

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Voorhees School

Other names/site number: JO0067,

Name of related multiple property listing:

An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas, 1933-1943

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

2. Location

Street & number: 415 N. College Avenue

City or town: Clarksville State: Arkansas County: Johnson

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

<p style="font-size: 2em; text-align: center; margin: 0;"><i>[Signature]</i></p> <p>Signature of certifying official/Title: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; text-align: center; margin: 0;">7-31-18</p> <p>Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official: _____</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title : _____</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: education-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: education-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Voorhees School is currently occupied by the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Johnson County. The building is located at the intersection of North Johnson Street and Louise Street and sits along the western edge of the University of the Ozarks. The stone building consists of a main floor (1st Floor) with a finished basement. The school is set on a raised native stone foundation. The front of the building is dominated by two equally-spaced, recessed entrances with parapetted roof. The building is covered by a gablet roof (gable on hip). The building's windows are now extruded aluminum, three-over-three replacement windows.

This small, one-story, rectangular, native stone building was built between 1940 and 1941, by members of the National Youth Administration (NYA). This building has undergone a few modifications since it was opened in 1941, but those modifications do not take away from the significance of the building. The modifications include adding the replacement of the original front entrance doors and the windows.

Voorhees School

East Elevation

The front façade of Voorhees School faces east and is situated facing North Johnson Street. There are two, recessed, front entrances equally-spaced across the front of the building and they are accentuated by one-story flat, narrow parapets. The glass entry doors are surrounded by glass and set in aluminum framing. While the entranceways are flush with the rest of the elevation, the legs of the archways extend out from the elevation creating a recessed area. To access the main floor of the school from the southernmost recessed entranceway, a large group of concrete steps provides access to the raised entranceway, while the northernmost entranceway is located at ground level. Located to the right of the northernmost entrance, are two sets of three windows, with each window being three-over-three and double-hung. Located between the two recessed entranceways, are another two sets of three windows, with each window being three-over-three and double-hung. Located to the left of the southernmost entranceway, is another two sets of three windows, with each window being three-over-three and double-hung, before the front elevation is terminated at the corner.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

South Elevation

The South elevation lacks fenestration, except for a small vent located at the southeast corner of the elevation, an entranceway in to the basement area that is offset to the left of center and a small, three-over-three, double-hung window located to the left of the door. The door and the small window also have limestone or concrete sills and lintels located above and below the openings. There is no fenestration located on the first floor, main floor of the building. Located above the roof line is a centrally-located native stone chimney.

West Elevation

The basement floor of the school contains fenestration for the first three-fourths of the building before retreating below grade. Within this first three-fourths of the elevation there are ten, evenly-spaced, small three-over-three, double-hung windows with a concrete or limestone sill and lintel. The first floor, or main floor, contains two groups of three, three-over-three, double-hung windows starting at the southwest corner of the building. This grouping is followed by a single group of two, three-over-three, double-hung windows. This group is then followed by two groups of three, three-over-three, double-hung windows, then a single group of two, three-over-three, double-hung windows, followed by the final two groupings of three-over-three, double-hung windows.

North Elevation

The north elevation also lacks much fenestration, but does contain a large recessed area accentuated by the native stone arches and parapet found on the front elevation. The recessed space now contains a louvered vent. The legs of the arch extend out from the rest of the elevation, while the entranceway is flush with the rest of the elevation.

Interior

The interior of Voorhees School is broken up by a "U" shaped corridor with rooms aligning each wall. The interior finish on most of the main floor consists of natural wood finish with wainscoting on the lower portion of the wall and a natural finished shiplap cladding located above the wainscot. This natural wood finish is an original finish for the interior of the school. The basement is largely used for storage, though there are restrooms located on this floor. The interior cladding of the basement is partially clad in the native stone used to construct the building, while other portions contain shiplap cladding from floor to ceiling.

INTEGRITY

Voorhees School on the campus of the University of the Ozarks, in Clarksville, Arkansas, has undergone a few changes over its lifetime. Some changes that have occurred include the replacement of wood windows with aluminum three-over-three, double-hung windows, as well as replacing the original wooden doors with glass doors, sidelights, and transoms. A previous entrance on the north elevation seems to have been infilled and partially replaced with a louvered vent. In order to meet the criteria in the historic context *An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas, 1933-1943* it calls for the need to maintain original windows, but

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

if they were replaced that they be of original appearance and dimension. The windows are the original dimension, though the original pane arrangement was six-over-six, when it was constructed. It also still contains the original ribbon window pattern that is associated with this type of school and is called out in the historic context as being a significant feature.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Voorhees School

Name of Property

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Politics/Government

Education

Period of Significance

1941-1966

Significant Dates

1941

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

NYA, Builders

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

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

Voorhees School in Clarksville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its significance in the areas of Education and Politics/Government for the National Youth Administration's role in constructing the Voorhees School as part of the ongoing New Deal-era construction projects in Arkansas. Voorhees School was built in 1940-1941 to provide a practice teaching school building for ninth graders in the Clarksville School District, through the use by education majors at the College of the Ozarks. Though the Voorhees School was constructed in 1940-1941, the program of using education majors in a practice school environment to teach ninth grade students lasted only about a year and a half. With the outbreak of World War II, the building was taken over briefly by the United States Navy for their Elementary Electricity and Radio Materiel Training School (EE & RM) which was housed on the College of the Ozarks Campus.¹ Following the end of World War II the College regained control of the school building, but the practice school was no longer a viable option for the Clarksville School District or the College. Therefore, the College of the Ozarks used the school building for various education functions including the State of Arkansas's first College of Pharmacy. Voorhees School is also being nominated as part of the historic context *An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas, 1933-1943*, under the Educational Facilities property type.

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

The University of the Ozarks² was founded, incorporated, and opened its doors in September 1891, in Clarksville, Arkansas, under the sponsorship of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Prior to incorporating the new College, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church looked to the failing Cane Hill College in Cane Hill, Arkansas, as a starting point for their new endeavor. However, Cane Hill College, which was opened in April 1835, began in much the same way, with a vision associated with the teachings of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. It is after the founding of the college that the American Civil War and fires took their toll on the campus. Yet, it is with the chartering of the Arkansas Industrial University, or University of Arkansas, in 1871 that began the slow deterioration of the Cane Hill College. The struggling college continued on until 1891. It is during this time that "Cane Hill College [became] woefully short of financial assistance. Although support of the College by the Arkansas Synod of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was provided by the charter of 1852, Synod support was negligible at best and often non-existent."³

With all hope fading for any recovery at Cane Hill College, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church saw a

¹ For more information on the Elementary Electricity and Radio Materiel Training School (EE & RM) on the campus of the College of the Ozarks/University of the Ozarks, see the MacLean Hall National Register of Historic Places Nomination written by Travis Ratermann.

² The University of the Ozarks (1987-Current), College of the Ozarks (1920-1987), Arkansas Cumberland College (1891-1920). (College of the Ozarks, *The College of the Ozarks 150: a Sesquicentennial Commemorative* (Clarksville, Arkansas: College of the Ozarks, 1984, 1-7.)

³ *Ibid.*, 4-5.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

new avenue to continue an educational experience based on the church practices. It is stated that by 1887, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church “longed for a state college reflective of their beliefs and values and in 1887, appointed a committee to examine Cane Hill College”⁴ in order to explore the challenges Cane Hill faced in order to not repeat those circumstances. It is through this committee that the Arkansas Cumberland College emerged in 1891 due to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church Synod determining that a more central location would be best for a college institution.⁵ It is with this knowledge that Cane Hill College was left behind and a new Arkansas Cumberland College Campus was developed in Clarksville, under the same charter.

Over the next thirty years, the Arkansas Cumberland College campus continued to grow and prosper, moving from a single campus building, Cumberland Hall, to a campus that included Cumberland Hall, a library, and two dormitories. By 1906, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church reunited with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.⁶, thus inevitably helping the college establish a strong endowment for future use. The Campus added Grove Hall a female dormitory in 1917 but due to the reunification of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the PC USA branch of the Presbyterian Church a name change was again on the horizon since the Cumberland Presbyterians no longer controlled the campus, the name of the campus was changed to College of the Ozarks, paying homage to the region in which the campus was located.⁷

By the 1920s, the then College of the Ozarks was slowly beginning to grow, both institutionally and physically. Due to very strong and successful years academically in 1924-1925, the college was admitted to the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.⁸ The student population continued to grow throughout the 1920s and 1930s, as more academic majors were being added to the curriculum. By 1939, “students could major in social science, religious education, chemistry, geology, English, music, mathematics, speech arts, history, and foreign language, and could obtain a secondary teaching degree.”⁹ This secondary teaching degree would become the catalyst for the future use as a practice teaching school for the education majors.

National Youth Administration

By March 1939, the National Youth Administration (NYA) was aiding 125 boys and girls in Johnson County. The NYA during this time was “operating a broad program of work and training that [was] giving part-time employment to more than 13,500 boys and girls, both white and negro. Of that total, 7,500 are out-of-school youths employed on work projects ranging from the construction of public buildings to clerical training, and 6,000 are students working in their spare time on NYA jobs that spell the difference between their having to drop out of school and continuing their education.”¹⁰ By March 1939, the NYA had already spent \$29,449.08 on projects within Johnson County for the last free fiscal

⁴ *Ibid*, 6.

⁵ *Ibid*.

⁶ Also known as PC USA.

⁷ College of the Ozarks, 7-8.

⁸ Alumni Association of the College of the Ozarks, Inc., *Semi-Centennial Edition History Directory of The College of the Ozarks* (Clarksville, Arkansas: The Alumni Association of the College of the Ozarks, Inc., 1940), 28-29. Robson Library, University of the Ozarks.

⁹ *Ibid*, 8.

¹⁰ “NYA Aids 125 Boys and Girls in this County,” *Herald-Democrat*, March 2, 1939.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

years. Of that total, \$9,247.08 was for construction projects, while the remaining was used for students aid assistance. Previous construction projects for the last three years included construction a school of African-Americans in Clarksville, Improvements to the Armory in Clarksville, and the repair of school buildings across the entire county.¹¹ Another project that was already getting approved by early 1939 was the improvement of the Clarksville municipal playground that includes the addition of a softball field with lights, tennis courts, and a croquet court at a cost of \$3,500.¹²

Education and the New Deal in Clarksville

As was the case for the College of the Ozarks, the number of students within the Clarksville Consolidated School District was continuing to increase.¹³ By 1938, the Clarksville High School was hit with a major setback when their high school caught fire and burned in December 1938, requiring students to be taught at several different locations in order to finish the year. With the New Deal-era programs continuing to provide an essential need among the many communities throughout the United States and Arkansas, Clarksville was able to also take advantage of these New Deal construction programs to help finance and build a new high school building following the fire that destroyed their previous building. The City of Clarksville became the noted sponsor for a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project in 1938-1939, which would eventually become the Clarksville High School in 1940-1941, at a cost of roughly \$114,000¹⁴. However, by 1939 New Deal construction was really starting to escalate with NYA construction projects becoming more prevalent during this period. One of the first NYA construction projects was the improvement of Clarksville Municipal Playground. Part of the reason for the increased use of the NYA in and around Clarksville was that in August 1939, the NYA approved a resident unit with the City of Clarksville being the lead sponsor. The resident unit was to be located on the College of the Ozark Campus with the college "furnishing housing and board for enrollees under contract with the government."¹⁵ The enrollees would be housed in the college dorm and would take their meals from the college cafeteria.¹⁶ In the same article, discussing the approval of the resident unit, a short noted is added that the first construction project the unit would start would be for a practice teaching building for the Clarksville School District.¹⁷

By December 21, 1939, more information was beginning to surface regarding the practice teaching school when it was reported that the plans had been approved for the six-room, brick-veneered structure

¹¹ *Ibid.*

¹² "Work on City Playground Project Begins," *Herald-Democrat*, June 1, 1939, 1.

¹³ The school district's official designation has officially been changed, and it is now known as Clarksville Public Schools.

¹⁴ The Construction of the WPA built Clarksville High School building began in November 1939 and was said to cost \$80,000, the final total eventually reached \$114,000 ("Construction Has Good Year In Clarksville Area," *Herald-Democrat*, December 21, 1939, 1.; "School Buildings To Be Opened Late This Month," *Herald-Democrat*, October 10, 1940.)

¹⁵ "NYA Approves Resident Unit For Clarksville," *Herald-Democrat*, December 11, 1939, 1.

¹⁶ It is unknown what the arrangement was between the City of Clarksville, the NYA and the College of the Ozarks. It is also unknown if the Government was paying the College of the Ozarks for the use of dorms and meals, for if a deal was worked out between the three entities in order to cover cost. Consequently, the enrollees within the resident unit had to be high school graduates and eligible for college entrance. These student enrollees were also eligible to partake in six hours of school work in the fall semester and nine hours of school in the spring semester. (*Ibid.*)

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

to be built by the NYA.¹⁸ The enrollees, or trainees, began arriving at the residential unit that would eventually be tasked with constructing the practice teaching school. The superintendent in charge of the NYA practice teaching school in Clarksville, was Leonard Conley, the former school superintendent for Green Forest, Arkansas, while the construction engineer was set to be Captain John Buerkle. Captain Buerkle was in Clarksville as early as either January 1 or 8, 1940, to inspect possible locations for the practice teaching school.¹⁹ It was again reiterated that the school once built, would be used by one of the high school grades, eventually designated as the ninth grade, and be taught by senior education majors from the College of the Ozarks.²⁰

Following the announcement of the Superintendent and construction manager for the project, there is no discussion on the practice teaching school again until October 10, 1940, when an article states that the Clarksville School District is hopeful that both school building projects are opened by the end of the month.²¹ However, in between articles discussing the practice teaching school's construction, several more NYA projects were beginning to overrun the program and its enrollees as three more building projects for experimental vocational training and agricultural training were starting to outpace the school's construction.²² Still, the building finally reappeared in the local newspaper stating that construction was nearly finished. The article states that the building would/could be occupied once the interior is finished out which was speculated to be around October 21 or 28, 1940. It then goes on to state that the "framework for the stone-veneered building has been completed and the building will be occupied before the stone is applied."²³ It is at the beginning of 1941, that it is finally mentioned what the projected cost of the practice teaching school was estimated at \$10,000. This figured was shown when the Clarksville City Clerk reported on the amount of construction for the 1940 year.²⁴

One of the first uses for the practice teaching school happened before the building was even completed. As noted in an article from January 13, 1941, the NYA was planning on having a NYA Visitors Day on January 29, 1941²⁵, where the public would be able to come and visit NYA projects throughout Clarksville and Johnson County.²⁶ The NYA Visitors Day headquarters was to be located in the

¹⁸ Though the article states that the building would be brick veneered, but brick was never used in the construction of the building. The material change was probably due to the availability of natural stone in the area. ("Construction Has Good Year In Clarksville Area," *Herald-Democrat*, 21 December 1939, 1.)

¹⁹ "Resident Unit Of NYA Opens In Clarksville," *Herald-Democrat*, 7 January 1940, 1.

²⁰ At this time the practice teaching school was being designed and constructed, the senior education majors were under the direction of Frank E. McAnear, head of the education department on the campus. (*Ibid.*)

²¹ "School Buildings To Be Opened Late This Month," *Herald-Democrat*, 10 October 1940.

²² The small two building complex consisted of a stone shop building and an adjacent warehouse. The 60 x 100, framed shop building once built would eventually be clad in stone and consist of a metalcraft, machine and auto mechanics shop. The shop once up and functional would employ 50 to 75 boys. The auto mechanics shop would be used to provide maintenance for all NYA-owned cars and trucks. This was one of four such vocational training locations like this in the state of Arkansas. ("Clarksville Chosen as Site for NYA Shops," *Herald-Democrat*, 13 May 1940, 1.; "Work Begins in NYA District's New Shops," *Herald-Democrat*, 1 August 1940, 1.; "City Selected For Try-Out in Vocational Work," *Herald-Democrat*, 22 August 1940, 1.)

²³ "School Buildings To Be Occupied Late This Month," *Herald-Democrat*, 10 October 1940, 1.

²⁴ "Construction During Past Year Totaled \$128,000," *Herald-Democrat*, 2 January 1941, 1.

²⁵ "NYA To Conduct Visitors Day On Wednesday," *Herald-Democrat*, 27 January 1941, 1.

²⁶ Other locations that would be visited included: two defense training classes in auto mechanics and sheet metal work. It also stated that visitors would be allowed access to NYA projects that were currently under construction in 1941. The two defense training classes were converted from the regular vocational training courses. This was in large part due to the growing tension surrounding tension and hostilities in Europe. The United States began a massive build up in training and

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

incomplete teaching school. Two hundred and fifty visitors came through and visited the NYA project locations including the practice teaching school.²⁷

Between January 30, 1941, and March 31, 1941, there is not much discussion of the teaching school again in the local newspaper. However, on March 31, 1941, an article appears stating that...

Practice teaching in Voorhees School, newest addition to Clarksville's educational facilities had begun under supervision of the College of the Ozarks department of education. This school is being used as a part of the college's teacher training program. Built with NYA labor, the school building is completed except for the installation of transoms and other accessories. It is located adjoining the College of the Ozarks campus, south of the school's swimming pool.²⁸

What is interesting, is that in roughly two months the school received a name/benefactor, and it was never discussed in the local newspaper. Though it is still unclear it is believed that the Voorhees School was named after a Mrs. Mary T. Voorhees. Mrs. Voorhees, seems to have been from the Clinton, New Jersey, area. This would correspond with President Hurie's touring of the United States to raise money for other capital campaigns including the construction of MacLean Hall in the early to mid-1920s. President Hurie was actively campaigning for funds along the northeast portion of the United States.²⁹ There are several discussions about Mrs. Voorhees contributing an average of \$5,000 a year to the university for projects.³⁰

Though the school was officially open in March 1941, the official dedication of the practice teaching school was made on April 18, 1941. Those in attendance included Ralph B. Jones, Commissioner of Education, J.W. Hull, State Supervisor for the NYA, and W.H. Moore, District Supervisor for the NYA.³¹ It is interesting to note that there is no discussion on the naming of the building in the official dedication pamphlet that was handed out at the dedication. The official dedication began at 11:00 a.m. with a Chapel Service, followed by the Dedication at 11:45 a.m. The first order of business at the dedication ceremony was the presentation of the keys which were handed down from Charles Moore, Work Supervisor, to W.H. Moore, District Supervisor of the NYA, to Mr. Gorman B. King, the Superintendent of the Clarksville Public Schools. Following the presentation of the keys there was an Act of Dedication by Superintendent King, which stated:

In honor of those whose devotion to the things of the spirit, whose desire to make possible the enrichment of the mind and heart, and whose interest in the future led to the

manufacturing just in case the United States Military became engaged in these hostilities. ("Plans Begun For NYA Visitors Day," *Herald-Democrat*, 13 January 1941, 1.)

²⁷ "Many Visit NYA Projects Here," *Herald-Democrat*, 30 January 1941, 1.

²⁸ "Teaching Begins in Voorhees School," *The Herald-Democrat*, 31 March 1941, 1.

²⁹ Travis Ratermann. *MacLean Hall*, Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2017.

³⁰ Rebecca Lester, "Voorhees Research Findings," Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

³¹ The College of the Ozarks, "Dedication of Voorhees School: April 18, 1941," Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

founding of this college,
We dedicate this school.

In honor of those whose belief in the free and general education of all children led them
to establish and extend the public school system,
We dedicate this school.

In honor of those who have led in the search for truth, those who have gone forth to serve
their fellow man as teachers, and those who shall go forth in the future,
We dedicate this school.

In honor of one whose generous gifts have supported the college and made possible this
building,
We dedicate the Voorhees Practice School.

To the expression of our faith in our fellow man, in the value of human personality, and
in the democratic way of life,
We dedicate this school.

To the sharing of knowledge and to the fellowship of teacher and pupil,
We dedicate this school.

To the clarification of spiritual vision, to the understanding of the abiding values of life,
and to the development of character,
We dedicate this school.

The Voorhees School remained active as a practice teaching facility for a little more than a year. It is very hard to quantify the effects that the practice teaching school had on either the ninth-grade students, or the education majors doing the teaching through the College of the Ozarks. Following the rest of the 1941 school year and moving through December 1942, the practice teaching school remained steady with students learning at both the high school level and the college level. It was not until the United States became engaged in World War II and the need for college campuses to help the war effort, caused the practice teaching school to become a defunct relationship between the Clarksville Public Schools and the College of the Ozarks.

World War II

With the United States on the outbreak of entering World War II, the military had its sights set on a wartime force of 4 million troops. However, in order for the United States to be substantially ready for the possibility of war, it "would require two years from the time money [was] available"³² to construct manufacturing plants, depots and military post construction reported Major General Wesson. With the military's mobilization coming into full operation by early 1941, the State of Arkansas and at the time

³² Lenore Fine and Jesse A. Remington, *The Corps of Engineers: Construction in the United States* (Washington D.C.: Center for Military History, U.S. Army, 2003), 109.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

the College of the Ozarks were also helping to mobilize troops, resources and training for entrance into World War II.

Elementary Electricity and Radio Materiel (EE&RM) Training School

Following World War I, the United States Navy “had the largest, most efficient, and best equipped radio communication capability in the world;”³³ however, like most of the military infrastructure following the end of World War I, funding fell flat, military developments were curtailed and the equipment became outdated as technology in the radio field improved. As with most technological advancements, the curriculum of the Radio Materiel School needed to be continually upgraded, to keep up with the new equipment that was being added to the Navy’s ships. It is stated that “with the addition of new communication equipment and the advent of radar, there were significant changes in early 1940.”³⁴

Only a year after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, an announcement was made by President Hurie stating...

Immediately after the Japanese struck at Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt asked all college and universities to register with the government, stating all the facts concerning their buildings and equipment.³⁵ The College of the Ozarks complied with this request. Now after many months the Navy has chosen our college for the establishment of a Naval Training School, the purpose of which will be to give primary instruction in radar.³⁶ This may not be the type of school which the college itself would have chosen and which its administration officers believe can best be handled, but President Hurie and the board of trustees have made a very commendable and patriotic decision in saying “yes” to the Navy.”³⁷

Even with the arrival of the trainees, President W.L. Hurie, formally turned the college over to the United State Navy stating “we turn our college plant over today to men appointed by the great naval branch of our government. We do it willingly and gladly knowing that here these capable and God-

³³ Raymond C. Watson, *Solving the Naval Radar Crisis: The Eddy Test: Admission to the Most Challenging Training Program of World War II*. (Victoria, BC: Trafford, 2007), 80.

³⁴ *Ibid*, 148-149.

³⁵ At this time, it is very hard to either deny or accept that President Roosevelt ever asked for this information. However, what we have is an editorial author talking about it December 1943, and the President of the University stating it at the formal transferring of the college to the Navy in January 1944. It is stated by President Hurie that in December 1941 College Presidents came together with Representatives of President Roosevelt in a meeting in Baltimore, Maryland. He then states that in December 1942, after the lowering of the draft age to 18, that “President Roosevelt asked every college president to furnish to the Army, and the Navy and the War Manpower Commission facts concerning their college plant and their college equipment. (“College Officially Turned Over to The U.S. Navy,” *The Herald-Democrat*, 20 January 1943, 1.) Yet, it is very possible that this idea was presented to roughly a 1,000 College and University Presidents at the National Conference of College and University Presidents on Higher Education and War Conference held in Baltimore, Maryland, on Jan 3-4, 1943. At this conference Colleges and Universities were trying to coordinate national programs at the college level so that they would be working on similar plans to better assist the war effort on many different levels including mandatory physical education, college credit for soldiers, accelerated educational programs, and focusing on areas of study associated with the war effort. (“Higher Education and the War,” *Phi Delta Kappan* 24.5 (January 1942): 209.; V.R. Cardozier, *Colleges and Universities in World War II* (Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 1993), 4-7.)

³⁶ The Primary focus was not solely radar, but also how to use radio equipment, how to operate and maintain radio and radar equipment and how to install this equipment on newly commissioned ships, but surface ships and submarines.

³⁷ “An Editorial: Our College Goes to War,” *The Herald-Democrat*, 9 December 1943, 1.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

fearing Americans will teach young men who have the same spirit and purpose and aspiration as that possessed by our Alumnus."³⁸ All classes that were taught as part of the EE&RM school were either held in the Science Hall or Voorhees School.³⁹ It is still unknown how much of the course work was actually held in the Voorhees School building, the school is cited as being a location where classes were held and in doing so, allowed the Voorhees School to continue to be a building used for education purposes. By having the Elementary Electricity and Radio Materiel (EE&RM) Training School partially being held in the Voorhees School Building it was able to continue its function of providing an educational space of the United States Navy's students.

The final graduation ceremony took place in April 1945 with the graduate of Class 8-45. Following the commencement, the College of the Ozarks had the campus transferred back to the Board of Trustees and The College of the Ozarks.⁴⁰

First Pharmacy School

Once the campus was transferred back to the College of the Ozarks, the Voorhees School was put back into operation as part of the college.⁴¹ Beginning in 1946, the Voorhees School building housed Arkansas's first School of Pharmacy. The School of Pharmacy opened on September 9, 1946, with an enrollment between 120-129 students.⁴² President Hurie, expressed that there would be at least fifty students and perhaps one hundred students would be enrolled. The 120 -129 students drastically outnumbered Hurie's original assessment. The School of Pharmacy would be housed completely within Voorhees School. It is noted that within the first year of course work students would be required to take their general science courses before taking more advanced pharmacy coursework. Therefore, the first class in 1946 would focus on their general science classes before filling out the faculty to teach the more advanced pharmacy classes in 1947.⁴³ J. Harper Albritton, a graduate of Purdue University, and former pharmacy instructor within the United States Navy, would head the School of Pharmacy. During the official opening of the School of Pharmacy in September 1946, Albritton stated the students would "receive special emphasis on commercial pharmacy, including merchandising, promotion, displays, accounting, veterinarian supplies, and the animal industry."⁴⁴ Albritton is also noted as saying, "There is no limit to the field of pharmacy, and especially in Arkansas. My aim is to promote pharmacy but at C of O (College of the Ozarks) first....The science department here, up until now, has started many men

³⁸ "College Officially Turned Over to The U.S. Navy," *The Herald-Democrat*, 20 January 1944, 1.

³⁹ "Second Detachment of Naval Trainees Arrive at School," *The Herald-Democrat*, 3 February 1944, 1. (The Science Hall, all known as Hurie Hall, was demolished in May 2001.)

⁴⁰ For more information on the Elementary Electricity and Radio Materiel Training School (EE & RM) on the campus of the College of the Ozarks/University of the Ozarks, see the MacLean Hall National Register of Historic Places Nomination written by Travis Ratermann.

⁴¹ It is still unclear who the ownership, or keys transferred from the Clarksville Public Schools to the College of the Ozarks.

⁴² The number of students originally enrolled on the program varies by source.

⁴³ "School of Pharmacy To Be Installed At The College of The Ozarks; To Begin With Autumn Quarter," *The Herald-Democrat*, 3 June 1946, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.; "Pharmacy Department Widens Ozarks Service To State," *The Mountain Eagle*, 15 November 1946. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

⁴⁴ "Pharmacy Dept. Officially Opens Monday at C of O," *The Herald-Democrat*, 12 September 1946, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

on their way in science, but with a four-year school of pharmacy, The College of the Ozarks will turn out a finished product - a pharmacist with a degree."⁴⁵

The lack of a pharmacy school in Arkansas was a "long-felt need."⁴⁶ Without a pharmacy school in the State of Arkansas, students from inside of the state would have to get into programs in other states. These other colleges and universities all but closed the doors on out of state students in order to keep these students within their states. The field of pharmacy in the State of Arkansas was beginning to become older and in need of "new blood." By 1946, "Arkansas drugstores had not more than twenty-five percent of their quota of registered pharmacists."⁴⁷

By 1947, things were really starting to look up for this program and its educational value to the students within the program. It is at this time that a Joint Senate - House legislative committee began looking into medical service degrees for returning veterans to take up now that they were back home with World War II and had provisions under the G.I. Bill. This joint legislative committee was specifically looking into three areas Dentistry, Pharmacy, and Veterinarian Science. In looking into these programs, the committee found the educational degrees in dentistry and veterinarian science lacking throughout the state, but also found that the School of Pharmacy at the College of the Ozarks would meet the need of the state and that it was unnecessary to fund a state supported pharmacy school at that time.⁴⁸ After the committee looked into these three areas, they commended the College of the Ozarks in a statement made during the legislative session stating that they were proud of the College of the Ozarks for establishing the School of Pharmacy.⁴⁹

By fall of 1947, the program was continuing to grow to 231. Yet, the School of Pharmacy also need to be accredited so by early 1948, the college was campaigning for funds to help with the accreditation which was scheduled to take place September 1, 1948. The Arkansas Pharmaceutical Association became the sponsor organization for the campaign to raise roughly \$75,000. This would become critical as the first graduating class in pharmacy would receive their degrees in May 1949. Throughout 1948 and into 1949, the class size continued to grow for the School of Pharmacy. By 1949, after becoming accredited thanks to the campaign drive the school had its own Student Branch of the Arkansas Pharmaceutical Association. Yet, problems also began to circulate around how the School of Pharmacy was able to get the funds for the accreditation. By early 1949, a lawsuit was filed in Pulaski County Chancery Court in Little Rock questioning the legitimacy of ACT 166 of 1949, which would provide \$50,000 a year for two years to aid the School of Pharmacy. The lawsuit was filed by F. B. Garrett, of Little Rock. Mr. Garrett stated that the \$50,000 appropriations from the general revenue fund was for

⁴⁵ "Handsome Pharmacist - To Promote Chosen Field, Says Doris Owen," *The Mountain Eagle*, 1 November 1946. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

⁴⁶ By 1947, the College of the Ozarks was beginning a "Builder's Drive" to add financial assets to help expand the College both physically and academically. The Builders drive had the hope of collecting \$1,450,000 with \$25,000 going toward an endowment for the Pharmacy Department. ("C of O Received \$25,000 of Marie MacLean Estate," *The Herald-Democrat*, 17 February 1947, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

⁴⁷ "Pharmacy Department Widens Ozarks Service To State," *The Mountain Eagle*, 15 November 1946. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

⁴⁸ "Legislative Committee, U.A. Officials Confer," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 21 February 1947, 1.

⁴⁹ "Pharmacy Department Commended," *The Mountain Eagle*, 28 February 1947. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

supporting and assisting college of the state. He then states that the State of Arkansas has no such state college that had a pharmacy program.⁵⁰ The court case was heard many times before being sent to the Supreme Court in late 1950 - early 1951. It was ruled that the legislature erred in appropriating money without a two-thirds majority vote. Following the Supreme Court decision the school decided it would not be able to maintain the program and that the 1951 graduating class would be last class to graduate from the School of Pharmacy at the College of the Ozarks.⁵¹ It was also at this time that new legislation was being passed at the same time to create a School of Pharmacy at the University of Arkansas that the State Government would be able to financially support. A new College of Pharmacy opened in September 1951 at the University of Arkansas where they would study for the first three years before transferring to the School of Medicine in Little Rock.⁵²

1951- Present

The closure of the School of Pharmacy left Voorhees School vacant for a couple of years before being converted into the Campus Student Union in January 1956. It would remain active as the student Union where it was the center of social life on the campus. Voorhees School, once converted to the student union held a ballroom, game room, coffee room and post office among other things. By 1988, Voorhees School was home to the Alumni Affairs, University Relations and Publicity offices but their time was short lived. It is also at this time that many of the changes happened to the building including installing new ceilings and the replacement of the windows, transoms and sidelights.⁵³ The following year the college museum moved into the building prior to the construction of the Walton Center for the Fine Arts.

Though this building has been used for multiple different purposes, the overall feeling and association still convey the NYA construction materials and method, while also still conveying the overall education value that is associated with the former school building. However, it was originally meant to allow aspiring educator the opportunity to teach ninth graders from the Clarksville Public School system, that systems fell by the way side at the outbreak of World War II. Yet, the education value remained as the United States Navy used it as classroom space. Following the Navy's use of the Voorhees School, the College of the Ozarks moved the newly formed School of Pharmacy into the building to create Arkansas's first pharmacy school. The history associated with this former school building continues to be shown as the University of the Ozarks continues to thrive and continues to use the school to facilitate a learning environment for their students.

Therefore, Voorhees School, in Clarksville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its significance in the areas of Education

⁵⁰ The legislation as it was written, was to allocate funds to the Board of Pharmacy, which would then allocate the funds to support the School of Pharmacy by paying for the Pharmacy School's accreditation.

⁵¹ "University Of The Ozarks Began Arkansas' First Pharmacy School." 3 March 1993, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

⁵² This would be the precursor to the University of Arkansas Medical School, or UAMS. (U. of A. To Open Pharmacy School In September," *The Herald-Democrat*, 24 May 1951, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.)

⁵³ "Improvements Underway At University of Ozarks," Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register and Survey Files, Voorhees School File.

Voorhees School

Name of Property

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

and Politics/Government for the National Youth Administration's role in constructing the Voorhees School as part of the ongoing New Deal-era construction projects in Arkansas. Voorhees School was built in 1940-1941 to provide a practice teaching school building for ninth graders in the Clarksville School District, using Education majors at the College of the Ozarks. With the outbreak of World War II, the United States Navy took over the building briefly for their Elementary Electricity and Radio Materiel Training School (EE & RM) which was housed on the College of the Ozarks Campus.⁵⁴ Following the end of World War II the College regained control of the school building, but the practice school was no longer a viable option for the Clarksville School District or the College. Therefore, the College of the Ozarks used the school building for various education functions including the State of Arkansas's first College of Pharmacy. Voorhees School is also being nominated as part of the historic context *An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas, 1933-1943*, under the Educational Facilities property type.

⁵⁴ For more information on the Elementary Electricity and Radio Materiel Training School (EE & RM) on the campus of the College of the Ozarks/University of the Ozarks, see the MacLean Hall National Register of Historic Places Nomination written by Travis Ratermann.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Alumni Association of the College of the Ozarks, Inc., *Semi-Centennial Edition History Directory of The College of the Ozarks* (Clarksville, Arkansas: The Alumni Association of the College of the Ozarks, Inc., 1940), 28-29. Robson Library, University of the Ozarks.

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Ratermann, Travis. *MacLean Hall*, Washington D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2017.

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"An Editorial: Our College Goes to War," *The Herald-Democrat*, 9 December 1943, 1.

"C of O Received \$25,000 of Marie MacLean Estate," *The Herald-Democrat*, 17 February 1947.

"City Selected For Try-Out in Vocational Work," *Herald-Democrat*, 22 August 1940, 1.

"Clarksville Chosen as Site for NYA Shops," *Herald-Democrat*, 13 May 1940, 1.

"College Officially Turned Over to The U.S. Navy," *The Herald-Democrat*, 20 January 1944, 1.

"Construction During Past Year Totaled \$128,000," *Herald-Democrat*, 2 January 1941, 1.

"Construction Has Good Year In Clarksville Area," *Herald-Democrat*, 21 December 1939, 1.

"Handsome Pharmacist -To Promote Chosen Field, Says Doris Owen," *The Mountain Eagle*, 1 November 1946.

"Higher Education and the War," *Phi Delta Kappan* 24.5 (January 1942): 209-211.

"Legislative Committee, U.A. Officials Confer," *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 21 February 1947, 1.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

- “Many Visit NYA Projects Here,” *Herald-Democrat*, 30 January 1941, 1.
- “NYA Approves Resident Unit For Clarksville,” *Herald-Democrat*, December 11, 1939, 1.
- “NYA Aids 125 Boys and Girls in this County,” *Herald-Democrat*, March 2, 1939.
- “NYA To Conduct Visitors Day On Wednesday,” *Herald-Democrat*, 27 January 1941, 1.
- “Pharmacy Dept. Officially Opens Monday at C of O,” *The Herald-Democrat*, 12 September 1946.
- “Pharmacy Department Commended,” *The Mountain Eagle*, 28 February 1947.
- “Pharmacy Department Widens Ozarks Service To State,” *The Mountain Eagle*, 15 November 1946.
- “Plans Begun For NYA Visitors Day,” *Herald-Democrat*, 13 January 1941, 1.
- “Resident Unit Of NYA Opens In Clarksville,” *Herald-Democrat*, 7 January 1940, 1.
- “Second Detachment of Naval Trainees Arrive at School,” *The Herald-Democrat*, 3 February 1944, 1.
- “School Buildings To Be Occupied Late This Month,” *Herald-Democrat*, 10 October 1940, 1.
- “School Buildings To Be Opened Late This Month,” *Herald-Democrat*, 10 October 1940.
- “School of Pharmacy To Be Installed At The College of The Ozarks; To Begin With Autumn Quarter,”
The Herald-Democrat, 3 June 1946.
- “Teaching Begins in Voorhees School,” *The Herald-Democrat*, 31 March 1941, 1.
- “U. of A. To Open Pharmacy School In September,” *The Herald-Democrat*, 24 May 1951.
- “Work Begins in NYA District’s New Shops,” *Herald-Democrat*, 1 August 1940, 1.
- “Work on City Playground Project Begins,” *Herald-Democrat*, June 1, 1939, 1.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: University of the Ozarks

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): JO0067

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):



Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 457488 | Northing: 3925961 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. | | |
| 5. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

Starting at UTM 15 S 457762 E 3926043 go east to UTM 15 S 457825 E 3926041, then go south to UTM 15 S 457824 E 3925980, then go west to UTM 15 S 457761 E 3925983, then go back to the original UTM point.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Voorhees School.

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Travis Ratermann (Survey Historian)

organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 1100 North Street

city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201

e-mail Travis.Ratermann@arkansas.gov

telephone: 501-324-9874

date: August 1, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Voorhees School

City or Vicinity: Clarksville

County: Johnson

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Voorhees School

Johnson County,
Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

Date Photographed: 9/23/2016

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

Photo #1 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0001)
Perspective of the Northeast corner of Voorhees School. Camera facing Southwest.

Photo #2 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0002)
Closer photo of the East Elevation of Voorhees School, focusing on one of the front entrances. Camera facing West.

Photo #3 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0003)
Photo of the plaque on the Voorhees School in acknowledgement of the school year of construction. Camera facing West.

Photo #4 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0004)
Perspective of the Southeast corner of Voorhees School. Camera facing Northwest.

Photo #5 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0005)
Photo of the West elevation of Voorhees School. Camera facing East.

Photo #6 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0006)
Photo of the first floor interior space. Camera facing North.

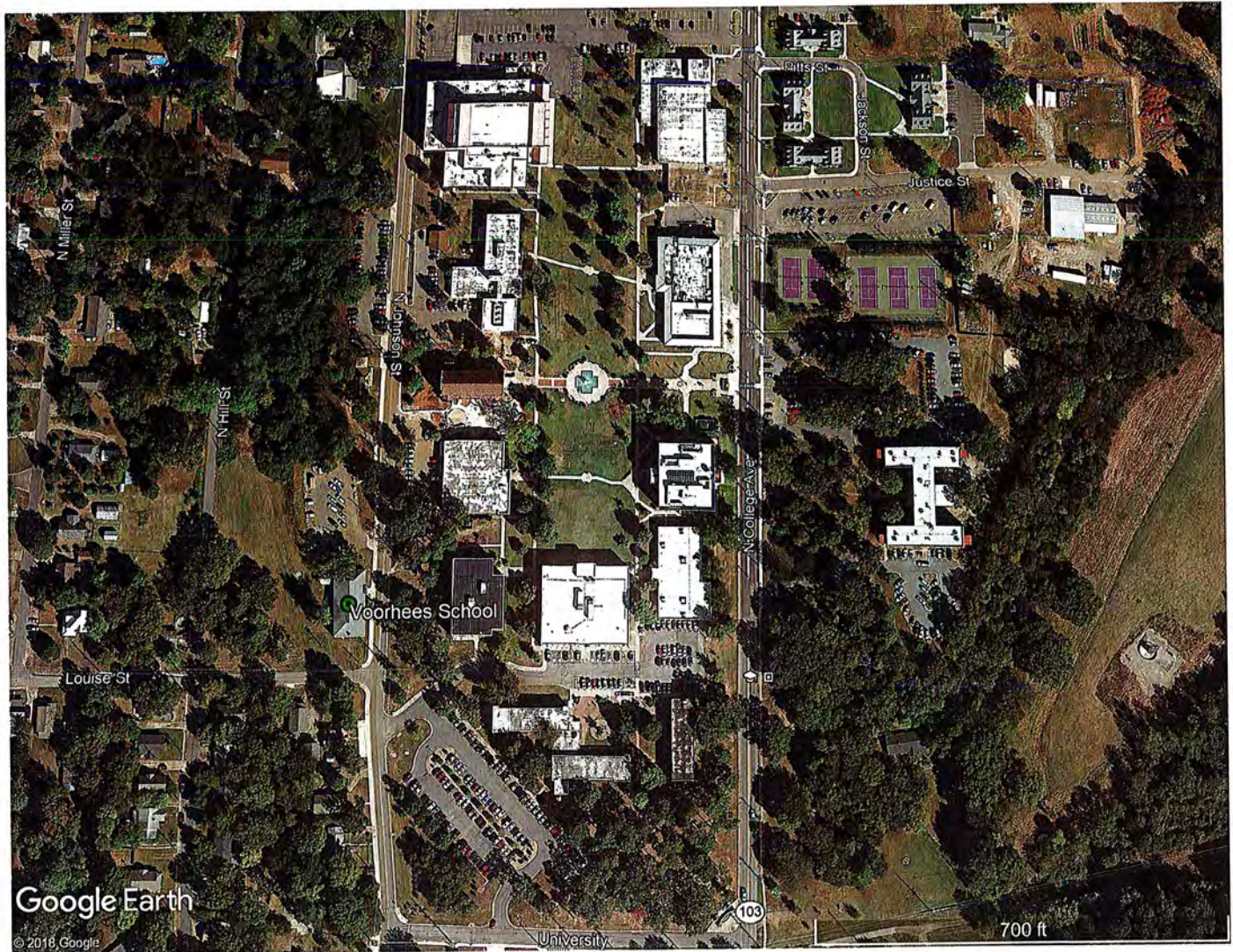
Photo #7 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0007)
Photo of the basement foundation. Camera facing South.

Photo #8 (AR_ Johnson County_ Voorhees School_0008)
Photo of the infilled entrance on the North Elevation. Camera facing South.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Voorhees School, Johnson County, Arkansas



UTM

15 457488 3925961

NAD 83

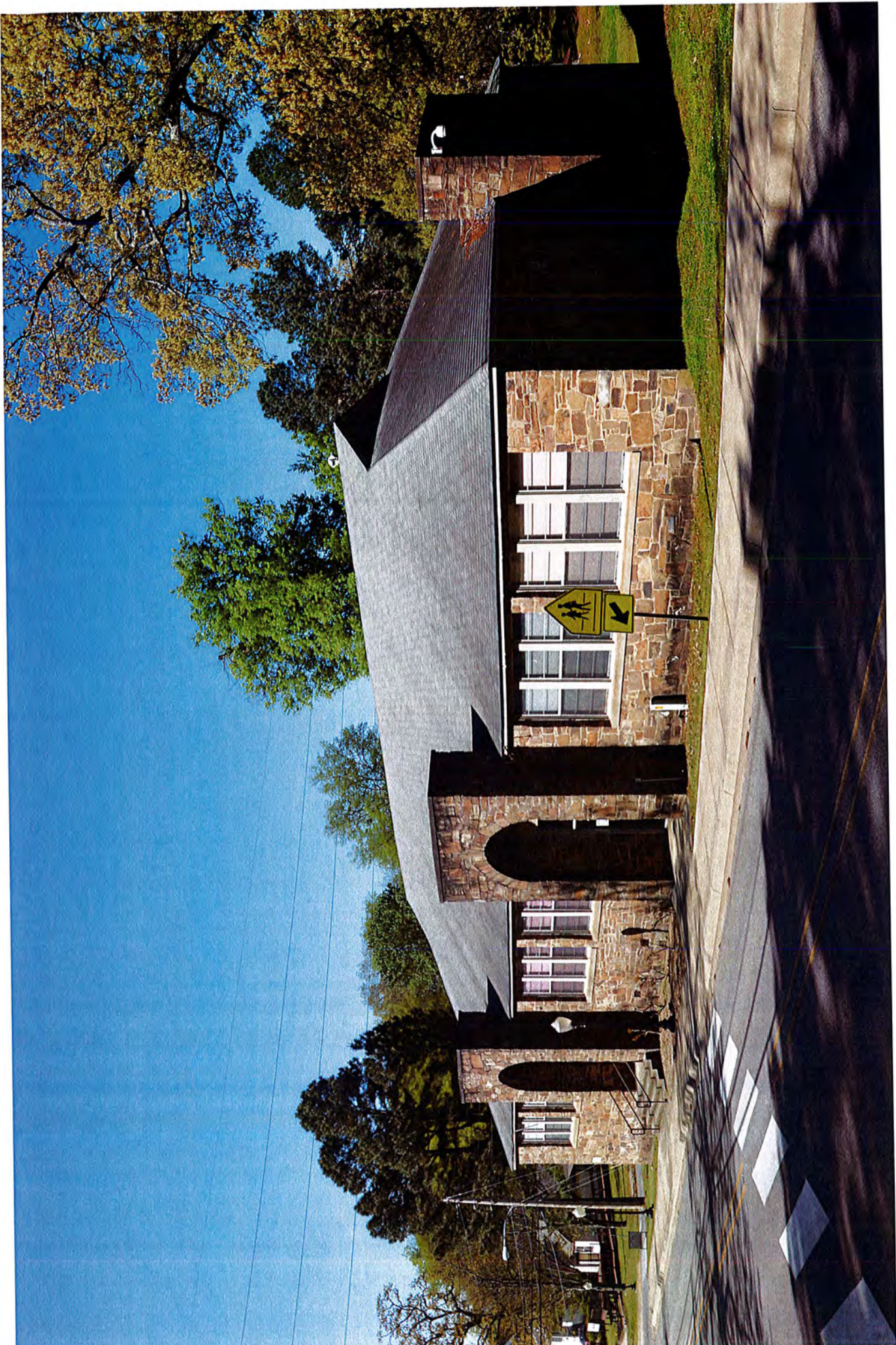
Voorhees School, Johnson County, Arkansas



UTM

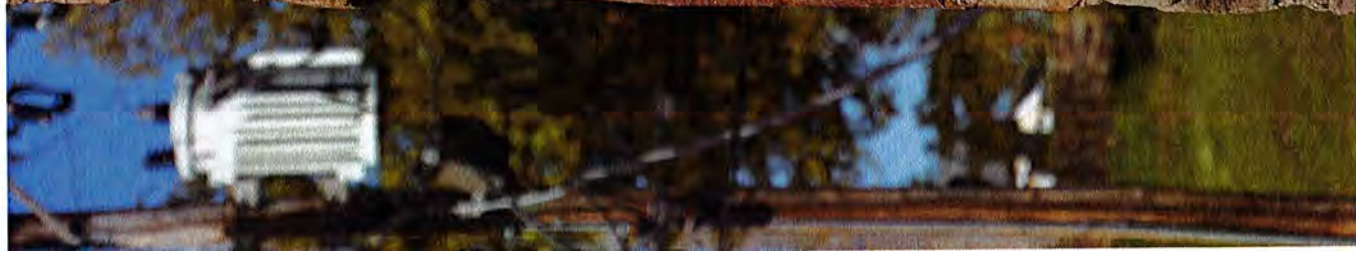
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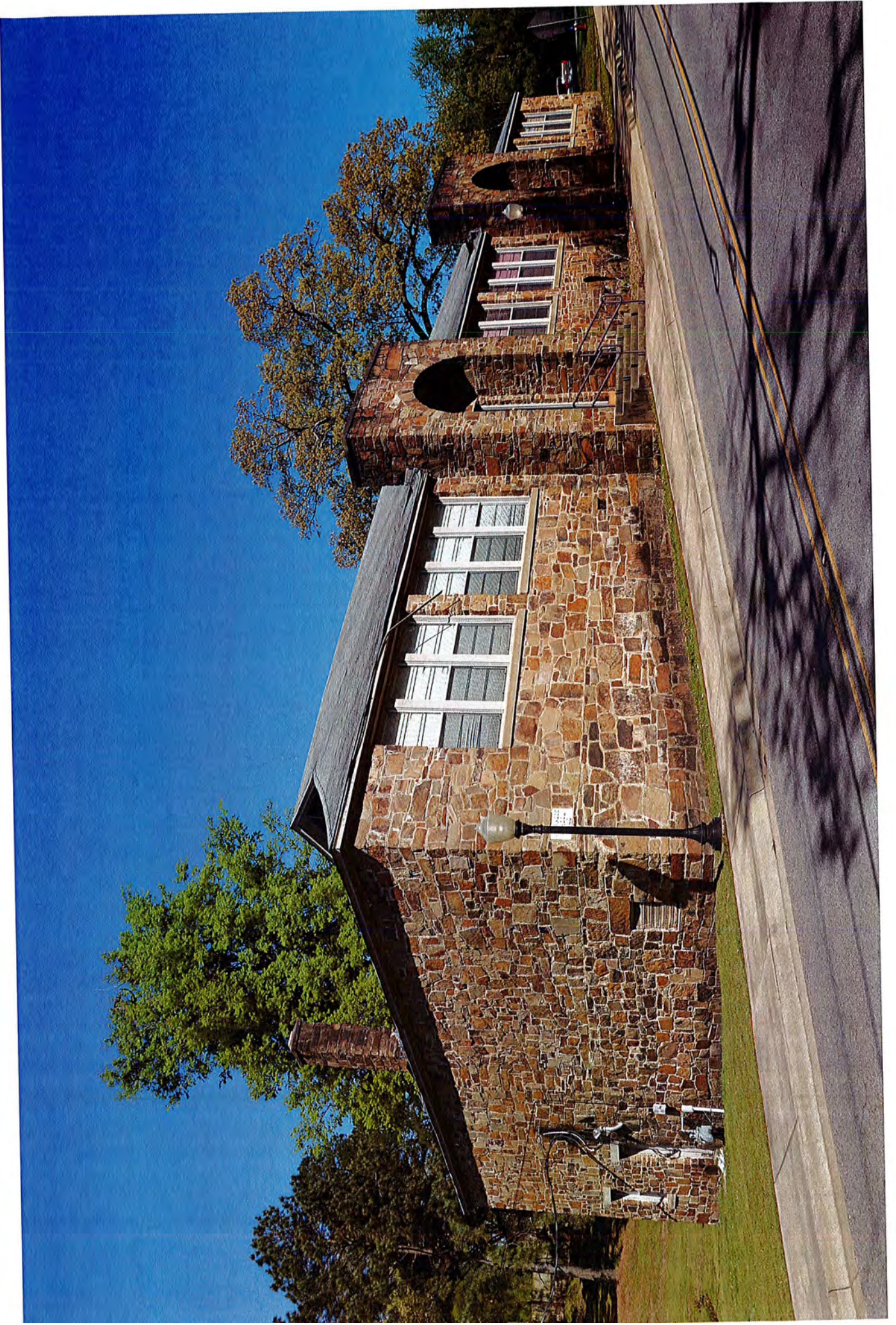
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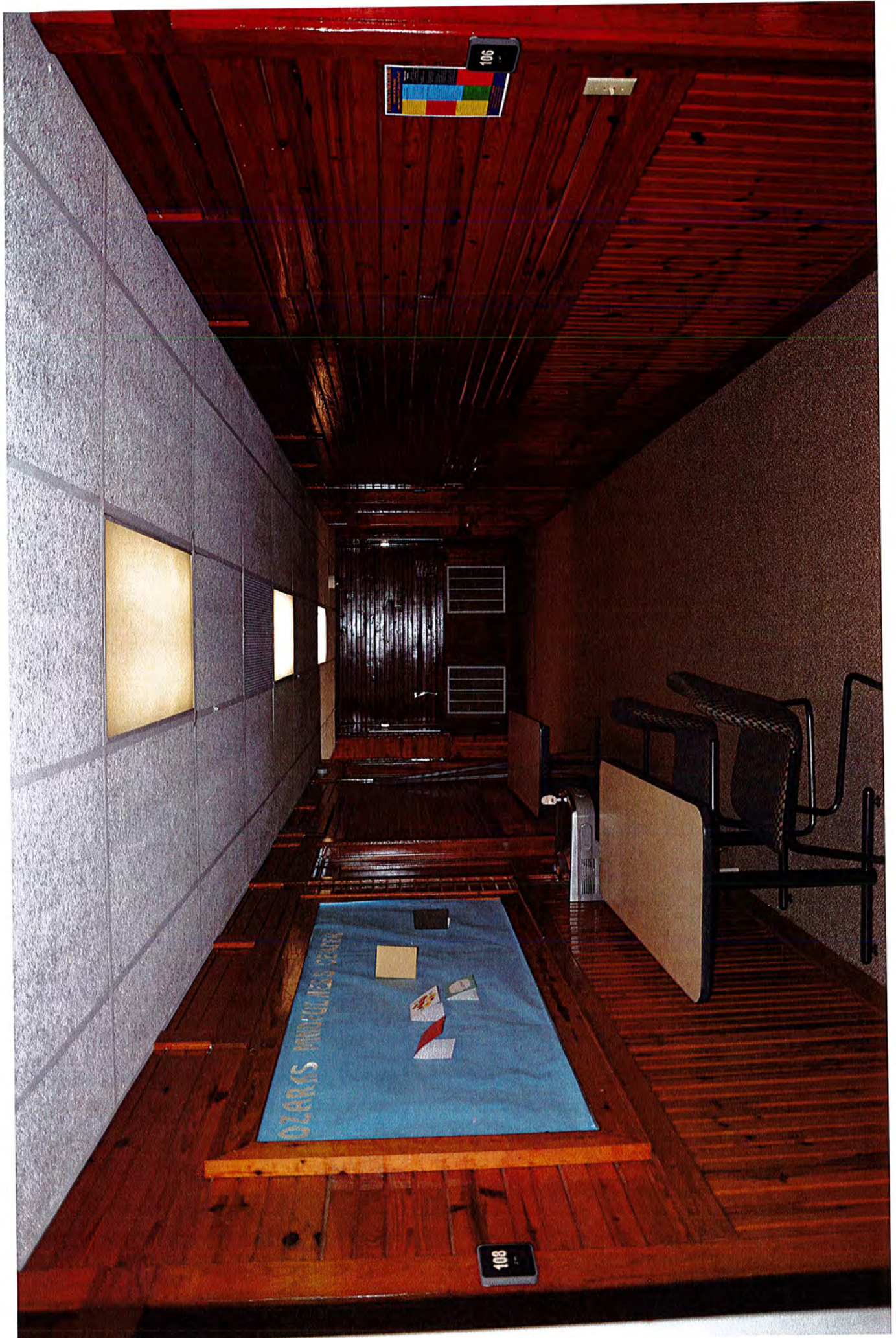


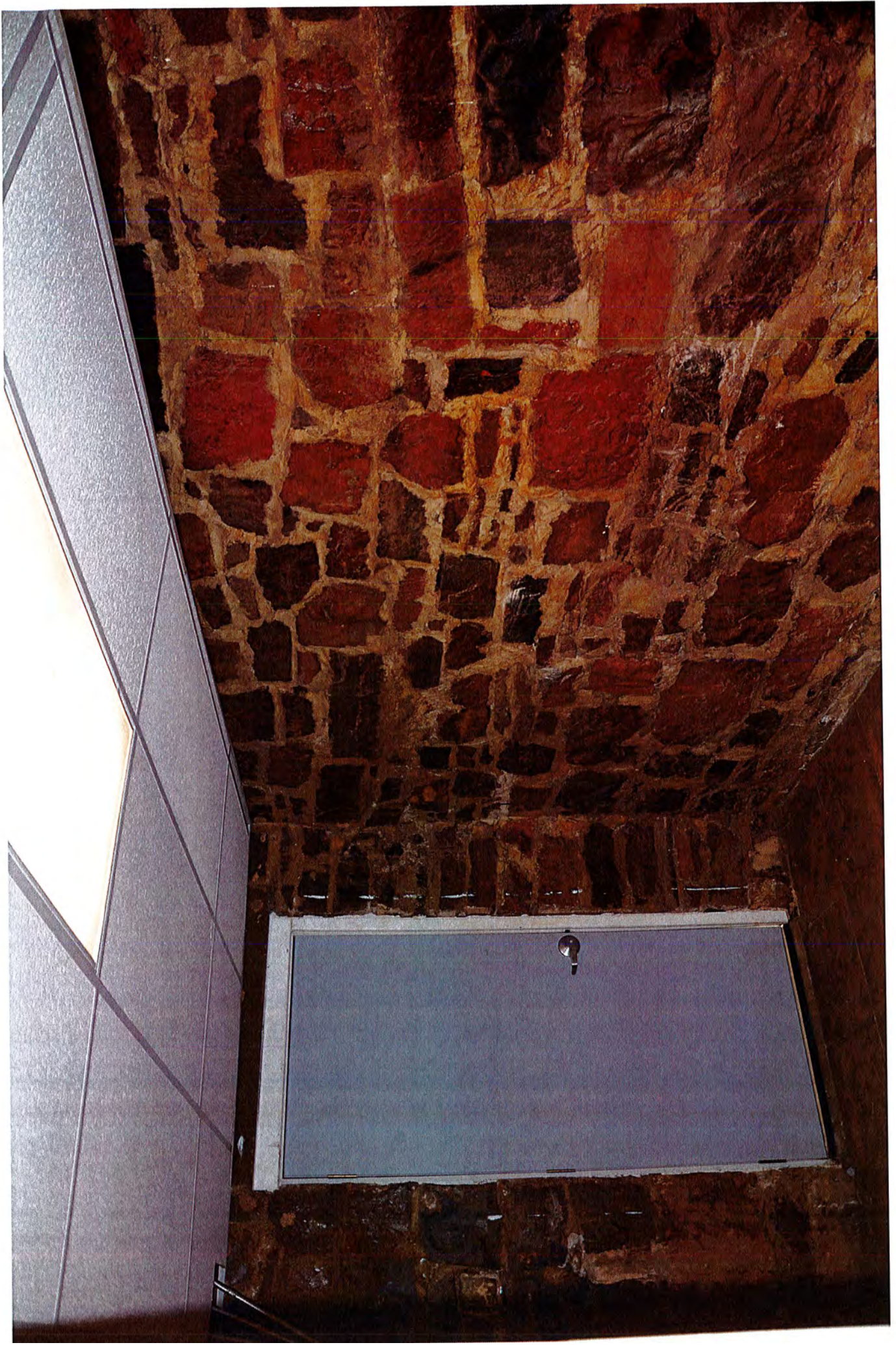
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100002948

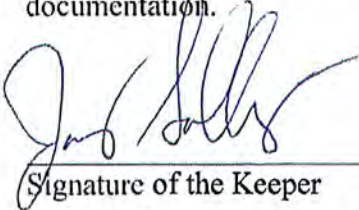
Date Listed: 9/11/2018

Property Name: Voorhees School (New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS)

County: Johnson

State: AR

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper

9-11-2018

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Period of Significance

The Period of Significance is hereby changed to **1941-1951** to coincide with the educational significance of the building, first as a practice school for the college, then as a WWII training school, and finally (and most importantly) as the state's first and only degree-granting pharmacy program from 1947-1951. The significance of the buildings use afterward is not supported.

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)