

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Carver Central High School_____

Other names/site number: Carver Middle School_____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A_____

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

2. Location

Street & number: 104 Carver Drive_____

City or town: Collins State: Mississippi County: Covington

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)
Name of Property

Covington County,
Mississippi
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

BRICK

CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Carver Middle School is a multi-building, mid-twentieth-century campus that includes an elementary building (1954), high school/main hall (1956-57), gymnasium/cafeteria (1954-55), vocational building (1957), and two annex buildings (both c.1960) with extra classrooms. A (1954) wood-frame former teacher's house stands to the rear of the campus. The (1961) music hall stands at the southern end of the campus. The campus is located on the west side of North First Avenue, the former U.S. 49, which allowed easy access for busses. The buildings are arranged roughly in an L-shaped formation, with the gymnasium at the rear, terminating the small parking lot in front of the buildings. Although built outside the city limits and on land surrounded by farmland and an industrial plant across the highway, the campus is now surrounded by later residential neighborhoods and industrial and commercial development related to the four-lane U.S. 49 route developed around 1960, which runs just to the west of the campus.

Narrative Description

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)

Covington County, Mississippi

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Situated on a roughly triangular parcel in a semi-rural section of northern Collins, the county seat of Covington County, Carver Middle School is a compact multi-building campus composed of seven buildings all constructed between 1954 and c.1960. The buildings are arranged roughly in an L-shaped formation perpendicular to North First Avenue, the former U.S. 49. A paved drive enters the campus on the east side from North First for faculty and staff parking, while a U-shaped drive for busses enters from Carver Drive on the west side of campus. Jackson architect E.L. Malvaney designed at least four of the buildings, and it is not known whether the campus growth was guided by an original site plan or if each building program simply inserted the next building wherever it would fit on the site.

Except for the wood-frame teacher's house, all the buildings are concrete block with brick veneer and have minimal modernist articulation. The most stylistically adventuresome of the buildings is the former high school building, now Main Hall (#3), built in 1957 with a reverse-shed library section at the south side entrance. Almost all of the buildings retain their original windows, but they are obscured behind solar screening that helps block the heat of the sun. A series of covered walks, some of which appear original and feature wood rafters and plank decking, connects all of the building.

- | | | |
|------|---|----------------|
| 1. C | Elementary Building (J.R. Todd Building)
E.L. Malvaney, archt. | 1954
Modern |
|------|---|----------------|

This long, one-story, concrete-block building has a scored red-brick veneer. Its original flat roof has been altered by the addition of a very low-sloped gable with asphalt shingles and a metal-encased eave. The main entrance is recessed off-center on the E façade and is composed of double-leaf glazed metal doors with original 3-light transom. Entrances at the N and S ends of the main hall are also double-leaf, glazed metal replacement doors. Groups of three, paired, 10-light steel awning-type windows with rowlock brick sills march down the E and W elevations, reflecting the 12 classrooms within.

Inside, the short entrance hallway intersects with the long-classroom hallway on the N-S axis. An office is to the right of the entrance hallway, two storage closets open to the hallway at the main intersection, and a girls and boys restroom are also located at the main intersection. Walls are painted concrete-block, 9" linoleum is on the floors, and acoustic-tile ceilings are dropped to middle of the transoms in the hallways and to the top of the transoms in the classrooms. Original doors are 5-panel wood with 6-light wood-framed swivel wall transoms. Built-in-metal lockers line the main hallway, and built-in plywood cabinets remain in the classrooms.

In June 2001, the building was named for James R. Todd, principal of Carver High School from its opening in 1954 until 1970.

- | | | |
|------|---|-------------------|
| 2. C | Gymnasium/Cafeteria
Edgar L. Malvaney & Associates | 1954-55
Modern |
|------|---|-------------------|

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)

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Located directly south of the Todd Building, this two-story-high gymnasium has walls of concrete-block veneered with scored brick. The building is arranged perpendicular and to the south of the original campus building, now called the J.R. Todd Building. The main low-sloped gable roof of metal is flanked on the east side by a shed/flat wing that reflects the bleacher section within. Paired 6-light steel-framed windows form a clerestory on the gym's E elevation above the bleachers, while paired 12-light awning-type windows line the W elevation. A one-story flat/low-sloped gable-roof cafeteria is on the south end of the gymnasium, also of scored brick, and its entrance consists of double-leaf glazed metal replacement doors with sidelights and transom.

Inside, the exterior walls are painted concrete block. The wood bleachers remain intact on the E wall with wood rafters forming the shed roof. Steel trusses form a gabled roof spanning the original wood gymnasium floor, with a wood roof deck and original metal light fixtures. A stage area is elevated in the S wall under a shed roof with wooden rafters and decking, and original wood risers remain in place. Under the bleachers, locker rooms with V-notched tongue-and-groove walls and ceiling have been converted to storage areas.

3. C High School Building (Main Hall) 1957
E.L. Malvaney & Associates Modern

Located just north of the J.R. Todd Building and at a slight angle to it, this one-story, concrete-block building with red scored-brick veneer is roughly rectangular and has a flat roof except for the projecting library section at the south end, where the roof height is slightly elevated and forms a reverse shed. This southern end originally had a main entrance from the E façade, but this entrance hallway has been enclosed for an office, and the main entrance is now on the S elevation leading directly into the main N-S hallway. Paired groups of three windows reflect the classrooms within, and a continuous concrete sill creates a long horizontal line on both the E and W elevations. Entrances at the north and south ends and near the center of the W (rear) elevation are recessed and consist of glazed metal replacement doors with transoms.

Inside, a long hallway runs north-south double-loaded with classrooms and lined with metal lockers, and it intersects with a short hallway leading to the rear entrance. The ceiling is dropped to the middle of the 6-light wood-framed wall transoms, walls are painted concrete-block, and classroom doors have been mostly replaced with 1-light wood doors. Two 3-light wood slab doors remaining in the library are probably typical of the original classroom doors. Classrooms retain original plywood built-in cabinets and other trim. A typing classroom also remains intact on the south end with the characteristic window wall—composed of V-notched vertical boards and 9-light windows—between the teacher's office and the classroom. Floors are finished in linoleum tile, carpet, and terra cotta tile.

4. C (former) Vocational Building 1957, renovated c.2000
E.L. Malvaney & Associates Modern

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This one-story brick-veneered concrete-block building has been converted from a vocational shop to regular classrooms and its exterior and interior had been so altered as to lose the building's historic character. All windows, except two tripartite 6-light steel awning types on the S elevation, and most exterior door openings have been infilled with vertical-grooved wood panels. Concrete window sills remain. The flat roof has been slightly raised with a low-sloped hipped roof clad with raised-seam metal. Inside, two large classrooms fill the space previously occupied by one classroom and a shop, and all finishes appear to date to c.2000.

5. C 5th & 6th Grade Hall 1965
Malvaney Associates Modern

Built of concrete block veneered with red scored brick, this one-story, rectangular building is located behind the high school building (Main Hall) and sits perpendicular to it. The roof is almost flat, slightly gabled. Windows are 5-light steel awning types with concrete sills. The building was originally four classrooms with two restrooms in the E end, and it received an early two-classroom addition, perhaps c.1965. The original E entrance is recessed and filled with double-leaf glazed metal replacement doors with a 1-light transom; the original transom on the W end is 2-part 4-light wood-framed, and the later W entrance is double-leaf 1-light steel doors with no transom.

A single hallway, double-loaded with classrooms, runs E-W. Partition walls are composed of stacked concrete blocks, and linoleum tile covers the floors. Ceilings are dropped to the middle of the 2-light steel-framed wall transoms. Restrooms for girls and boys are at the far E end of the hallway. Classroom doors are replacement 1-light wood doors, but classrooms retain their original plywood built-in cabinets, coat racks, and other original trimwork.

6. C Music Hall 1961
E.L. Malvaney & Associates Modern

This one-story concrete-block four-classroom building with scored-brick veneer stands at the southern end of campus, west of the gymnasium and north of the former teacher's home. Entrances on the E and W ends are recessed; the E entrance is a replacement glazed metal double-leaf door, while the W entrance is a replacement 1-light, 1-panel double-leaf replacement with 2-light transom. An original covered walk connects to the gymnasium and Todd building.

Inside, walls are painted concrete-block, ceilings are dropped to the middle of the 1-light transoms (some are boarded), and floors are finished in linoleum tile. Metal lockers line the E-W hallway, which is double-loaded with classrooms. Classroom doors are 1-light wood slabs.

7. C Teacher's House 1954

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Located at the SW corner of campus, behind the gymnasium, this one-story, wood-frame bungalow with a front-gabled, asphalt shingled roof and drop siding was occupied by Principal James R. Todd and his family. A front-gabled porch with a louvered vent in the gable end shelters the right half of the N façade, supported on replacement wood posts on a concrete deck. Under the porch are two 6/6 double-hung-sash wood-framed windows and a replacement 6-panel door. All other windows are boarded, although they appear to be intact. A brick-pier foundation supports the building, and rafter tails are exposed in the open eaves. A concrete-block side addition runs the length of the E elevation, and probably dates to after the house was used as a residence.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

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Period of Significance

1954-1970

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

E. L. Malvaney, Architect
Webster Construction Company, General Contractor

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Carver High School, Collins, Mississippi is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A for association with Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black. Built out entirely during the state's so-called Equalization period, Carver High School was the only public high school for African American students in Covington County from 1958, four years after it opened, until 1970, when public schools in the county were desegregated. The Equalization program was designed to bring about equal facilities for black and white schools with the purpose of maintaining racially segregated schools.

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Covington County is located in southeast Mississippi, about 60 miles from Jackson, the state capitol. The Choctaw lived in the area at the time of European contact. The territory was opened to American settlement after the Treaty of Mount Dexter in 1805. The Mississippi Legislature created Covington County in January 1819, naming the county in honor of General Leonard Covington. Covington was a military officer who served in Mississippi and advised Governor Holmes at the beginning of the Creek Wars. He died from wounds inflicted during the War of 1812.¹

The first county seat was established on the farm of William Speed, near the geographic center of the new county. When the legislature removed part of the county land to become Jones County in 1826, the county seat was moved to Williamsburg, a more centrally located community. The county seat remained there until the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad was constructed, bypassing Williamsburg about two miles to the east. Businesses began to relocate to the railroad at Williamsburg Depot. After the Williamsburg Courthouse burned in 1904, the county seat was moved to the newer community. The name was changed to Collins in November 1906, reportedly at the request of the post office.²

Education in Covington County

The earliest schools in Covington County were generally private academies. The legislature chartered a "Male and Female Academy" at Mt. Carmel in 1837 and a "Male and Female College" at Williamsburg in 1841.³ Perhaps the most notable private school was the Mount Zion Seminary founded by Rev. A. R. Graves in 1845, with the local community of Seminary taking its name from the school. The Mount Zion Seminary offered classes from the grammar school level through college, and enrollment reached about 500. The school had a classroom building, two dormitories and about twenty cottages built by wealthy planters for their children attending the school. Most of the school buildings burned down during the Civil War, but the fire was not related to military action.⁴

The first public school opened in the Salem community. The records showing the date the school was established were lost when the Williamsburg Courthouse burned in 1904 along with the records of other early public schools.⁵

The history of public education in Covington County and Mississippi as a whole is marked by two major themes: racial segregation and consolidation. Separate schools for white and black

¹ Gwen Keys Hitt. *Covington Crossroads: A History of Covington County*. (November 1985), 2.

² Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 3.

³ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 4.

⁴ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 20.

⁵ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 4.

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students were the norm up until integration in the 1970s. Many small schools located in rural communities went through various periods of consolidation. An appendix to a county history lists the names of 125 schools in the county between 1904 and 1985.⁶

The facilities provided for the public schools also varied. Many school histories cite the first building as a single-room log cabin. For example, the Willow Grove School is thought to have opened in the early 1900s in a log cabin. By 1907, the school was a three-room frame structure and was used to organize the Willow Grove Baptist Church.⁷ A 2008 Historical Calendar issued by the Covington County Genealogical & Historical Society includes a photograph of the Providence School dated c. 1899, which shows a log building. Other schools met in private homes, churches and Masonic lodges. Residents in larger communities built more substantial school buildings. The 2008 Historical Calendar illustrates the month of January with a 1914 photograph of the Seminary school showing a two-story frame building.

As in other rural counties, consolidation is also an ongoing theme in Covington County. In 1900, there 60-75 schools in Covington County, estimated to be one every three to four miles.⁸ By 1953, there were seven public schools for white children and three public schools for black children.⁹ A few examples illustrates the effect on the built environment. Cold Springs School opened in about 1902 and closed in the 1940s and the building was removed. Gilmer School closed in 1932 and all signs of the building are gone. The Eminence School consolidated with Seminary in 1943.¹⁰

Black Schools in Covington County

The history of black schools in Covington County follows a similar pattern. There were once many small schools established for black students located throughout the county. The schools were housed in log buildings, churches and later purpose-built school buildings. Over time the schools were consolidated so that by the mid-1950s there were only three schools serving black children in the county. These were the Hopewell School in the Hopewell community, Lincoln High School in Mt. Olive and Carver High School in Collins.

Much of what we know about the black schools of Covington County comes from a Master's thesis written in 1958 by Beauford Barron, the principal at Lincoln school in Mt. Olive.

Hopewell opened as a one-teacher school in 1869 with 24 students. By 1910 the school added a second teacher. With continued growth, the school grew to five teachers and applied to the

⁶ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 95.

⁷ Gwen Keys Hitt. "Willow Grove School provides setting for organization of Willow Grove Church." *Mount Olive Tribune*, August 28, 1985.

⁸ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p.58.

⁹ Department of Education Records, Covington County. RG 501, Series 1653: School Building Surveys of the Act of 1953. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

¹⁰ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 29, 34 and 35.

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Rosenwald Fund in the 1920s to build a new school.¹¹ Vocational Agricultural and Home Economics were added to the curriculum and the school built a vocational building in 1934. Jones Chapel, Shady Oak, Lilly Valley and New Hopewell schools consolidated with Hopewell.¹²

Lincoln High School was formed in 1948 when schools in Mt. Pleasant, Mt. Olive, and New Prospect were consolidated. People's High School in the Mt. Pleasant community was built on 40 acres deeded to the Colored Methodist Church of America by Thomas and Amanda Draughn. By 1921, the school's name was changed to the Covington County Training School, and the campus boasted a five-teacher Rosenwald funded building with a teacher's house. The school began offering a four-year high school in 1936, and it became Linwood Vocational School in 1940.¹³

The Mount Olive School opened in 1900 in the Masonic Lodge Hall. Classes were moved to the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in 1901 and later met in the Saint Paul Baptist Church. In 1920, a three-room Rosenwald funded building was built on 3 acres purchased by the community.¹⁴

New Prospect School was established as Line School in a log cabin on John Hook's farm. Ike Walker donated two acres to the school in 1907 and a frame building was constructed. In 1921, a three-room Rosenwald school was built.¹⁵

Carver Central High School was formed by the consolidation of Friendship Public School, Wall School and Collins School in 1952. Friendship Public School began meeting in a brush arbor in 1878. A one-room frame school was built in 1883, with a room added in 1890. A two-room Rosenwald building was constructed in 1920.¹⁶

The Wall School was organized in a brush arbor in 1899. The school met in a one-room log cabin for about 25 years when the community purchased a frame building used as school for white children from the Kola Lumber Company. A three-teacher Rosenwald building was built later.¹⁷

The Collins School was organized in 1904 at the Macedonia Baptist Church and initially met in a private home. Richard Hall donated land to the school, and a three-teacher Rosenwald building was built in 1924. This was replaced in 1938 by a WPA-funded four-teacher building.¹⁸

Carver Central High School

¹¹ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 37.

¹² Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 82.

¹³ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 82.

¹⁴ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 83-84.

¹⁵ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 83

¹⁶ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 83.

¹⁷ Hitt, *Crossroads*, p. 83.

¹⁸ Hitt, *Crossroads*. P. 84.

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The doctrine of “separate but equal” was the underpinning for school segregation, not only in Mississippi, but throughout the South. With challenges to segregated education working through the courts, proponents of continued segregation launched a campaign to improve Black schools, known as “equalization.” Mississippi made equalization efforts in two distinct phases. The first effort, in 1946, was mostly ineffective. However, beginning in 1953 and continuing through the early 1960s, the Mississippi legislature and school officials launched a more serious campaign described as a “radical overhaul of both black and white education that would attempt to wipe the slate clean and start over with entirely new buildings.”¹⁹ Like officials in other southern states, white Mississippians “recognized that a little more emphasis on the ‘equal’ part of the separate but equal equation might be prudent if segregation were to be preserved.”²⁰

The Covington County School Board met in a special session on December 7, 1951 and adopted a motion creating the Carver Consolidated School District for the Colored Race. The school district published a notice in the Collins newspaper noting the creation and establishment of the district and setting the geographic boundary of the district.²¹

In April 1952, petitioners sought \$50,000 dollars in bonds to be issued for the construction of a school building, “to be built on property already owned by the colored Collins school.”²² The Board of Supervisors sold \$50,000 in Carver school bonds with the intention of applying to the State Building Commission for a matching grant.²³ Ellis Flynt, the Superintendent of Education announced that the State Building Commission awarded the school district a \$40,000 grant-in-aid for the construction of a 12 classroom building. The district would pay \$20,000 for a total project of \$60,000.²⁴

The school district awarded the construction contract to the Webster Construction Company in September, 1953. Webster, one of 13 firms to bid on the contract submitted a bid of \$57, 000. Superintendent Flynt announced that construction was expected to begin immediately.²⁵ The work was substantially completed by March 1954, when Superintendent Flynt met with representatives of the contractor and the architect, Louis Malvaney, for a final inspection. Local officials claimed the school was one of the most modern in the state and ready for use in the fall.

¹⁹ Jennifer V. O. Baughn. “Education, Segregation and Modernization: Mississippi’s School Equalization Building Program, 1946-1961.” *ARRIS*, Vol. 16, p 37-55.

²⁰ Charles C. Bolton. “Mississippi’s School Equalization Program, 1945-1954: ‘A last Gasp to Try to Maintain a Segregated Education System.’” *Journal of Southern History*. Vol. 66, No. 4 (November 2000), pp. 781-814, p. 782.

²¹ *The News-Commercial*, December 14, 1951.

²² “Bond Issue Petitions For Colored School.” *The News-Commercial*, April 18, 1952.

²³ “Carver School Bonds Sold By Supervisors.” *The News-Commercial*, November 14, 1952.

²⁴ “Negro School House To Be Constructed.” *The News-Commercial*, July 17, 1953.

²⁵ “Contract Let For Colored School.” *The News-Commercial*, September 25, 1953.

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Although the classroom building was complete by then, plans still called for a combination auditorium-gymnasium.²⁶

Named after prominent African American scientist and educator George Washington Carver, Carver Central High School opened in February 1955 with a faculty of fourteen and an enrollment of approximately 500 students. Members of the faculty included Johnnie B. Barnes, Bernell E. Smith, M.D. Todd, R.O. Johnson, O. Johnson, R.V. Posey, James Barnes, N.E. Coleman, Coella Magee, Marie Barnes, Carlee Owens, Ruth Flowers, and Geneva Bascot.

Mr. James R. Todd served as principal from 1954 until 1970. Todd was born in Poplarville, Mississippi and attended Pearl River County Training School, a Rosenwald campus established in 1919 with his father as principal. He received his bachelor's degree from Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, and studied under George Washington Carver. After teaching school in Carthage, Mississippi, he became succeeded his father at Pearl River County Training School. He served in the U.S. Army's 92nd Infantry Division for three years in World War II, and was active in the



Figure 1: James R. Todd in his school office, 1962 Carver Central High School yearbook

North Africa and Italy theaters of operation. After returning from service, he received his master's degree from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He retired from Jefferson County High School after 50 years of teaching and died in February 1993.

In July 1954, the school district awarded Webster Construction Company the contract for a combination gymnasium-auditorium which would also house the lunch room. The work was expected to begin within two weeks at a price of \$38,600.²⁷ But according to an oral history with James R. Todd, Jr., who attended Carver from 7th through 12th grade, the gymnasium/cafeteria was not completed until late 1955 or early 1956, and in the meantime, basketball games and practice were conducted outside, with as many road games as possible. When the combination gymnasium-auditorium opened, the student body purchased the stage curtains (which no longer remain in the building). The Carver Bobcats basketball team, wearing the school colors crimson

²⁶ "Negro School Building Completed." *The News-Commercial*, March 5, 1954.

²⁷ "Construct Let For Negro Gymnasium." *The News-Commercial*, July 2, 1954.

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and gold (chosen by Principal Todd in honor of his alma mater, Tuskegee Institute) won the Tideland Conference Championship in 1957-58.²⁸

In 1956, the Mississippi Department of Education surveyed all the school buildings in Covington County. They noted that Carver High School was "excellent but it is not large enough to take care of the Negro children who are attending there. It is inadequate for the demand upon it housing twice as many children as it was built to house."²⁹ In the same year, the Covington County Board of Education announced additional plans to consolidate county schools and recommended that Carver be the sole high school for black students. The board also recommended the construction of eight additional classrooms at the school.³⁰

The school board approved the plans and specifications for the high school addition in September 1956. The plans included

a commercial room for typing and bookkeeping; Homemaking room with living room, dining room and workshop; a library room; 3 regular classrooms. Also in the plan but detached from the main building will be a vocational agricultural building complete with workshop.³¹

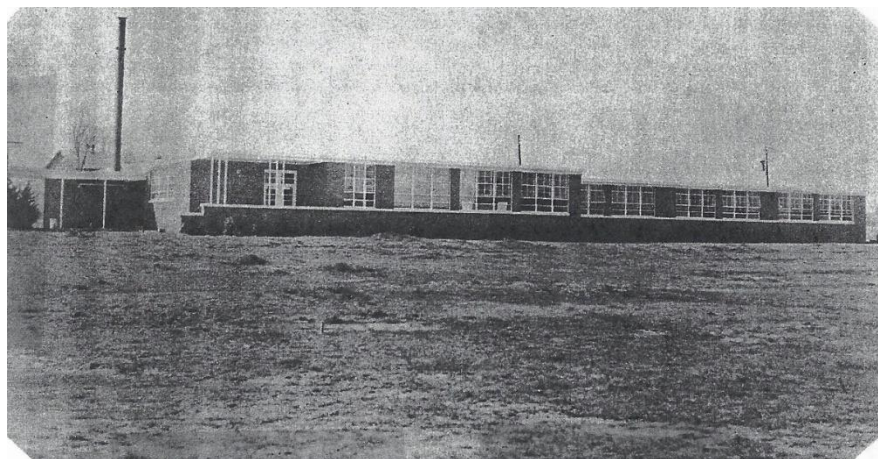


Figure 2: Carver Central High School, photo from yearbook

In the fall of 1958, Carver Central High School opened as the county's only high school for African Americans, having absorbed students from Hopewell Vocational School, Lincoln Vocational School, and Seminary. Those schools now only included Grades 1-9, and students

²⁸ "James R. Todd, Jr., M.D., P.A. speaks of his school days at Carver Central High School." *Covington County School Days*, (publication for alumni reunion, May 2015).

²⁹ Department of Education Records, Covington County. RG 501, Series 1653: School Building Surveys of the Act of 1953. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

³⁰ "Abolish Schools? Public Meeting Mon., Plans Call For Only Four High Schools." *The News-Commercial*, March 9, 1956.

³¹ "To Receive Bids on Carver School." *The News-Commercial*, September 21, 1956.

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)

Name of Property

Covington County,
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County and State

were bussed to Collins to continue their education and obtain a high school diploma. The first consolidated senior class to graduate had 36 members, eleven of whom went on to graduate from college.³²

Consolidation may have saved money, but bussing proved to have its own problems. Unpaved county roads and mechanical problems with the often aged busses provided for African American students made the bus from Lincoln in Mt. Olive to Carver habitually late. Principal Todd dealt with this in the early years by scheduling all students from Lincoln for first period library study so they wouldn't miss a lecture class.

The school hosted a variety of clubs, including YMCA clubs Hi-Y (for boys) and Tri-Hi-Y (for girls), Dramatic Club, Choral Club, National Homemakers of America (NHA), and National Farmers of America (NFA). A member of the Tideland Athletic Conference (consisting of black schools in south Mississippi), Carver fielded teams in four major sports: football, basketball, baseball, and track, and had a marching band. Girls teams participated in basketball and track.

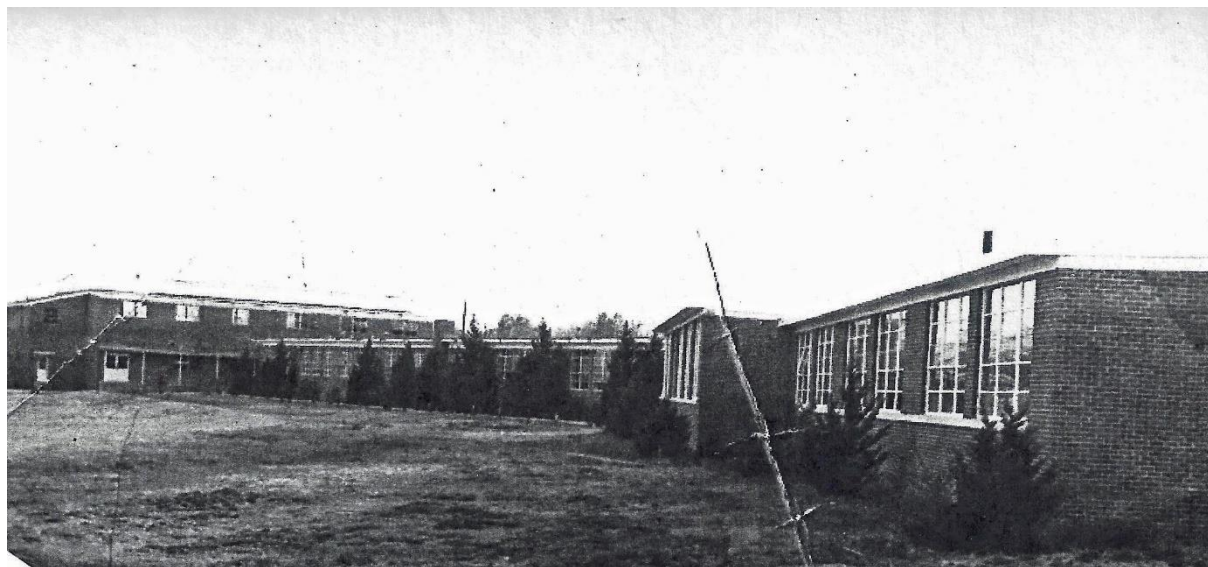


Figure 3: Carver High School, c.1960, with high school building to far right, original building at center, and gymnasium at left.

The Carver Central High School Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1954 and continued to be very active until 1970. The P.T.A. purchased playground equipment, school choir robes, provided transportation fees for after-school football and band, and bought band instruments and two sections of bleachers for the football field. They also advocated for additional classrooms as the student body enrollment grew in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Two four-classroom buildings were built in 1961 and 1965 to handle increased enrollment, both buildings constructed behind the row of high school, elementary, and gymnasium buildings, but

³² "Covington County School Days: Alumni Memories"

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both designed by the same Malvaney firm that oversaw the original buildings and following similar design principles.

One of the largest senior classes to graduate from Carver was in 1966, consisting of 66 members. On the eve of desegregation, in 1969, the school's enrollment was 904, served by a faculty of 39. After desegregation, the campus became Collins Middle School, and as at many other formerly African American schools, memorabilia including trophies, plaques, and awards was removed and thrown away. An alert county citizen saw the class pictures being removed and saved them for future generations. In 2001, at the request of the Carver Central High School Alumni Association and the Covington County NAACP, the school district named the original 1954 building the J.R. Todd Building, and in 2008, the district changed the name of the school to Carver Middle School.

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)
Name of Property

Covington County,
Mississippi
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Barron, Beauford H. "A Study of the Development of Negro Schools in Covington County, Mississippi."

Baughn, Jennifer V. O. "Education, Segregation and Modernization: Mississippi's School Equalization Building Program, 1946-1961." *ARRIS*, Vol. 16

Bolton, Charles C. "Mississippi's School Equalization Program, 1945-1954: 'A last Gasp to Try to Maintain a Segregated Education System.'" *Journal of Southern History*. Vol. 66, No. 4 (November 2000).

The (Collins, MS) *News-Commercial*.

Covington County School Days: Alumni Memories, typed manuscript prepared for Carver School Alumni annual reunion, July 2015.

Department of Education Records, Covington County. RG 50, Series 1500: School Building Service Record Cards, 1929-1975. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

Department of Education Records, Covington County. RG 50, Series 1653: School Building Surveys of the Act of 1953. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

Hitt, Gwen Keys. *Covington Crossroads: A History of Covington County*. (November 1985), 2.

The Mount Olive (Mississippi) *Tribune*.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)

Covington County, Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 031-CLS-0014

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 12.2 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 31.648489° | Longitude: -89.565420° |
| 2. Latitude: 31.645665° | Longitude: -89.565498° |
| 3. Latitude: 31.645703° | Longitude: -89.562039° |

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See map below.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary conforms to the parcel owned by the Covington County School District and operated as Carver Middle School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: B. Joyce Fairley, Bill Gatlin, MDAH, Jennifer Baughn, MDAH
organization: _____
street & number: 320 Pine Lane
city or town: Hattiesburg state: MS zip code: 39402
e-mail: _____
telephone: _____
date: September 23, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle
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- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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School)

Name of Property

Covington County,
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County and State



- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Carver Middle School (Carver Central High School)
City or Vicinity: Collins

Carver Central High School (Carver Middle School)

Covington County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

County: Covington State: MS
Photographer: Jennifer Baughn, MDAH
Date Photographed: December 6, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 11 Front line of three major E-facing campus buildings: former high school building (1957) to far right, original administration building (1954) at center, and gymnasium (1955) to far left. View to SW
- 2 of 11: Original Administration Building (1954) with gymnasium (1955) in background, view to SW
- 3 of 11: Original Administration Building (1954), typical classroom with original door, view to S
- 4 of 11: Former High School Building (1957), S and E elevations, view to NW
- 5 of 11: Former High School Building, plaque inside enclosed main entrance
- 6 of 11: Former High School Building, main hallway, view to N
- 7 of 11: Former High School Building, typing classroom with typical row of windows between classroom and teacher's office.
- 8 of 11: Gymnasium/Cafeteria, N façade, view to SSW
- 9 of 11: Gymnasium, interior, view toward stage on E end, view to E
- 10 of 11: Gymnasium, original wooden bleachers, view to W
- 11 of 11: Music Building (1961), E and N elevations, view to SW, with original wooden covered walk on left contrasted with later metal covered walk connecting on right.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



MS Covington County
Carver Central High School
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MS Covington County
Carver Central High School
0002



Good writing makes big points.



MS Covington County
Carver Central High School
0003



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CARVER CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL

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