

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Wilson Hall - Arkansas Tech University

other name/site number: PP0048

2. Location

street & number: North El Paso 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not for publication: N/A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

1

1

0 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. Byrd _____ 8-2-92
Signature of certifying official Date

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

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

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

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: EDUCATION _____ Sub: School _____

Current: EDUCATION _____ Sub: School _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Colonial Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Ceramic tile
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
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1925-1940

Significant Dates: 1925

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:

- X 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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Acreeage of Property: Approximately 2.25

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>487510</u>	<u>3905280</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 western edge of North El Paso Street with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of West "M" Street, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's northern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 250 feet to its intersection with the western edge of North El Paso Street; thence proceed southeasterly along said line for a distance of approximately 325 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

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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Summary

Wilson Hall at Arkansas Tech University is a large, two story, brick masonry classroom building designed in the Colonial Revival style. It features an elaborate though symmetrical "E"-shaped plan, consisting of a central hipped roof section connecting two perpendicular hipped roof sections, each of which projects forward from the front of the building and terminates in a smaller hipped roof "house" that completes the composition. The central entrance to the main hipped roof section is itself a two story portico supported by four classical columns, paired and placed to either side of the entrance. A ceramic tile roof shelters the brick walls and the continuous cast concrete foundation.

Elaboration

Wilson Hall at Arkansas Tech University is a large, two story, brick masonry classroom building designed in the Colonial Revival style. It features an elaborate though symmetrical "E"-shaped plan, consisting of a central hipped roof section connecting two perpendicular hipped roof sections, each of which projects forward from the front of the building and terminates in a smaller hipped roof "house" that completes the composition. The central entrance to the main hipped roof section is itself a two story portico supported by four classical columns, paired and placed to either side of the entrance. A single brick chimney projects from the northern flank of the hipped roof of the central section, adjacent to this section's intersection with the perpendicular northern hipped roof section. A ceramic tile roof shelters the brick walls and the continuous cast concrete foundation.

The eastern or front elevation is composed of the central, two-story, hipped roof section with its Colonial Revival cupola and the two, perpendicular hipped roof sections at either end that project to the east and terminate in rectangular, hipped roof "houses" or pavilions. The central section is dominated by the vented cupola in the center of the roof and the flat roof, two-story columned portico that frames the entrance. The portico is supported on six simplified Classical columns. The double-leaf entrance is set into a rectangular opening that is filled with an arched, Florentine transom and sidelights. A single window is placed directly above the entrance, but beneath the portico ceiling. Four window bays flank the portico to either side, the closest of which contains a single window and the other three of which contain a pair of windows. The inside wall of the northern perpendicular section is lighted with six pairs of windows; the inside wall of the southern perpendicular section is also lighted with six window bays, though a single-leaf entrance bay is also placed toward the intersection with the eastern end pavilion. Four

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dormer vents are placed on the inside slope of each of the perpendicular sections, and three more are placed symmetrically on the central section, below the cupola. The fronts of both of the end pavilions are each six bays in length, with a central wall dormer containing a central vent in the gable peak and two individual window bays in the wall below. A pair of windows constitutes the next bay to either side of the wall dormer, and the ends of the elevations are finished with two more individual window bays; the first and second floors in all cases are identical. The northern and southern elevations of the end pavilions are also identical, with a central entrance being framed by a single window to either side and three windows placed symmetrically above. The inside entrances are further ornamented with a decorative Classical wood frame and pediment.

The western elevation is of the same fundamental form as the eastern elevation. Two pairs of windows are placed in the center and between both floors (to accommodate the stairwell behind) with a single leaf entrance on the basement level. Four pairs of windows are placed to either side of center on both main floors and the raised basement. Three hipped roof dormers vent the attic above. The hipped roof end bays are each lighted with three symmetrically-placed single windows on each floor. The western or rear walls of the end pavilions are each lighted with two windows on each floor.

The section of the northern elevation to the west of the projecting wall of the end pavilion is nine bays in length, including a single-leaf entrance adjacent to the wall of the end pavilion and eight window bays continuing to the western end of the elevation. The southern elevation is identical.

Wilson Hall has remained in remarkably intact condition since its construction and has suffered relatively few alterations. It is in very good condition.

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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.

Wilson Hall was constructed in 1925 (architect and builder unknown) and as such was built during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*. It stands as an outstanding example of a large, brick masonry classroom building with an "E"-shaped plan designed in the Colonial Revival style (e.g., the absolutely symmetrical composition of the front facade and the columned Classical central entrance portico -- including its four Doric columns -- that dominates the composition). Its use during this period as an educational classroom building for a public university clearly identifies it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion

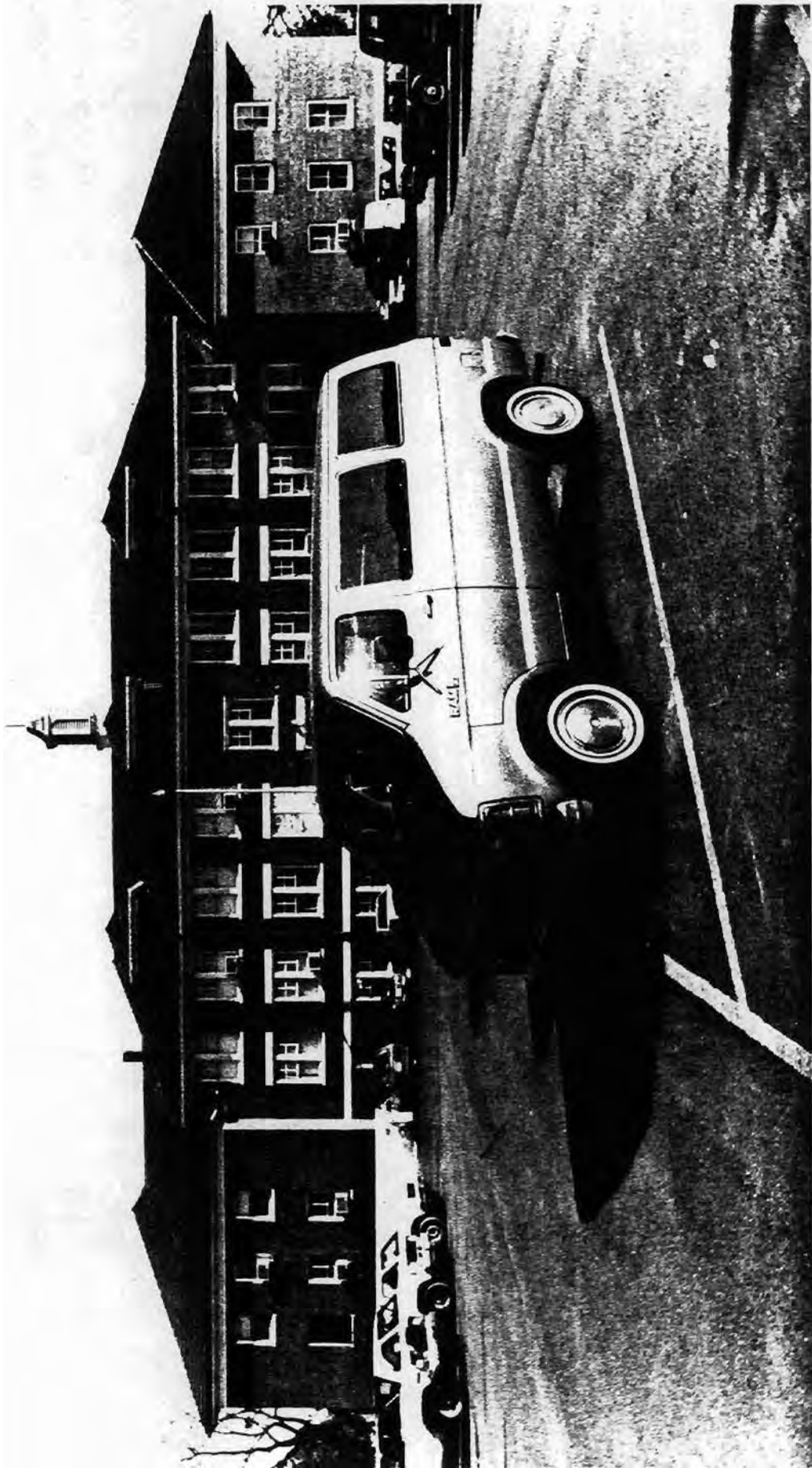
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A through its direct associations with the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period, and under Criterion C as the best example locally of this application of the Colonial Revival style to this particular floor plan.





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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: Wilson Hall Additional Documentation

Other names/site number: Site #PP0048

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Northwest Corner of North El Paso Avenue and West M Street

City or town: Russellville State: Arkansas County: Pope

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

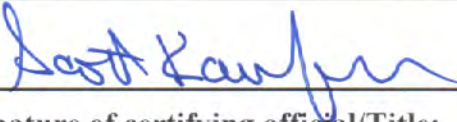
I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

	<u>7-23-24</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____	_____
Signature of commenting official:	Date
_____	_____
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

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Structure

Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/education-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/education-related

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, TILE, CONCRETE

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

Wilson Hall is a two-story brick building located at the northwest corner of North El Paso Avenue and West M Street on the Arkansas Tech University campus. Surrounded by other college buildings and parking lots, the building is located on a flat site that is mainly covered with grass and scattered trees. There are also several sidewalks that cross the site, connecting the building to other parts of the campus.

Initially three separate buildings – two built in 1910 and one built in 1913 – the building was renovated and added onto in 1933 with a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in order to make one large dormitory (see Figures #2-3). It rests on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and has brick walls. The building is topped by a hipped clay-tile roof that is pierced by arched copper dormers. An octagonal cupola is also located in the center of the building’s central section.

The building is fenestrated by a mixture of double-hung windows, some of which are in pairs, that have different pane arrangements. The windows are mainly evenly spaced along the building’s façades and reflect the repetitive plan of a dormitory. The windows’ pane arrangements include two-over-two, four-over-one, and four-over-four configurations. Some of

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the windows are also flanked by shutters. In addition, entrances into the building are enhanced by decorative surrounds.

Two small additions, constructed c.2000, are located at the northwest and southwest corners of the building, and likely include additional means of egress in case of fire. However, they were designed with like materials in order to blend in with the architecture of the 1930s building.

Narrative Description

Wilson Hall is a two-story brick building located at the northwest corner of North El Paso Avenue and West M Street near the western edge of the Arkansas Tech University campus. Bounded by other college buildings to the west and north, parking lots to the south, and the campus' quad to the east, the building is located on a flat site, just like the rest of the campus. Most of the site is covered with grass although there are scattered trees on all four sides of the building. There are also several sidewalks that cross the site, especially on the building's east side, connecting the building to other parts of the campus.

Wilson Hall was initially three separate buildings – two built in 1910 and one built in 1913. However, in order to increase housing for students, the three buildings were renovated and connected in 1933 with a loan from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in order to make one large dormitory (see Figure #3 for building's sections' dates of construction). As a result, what started as three rectangular buildings ended up as a building with a "C" plan. Although the building is two stories tall, the western leg of the "C" has a basement as well, giving it a taller height than the rest of the building. Wilson Hall rests on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and has brick walls. The walls, at least in the original sections, are load-bearing brick walls, and the 1946 Sanborn map indicates that the building has concrete floors on the first and second stories and a frame attic.

The building is topped by a hipped clay-tile roof that is pierced by arched copper dormers facing the central area at the front of the building, some of which have windows while other have attic vents. Hipped-roof dormers are located on the west side of the 1913 section of the building. An octagonal cupola with arched louvered vents and a bell cast roof is also located in the center of the building's central section.

The building is fenestrated by a mixture of double-hung windows, some of which are in pairs, that have different pane arrangements. Most of the windows on the 1913 section of the building are grouped in pairs, while the 1933 sections of the building mainly have single windows. The 1910 sections of the building have a mixture of single and paired windows. The windows are mainly evenly spaced along the building's façades and reflect the repetitive plan of a dormitory. The windows' pane arrangements include two-over-two, four-over-one, and four-over-four configurations. Some of the windows on the 1910 sections of the building are also flanked by shutters. In addition, entrances into the building are enhanced by decorative surrounds.

Two small additions, constructed c.2000, are located at the northwest and southwest corners of the building, and likely include additional means of egress in case of fire. However, they were

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designed with like materials in order to blend in with the architecture of the 1930s building. They are fenestrated by single-pane windows and the additions are topped with clay-tile hipped roofs.

Front/East Façade (See Photos #1-3, 5, and 14)

The east façade of the building is divided into three sections, and it encompasses the east façades of the three previous buildings. The central part of the façade encompasses the 1913 dormitory building, which is two stories tall on a raised basement. It is symmetrical in its composition. The central bay of the façade has the building's main entrance on the first floor. The entrance, which is approached by seven concrete steps, consists of a pair of doors with four-pane sidelights on each side. It's also topped by a three-pane arched transom window. The entrance is immediately surrounded by two pilasters on each side with a flat cornice on top. A decorative metal fence is on top of the cornice. The second floor of the central bay has a four-over-one window with paneled shutters. A portico with two columns on each side and a flat cornice shelters the central bay.

The fenestration on the first and second floors is identical and is symmetrically arranged around the main entrance. The bays closest to the center are fenestrated with single, four-over-one windows. The windows on the second floor have stone sills while those on the first floor have stone lintels and sills. The other three bays on each side proceeding away from the main entrance are each fenestrated by a pair of four-over-one windows.

The building's basement level is also symmetrical in its composition. To the south of the main entrance, the first bay is fenestrated by a single four-over-one window. The next two bays were originally fenestrated by pairs of four-over-one windows. However, the southern window in the southern bay has been replaced by a louvered vent. The southernmost bay is fenestrated by a single four-over-one window. The windows have stone sills and a stone water table serves as the windows' lintel.

To the north of the main entrance, the first bay is fenestrated by a single four-over-one window. The next two bays were originally fenestrated by pairs of four-over-one windows. However, the northern window in the southern bay has been replaced by a louvered vent. The northernmost bay is fenestrated by a single four-over-one window. The windows have stone sills and a stone water table serves as the windows' lintel.

On the roof of this section of the building are three arched copper dormers with eight-pane windows. Also, in the center of the building's roof is an octagonal cupola. Each face of the cupola has an arched louvered vent, and the cupola is topped by a bell cast roof.

The other two sections of Wilson Hall's east façade are comprised of the east sides of the former 1910 buildings. The façades of the two sections are almost identical in design, and they consist of three sections of two bays each. The southern section's southern bays are fenestrated on each floor by a single four-over-four window and the next bay to the north is fenestrated on each floor by a pair of four-over-four windows. The central two bays of each section project slightly from the rest of the façade. These sections also have front-facing gable roofs and there is a rectangular louvered attic vent in each gable. Each of the bays in the projecting section are fenestrated by a

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single four-over-four window on each floor. The northern two bays of each section are fenestrated on each floor by a pair of four-over-four windows followed by a single four-over-four window. All of the windows have stone sills and lintels.

Side/South Façade (See Photos #4, and 12-13)

The south façade of the south wing is divided into three sections, which include the c.2000 addition at the west end, the 1933 section in the middle, and the 1910 section of the building at the east end. The south façade of the c.2000 addition is fenestrated near the east end on each floor by a single, single-pane window. In between the c.2000 addition and the 1933 the façade recesses and there is no fenestration in the recess.

Beginning at its west end, the 1933 section of the building is fenestrated on each floor by eight bays of single two-over-two windows with stone sills. A large switchback wheelchair ramp leads to the second window from the west on the first floor, indicating that at some point it was a door. At the east end of the 1933 portion of the building, the first floor has an entrance with an aluminum door with two square windows in it. Above the entrance is a two-over-two window that is slightly lower than the other windows, indicating that it provides light to a stairwell.

The south façade of the south wing's 1910 section is symmetrical in its composition. On the first floor in the center is an entrance with a solid door. It is sheltered by a hipped roof awning that is supported by decorative iron brackets. Flanking the entrance on the first floor are two four-over-four windows. The second floor is fenestrated by three, evenly-spaced, four-over-four windows. Each of the windows has a stone sill and lintel.

The south façade of the north wing is divided into three sections, the c.2000 addition at the west end, the 1933 portion of the building in the center, and the northern 1910 building at the east end. The south façade of the c.2000 addition is fenestrated near the east end on each floor by a single, single-pane window. The 1933 section of the building, beginning at the west end, is fenestrated by a pair of two-over-two windows followed by five bays of a single two-over-two window. All of the windows have stone sills and the windows on the second floor are slightly smaller than those on the first floor. The roof also has four arched copper dormers that house rectangular louvered attic vents.

The south façade of the north wing's 1910 section is symmetrical in its composition. On the first floor in the center is an entrance with a pair of solid paneled doors. The entrance, which is slightly recessed, has a door surround with engaged pilasters and a gabled pediment. Above the entrance is a slightly recessed semicircular panel. Flanking the entrance on the first floor are two four-over-four windows. The second floor is fenestrated by three, evenly-spaced, four-over-four windows. Each of the windows has a stone sill and lintel and they also have paneled shutters.

Rear/West Façade (See Photos #8-11)

The west façade of Wilson Hall is divided into five sections and is also symmetrical in its composition. In the center of the façade is the 1913 building and to the north and south of it are small sections of the 1933 building. At the north and south ends of the façade are the c.2000 additions.

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The central part of the façade encompasses the 1913 dormitory building, which is two stories tall on a raised basement. It is symmetrical in its composition. The central bay of the façade has the building's main rear entrance on the first floor. The entrance, which is approached by nine concrete steps, consists of a single door with a single-pane sidelight on each side. It's also topped by a single-pane rectangular transom window. The entrance also has a stone lintel with a stone keystone. In between the first and the second floors of the central bay is a pair of four-over-one windows that provide light to the stairwell.

The fenestration on the first and second floors is identical and is symmetrically arranged around the main entrance. All of the bays are fenestrated by a pair of four-over-one windows. The windows on the second floor have stone sills while those on the first floor have stone lintels and sills.

The building's basement level is also symmetrical in its composition. To the south of the main entrance, the first bay's windows are boarded up. The next two bays fenestrated by pairs of four-over-one windows. The southernmost bay is fenestrated by a single four-over-one window. The windows have stone sills and a stone water table serves as the windows' lintel.

To the north of the main entrance, the first three bays are fenestrated by pairs of four-over-one windows. The northernmost bay is fenestrated by a single four-over-one window. The windows have stone sills and a stone water table serves as the windows' lintel.

On the roof of this section of the building are three hipped roof dormers. The central dormer does not have any openings while the northern and southern dormers have rectangular louvered vents.

To the north and south of the building's 1913 portion, small parts of the 1933 building are visible. These sections also project slightly from the 1913 part of the building. Each of these sections is fenestrated on each floor by a single two-over-two window. The windows in the 1933 parts of the building have stone sills. At the north and south ends of the west façade, the c.2000 additions project from the façade. The west façades of these parts of the building don't have any fenestration, but each has an entrance towards the center of the building's façade that is comprised of a pair of metal doors with two windows in them. The entrances also have rectangular transom windows and they are sheltered by a shed-roofed, standing-seam metal awning.

There are also portions of the west façades of the 1910 buildings visible to the north and south of the north and south wings. Each of these parts of the façades are fenestrated on each floor by two, two-over-two windows with stone sills and lintels.

Side/North Façade (See Photos #6-7 and 15)

The north façade of the north wing is divided into three sections, which include the c.2000 addition at the west end, the 1933 section in the middle, and the 1910 section of the building at the east end. The north façade of the c.2000 addition is fenestrated near the east end on each

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County and State

Name of Property

floor by a single, single-pane window. In between the c.2000 addition and the 1933 the façade recesses and there is no fenestration in the recess.

Beginning at its west end, the 1933 section of the building is fenestrated on each floor by eight bays of single two-over-two windows with stone sills. At the east end of the 1933 portion of the building, the first floor has an entrance with an aluminum door with two square windows in it. It is sheltered by a flat-roofed metal awning. Above the entrance is a two-over-two window that is slightly lower than the other windows, indicating that it provides light to a stairwell.

The north façade of the north wing's 1910 section is symmetrical in its composition. On the first floor in the center is an entrance with a solid door. It is sheltered by a hipped roof awning that is supported by decorative iron brackets. Flanking the entrance on the first floor are two four-over-four windows. The second floor is fenestrated by three, evenly-spaced, four-over-four windows. Each of the windows has a stone sill and lintel.

The north façade of the south wing is divided into three sections, the c.2000 addition at the west end, the 1933 portion of the building in the center, and the northern 1910 building at the east end. The north façade of the c.2000 addition is fenestrated near the east end on each floor by a single, single-pane window. The 1933 section of the building, beginning at the west end, is fenestrated by a pair of two-over-two windows followed by five bays of a single two-over-two window. All of the windows have stone sills and the windows on the second floor are slightly smaller than those on the first floor. The roof also has four arched copper dormers that house rectangular louvered attic vents.

The north façade of the south wing's 1910 section is symmetrical in its composition. On the first floor in the center is an entrance with a pair of solid paneled doors. The entrance, which is slightly recessed, has a door surround with engaged pilasters and a gabled pediment. Above the entrance is a slightly recessed semicircular panel. Flanking the entrance on the first floor are two four-over-four windows. The second floor is fenestrated by three, evenly-spaced, four-over-four windows. Each of the windows has a stone sill and lintel and they also have paneled shutters.

Setting

Wilson Hall is located at the northwest corner of North El Paso Avenue and West M Street near the southwest corner of the Arkansas Tech University campus. Wilson Hall is immediately surrounded on the west and northwest by other college buildings and to the south and southwest of Wilson Hall are parking lots to the south of West M Street. To the east of the building is North El Paso Avenue followed by the campus' quad and the Crabaugh Building. The topography of the building's site, along with the rest of the campus, is mainly flat. Wilson Hall's immediate site is flat and mainly covered with grass. There are also some trees that are scattered around the building. There are also several sidewalks, especially to the east of the building, that cross the site and connect the building to other parts of the campus.

Integrity

Since Wilson Hall reached its current form in 1933, there have been few alterations to the building. Although the buildings around Wilson Hall date from a variety of eras, and some were

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built after Wilson Hall was completed, the setting around the building still reflects the setting and feeling of a college campus. The biggest change to Wilson Hall itself was the construction of the two small additions on the rear of the building which were completed c.2000. However, the additions are small in scale when compared to the original building, and they cover up only small amounts of the original building. Furthermore, the additions were likely built to incorporate additional means of egress.

With limited exceptions, Wilson Hall still retains its original materials from either when the original dormitories were built in 1910 and 1913 or when the current iteration of Wilson Hall was built in 1933. There have been a few windows that have been replaced, but the new windows match the original windows in design. It is likely that most of the doors have been replaced, but in most cases they probably approximate the doors that were originally installed on the building.

However, even with the limited alterations to the building, Wilson Hall still is able to reflect those qualities that make it significant.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

Period of Significance

1933

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

A. N. McAninch, Architect

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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.)

When Wilson Hall was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992, it was listed under **Criteria A & C** with **local significance**. It was listed under Criterion A for its "direct associations with the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state, and it was listed under Criterion C as the "best example locally of this application of the Colonial Revival style to this particular floor plan." However, since that time, additional information about the history of the building has been discovered, which necessitates submitting additional documentation for the building.

This additional documentation seeks to do the following:

- 1) Correct misinformation in the original nomination.
- 2) Supplement the nomination with new history that was not known when the original nomination was written.
- 3) Remove the *Public Schools of the Ozarks, 1920-1940*, Multiple Property Documentation Form from the nomination.
- 4) Remove Criterion C, since the nomination does not support the building's significance for its architectural design. Although Wilson Hall is a good example of the Colonial Revival style, there are other examples of the style of equal quality on the Arkansas Tech Campus.

With respect to removing the *Public Schools of the Ozarks, 1920-1940*, Multiple Property Documentation Form, although it is not clear in its definition of property types, it does appear that it was meant to apply to buildings where learning took place, such as schoolhouses, shop buildings, and home economics buildings. It does not appear to apply to other building types, such as dormitories, that may have been found on school or college campuses. Although the original nomination for Wilson Hall noted that it was used as an "educational classroom building," that does not appear to be correct. Rather, it appears that it has served as a dormitory throughout its history.

However, Wilson Hall does have **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the work of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) across Arkansas during the 1930s. It was one of several buildings that were built or renovated at Arkansas Tech University during the 1930s with assistance from the RFC. Although the original nomination noted that Wilson Hall was built in 1925, that is not correct. The building as it stands today was built in 1933 with a loan from the RFC and incorporated two dormitories that were built in 1910 and another dormitory that was built in 1913. The revised period of significance for the building is 1933, which encompasses the construction of the building and the RFC's involvement in the project.

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

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Prior to the twentieth century, the education system in Pope County consisted entirely of public grade schools without any colleges and universities. By the late nineteenth century, it was noted that:

Pope County has made great advancement under the operations of this law, and he public schools are in a flourishing condition. New districts have been added almost every year, until now there are about 100. About the same number of teachers are employed, and the county has nearly fifty school-houses. There are over 7000 children of the school age in the county, of whom not 600 are colored. The latter are taught separately. New school-houses are being built in nearly all parts of the county, and an almost unanimous desire is manifested by the citizens to build up and protect that bulwark of the people's intellectual advancement – the public free-school. In the Russellville Graded School are enrolled nearly 400 pupils.¹

The development of Arkansas Tech University began in 1909 when the Arkansas legislature passed Act 100 which was meant to develop a “State Agricultural School” with the construction of campuses in four districts around Arkansas. Russellville fell in the Second District, and the competition for the district’s college was fierce. Towns that had an interest in obtaining the school were required to pledge a minimum of \$40,000 and have a site that was at least 200 acres. Russellville was ultimately chosen for the school on February 10, 1910, beating out Ozark, Fort Smith, and Morrilton. Russellville’s selection may have been due in part to the fact that they also pledged to offer the school free water and electricity for three years. The other campuses would be located in Jonesboro, Magnolia, and Monticello.²

The four schools were initially referred to by their district designations – the school in Russellville was the Second District Agricultural School – and they were initially secondary schools that were the equivalent of high schools today. However, the schools in Arkansas differed from schools in other states in that the focus of the schools was mainly to advance agricultural education. (Schools in other states were mainly high schools that included some agricultural education.)³

¹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago; The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 205.

² DeBlack, Thomas A. “Arkansas Tech University.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/arkansas-tech-university-4138/>.

³ DeBlack, Thomas A. “Arkansas Tech University.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/arkansas-tech-university-4138/>.

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When the Second District School opened for classes in the fall of 1910, the enrollment was 186 students, which grew to 350 students by the 1913-1914 school year. Even though there was initial growth in the school's enrollment, the first few years were difficult ones for the school. Funding the school was problematic, and especially during World War I, the school's enrollment declined. However, under the leadership of Hugh Critz between 1918 and 1923, the school rebounded and by the 1914-1925 academic year the college was offering courses for the gamut of students between high school freshmen and college seniors.⁴

In February 1925, the names of the four schools were changed by the legislature, and although the other three schools became Agricultural and Mechanical schools, the school in Russellville became Arkansas Polytechnic College – commonly referred to as “Tech.” The use of the word polytechnic in the name was to try and distinguish the school from the school in Conway, and also indicate that the school focused on vocational subjects. Even so, the school's focus slowly shifted away from agricultural education to the training of teachers along with liberal and fine arts.⁵

Like the rest of the colleges around Arkansas, Arkansas Tech was negatively impacted by the Great Depression. Although enrollment declined briefly at the beginning of the Depression, under the leadership of James Richard (J. R.) Grant, enrollment rebounded, especially during the later years of the 1930s. The school's enrollment grew from 482 students during the 1929-1930 academic year, a record in itself, to 758 students by the beginning of the 1940-1941 academic year.⁶

However, it wasn't just enrollment that challenged the district schools – financial woes also affected the institutions. In fact, the financial challenges were so great that the state legislature considered closing the schools. However, under the leadership of Joseph W. Hull, who became the school's president in 1932, the school was able to make it through the Depression. One of the ways that the school was able to survive, while also dealing with the school's increased enrollment, was through loans from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), which gave loans to the school to build or renovate several buildings including Williamson Hall, Hughes Hall, and Wilson Hall.⁷

Wilson Hall actually began life as three separate buildings that were built as boys dormitories in the early 1910s. The three dormitories don't appear to have been named – the Sanborn maps for

⁴ DeBlack, Thomas A. “Arkansas Tech University.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/arkansas-tech-university-4138/>.

⁵ DeBlack, Thomas A. “Arkansas Tech University.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/arkansas-tech-university-4138/>.

⁶ DeBlack, Thomas A. “Arkansas Tech University.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/arkansas-tech-university-4138/>.

⁷ DeBlack, Thomas A. “Arkansas Tech University.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/arkansas-tech-university-4138/>. Although the building is referred to as Wilson Hall in the original nomination and in this nomination as well, it was not named Wilson Hall until September 1952 when the Board of Trustees voted on the name in order to honor Judge R. B. Wilson who was instrumental in having the school locate in Russellville and also served on the Board of Trustees from 1913 to 1927. Prior to that time, it is referred to on the 1946 Sanborn map simply as “Boys’ Dormitories.”

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Russellville only refer to them by directions based on their placement in the grouping. Two of the buildings, likely the smaller matching buildings, referred to as “South” and “North” were built in 1910, while the third building, referred to as “West,” was a larger building built in 1913. However, by the early 1930s, as the school’s enrollment increased, the three original dormitories became inadequate and additional space was necessary.

Rather than demolish the three original dormitories, the college decided to renovate them and add onto them converting them into one large building. This was likely done in order to obtain the needed space while saving money by incorporating the three buildings into the final design. A headline in the May 14, 1933, *Arkansas Gazette* proclaimed that a “Loan From R.F.C. Will Make Construction of New Dormitory Possible at Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville,” and it was accompanied by a rendering of the new building (See Figure 1). The caption under the rendering noted that “Working drawings for this beautiful new dormitory [*sic.*] for the Arkansas Polytechnic College, Russellville, will be completed early this week by A. N. McAninch, Little Rock architect, and bids for materials will be received by the Board of Trustees in about two weeks. The fireproof structure will house 210 students and will contain many improvements. The central section will be three stories and the wings, two. A loan of \$70,000 was obtained from the R. F. C. to finance construction.”⁸

Arthur Neal McAninch, the architect for the renovated Wilson Hall, was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on October 23, 1897, to parents Samuel J. and Jessica May Ladd McAninch. During World War I, he served as a pilot in the United States Army Air Corps.⁹ Around 1929, McAninch began practicing architecture in Little Rock, though it is not known where he attended architecture school or any previous firms he may have worked at. At that time, he had partnered with Jack Petter in the firm Petter & McAninch. During their partnership, the firm produced designs for several notable buildings in Arkansas, including the 1931 Hope High School, the 1932 Wilson Hall on the campus of the First District Agricultural and Mechanical College in Jonesboro (now Arkansas State University), and the 1932 Arkadelphia High School (now the Arkadelphia School District Administration Building). However, by late 1932, McAninch had started to take over the practice on his own, as Petter was retiring. From 1933 to 1937, McAninch operated a small but successful solo practice. During this time, he continued to produce stunning Art Deco designs, like he had previously done with Petter, but also became known for his novel approach to Tudor Revival and Gothic Revival architecture. This approach was seen not only in the designs for Horsfall and Harris halls but also in the 1936 V.C. Kays House in Jonesboro (NR listed 5/23/2014) and on the 1936 Fairview School Gymnasium in Camden, Arkansas. McAninch remained in solo practice until 1938 when he partnered with Bruce Anderson. McAninch’s practice with Anderson lasted until 1941, and then he started a

⁸ “Loan From R.F.C. Will Make Construction of New Dormitory Possible at Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville.” *Arkansas Gazette*, 14 May 1933, p. 12.

⁹ Ancestry.com “Arthur Neal McAninch.” Found at https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/11603243/person/-433465042/facts?_phsrc=Skw1025&_phstart=successSource. (accessed 10 February 2021)

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practice with John Roscoe Mahnker, Jr., in 1945. McAninch remained in the architecture profession until his death on March 9, 1965, in Little Rock.¹⁰

Solicitation of bids for the building was begun in May 1933, and a notice in the *Arkansas Gazette* read that "Notice is hereby given that sealed proposals for the construction of a dormitory building to be erected on the campus of the Arkansas Polytechnic College, Russellville, Pope County, state of Arkansas, will be received at the office of J. W. Hull, president, Arkansas Polytechnic College, Russellville, Ark., until 2 p. m. Friday, June 2, 1933, at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Separate proposals will be received on the general construction, plumbing, heating, and electric work. ... Plans and specifications may be secured from A. N. McAninch, architect, 602 Pyramid Building, Little Rock, Ark., on deposit of \$15."¹¹

It was not long after the bids were received that the construction of Wilson Hall was underway. Also, due to the importance and need for the space, construction on the project was rushed in order to have the building ready for the fall term. The July 30, 1933, *Arkansas Gazette* reported:

Three shifts of workmen are employed on the boys dormitories at the college in order to have the work completed for the opening of the first semester on September 18. Gomer Krause of Clarksville, general contractor, starts his first crew at 5 a. m. and the work continues without interruption until 8 p. m., with new crews going on at 10 a. m. and 3 p. m.

The new construction, financed by a loan of \$82,000 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, will connect the three boys dormitories into one large building, containing 105 rooms with accommodations for 210 students. The building will contain two apartments for faculty representatives, two bathrooms, toilets and incinerators on each floor, and dressing rooms and lockers for athletes. Floors and ceilings in the old buildings have been torn out and the new building will be fireproof.

The summer term at the college was cut short and most other activities have ceased because of the construction program.¹²

Wilson Hall was one of several buildings at the Arkansas Tech campus that was built with assistance from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC). The RFC was created by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation Act, which was signed by President Herbert Hoover on January 22, 1932. Although it was initially meant to provide "emergency financing facilities for financial institutions, to aid in financing agriculture, commerce, and industry, and for other purposes," the RFC's lending powers were expanded with the Emergency Relief and Construction Act of 1932, which gave the RFC permission to lend money directly to states and

¹⁰ Witsell, Charles and Gordon Wittenberg. *Architects of Little Rock, 1833-1950*. Fayetteville, Arkansas: The University of Arkansas Press, 2014. Pgs. 99-101.

¹¹ "Notice to General Plumbing Heating and Electric Contractors." *Arkansas Gazette*, 18 May 1933, p. 13.

¹² "Construction of Dormitories At Tech Rushed." *Arkansas Gazette*, 30 July 1933, p. 2.

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territories. The purpose of the change was to “create employment” and expeditiously create “a public-works program.”¹³

Initially, Arkansas took full advantage of the agricultural loans. In fact, “Arkansas made greater use of farm loans than any other state, taking out 46,835 loans amounting to over \$4,000,000 between February and August of 1932.” The initial manager of the RFC in Arkansas was J. W. Jarrett, who was the chief examiner for the state banking department.¹⁴

Under Governor Parnell, a state emergency relief commission was created and it was headed by W. A. Rooksbery. The commission was tasked with working with Jarrett in order to secure RFC funds for the state. Based on its initial application, Arkansas received \$502,000 in RFC funds and in November 1932 the state received an additional loan of \$1,319,168. The state emergency relief commission also worked on establishing separate commissions in each of the state’s counties, and that was completed by January 1933. Furthermore, relief funds were obtained for each county. However, after only eight months, the state commission was forced to disband due to the fact that all of the RFC funds had been spent.¹⁵

Under the Roosevelt Administration, Congress further expanded the RFC’s powers and “developed it into an essential component of the New Deal.” One way in which the agency’s powers was expanded was so that it had the ability to make direct business loans, which allowed for easier stimulation of industrial expansion. During the 1930s, the RFC authorized \$1.2 billion in loans to a wide variety of entities, including public school authorities, state governments, and federal agencies, which helped to construct, in addition to college buildings, bridges, low-cost housing, sewer systems, and highways.¹⁶

Arkansas had a direct connection to the leadership of the RFC in Harvey Couch. Couch, a prominent Arkansas industrialist and businessman, at the recommendation of Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas and President Hoover, was approved by Congress as one of the seven directors of the RFC. It was also Couch who was instrumental in the creation of the RFC’s public works building program, something which he had tried to do in Arkansas. As noted in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*:

With his incomparable enthusiasm, Couch organized a special public works division within the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and then appointed a special advisory committee composed of distinguished engineers and architects to study and recommend appropriate construction projects. For the first time in

¹³ Information on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Found at: <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/reconstruction-finance-corporation-1932-1957/>.

¹⁴ Murray, Gail S. “Forty Years Ago: The Great Depression Comes to Arkansas.” *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Vol. XXIX, Number 4, Winter 1970, p. 309.

¹⁵ Murray, Gail S. “Forty Years Ago: The Great Depression Comes to Arkansas.” *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Vol. XXIX, Number 4, Winter 1970, pp. 309-310.

¹⁶ Information on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Found at: <https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/reconstruction-finance-corporation-1932-1957/>.

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history the federal government was not only willing but also prepared to assume the responsibility for providing direct employment during a depression. Couch had been selected to lead this ground-breaking experiment. He relished the task of providing jobs for men who were willing to work. The whole concept had unlimited potential.¹⁷

Although the program “had unlimited potential,” in practice it ran into challenges. President Hoover’s fears about the government being able to be reimbursed for the loans “seriously hampered the corporation’s and Couch’s work; the security of the loan and the ability of the federal government to recover its investment had come to outweigh the importance of any project’s employment-producing potential.”¹⁸

Couch was also frustrated by the fact that the initial projects looked at by the RFC for the program – the bay bridge from Oakland to San Francisco; the Pasadena water works system; and the Metropolitan aqueduct to carry water from the Colorado River to Los Angeles – were huge in scale. Couch wanted to look at small projects, “...ones that would immediately produce employment. Small projects...could be designed and initiated in relatively short periods of time. He [Couch] had little patience for long-range plans. Men were suffering and needed work immediately.”¹⁹ Projects like Wilson Hall and the other buildings at the Arkansas Tech campus were exactly the type of projects that Couch supported, and today illustrate the types of projects that the RFC ultimately became significant for.

The building became known as Wilson Hall in September 1952 when the board of trustees voted to name the building after Judge R. B. Wilson. Wilson had made a large contribution to bring the college to Russellville and had also served on the college’s board of trustees from 1913 to 1927. Today, after a renovation during the 2015-2016 school year, the building still serves as a dormitory for the college, although it is now a coeducational dormitory.²⁰

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

Although the original nomination for Wilson Hall, especially with its erroneous information, does not seem to make the case that the building had “direct associations with the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state...,” it does have significance for its associations with the role of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) during the Depression.

¹⁷ Olson, James S. “Harvey C. Couch and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.” *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Vol. XXXII, Number 3, Autumn 1973, p. 220.

¹⁸ Olson, James S. “Harvey C. Couch and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.” *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Vol. XXXII, Number 3, Autumn 1973, p. 221.

¹⁹ Olson, James S. “Harvey C. Couch and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.” *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Vol. XXXII, Number 3, Autumn 1973, p. 222.

²⁰ Christ, Mark. “Wilson Hall (Arkansas Tech University).” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/wilson-hall-arkansas-tech-university-15158/>.

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Even though the role of the RFC in building construction was short-lived, lasting only from 1932 until 1933, it had a lasting and important influence. According to *Living New Deal*, it notes of the RFC that: "Mostly forgotten today, the RFC was a vital part of the New Deal and of American history more broadly, assisting the nation 'through periods of recovery, preparedness, war, reconversion, economic expansion, another war and, finally, stability, and prosperity.' Under the Roosevelt Administration, Congress further expanded the RFC's powers and "developed it into an essential component of the New Deal."²¹

The idea of a public-works program, which became the backbone of agencies like the Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration, had its origins with the RFC and Arkansan Harvey Couch. As James Olson notes in his article, "Harvey C. Couch and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation," "Finally, and most importantly, the work of Harvey Couch and the RFC public works division in 1932-1933 constituted an important forerunner of the New Deal, particularly for the New Deal's creation of the Public Works Administration. Couch's work with the RFC had directly prepared the way for the new agency. During the famous 'One-Hundred Days' Congress created the Public Works Administration as a direct extension of the RFC's public works division. ... A large measure of credit for the success of the Public Works Administration during the depression must be given to Harvey Couch."²² Olson further notes that "...Historians of Arkansas and of the nation as a whole need to realize that the Public Works Administration of the New Deal and the concept of federally-financed employment producing construction projects are both products of the work done by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation during 1932-1933. And the individual responsible for most of that work was none other than Harvey C. Couch of Arkansas."²³

Wilson Hall, which was built in 1933 utilizing a loan from the RFC, reflects the short-lived public-works construction of the RFC during 1932 and 1933, which was significant for its influences on other New-Deal agencies. Due to its associations with the work of the RFC, Wilson Hall is **locally significant** under **Criterion A**.

²¹ Information on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Found at:

<https://livingnewdeal.org/glossary/reconstruction-finance-corporation-1932-1957/>.

²² Olson, James S. "Harvey C. Couch and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation." *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Vol. XXXII, Number 3, Autumn 1973, p. 224.

²³ Olson, James S. "Harvey C. Couch and the Reconstruction Finance Corporation." *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. Vol. XXXII, Number 3, Autumn 1973, p. 225.

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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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PP0048

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 2.25 acres.

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):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

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- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 487469 | Northing: 3905499 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running along the western edge of North El Paso Street with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of West M Street, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 300 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's northern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 250 feet to its intersection with the western edge of North El Paso Street; thence proceed southeasterly along said line for a distance of approximately 325 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes Wilson Hall and its immediate surroundings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov
telephone: (501) 324-9787
date: March 27, 2024

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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: Wilson Hall

City or Vicinity: Russellville

County: Pope County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed: February 28, 2024

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

1 of 15. East façade of the central section of Wilson Hall, looking west.

2 of 15. East façade of Wilson Hall, looking west.

3 of 15. Close up view of the east façade of the central section of Wilson Hall, looking west.

4 of 15. South façade of the north wing of Wilson Hall, looking north.

Wilson Hall Additional Documentation

Pope County, Arkansas
County and State

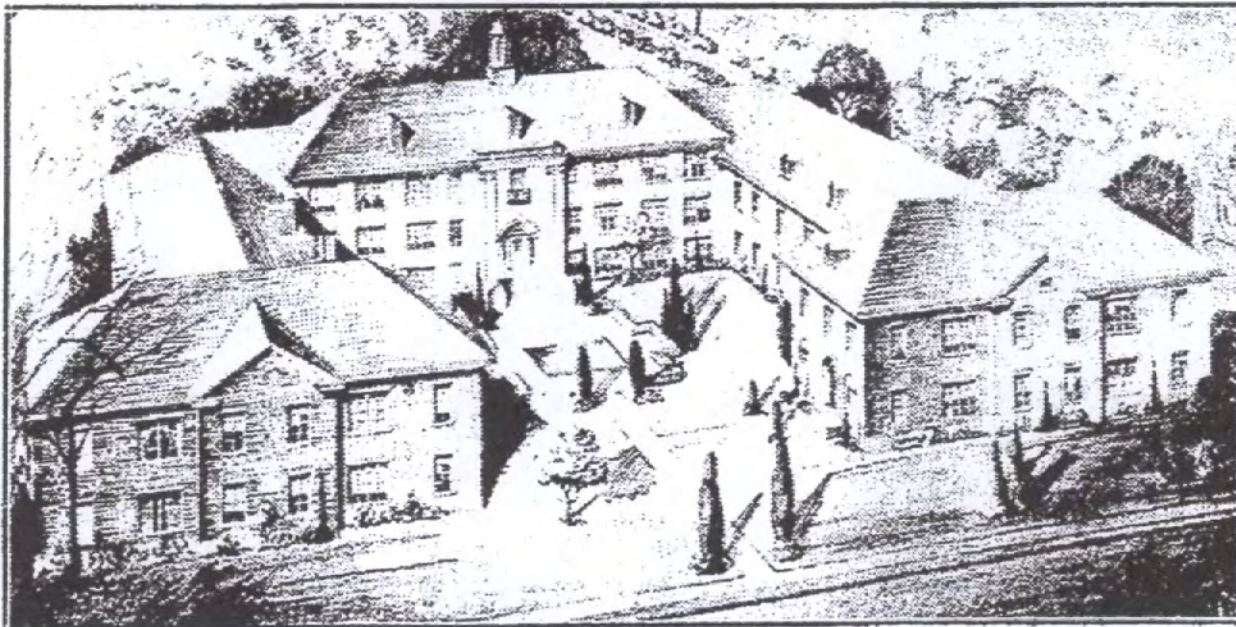
Name of Property

- 5 of 15 . East façade of the north wing of Wilson Hall, looking west.
- 6 of 15 . North façade of the north wing of Wilson Hall, looking southwest.
- 7 of 15 . North façade of the north wing of Wilson Hall, looking southeast.
- 8 of 15 . South and west façades of the addition at the northwest corner of Wilson Hall, looking northeast.
- 9 of 15 . West façade of the central section of Wilson Hall, looking southeast.
- 10 of 15 . North façade of the addition at the southwest corner of Wilson Hall, looking southeast.
- 11 of 15 . West façade of the central section of Wilson Hall and the south façade of the addition at the northwest corner of the building, looking northeast.
- 12 of 15 . South façade of the south wing of Wilson Hall, looking northeast.
- 13 of 15 . South façade of the south wing of Wilson Hall, looking northeast.
- 14 of 15 . South and east façades of the south wing of Wilson Hall, looking northwest.
- 15 of 15 . North façade of the south wing of Wilson Hall, looking southeast.

Wilson Hall Additional Documentation
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas
County and State

Loan From R. F. C. Will Make Construction of New Dormitory Possible at Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville



Working drawings for this beautiful new dormitory for the Arkansas Polytechnic College, Russellville, will be completed early this week by A. N. McAninch, Little Rock architect, and bids for materials will be received by the Board of Trustees in about two weeks. The fireproof structure will house 210 students and will contain many improvements. The central section will be three stories and the wings, two. A loan of \$70,000 was obtained from the R. F. C. to finance construction.

Figure 1: Rendering of Wilson Hall from the *Arkansas Gazette*, May 14, 1933, p. 12.

Wilson Hall Additional Documentation
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas
County and State

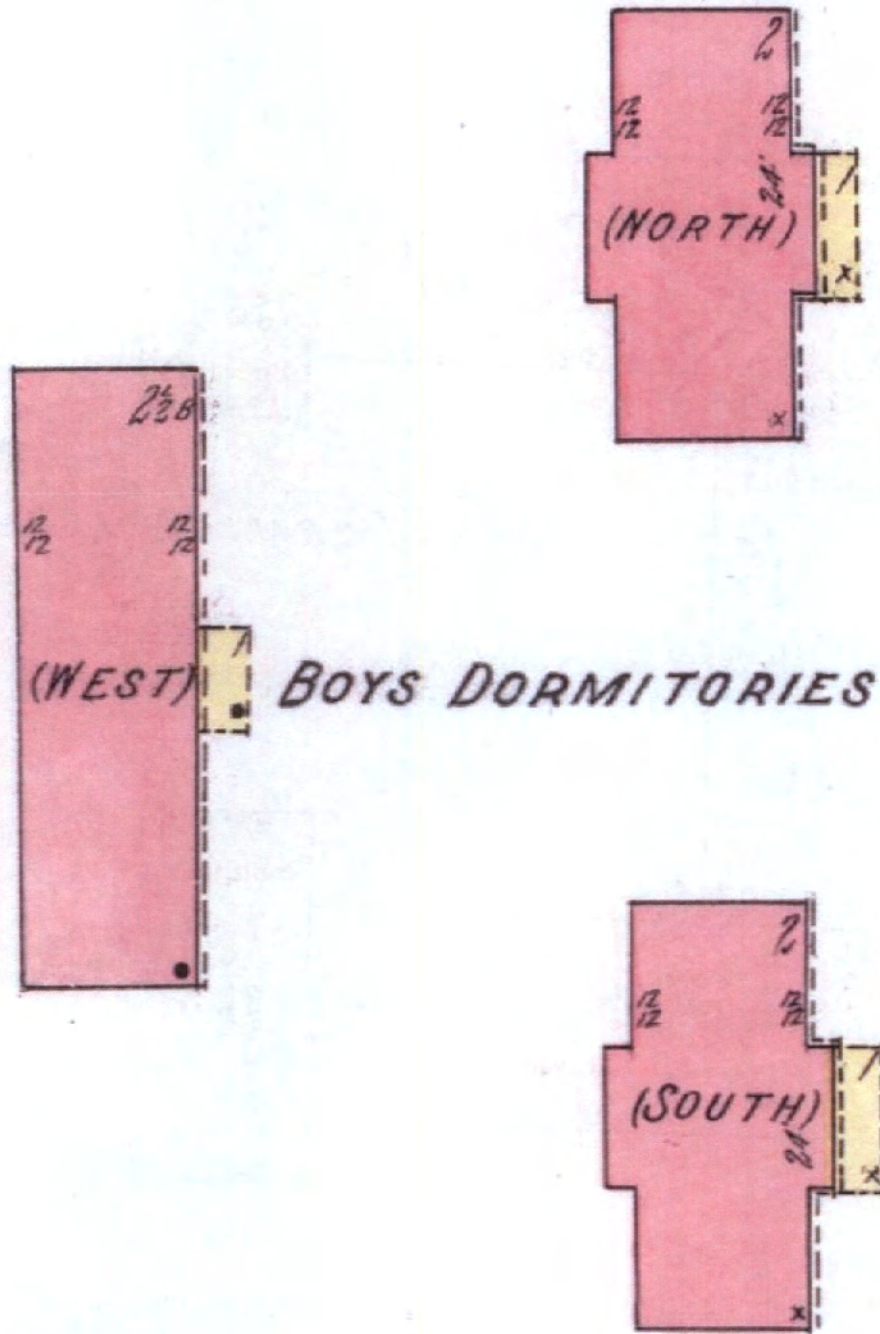


Figure 2: November 1913 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the three dormitories that were incorporated into Wilson Hall.

Wilson Hall Additional Documentation
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas
County and State

(ARK. POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE)

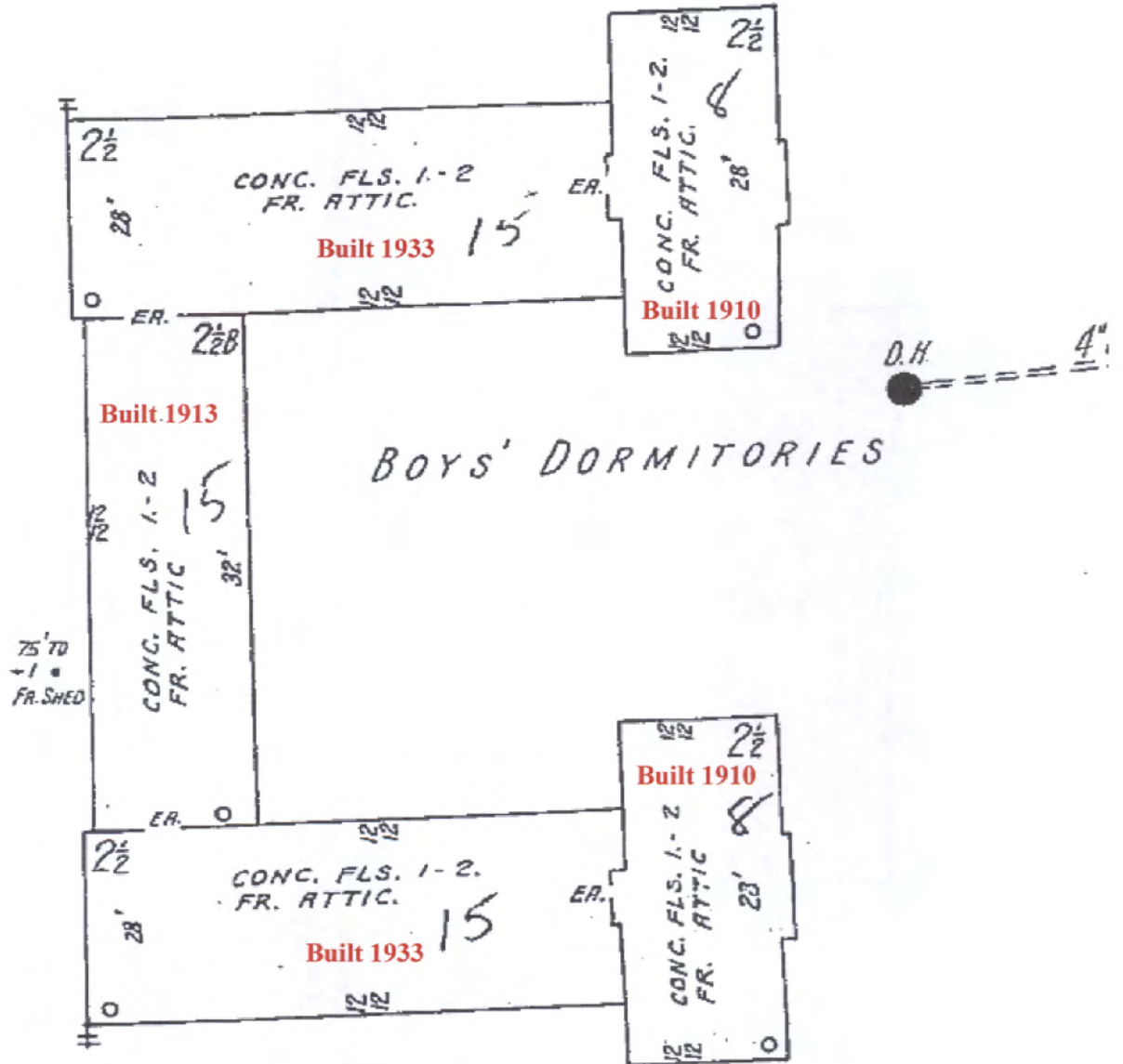


Figure 3: May 1946 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map showing the completed Wilson Hall. The dates of construction for each section of the building have been added to the diagram.

Wilson Hall Additional Documentation
Name of Property

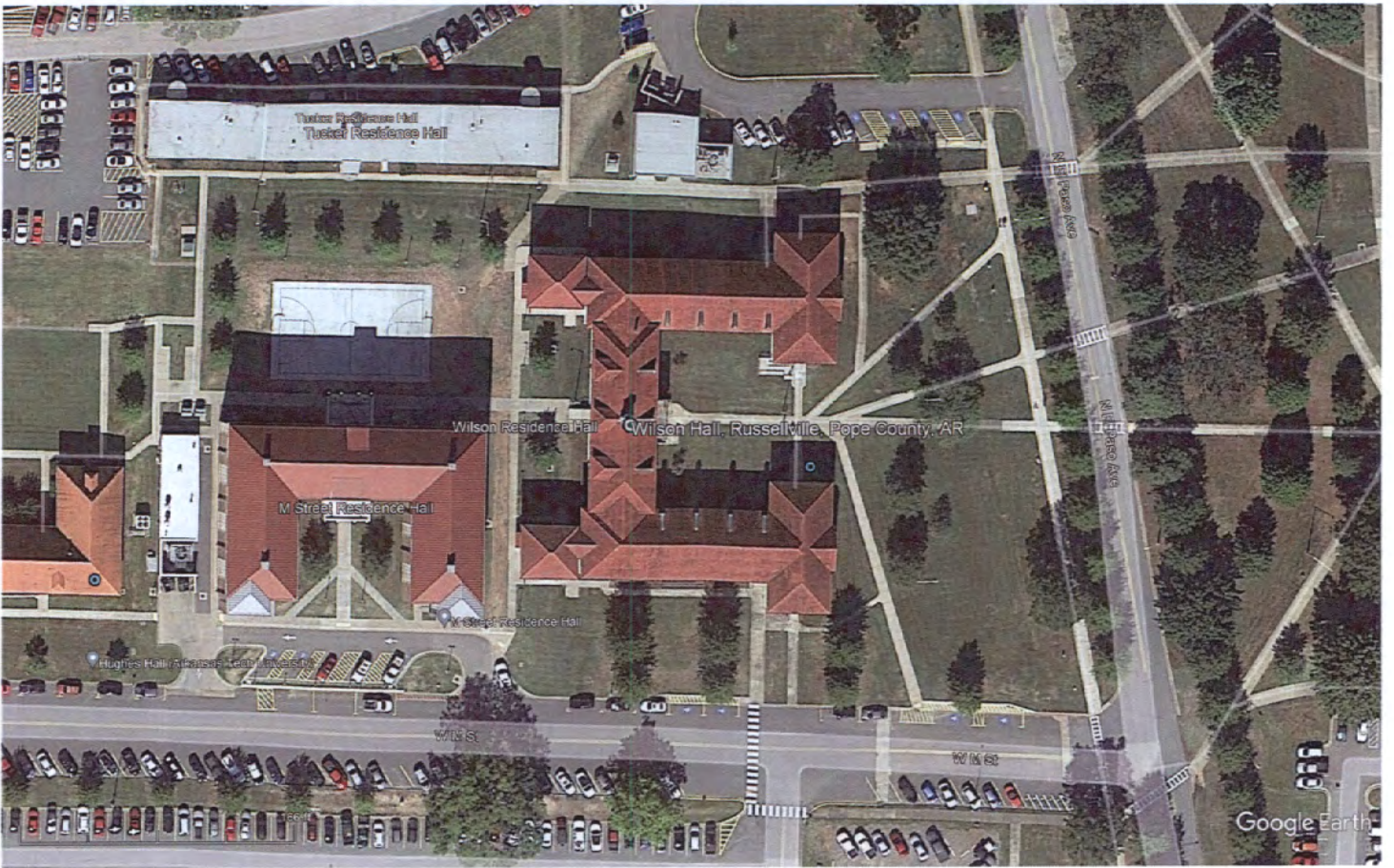
Pope County, Arkansas
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



|-----166'-----|

Wilson Hall

Russellville, Pope County, AR

UTM 15 487469E 3905499N



North



|-----819'-----|

Wilson Hall

Russellville, Pope County, AR

UTM 15 487469E 3905499N



North





























