

NR listed 9/04/92

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Chi Omega Greek Theatre; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

other name/site number: WA0348

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2. Location

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street & number: Dickson Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Fayetteville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Washington

code: AR 143

zip code: 72701

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Structure

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	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

Carolyn J. Byrd \_\_\_\_\_ 7-14-92  
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: College  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: EDUCATION Sub: College  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Classical

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof N/A  
walls Concrete other N/A

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  
ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1927-1940

Significant Dates: c. 1927

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. 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>394320</u>	<u>3991800</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 northern edge of Dickson Street with a perpendicular line running parallel to the theatre's eastern elevation and located approximately 20 feet to the east thereof, proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the theatre's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the theatre's western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of Dickson Street; thence proceed easterly 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 13, 1992

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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### **Summary**

The Chi Omega Greek Theatre at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is a large, open, elliptical amphitheater that is constructed of concrete steps and seats surrounding an oval concrete stage flanked by a pair of Classical pavilions connected by an open colonnade.

### **Elaboration**

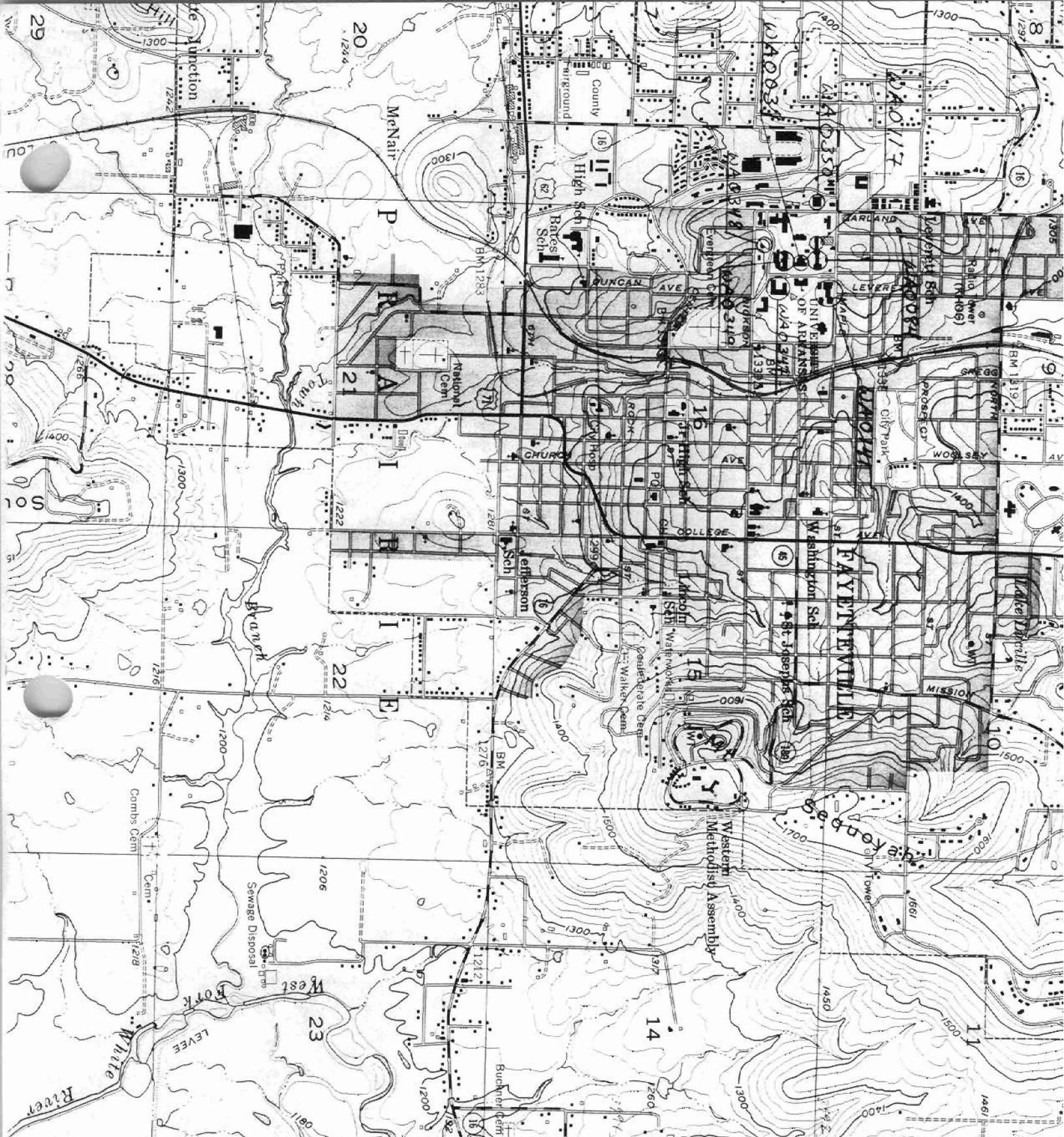
The Chi Omega Greek Theatre at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is a large, open, elliptical amphitheater that is constructed of concrete steps and seats surrounding an oval concrete stage flanked by a pair of Classical pavilions connected by an open colonnade. The seats are divided into four symmetrical sections by three aisles, and the audience is oriented to face east while viewing the performance. The seats are placed against the side of a hill with the stage at the bottom, thus creating a natural, sloping arena that provides ample viewing of the staged event for all audience members. The seating area is accessed via a network of modern concrete sidewalks at the top of the amphitheatre and at the bottom, flanking either side of the stage area. The Chi Omega Greek Theatre measures approximately 150 feet from the rear of the stage to the rear of the seating area to the northwest, and the entire seating area measures approximately 200 feet across at its widest point, at the bottom of the hill next to the performance area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Chi Omega Greek Theatre; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville**

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville was officially founded as a federal land grant university in 1871 through the passage by the Arkansas state legislature of "An Act for the Location, Organization, and Maintenance of the Arkansas Industrial University, with a Normal Department Therein." The state had been empowered to establish such schools since March 2, 1827, when Congress passed an act that set aside two townships within the Territory of Arkansas to be selected from the best federal land and sold for the sole purpose of establishing a state university; yet for reasons that were primarily political, this did not occur until after the Civil War.

The board of trustees oversaw the financing and construction of University Hall -- affectionately known as "Old Main" (NR-Listed 6/15/70) -- as the first building erected on the campus. The University continued to grow gradually throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, responding to increased enrollment, an expanding curriculum, and greater emphasis upon extracurricular activities. This trend continued during the 1920's and did not abate in the 1930's in spite of the Depression. 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 Chi Omega Greek Theatre was constructed c. 1927. Its eastern orientation is typical of Greek theatres, as it allowed for dramatic early morning performances in the Greek tradition. It features clear Classical influences in its use of the arched pavilions and the semi-circular plan of the seating area, and is the only such outdoor theatre area constructed during this period that has been documented for the entire state. 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 concrete masonry amphitheater designed in what can best be described as the Classical tradition. Its use during this period as an educational and dramatic performance space 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 the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period, and under Criterion C as the best example locally of this application of the Classical idiom to this particular construction type.



ARKANSAS  
 (WA 0084)  
 15/394400/3992090  
 HOME & FRONT ST  
 BUILDING (WA 0117)  
 15/394310/3992090  
 MEN'S GYMNASIUM  
 (WA 0350)  
 15/394120/3992080  
 VCL WALKER BLDG #1  
 (WA 0031)  
 15/394410/3992000  
 HIGH STKY BUILDING  
 (WA 0349)  
 15/394390/3991910  
 CHL QUINER (WALK  
 THEATER  
 (WA 0348)  
 15/394320/3991800  
 BUSINESS  
 ADMINISTRATION  
 BUILDING  
 (WA 0347)  
 15/394550/3991880  
 FAYETTEVILLE,  
 WASHINGTON CO,  
 ARKANSAS  
 2300'