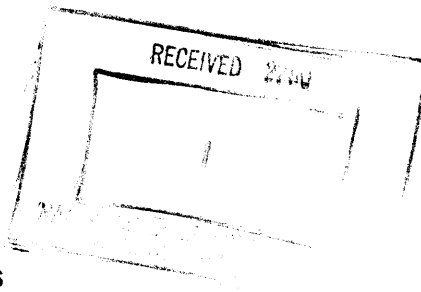


1323

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



OMB No. 1024-0018

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: The Southern Christian Institute  
other names/site number: Bonner-Campbell College

**2. Location**

street & number: 18449 Old U.S. Highway 80 West  
city or town: Edwards  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Hinds code: 049 zip code: 39066  
not for publication n/a  
vicinity X

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 \_\_\_ nationally X statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul Signature of certifying official  
Dec. 15, 2006 Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
✓ entered in the National Register,  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

\_\_\_ other (explain):

for  
Signature of the Keeper: Daniel J. Viana Date of Action: 1/30/07

The Southern Christian Institute  
Hinds County, Mississippi

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**5. Classification**

---

**Ownership of Property:**

Private

**Number of Resources within Property:**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:**

District

Contributing

Noncontributing

6

1

buildings  
sites

2

structures  
objects

8

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**

0

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:**

Education: school

**Current Functions:**

Vacant

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):**

Colonial Revival

No style

**Materials:**

foundation: brick; concrete

roof: asbestos; asphalt; metal

walls: concrete; brick; stucco

other

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

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Southern Christian Institute  
Edwards vic., Hinds County, MS

Description

The Southern Christian Institute (SCI) is situated on 53.6 gently rolling acres at 18449 Old U.S. Highway 80 near Edwards in western Hinds County. The property is rectangular in shape and has 1,434 feet of frontage along the south side of Highway 80 and a maximum depth of 1,776 feet. The campus' seven buildings are situated to either side of a roadway that runs perpendicular to Old Highway 80, and these buildings are linked by concrete walks. The one- and two-story structures are constructed of rusticated concrete block, brick, and stucco. Also on the campus are a bell tower and a water tower, and other amenities include a swimming pool and a playground. There are mature pecan, live oak, and cedar trees scattered throughout the property.

In 1882, SCI purchased the plantation of Col. McKinney L. Cook and immediately began repairing the existing buildings, which included the c. 1853 Greek Revival mansion house, a two-story, frame, five-bay, center hall structure with hip roof and two-tiered, full-width gallery. Within five years, a two-story classroom building, a small barn, and two two-room tenant houses were constructed. In 1891, an addition was made to the original plantation mansion to house a girls' dormitory, and over the next 44 years, numerous buildings were constructed, including dormitories, a president's house, a teachers' home, industrial building, and classroom building, in addition to auxiliary buildings such as a grain house, stables, buggy shed, and laundry building.

The campus presently includes seven buildings: the president's house, administration/classroom building with auditorium, an assembly hall, dormitories, cafeteria, and a multi-purpose building that was constructed in 2000. The old Cook mansion was destroyed by fire around 1970, and all that remains is a chimney, which stands on the north end of the campus. The existing historic resources were built by the students during the first 35 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and many reflect the Colonial Revival style that was popular during that period. Eight resources are contributing (C) and one is noncontributing (NC). Descriptions of these resources follow:

- C 1. Smith Hall Girls' Dormitory**                      **1915**                      **Colonial Revival**  
Facing west, this building is a two-story, U-shaped, stucco-over-metal lathe, dormitory building (15,412 s.f.) on a raised rusticated concrete block basement with an asbestos-covered hip roof. Several colors of asbestos tiles were used to spell out "1914 Smith Hall" on the west side of the roof. There is a two-tiered porch that extends across two-thirds of the front façade and over one-third of the north side. This porch is covered by an asphalt-shingled hip roof, with exposed rafter tails, which is supported by tapered stuccoed wooden columns (on the second floor) resting on rusticated concrete block

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columns that rest on the porch floor. These piers continue down to support the porch floor. A plain wooden balustrade encircles the second floor porch and parts of the first floor. There are eight bays on the first floor of the main (west) elevation: four 2/2 double-hung wood windows, a single-leaf paneled door with sidelights and transom, and three 2/2 double-hung wooden windows. There are eight 2/2 double-hung wooden windows on the second floor.

The north elevation has seven bays on the first floor filled with five of the same windows and two single-leaf paneled wooden doors with transoms and six bays on the second floor filled with five of the same windows and a single-leaf paneled wooden door with transom. There are two 2/2 windows and a wooden plank door on the basement level. The rear (east) elevation has the inset of the U-shape of the building. On either side of the inset are three 2/2 double-hung wooden windows on each floor and a 2/2 double-hung wooden window and a single-leaf paneled wooden door in the basement. The south side has six of the same windows on each floor and four windows and two single-leaf wooden paneled doors with transoms in the basement.

The interior retains its plaster walls, pine floors, decorative corner boards, and five-horizontal-panel wooden doors. There are 20 rooms on the first floor, and the second floor is divided into 24 rooms and closets.

Smith Hall was originally built in 1913 as a three-story, rusticated concrete block building with crenellated parapet and wraparound one-story porch. It burned in 1914 and was rebuilt in its present form in 1915.

- C 2. Allison Hall (Stanton Hall, Cafeteria) 1909 Colonial Revival influence**  
Facing east, Allison Hall is built in two sections: the rear section is a two-story square and the front section is a long, one-story, rectangular building. The front section is constructed of rusticated concrete block and topped with an asphalt hip roof. There are ten bays on the main façade: two 2/2 double-hung wooden windows, a single-leaf glazed wood door with a sidelight and transom (configuration of this entry was originally double-leaf with a transom), and two 2/2 double-hung wooden windows.

A portico extends from the left entry and is covered with an asphalt gable roof supported with rusticated concrete block columns and a low wall. The portico on the right entry has been removed. The south side of the main block has three bays: two 2/2 double-hung wooden windows and a center double-leaf glazed door with transom covered by a portico designed like that on the front. The north elevation has three bays

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filled with two 1/1 double-hung non-historic sash and a three-part window with three 1/1 double-hung windows.

The two-story rear block is topped with an asbestos-covered hip roof and a square lantern in the middle. This lantern has a hipped roof and a square vent on each side. A brick interior end chimney pierces the roof on the southwest corner, and the cornice is denticulated. There are four bays on the first floor of the south side: a single-leaf paneled door and three 2/2 double-hung wooden windows; and four bays on the second floor filled with three 2/2 double-hung wooden windows and a smaller 1/1 double-hung wooden window.

The rear (west) elevation has four bays on the first floor: three 2/2 double-hung wooden windows and double-leaf glazed wooden doors with a transom. Access to this door has been removed. There are four bays on the north elevation: two are filled with non-historic sash, a single-leaf paneled door with sidelights and transom, and a 2/2 double-hung wooden window. The door on the second floor, as well as access (porch) to it, have been removed. Two of the other bays are filled with non-historic sash, and there is an original 2/2 double-hung wooden window.

The interior retains its plaster walls, beaded-board wainscoting, pine floors, and a mantelpiece. The front section of the building has a center 10' wide hall with a dining room (67'x40') on the south and two rooms and a bathroom on the north. The rear section on the first floor has a kitchen and staircase, and there are eight rooms on the second floor off of a center hall.

Originally built in 1900, Allison Hall was named after W.T. Allison, a teacher who died in 1899 during a malaria epidemic. The structure contained the dining rooms, kitchens, and dormitory rooms of the matron of the building and the women who worked there. Destroyed by fire in fall of 1908, the building was reconstructed the following year.

**C 3. Administration/Classroom Building 1926**

The Administration/Classroom Building, which faces west, is a two-story, brick, rectangular classroom building on a raised stuccoed basement and crowned by a gable roof with parapeted end walls. A three-bay, gabled, projecting pavilion is in the center of the main façade. There are nine bays on the front façade: four large multi-light, metal, louvered windows; two pair of non-historic, double-leaf doors with covered transoms; and a central pair of non-historic double-leaf doors flanked by multi-light metal louvered windows. A wide concrete band separates the first and second floors

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and another accents the cornice. The second floor windows have plain concrete lintels. There is an additional wide concrete band that runs across the gable end of the cross gable, above which is a pair of fixed six-light windows with a shaped concrete head mimicking a hood mold.

The rear (east) elevation is dominated by a central projecting one-story bay which is the rear of the auditorium. There are two large multi-light louvered windows on each side of the projecting walls. The other bays on the first floor are four large multi-light metal louvered windows. These same windows are found on the second floor. The side elevations have six bays on the first floor: four narrow, multi-light metal windows, a small six-light fixed sash, and a pair of multi-light metal windows. There are seven bays on the second floor: six narrow multi-light metal windows and a pair of multi-light metal windows. A plain concrete window head separates the windows into three groups.

This building (total square footage of 19,837) houses classrooms, offices for the dean and other staff, bathrooms, an auditorium with a stage and balcony, and a library. A 9' wide center hall runs north to south for the width of the building, with a cross entry hall. There are classrooms on either side of this hall which vary in size, but the majority are 24'x21'. The auditorium (approximately 41'x57') is on the first floor at the rear and it extends out to the rear of the building 11 1/2' past the rear wall. Access to the auditorium is gained by two pair of wooden double-leaf doors.

The building retains its 1926 design, but it has been renovated and modernized a number of times. This building is also known as the Missouri Golden Jubilee Building, as it was erected "through the kindness of missionary societies of the women of Missouri and of the General Education Board." (WPA) It was a "very beautiful two-story, brick and cement building, modern in construction and designed strictly fireproof, and equipped for the Liberal Arts, Chemistry, Biology, Home Economics, and Commercial subjects, also offices of the dean, library, assembly and chapel." (WPA)

**C 4. President's House (Guest House)                      1910                      Colonial Revival**

The President's House is a two-story, stucco residence, facing east, with an asbestos-covered hip roof. The full-width front porch is recessed under the main roof and is supported by two-story, stuccoed, square columns on brick pedestals. The second floor of the porch has been enclosed with clapboard and one-over-one windows. The original windows and entry on the second story remain: two 1/1 double-hung wooden windows and a single-leaf door (missing) with sidelights and transom. There are two

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boarded-up windows and a single-leaf wooden door with sidelights and transom on the first floor.

There is a cross hip over a projecting room on the left and right sides which each have two 1/1 double-hung wooden windows. Two similar windows are also on either side of the bay on the second floor, and on the first floor are two windows to the right of the bay and a window and single-leaf glazed door with transom.

The interior retains its original molded window frames, molded baseboards, five-horizontal-paneled doors, and paneled newel posts. However, most of the balusters have been removed. The center hall is 7 ½' wide and includes the stairs to the second floor. There are three rooms on each side of the hall and a bathroom at the end. This same configuration exists on the second floor.

**C 5. Belding Hall (Boys' Dormitory) 1935 Colonial Revival**

Belding Hall is a two-story, brick, rectangular building on a raised basement, facing west, with an asbestos-covered hip roof pierced with small eyebrow vents and enhanced by a plain molded wood cornice and corbelled quoins. There are eleven bays: a center entrance consisting of non-historic, double-leaf doors flanked by small wooden windows, and eight pair of 6/6 double-hung wooden windows. The entrance is recessed with wood pilasters flanking the recess. The bays in the raised basement mimic those above. The second floor's nine bays are filled with eight pair of 6/6 double-hung wooden sash, and in the center bay is a set of three 15/15 double-hung wooden windows. This center bay is highlighted by a cross gable with stuccoed tympanum and round vent, and there is a small balcony with a wrought iron balustrade under the set of three windows. The north end has three bays on the first floor: one 8/8 double-hung wooden window and two non-historic doors. There are three 8/8 double-hung wooden windows on the second floor and a narrow balcony at the middle window enhanced by a wrought iron balustrade.

The interior walls are sheet rocked with stained trim. The floors on the first floor are 3" heart pine, while those on the second story are concrete. A hall runs north to south with eight rooms and a large center bathroom on the east side on each floor and eight rooms on the front with a center stair hall. A number of the walls have been removed.

Belding Hall was originally constructed in 1902 but was destroyed by fire the following year and rebuilt in 1904. The present Belding Hall dates to 1935.

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**C 6. Assembly Hall (Barn) 1914**

This is a one-story, rusticated concrete block building, facing west, with a metal-covered gable roof. The building was originally constructed as a barn, with board-and-batten walls, large doors on each end, and a hay loft door in the gable. The rusticated concrete block was added later, and then other alterations were made to change the barn into the assembly hall. The interior space was remodeled into two floors, and windows were added. The windows have been replaced with aluminum units. A one-story, frame, gabled addition extends from the center of the main façade.

**C 7. Bell Tower 1926**

The bell tower is a two-tiered brick structure with an asbestos-shingled hip roof having exposed rafter tails. Brick piers support a wide concrete platform on which brick piers support the roof, which is trimmed by a wide concrete cornice. The bell hangs from the upper tier's ceiling.

**C 8. Water Tower c. 1900**

A round metal water tank with conical roof, supported by a metal frame about 40' high

**NC 9. Multi-Purpose Building 2000**

A one-story, modern concrete block and metal multi-purpose building with a low gable roof, cross sheds and gables.



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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- 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.

**Areas of Significance**

Education  
Ethnic Heritage: Black

**Period of Significance**

1882-1953  
1962-1963

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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.

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance:** See continuation sheets.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography** See continuation sheet.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

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Statement of Significance

The Southern Christian Institute (SCI) is eligible for listing in the National Register for significance under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black. Although properties owned by religious institutions are not normally considered to be eligible for the National Register (Criteria Consideration A), the Southern Christian Institute qualifies because it derives its primary significance in the field of African-American education rather than religion. The first period of significance extends from 1882, when the Cook plantation was purchased for the campus of SCI, until 1953, the year that the school held its last graduation service before merging with Tougaloo University the following year. The second period of significance extends from 1962 to 1963 when the property played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement, serving as a meeting place and training center for adult voter registration education and leadership training. Although this period of significance is less than 50 years ago (Criteria Consideration G), the property's association with the Civil Rights Movement is of exceptional importance since SCI was the site of the first statewide Movement training. Six buildings—including an administration/classroom building with auditorium, dormitories, cafeteria building, the president's house, and an assembly hall—and two structures dating from 1900 to 1935 are extant and retain a good degree of integrity. The old c. 1853 Cook mansion, which was used by SCI from its establishment in 1882 to 1953, burned around 1970 and only the chimney remains.

Before the 1860s, most of the South had only rudimentary public school systems. After the Civil War, southern states ultimately created a dual educational system based on race; however, these separate schools were far from equal. The majority of schools for African Americans provided an eighth grade education, at best. Northern missionary societies founded some of the first schools for southern blacks after the Civil War, and these schools continued to operate well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. SCI, which was able to offer an elementary, high school, and college education, is a good representative example of such missionary schools. Founded in 1875 by the Home Missionary Society of the Disciples of Christ, the school was in operation from 1882 until its merger with Tougaloo University in 1954. SCI was the first of six such schools for African Americans supported by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Deep South after the Civil War. ("Alumni of Past to Revisit Old SCI Campus")

In addition to providing an education for its students, SCI assisted the local community. For example, the school had the first traveling library in the state, and as of 1949 provided books and magazines to 40 rural schools in the area. Special extension courses were offered each Saturday to rural public school teachers, and a six-week course was offered when schools closed in spring. Students practice teaching in dilapidated rural public schools helped the school patrons to paint, construct playground equipment, build walkways, make furniture, and

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prepare instructional supplies. In addition, SCI benefited area farmers by teaching better farming methods and how to improve livestock.

#### Historical Overview

In 1875, the Home Missionary Society of the Disciples of Christ obtained a charter from the Mississippi State Legislature to establish the Southern Christian Institute in Edwards. However, an organizational meeting was not held until December 4, 1877, at which time the Board of Trustees was appointed. In May 1882, the 800-acre plantation of Col. McKinney L. Cook, located two miles west of Edwards, was purchased for the site of the SCI campus. Cook's "Mansion House," a two-story, Greek Revival, frame house with two-tiered gallery, survived and was used as the main school building, housing the president, teachers, students, classrooms, and chapel. At this time, "there was neither barn nor school house on the plantation, not even a tenant house or cabin that would not let the rain run through the roof." (WPA)

Randall Faurot, the school's first president, undertook the repair of the plantation's buildings for use by the school. Unfortunately, he died on October 10, 1882, only four days before the school opened for class. His successor was Jephthah Hobbs, who served until January 1, 1890. Although the initial impetus to create the school was the education of African-American ministers and Bible school teachers, coeducational classes were held for elementary and high school students as well, and by the turn of the century the school achieved junior college status. Both African Americans and whites were employed as teachers at SCI. When the school was first established, tuition was free for the period during which the public schools were taught. As a result, enrollment for January 1883 was 180; in 1884 enrollment grew to 222; and in 1885 it reached 253. However, on March 1, 1886, the school began charging tuition, and as a result, enrollment dropped to 80 that year. (WPA)

By 1889, the school was facing financial problems, and President Hobbs resigned. Miss Etta Teeple was temporarily placed in charge, and the trustees voted to close the school unless "the right person" could be found immediately to take charge. (Long) Joel Baer Lehman became the president on October 11, 1890, and his wife, Ethie, served as Secretary and General Supervising Matron. President Lehman was responsible for the operation of the school, as well as the plantation, and during his 43-year tenure SCI experienced tremendous growth. Ten major buildings were erected with student labor, and 465 additional acres were purchased, making the farm 1,265 acres. Lumber used for construction of the buildings was

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cut on the plantation and sawed in the school's sawmill. All but one of the extant contributing resources date to President Lehman's tenure.

Although SCI was not an agricultural college, farming did play an important role in the life of the school and community. Area farmers were instructed in better methods of farming and improving livestock. Many students were able to work on the plantation to pay for their tuition and board, and meat, milk, milk products, and vegetables from the farm fed the students and faculty. Funds from the sale of the plantation's crops, as well as rents received from leased land, helped sustain the school, and in 1891 paid for an addition to the "Mansion House" for use as a girls' dormitory.

In 1893 a grain house and buggy shed were built, and in 1897 construction of a new college building was undertaken and an old school building was converted into a planing mill. Two years later, the laundry building and stables were built. The Industrial Building, housing the laundry, canning department, and manual training rooms, was constructed in 1914, and in 1920 a home for teachers was built. The community school, a five-room building constructed on a Rosenwald plan, was built in 1921 for the practice and observation of students of the Department of Education. All of these buildings have been demolished or destroyed by fire. The "Mansion House" was destroyed by fire c. 1970, and only its chimney remains intact.

Although a number of buildings have been lost, some of the school's most important buildings remain intact, including classrooms, the administration building, dormitories, cafeteria, assembly hall, and the president's house. Dating from the period 1900 to 1935, these buildings form a cohesive district and include Allison Hall, Belding Hall, Smith Hall, the Administration/Classroom Building, the President's House, and Assembly Hall, and all retain a good degree of integrity. Two structures also are extant and include the circa 1900 water tower and the 1926 bell tower. A former student, Estes Williams, recalled that the "big plantation bell in the middle of the campus pealed out the signal for everything. We got up in the morning, ate breakfast, went to class and went to bed by that bell." ("Happy Memories Haunt Deserted Campus of SCI")

Allison Hall was constructed in 1909 to house dining rooms and kitchens, as well as dormitory rooms for the women working in the building. Belding Hall was first constructed in 1902 to house the boys' dormitory, but it was destroyed by fire the following year and reconstructed in 1904. Reconstructed again in 1935, during President Long's tenure, the building is a two-story, brick, Colonial Revival style structure.

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Built in 1910, the President's House is a two-story, stuccoed, Colonial Revival style building. Smith Hall, a girls' dormitory that was built in 1915, is a two-story, U-shaped, stuccoed, Colonial Revival style building. Assembly Hall, a one-story, rusticated concrete block structure, was built in 1914. The Administration/Classroom Building, known as the Missouri Golden Jubilee Building, was erected in 1927 "through the kindness of the missionary societies of the women of Missouri, and of the General Education Board. It is a very beautiful two story, brick and cement building, modern in construction and design, strictly fireproof, and equipped for the Liberal Arts, Chemistry, Biology, Home Economics, and Commercial subjects. In addition it contains the offices of the Dean, the library, a very large assembly room and a chapel." (WPA)

The July 24, 1926, issue of *The Gospel Plea*, a weekly newsletter produced by the Press of the Southern Christian Institute, announced that since the standards of the public schools had been raised, SCI would not longer teach the lower grades: "It has been deemed wise to drop the work of the First and Second grades this year, while, for this year at least, the Third, Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth grade work will be offered as before."

SCI became accredited by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges when that agency first began to accredit African American schools in 1931. ("Southern Christian School at Edwards Blend [sic] Religion and Academic Endeavors") Upon President Lehman's retirement in 1933, after 43 years of service, John Long, who had been the Dean and Registrar since 1925, became the school's fourth and final president. One of the remaining buildings, Belding Hall, dates to his tenure.

In 1949, there were 582 students from 14 states and Jamaica. The staff at that time was 26, both white and black. ("Southern Institute Offers Advantages") In 1950, enrollment was down slightly to 565, with 527 students from Mississippi, 13 from other states, and seven students from Jamaica. The *Jackson Daily News* reported in 1950 that "because the greatest need of the area is better trained Negro teachers, SCI majors in their training. Most of the teachers of the public schools of the area have had at least a part of their training at Southern Christian." ("Southern Christian School at Edwards...")

SCI was credited with being in the foreground of progressive education. According to a 1949 article in the *Jackson Daily News*, SCI was the first African American college in the country to adopt the concentrated study plan under which the student studied only one subject at a time. This plan enabled more individual attention from the instructor, and also allowed a student to remain in school only a portion of a year and still complete the subjects taken.

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The last class to graduate from SCI was in 1953. As SCI and Tougaloo University in Jackson had similar ideals and objectives, a merger was completed in 1954, with all of the students and faculty of SCI moving to Jackson. With the resources of the two schools being combined, a new name was chosen: Tougaloo Southern Christian College. (In 1962 the name was changed again to Tougaloo College.)

In 1962 and 1963 the SCI campus played an important role in the Civil Rights Movement. During this time, the first statewide Movement training was conducted on the campus under the leadership of SNCC field secretary Bob Moses and Bernice Robinson (Davis, p. 227). This fact was reiterated by Eric Burner in And Gently He Shall Lead Them: Robert Parris Moses and Civil Rights in Mississippi (p. 72). This source stated that adult voter registration education and leadership training were held at the Christian Center. The workshops were conducted by Harvard law students and a political science major from Brandeis under the direction of Moses and Robinson. During evening program discussions, Moses noted that "We mapped plans for voting drives in Greenwood, Ruleville, and the mid-Delta rural counties...and are planning a workshop for 60 to 75 students the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>," 1962.

The property was purchased by the AME Church in 1971 and was re-opened as Bonner-Campbell School of Religion. The campus was used as a retreat center and as a site for the Educational Congress and District Assembly of the Eighth District of the AME Church. Currently there is an interest by the Bonner-Campbell School of Religion to revitalize the buildings and property in order to educate African Americans in a religious curriculum.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 9 Page: 1 Southern Christian Institute  
Edwards vicinity, Hinds County, Mississippi

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Bibliography

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- "Mt. Beulah Plans on Re-Opening," *Jackson Daily News*, Sept 16, 1971.
- "Southern Christian School at Edwards Blend [sic] Religion and Academic Endeavors," *Jackson Daily News*, March 5, 1950.
- "Southern Institute Offers Advantages," *Jackson Daily News*, March 6, 1949.
- The Gospel Plea* (issued by the Press of the Southern Christian Institute), Vol. XXXI, No. 29 (July 24, 1926).
- Wallace, Jesse Thomas. A History of the Negroes of Mississippi from 1865-1890. 1927. New York: Johnson Reprint Corporation, 1970.
- Wharton, Vernon Lane. The Negro in Mississippi 1865-1890. New York: Harper and Row, 1947.
- Works Progress Administration Records for Hinds County, Mississippi.

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: 53.6 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	15	722520	3580120	C	15	722860	3580070
B	15	722485	3579660	D	15	722805	3579630

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Nancy H. Bell (edited by Brenda Crook, MDAH)  
organization: Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation  
street & number: P.O. Box 254  
city or town: Vicksburg state: MS

date: May 20, 2005  
telephone: 601-636-5010  
zip code: 39181

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name: Bonner-Campbell School of Religion, Inc.  
street & number: 35 E. Rue Chardonay  
city or town: Kenner state: LA

telephone:  
zip code: 70065

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**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 the 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.



**United States Department of the Interior  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Section: 10

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The Southern Christian Institute  
Edwards, vic., Hinds County, Mississippi

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**Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Hinds County Parcel Number 4967-90. South side of Old Hwy 80 in Section 29 T6 R4W as per plat in deed book 234, page 478.

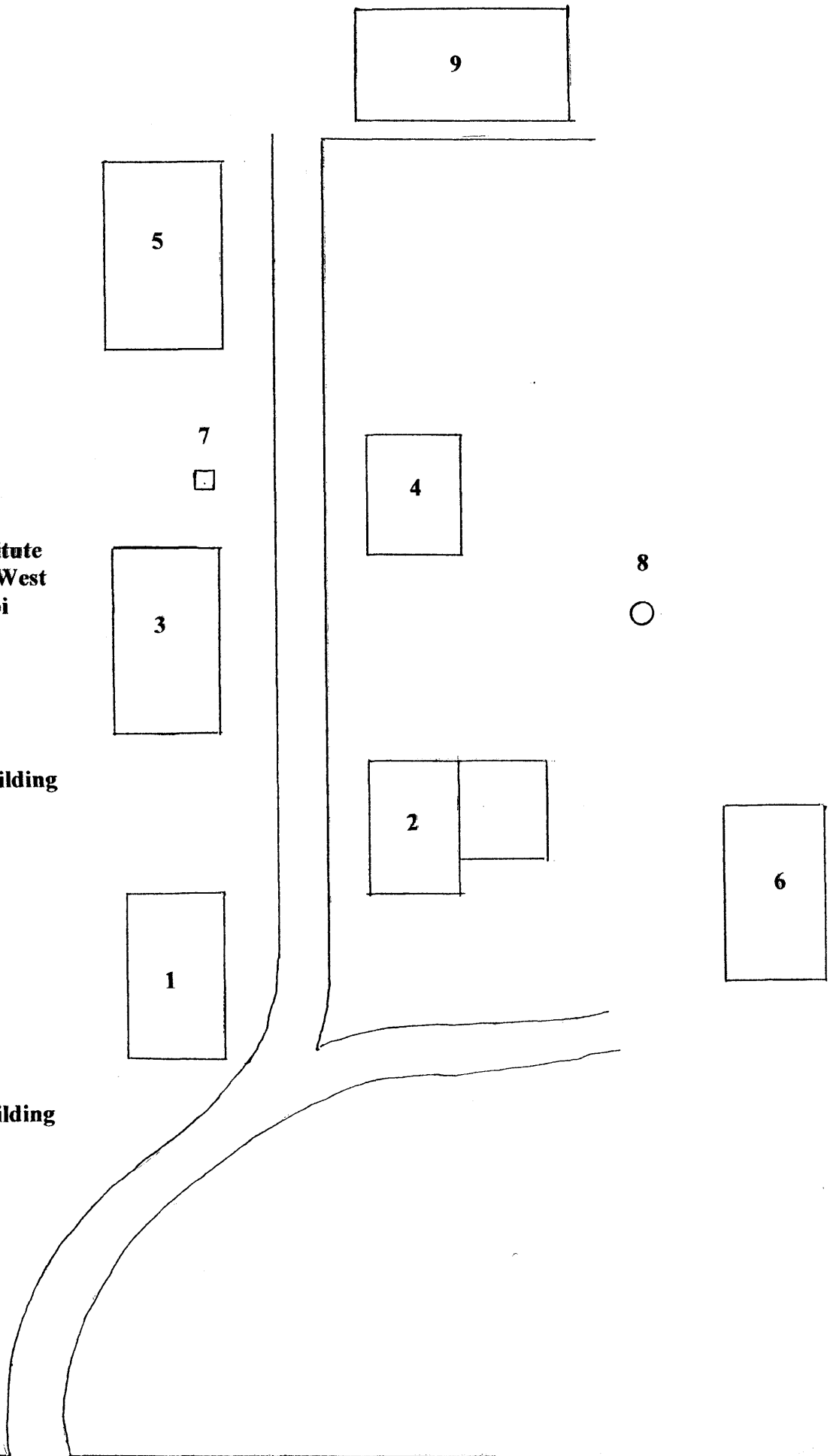
**Boundary Justification:**

The area being nominated contains the resources associated with the Southern Christian Institute and which is currently owned by Bonner-Campbell School.

**The Southern Christian Institute  
18449 Old U. S. Highway 80 West  
Hinds County, Mississippi**

- 1. Smith Hall**
- 2. Allison Hall**
- 3. Administration Building**
- 4. President's House**
- 5. Belding Hall**
- 6. Assembly Hall**
- 7. Bell Tower**
- 8. Water Tower**
- 9. Multi-Purpose Building**

north



OLD HWY 80

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section:        —

Page: 1

The Southern Christian Institute  
Edwards, vic., Hinds County, Mississippi

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs.

The Southern Christian Institute  
18449 Old U. S. Highway 80 West  
Edwards (vicinity), Hinds County, Mississippi  
Nancy H. Bell, Vicksburg Foundation for Historic Preservation  
May 2005

Photo 1 of 9  
Smith Hall Girl's Dormitory  
View to the east

Photo 7 of 9  
Assembly Hall  
View to the west

Photo 2 of 9  
Allison Hall  
View to the west

Photo 8 of 9  
Water tower  
View to the east

Photo 3 of 9  
Allison Hall  
North elevation, view to south

Photo 9 of 9  
Bell Tower  
View to the east

Photo 4 of 9  
Administration/Classroom Building  
View to the northeast

Photo 5 of 9  
President's House  
View to the west

Photo 6 of 9  
Belding Hall  
View to the west



Southern Christian Institute

Edwards, MS

Photo 189



Southern Christian  
Institute

Edwards, MS

Photo 2 of 9





Southern Christian Institute

Edwards, MS

Photo 3 of 9



Southern Christian Institute

Edwards, MS

Photo 4 of 9



Southern Christian Institute  
Edwards, MS  
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Southern Christian Institute  
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Southern Christian Institute

Edwards, MS

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Southern Christian Institute  
Edwards, MS  
Photo 8 of 9



Southern Christian Institute

Edwards, MS

Photo 9 of 9