

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SEP 13 1999

AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Philander Smith College Historic District

Other Name/Site Number: PU9799

2. Location

Street & Number: Roughly bounded by 13th Street; 11th Street; Izard Street; and State Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Little Rock Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Pulaski Code: 119 Zip Code: 72202

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.

Cathy A. Sater
Signature of certifying official

July 15, 1999
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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 _____
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
Of action

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6. Function or Use

Historic: Education Sub: College

Current : Education Sub: College
Religion Religious Facility
Domestic Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Colonial Revival
Craftsman
Gothic
Plain/Traditional

Materials: foundation Brick, concrete roof Composition shingle
walls Brick other Clay tile roof
Novelty siding

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Philander Smith College Historic District encompasses five contributing buildings and three non-contributing buildings. One of the contributing buildings, the U.M. Rose School is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The other four contributing buildings include a gymnasium, a former army barracks, Wesley Chapel and Kelly Hall.

When Philander Smith bought the property formerly housing the Little Rock Junior College in July of 1948, the U.M. Rose Building, the gymnasium, and the former army barracks were already present.

The three non-contributing buildings are the M.L. Harris Library, the Kresge-Mabee Science Building, and the Wesley Chapel parsonage. The M.L. Harris Library was constructed in 1962; the Kresge-Mabee Science Building in 1979, and the parsonage circa 1950s.

The Philander Smith College Historic District is bounded on the south by 13th Street, on the east by State Street, north by 11th Street and west by IZard Street.

Elaboration

U.M. Rose School (PU1670, NR listed 12/08/88)

The U.M. Rose School, located at 812 West 13th Street, now known as the James Monroe Cox Administration Building is located on the campus of Philander Smith College. This building is an example of Federal Colonial Revival-style

architecture. Constructed in 1915 by the Charles L. Thompson Architectural Firm (John Parks Almand is credited with the design) this former elementary school is a two-story building, atop a full basement, featuring a U-shaped plan with symmetrically placed projecting wings flanking a one-story central entrance bay on the first floor. The building is of brick construction with a flat roof concealed behind a brick parapet, a dentil cornice line and meander trim below the parapet that surrounds the entire building. A water table defines the top of the basement.

The south, or front, facade features the same concrete water table and projecting dentil cornice line and parapet seen on the other elevations of the building, but with more ornamentation. The southwest wing of the building features a large centered Palladian window. The interior of the window is filled with brick headers and flanked by two narrow four-light windows within fluted pilasters. Soldier bricks define the top of the window. Three arched fourteen-over-eight double-hung wooden windows set in soldier brick arches with concrete keystones light the main section of the building. The one-story entry projects from the center of the building. A large open patio in front of the entry, surrounded by brick half-walls with concrete coping is reached by thirteen concrete steps. Two sets of four steps each exit the patio to the east and west. The entry, situated within an elaborate surround, projects about two feet from one-story wings with square corner posts to the east and west. The wings forming the vestibule, are lit with eight-beside-eight casement windows. The entrance consists of two ten-light French doors within decorative sidelights of tracery and thin Ionic pilasters. The doors are topped with an inverted fanlight surrounded by a wooden arch. Around the wooden arch is a soldier brick arch with a large beaded keystone. The arch culminates on either side of a narrow frieze above the doors and sidelights with two floral limestone panels. Two flanking pairs of modified fluted Corinthian columns surround the entry. Behind each set of columns are two thin eight-light casement windows. A simple concrete frieze supported by the columns is topped with courses of dentils and modillions on a protruding cornice. Atop the cornice is a wrought-iron balustrade. Three arched windows similar to those to the west of the door light the east half of the front facade of the building. The projecting wing to the southeast mirrors the southwest wing.

The upper section of the projecting wings to the east and west contain single four-light stationary windows topped with a soldier course. Seven second-story windows on the main section of the building are double-hung, square-headed with a six-over-six sash, splayed lintels and projecting embellished keystones spaced evenly across each of the three bays and separated from the first-story by a concrete belt course.

The eastern facade is fenestrated left to right with three modern two-over-two windows at the basement level. A metal door below ground level is reached by a concrete ramp within a low brick wall. Three more metal windows proceed to the northeast corner. The first-story window arrangement is left to right, a ribbon of five nine-over-nine windows, two single windows and a second ribbon of five windows to the northeast. The second-story fenestration echoes the first-story.

The northern, or rear, elevation has a slight U-shape. The projecting wing to the northeast is lit on the first floor with a nine-over-nine wooden double-

hung window. The central section of the building at the basement level contains four metal two-over-two windows and a metal door below ground level. A set of metal doors leads to the stairwell above the basement. The first-story from east to west is lit by two single nine-over-nine windows, two ribbons of five windows, a brick exterior chimney, a single window and a second set of metal doors. The wing at the northwest has a single window at the first floor. The second-story fenestration is identical to the first story with the exception of two pairs of twelve-over-twelve windows topped with large elliptical fanlights to the east and west of the central section. The dominant arrangement of the wooden rear windows is nine-over-nine. Also present are two sets of twelve-over-twelve wood sash windows with elliptical fanlight.

The western elevation is a mirror image of the east.

Old Gymnasium (PU1675)

The "Old Gym" as the building is referred to now, is located to the north, directly behind the James Monroe Cox Administration Building. It was constructed in 1936 by Works Progress Administration labor in the Plain/Traditional style. This one-story building has a T-shaped plan with both hipped and barrel roof designs of composition shingle. The building is of brick construction with a continuous brick foundation.

The northern facade of the building consists of two one-story wings on either side of a taller central section with a hipped roof and boxed cornice. The central portion of the building is decorated with three panels in a basket-weave bond pattern. This pattern is also visible at the cornice below the hipped roof. Seven stationary windows light the basement level. Two sets of one-over-one metal windows fenestrate the western one-story wing beside a single-leaf metal door shaded by a flat metal roof. The door is topped with a one-light transom. A similar door opens into the eastern wing.

The west facade of the one-story wing contains a set of six-over-six wooden double-hung windows. The upper level of the central section containing the stage and vestibules, is lit at the cornice by two six-light wooden hopper windows. The lower section of the building that contains the gymnasium floor under a barrel roof with boxed cornice is stepped back from the northwestern wing. Eight concrete buttresses extend north to south along the gym floor portion of the building. Seven windows between each buttress have been boarded over.

The rear, or southern, facade of the western wing contains a small hipped-roof porch supported by a single wooden boxed column. Beneath the porch roof are two paneled doors. The gym floor is accessed at the southwest corner by a set of paneled wooden doors beneath a small gabled porch supported by two square posts. Four sets of two-over-two windows stacked vertically fenestrate the center of this facade. A second set of double-leaf doors with gabled porch open to the southeast. The southern facade of the eastern wing has a hipped-roof porch with three paneled doors beneath the overhang. A boxed column supports the porch roof.

The east facade of the building is identical to the west.

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The gym is vacant at this time but was used for classes, by both Philander Smith and Little Rock Junior College, as well as for basketball games and plays.

The Barracks (PU1673)

This two-story building located at 1108 Izard Street, is of frame construction with a rectangular plan. The roof is front-gabled with exposed rafters. Wall cladding is novelty siding; the foundation is continuous cast concrete. The architectural style is Craftsman. The building was moved from Camp Robinson military base in Jacksonville in 1948.

The front, or eastern, facade of the building has four windows (two on the first-floor, two on the second); double-hung, with a six-over-six sash. The centered double-leaf entrance to the building is accessed by painted concrete steps with metal hand rails. Flanking the door are painted brick pilasters. The doors are shaded by a cloth awning. To the rear of the building at the northwest corner, is a small single-story gable-roofed wing on concrete piers. The wing is accessed by a single paneled door.

The first-story of the northern elevation is fenestrated east to west by three single six-over-six windows, a paneled wooden door reached by a wooden wheelchair ramp, and four single windows. The second-story is lit by seven evenly spaced windows, a single door reached by wooden steps and a single window.

The western, or rear elevation of the barracks contains three windows on the first-story and two on the second.

The southern elevation is identical to the north except for the absence of a door on the second-story.

The building's original use was as a student union and it has continued to be used for that purpose throughout the years. Recent usage has been as the Alumni/UNCF office.

Wesley Chapel (PU1666)

Wesley Chapel is not owned by Philander Smith College, but by the United Methodist Church. Its history, however is inextricably tied to the college, as the forerunner of Philander Smith College was Walden Seminary (established 1877), located in Wesley Chapel Methodist Church, then at Eighth and Broadway Streets in Little Rock. The Romanesque design with Gothic Revival influences is credited to John Parks Almand.

Wesley Chapel is a two-story building with an L-shaped plan. It is of buff brick construction with a continuous brick foundation. The roof is gabled with red clay tile.

The front, or northern, facade of the chapel is dominated by a wall gable with cornice return. Within the upper part of the wall dormer the windows are arched, with terra-cotta tracery, and a fourteen-over-twelve arrangement. A terra-cotta block separates the upper and lower windows. Two pairs of narrow recessed stained glass windows flank the central window arrangement in the

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Gibson, De Lois. "A Historical Study of Philander Smith College, 1877-1969." M.Ed. diss., University of Arkansas. 1969.
- Ginocchio and Cromwell, Architects. Survey of Little Rock Junior College, June 25, 1947.
- Harris, Cyril M. *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1998.
- "Here We Stand: Celebrating 143 years of God's Service." Wesley Chapel's 143rd anniversary celebration publication.
- Lester, Jr. James E. *The People's College: Little Rock Junior College and Little Rock University*. Little Rock, August House, 1987.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, fourteenth printing, 1997.
- McDonald, Erin L. "Philander Smith Observes Centennial." *Arkansas Democrat*, 27 February, 1977, 16A.
- Philander Smith College Bulletin* 82 (March 1959) No. 6
- Philander Smith College Catalog for 1997-1998/1998-1999.
- Philander Smith College History. Found in the M.L. Harris Library's vertical files on the campus of Philander Smith College.
- Philander Smith College President's Annual Reports for Tuesday, April 5, 1949; Tuesday October 23, 1951; Tuesday, March 25, 1952.
- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map(s) for 1950.
- Vernon, Walter N. *Methodism in Arkansas, 1816-1976*. Little Rock: Joint Committee for the History of Arkansas Methodism, 1976.
- 1998 nomination of the U.M. Rose School to the National Register of Historic Places found at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.
- Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

RESOURCE NO	HISTORIC NAME	CONTRIBUTING
PU9799	PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT	I
PU1675	OLD GYM	C
PU1670	ROSE, U M SCHOOL	I
PU1676	PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE SCIENCE BUILDING	NC
PU1668	PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE LIBRARY	NC
PU1673	BARRACKS	C
PU1672	KELLY HALL	C
PU1666	WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	C
PU1667	WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH PARSONAGE	NC