

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR Listed: 1-15-04

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 George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building

other names/site number WO0050

2. Location

street & number 900 Pearl Street  not for publication

City/Town Augusta  vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Woodruff code 147 zip code 72006

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.)

Cornie Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/04/03  
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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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: \_\_\_\_\_)

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            |                 | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
|              |                 | structures |
|              |                 | objects    |
| 1            |                 | 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Minimal Traditional  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete  
walls Concrete block  
roof Asphalt  
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 This 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**

1944-1954

**Significant Dates**

1944

**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:

Augusta School District

George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building  
Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** Less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 649381 3905800  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

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 Ralph Wilcox, National Register and Survey Coordinator

Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date 8-2-03

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street 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 --. Have been submitted

**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 Augusta School District

street & number 501 South Third telephone 870-347-2241

city or town Augusta state AR zip code 72006

**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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building is a one-story, L-shaped building located on the Carver High School campus on the eastern side of Augusta in Woodruff County, Arkansas. It was built in 1944 in the Minimal Traditional style, and was funded through donations from members of the community. The Home Economics Building rests on a continuous cast concrete foundation, and is crowned by a gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles. The walls are constructed of concrete block.

### ELABORATION

The George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building is a one-story, L-shaped building located on the Carver High School campus on the eastern side of the Augusta community in Woodruff County, Arkansas. It was built in 1944 in the Minimal Traditional style, and was funded through donations from members of the community. Of the original five buildings that comprised the campus, the Home Economics Building is the only one which remains today. The building's appearance is the same as when it was originally built with the exception of a wing which is attached to the rear of the building. This was added to make room for grades 4 to 6.

The building rests on a continuous cast concrete foundation, and is of concrete block construction. The walls are currently painted white, but evidence suggests the walls were originally a buff color.

### Front/West Façade

The front façade of the building faces west, and is comprised of four bays. The main entrance to the building is located on the south side of the facade. A one bay, gabled porch projects from the roof above the door.

The rest of the west façade of the building is comprised of three pairs of wood-framed, double-hung, four-over-four windows.

### Side/South Façade

The south façade of the building is the exterior side of the leg of the "L". The southwest end of the side consists of three single wood-framed, four-over-four windows. The rest of the length of the wing has nine pairs of double-hung, wood-framed, eight-over-eight windows. Currently, thirteen of the windows are boarded up.

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### Rear/East Façade

The rear façade is gabled, with only an attic vent present.

The base of the "L," that faces east, consists of two double-hung, wood framed, one-over-one windows.

### Side/North Façade

The north façade of the building is the interior side of the leg of the "L". The length of the side consists of 3 doors, two of which have a one-bay, gabled porch projecting from the roof. The door closest to the east façade is covered by an awning.

The base of the "L," north-facing, consists of three double-hung, wood framed, eight-over-eight windows. The easternmost window is currently boarded up.

### Integrity

The George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building retains good architectural integrity, and closely reflects the time of its construction in 1944. The building retains its original windows, with the majority of the entrances intact. As the Home Economics Building is the only original building standing on the George Washington Carver High School campus grounds, it is significant as part of early African-American education in Augusta, Arkansas.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Summary

The George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building in Augusta, Arkansas, was constructed in 1944, and was one of five buildings on the school campus. The George Washington High School (formerly the Augusta Colored High School) served as the African-American school in the district, until the last segregated class graduated in 1970. Due to the building's association with African-American education in Augusta, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A with local significance**.

### Elaboration

The first Black schools of the Augusta area were established shortly after the Civil War, circa 1873. They were located in the northern part of town in a section known as Box Town. Box Town received its name since the majority of the homes were constructed with scrap wood that was given to workers in the local box factory. This school was discontinued in 1917 when Black citizens decided that they would improve their children's educational system.

The men who spearheaded this project to purchase land for a new school were Dolphus Lowe, Charlie Raspberry, Rev. C. H. Jones, D. C. McClendon, Will Harris, Nat Mitchner and Henry Spearman. Many of their descendants still live in Augusta. Five acres of land were purchased for \$600 in the eastern part of the City and this property was deeded to the Augusta School District. On this property a \$12,000, brick building was completed by June 30, 1917, for the use of all black students in the district. This building was known as The Augusta Colored High School. It retained this name until 1942, when it was changed to George Washington Carver High School.

Constructed in 1931, with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund, the Shop Building on the campus of the George Washington Carver High School remained in use until the time of integration in 1970. The building was destroyed sometime shortly after it ceased being used.

In 1944, the Home Economics Building was built. Various subjects such as sewing, cooking, childcare, and nutrition were taught in this building.

In 1948 an additional 15 acres of land were purchased to allow for expansion of the facility. The gymnasium, cafeteria, and agriculture buildings were all built on these additional acres. The last building in this complex was an elementary school.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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This separate school system was abolished with the advent of integration. The last segregated class graduated in 1970. The only remaining part of this school system is the Home Economics Building, which was saved for use by the Head Start Program.

In 2000, the City of Augusta realized the importance of preserving its African-American history, and changed the names of the surrounding streets to George Washington Carver and James Smith Boulevard. Smith served as principal of this school for 34 years and led his students into a peaceful integration into the Augusta Schools.

Although the building is still used by the Head Start Program, it is hoped that at least part of the building will be turned into a museum to tell the story of African-Americans' struggle for education in Woodruff County.

### Statement of Significance

The George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building in Augusta, Arkansas, was constructed in 1944, and was one of five buildings on the school campus. The George Washington High School (formerly the Augusta Colored High School) served as the African-American school in the district, until the last segregated class graduated in 1970. Due to the building's association with African-American education in Augusta, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance**.



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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Bibliography

Personal interviews of previous students and teachers-- William Smith, Ione Valentine, and other members of the Augusta Club,  
Augusta, Arkansas.

Records of The Augusta School District

Smith, James. Rivers and Roads—History of The Black Schools in the Augusta Area. Unknown publisher and date.

*Augusta Advocate* —numerous editions from 1936 to 1970

1998 Special Sesquicentennial edition of Augusta News taken from old newspapers

George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building  
Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 2, Lots 7 & 8, Winfield & Conner Addition to the City of Augusta.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the George Washington Carver High School Home Economics Building.







