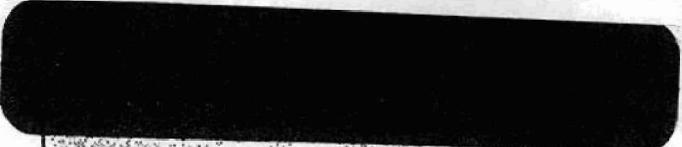


60-97-1100-73



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED NR listed 4/30/76  
DATE ENTERED

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

AND/OR COMMON

Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1600 High Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

### CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

### OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

### STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

### PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Arkansas Baptist College, Dr. J. E. Oliver, President

STREET & NUMBER

1600 High Street

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



# DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The construction of "Main Building" of Arkansas Baptist College was begun in 1893. Original plans called for a four-storey brick building with a cross-gable roof; however, the plans were altered during construction, resulting in the present structure. As completed around the turn of the century, Main Building consists of a full basement of rough-faced cut-stone supporting a two-storey, brick-facade building with a mansard roof of slate.

A college catalogue published in 1910 describes Main Building as follows:

The main building has a stone basement, two stories of brick and a mansard roof covered with slate. This is practically a four-storey building, 50 x 100 feet. It serves as a girls' dormitory, chapel, office rooms, dining room and kitchen. It is designed as a central building, so that the addition of wings will double its present capacity for all the foregoing purposes.

Though the building's use has changed slightly, and the proposed wings were never added, the general description of the structure remains accurate. Built of red brick with a tall bell tower and mansard roof, Main Hall typified college buildings in late nineteenth-century Arkansas.

About 1965 the square bell tower, which early dominated the roofline of the building, was removed. Other roofline features which have been removed (date unknown) include the six tall chimney stacks which originally rose from the north and south side of the mansard roof.

All windows on the north, west and south elevations have lintels and lugsills of rough-faced cut stone. The windows on the east elevation have arched heads cut from one piece of stone. Projecting from the slate roof are gable dormers, each containing a window set in plain wood framing.

Separating the stone basement and first storey of brick is a water table of cut stone. A simple brick stringcourse divides the first and second stories of the building. Beneath the mansard roof, the building is surrounded by a simple cornice and undecorated frieze.

Both the north and south elevations have eight bays, seven of which feature single double-hung windows on each storey and in the dormers. The two entrances to the building are located on these elevations, each on the second bay from the east. These entry bays feature paired windows set into the dormers, second-storey key-stone arches, and double doors with transoms opening onto the first storey.

Small flat-roofed porches with delicate Victorian trim originally covered the two entrances. The trim has been removed from these porches, and original divided wooden stairways have been replaced with wide cast-stone steps leading directly to the entries. In addition, a small enclosed foyer has been added at the north entry.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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      November 2, 1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed at the close of the nineteenth century, "Main Building" at Arkansas Baptist College is significant in several areas of Arkansas history. Architecturally, it is typical of the red-brick, mansard-roof structures built on Arkansas college campuses in the late nineteenth century. The building dates among the oldest facilities for higher education still standing in the state. Built by Baptists, Main Building illustrates the important historic role of religious groups in furthering education in Arkansas. However, most importantly, Main Building represents an important aspect of Negro history in Arkansas.

Arkansas Baptist College originated in 1884 at the annual meeting of the Negro Baptist Convention of Arkansas. At their convention in Hot Springs this group voted to establish a school for the training of Negro ministers and teachers. In November, 1884 the first classes were held in the facilities of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Little Rock. Ironically, the first teacher-administrator hired to operate the school was a white minister, the Reverend J. P. Lawton of Joplin, Missouri.

Operating for a short time as "The Baptist Institute," the school was incorporated as "Arkansas Baptist College" in 1885. Since that time it has been continually operated under the leadership of Negro administrators. In the late nineteenth century, Arkansas blacks considered Arkansas Baptist College to be the state's only Negro college which was completely free from white influence.

After operating the school in various Little Rock churches, the board of trustees voted to purchase land on which to permanently locate the school. For \$5,000.00 a Little Rock city block at the corner of 16th and High Streets was purchased. Several frame structures were built, but in March, 1893, a fire destroyed the central building. Within a very short time plans were drawn and construction begun on a replacement for the school's first administration building. The result was Main Building, the college's first brick structure, and Arkansas' oldest Negro college building.

Main Hall was originally designed as a four-storey structure with a cross-gable roof. Contemporary accounts in the Baptist Vanguard, a weekly newspaper published by the trustees of the college and edited by the school's president, indicate that financial difficulties forced modification of the original plans. As completed about the turn of the century, Main Building is a two-storey, brick structure with a full basement of rough-faced cut stone and a mansard roof of slate.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

For several years following 1893, the Baptist Vanguard records a number of financial appeals for the construction of Main Building. On the first Sunday in October, 1893, the morning collection in each church affiliated with the convention was to be used to help finance construction of the building. With the announcement that the cornerstone was to be laid on November 2, 1893, the Vanguard reported that, "It is expected to be the grandest occasion that ever happened among the colored people of Little Rock, and the state of Arkansas." 2

In February, 1894, the Vanguard announced that the "Sister's Association to Work for Arkansas Baptist College" had been established. This organization of Baptist women was formed to raise money for the school. On March 11, 1897, an appeal for funds was accompanied by a sketch of the building as completed to that date, consisting of the full stone basement and one brick storey above. The publicity and numerous advertisements in the Vanguard helped achieve the eventual completion of Main Building.

In addition to their property in central Little Rock, the school also owned a farm across the river near North Little Rock. This 100-acre farm, purchased through a financial gift from Miss Helen Griggs of Chicago, was used to provide agricultural training for the students. Somewhat like Booker T. Washington's Tuskegee Institute, Arkansas Baptist College emphasized agricultural and industrial training for its non-ministerial students. Nevertheless, the primary aim of the school has always been to provide training for young Negro ministers and teachers.

The man most responsible for the early success of Arkansas Baptist College was the Reverend Joseph A. Booker, who served as president from 1887 until his death in 1926. When President Booker began his career at Arkansas Baptist College, the school had only 30 students, held classes in church rooms and rented lodge halls, and had only one teacher besides Booker himself. By 1910, over 400 students were enrolled, the school had acquired land and buildings valued at more than \$75,000.00, and there were fifteen faculty members on the payroll. President Booker's work at Arkansas Baptist College made him one of the states' most influential Negro educators.

In 1859 Joseph A. Booker was born to slave parents in Ashley County, Arkansas. He was educated in the county's rural schools, and in 1878 entered the Branch Normal College at Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Three years later Booker began studying at the Nashville (Tennessee) Institute, and in 1886 earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. In later years he was awarded honorary doctorate degrees from State University at Louisville, Kentucky, (1901) and Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, (1902).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE two

After becoming president of Arkansas Baptist College in 1887, Joseph Booker quickly became a leader among Arkansas' Negro population. In January, 1891, he was one of the principal speakers at a rally against passage of Arkansas' first "Jim Crow" law, requiring separate but equal railroad coaches and depot waiting rooms for the black and white populations. However, Booker's proposal that first and second class railroad service be instituted was rejected, and the Tillman bill, requiring racial segregation on Arkansas railroad facilities, became law.

Though Booker failed in his fight against racial segregation in Arkansas, he won an important place in history of Arkansas education. In 1910 the Southern author G. P. Hamilton described Booker as "...the most influential educator of the race in the State of Arkansas."<sup>3</sup> Having been constructed under the leadership of Dr. Booker, Main Building is an appropriate landmark to be associated with this important Negro leader.

Main Building at Arkansas Baptist College is one of the most significant structures associated with Negro history in Arkansas. In addition its continual use as an educational institution, its close association with Dr. Joseph Booker and its mansard-roof architectural style further enhance the historic significance of Main Building.

<sup>1</sup> Arkansas' other historic educational structures include Arkansas College in Batesville and Old Main at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, both of which are listed on the National Register, and Main Hall at Central Baptist College in Conway, recently nominated to the National Register.

<sup>2</sup> Baptist Vanguard, October 20, 1893, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> G. P. Hamilton, Beacon Lights of the Race (Memphis: F. H. Clarke and Brother, 1911).

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Baptist College. Twenty-Seventh Annual Catalogue of the Arkansas Baptist College, 1910-1911. Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

Arkansas Gazette, January 27, 1891.

The Baptist Vanguard, September 29, 1893 - March 11, 1897. Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

Bullock, Henry Allen. A History of Negro Education in the South. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1967.

# GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 15 | 5650110 | 3843690

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

## 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 Anne Bartley



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-9-75

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  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

- Dillard, Tom. Personal collection of information pertaining to Negro history in Arkansas.
- Floyd, Gwendolyn. Personal collection of information pertaining to Negro history in Arkansas.
- Hamilton, G. P. Beacon Lights of the Race. Memphis: F. H. Clarke and Brother, 1911.
- Searcy, J. B. "History of Baptist Schools and Colleges in Arkansas." Arkansas Historical Association Publications, Vol. II, 1908.
- Woods, E. M. Blue Book of Little Rock and Argenta. Little Rock: Central Printing Company, 1907.
- Works Progress Administration. "Survey of Negroes in Little Rock and North Little Rock." Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

AND/OR COMMON

Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

## 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

## MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey, Little Rock Quadrangle

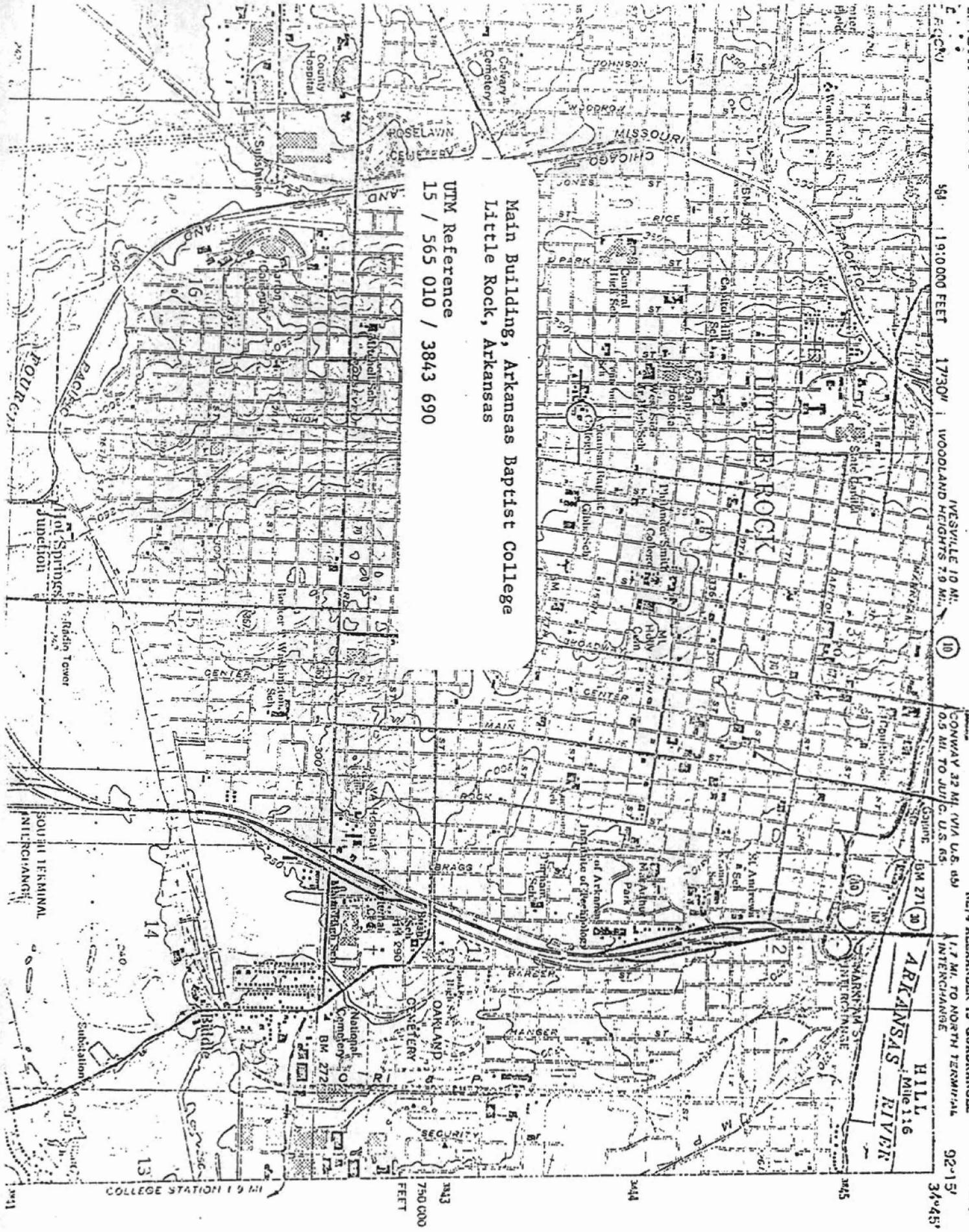
SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1961, photo revised 1970

## 3 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
UTM Reference  
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19:0000 FEET

17:30'

10

CONWAY 32 M. (VIA U.S. 49)  
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1.7 MI. TO NORTH TERMINAL  
INTERCHANGE

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34°45'

HILL  
Arkansas River  
Mile 11.6

MARKET ST  
INTERCHANGE

COLLEGE STATION 1.9 MI

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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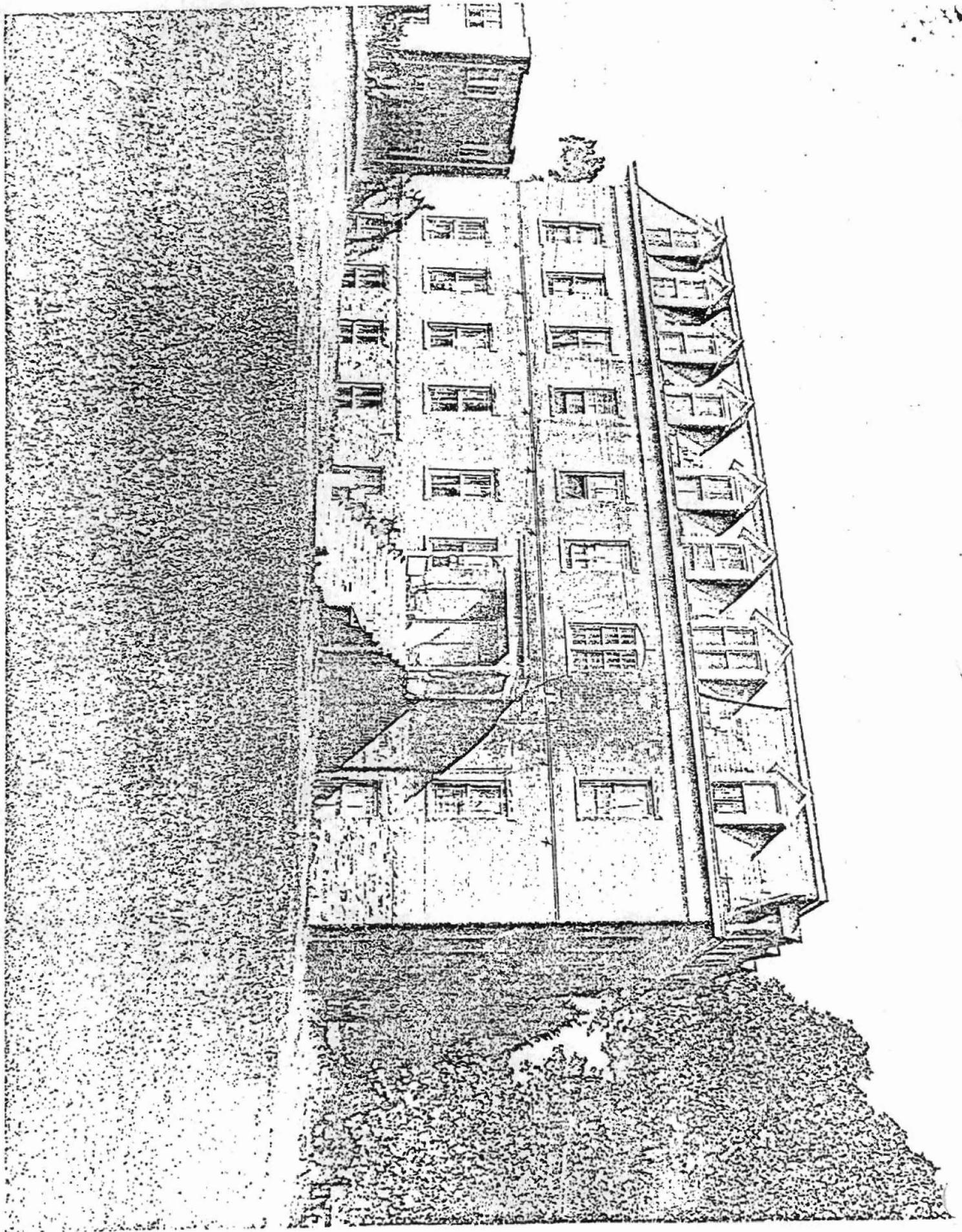
SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**  
HISTORIC Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College  
AND/OR COMMON Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

**2 LOCATION**  
CITY, TOWN Little Rock VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE Arkansas COUNTY Pulaski

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**  
PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk DATE OF PHOTO 1975  
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4 IDENTIFICATION**  
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
South elevation, viewed from the southeast PHOTO NO. 1





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
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## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

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AND/OR COMMON

Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

## 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

—VICINITY OF

STATE  
Arkansas

COUNTY  
Pulaski

## 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

## 4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
North elevation, viewed from the northwest

PHOTO NO.  
2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College

AND/OR COMMON Old Administration Building, Arkansas Baptist College

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN	VICINITY OF	STATE	COUNTY
<u>Little Rock</u>		<u>Arkansas</u>	<u>Pulaski</u>

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk      DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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

East elevation, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO. 3

