sent to your office on October 1, 2002. 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 consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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

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Cathie Matthews

State Historic Preservation Officer

Cathe Matehus

CM:rsw

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