1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Robinson, Florence, Cottage
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Alumni Heritage House

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Washington Place at Emma B. Smith Blvd, Jarvis Christian College
CITY OR TOWN: Hawkins
STATE: Texas
ZIP CODE: 75765

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally.

Signature of certifying official

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
5. CLASSIFICATION

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Private

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</th>
<th>CONTRIBUTING</th>
<th>NONCONTRIBUTING</th>
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<tr>
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<td>OBJECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** NA

6. FUNCTION OR USE

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** EDUCATION/education-related = president’s house

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** EDUCATION/education-related = alumni center

7. DESCRIPTION

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** Modern Movement: Ranch Style

**MATERIALS:**
- **FOUNDATION** 
  - CONCRETE
- **WALLS** 
  - BRICK
- **ROOF** 
  - METAL
- **OTHER** 
  - GLASS

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).
The Florence Robinson Cottage (1939-41) is one of two buildings on the campus of Jarvis Christian College that survive from the institution's early years. The 1-story, red brick Ranch Style house is located on the southern edge of the campus, just north of Highway 80 East in Hawkins, Texas. It features a low-pitched, gabled roof with composition shingles. The primary (west) entrance is sheltered by a front-gabled porch. On the southwest corner of the building is a screened porch that was enclosed with siding to create a living space. Despite this change and the removal of the chimneys, the Florence Robinson Cottage is in good condition and retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The Florence Robinson Cottage is at the southwest corner of Washington Place and Emma B. Smith Blvd. near the main entrance of Jarvis Christian College, among oak and pine trees. A parking lot is to the east of the building. The 1-story red brick ranch house faces west, and lacks decorative detailing. The building features a cross-gabled, composition-shingled roof and an asymmetrical plan.

The primary (west) elevation features two projecting gable ends, with the left gable projecting further than the one on the right. Each gable features horizontal siding (originally the siding on the right gable was laid on the vertical). The entrance to the house is under the left gable, which features a trio of 6/6 windows and a small inset porch on the left. To the left of the entrance is a single small 1/1 window. The projecting gable to the right features a pair of 6/6 windows on the east side and a small 1/1 window on the gable end. The southwest corner of the building, formerly a screened porch, has been enclosed with wood siding.

The south elevation features a central door flanked by paired 6/6 windows, and wood siding. The east elevation features three sets of paired 6/6 windows, with a wrapped screened porch at the northeast corner featuring a non-original aluminum door. The north elevation features a paneled door and small 1/1 window. A gable end projects several feet toward the north, with a pair of 6/6 windows on the east side, and a single 6/6 window on the north.

The cottage retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The interior contains eight rooms -- six bedrooms, a kitchenette, and a lounge area in the formerly screened porch. Although the building has been modified with the enclosure of the screened porch and the removal of three chimneys, it retains its original dimensions, doors and all of the original windows. With the exception of the aluminum screen rear door and the addition of wood siding that encloses the screened porch, the primary
materials - brick and wood siding - are intact. The cottage, surrounded by several educational and auxiliary buildings, still conveys it's education-related function on this campus. Although no longer used as a resident for the sitting president, the Florence Robinson Cottage continues its legacy as a place for visitors and alumni that come to the campus.
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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Education; Ethnic Heritage/Black

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1939-1950

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1939-1941

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-13).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-14).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

  _ 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:

  X State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
  _ Other state agency
  _ Federal agency
  _ Local government
  _ University
  X Other -- Specify Repository: Jarvis Christian College Library
The Florence Robinson Cottage (now the Alumni Heritage House) is located on the campus of Jarvis Christian College, a historically Black college in Hawkins, Texas. The Ranch Style house was constructed in 1939-1941 during the administration of Peter Clarence Washington, the second president of the college. The cottage is one of two extant pre-WWII buildings on campus. It retains a high degree of integrity and is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history of Jarvis Christian College in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black, both at the local level of significance.

History of Jarvis Christian College

The Christian Women's Board of Missions of the Disciples of Christ founded Jarvis Christian Institute (later Jarvis Christian College) in 1912, making it the eleventh church-funded institution of higher education for African Americans in Texas (see chart below). Jarvis was one of five schools patterned after the Southern Christian Institute by the Disciples of Christ.\textsuperscript{1} The school held its first formal classes in January 1913 with twelve elementary-level students.

\begin{table}
\begin{tabular}{ll}
1. Paul Quinn & 1872 \\
2. Wiley & 1873 \\
3. Tillotson & 1877 \\
4. Bishop & 1881 \\
5. Guadalupe & 1884 \\
6. Mary Allen & 1886 \\
7. Texas & 1894 \\
8. St. Philip's & 1898 \\
9. Samuel Huston & 1900 \\
10. Butler & 1905 \\
11. Jarvis Christian College & 1912 \\
\end{tabular}
\end{table}

Source: Private Black Colleges in Texas, 1865-1954

In 1904, the Negro Disciples of Christ, spearheaded by Mrs. Mary Alphin, State Organizer, in conjunction with the Christian Women's Board of Missions, began to plan for a school for Black youth. Financial goals were set and the Negro Disciples of Christ in Texas were to raise $1000 for a school. The

\textsuperscript{1}Michael R. Heintze, Private Black Colleges in Texas: 1865-195, (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1985), 39.
Christian Women’s Board of Missions agreed to contribute $10,000 if this were done. Meanwhile, Miss Virginia Hearne, Texas State Secretary for Women’s Work, convinced Mrs. Ida Van Zandt Jarvis of the need for improved education for Black youth. In turn, Mrs. Jarvis persuaded her husband, Major James Jones Jarvis, a prominent Fort Worth attorney and former state legislator, to donate land upon which a school could be built. Major Jarvis was considered a distinguished and influential landowner of that day, and one of the guiding forces in the establishment of Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

In 1910, Major and Mrs. Jarvis deeded 456 acres of land near Hawkins to the Christian Women’s Board of Missions on the condition that the board “...keep up and maintain a school for the elevation and education of the Negro race...in which school there shall be efficient religious and industrial training.” Ida Van Zandt’s family was, above all, deeply religious and she enjoyed retelling the fact that as a child she took great pride in sitting on the back row at church in pews reserved for Negroes. Mrs. Jarvis’ interest in the school never lagg in the years that followed, and although she never interfered with the operations of the school, she used whatever personal influence she had to insure that necessary personnel and materials were available to the institution.

Shortly after the Jarvis donated the land, the Negro Disciples of Christ in Texas completed a fundraising campaign, largely through the efforts of the women in the various churches. The $1,000 collected by the churches was augmented with $10,000 by the Christian Women’s Board of Missions. In 1912 construction began, led by Southern Christian Institute graduates Thomas Buchanan Frost (who served as the first superintendent) and Charles Albert Berry (the first principal), and with help from the school's potential students. A small group accepted the monumental challenge of clearing the swampland and erecting the buildings before instruction could begin. Children assisted with the construction for the buildings, bridges, and barns of the campus, as barter and labor were the major resources available to the students and their families to help pay the costs of an education. Many students earned their way through Jarvis doing a variety of on-campus maintenance, farm work, and other daily campus operational tasks.

In 1914, James Nelson Ervin came from Johnson City, Tennessee, to become the first president of the college, serving in that capacity until his death in 1938. In 1914 the school began teaching high school courses, and until 1937 it served as the only accredited high school for Blacks in the area. This is especially significant because even as late as the 1932-33 school year, Wood County had no public facility offering accredited
secondary education. Although fragmented records indicate that some college-level work was offered as early as 1916, the school began regularly offering junior college courses in 1927 and was incorporated as a college the following year. Senior college courses were offered beginning in 1937. Guest speakers on campus during the early years of growth included both noted scientist George Washington Carver and the son of eminent Black leader Booker T. Washington.

In 1938, Peter Clarence Washington came from East St. Louis, Illinois, to serve as the second president of the college. During that year, high school courses were completely eliminated from the college curriculum. In 1939 the State of Texas granted a charter to the college, which reads: “the College proposes to offer... practical, domestic, manual and agricultural training, as well as high grade instruction in the arts and sciences.” President Washington sponsored projects to encourage Black participation in World War II. In 1943, the Jarvis Student Voice advised Blacks to maintain the fighting traditions begun by Blacks who had participated in the Revolutionary War and later conflicts including the Spanish-American War and World War I.

In 1949, Dr. John Bunyan Eubanks assumed administration duties as executive vice president. Eubanks is credited with the introduction of a general education program and innovations that hastened recognition of Jarvis Christian College by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in 1950 through inclusion on its “Approved List of Colleges and Universities for Negro Youth” -- the only regional accreditation available at that time for Black colleges in the South. Jarvis Christian College’s statement of purpose explained its goal to “produce men and women especially trained for leadership not only in the industrial world but in the professional world as well.” Historian Michael Heintze has noted that the college’s founders “wanted to provide classical and, in some cases, vocational training that would enable their men and women to be useful, productive citizens... (J)ust as religion without education was an empty shell, education without religion would impart only information without conscience.”

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3 Ibid. 42-43.
Campus Development

The poor physical conditions of the college's facilities were typical of Black institutions during the early 20th century. The first Jarvis students were instructed in the remains of an old logging camp, and later in a cabin which served as the school's first multipurpose building. Other Black colleges of the time had similar humble beginnings. Paul Quinn college conducted classes in the Metropolitan AME Church in Austin; St. Philip's in the rectory of St. Philip's Episcopal Church; Samuel Huston in the basement of a partially finished building. 4

To aid in the construction of the college's early buildings, the Executive Committee of the National Women's Board voted to appropriate money in the amount of $1,000 dollars for a sawmill that was purchased and installed in May of 1915. 5 The logs were sliced into slabs, planed and finished for use in the construction. Summer work for male students in the 1920's and 1940's included cutting of wood to fire the furnaces and wood stoves used around campus. Piles of wood were stacked in strategic places for use during the winter months. Student labor was also used for building bridges across ravines, ditches, and gullies in the lowlands of the campus, in order to make accessible different parts of the land for agricultural purposes. 6

Most of the buildings on campus throughout the period of significance (1912-1949) were constructed of wood harvested from the surrounding countryside. These buildings were, in most cases, 2-story, multi-purpose facilities. Unfortunately, their wood construction made them susceptible to fire: many of the major facilities constructed in the first two decades of the institution were destroyed by fire by the mid-1930s (see chart below). After the destruction of the male residence hall (Texas Hall No. 2) by fire in 1935, the college resolved to construct more substantial buildings, beginning with Woolery Court, ten cottages with cement floors which served as dormitories for the male students. These buildings, completed in 1936, were spaced far enough apart to prevent widespread fires. 7 The college erected two other buildings in 1936 -- the James Nelson Ervin Dining

4 Michael R. Heintze, Private Black Colleges in Texas, 1865-1954, (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1985), 44.
5 Venita Corney Waddleton, Unroll the Scroll: A Pictorial History of Jarvis Christian College, 1988, 12.
6 Ibid. 13.
7 Ibid. 36.
The Florence Robinson Cottage

Construction of the Florence Robinson Cottage began in 1939 and was completed in 1941. Like many of the buildings on campus, the cottage was constructed by the students and alumni. It first served as the residence of President Peter C. Washington, and at the close of his administration in 1949, the building became the “guest house.” The cottage was later named for Florence Robinson, a former teacher and donor of $10,000 dollars for repair of the building in 1976.

The Jarvis Christian campus had lost many of its historic buildings by the 1940s. Several had been lost to fire, others were sold and moved, while others were razed to make way for new construction. The Emma B. Smith Administration Building is the only other extant campus building constructed in the 1930s. The college undertook another major construction effort in the 1970s. By 1976, the cottage itself had fallen into a state of

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8 Ibid. 70.
disrepair. As a result, all chimneys were removed, and the screen porch was enclosed, and in 1978, the cottage was rededicated. Today, it is used solely to accommodate returning alumni, visitors and friends who visit the campus.9

The Florence Robinson Cottage is one of two buildings on campus that survive from the construction initiative undertaken before World War II. Despite some minor alterations, the building retains integrity of location, materials, craftsmanship, design, feeling and association, as well as its original plan, and is readily recognizable to the period of significance 1939-1950. As the building represents one of the few physical vestiges of the college’s early history, it is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black, at the local level of significance, for its historic association with Black higher education in east Texas.

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Florence Robinson Cottage, c. 1941
Florence Robinson Cottage
Hawkins, Wood County, Texas

Bibliography

Bynum, E.B. *These Carried The Torch; Pioneers of Christian Education in Texas.* (Dallas: Walter F. Clark Company), 1946.


Redcay, Edward E. *County Training Schools and Public Secondary Education For Negroes in the South.* (Westport, Conn.: Negro Universities Press), 1935.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than an acre

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The building is located on the southwest corner of Washington Place and Emma B. Smith Blvd. The building’s northwest corner is 250 feet from the southwest corner of the Emma B. Smith Administration Building. Property associated with the building extends west to Washington Place, north to Emma B. Smith Blvd., east to the edge of the adjacent parking lot, and 60 feet south from the south elevation of the building to a line drawn between, and perpendicular to, Emma B. Smith Blvd. and the eastern boundary.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: Nomination includes all property historically associated with the building. No lot or blocks numbers exist for this property.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from THC Historian Karen Riles)

NAME/TITLE: Gregg Barnes, Institutional Advancement

ORGANIZATION: Jarvis Christian College

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 1470

CITY OR TOWN: Hawkins

STATE: TX

DATE: February 7, 2000

TELEPHONE: 903/769-4842

ZIP CODE: 75765

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-15)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-16)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Jarvis Christian College

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 1470

CITY OR TOWN: Hawkins

STATE: TX

TELEPHONE: 903/769-4842

ZIP CODE: 75765
Florence Robinson Cottage
Hawkins, Wood County, Texas

Source: Jarvis Christian College
Florence Robinson Cottage
Jarvis Christian College Campus
Highway 80 East
Hawkins, Wood County, Texas

Photographed by Charles Peveto, July 1997
Negatives on file at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin, Texas.

Northwest Oblique
Camera facing southeast
Photo 1 of 2

North Elevation
Camera facing south
Photo 2 of 2
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME:
Robinson, Florence, Cottage

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Wood

DATE RECEIVED: 4/06/00    DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/19/00
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/05/00    DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/21/00
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 00000453

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 5/5/00

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA____________________

REVIEWER____________________    DISCIpline____________________

TELEPHONE____________________    DATE____________________

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
ROBINSON, FLORENCE, COTTAGE
HIGHWAY 80 EAST
HAWKINS, WOOD CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 2
ROBINSON, FLORENCE, COTTAGE
HIGHWAY 80 EAST
HAWKINS, WOOD CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 2