

NR LISTED

SEP 27 1996

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Mo-Ark Baptist Academy

Other Name/Site Number: Armo Baptist Academy / CR 1043

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2. Location

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Street & Number: S. of Park Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Blue Eye

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Carroll Code: AR 015 Zip Code: 65611

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Mo-Ark Baptist Academy
Name of Property

Carroll Co., Arkansas
County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater _____ 8-8-96
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Mo-Ark Baptist Academy
Name of Property

County and State

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Education Sub: School

Current : Work in Progress Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation: concrete roof: asphalt
walls: brick other: wood, concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Constructed in 1918, the Mo-Ark Baptist Academy is a T-shaped, two-story brick educational building covered by a hipped roof. Located south of Park Street in Blue Eye, the building is currently owned by the town of Blue Eye, which is trying to restore the building for use as a community center.

Elaboration

Constructed in 1918, the Mo-Ark Baptist Academy is a T-shaped, two-story brick educational building with a full basement resting upon a continuous poured concrete foundation and covered by a composition-shingled, multiple hipped roof. There are four interior brick chimneys with a pair each located at a right angle to the other on the east and west elevations where the front section adjoins the T-projection. Although none of the original twelve-over-one and six-over-one, double-hung windows survive, much of the original wood window frames and sashes remain. All of the window openings feature concrete lintels and sills.

The front, or northern, elevation is entered through a recessed first floor entrance that is accessed by a substantial concrete stoop. Originally, the entrance consisted of double-leaf, half-glazed, six-pane wood doors capped by a multiple-pane transom. Due to deterioration and vandalism, the doors have

since been replaced by double-leaf steel doors, and the missing glass of the transom has been boarded over. A pair of six-over-one basement windows were located to either side of the steps, while the first and second stories of this elevation were each fenestrated with two groups of four twelve-over-one windows. The second story above the central entrance contains an additional pair of twelve-over-one windows.

The eastern and western elevations are identically arranged with a large recessed brick panel on either end of the front section and two groups of four twelve-over-one windows positioned on both stories of the T-section. Basement window openings are present for both the front sections and T-sections of the opposite elevations. The rear, or southern, elevation is likewise simple in composition. A raised single-leaf entrance that was originally flanked by sidelights and transom is positioned in the center of the elevation and is accessed by concrete steps ascending along the wall from the west. Underneath the concrete landing is a single-leaf wood door entrance to the basement that is accessed directly from the south. The second story contains a central paired window opening that originally housed two twelve-over-one windows.

The interior plan of the school consists essentially of a central hall extending the length of the building with two first-floor classrooms to either side. The second-story auditorium is accessed by two staircases at the rear of the building. The large open room contains a raised stage to the north and had an original seating capacity of 175. Interior details include much of the original hardwood flooring and plaster walls and an ornate, pressed-metal ceiling that partially survives in the first-story center hall and classrooms.

Located south of Park Street in Blue Eye, the Mo-Ark Baptist Academy is currently owned by the town of Blue Eye and, though structurally sound, is in deteriorated condition. Town leaders are in the process of restoring the building for use as a community center.

There are no outbuildings included within this nomination; however, the adjacent and intact Girls' Dormitory Building may be included in a future amendment.

Mo-Ark Baptist Academy
Name of Property

Carroll Co., Arkansas
County and State

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Education
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1916 - 1931

Significant Dates: 1916

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Mo-Ark Baptist Academy is being nominated under Criterion A with local significance for its association with the early efforts of the Baptist Mission Boards to provide education for Blue Eye and the surrounding rural communities in Arkansas and Missouri. Under Criterion C, the former academy is locally significant as the best example of an early twentieth century, two-story brick educational building in Blue Eye and northern Carroll County.

Elaboration

The first post office was established in present-day Blue Eye in 1870 with Elbert N. Butler, a dark-haired, blue-eyed veteran of the Civil War, as the first postmaster. The town acquired its name when one of Butler's friends suggested naming the post office, "Blue Eye" in honor of the postmaster. Although the town is divided almost evenly by the state line, the post office has always been located on the Missouri side, and mail, even to the mayor of Blue Eye, Arkansas, is always addressed to Blue Eye, Missouri.

In 1883, the Baptist Church was formally organized in Blue Eye, and from this religious body the Mo-Ark Baptist Academy originated. According to one history of the school, the New Pisgah Baptist Church (now the First Baptist Church) met with the Reverend L. A. Robinson in the summer of 1916, and a plan for a mountain mission school evolved. When Robinson returned home, he presented to the Home Mission Board of the Arkansas Baptist Convention a proposal to build a school in Blue Eye. The plan was accepted, and, with the cooperation of the community of Blue Eye, the Arkansas Baptist Convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention, the new Carroll County Institute was established. Once the school began to grow and attract students from outside the county, the name was changed to Montview Institute. When the Missouri Baptist Convention contributed financial support to the school, the school was rechristened Mo-Ark Baptist Academy. Still later yet, the school was renamed Armo Baptist Academy to better reflect the school's location in Blue Eye, Arkansas.

The 1929 "Armoka" yearbook for the academy details a slightly different version of the school founding and does not mention the first two names of the academy. The "History of Armo" passage relates that the Mission Board contributed \$4,500 for the new school with the remaining funds raised by the people of Blue Eye and the surrounding community. W. E. Butler donated ten acres of land for the campus, and a building committee composed of Butler, Jim Baughman, J. B. Rose, John Scott, and John Dodgen was formed. Work on the new two-story building was begun immediately in 1918 from bricks made on site. Classes were first held for eighteen students in the fall of 1918 in the Missionary Church as the new building was not yet completed. The new school was completed by the end of the year. At that time, Miss Lou Ella Austin was the principal of the high school department, while Miss Downs directed the primary education. Three students constituted the first senior class, which graduated in 1921.

Shortly after the school was completed, a seven room residence hall for boys was constructed. Later in 1920, the ten-room Girl's Dormitory was erected. This building is still extant and is located to the west of the academy. The Boys' Dormitory was reputedly moved to Missouri sometime after the school closed.

By 1931, the Mission Boards were unable to financially support the academy, and the last high school class graduated in that year. A new Blue Eye Consolidated School was built on the Missouri side the following year. The

Academy staff were relocated to another Baptist academy in Bolivar, Missouri. Although the Mo-Ark Baptist Academy was never used again for a high school, the Green Forest school district utilized the building for an elementary school until the 1950's. The former academy was then used as a community center until deterioration and vandalism caused the building to be abandoned in the mid 1970's. A new roof and windows were installed in 1982, but unfortunately the windows were subsequently destroyed by vandals. The town of Blue Eye is currently working to restore the building for use as a community center.

The Mo-Ark Baptist Academy is being nominated under Criterion A with local significance for its association with the early efforts of the Baptist Mission Boards to provide education for Blue Eye and the surrounding rural communities in Arkansas and Missouri. Under Criterion C, the former academy is locally significant as the best example of an early twentieth century, two-story brick educational building in Blue Eye and northern Carroll County.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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"Armoka" yearbook published by the Junior and Senior classes of the Armo Baptist Academy, Blue Eye, Missouri, 1929.

Information submitted by Anna Tharp, Mayor of Blue Eye, December 1995 including various newspaper articles not cited.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

Mo-Ark Baptist Academy
Name of Property

Carroll Co., Arkansas
County and State

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>464260</u>	<u>4039020</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the southern edge of the western terminus of Park Street, proceed due south along a line formed by, yet thirty feet from, the western elevation of the school to its intersection with a line formed by, yet thirty feet from, the southern elevation of the building; thence proceed due east along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet thirty feet from, the eastern elevation of the school; thence proceed due north along said line to its intersection with the southern edge of Park Street; thence proceed west along the southern edge of said street to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic school building and some of the property historically associated with this resource but excludes the adjacent former Girls' Dormitory.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

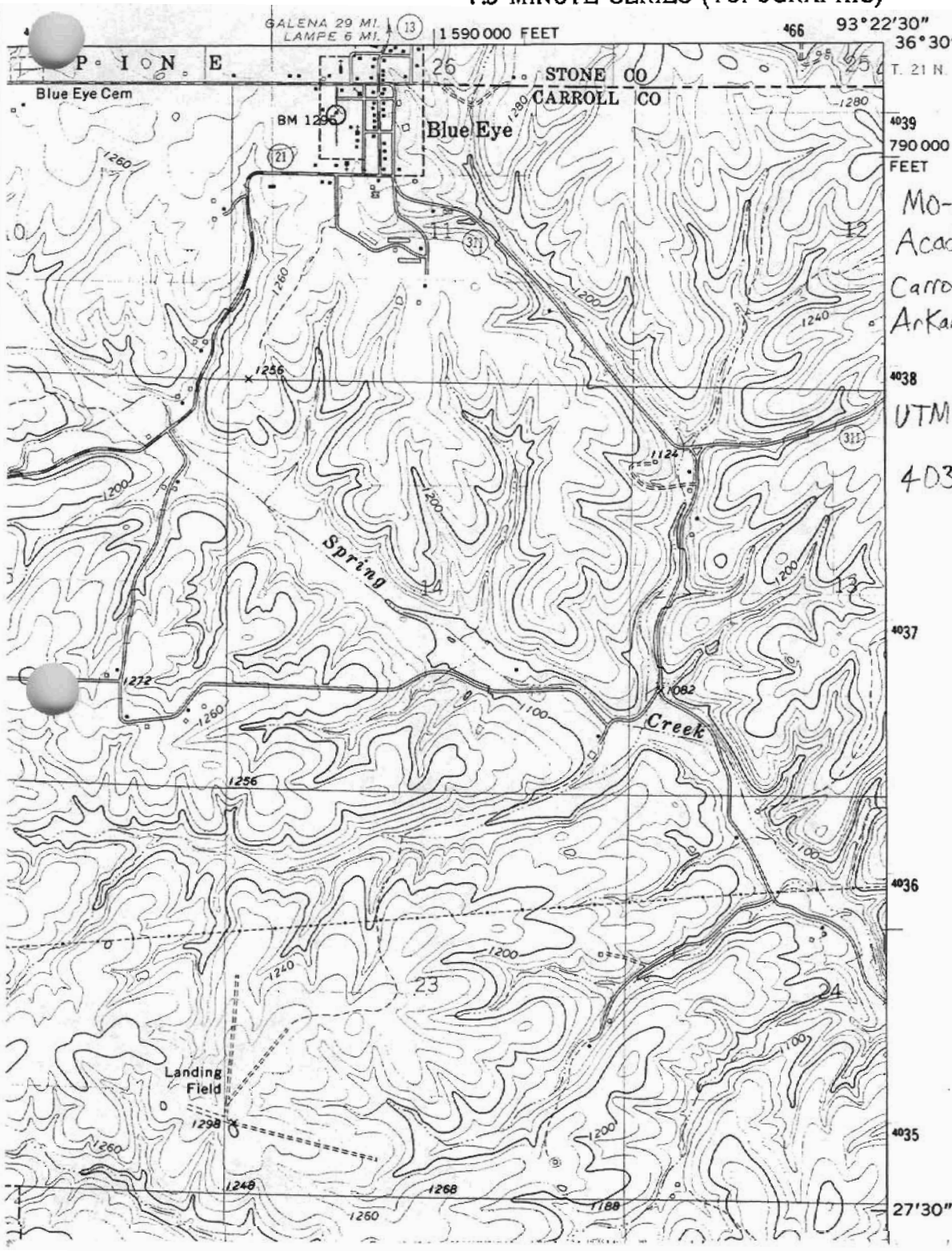
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 6, 1996

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

BLUE EYE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7387 III SE
(TABLE ROCK DAM)



Mo-Ark Baptist
Academy
Carroll Co.,
Arkansas

UTM: 15/964260/
4039020

