

NR 9-13-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
El Dorado Junior College Building
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
300 South West Avenue
CITY, TOWN
El Dorado
STATE
Arkansas
VICINITY OF
CODE
05
COUNTY
Union
CODE
139
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
71730
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
El Dorado Special School District #15
STREET & NUMBER
204 West Grove
CITY, TOWN
El Dorado
VICINITY OF
STATE
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Circuit Clerk's Office
STREET & NUMBER
100 North Washington
CITY, TOWN
El Dorado
STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1905

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	5	30	10	5	3	6	7	4	0	3	5	B						
	ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING				ZONE			EASTING			NORTHING		
C													D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. J. Parks Hammond (Phone: 501-443-3057)

ORGANIZATION

University of Arkansas Preservation and Restoration 5483

DATE

September, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Vol Walker Library

TELEPHONE

501-575-2550

CITY OR TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John Batts

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

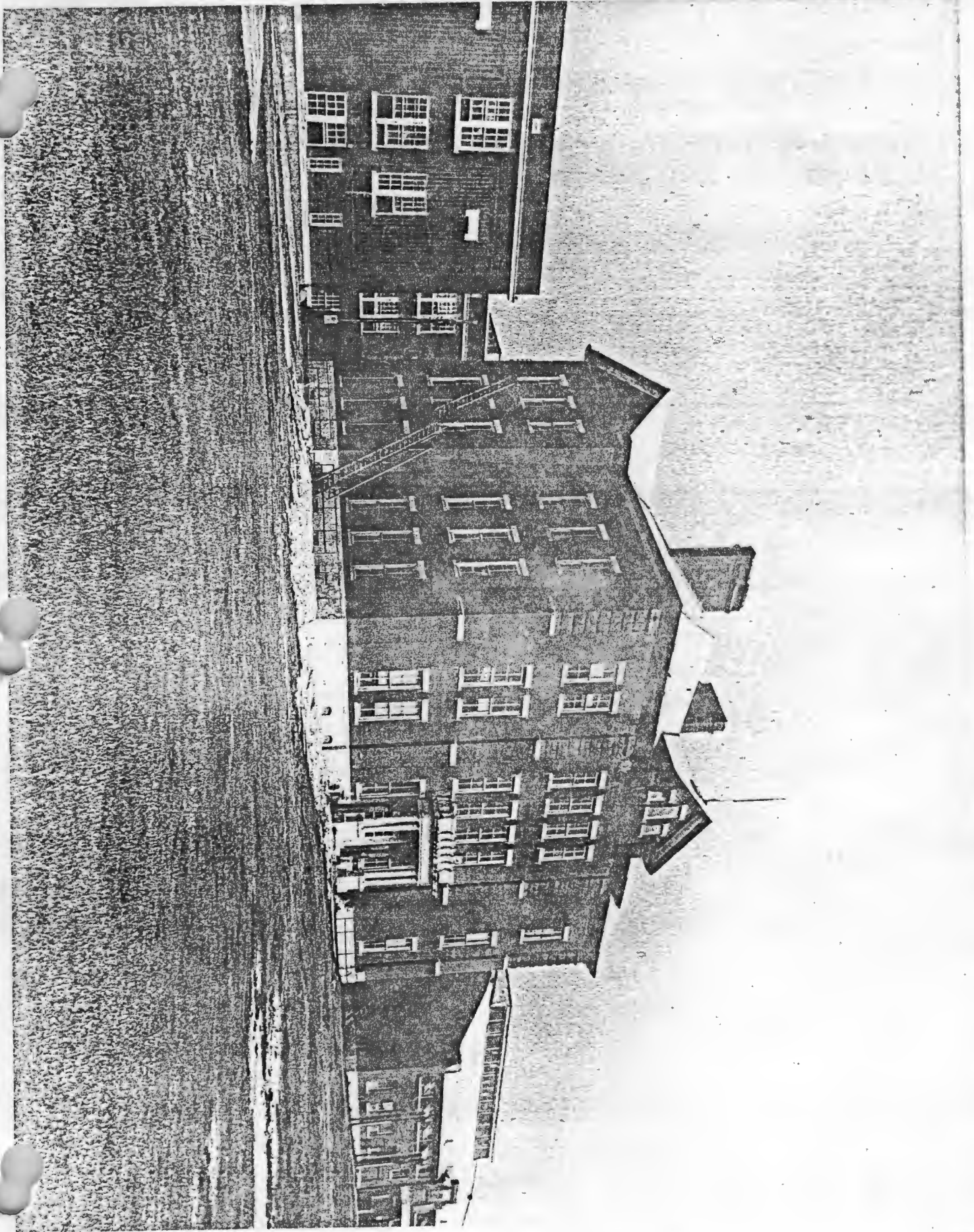
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC
El Dorado Junior College Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN
El Dorado

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Union

STATE
Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO July, 1977

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Facade and east elevation, viewed from the northeast.

1

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

92°45' R. 16 W. 525000m E. 1940000 FT. (LA. NORTH)

CAMDEN 27 MI.
SMACKOVER 9.3 MI.
530 44

HAMPTON 25 MI.
CALION 9 MI.
R. 15 W 533



El Dorado Junior College
El Dorado, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 530 105 / 3674 035

7450 IV
(Revised)

LISBON 5.8 MI.

33°15'

T. 17 S.

3677000m N.

930000 FT.
(LA. NORTH)

MAGNOLIA 30 MI.
MARYSVILLE 12 MI.

3674

3673

3671

3670

HAYNESVILLE 28 MI.
THREE CREEKS 8 MI.

T. 18 S.

3669

3667

3666

3665

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

El Dorado Junior College Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

El Dorado

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Union

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

1:62,500

DATE

1951

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

NR Listed: 11-26-02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name El Dorado High School Gym
El Dorado Junior College Building - Additional Documentation
other names/site number South Arkansas Community College Gym / UN0179

2. Location

street & number 300 South West Avenue not for publication
city or town El Dorado vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Union code 139 zip code 71730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cochi Matthews 10/2/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

EDUCATION/school

EDUCATION/college

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Deco

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

Concrete

roof Asphalt

other Stone

Asbestos

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Education

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1900-1952

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Abbott, John B., Architect

Works Progress Administration, Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University (South Arkansas Community College)
- Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>531150</u>	<u>3674364</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date October 1, 2002

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street

telephone (501) 324-9787

city or town Little Rock

state AR

zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name South Arkansas Community College, President – Dr. Kathy Matlock

street & number P.O. Box 7010

telephone 870 862-8131

city or town El Dorado

state AR

zip code 71731

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 5 Page 1

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

	Contributing	Non-contributing
Buildings	2	
Sites		
Structures		
Objects		
Totals	2	

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

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

LABORATION

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

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

West Façade

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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

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

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

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

North Façade

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

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

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

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

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

East Façade

The east façade is identical to the west façade.

South Façade

The south façade is identical to the north façade.

Interior

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

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

Integrity

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

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

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RATIONALE

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

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

SUMMARY

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

ELABORATION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY:

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

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

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

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Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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