

NR listed 9/04/92

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Chemistry Building; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

other name/site number: WA0349

2. Location

street & number: Campus Drive

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Fayetteville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Washington code: AR 143 zip code: 72701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	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 \_\_\_\_\_ 7-14-92  
Signature of certifying official 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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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**5. National Park Service Certification**  
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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

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**6. Function or Use**  
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Historic: EDUCATION Sub: College

Current: EDUCATION Sub: College

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Collegiate Gothic

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt  
walls Stone other N/A

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: 1934-1940

Significant Dates: 1934

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Wittenberg and Delony/Manhattan Construction

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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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Acreage of Property: Approximately 1.83

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>394390</u>	<u>3991910</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 Campus Drive with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's southern elevation and located approximately 20 feet to the south thereof, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 400 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 200 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 400 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of Campus Drive; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 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**  
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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 13, 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

The Chemistry Building at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is a three story, stone masonry classroom building designed in the Collegiate Gothic style. Its irregular plan features a recessed porch that shelters the main entrance and a roughly "H"-shaped plan overall, though one end of the "H" is longer than the other. The flat, built-up tar roof is set behind a raised, crenelated stone parapet, and the stone walls are supported upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

### Elaboration

The Chemistry Building at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville is a three story, stone masonry classroom building designed in the Collegiate Gothic style. Its irregular plan features a recessed porch that shelters the main entrance and a roughly "H"-shaped plan overall, though one end of the "H" is longer than the other and a short, two-story section projects from the center of the southern or rear elevation. The flat, built-up tar roof is set behind a raised, crenelated stone parapet, and the stone walls are supported upon a continuous cast concrete foundation.

The northern or front elevation consists of a projecting, central entrance bay and two projecting end bays -- each three window bays in width -- that are connected by two flanking "hyphens" that are each six window bays in length. The upper portion of the central entrance tower is composed of two octagonal Gothic towers framing a central window bay containing three pointed-arch window openings above three rectangular window openings; the recessed entrance porch below is accessed via a broad pointed arch and two single-leaf entries within. A concrete cornice connects the Gothic towers directly above the entrance, and another adorns the raised parapet just below the emblem that finishes the tower. The windows in the third story of the entrance bay contain six panes in the arch and eighteen panes in the rectangular section; the second story windows are rectangular and contain eighteen panes each. Each of the window bays on all three floors of the two flanking "hyphens" are identical, with each being filled by two eighteen-pane windows that are separated by a narrow stone molding and surrounded by stepped stone trim. The projecting end bays are lighted on each of the upper two stories by two large, twenty-four pane windows flanking a central, tri-partite window, with each window containing eighteen panes; the first floor of each of these bays is lighted with a central pair of eighteen-pane windows. The raised, crenelated parapet continues across the elevation and is interrupted only by the towers of the central entrance bay.

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The western elevation is six bays in length and is fenestrated by pairs of eighteen-pane windows throughout; the sole exception is the double-leaf entrance placed in the third bay from the north on the first floor. This entrance is surrounded by concrete pilasters and a concrete entablature scored with the word "chemistry." A basement appears toward the south due to the decrease in grade; it is also fenestrated with pairs of windows set beneath rusticated voussoirs. The northern elevation is significantly longer, being eleven bays in length, though it is also fenestrated with the same pairs of eighteen-pane windows seen on the other elevations.

The southern elevation consists of the projecting end bays that match those on the opposite elevation, plus a central, two-story bay set upon a raised basement that is placed opposite the projecting entrance bay on the northern elevation. The projecting end bays are lighted with three pair of eighteen-pane windows on the upper three floors, and with two smaller, six-over-six sash windows to the east of a single-leaf entrance in the rusticated basement. The four stories of the main building connecting them are lighted with a variety of double and triple windows of various sizes and pane configurations, and the rear wall of the central, projecting two-story section is lighted with three taller windows on the upper story, three smaller windows on the lower story, and a blank, rusticated wall on the basement level.

Significant exterior details are limited to the stone trim around the windows and the relatively elaborate pilasters, towers and entablatures that frame the entrances and entrance bays. The raised stone parapet is crenelated and coped with concrete, but is otherwise undecorated.

The interior of the Chemistry Building appears to have been relatively simple originally, though it does retain most of its historic detail. The exterior of the building is largely unaltered and in good condition.

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### Chemistry Building; University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville was officially founded as a federal land grant university in 1871 through the passage by the Arkansas state legislature of "An Act for the Location, Organization, and Maintenance of the Arkansas Industrial University, with a Normal Department Therein." The state had been empowered to establish such schools since March 2, 1827, when Congress passed an act that set aside two townships within the Territory of Arkansas to be selected from the best federal land and sold for the sole purpose of establishing a state university; yet for reasons that were primarily political, this did not occur until after the Civil War.

The board of trustees oversaw the financing and construction of University Hall -- affectionately known as "Old Main" (NR-Listed 6/15/70) -- as the first building erected on the campus. The University continued to grow gradually throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, responding to increased enrollment, an expanding curriculum, and greater emphasis upon extracurricular activities. This trend continued during the 1920's and did not abate in the 1930's in spite of the Depression. 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.

The Chemistry Building was designed by the Little Rock architectural firm of Wittenberg and Delony in 1934 and was constructed by Manhattan Construction in that same year. As such, it was built during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*, and stands as an unusual example of a large stone masonry classroom building with an "H"-shaped plan designed in the Collegiate Gothic style (e.g., the crenellated parapet, the central lancet windows and the crenellated, compound Gothic central entrance tower 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 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 Collegiate Gothic style to this particular floor plan.





