

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 Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building

other name/site number Bollinger County Natural History Museum

2. Location

street & town 207 Mayfield Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Marble Hill N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Bollinger code 017 zip code 63764

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 forth 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.)

Mark A. Miles 05 APR 05
Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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.) _____

Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Name of Property

Bollinger County, MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: college

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>CONCRETE</u>
walls	<u>BRICK</u>
roof	<u>SYNTHETICS</u>
other	_____

Narrative Description

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Description

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** a birthplace or grave.
- 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1924-1934

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pendleton, L. Baylor/architect

Penzel, Linus/builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other Name of repository:

William Partee Center for Baptist Historical Studies

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Name of Property

Bollinger County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/6 2/3/6/3/7/0 4/1/3/3/0/5/0
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tiffany Patterson
organization Missouri State Historic Preservation Office date November 12, 2004
street & number P.O. Box 176/100 E. High St. telephone 573-751-7800
city or town Jefferson City state MO zip code 65102

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

name/title Dr. John Englehart, President, El Nathan Home Board of Directors
street & number 205 Mayfield Dr. telephone _____
city or town Marble Hill state MO zip code 63764

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 listings. 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 20503.

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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

SUMMARY:

The Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building, 207 Mayfield Dr., in Marble Hill, Bollinger County, Missouri is a three-story classroom building constructed for the former Will Mayfield College. Designed in 1924 by L. Baylor Pendleton, a St. Louis architect, the Classical Revival style building was completed and opened for classes in 1927. The building has a rectangular footprint and sits on a concrete foundation. The structure is reinforced concrete with a decorative brick façade and flat roof. The primary elevation is divided into five bays with the two end bays projecting slightly from the wall plane. The front entrances to the building are through these two bays. The entrances are highlighted by one-story classically influenced cast stone porticos and two-story round arched windows. All facades have centralized groupings of five double-hung windows with transoms on each floor to light classroom and library space. The interior retains its original layout and most of its historic finishes, notably its metal ceilings and plaster walls. The building, both interior and exterior, retains a high degree of historic integrity and conveys its significance as an early 20th century educational facility.

ELABORATION:

Setting:

The Arts and Science Building is located in the northwest corner of Marble Hill, Missouri. The town is located in the foothills of the Ozarks, so the topography is hilly with mature trees along the streets and in yards. The building sits on a high point in the northwest corner of the community overlooking the town and surrounding hills. There are scattered residential buildings to the east and north of the building, and Mayfield Drive runs just east of the building. A wide grassy lawn with mature trees spreads to the south. Just west of the building is the earliest building associated with the Will Mayfield College. The two-story neighboring building has been converted for use as a nursing home and has a large residential care facility attached to its west façade. The area behind the building contains a narrow drive and small parking area.

Primary (South) elevation:

All four facades of the building share similar design and architectural features, but the south elevation is the most decorative and contains the two primary entrances. The façade is divided both horizontally and vertically. A wide beltcourse of cast stone separates the first and second floors and a wide cast stone cornice creates a division between the third story windows and the decorative parapet wall. Vertically, the façade is divided into three sections; a wide center section denoted by large classroom windows, and two projecting end bays housing the two primary entrances and stairwells. The projecting bays are further distinguished by decorative brickwork. The first floor is Flemish bond, as is most of the building. However, the second and third floor has decorative brick quoins on the corners. Instead of Flemish bond, the brick between the quoins is laid in stacks of header bricks framed by soldier brick courses. The decorative parapet over these bays has cast stone finials at the corner and a cast stone shield

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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

in the center of the parapet wall.

The entrances are highlighted by cast stone porticos with classically influenced architectural features. Two fluted Ionic columns support a broad entablature with projecting cornice line. The corners of the entablature are decorated with bas relief wreaths, but are otherwise unadorned. The portico is topped by a short balustrade of turned cast stone balusters with square corner posts. The entrance doors are multi-light wood doors flanked by multi-light sidelights. The doors have two transom windows, one with square lights and a top transom with taller glass panes. Above each entrance door is a two story multi-light window with a round arch top. The arch is topped by a cast stone keystone and a course of soldier bricks.

Except for the beltcourse that separates the first and second floor, all floors of the center section of the south façade are identical. This section of the façade is divided into three bays. The center bay has a grouping of five double-hung 3/3 windows with three light transoms. The wide center bays mark the location of interior classroom, hallway or library space. The center bay is flanked by single windows of similar configuration. The parapet wall over this section of the building is inset with a cast stone sign reading "Will Mayfield College."

East & West elevations:

The east and west elevations are nearly identical. The facades are divided into three bays, the center of which contains a grouping of five multi-paned windows identical to that described on the south façade. On the first floor of the east façade, a garage door for deliveries and changes in museum exhibits has replaced two of the windows. The southernmost bay of these facades has paired six-light casement windows on the first floor, and a double-hung 3/3 window with transom offset between the second and third floors. These windows light the interior stairways. Above and below these windows are decorative panels. The top panels are stamped with stylized leaf designs. The bottom panels are whimsical depictions of gnome-like people studying the arts and sciences. On the west façade is a woman with large pad of paper and drawing pencil, and to the east is a ball-capped boy attempting to solve a math problem ($2 + 2 = 22$). The northernmost bay has single 3/3 double-hung windows with transoms. On the west elevation, the first floor has a door instead of a window.

Rear (North) elevations:

The architectural details seen on the south, east and west elevations are carried through on the north wall, though the elevation as a whole is not highly detailed. Like the other elevations, a beltcourse separates the first and second floors. Also, the center bay is dominated by a five window grouping identical to that seen on the other three sides. The third floor classroom windows, however, have been shortened to allow for stadium-like seating in the classroom/demonstration lab. This center bay is flanked by pairs of 2/2 windows with two-light transoms. The two end sections (that correspond to the two entrance bays on the south façade) have four narrow, equally spaced, 1/1 windows with single light transoms.

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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

Interior:

The interior of the building retains its original layout and much of its historic interior finishes. After the college closed in 1934, the building was virtually abandoned for several years and was later used as temporary housing and storage. Lack of temperature control and moisture infiltration caused damage to the historic metal ceilings and plaster, but overall the building was in fair to good condition. The exterior and first two floors of the interior have undergone recent rehabilitation and much of the interior deterioration has been addressed. The third floor has not yet been fully rehabilitated, but there are plans to continue the rehabilitation in this area.

Each floor has a slightly different layout to accommodate private offices, lab space, classrooms and a large library. Historically, the first floor was devoted to classrooms, small offices and locker/restrooms. The library and magazine room took up most of the second floor except for small mechanical and storage rooms. The third floor included additional classrooms, offices, and labs. The stairwells are located in the southeast and southwest corners of the building.

Integrity:

The building retains a high degree of integrity and relatively few changes have occurred to the building. At present, the only noticeable exterior change is the removal of two windows on the east façade to accommodate a garage door. On the interior, the most changes have occurred on the first floor that has been converted to a natural history museum. The first floor retains its overall layout of classrooms and corridors, but the hall ceilings have been lowered to allow for new HVAC ducts. Also, some of the corridors have been narrowed somewhat to accommodate built-in display cabinets. The second floor is entirely intact and the large library space with its decorative plasterwork has been restored as a large museum display area. The third floor is deteriorated, but intact.

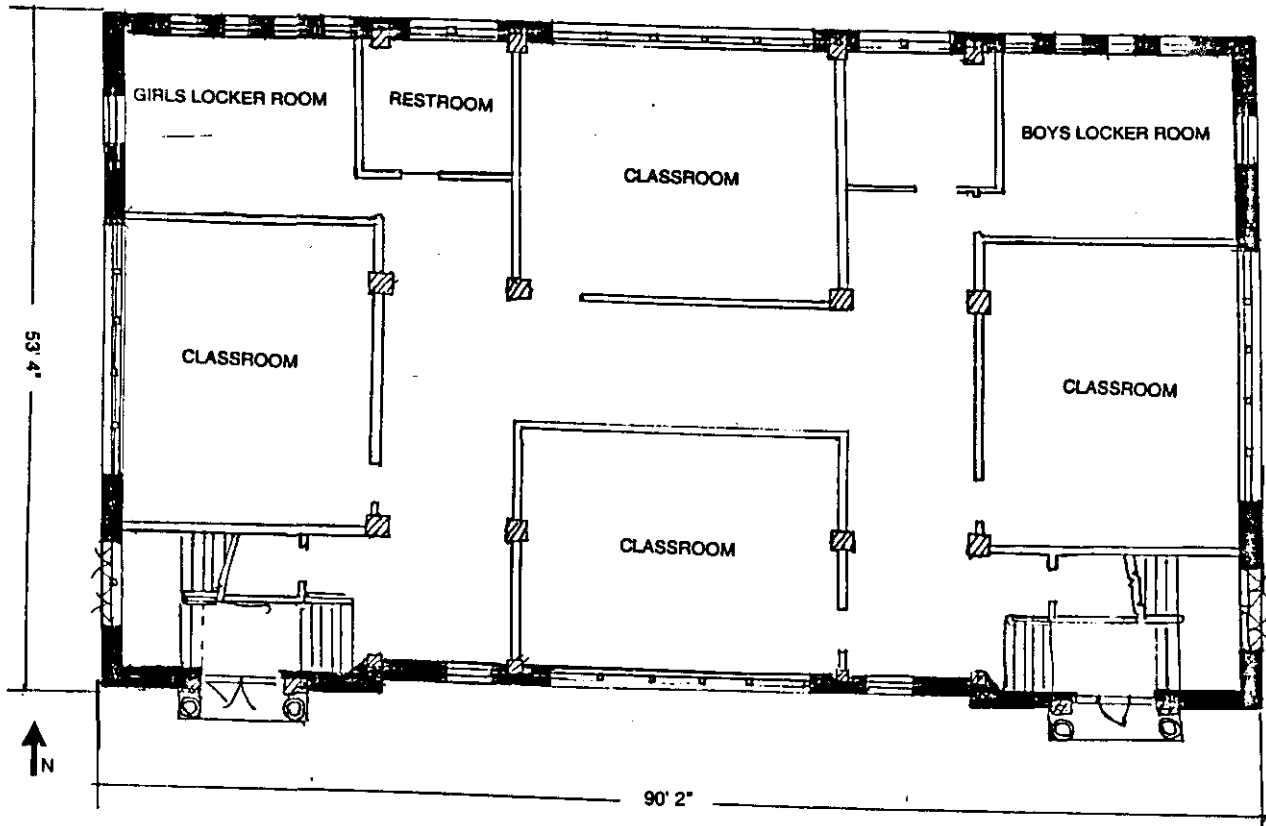
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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

First Floor Plan: Floor plan drawn from original design by L. Baylor Pendleton. Copies of original plans are on file at the Bollinger County Natural History Museum, Marble Hill, MO



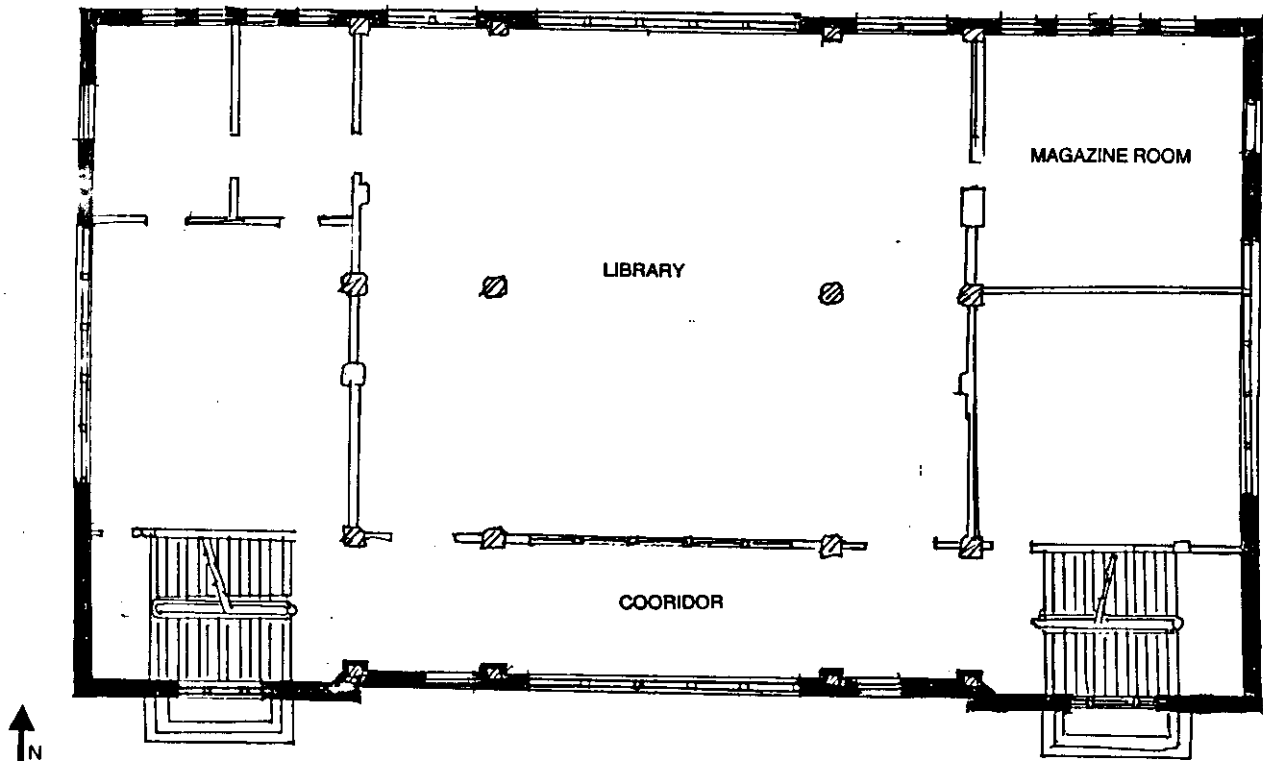
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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

Second Floor Plan: Floor plan drawn from original design by L. Baylor Pendleton. Copies of original plans are on file at the Bollinger County Natural History Museum, Marble Hill, MO



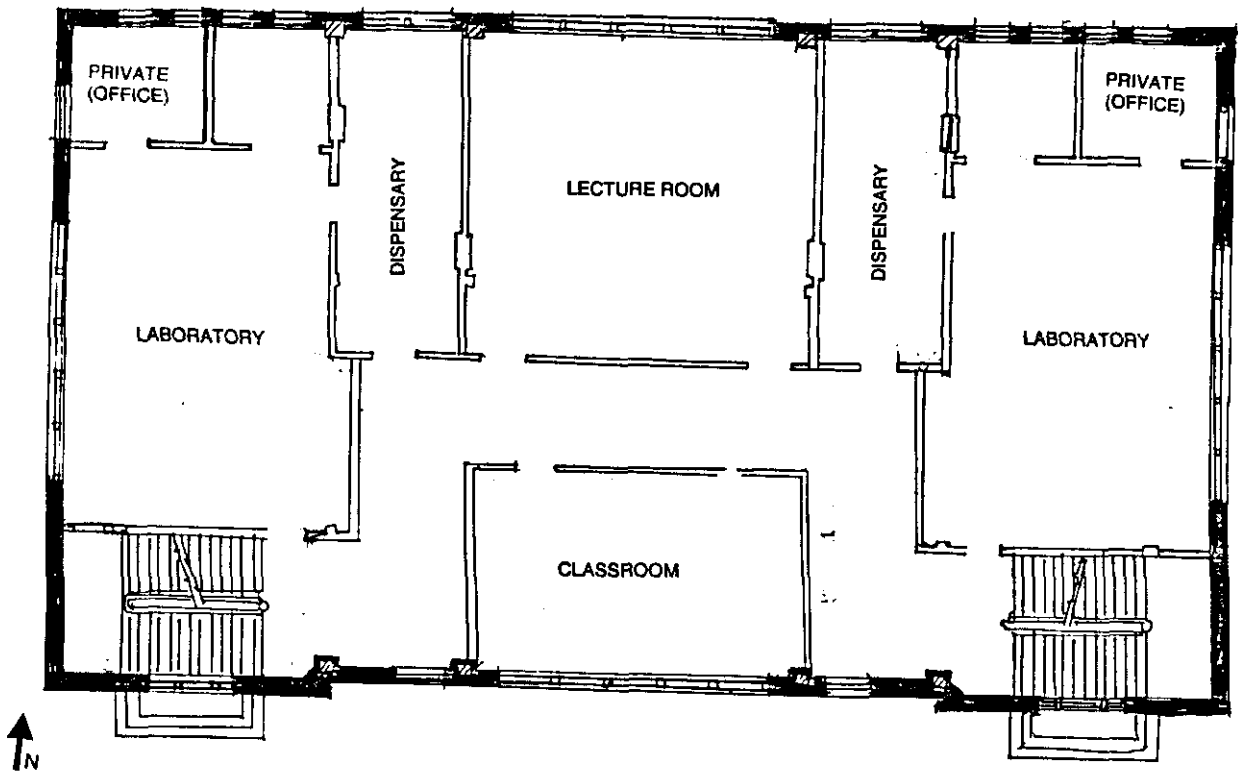
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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

Third Floor Plan: Floor plan drawn from original design by L. Baylor Pendleton. Copies of original plans are on file at the Bollinger County Natural History Museum, Marble Hill, MO



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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

Summary:

The Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building, 207 Mayfield Dr., Marble Hill, Bollinger County, is locally significant under National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C in the areas of EDUCATION and ARCHITECTURE. Designed in 1924 by L. Baylor Pendleton, and completed in 1927, the building served as the primary classroom, library and laboratory space for the Will Mayfield College. Established in 1878 by Drs. William H. Mayfield and H.J. Smith, the private high school/preparatory school and junior college serviced Bollinger and surrounding counties. The school emphasized academic courses for high school students, religious education, and teacher training. Attendance at the college peaked in the 1920s, encouraged by a building campaign that culminated in the construction of the Arts & Science Building. This building represents the height of the school's influence and academic life and, as an architect-designed Classical Revival style building, is the most high style building on the campus and in Marble Hill. The period of significance is 1924 to 1934, the date of initial planning and design through the year the school closed its doors.

History and Background

The Will Mayfield College, initially known as the Mayfield-Smith Academy, was the brainchild of William Henderson Mayfield,¹ a native of Bollinger County. Mayfield obtained his early education in public and private institutions in Bollinger and neighboring counties. While living in Smithville (now Sedgwickville) and studying medicine under Dr. H.J. Smith, Mayfield felt the call to open a subscription school. On February 10, 1878, he prepared an article proposing the school and "in 30 minutes raised \$550."² He later wrote that the "low grade of educational interests of Southeast Missouri, and the great lack of moral and religious culture, demanded a school such as we now have."³

Mayfield had a firm supporter in his mentor, Dr. H.J. Smith. Smith, for whom Smithville was named, was a "faithful worker for the school" providing financial assistance and space for the school in his commercial building.⁴ Smith owned a 2-story building in town from which he practiced medicine and ran a pharmacy. In the spring of 1878, his building also housed the first 22 students of the Mayfield-Smith Academy. In addition to Smith's assistance, the school also received support and funding from fees charged to students and the St. Francois Baptist Association. The school maintained its Baptist affiliation throughout its history and was enumerated among the major Baptist institutions of higher learning in the state.⁵

¹ Dr. Mayfield would later be a significant force in improving healthcare in St. Louis as well as in China. He was the founder of the Missouri Baptist Sanatorium in St. Louis, now known as the Missouri Baptist Medical Center, and was critical in funding two hospitals in China, one of which was also named for his son, Will Mayfield.

² R.S. Duncan. *A History of the Baptists in Missouri*. St. Louis: Scammell & Co., Publishers, 1882, 895.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

There is some discrepancy in the accounts of the early history of the school. One source notes that a school founded by Mayfield and Smith offered elementary level courses, but most sources, and the early writings of the people involved in the school, indicate that focus of the institution was on higher education. T.W. Tate, the first principal of the Mayfield-Smith Academy, billed the school as the "Smithfield High School" in a letter written to the *Jackson Cash Book* newspaper in 1879.⁶ The first session opened on April 7, 1878 with 22 men and women enrolled. The school was billed as having a "healthy location away from railroads, card and billiard tables, saloons. . . and other vile attractions." The school offered both "A" and "B" levels (likely college and high school level courses) and additional tuition was charged for "language" students.⁷

Encouraged by the support of the St. Francois Baptist Association and the initial enrollment, Mayfield began planning a building dedicated to the school in Smithville. The new school faced several setbacks, delaying and ultimately stopping construction of the new building. The very isolation of the school away from "vile attractions" also meant separation from a significant population to support the school and transportation routes. Students found it difficult to reach Smithville and find accommodations once there. The school also faced two natural disasters. In Hahn's account of the school in the Bicentennial history of Bollinger County, she notes that the kiln used for making bricks for the school was blown over during a violent windstorm and the foundation of the building was severely damaged during a hard freeze.⁸ Both limited enrollment and construction setbacks caused financial problems for the school. In response, the school founders and supporters decided to move the school to a new location.

There appeared to be some competition for the school, with Jackson, Farmington and Marble Hill vying to be the new location for the institution. In 1879 or 1880, officials met in Marquand to discuss potential sites. Ultimately, they chose Marble Hill for the new location. Marble Hill had several advantages. As the county seat, it drew visitors from around the county and region. It was also small and isolated enough to provide the "healthful" atmosphere, away from vice, that the school sought. Nearby Lutesville (about 1/2 mile away) had a new railroad connection that made it easier for out-of-town students to access the school at the beginning of term. To sweeten the pot, Drs. Tally and Pittman of Marble Hill offered a \$1,000 donation to the school and Moses Whybark, Esq., donated several acres for a college campus.⁹

The first session of the school in Marble hill opened on September 29, 1880. Classes were held in a local Baptist church building and possibly in a two-story frame building that once held the local public school. Governed by a Board of Directors, largely made of members of Missionary Baptist churches in the St. Francois Association, the school soon made plans to construct a building for their use. The Board appointed A.J. Johnson as the president and

⁶ Mary L. Hahn and Blanch Reilly, eds. *Bollinger County, 1851-1976: A Bicentennial Commemorative*. Marcelline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1977, 420-421.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 421

⁸ *Ibid.*, 419.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 421.

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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

financial officer of the school, and directed him to solicit funding from individuals and Baptist churches for the school. His efforts were apparently successful as R.S. Duncan reported in his book A History of the Baptists in Missouri, that an "Excellent school building in process of erection, [was] to be ready for occupancy by the close of the year 1882."¹⁰ The report was a little optimistic, but the new building was opened and in use by 1885.

The school, though never large, grew steadily in the last two decades of the 19th century. Its aim to have a course of study embracing "a preparatory department with freshman and sophomore courses of first class western colleges,"¹¹ drew students from around the region. In 1885, 83 pupils were enrolled in high school and college courses. This number grew to 99 the following year and 118 the next.¹² The school offered basic courses in English, writing, math and science as well as bookkeeping and typewriting. Religious courses for ministerial students were taught as were advanced classes in the natural sciences, advanced math (plane geometry and calculus), and languages. The school also emphasized music instruction and vocal training.

Tuition and gifts supported the running of the school. Early fee schedules included a miscellaneous fee of \$0.75 and monthly tuition from \$2 to \$4 per month, depending on the level of courses taken.¹³ Tuition increased as the school grew, but so did the range of courses and facilities offered. The school was popular with women, so in 1896, the school constructed Rosemont Hall. The new women's dorm housed just over 30 female students. Women were required to live in the dorm unless their parents lived locally and provided housing. If there was an overflow, school officials assisted female students to find suitable accommodations in local homes. Men, until the 1920s, were required to locate their own housing.

In 1903, the governing board rechartered the school, changing its name from the Mayfield-Smith Academy to Will Mayfield College. The school was not named for the founder, but for his son. Will Mayfield was a graduate of the school, but died at the age of 20 in 1902 from tuberculosis. Though the name changed, the school continued to offer high school and college courses and served the educational needs of Bollinger and surrounding counties. The school also stayed true to its original intent to provide a quality education in a "healthful" environment. In addition to listing classes and degrees offered, the school's course catalogues promoted the area's "pure, health-giving water and wholesome zephyrs."¹⁴ The 1927 school Bulletin also noted that "Malaria is very uncommon, typhoid fever is almost unknown."¹⁵

In 1911, Robert Douglas noted that the college was "one of the favorably-known, carefully

¹⁰ Duncan, 896.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² *History of Southeast Missouri*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888, 453.

¹³ Hahn, 421.

¹⁴ *Catalogue of Will Mayfield College for the year 1913-1914*. Marble Hill, MO: Will Mayfield College, 1913, 5.

¹⁵ *Will Mayfield Junior College Bulletin: Announcement of Summer Session*. Marble Hill, MO: Will Mayfield College, 1927, n.p.

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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
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conducted and enlightened institutions of learning in the state."¹⁶ In that year, the school had 23 graduates from the academic program (high school), 2 from the college courses, and a total enrollment of 107.¹⁷ By 1914, the enrollment had grown to 80 in the academic (high school) department, 8 college students studying music, and 25 bible study students. The total value of school property was enumerated as \$25,000.¹⁸ In addition to the students, the school had five faculty members teaching math, science, history, English, languages, elocution, and music, and three members of the "Divinity and Pedagogical Lecture Department." The 10 acre campus included three buildings, two of which (College Hall and Memorial Hall) were used for classes, and the third (Rosemont) housed female students.¹⁹

Though the enrollment of the school averaged over 100 in the early part of the 1900s, attendance began to grow in the late 1910s. Encouraged by expanding enrollment, the board of directors began an intense building campaign. By 1920, the campus expanded to include a new frame gymnasium. The school also purchased a large home in Marble Hill, renamed Franklin Hall, to be used as a men's dormitory.²⁰ The expansion campaign culminated in the construction of the three-story Arts and Science Building.

Arts and Science Building, Use and Architecture

The history of the early planning for the building is murky, but by 1924, the board of director had hired L. Baylor Pendleton of St. Louis to design the new classroom building. Little is known of the architect, although he is credited with the design of several homes in St. Louis County, Missouri. His designs utilized styles popular during his career and examples of his work include Georgian Revival, Tudor, and craftsman homes as well as this Classical Revival style institutional building.²¹ By March of 1924, Pendleton had completed his initial plans for the "Will Mayfield Junior College," and after revisions in May of that year, construction commenced.²²

The school's Board of Trustees contracted with Lunus Lenzel of Jackson to complete the building and used V.C. Taylor as the heating and plumbing contractor.²³ Once completed, the building offered "greater facilities than have ever been available to students in Southeast

¹⁶ Robert Sidney Douglas. *History of Southeast Missouri*. Originally published in New York: Lewis Publishing Co., 1912. Reprinted: Cape Girardeau, MO: Ramfree Press, 1961, 572.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 573.

¹⁸ Letter from A.F. Hendricks, college president, to Rev. J.E. Dillard, of St. Louis, Oct. 10, 1914. Letter on file at the William Partee Center for Baptist Historical Studies, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri.

¹⁹ *Catalogue*, 4-6.

²⁰ After the school closed in the 1930s, the gymnasium was sold to the Patton School District and was moved to that community. It is reportedly still in existence. Franklin Hall was sold to a local and returned to single-family use. It is still in Marble Hill, though several blocks from the campus.

²¹ Esley Hamilton. *The Historic Inventory of St. Louis County Buildings*. Clayton, MO: St. Louis County Government. <http://www.stlouisco.com/parks/Intro_histbld.html>, accessed December 2004.

²² L. Baylor Pendleton, "Will Mayfield Junior College," 1924. Copies of final plans on file with the Bollinger County Natural History Museum, Marble Hill, MO.

²³ "Mayfield College to Have Science Hall." *Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian*, June 4, 1927.

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Will Mayfield College Arts and Science Building
Bollinger County, Missouri

Missouri."²⁴ The "splendid new fire-proof college building, modern from every standpoint" was available for occupancy by May 15, 1927 and the first classes were held in the building during the summer of 1927.²⁵

The college celebrated the completion of the new building and dedicated it for use on September 25, 1927. An audience of approximately 400 visitors and dignitaries from around the region gathered to tour the school and attend the dedication ceremonies. Dr. J.B. Lawrence, Secretary of the Baptist State Mission Board, gave the address and commended the school for its "worth as a builder of character and maker of men."²⁶ After the ceremony, visitors toured the new building,

which is three stories and occupies a ground space of 50 by 88 feet [original plans say 53 X 90]. It is artistic, sturdy and fire-proof. It is of vitrified red brick trimmed with white stone. Two entrances, each supported by two graceful Doric columns, for one of the many refinements that make the edifice and attractive piece of architecture. Steel girders connecting the walls add strength to the structure. The floors are of concrete.²⁷

The \$100,000 building greatly expanded the facilities as well as the courses the college was able to provide. According to the article about the dedication of the building, the school planned to use the new building primarily to house the school's college department. High school classes would be held in the neighboring (original) building. Though the school's enrollment at the time of completion was only around 160, the new facility expanded the capacity of the school to approximately 400. Fifteen instructors supervised high school, advanced academic, music and religious study courses.²⁸

The building is both a good local example of the Classical Revival style and representative of classroom buildings constructed for rural educational institutions. Classically derived architectural ornaments were commonly applied to residential, public and institutional buildings in the late 19th and well into the 20th century. A variety of architectural styles utilized these elements including the Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and Classical Revival styles. The Arts and Science Building shares architectural characteristics with Colonial/Georgian Revival and Classical Revival style buildings. The symmetrical façade, Ionic columns supporting the porticos, multi-paned windows and urn-like finials on the parapets are typical of these architectural styles. The building is further distinguished by its brick quoins, Flemish bond brick coursing and decorative brickwork on the two entrance bays.

The building, though architecturally attractive, was designed to function as a classroom building

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ *Bulletin*, n.p.

²⁶ "New Administration Building at Will Mayfield College Dedicated." *Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian*, September 26, 1927.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

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and was designed for the use and comfort of the students. Large banks of double-hung windows provided ample natural light and ventilation. The fire-proof construction also provided an element of safety in a building designed for scientific study and experimentation.

Based on the description and floorplans, the building also had the rooms and equipment typical of natural science buildings at small colleges across the country. In College Architecture in America, Charles Z. Klauder and Herbert Wise noted that,

in the science building of a small college will be taught geology, biology. . . , physics and chemistry . . . It will have an office near the entrance for the head of the department and two or three other rooms for assistant professors. . . There will be several class rooms, . . . , one or two lecture-rooms, a reading room a drafting-room, an herbarium and most of all, class laboratories . . .²⁹

The Arts and Science building was multi-functional, but was primarily constructed as a modern facility for the departments of math and science. As such it was equipped as described above. Accordingly, the building's interior was described as:

The first floor is devoted to locker rooms, toilets and four class rooms. On the second floor are the offices of the president, dean and registrar and the library and study hall. The third floor is devoted to the laboratory and private offices of the instructors. The most modern laboratory equipment has been provided.³⁰

The enrollment of the school surged to a peak after the completion of the building, with over 200 students attending. Despite the draw of the new building, and additional revenue from tuition and donations, the school had several setbacks in the 1920s that could not be overcome. On December 17, 1926, Rosemont Hall burned to the ground. Though Franklin Hall was temporarily converted from a men's dorm to the women's dormitory, the lack of accommodations caused a decline in female enrollment. The loss of the building, valued at \$40,000 was also a substantial financial blow. Though the construction of the Arts and Science Building was a boon to the college, it was also a financial drain. The construction of the \$100,000 building led to substantial debt. It was also alleged that the school's endowment was spent without authorization, leading to further financial problems. The onset of the Great Depression was the final blow to the school.³¹ Will Mayfield College closed temporarily in 1930, reopened briefly, and finally closed its doors in May 1934 after its spring commencement services.

After the school closure, the campus buildings were sold and some were moved. Franklin Hall, which was located several blocks from the college campus, was sold to as a private residence. The Patton School District purchased the frame gym and moved the building to Patton. The

²⁹ Charles Z. Klauder and Herbert C. Wise. *College Architecture in America*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929, 172.

³⁰ *Cape Girardeau Southeast Missourian*, September 26, 1927.

³¹ Hahn, 151.

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school's two classroom buildings, Mayfield Hall and the Arts and Science Building, sat empty for several years until purchased in 1941 by Mrs. Lottie James Bollinger. Bollinger, who had briefly attended the college, planned to convert the buildings into a hospital. After the state regulatory board denied her application, Bollinger held onto the buildings and in the 1950s, the 1885 Mayfield Hall was converted for use as the El Nathan home. El Nathan, a Christian retirement home established in Buffalo, NY, moved to Marble Hill after newly implemented building and fire codes condemned their building.

El Nathan still uses the Mayfield Hall building, and has expanded the facility into a larger modern addition on the building's west side. The organization has maintained the Arts and Science Building, but has been unable to use it for its work. Except for a brief stint as housing for Laotian refugees, the building remained empty from its closing in 1934 to 2001. In that year, the Will Mayfield Foundation and its offshoot, the Bollinger County Museum of Natural history, began to convert the building for use as a museum. The first two floors of the building have been largely restored and HVAC and electrical systems have been updated throughout. The museum has opened and contains displays on local history and the natural history of the region. Plans are in the works to rehabilitate the third floor and install an elevator on the rear façade. The conversion of the building to a museum, extends the life of this significant building and continues its original purpose to provide educational opportunities to the residents of Bollinger County and Southeast Missouri.

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Boundary Description:

The boundary is based on metes and bounds using existing roads, alleys, and sidewalks. Beginning at the southeast corner of the "T" intersection of Graham Road and Mayfield Drive, proceed 132 feet west southwest along the outer edge of the sidewalk running parallel to the building's façade to the intersection with a sidewalk which runs parallel (but not adjacent) to the southwest elevation of the building. Turn north northwest and proceed 134 feet along the sidewalk to the intersection of the sidewalk and the private drive that parallels the northern property line. Then turn east northeast and proceed 143 feet along the private drive to its intersection with Mayfield Drive. Turn south and proceed 134 feet on Mayfeild Drive to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

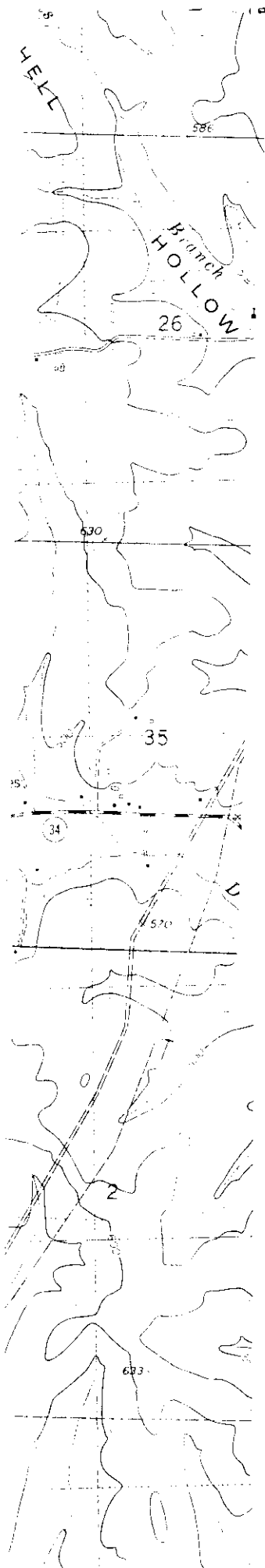
The boundary includes the land historically associated with the Arts and Science Building of the Will Mayfield College. The boundary includes the footprint of the building, building parking and road access and a portion of the large lawn in front of the building. The boundary is drawn to exclude the neighboring building that, though historically associated with Will Mayfield College, has been altered and expanded for an alternative use.

Photo Log:

The following is true for all photographs:

Arts and Science Building
Marble Hill, Bollinger County, Missouri
Photographer: Roger Maserang
Date of photos: August 2004
Location of Negatives: Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, MO 65102

1. South and east elevations, looking northwest.
2. East and north elevations, looking southwest.
3. North elevation, looking south.
4. Detail, decorative panel, east elevation, looking west.
5. Interior, first floor classroom (south central room), looking southwest.
6. Interior, second floor corridor (south side), looking west.
7. Interior, second floor library, looking northwest.
8. Interior, southeast stairwell between second and third floors, looking west.



Will Wood at
Sewage and Water
Purification
Plant
16/236570/4133056

