

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 1/24/08

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Parnell Hall
other names/site number PU5594

2. Location

street & number 2400 West Markham not for publication
city or town Little Rock vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72205

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Carrie Marsh 12/5/07
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Parnell Hall

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

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
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EDUCATION/school
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility
- RELIGION/religious facility
- EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- EDUCATION/school
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/auditorium
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
- Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation CONCRETE
- walls BRICK
- roof OTHER/tar
- other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

STATE

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1931 - 1958

Significant Dates

1931

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Francis J. Erhart & Howard Eichenbaum - Architects
Carter Construction Company - Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Butler Center for Arkansas Studies; Arkansas History Commission and State Archives; Arkansas School for the Deaf Museum; Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture

Parnell Hall
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>564195</u> Easting	<u>3845742</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sara Thompson/Graduate Student; Edited by Sarah Jampole Marks/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 07.31.2007
street & number 323 Center Street, Ste. 1600 telephone 501.324.9874
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Arkansas School for the Deaf; Marcella de la Rosa/Superintendent
street & number 2400 West Markham St. telephone 501.324.9506
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72205

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Parnell Hall is a large 2 ½ story building that faces West Markham Street in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas. It is one of several buildings on the Arkansas School for the Deaf (ASD) campus, located less than a mile from the Arkansas State Capitol. Since its construction in 1931, Parnell Hall has served as a central place for the state's deaf community in its operation as classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, chapel and library. Parnell Hall is an excellent example of the Classical Revival architectural style in Little Rock. Contained within the boundary of Parnell Hall, and located at the southern boundary of the property, is a contributing rock curb.

ELABORATION

Located less than a mile from the Arkansas State Capitol, in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas, Parnell Hall is one of several buildings on the Arkansas School for the Deaf campus. It is a large 2 ½ story building that faces West Markham Street, situated between the Stiff Station Historic District (*NR listed 10/18/2006*) and the Capitol View Neighborhood Historic District (*NR listed 03/13/2001*). Since its construction in 1931, Parnell Hall has served as a central location for the state's deaf community in its operation as classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, chapel and library. Parnell Hall is an excellent example of the Classical Revival architectural style in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.

Parnell Hall has an irregular plan with a rectangular central block that is 2 ½ stories. The 1 ½ story gymnasium projects from the western side of the central hall, and the 1 ½ story auditorium projects from the eastern side of the central hall. This red brick building has smooth exterior wall surfaces, a steel beam frame, and rests on a continuous concrete foundation. The main entrance is centered on the front façade, accentuated by four square limestone pilasters giving the building a vertical focus. Just above each pilaster, in the frieze, is a decorative floral engraving. The pilasters support a segmental pediment that boasts a centrally-located decorative circular piece with four keystones evenly spaced around the circumference. Above the main doorway is a white iron balcony in front of a large stationary window. This central block also has several tall, rectangular windows evenly spaced to fit vertical and horizontal lines. Both the eastern and western wings have five evenly spaced arched windows with keystones. The belt course at the roofline and window ledges of the two wings accentuates the flat roof, and gives an overall horizontal emphasis to the building. The sides and rear of this building have numerous windows – both arched and rectangular.

Later additions in 1963 of a coach's office and a dressing room to the left/west wing of the building were designed in the same character as the original building, and are faced in the same brick as the original. In addition, the school added a metal elevator and stairs to the rear/north elevation of the building to meet ADA accessibility requirements in 1995.

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Front/South Façade

The south elevation consists of four bays. The first bay, on the far left, is a single-story addition, that of a coach's office and locker rooms. Two wood-framed, stationary, six-pane windows are paired together, and are located several feet from the southwestern corner of this elevation. Situated several more feet to the right of these two windows is a pair of wood-framed doors. The doors are eight-pane above two horizontal panels, and are topped with an eight-pane transom. This addition was constructed in 1963.

The second bay is roughly one and a half stories tall, and contains Shelton Gym, the gymnasium for the ASD. Just to the right of the locker room is the southwest corner of the original building, accentuated by two pilasters that intersect with belt course at the roofline and at the window ledge. Five evenly spaced, metal sash windows fenestrate this bay. Each window is comprised of 18 fixed panes surrounding two separate awning windows. Each of the five windows is topped with a seven-pane arched window, and is set into a recessed arched brick framework with concrete sills (these sills help form the lower belt course). Each brick lintel is highlighted by a limestone keystone. Herringbone brickwork embellishes the upper portion of this wing, just above the upper belt course. To the right of the last window on the right of this bay of the south façade are two pilasters.

The third bay of Parnell Hall is the central block. Two and a half stories in height, the main section of this bay is flanked on both the left and the right by a small set-back, roughly two and a half feet wide. These two set-backs add dimension to the entire façade. Located in each set-back are two windows, one on each floor. The windows are four-over-four, double-hung, with limestone sills. The ground level of the central section of this bay is the front entrance door for the entire building. The entrance itself is tripartite, with its double doors (two panels each, with two rows of two panes at the upper portion of each door), square transoms—comprised of two rows of two panes—over each door, topped with a single, 20-pane stationary window. Flanking both sides of the entry is one much smaller representation of the central entryway. Though smaller in width, each representation of the entryway is of the same height as the central portion of the entry, and contains the same amount of detail. The entryway is surrounded by a limestone doorframe that is punctuated with a keystone. The keystone is embellished with a chevron design. A few feet above the entryway is a large, stationary window with an ornate iron balcony. The balcony has been painted white. Several muntins have broken off the window, so rather than appearing to have 20-panes it looks as if the window has 14 panes of various shape and size. The window surround is limestone.

Flanking both sides of the entryway are four pilasters, two on both sides, that straddle first and second floor windows. There are two windows between the two pairs of pilasters. The first floor windows are paired, and are two-pane awning sash below four-pane stationary. These two windows, one on both sides of the entry, have limestone sills, and both windows in each pair are separated by a limestone mullion. The second-story windows are paired, and are four-pane awning sash below four-pane stationary, which is below a four-pane stationary window. The upper-most windows are separated from the middle sash by thick metal sill. The

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entirety of the pairs of windows rest on limestone sills, and are separated by limestone mullions. Above the second floor windows, on both sides of the doors, is a half-story height panel of herringbone-patterned decorative brick work.

Above the four pilasters is a name plate. "Parnell Hall" is centered in the name plate, and just above each pilaster, in the frieze, is a decorative floral engraving. The pilasters support an segmental pediment that boasts a centrally-located decorative circular piece with four keystones evenly spaced around the circumference. Above the pediment rises the parapet, faced with brick and limestone.

The fourth bay of the south façade is a mirror image of the second bay. It is fenestrated by five evenly-spaced, metal sash windows. As with the second bay, each window is comprised of 18 fixed panes surrounding two separate awning windows. Each of the five windows is topped with a seven-pane arched window, and is set into a recessed arched brick framework with concrete sills (these sills help form the lower belt course). Each brick lintel is highlighted by a limestone keystone. Herringbone brickwork embellishes the upper portion of this wing, just above the upper limestone belt course. At the far left of this fourth bay, just after the two windows in the set-back that flanks the entryway, are two pilasters. To the right of the last window on the right of this bay of the south façade are two pilasters. Extending several feet to the east of this last pair of pilasters is the side of the east entrance. This side of the east entrance has minimal ornamentation, with only an upper belt course providing embellishment.

Side/ West Façade

The west elevation consists of three bays. The bay on the far left is the rear extension of the center block, and is two stories in height. Ribbons of windows fenestrate both stories, and there are two ribbons per story. Each ribbon is comprised of four multi-paned windows that are metal-framed with limestone sills. Limestone attic vents are centrally located above the two second-story ribbons of windows. Several feet in front of the rear of the central block is a $\frac{3}{4}$ -height wall, faced with a decorative herringbone pattern, and is part of the 1963 addition of the coach's office and locker rooms. The roofline of this $\frac{3}{4}$ -height wall is accentuated by the limestone belt course.

The middle bay of the west elevation is multi-leveled. The top portion of this bay is the second story of the central block, is a pair of multi-paned windows, with a metal mullion and limestone sills. This pair of windows has a limestone attic vent centrally located above it, such as the two upper ribbons of windows in the previous bay.

Standing in front of the west end of Parnell Hall, in front of the middle bay, HVAC units are visible, as is the parapet wall on the south façade. Half a story below the central block roofline, and just in front of the central block, is the west wall of the west wing, and about half a story below this wall is the exterior wall of the 1963 addition. On the left of this bay is the side porch which shelters a pair of metal doors. About two feet to the

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right of these doors is a pair of stationary, six pane, metal-frame windows with a limestone sill. Just two feet to the right of this first pair of windows is an identical pair of windows. A metal sign for Shelton Hall is located several feet in front of the middle bay.

The third bay of the west elevation is also multi-storied. The top story is that if the west wall of the central block, and the south elevation parapet is clearly visible. Half a story down is the west wall of the west wing, and the limestone belt course close to the roofline is visible, as is a limestone pilaster close to the original southwestern corner of the building. One story below the west wing wall is the southwest wall of the 1963 addition. Evenly spaced along this wall are three pairs of windows, all of which are stationary, six pane, metal-frame windows with a limestone sill.

Rear/ North Façade

The rear, or north, elevation is comprised of three bays. The left bay is the north wall of the east wing. Fenestrating this bay are five windows that are evenly-spaced along the elevation. Each of the five windows is comprised of 18 fixed panes surrounding two separate awning windows, and is topped with a seven-pane arched window. Each window is set into a recessed arched brick framework with concrete sills that help form the ground-level belt course. The five windows are floor to ceiling in height, and keystones are not present. Separating each window from its neighbor is a brick pilaster that is capped with limestone. The far left end of this bay is the rear wall of the east entrance into the auditorium. Neither doors nor windows puncture the flat, red brick wall. Ornamentation is provided by the limestone belt course at the top of the wall, and by the herringbone brick pattern just above the belt course but below the flat roofline.

The middle bay is 2 ½ stories, and is the rear elevation of the center block. Centrally located on this bay are two entrances into Parnell Hall—a ground-level entrance, and a second-story entrance. The second-story entrance is accessed via a flight of metal stairs that run alongside the brick exterior wall. To the left of these stairs is the elevator that was added in 1995 for ADA accessibility. Both the stairs and the elevator opens onto an entry porch that has a flat roof, with metal porch supports and a metal balustrade that faces north. Anchored onto this brick wall and just a step to the right from the stairway landing is a roof metal access ladder. The second floor entry door is flanked by sidelights and topped with a transom. The ground floor is accessed via double glass doors that are flanked by side lights and topped with a transom. The ground floor porch has metal porch supports, but no balustrade.

To the right of the entrance doors is a flat brick wall with no ornamentation or fenestration.

To the left of the main rear elevation entrance doors are four pairs of windows. The two pairs of second-story windows are metal-frame with limestone sills. The windows on the second story are all awning windows, with 20 panes in each window. The top sash has eight panes, as does the middle sash. The bottom sash has four panes. The far left and far right sashes of the entire grouping of windows appear to be single-

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pane, but upon closer inspection, the muntins have broken off and have yet to be repaired. The two windows of the first-story are identical to the second-story windows, with the exception that they are three panes wide, as opposed to four. Also, all muntins remain in place on these first-story windows.

The right bay is the rear of the gymnasium and locker rooms, and is 1 ½ stories in height, and is set back many feet from the rear elevation of the central block. Four windows fenestrate the left half of this bay, and are metal-frame and contain 20 panes each. It appears that two awning windows are located within each frame, and are two rows of three panes each. A column of four panes flanks the two awning windows of each large window frame. To the right of these four windows is the rear wall of the 1963 addition. A multi-paned window is located in the center of a brick wall, which is just to the left of the door leading into the locker room and coach's office. A recessed porch with flat roof shelters this entrance. A flight of stair leads down from the adjacent road to the locker room entrance. To the right of this entrance is another wall, faced with red brick, with no ornamentation or fenestration.

Side/East Façade

Three bays comprise the east elevation of Parnell Hall. The left bay is the east end of the east wing, and contains the side entrance to the Auditorium. Recessed several feet from the Auditorium side entrance, and essentially flanking the entrance are two limestone pilasters. The entrance itself is centrally located on the end of the east wing, and is sheltered by a recessed porch. The 1 ½-story height porch is faced with limestone. Located towards the top of the entire east end is the limestone belt course, and located above the belt course is herringbone-patterned brickwork. The entry is comprised of three doors at the ground level, two of which are paired together. The third door is located directly to the left of the middle door, and is on the same flat plane as the other two doors. Above each door is a flat, limestone panel, rectangular in shape. Above the set of three limestone panels are three multi-paned, metal-framed windows. Each window is comprised of eight panes, with the middle four panes being awning windows. The top two and bottom two panes in each of the three larger frames are stationary. Limestone lintels, sills and mullions surround the entire grouping of windows. The recessed porch is surrounded on the sides and top by limestone, and a simple keystone adorns this limestone surround. The floor of the porch is red tile.

One floor above the side entrance is the side extension of the central block. Two ribbons of windows fenestrate this first bay at the second story level. Each ribbon is comprised of four multi-paned windows that are metal-framed with limestone sills. Limestone attic vents are centrally located above each of the two second-story ribbons of windows.

The middle bay of the east elevation is the middle of the side extension of the central block, and is 2 ½ stories in height. The partial basement is clearly evident from this viewpoint. Three multi-paned windows fenestrate the left portion of the basement and an electrical box is mounted to the right of these three windows. To the right of the electrical box, and evenly spaced along the remainder of the exterior basement

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wall are three basement vents. The ground floor is fenestrated by a ribbon of four windows that is located on the left side of the bay, and then three pairs of windows that are evenly spaced along the remainder of the bay. The one ribbon is comprised of four multi-paned windows that are metal-framed with limestone sills, and each of the three pairs is comprised of two multi-paned windows that are metal-framed with limestone sills. The top story is fenestrated by three ribbons of windows. Each ribbon is comprised of four multi-paned windows that are metal-framed with limestone sills. Limestone attic vents are centrally located above each of the three second-story ribbons of windows.

The third bay of this elevation is the north end of the side extension of the central block, and is 2 ½ stories in height. A single window is located at the ground level. At one time, this window probably had fixed panes encompassing an awning window; however, at an unknown date, a window unit air conditioner was placed in the bottom portion of the window and secured with plywood that has been painted white. Eight panes of glass are all that remain of this window. The window has a limestone sill, and a brick lintel of vertically placed bricks, with a brick keystone. Centrally located above this window, and at the upper story of the building is a decorative limestone attic vent. Encompassing the window, and spanning several feet in width and two stories in height, is a decorative brick pattern. The outside band of brick along the two vertical sides are stretcher bricks, with the stretcher bricks set on end (vertically) on the top portion of the entire design. The next, inner, row of bricks in the pattern is roughly 1 ½ bricks wide on the sides, and another row of stretcher bricks set on end (vertically) beneath the outer row at the upper portion. The inside row of bricks for the entire design is headers. The attic vent interrupts the top rows of the pattern.

Alterations

In 1963, a coach's office and a dressing room were built onto the rear of the west wing. The additions were designed in the same architectural style as the original building, and both are faced with the same brick.

In 1995, the school added a metal elevator and stairs to the back of the building to meet ADA accessibility requirements.

INTEGRITY

The specific plot upon which Parnell Hall is located has changed relatively little, although the entire campus itself has witnessed the construction of new and additional facilities. Also, Parnell Hall, since its time of construction in 1931, has continuously served the deaf community in Arkansas and is the centerpiece of the Arkansas School for the Deaf's campus. As such, Parnell Hall retains a high level of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association.

Parnell Hall experienced two additions, one in 1963 and again in 1995. The 1963 addition is that of locker rooms and a coach's office, both constructed onto the rear (north) elevation of the west wing. Similar in

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design, materials and workmanship, this addition is hardly noticeable except to the well-trained eye. The 1995 addition is that of an elevator for the purposes of complying with ADA accessibility requirements, is located on the right half of the centrally-located rear elevation main entranceway. Because the elevator is at the rear of the building, it is not noticeable by passersby on Markham Street. People approaching Parnell Hall from the north part of ASD's campus do see this elevator, but it is an inconspicuous addition. Because of the unobtrusive nature of both the 1963 and 1995 addition, and due largely to the exemplification of its Classical Revival architectural style in Little Rock, Parnell Hall retains a very high degree of integrity of design, material, and workmanship.

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SUMMARY

Built in 1931, Parnell Hall is **significant statewide** as a focal point of activity on Arkansas's only deaf public school campus. The school itself was hailed by the U.S. Department of Education in 1946 "as one of the top three institutions of its kind in the country." Championed by the deaf community in Arkansas, Parnell Hall has served in many capacities as classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, chapel and library. In addition, this building is architecturally significant as a superb example of the Classical Revival architectural style in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas. As such, Parnell Hall is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its contribution to the Arkansas deaf community and the state's educational system, and under **Criterion C** for its architecture.

ELABORATION

own and County History

The City of Little Rock's roots are derived from a small outcropping of rock on the south bank of the Arkansas River. This area began development in the early 1820s and early business in the settlement was conducted in the neighborhood of the "little rock," also known as the "point of rocks." Little Rock began to grow into Arkansas's capitol and largest city. A building boom in Little Rock following the Civil War resulted in the construction of many new buildings in Little Rock expanding to the south and the west. In addition, another time of large growth of the city came during the progressive era in the 1910s as Little Rock, under Mayor Charles Taylor, incorporated much change to turn Little Rock into a more modern city. Little Rock continued its pattern of growth in the 1920s and despite the Great Depression and its negative consequences for the city, the Arkansas School for the Deaf added a new facility, Parnell Hall, in 1931.

History of the Property

The first educational opportunity for deaf children in Arkansas began in 1850 in Clarksville, Johnson County, Arkansas, and was the first of such institutions west of the Mississippi River. This school was started by Augustus Ward and had only two students in attendance. Ward's school received little funding from the state, and because the funding was not enough to support the endeavor, the school closed. In 1860, a second private school for the deaf began in Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas, in the home of Asa Clark. Matthew Clark (no known relation to Asa), who was also deaf and who had graduated from the New York Institute for the Deaf-Mute, taught the school's six students. This group went to the state and received substantial funding to continue educational activities. However, the Civil War and its effects forced this school to close as well, in February 1861.

Once the Civil War ended, Joseph Hunt reopened the school for the deaf in Little Rock in July 1867. Although the school was funded by private donations and the City of Little Rock, the school struggled financially. Under Arkansas Governor Clayton Powell's recommendation, the state took over the school in

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1868, and named it the "Arkansas Deaf-Mute Institute." This name was later changed in 1923 to the "Arkansas School for the Deaf." The state gave the school two separate tracts of land; one near the present Arkansas State Capitol and another a mile and a quarter west of that tract, which is where the school operates presently.

The school continued to grow and opened a large frame building in February 1870. Deaf students had the opportunity to learn vocational skills such as sewing, housework, gardening/landscaping, tailoring, carpentry, printing, and shoemaking. In 1898, the school boasted 223 students. However, in September 1899, the school met with catastrophe. A fire broke out on the school campus, ruining all its buildings. Fortunately, school was not in session and no students or faculty were hurt. The state had not taken out insurance on these buildings, so rebuilding took several years. In 1901, the state appropriated money to rebuild and by 1902, a new administration building opened. High school and middle school classes resumed.

In the early decades of the 20th century, the deaf community and Superintendent Bess Michaels Riggs, whose deaf parents had taught previously at the school, worked together in efforts to get additional funding from the state to build another facility. The administration building did not have enough room for all the classes. However, Governor Harvey Parnell was opposed to this idea even though others in the state government supported this plan. According to school memory, supporters waited until Governor Parnell was traveling and not at the government session to pass legislation appropriating funds to the Arkansas School for the Deaf. When Governor Parnell returned to Little Rock, he was not pleased with the construction, and to appease him, the new building was named in his honor as Parnell Hall.

Centrally located on the school campus, Parnell Hall opened in 1931. The building had high school classrooms teaching all subjects, a gymnasium and an auditorium. The school library moved from the administration building to Parnell Hall when it opened in 1931. When it opened, Parnell Hall also served as a church for the deaf students and community. While Parnell Hall has not shut down since its opening, it has experienced change. The hall transitioned into a middle school in 1962. The library moved out of Parnell Hall and into a new vocational building in 1953. Chapel was discontinued in the late 1960s when the courts ruled that public schools could not house church activities.

Throughout its history, notable people in American history have visited the Arkansas School for the Deaf. In 1895, Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, visited the school with his wife, who was deaf. Helen Keller made visits in the 1910s and in 1945 to the campus. The school continues to serve a central role in the deaf community throughout the state, as the Arkansas Association of the Deaf holds its meetings every other year at Parnell Hall.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Arkansas's only deaf public school added Parnell Hall to its campus in 1931, and this building took on a vital role in the legacy of this institution. Parnell Hall has **statewide significance** as a central location for the Arkansas deaf community. Numerous students have benefitted from this educational facility and many others have connected with others in the deaf community throughout the state in extracurricular events and Arkansas Association for the Deaf meetings. More specifically, Parnell Hall has been used as classrooms, gymnasium, auditorium, chapel and library. Yet the building also represents the existence of an important architectural style in Arkansas as well. Parnell Hall stands as an impressive example of the Classical Revival architectural style in Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas. For these reasons, Parnell Hall is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its contribution to the Arkansas deaf community and the state's educational system, and under **Criterion C** for its architecture.

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National Park Service

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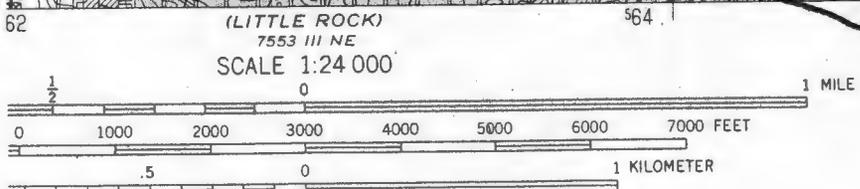
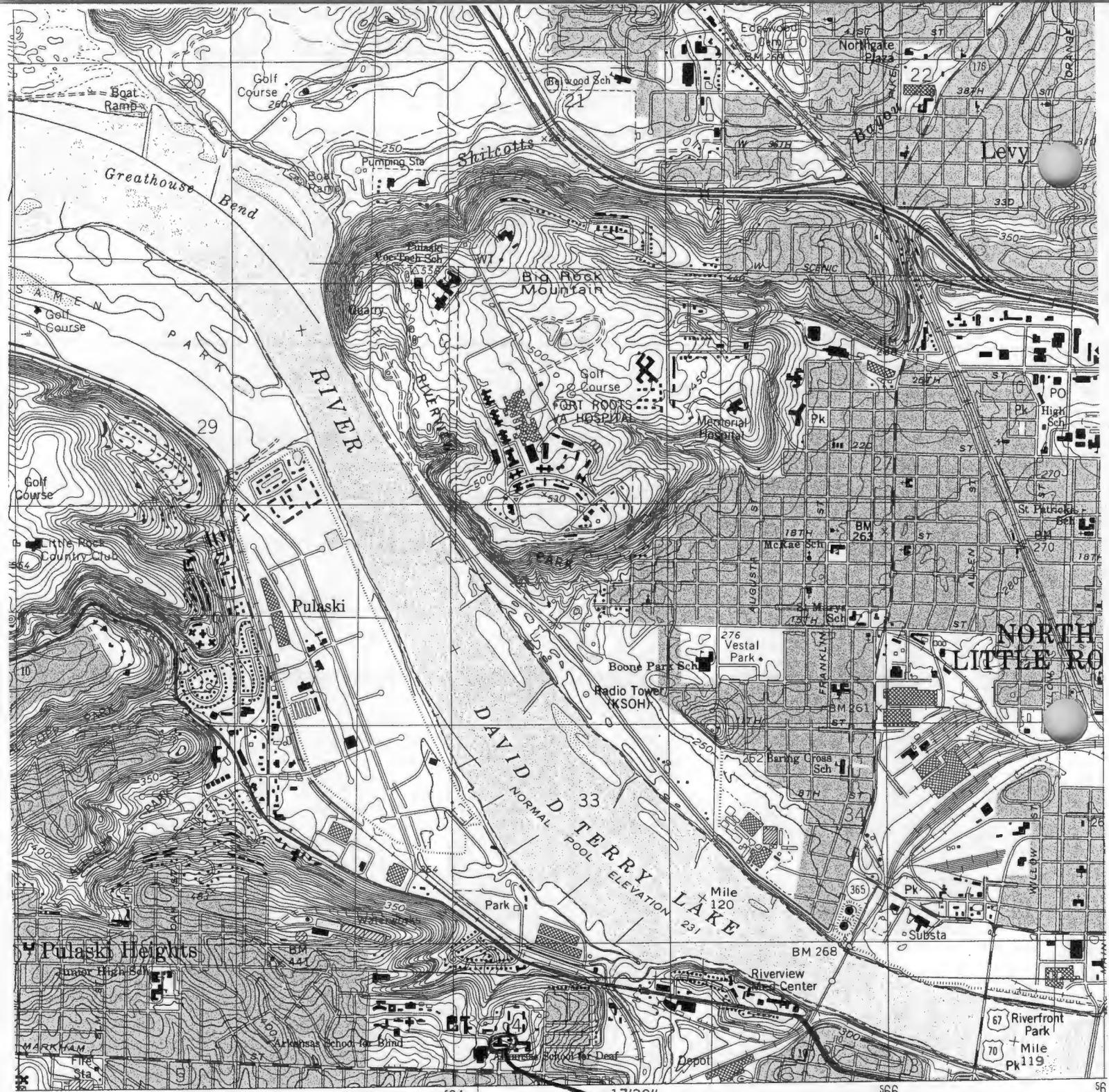
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point ten feet of the southwest corner of the building, proceed north approximately seventy feet on the paved path. Then proceed approximately ninety feet east behind the building. Proceed approximately thirty feet south, turn east and proceed another thirty-five feet, and then go another thirty-five feet south to finish the eastern boundary of the building. Go approximately a hundred feet west across the front face of the building to the same starting place that was ten feet from the southwest corner of the building.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above verbal boundary description includes all land historically associated with Parnell Hall, Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225
 ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
 DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

*Parnell Hall
 Little Rock, Pulaski
 Counties, AR*

Primary high
 hard surface...
 Secondary high
 hard surface...



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

*UTM:
 15/564175/3845742*



