NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990) OMB No. 10024-0018

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.

4 N 6D		
1. Name of Property		
historic name Immanuel High School, A		
other names/site number Immanuel Inc	dustrial Institute, Immanuel Vocational Institute	
2. Location		
z. Location		
street & number 68 Immanuel Road	not fo	or publication
city or town Almyra		vicinity
state Arkansas code A	AR county Arkansas code 001 zip cod	le <u>72003</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
request for determination of eligibility meets the de Places and meets the procedural and professional r	storic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this in nomination coumentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Histor requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property immediate meets commend that this property be considered significant intinuation sheet for additional comments.)	ric]
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
Arkansas Historic Preservation Progr	ram	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does n comments.)	ot meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet		
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register. ☐ removed from the National		
Register. Other, (explain:)		

Immanuel High School Name of Property		Arkansas County, Arkansas County and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)		
□ private□ public-local□ public-State□ public-Federal	□ building(s)□ district□ site□ structure□ object	Contributing Noncontributing 1	buildings sites structures objects	
Name of related multiple property is not part of	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previously in the National Register	_ Total listed	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) EDUCATION/School		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions) VACANT/NOT IN USE		
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) Late 19 th and 20 th Century Ar Movements/Craftsman		Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation Concrete blocks walls Asbestos roof Asphalt shingles		
		other		

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

Immanuel High School	Arkansas 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
	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Education
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Ethnic Heritage/ Black
☐ 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 Circa 1945-1957
☐ 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 Circa 1945-1957
Property is: A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Pargen (C. 14 10 Civ. P. 14 10
☐ B . removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
 □ C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance. □ D a cemetery. 	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	S. E. Ryan, 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 or	r more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS): preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested previously listed in the National Register Previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Primary location of additional data: ☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State Agency ☐ Federal Agency ☐ Local Government ☐ University ☐ Other Name of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

Immanuel High School	Arkansas County, Arkansas			nsas
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10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property less than one				
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
1 15 654242 3807762 Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	4	Zone	Lasting	rtorumg
		\Box s	ee continuation sh	eet
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 Gracie M. Morgan organization Citizens For Immanuel		date	September 1' 870-946-36	
street & number 14 Providence Lane city or town Almyra	state AI		zip code	72003
city or town Almyra				
city or town Almyra Additional Documentation				
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:				
city or town Almyra Additional Documentation				
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

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

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SUMMARY

The Immanuel High School building is located in rural Arkansas County on Immanuel Road approximately ½ mile east of Highway 33. The one-story building is covered by white asbestos siding and rests on concrete blocks. Asphalt shingles covers the cross-gabled roof. Banks of windows are located around the building. A former teacher stated the school was built in the late 1940s. A photograph of the building is in the 1954 Zebra yearbook.

ELAORATION

The Immanuel High School building has a rectangular U shape and is located in rural Almyra, Arkansas, in the Immanuel Community. The Immanuel Community Center is located west of the Immanuel High School building. There are six classrooms—three on each side. The building is centered by a small front porch that leads into a foyer, which is directly in front of the school office. The building is one story tall and rests on large concrete blocks. The walls of the building are wood covered by white asbestos siding. Large banks of windows are located around the building. The roof is cross-gabled and is covered by asphalt shingles.

South/Front Façade

The south side of the building can be divided into five parts. The central area consists of a foyer, two long classrooms to the east and west, and the front view of the classrooms to the far east and west. The center portion, which is the only entrance into the front of the building, is a small covered porch with front gable roof supported by two square wood poles. A small wood rectangular louver that provides ventilation to the attic is centered in the front gable. Concrete steps lead up to the porch level directly in the center of the porch. The entry once consisted of two wood doors: each had three glass vertical windows at the top. The doors are now in a dilapidated condition. One of the doors is lying on the porch and the other is lying inside the building. Directly to the left and right of the doors is a small span of wall that leads to five six-over-six double-hung wood windows. These windows are located on side-gabled walls and give light to the classroom. All the original windows are still in place. Only a few are in good condition. The far southeast and southwest ends of the front façade, which is front-gable, has five six-over-six double-hung wood windows. A rectangular louver for ventilation is located near the top center of the front-gable. These windows provide light to the end classrooms.

East/Side Facade

The east side of the building encompasses two classrooms. From the south edge going north there are no windows. On the north end of the wall is a set of four six-over-six double-hung windows. These windows provide light for the northeast classroom.

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North/Back

The back of the building is shaped similar to a square U. In its current condition, there is little sign of a long covered porch that ran the entire length of the central façade of the back of the building. The east and west back classrooms extend out from the central façade to the north.

North/West End/Back Façade

There are no windows on the back wall. This is a front-gabled wall with a wood rectangular louver at the top center.

North/West End/East façade

At the north end, there is a small span of wall that leads to a set of five six-over-six double-hung windows that provide light to the northwest classroom. To the south of the windows is a span of wall that leads to a wood door in the corner. The back porch leads into this door.

North/Center Façade

Starting at the west end of the wall, a door is located in the corner. There is a small span of wall leading to two six-over-six double hung windows that provide light to the first classroom to the west. Next is a span of wall that leads to a replacement wood door with an upper window. Next there is a span of wall that leads to two six-over-six double-hung windows. There is another span of wall that leads to a door in the corner.

North/East End/ West Façade

At the south end is a door located in the corner. Then a small span of wall leads to a set of five six-over-six double-hung windows and it is completed by a small span of wall. These windows provide light for the northeast classroom.

North/East End/ Back Façade

This is a front gabled roof with no windows on the wall. A small rectangular wood louver is located centrally on the upper wall.

West/Side Facade

Starting at the north end is a span of wall that leads to five six-over-six double-hung windows that provide light to the northeast classroom. The south end of this wall contains no windows but has a small metal water fountain attached to the wall.

Interior

As one enters the center front double doors, there is a small foyer with wood doors on the left and right that lead to classrooms. A glass display case still hangs on the upper east wall of the foyer. Directly in front is a large glass window and wood door to the left of the window, which leads to the principal's office. As one enters the office, there is a gate that is attached to the west wall. A large wood counter starts at the gate and is connected to the east wall. In the center of the north wall is a door that leads to the back porch. There are built-in shelves in the south and east walls.

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From the foyer going left, one enters a classroom. The blackboards are still attached to the east wall. The west wall has a chimney flue located in the center of the wall. On the west end is a wood door that leads to another classroom. On the south side are the five windows. The north side has two windows and a door leading to the outside porch.

The west classroom appears as one long room. During the school years, this was the science classroom and the lab, which was divided by a half wall. The wall was removed during the Christian school era. A blackboard is located on the east wall. A brick chimney is located in the center of the wall. A door leading to the outside is located on the east wall of the lab.

From the foyer to the right, there is another classroom. The south wall features windows. In the corner where the west and north walls meet, a small indoor toilet was added. The north wall has two windows and door in the east corner, which leads to the porch. The east wall holds the blackboard and a brick chimney. The wood door on the south corner of the east wall leads to a classroom. This classroom has windows on the south side, and a blackboard on the east side. The door on the north wall in the west corner leads to the library.

As one enters the library, directly on the left is a wood door that leads outside to the long porch. The west and east walls both have windows. The north and south walls are bare.

INTEGRITY

The building retains most of its original design and materials. However its integrity is being compromised due to lack of care. The entire back porch has fallen in and was removed. The roof is leaking and many window panes are missing. A few of the rooms have perfect hardwood floors, but a couple of rooms have holes in the floor. The ceiling is falling where the roof leaks and the doors are either off or falling off their hinges. Nothing other than a small indoor toilet has been added since the construction of the building. The landscape surrounding the building is still natural.

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SUMMARY

Immanuel High School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the education of African Americans in Almyra and Arkansas County. The Immanuel High School building is one of two buildings left standing on property that was purchased by African Americans for the sole purpose of educating their children during an era when all odds were against them. The history of this school spans a time of approximately 85 years.

ELAORATION

On September 23, 1862, President Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation. All slaves were freed; thus, they began their journey of a new life. Many thought they would now live as their white slave owners, but that thought would soon come to pass. Their lives had become even harder.

A Freedman's Bureau was set up in towns to look after the former slaves. They were provided food, medicine, and lessons on how to be free and independent. In 1868, Powell Clayton was elected governor of Arkansas. The news spread throughout the country that he was a fair man and he advocated prosperity for all men. The land in Arkansas was cheap; therefore, freedmen from North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and few from other states moved their families to Arkansas. They had hopes of owning property and anticipated a brighter future.

Settlements began to pop up all over Arkansas County and within these settlements churches were organized. The education of the freedman's children began in these churches. A few of the churches that doubled as schools and later became school districts were St. Olive, Wofford Chapel, Poplar Creek, New Hope and Hills Chapel.

In 1880, fifteen churches in Arkansas County united to form the White River District Association of Baptist Churches. The organizing churches and their pastors were: New Hope (Ethel) – Rev. W.S. Payne, St. John (Ethel) – Rev. M.S. Butler, Hopewell (St.Charles) – Unknown, St. Olive (Rural DeWitt) – Rev. James Phillips, Poplar Creek (Crockett Bluff) – Rev. M.H. Stigger, Wofford Chapel (Casscoe) – Rev. P.A. Garrison, Mt. Pisgah (Rural Stuttgart) – Rev. George Humphrey, Liberty (Lookout) – Rev. Joe Hubbard, St. Paul (Unknown), First Baptist (Stuttgart) – Rev. J.A. Keeble & Second Baptist (Stuttgart) – Rev. S.W. Taylor, First Baptist (DeWitt) – unknown, Love Rest (Arkansas Post) – Rev. Jesse Riley, Mt. Calvary (Gillett) – Rev. J.E. Bass, and Lone Star (Tichnor)- Rev. David Redmond. The first association meeting was held at St. Olive Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. W.S. Payne was elected moderator, Professor Arthur Ferguson, secretary, and Professor W.A. Johnson was elected treasurer. Each church selected a trustee and they were: Charley Ryan, Frank Dodson, C.C. Butler, Willis Hearne, Joshua Phillips, Hampton Clemmons, Bennett Dunn, Will Montgomery, Raphael Hancock, Charley Flowers, Henry Simmons, Cornelius Echols, Harry Brown, and Richard Bass. These trustees were given the task of locating a central location for the purpose of a colored school.

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It was twenty years before the dream became a reality. In February of 1904, having saved the negotiated amount of \$200.00, trustees of the district purchased 40 acres from local merchants, Moses Katz and his wife. These acres encompassed "the southeast quarter of the southwest quarter of Sec 27 T3S R3W." The property was mostly timber, and it required several years to clear the land, sell enough timber and began a building program. The record states that the first building was completed around 1910. It is highly possible that it was completed earlier because Providence Church was organized in the first building. The Arkansas County courthouse in DeWitt, first deed record for Providence was recorded on the 9th of September, 1908 at the courthouse. This record can be found in Book 12, page 115. Nevertheless, the first structure for Immanuel Industrial Institute was a two-story wood frame building. The lower level consisted of classrooms, chapel, dining room and a kitchen. The upstairs was a dormitory for the women, teachers, and female students. The second building was a four-room cottage used to house the men and boys.

Immanuel Industrial Institute student population reached as many as one hundred students during its first decade of existence. Some of the surrounding communities transported students by horse and wagons and others on the back of trucks. Many of the students walked to school. The students that lived in the dormitory were able to pay for their schooling by working on the farms. The two main industries of the school were a broom factory and a blacksmith shop. The curriculum included blacksmithing, carpentry, broom-making, painting, upholstery, art, music and the humanities.

It was during this era that the Immanuel Home Improvement Association was organized to develop the town of Immanuel. A town site was surveyed by Logan Fitzhugh in August of 1912 and recorded on April 26, 1913. Families were asked to purchase lots in the town to support the growth of Immanuel. Many families honored that request and purchased lots, but never built homes on them. The town was never organized, but a large community did exist.

The school continued as a missionary outreach of the churches of White River District Association until the early 1920s when all of Arkansas County was plunged into economic chaos by the low market prices for farm produce. The agriculturally supported school was forced to close. The leaders of the community refused to let the dream die. They sought funds to reopen Immanuel. The first step was to change Immanuel School from a private to a public facility. In 1923, P.A. Garrison, N.A. Johnson and S.E. Ryan, legal trustees, deeded two acres of the forty for a colored public school site on which a Rosenwald building was to be erected in connection with the school work of Immanuel Industrial Institute. The transition was completed in February 1924 when the petition was approved by the county courts, creating the colored school district number 70. The directors of the new district were P.A. Garrison, J.S. Clemmons, and R.H. Ryan. Arkansas County's third Rosenwald School was built and the original two-story building was converted to a one-story building. The building process was completed by 1927 under the supervision of county Superintendent J.M. Henderson. By 1929, the enrolment was up to 124 students in grades one to eight.

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The Great Depression had a major effect on Immanuel. The minutes of the White River District Association indicates early closure of the school for lack of funds in the 1930s and the beginning of the 1940s. The records in the county school supervisor's office tell that in 1931, Immanuel Institute has a 120-day term for the first nine grades with 136 pupils. In 1936, four teachers taught grades 1 -9 at Immanuel and St. Olive (both District no. 70) to an average daily attendance of 106 pupils for 140 days. It was during this era that transporting students by bus was started.

The first application for vocational, agriculture, and home economics programs for an African American school in Arkansas was made by O.B. Elders, Sr. as principal of Immanuel. To implement the program the patrons of district no. 70 voted a six mill building tax in February of 1941. In March, they pledged as collateral to the State Commissioner of Education two acres of Immanuel campus to secure loan of \$600.00 to construct the required buildings. Ed O'Neal, a local landowner in the Immanuel community, was given the contract to build a shop and home economics building under the supervision of the National Youth Association. The name of the school changed from Immanuel Industrial Institute to Immanuel Vocational Institute. In 1944, the total enrollment was 164 pupils – 116 in grades 1 – 8 and 49 in grades 9 – 12. By 1947 enrollment had dropped to 95 pupils in grades 1 – 8 and 42 in High School.

Improvements in the curriculum were noted in a strong home economics and agriculture program. Physical education and other sports activities were added to the curriculum. Business and social sciences were added also. Student activities and organizations included student council, F.T.A., Science Club, National Homemakers of America, National Honor Society, Business Club, Social Science Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Tri-Hi-Y, Hi-Y, Math Club, Drama Club, Choir, Debate Team, Pep Team and Varsity Club.

In December of 1947, the Arkansas county court dissolved school district No. 61 and No. 72 and annexed their territory to Immanuel as of March 17, 1948. The school operated 59 days in 1948 – 49 with a total enrollment of 357 students. According to Mrs. America Jones, retired Home Economics teacher, it was during this era that Immanuel High School building was constructed. Mrs. Jones hired in 1944 remembers how muddy it was in front of the building during its construction.

In July of 1949, the Commissioner of Education of the State of Arkansas filed a release deed at DeWitt to Immanuel School District No 70 for the two-acre campus site as indebtedness paid in full. This early repayment paved the way for the formation of Arkansas County School District No. 73 to be headquartered on the Immanuel Campus. In 1950 –51, Arkansas County School District employed fourteen teachers and the total enrollment was 506 students. By 1954 – 55, lookout was being maintained for 51 students in grade 1–6 with two teachers. Immanuel had 12 teachers and a total enrollment of 289 students. In 1965, Immanuel operated nine months with 17 teachers serving 390 students – 115 in grades 1 – 6 and 275 in grades 7–12.

During the years of Immanuel, the P.T.A. was a major supporter of the school. They met monthly in the high School building and sponsored fundraiser to purchase basketball suits, books for the library and sidewalks for the school campus. Each community sponsored events such as a pie supper, ice cream

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suppers, and raffles. Their monthly dues range from \$.10 to \$.50 per month. The secretary recorded the names of those that contributed to the fundraiser and their given amount.

In 1966, a law was passed prohibiting school districts from transporting students over boundary lines. Arkansas School district No. 73 did not have enough students to support a senior high school. Records of the Arkansas County Court of May 1966 tell of the dissolution of District No. 73. The Immanuel Vocational Institute, Almyra, Arkansas was closed.

The administrated heads of the Immanuel School from opening until closing were: P.A. Garrison, H. Drier, D.B. Marshall, C.C. Butler, Miles Butler, Henry Wright, J. Kent, L.R. McNeil, J.H. Bankhead, O.B. Elders, Sr., Brooks Williams, Jesse Mason, L.G. Standfield, Elijah Coleman, A. Tate, L. Harris, Marie Fowler, J.S. Clemmons, E.E. Bogan, Mrs. M.C. Arrant, F.W. Smith, P.C. Faison, Timothy Young, Clyde O'Neal, Johnnie Phillips.

In the years to follow, Immanuel High School, was used a meeting facility for boy scouts, 4-H, and other community organization. In 1978, the building was reopened to house Immanuel Christian School under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Phillips and his wife Pauline. The Christian school closed in 1989, but the building was used up until the mid 1990s for summer camps and the Sunshine Home Economist Club. The building is currently unoccupied and deteriorating.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Immanuel High School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the education of African Americans in Almyra and Arkansas County. The Immanuel High School building is one of two buildings left standing on property that was purchased by African Americans for the sole purpose of educating their children during an era when all odds were against them. The history of this school spans a time of approximately 85 years.

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Verbal Boundary Description

From the intersection of Highway 33 and Immanuel Road, proceed east for fifty feet to the initial point. From this point proceed north, east, south and west for twenty-five feet back to the initial point.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include all of the land historically associated with the Immanuel High School.