

ARKANSAS BLACK HISTORY



Shorter College is a private, two year historically black college in North Little Rock. It was founded in 1886 as Bethel Institute to educate formerly enslaved individuals. The first classes were held in the basement of Bethel AME church at 9th and Broadway. In 1888, a building was built at 11th and Gaines in Little Rock. The school then relocated to Arkadelphia in 1892 and was renamed Shorter University in honor of Bishop James A. Shorter. In 1896, the school moved to Argenta. In the early 20th century, the name was changed to Shorter College and the school offered classes from 3rd grade through college. Until 1928, it was the only school that offered diplomas to black students in North Little Rock.



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HERITAGE