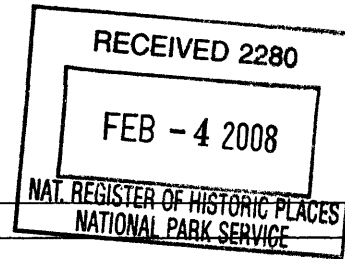


196



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bobo Senior High School Building
other names/site number: The Bobo Building

2. Location

Street & number: 131 School Street not for publication ___
City or Town: Clarksdale vicinity ___
State: Mississippi code: MS county: Coahoma 27 zip code: 38614

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

[Signature] Date 01.29.2008
Signature of certifying official Date

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):

[Signature] Date of Action 3-19-08
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Elsa H. Beall

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

public-local

Number of Resources within Property:

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Category of Property:

Building

Contributing**Noncontributing**

1	0	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: None

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: Education/ school; Funerary/ cemetery

Current Functions: Vacant/ not in use; Funerary/ cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s): Gothic Revival

Materials:

foundation: concrete, brick

roof: other: tar/ rubber

walls: concrete/ brick

other

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- X **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

Period of Significance

1929- 1957

Significant Dates

1946

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)**Cultural Affiliation(s)****Architect/Builder**

P.J. Krouse (1929)
N.W. Overstreet and Associates (1946)
Howell Brothers Construction

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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:

Clarksdale Municipal School District

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 3.84 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	723120	3786700	C		
B				D		

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alkie K. Eddwards, Special Projects Coordinator
organization: Clarksdale Municipal School District, Central Office
street & number: 101 McGuire Street
city or town: Clarksdale state: MS
Additional text by William M. Gatlin, MDAH architectural historian

date:08-27-2007
telephone: 662-902-9279
zip code: 38614

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(s)

name: Clarksdale Municipal School District
street & number: P.O. Box 1088
city or town: Clarksdale

telephone: 662-627-8500
state: MS zip code: 38614

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
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma, Mississippi

Description

The Bobo Senior High School is located just across the Sunflower River from downtown Clarksdale, Mississippi, in a residential neighborhood that developed in the 1910s and 1920s. The large three-story brick building occupies a U-shaped footprint and derives much of its external ornamentation from decorative cast concrete and three-pane metal windows. The primary façade extends along a north-south axis, forming the base of the U-shape. A north wing, much larger in scale than the south wing, houses the cafeteria and gymnasium. The south wing houses classroom space and a theater that was modified to classroom space in 1946. An open courtyard between the wings is enclosed by a two-story arcade composed of rounded arches.

Exterior

Built in 1929 on a design by Meridian architect, P.J. Krouse, the school occupies part of the former Bobo plantation. In its earliest days, the Bobo family home sat on a large lot between the school building and the Sunflower River. The house was demolished, replaced by a large green space and tennis courts. The primary façade faces east and consists of three pavilions. The broad center pavilion is set back from the slightly projecting wings to the north and south. White limestone covers the first floor, while the second and third floors are clad in red brick. Most of the roof is flat, behind a short parapet wall, but the gymnasium to the north is topped by a shallow gable roof.

Centered in the main pavilion is a three-story decorated bay. A decorated cast concrete segmented arch opening shelters a double-leaf entrance door with an arched three part multi-light transom and four-light side lights. Above the arch, paired 6/6 windows are inset in cast concrete capped by a spandrel with dual carved plaques. A pair of simple three-pane metal windows on the third floor is below a brick pediment with a shallow stepped parapet rising to a point. A cartouche resembling an open book is centered in the brick pediment.

The center bay is flanked by five sets of paired three-pane windows on all three floors. The first floor windows are covered with plywood. The projecting pavilions have similar fenestration consisting of three pane windows in a 1-3-1 configuration. Second and third floor windows have concrete lintels, while a concrete band course tops the windows on the third floor. There is a stone cap across the red brick parapet.

The south facade contains many similar elements. The first floor is covered limestone. A cast concrete decorative bay, offset to the east, houses doors similar to those on the east face. Decorated spandrels separate paired three-panel windows on the second and third floors. A large bay with no openings separates the door from the east end of the building. Four sets of triple windows on all three

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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, Mississippi

floors are located along the face to the west. A fifth triple window is found on the second and third floors, while a single door opens into the first floor. A bay to the far west contains a single three panel window on each floor.

The west façade features two wings and a courtyard. A two-story passageway arcaded on the first floor and closed on the second floor connects the two wings. The arcade is composed of five round arches constructed of brick and trimmed with white limestone. The exterior wall of the second floor arcade lacks any openings, but there are five 4/4 windows above the arches on the courtyard side. Nine-light two panel doors open into the north wing under the arcade. The north wing, which houses the gymnasium, has four 24-light industrial type metal windows separated by brick pilasters with concrete caps. A door opens to an enclosed stair in the northeast corner of the courtyard. On the south wing, a double-door is centered on the first floor, with a single three-pane window on the second floor. The limestone continues along the wall of the first floor of the north wing and there are two twelve-light windows near the south edges of the building on the first and second floor and window over a service door near the north edge of the building.

The limestone surface continues to cover the first floor of the north facade while the second and third floors are clad in red bricks. Brick pilasters divide the windows on all floors. The windows on the first floor are covered with plywood, but there are a series of twenty-four light windows on the second and third floors. A double door is located near the west end of the building. Another double door is located near the east end under a covered arcade that connects the building with a newer school to the north.

Just west of the arcade, the Bobo family cemetery remains on the site. The Bobo family was early settlers in Clarksdale and the school is located on the family's former plantation. There are three rows of headstones marking the graves of thirteen family members. The dates on the headstones range from May 4, 1801 to March 24, 1895.

Interior

Common to all three floors is a broad corridor that runs the length of the building from north to south. The floors are tile with the walls and ceilings covered with plaster. Most of the five-panel interior wood doors are original with six-light operational transoms. There are two quarter-turn stairways, one near the center of the corridor and one near the north end.

Generally classrooms and offices are located on the east side of the corridor on all three floors with large public areas and ancillary spaces in the two rear wings. Most classroom spaces are intact,

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, Mississippi

but several have been partitioned. A large cafeteria occupies most of the first floor of the north wing. A kitchen with storage and an auxiliary stairwell are located to the west. The gymnasium is located on the second floor above the cafeteria. The gym floor is flanked by raised spectator seating on the east and west. Locker rooms and rest rooms are placed under the seating. There is access to the upper level of seating on the third floor.

A secondary corridor intersects the main hall on the first floor and separates the cafeteria from a science laboratory. The laboratory includes storage and a dark room.

The south wing has a second science laboratory on the first floor. The library occupies most of the south wing on the second floor. The third floor of this wing has been partially partitioned for classroom space, but was originally the theater. The stage with decorated plaster proscenium arch and a decorative plaster cornice remain in place. Most of these changes date to 1946 when Jackson architect N.W. Overstreet oversaw a renovation of the building. This also included moving the library from the southeast corner of the second floor to its current location in the south wing. The steel windows were installed in the original openings at that time as well.

Other changes include replacement of exterior doors with steel doors and reversible partitions in the cafeteria and some classrooms. Otherwise, the interior remains intact, with original floors, wall coverings, hallways, doors and interior transoms. Like many buildings of this age, Bobo Senior High School reflects the effects of deferred maintenance, but it retains a high degree of architectural and historic integrity.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, Mississippi

Statement of Significance

Criterion A – Education;

The Bobo Senior High School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A for its association with education based on its service as a public school for the Clarksdale community and reflects a long history of progressive educational practices in the local school district.

Completed in 1930, Bobo Senior High School served the Clarksdale community and its surrounding communities from 1930 until its closing in 1999. The land was originally owned by the Bobo family, some of the first settlers in Coahoma County back in the early 1800s. Like many early settlers, the Bobo family understood how important education was to any civilized society, so they donated the land for construction of a school. The Bobo Senior High School stands as a monument to the pioneers who settled Coahoma County.

The Bobo Senior High School Building was erected as a result of efforts to unify and establish a complete and centralized education program in Clarksdale. The first public school in Clarksdale opened in 1884. A two-room school building, later expanded to six rooms, served the community until 1907. In 1905, the school board hired Harvey B. Heidelberg as the first superintendent of public schools. Heidelberg, who was superintendent for fifty years, began a long term effort to improve the quality of public instruction and introduced many innovations to the school system, including initiating a kindergarten program, and instituting policies for the retention of qualified faculty. Clarksdale was the first city in Mississippi to have all of its schools, elementary and secondary, accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, beginning with Clarksdale High School, which was accredited on October 22, 1914.

Among Heidelberg's accomplishments was the construction of new school buildings, including an elementary school, junior high school and high school for white children, and a school for black students. Bobo Senior High School is the last surviving building from the era. The first elementary school was built in 1907. In March 1918, the school board retained architect R.H. Hunt to design and build a new high school: the Elizabeth G. Dorr School was completed in 1919. The school, with its large auditorium, indoor swimming pool, and manual training facilities "rated one of the most modern and best equipped in Mississippi."¹

Due to increasing population, the district required a new school by 1928. Initially the plan was to construct a new junior high school. However, the plan soon changed. The Elizabeth Dorr School would be converted to a junior high school, and a new high school would be built. The board unanimously selected Meridian architect P.J. Krouse to design the new building. The school was completed in the summer of 1930, in time for the 1930-1931 school year.

¹ Robert Miller Ellard, "A History of Clarksdale, Mississippi Public Schools 1905-1975." (E.D. diss., University of Mississippi, 1977), 50.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, Mississippi

The opening of the new Bobo High School was marked by a gala open house, attended by more than 3000 people. The *Clarksdale Press Register* described the facilities shortly before the grand opening:

The Bobo School has two large science departments, biology and chemistry, a library, a reading room with three separate rooms for group study, or private counsel with the instructors, one of the best equipped gymnasiums with plenty of seating space, sufficient classrooms, and a little theater that would be a pleasure to any group. The theater is equipped for motion pictures and has a seating capacity of about 250. On the level of the gymnasium, off the boy's locker room is an added advantage to the varsity teams, a room locked off from the big locker rooms where the teams can keep their uniforms and street clothes away from other classes. This room is over the colonnade that is on Cherokee Street and at the far end from the washrooms there is a small room...where the varsity uniforms can be sunned, away from prying eyes. The entire building is utilized to the best use, with no wasted space, by using the top of the colonnade for dressing rooms.²

A full page advertisement in the *Clarksdale Press Register* on September 10, 1930 announced the grand opening of the Bobo Senior High School, describing the school as "the crystallization of the dreams of Superintendent Heidelberg as well as the general public for the final unit of physical equipment that makes Clarksdale City Schools second to none in the South."³ In a story reporting the school opening, the reporter concluded that "[A]ll over the country, this city's school system is recognized as of exceptionally high standard in all phases."⁴

Beginning in 1905, Heidelberg introduced effective and progressive school administration policies to Clarksdale and oversaw a significant expansion of the Clarksdale school system. With the opening of Bobo Senior High School in 1930, the district completed a program for construction of modern buildings employing state of the art pedagogical principles. The old Oakhurst School (1908) and Elizabeth G. Dorr School (1918) are both gone, with only the Bobo Senior High School surviving to reflect period.

² *Clarksdale Press Register*, August 17, 1930.

³ *Clarksdale Press Register*, September 10, 1930.

⁴ *Clarksdale Press Register*, September 10, 1930.

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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, Mississippi

Bibliography

The Clarksdale Press Register

Ellard, Robert Miller. "A History of Clarksdale, Mississippi Public Schools, 1905-1975." D. Ed. diss. University of Mississippi, 1977.

Weeks, Linton. *Clarksdale & Coahoma County: A History*. Clarksdale: Carnegie Public Library, 1982.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, Mississippi

Verbal Boundary Description

The tract of land comprising approximately 3.84 acres, lot size 492' x 239', and the parcel # 7749 in the tax maps of the county of Coahoma, Mississippi. However more specifically, the real estate situated in the sectional lot 6 in section 23 township 27 North, Range West Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Mississippi, known as Cherry Street and Cherokee Avenue, and running North 15 degrees West 340.9' (feet) to an iron pipe stake at the Southeastern corner of Cherokee Avenue and School Street, and thence North 75 degrees East, along the Southern boundary line of School Street, 38' (feet) to an iron pipe stake; thence South fifteen degrees East 63' (feet) to an iron pipe stake in the Southern boundary line of School Street; thence North 75 degrees East along the southern boundary line of School Street, 400' (feet), to an iron stake at the Southwestern corner of School Street, and the street in the said city known as Riverside Avenue; Southwardly along the western boundary line of Riverside Avenue 340.9' (feet) to an iron pipe stake at the Northwestern corner of Riverside Avenue and Cherry Street, thence South 75 degrees West along the Northern boundary line of Cherry Street 492' (feet) to the point of beginning and including Land deed record No. 97. (Cemetery) Coahoma County. 2D District.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property historically associated with the Bobo Senior High School building and the Bobo Family Cemetery.

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National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section: Photography log

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Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, Mississippi

For all photographs:

1. Bobo Senior High School
2. Coahoma County, Mississippi
3. Jennifer Baughn
4. May 22, 2007
5. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Photograph 1: East elevation, View to West

Photograph 2: Main entrance, east elevation, View to West

Photograph 3: South elevation and east elevation, View to Northwest

Photograph 4: Arcade between rear wings, View to East

Photograph 5: Gymnasium, View to West Northwest

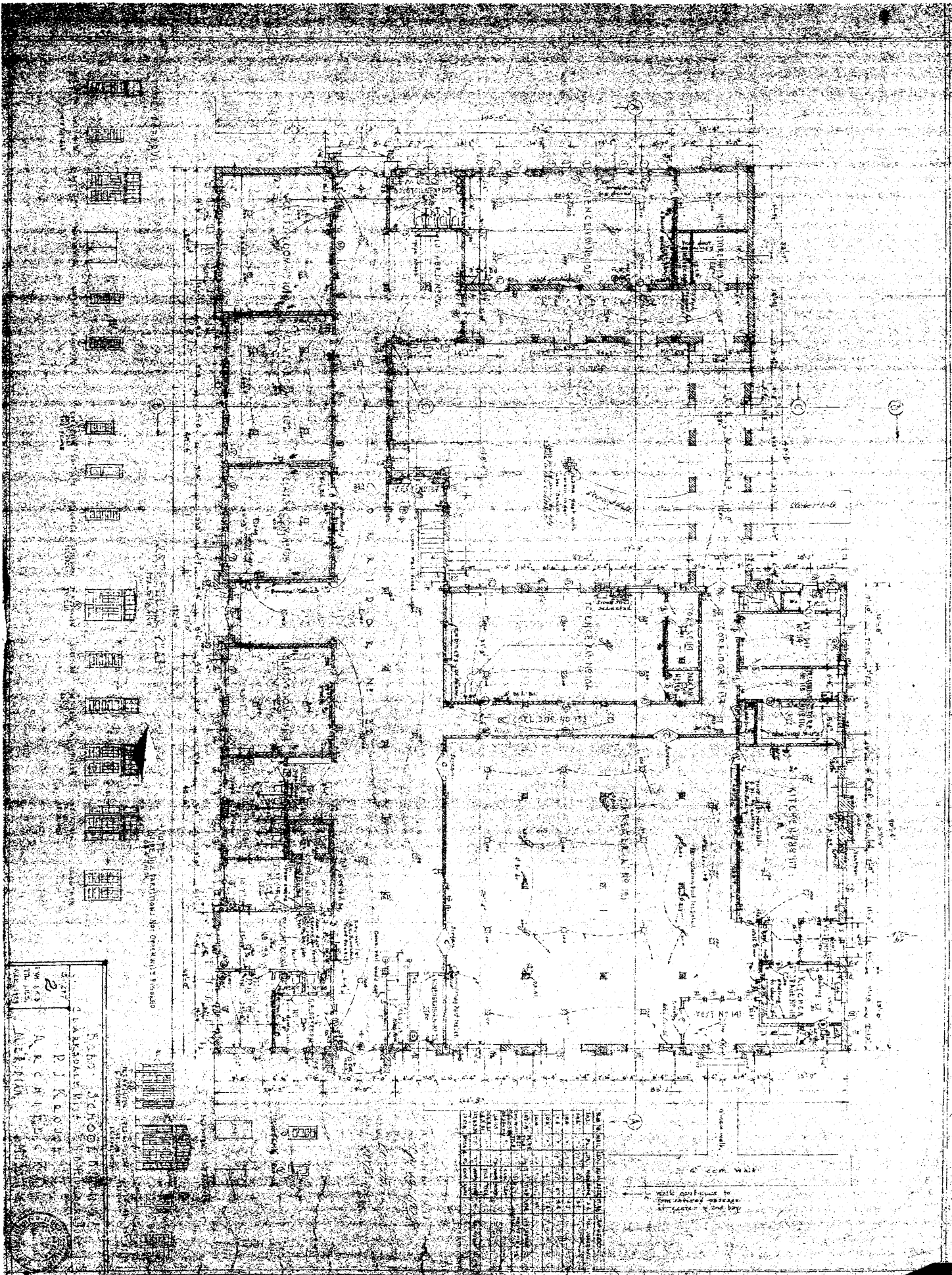
Photograph 6: Second floor classroom, View to the North

Photograph 7: Partitioned theater, view to the stage, View to West

Photograph 8: First floor hallway, View to South

Photograph 9: Stairway from first to second floors, View to Southwest

Photograph 10: Bobo family cemetery, View to Southwest



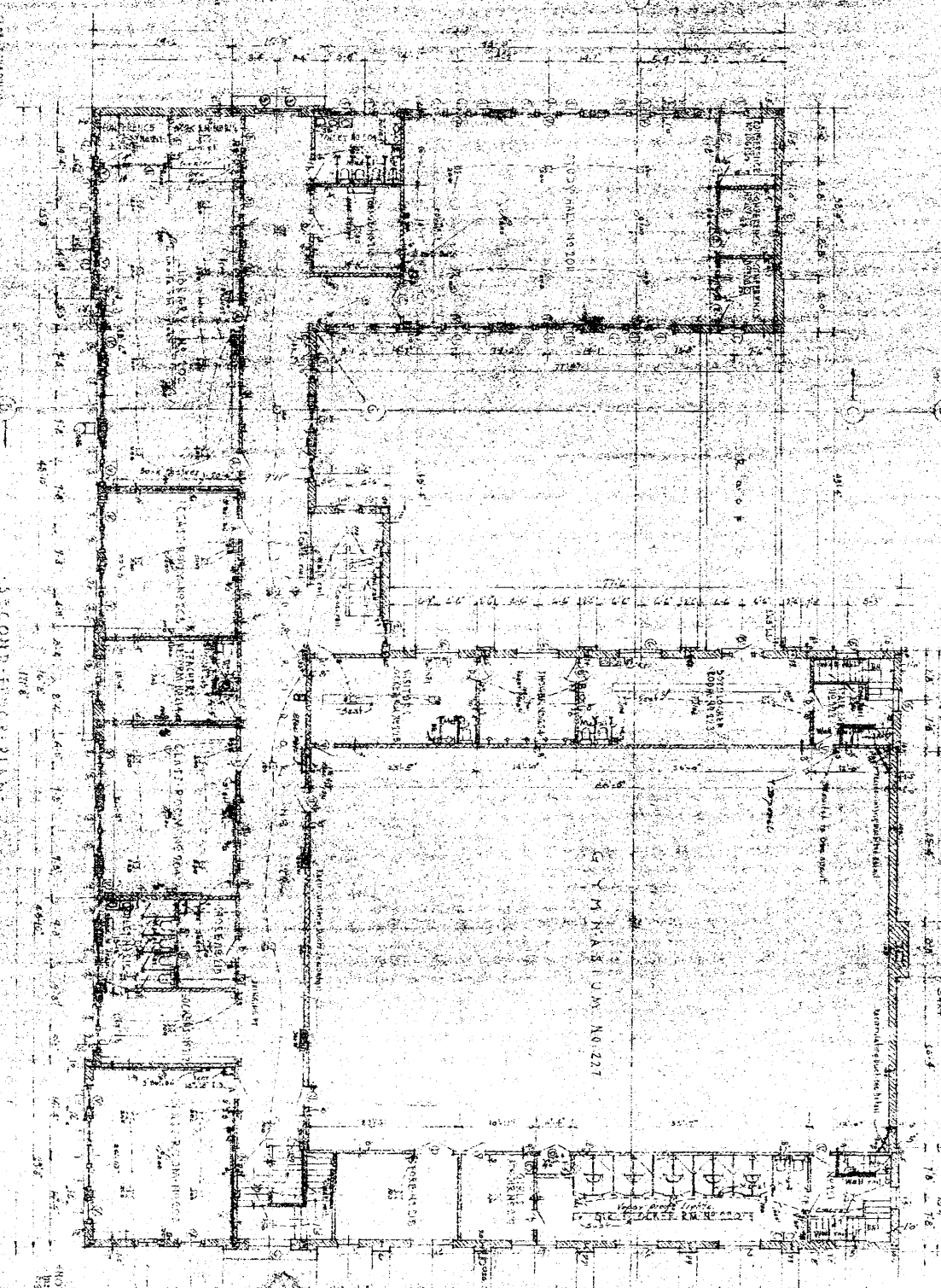
2
 1943
 THE ARCHITECT
 JACKSON

N. B. SCHOON
 LARSEN
 P. J. KROGER
 A. C. H. W.

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1/4" = 1' COM. WALK
 Walk continues to
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 at center of 2nd bay

1st FLOOR PLAN
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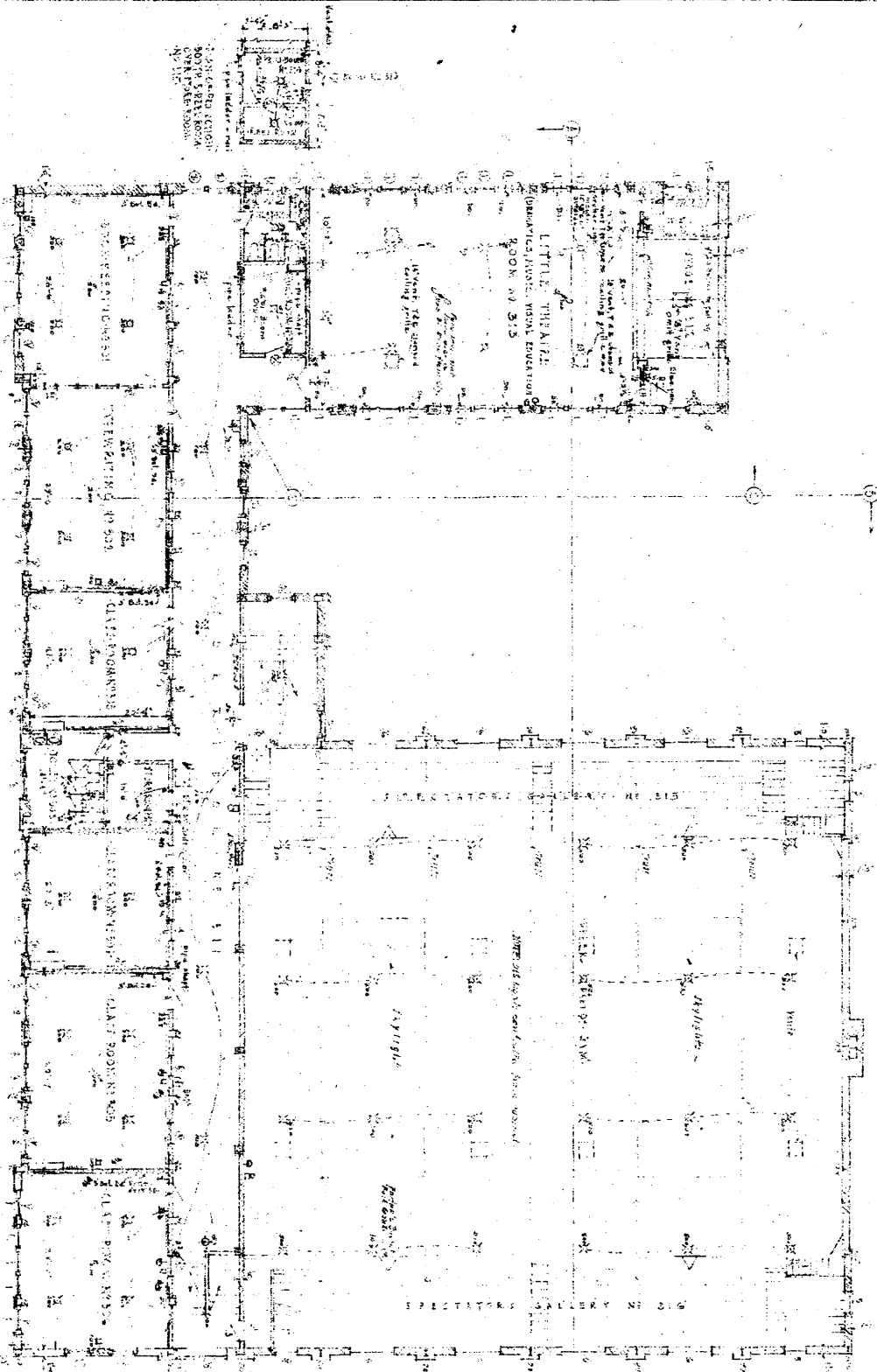


C. M. HASSIUM NO. 277

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SHEET
 5
 OF 10
 P. J. KEVUS
 ARCHITECT
 WASHINGTON, D. C.





THIRD FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1/8" = 1'-0"

NOTE: ALL ROOMS TO BE PAINTED WITH WHITE WASH.

Room No.	Room Name	Area (sq. ft.)	Volume (cu. ft.)	Remarks
101	REST ROOM	100	1000	
102	REST ROOM	100	1000	
103	REST ROOM	100	1000	
104	REST ROOM	100	1000	
105	REST ROOM	100	1000	
106	REST ROOM	100	1000	
107	REST ROOM	100	1000	
108	REST ROOM	100	1000	
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116	REST ROOM	100	1000	
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118	REST ROOM	100	1000	
119	REST ROOM	100	1000	
120	REST ROOM	100	1000	

H. J. ...
 CLASSIFICATION ...
 SHEET 4
 P. H. ...
 A. B. ...
 M. ...



Bobo Senior High School

Coahoma County, MS

Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

View to west. East elevation

1 of 10



Bobo Senior High School

Coahoma County, MS

Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, MS

View to West, Main entrance, east elevation

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Bobo Senior High School

Coahoma County, MS

Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

View to Northwest, South elevation and east elevation

3 of 10



Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, MS
Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History Jackson, MS

View to East Arcade between wings

4 of 10



Bobo Senior High School

Coahoma County, MS

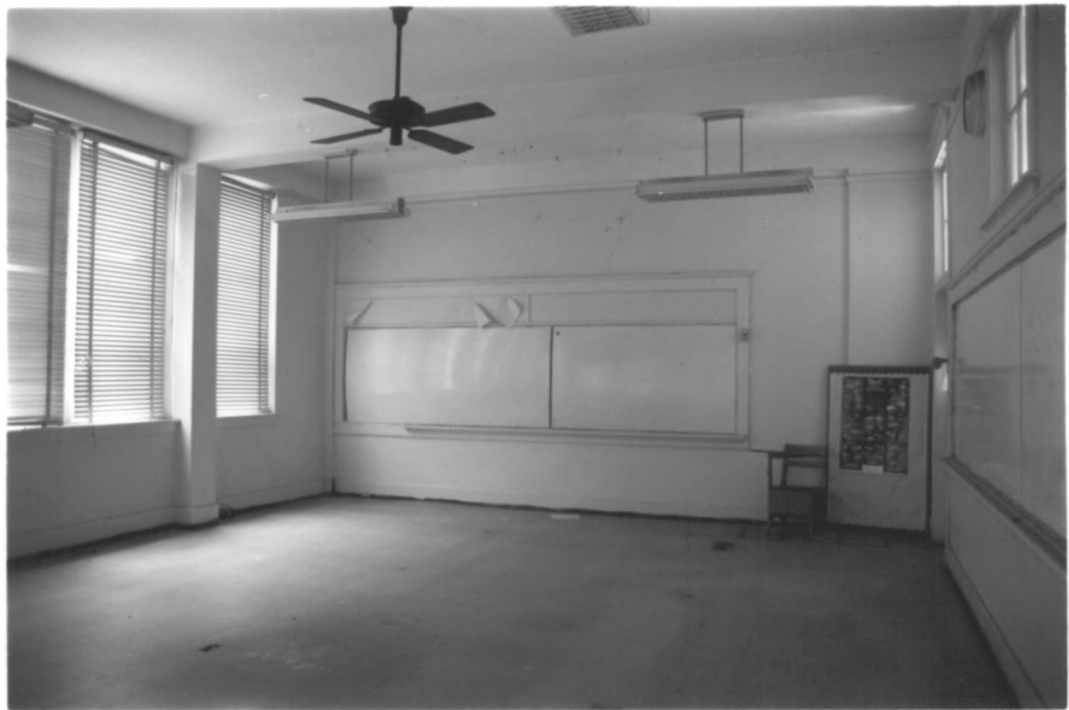
Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Gymnasium, View to West-Northwest

5 of 10



Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, MS

Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Second floor classroom, View to North

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Boloo Senior High School
Coahoma County, MS
Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Partitioned theater, view to stage, View to West

7 of 10



Bobo Senior High School
Coahoma County, MS

Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

First floor hallway, View to South

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Bobo Senior High School

Coahoma County, MS

Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Stairway from first to second floors. View to Southwest

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Bobo Senior High School

Coahoma County, MS

Jennifer Baughn

May 22, 2007

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Bobo family cemetery View to Southwest

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