NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1103

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Magnolia Colored School Historic District

other names/site number Youngblood Christian Center, Site #CO0515-CO0518, Columbia County High School, Columbia High School

2. Location

street & number 611 South Madison ☐ not for publication

city or town Magnolia ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Columbia code 027 zip code _____

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.)

Martha Miller 12/5/13
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:
- ☒ 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 the Keeper Date of Action

1-22-2014

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4		Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education/School
Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/Plain-Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Brick
walls Brick
roof Asphalt, Metal
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)
Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Education
Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance
C. 1940-1969

Significant Dates
C. 1940, 1948, 1965

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/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 #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	477388	3680324
2	15	477242	3680333
3	15	477249	3680410
4	15	477384	3680411

☐ 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 John Lung'aho (Intern) and Travis Ratermann (Survey Historian)
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 10, 2013
street & number 323 Center Street Suite 1500 telephone 501-324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR 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 Columbia Baptist District Association
street & number P.O. Box 947 telephone
city or town Magnolia state AR zip code 71754

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

The Magnolia Colored School Historic District is located in Columbia, County, in the southwestern portion of the state. The district encompasses nearly an entire city block between Madison, School and Ross St. The Magnolia Colored School provided education to the African-American students located within the Arkansas West Gulf Coastal Plains region from 1915 to 1968. The Magnolia Historic District consists of four contributing buildings. The central feature of the district is the Magnolia Colored High School Building, which was constructed in 1948. The Plain- Traditional style of architecture influences four buildings in the district, the Magnolia Colored High School Building, The Shop Building, the Auditorium, and the Home Economics Building. These four buildings make up the remainder of the campus, which was closed through integration in 1969.

Elaboration

Magnolia Colored High School Building- Contributing

Front/East Façade

The front façade of the building consists of a brick wall, two single bay porches, eleven one-over-one double-hung windows, two sets of stairs and two doors. The centered single bay porch has a front-facing gable roof, covered by asphalt shingles, supported by metal post at each corner. This entrance consists of double doors, with sidelights on either of the door. Located above the is a large transom, with three-pane, side lights on either side of that transom. The single-bay porch at the north end of the façade has asphalt shingles, a metal post at each corner, a metal door, a set of concrete steps, two metal handrails, and a front-facing gable roof. Located to the left of the far north entrance, there is the remnant of a former larger window, which has been framed and covered with plywood. Located within the framed in area, there are two, vinyl one-over-one windows equally spaced within the area. Located below grade and under the window and entrance way, there is a second entrance which allows access to a basement which was added in the 1960s, but more likely 1965 when other construction had taken place, including the addition to the north side of the high school building. A small metal tube handrail is located around the perimeter of the concrete stairs in order to prevent individuals from falling. Located from the left of the previously mentioned window frame the rest the elevation forms the original high school building. Therefore, to the left of the window there is another large former window opening that has been framed in and had two, vinyl one-over-one windows located at either end of the former larger windows space. Located to the left of that large former window opening, there is another window opening, which is identical to the previous window.

Located to the left of that window is the central entrance, which has already been described. To the left of the entrance is another large former window opening similar to the previous ones, only there are three replacement windows rather then two. The extra window is located adjacent to the window on the far left of the former window opening. Located to the left of the window is another small brick space, before coming to another large former window opening. This former window opening has also been framed in and the same as the previous windows that have two smaller replacement windows.

Located in front of the former high school is a chain-link fence, which was added to the property while associated with the school following its closure. The sandboxes and other play-sets are also associated with that period of use. The building has just recently replaced the hip roof with new three-tab asphalt shingles.

Side/South Elevation

The south elevation consists of a centrally located double-door with a gable roof porch which has vinyl siding located in the gable end. Two metal posts on either corner support the porch roof. A concrete wheelchair ramp has been constructed over half of the original concrete steps. The remnants of the covered walkway are still visible along the sidewalk. To the left of the entrance, a small former window opening had been framed in like previous opening. This previous window has also had a smaller replacement window added to the existing location. Located at the west corner of the elevation there is a large brick chimney.

Rear/West Elevation

The west elevation is similar to the other elevation where large former window opening have been framed in and had small replacement windows installed. Located at the southwest corner there is a smaller single one-over-one, double-hung, window located in the place of a small former window. A small bricked space separates the single window opening from a larger former window opening. This window opening is similar to the large former window opening in the front of the building, in that two, small, one-over-one, double-hung, windows are located on opposite ends of the large former window frame. This same construction also took place in the former bank of windows just to the left of the previous one. In the next large former bank of framed in windows there are three small replacement windows with the third window located adjacent to the window on the far left of the framed in area. The next former large bank of framed in windows consist of two replacement windows again, only this time they are centrally located in the larger window area. To the left of the last large framed in window bank, there is another former smaller window, which has been framed in, but without using a window to replace it with in the opening. Like the front elevation, the previously described area belonged to the original building, where the next descriptions describe the addition added in the 1960s. To the left of the in-filled window, there is a single, awning window with two-panes above and below the awning portion of the window. To the left of the single awning window, is another former window opening

that has been in-filled with smaller double-hung windows, with vertical siding located between the two windows. From this last window to the corner, there is not fenestration located on the first floor of this elevation. Above the boxed fascia, there are five large triangular gabled, louvered vents on the roof. Located below grade in the basement area on the north side of this elevation and behind a concrete retaining wall, there is a small six-over-six, double-hung window, and a steel door located in the area of a large former opening. The area between the window and door has been in-filled with concrete block. Located to the left of the steel door is another former large window opening that has been partially in-filled. The far left side of the former window opening houses another small six-over-six, double-hung window, but the area between this window and the previous door has been in-filled with vinyl siding. Located to the left of the last small six-over-six, double-hung window, there is a single bay entrance area is a gable roof porch, supported by two metal post.

Side/North Elevation

The side façade of the building facing the north consist of a brick wall with no windows.

Magnolia Colored School Auditorium- Contributing

Front/East Elevation
The front façade of the Magnolia Colored School Auditorium consists of a small one-story lobby, which faces east and consists of a centrally located recessed entrance with two pairs of symmetrically centered doors. The front porch is recessed and has an integral roof. Three large concrete steps allow access to the large metal doors. The large concrete steps are supported on either side by brick masonry walls. Above the two sets of symmetrically centered doors hangs a banner with the present-day building name and use. Above the banner is the front-facing gable's pediment, which is covered in vertical metal siding.

The auditorium portion of the building consists of a one and a half story single room area. Both the one-story lobby area and the one and a half story auditorium area have vertical metal siding located within the gable.

Side/South Elevation

The south elevation of the building consists of a brick veneered wall divided into five bays by six metal I-beams, which support the metal roof. The bay located to the far right (east) shows a clear delineation between the lobby space and the auditorium and is the shortest of the five bays. There is a hollow-core, metal door located in the second bay from the left (west). Located above the door, there is a small inset sheet of metal,

which corresponds to the width of the door. This metal panel is located between the top of the door entrance and the top of the south wall. Located in front of the door is a concrete wheelchair ramp with round metal tube railings. Along the top of the façade is a band of vertical metal siding.

Rear/West Elevation

The west elevation consists of a brick veneered wall with limited fenestration. There is a single door located to the right near the corner of the elevation. Located to the left of the door is a area that has been in-filled with concrete blocks. This was probably the location of a large louvered vent. Another set of doors is located towards the left corner of the wall and consists of double set of doors with a louvered vent above them. Located adjacent to the double doors is a large rectangular louvered vent. The gable portion of the roof is identical to the east elevation with vertical metal siding located with the gable.

Side/North Elevation

The north elevation of the building consists of a brick veneer and is identical to the south elevation. However, instead of a concrete wheelchair access ramp, there is a set of concrete steps with metal railings.

Magnolia Colored Shop Building- Contributing

Front/East Elevation

The eastern elevation of the building consists of a brick wall, a single bay porch which is offset to the left of the center, and six awning windows. The porch consists of a front facing gable roof with asphalt shingles, and is supported by two metal poles as you approach the metal louvered door. To the right of the front door, is one awning window where the awning portion has been substituted for a double fan and a regular awning window with three stationary panes above and below the awning window. To the left of the entrance, three awning windows are equidistant from one another. These windows consist of two rows of two stationary panes above the awning, while there is a single row of two panes below the awning. The roof of the shop building consists of a gable on a hip, with the gable ends running east and west with a louvered vent located within each of the gable ends.

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Side/South Elevation

The south elevation consists of a brick wall, four double-awning windows and one single-awning window similar to those awning windows on the east elevation. The three double-awning widows[1] consist of two stationary panes above and below the four-pane awning portion of the window, are equidistant from one another. The next window to the left is the single-awning window similar to those on the east elevation. To the left of the single-awning window, with two panes above and below the awning, there is another double-awning window similar to the other double-awning windows on the elevation. The elevation terminates at the corner of the building, after a small span of 7-8 bricks. The distance between the double-awning window and regular awning window at the west end of the façade is the same distance between the three double-awning windows.

Rear/West Elevation

The west elevation of the building consists of three awning windows, a garage door and a brick wall. The overhead garage door is offset to the left of center on this elevation and has taken the place of the original wooden-sliding doors, which are still visible on the exterior of the building. Located to the right of the overhead garage door are two awning windows. The window to the far right is a single-awning window with three stationary panes above and below the six panes of the awning portion of the window. The awning window located between the far right window and the overhead garage door consists of the double-awning with two panes above and below the four panes of the awning portion of the window. There is a single-awning window to the left of the overhead garage door that consist of two panes above and below the four panes of the awning portion of the window.

Side/North Elevation

The north elevation consists of a brick wall and six awning windows, which are equidistant from one another. These windows consist of the large awning windows made up of three stationary panes above and below the six panes located as part of the awning portion of the window.

[1] The double-awning window consists of two single awning windows adjacent to each other.

Magnolia Colored School Home-Economic Building- Contributing

Front/South Elevation
The front façade of the building consists of a brick-veneered wall with four equidistant pairs of one-over-one, aluminum, double-hung windows, which are centrally located on this elevation. To the right of the windows, there is a single-bay porch, with a six-panel, steel door. Concrete stairs with aluminum handrails lead to the steel door. The gabled-roof porch consists of two wooden porch posts with "V-shaped" brackets supporting the roof. The porch has a front-facing gable roof made up of asphalt shingles and a minimal amount of half-timbering in the gable-end. To the left (west) of the windows there is a small area of no ornamentation, which is terminated by the west corner of the building.

Side/West Elevation
The west elevation consists of a brick-veneered wall with two pairs of one-over-one, double-hung, aluminum windows, with one of the pairs being centrally located beneath the gable and the second pair is centrally located between the middle pair and the southwest corner of the building. Located to left of the middle pair of windows, a single, one-over-one double-hung window that is smaller that had been resized in the original window frame. All three of these windows are equidistant from one another. Located within the gable-end of the roof there is large triangular attic vent. Located beneath the windows, in the crawlspace area, there are two decorative crawlspace vents.

Rear/North Elevation
The north elevation of the building has limited fenestration from the central portion of the building to the right corner. There is a single, one-over-one, double-hung window centrally located on this elevation. Four to five feet to the left of that window, there is a similar window to the first. Another four to five feet to the left of the second window is a set of three adjacent one-over-one, double-hung windows. The elevation terminates three feet from the last window.

Side/East Elevation
The east elevation is the same as the west elevation in the location of the windows and vents.

Integrity
The Magnolia Colored School retains good integrity. The 1948 building retains its original form and floor plan. Although the windows in many cases on the original building have been covered with wooden boards, the openings of the former windows are still visible on the exterior of the building. Although the building has had one addition, it is smaller than the original structure. In addition, based on the oral history of the property, it is known that the addition was added in 1957. As a result, it be considered as contributing to the

building's significance with respect to meeting the growing needs of African-American students in Magnolia and Columbia County.

The same can be said for the changes that have occurred to the Home Economics Building which was originally built with wooden weatherboard siding but was changed to brick- veneered at the same time the Auditorium was built in 1965. This change also took place during the period of significance and again shows how the school was evolving during this period of segregation.

Summary

The Magnolia Colored School, located in Magnolia, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with education and ethnic heritage in Columbia County. The Magnolia Colored School Historic District was the center of transformation in education for the black students of Magnolia in the 1940s through desegregation in 1969. Since the school continued to operate as a school through the fifty-year mark, the period of significance is extended to 1969. As a result, the buildings best exemplify the educational environment during this period and how the educational environment was changing by the late 1940s.

Elaboration

Columbia County was settled with European immigrant yeoman farmers and other migrants from surrounding Southern States in search of better cotton land. But early white settlers did not begin to come in significant numbers until Arkansas achieved statehood in 1836, where the migrants formed small communities such as Spotsville, Atlanta, Calhoun, and Lamartine. It was not until 1850 that there was a large enough population to form a new county, and in 1852 Columbia County was created out of sections of Lafayette, Union, Ouachita, and Hempstead counties.[2] The county was named after the female personification of America, Columbia.[3] The city of Magnolia was founded in 1855 to act as the county seat. By the 1860s there were a handful of prosperous plantation families, but the majority of the citizens of Columbia County were family farmers.[4]

The city of Magnolia was created as the county seat of Columbia County, and lies one mile east of the geographical center of the county, due to the location being in the bottoms of Big Creek. Two men, J.J. Thomas and John L. McCarty, deeded the land where Magnolia was founded on June 21, 1853, and a temporary log courthouse was soon established. However, by 1856, the log courthouse was replaced by a larger frame structure."[5]

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[2] *Overview: History of Western Columbia County*. Arkansas Historic Preservation Library, Received August 13, 1983. 1-2.
[3] Kathleen Swaim, and Ralph S. Wilcox. "Cross and Nelson Halls Historic District, Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, National Register Files, Cross and Nelson Halls Historic District, Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas, 2009.
[4] *Overview: History of Western Columbia County*. 2.
[5] Lancaster, Guy. "Magnolia (Columbia County)."Encyclopedia of Arkansas. http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=855 (accessed March 22, 2013).

It is during this time that the first school in Columbia County was established as a "subscription white school near Calhoun, about 1850-51."[6] This was constructed to "keep the boys out of mischief,"[7] though it is also stated that no colored schools appeared until "some time after the war."[8] In the northern part of Columbia County, before the Civil War, was a "white school of some value called Columbia Institute."[9] In the 1870s, "a Magnolia Female Institute flourished instead of the public schools."[10] "Those who cared for special education were sent off to Eastern institutions. The public school idea grew slowly…"[11] In the 1870s and up to 1890, the Magnolia Female College, and Buckner, Waldo and McNeil High Schools all [were] private institutions. By 1890 there were "47 districts, in which are 18 frame and log schools… for which are employed 72 teachers, 42 being white and 30 colored."[12] "The Southwestern Academy, a private preparatory school, was established in 1894, but it closed in the early twentieth century, and its building was used by the Magnolia Grammar School until it burned. It was not until 1917 that the Magnolia High School was built with the later additions to the campus constructed by the WPA."[13]

In Columbia County, African-American students were provided a formal education at one of two schools in Magnolia. The first was the Magnolia Colored School, built in 1915, while the second school, Columbia Baptist Academy, was built in 1919. It was Julius Rosenwald who helped expand educational opportunities for African-American students in Columbia County through the Julius Rosenwald Fund, though not the Magnolia Colored School. This fund helped finance the construction of schools for black students across the south. The Rosenwald Fund specifically aimed to create opportunities that are more equitable for African-American students. The growth and development of public schools were sparked by the Arkansas General Assembly's act to authorize agricultural schools in Columbia County, which combined training in agriculture with high school courses. After Columbia County's efforts to consolidate public schools, Columbia High School was the only school where African-American students could complete grades one through twelve tuition free. Columbia Baptist Academy required that parents pay tuition for their children to attend. [14]

[6] Goodspeed. *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas.* Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, 461.
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] *Ibid.* The "war" refers to the American Civil War.
[9] *Ibid.*
[10] *Ibid.*
[11] *Ibid.*
[12] *Ibid.*
[13] McNeill, Mike. "Columbia County." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. Available at http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=758 (accessed February 10, 2013).
[14] *Ibid.*

In 1915, Magnolia Colored School consisted of a two story wood-framed building. The first floor consisted of a foyer, broom room and two classrooms for first through sixth graders. The second floor was one large room that housed seventh and eighth graders. The second floor was also an auditorium. From 1915 to 1939, only first through eighth graders were taught at Magnolia Colored School.

As the black population in Columbia County continued to grow through the 1930s on into the 1940s, there was an ever-building need to construct new schools in Columbia County. Therefore, by 1939, the two-story brick Magnolia Colored School building was constructed, which housed first through twelfth grades. Only a year after the school was constructed in 1939, black students out-numbered white students in Columbia County 3638 to 3811.[15] With this increase in the number of black students attending school during 1939-1940, there was an increase in the need for new schools for the black students. With the new Magnolia Colored School constructed in 1939-1940, another school was constructed in the Walker School District, which was the combination of Burton, West Grammar, Wilbourn, and Mt. Calm School Districts through consolidation.

However, the Magnolia Colored School would only last a little more than eight years as a school, because on a frosty Monday night, on January 26, 1948, the two-story school was "destroyed by flames that raged trough the structure for three hours… and were still smouldering [sic] in the ruins Tuesday morning."[16] The volunteer firefighters were "hampered by the frigid weather and ice coating the water connections."[17] With the building completely engulfed in flames, the fire department turned their attention on preventing the spreading of flames to the home economics building and manual training shop.[18] It was originally believed that the fire started on the south side of the second floor, but there was no power to the building for several days prior to the fire because of ice and snow accumulation.[19] With no explanation on how the fire started, the school district immediately started to look for alternate location to have classes as well as find books for those classes, as many of them burned in the fire.

The students would only lose a week of school as they were back in classes by the Tuesday of the next week. The students resumed their classes "in four colored churches in the city [of Magnolia] and in two smaller

[15] "Negro Pupils In County Out Number White Students." *The Daily Banner News* (Magnolia, Arkansas), 3. The article also shows that though the total enrollment is higher for black students overall, the daily average was lower for black students. However, it also shows that the average total expenditures for white students was $30.79, while the average total expenditure for black students was $15.21. These figures show the substantial inequality for education during this period of time.

[16] "$70,000 Loss As Fire Razes Negro School: Monday Night Blaze Cause Undetermined." *The Daily Banner News* (Magnolia, Arkansas), 27 January 1948, 1.

[17] *Ibid.*

[18] *Ibid.*

[19] *Ibid.*

buildings [home economics building and the Manual Training Shop] that were not burned in the fire."[20] The Shop Building and the Home-Economics Building were constructed in 1940. The Shop Building is constructed of brick, while the Home-Economics Building was originally constructed with weatherboard. Since the Home-Economics Building was constructed using a weatherboard exterior cladding, the fire department paid close attention to the building only feet from the main portion of the burning school. However, with these two associated buildings saved from the fire, they continued to be used during the rest of the school year. While those buildings continued to be used, all high school classes were moved the Bethlehem Baptist and Trinity C.M.E churches and all grammar school classes were being taught at Mount Tabor Baptist and St. Phillips A.M.E. The only difference is that all fourth grade students met on campus in the Home Economics Building, while all students studying agriculture continued to meet in the school's manual shop building. The Main administration for the school was being administered out of the Bethlehem Baptist Church pastor's study.

This presented the students and the community with a few challenges along the way but was met with great enthusiasm by the black community. This can be seen in the use of these church spaces as classrooms for a "record enrollment of 815 [students] for the second semester" which began the day the fire broke out. One of the small problems that was quickly solved was the distance that students had to "travel between periods in going from one church to another,"[21] by delaying the start of the next class. One of the other problems that arose quickly for the new arrangement was the lack of sanitation facilities, because there were just not enough toilets for that amount of students in each church. Of the remaining two buildings on campus, only one of the buildings had a restroom. It was noted that the school was working on constructing "outdoor toilets" on the campus.[22] One of the other problems that arose following the fire was the need for textbooks. The only textbooks that were available for use were textbooks that students had brought home the night of the fire or those supplied by the state department of education.[23]

Yet, it did not take long for the school board to begin to look at new options for the future because only two months later the school had already hired the architectural firm of Trapp and Clippard, of El Dorado and Little Rock, Arkansas, and had design plans already created by April 19, 1948.[24] It was stated that they would construct "two [one-story] buildings, one to house the high school and another for the grammar school, …

[20] "Colored Students Crowd Into Fire Emergency Classrooms." *The Daily Banner News* (Magnolia, Arkansas), 20 February 1948. 1.
[21] *Ibid.*
[22] *Ibid.*
[23] *Ibid.*
[24] "Negro School Construction to Start Soon." *The Daily Banner News* (Magnolia, Arkansas), 19 April 1948, 1. The original article states that the architectural firm is Clippard and Clapp, though according to the American Institute of Architects, there was no firm by the name of Clippard and Clapp.

[to] replace the single structure in which all classes were held."[25] These two new building will be constructed on the original site of the burned school, with the high school building being constructed with "brick veneer walls and will contain six classrooms, a combination library and study hall, an office, storerooms and restrooms. It will be built on the foundation of the old structure in order to cut construction costs."[26] Another way of cutting cost for the construction of the new buildings was the purchasing of surplus building materials from Camp Robinson. With this information, there is little known about the actual construction of the building until the beginning of the school year in August 1948.

By August 26, 1948, the two new school buildings were nearly completed, and it would be ready to open its doors to the students for the new school year, which would start on September 13, 1948. The new campus, or plant, included "a high school, grade school, home economics cottage, vocational agriculture shop, lunchroom, a gymnasium-auditorium, all separate units."[27] Of these separate units, the home economics cottage and the vocational agriculture shop were buildings that remained following the fire that burned the previous two-story school. The newly constructed grade school contained five classrooms and consisted of the same design as the high school building.[28] When the schools were completed, it was announced by Principal F. B. Buffington, that the new High School building would be the most modern High School for Negroes in the state.[29]

That modern facility continued to bring in students from across Columbia County to attend the school. Shortly after the construction of the new high school and grade school, the school underwent a name change around the 1950 school year according to the school's yearbook.[30] The new name for the former Magnolia Colored School was changed to the Columbia County High School. The name would change again between 1954 and 1957, to the Columbia High School.[31]

Consequently, as the school continued to change throughout the 1950s, the school's enrollment continued to grow as well. Therefore, there was a need for other additions to the school campus and a small addition to the school itself. The first of the additions to the campus was the addition of another shop building to the southwest of the intersection of Vine Street and School Street. The current shop building is located to the

[25] *Ibid.*
[26] *Ibid.*
[27] "New Building On Local Negro Campus Ready." *The Daily Banner News* (Magnolia, Arkansas), 26 August 1948, 1.
[28] The grade school (grammar school) was torn down in the early 2000s.
[29] "New Building On Local Negro Campus Ready. 1.
[30] Gracie Tucker, email message to author, September 8, 2013. Department of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Site Files, Magnolia Colored School.
[31] *Ibid.* Mrs. Tucker explains that the last yearbook with the name Columbia County High School was in 1954, and the next time the yearbook was published was in 1957, when the name changed to Columbia High School . Therefore, it is known that the name change took place between 1954 and 1957.

northwest of the high school. At the same time, the old shop building from 1940, was converted into another classroom and then a band and choir room,[32] before it was torn down for the auditorium in 1964. In 1957 the new library, English Department, and Business rooms were added as the north end of the school.[33] This addition was needed as the number of students continued to increase.

As enrollment continued to increase there was a new need for an auditorium on the campus. This auditorium would house large lectures, graduation, and other large forum gathering ceremonies. In order to build the auditorium on the current campus, the old shop building was razed for the construction of the auditorium. With the construction completed by the spring of 1965, the graduating class of 1965 to the first class to "walk," or have graduation in the new auditorium.

As the auditorium was being constructed, the school district also undertook the beautification of other buildings on the campus. Through this beautification, the Home Economics building, which was the only building retaining its wooden siding, was clad in a new brick exterior to blend with the other brick buildings on the school campus. These three buildings were used by the school until its closing in 1969.

Even with these modifications to the buildings of the Columbia High School, the life of the campus was ending with legislation calling for the integration of all Arkansas School Districts. According to Gracie Tucker, a former student at the school, integration was actually started in 1968 on a volunteer basis. The school had asked students if they would voluntarily integrate into the Magnolia High School, as more of a trial basis. With little uproar in 1968, over the voluntary integration, the school was set for full integration of the school district in 1969. With the full integration of the Magnolia School District, the doors of the Columbia High School, or Magnolia Colored School would remain closed at the opening of the 1969-1970 academic school years. Many of the students felt troubled by the fact that they were being integrated into the Magnolia High School because they felt as though "their" school was newer then the Magnolia High School. They felt like "their" school should continue to be used by some entity. However, even with the integration of the once most modern negro school in the state, the school remained closed for many years.

Following the closure of the school, the cafeteria, grade school and gym have all gradually fallen into disrepair. The grade school building was the first to be razed prior to 1994, and the gym and cafeteria remained on the site until around 2000, when both buildings were razed. Though these buildings are gone, the former students and faculty that once walked the halls of the Magnolia Colored School, Columbia County High School or Columbia High School continue to have fond memories of the times at the school in the

[32] "Historical Sketch of the Columbia High School." Received April 7 2013. 1-2. Department of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Site Files, Magnolia Colored School.
[33] *Ibid.*

buildings that remain. Of those buildings that remain, most have been reused for different things over the past 44 years. For instance, Lee's Printing Company used the basement of the old high school building from 1980 through 1988. The Southwest Arkansas Community Development Center had an office and daycare center in the north end of the old high school from 1988 to 2012. The shop building was once occupied by a training school that taught auto mechanics, while the Home Economics Building is still used for cooking meals for Columbia District Association meetings and funerals, which are held in the Auditorium.[34] The former alumni of the school continue to gather on the campus for annual reunions, which brings hundreds of people every year to celebrate the history of the school and trial and tribulations that were experienced within the walls of the school building.

Therefore, the Magnolia Colored School Historic District is being nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance, for its association with ethnic heritage and for its association with African-American education throughout the middle half of the 20th Century. The Magnolia Colored School Historic District is a great example of an educational campus for African-American students from the 1940s through 1969. Even though, the period of significance extends to 1969, little occurred between 1963 and 1965 with the exception of the construction of the auditorium and the exterior cladding of the Home Economics building. However, the date of 1969 is a logical end date to the period of significance because of the closure of the school in 1969 due to the slow integration of the students in 1968 and 1969.

[34] Gracie Tucker, email message to author, September 18, 2013. Department of Arkansas Heritage, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Site Files, Magnolia Colored School.

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Verbal Boundary Description

At the southeast corner of the Magnolia Colored School Historic District, located along South Madison St, go to UTM 15 S. 477388 E. 3680324. Go west to UTM point 15 S. 477242 E. 3680333. Then go north to UTM point 15 S. 477249 E. 3680410. Then turn east to UTM point 15 S. 477384 E. 3680411. Then return to the original UTM point at UTM 15 S. 477388 E. 3680324.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the area of the campus that retains the most integrity.

Photographs

Name of Property:	Davidson, Julian Hunn, House
City or Vicinity:	Little Rock
County:	Pulaski County
State:	AR
Name of Photographer:	Travis Ratermann
Date of Photographs:	January 16, 2013
Location of Original Digital Files:	323 Center St. Suite 1600, Little Rock, AR 72201

Photo #1
Southeast corner of the Magnolia Colored High School Building, camera facing northwest.

Photo #2
Northeast corner of the Magnolia Colored High School Building, camera facing northwest.

Photo #3
South elevation of the Magnolia Colored High School Building, camera facing north.

Photo #4
Southwest corner of the Magnolia Colored High School Building, camera facing northeast.

Photo #5
Northwest corner of the Magnolia Colored High School Building which was an addition to the building to allow for additional students, camera facing northeast.

Photo #6
North elevation of the Magnolia Colored High School Building, camera facing south.

Photo #7
East elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Shop Building, camera facing southwest.

Photo #8
North elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Shop Building, camera facing south.

Photo #9
West elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Shop Building, camera facing east.

Photo #10
South elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Shop Building, camera facing northeast.

Photo #11
Southeast corner of the south elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Home Economics Building, camera facing northeast.

Photo #12
West elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Home Economics Building, camera facing east.

Photo #13
North elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Home Economics Building, camera facing south.

Photo #14
North elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Auditorium, camera facing south.

Photo #15
East elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Auditorium, camera facing west.

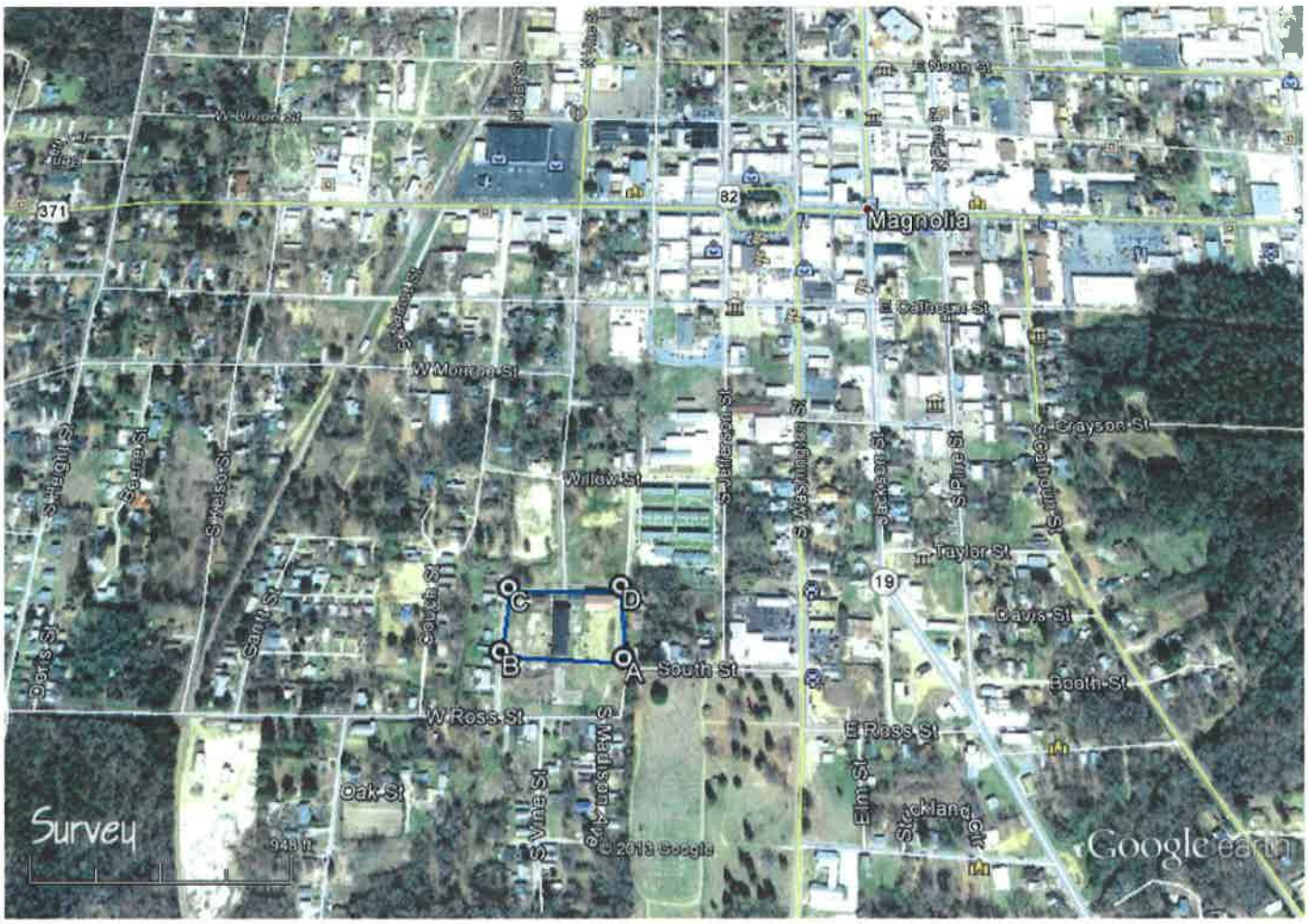
Photo #16
South elevation of the Magnolia Colored School Auditorium, camera facing north.

Magnolia Colored School Historic District, Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas

Google earth feet 700 meters 200

UTM
A. 15 477388 3680324
B. 15 477242 3680333
C. 15 477249 3680410
D. 15 477384 3680411
NAD83

Magnolia Colored School Historic District, Magnolia, Columbia County, Arkansas



Google earth feet 2000 meters 700

UTM
A. 15 477388 3680324
B. 15 477242 3680333
C. 15 477249 3680410
D. 15 477384 3680411
NAD83

EMERSON

MOM
SKILL
TRAINING
CENTER
611

COLUMBIA DISTRICT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION 1875
M.L. YOUNGBLOOD CHRISTIAN CENTER
DR. WENDELL F. COLEN MODERATOR

NO
PARKING