

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Physical Education Building - Arkansas Tech University

other name/site number: PP0050

2. Location

street & number: Southeast corner of North El Paso Street and West "O" Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Russellville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pope code: AR 115 zip code: 72801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

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: Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940

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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. Byford _____ 8-2-92
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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: EDUCATION _____ Sub: Education-related _____

Current: EDUCATION _____ Sub: Education-related _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1937-1940

Significant Dates: 1937

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Haralson and Mott/Federal Emergency Administration/Manhattan Construction Company

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" Multiple Property Form, Section H.

___ See continuation sheet.

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>487610</u>	<u>3905390</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running along the eastern edge of North El Paso Street with a perpendicular line running along the southern edge of West "O" Street, proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's southern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with the eastern edge of North El Paso Street; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both the historic resource and all the surrounding property known to have been historically associated therewith that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 16, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Physical Education Building at Arkansas Tech University is a two story, brick masonry recreational building designed in a relatively erudite rendition of the Classical Revival. Its symmetrical plan features the large flat roof front section and two other flat roof sections to the rear that flank a central gable roof gym section. The gable section of the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, while the flat roof sections are covered with built-up tar roofs. The brick walls rest upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

Elaboration

The Physical Education Building at Arkansas Tech University is a two story, brick masonry recreational building designed in a relatively erudite rendition of the Classical Revival. Its symmetrical plan features the large flat roof front section and two other flat roof sections to the rear that flank a central gable roof gym section. The gable section of the roof is covered with asphalt shingles, while the flat roof sections are covered with built-up tar roofs. The brick walls rest upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

The western or front elevation is seven bays in length. The second story is lighted with seven square-headed, twelve-over-twelve wood sash windows set into concrete moldings with decorative keystones. The ends of the first floor are lighted with a single identical square-headed window at each end; the wall surface toward the center is then accessed via two pedimented entrances placed symmetrically. Each is accessed via a double-leaf entry with a transom. The surrounding molding is rusticated and supports an entablature below the pediment. The three windows between the entrances are set within segmental arches with decorative moldings and keystones and contain fifteen-over-fifteen wood sash windows. A cornice molding above is placed just below the raised parapet. The eastern elevation opposite is blank except for the central double-leaf entrance, set into a rusticated arch and placed directly below the gable peak of the gymnasium wall and between the flanking single-leaf entrances with transoms to either side. The projecting corners of the gym wall are ornamented with raised brick quoins.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. The two-story western section is fenestrated with two fifteen-over-fifteen wood sash window on each floor, symmetrically-placed within the wall. The side walls of the single-story, flat roof sections that flank the gymnasium each contain twelve window bays, divided into sections of three by a vertical arrangement of raised brick panels and containing a central awning window between fixed pairs of panes.

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The Physical Education Building has remained relatively intact and is in good condition.

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Physical Education Building; Arkansas Tech University

Arkansas Tech University was founded in 1909 when the Arkansas General Assembly created four Agricultural School Districts, with the Second District being formed by the twenty counties of northwest Arkansas. The city of Russellville offered the governor-appointed Board of Trustees four-hundred acres adjoining the city limits and a cash bonus of several thousand dollars, and was thus selected as the site of the new school.

The Second District Agricultural School -- as it was initially known -- first matriculated students in the fall of 1910. The school was planned to function initially as an agricultural secondary school and to grow into a four-year college-level institution as soon as possible. It first offered a freshman year of college work in 1921-22, and instituted second, third and fourth years in each of the succeeding academic years, respectively, so that by 1925 both a four-year high school and a four-year college were operating on the same campus. This progress was acknowledged by the Arkansas General Assembly in 1925 when it changed the name of the school to Arkansas Polytechnic College and awarded it the power to grant degrees. However, this ambitious program proved beyond the resources of the school, and by 1927 it became a two-year junior college. It remained so until 1948, when the Board of Trustees re-instituted its degree-granting status with a plan to return to a four-year school. The General Assembly officially changed the name to Arkansas Tech University in 1976.

The 1930's heralded one of the most ambitious periods of construction on the campus. As was the case with many public sites and institutions around the state, the labor force was largely contributed by the Emergency Relief Administration (ERA), the federal agency established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to hire the nation's unemployed for the purpose of carrying out a broad variety of projects in the public interest. The Works Progress Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) were all subsidiary organizations whose work in Arkansas was overseen by the ERA.

The Physical Education Building was constructed in 1937 under the auspices of the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works (Project #Ark. 1194-D) according to the designs of the Fort Smith, Arkansas architectural firm of Haralson and Mott; the general contractor was the Manhattan Construction Company. As such, it was built during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*, and stands as an unusual example of a large, brick masonry physical education building with a roughly square plan designed in the Classical Revival style (e.g., the absolutely symmetrical composition of the front facade, the segmental arch windows in the center of the first floor and

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the pedimented, Classical entrances). Its use during this period as a physical education building for a public university clearly identifies it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion A through its direct associations with both the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period and the Federal Emergency Administration. It is also eligible under Criterion C as the best example locally of this application of the Classical Revival style to this particular floor plan.





