

ADDENDUM

71A-021

**Bowie State University
13900 Jericho Park Road
Bowie, Prince George's County
Rosemary F. Prola
The Ottery Group
March 18, 2009**

Section 7. Description

Bowie State University (71A-021) has been documented in a Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties form in May 1983 and September 1996; this addendum updates historical information and records current conditions.

SUMMARY

Bowie State University is located on a 295-acre tract in suburban Prince George's County. The campus is surrounded by woods, and campus buildings are largely not visible from Maryland Route 197. A short section of brick wall flanks either side of the entrance on the north side of Maryland Route 197. A short distance from the entrance, Jericho Park Road runs east and west. From Jericho Park Road, Loop Road runs north, encompassing the campus. Most of the buildings are located in the center of the campus, separated from Loop Road by parking lots. The MARC (Maryland Area Regional Commuter) train station and associated parking area are located in the southwest corner of the campus.

DESCRIPTION

There are 24 campus buildings, nine of which were constructed between 1916 and 1960.¹ Three of the buildings – Theodore R. McKeldin Gymnasium (1957), Lucretia Kennard Residence Hall (1957), Dwight Holmes Residence Hall (1951) -- are located on Holmes Plaza, in the northern section of the campus. Just to the northwest is the Harriet Tubman Residence Hall (1921; altered 1938). Charlotte Robinson Hall (1960), the former Laboratory Building, is located on Jericho Park Road at the south end of campus. To the east of Robinson Hall is the Goodloe Apartments (1954), also known as Staff House II. The Central Heating Plant (1952) is located on the northwest, on the west side of Loop Road. On the opposite side of campus from the heating plant (southeast) is the Maintenance Building (1954). A ninth building, Goodloe House, a dwelling constructed in 1916 by the first principal of the Maryland Normal and Industrial School, Don S.S. Goodloe, is located northwest of the campus on the south side of Maryland Route 197. The Tubman Residence Hall and Goodloe House were documented on individual inventory forms and are not documented in this addendum. Goodloe House (PG: 71A-30)

¹ For the majority of buildings, the construction dates are those provided by Michael Harris, facilities director at Bowie State University. [Michael Harris, electronic correspondence, 7 October 2008] The only exception is the construction date for the Maintenance Building (originally the Garage and Shop) which is taken from the Tipton dissertation supported by information in the Board of Public Works files, both cited in Significance section. Harris' date for the building is that of a later addition.

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was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The seven undocumented buildings are recorded in this addendum.

The **Theodore R. McKeldin Gymnasium (1957)** is a large, two-story building. The building is clad with brick laid in American bond. On the south elevation of the hipped roof main block there is a one-story projecting block with a flat roof and a recessed central portico. Four square columns of limestone support a wide limestone frieze that extends around the façade and the east and west elevations of the block. On the north elevation of the main block, there is a low-pitched, two-story, gambrel-roof block. A low, one-story, flat-roof block on the north elevation of the gambrel-roof block extends east and west and south, connecting it to the main block and projecting beyond the main block's east and west elevations. A limestone string course set above paired and triple clerestory windows extends along all facades of the one story block. The hip and gambrel roof blocks have wide cornices and slightly overhanging eaves. Most of the windows appear to be original; the entry doors on the south elevation are modern replacements.

The **Dwight Holmes Residence Hall (1951)** is located directly across from McKeldin Gymnasium on Holmes Plaza. Holmes Hall faces north and consists of an 11-bay, three story central block flanked on the east and west by two-bay, two-story wings. The central block has a side-gable roof and the wings have hip roofs. The roofs have a wide cornice. The building is clad with brick laid in American bond. There are brick chimneys with corbelled caps on the east and west elevations of the main block. In the center of the north elevation is a portico that stands on a raised brick deck. The portico has four wood columns supporting a wood entablature. The entry door has a classical surround and is topped by a triangular pediment. Flanking the door are singular multi-paned windows set above raised panels. Inset into the brick below the second story windows are raised wood panels. The front entry door and the one-over-one windows are modern vinyl replacements. On the south (rear) there are arched roof ventilators, four on the main block and one on each wing.

The **Lucretia Kennard Residence Hall (1957)** is located northwest of Holmes Hall on Holmes Plaza. Kennard Hall appears to have originally faced Holmes Plaza, but the central entry door on the east elevation has been removed. Primary access now is through an entry on the west elevation. Kennard is a five-part, two-story building, with a central block flanked by hyphens and wings. The building is clad with brick laid in American bond. The building has a raised foundation and features a projecting water table, and a string course above the first floor windows. The side-gable roof of the seven-bay central block and one-bay hyphens and the hip roofs of the three-bay wings have a wide cornice. The roof is covered with slate tiles. There are gable dormers on the east and west slopes

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of the gable roof of the main block, and arched ventilators on the three slopes of the hipped roofs of the wings. The windows have arched brick lintels and concrete sills. On the first floor, the windows are six-over-nine; on the second floor and in the dormers, six-over-six. The entry on the west elevation is covered with a front gable roof supported at the front by columns. The entry landing and stairs are of brick. On the east elevation, which was originally the "front" of the building, there is an entry door in the center bay of each wing. The half-light doors have a classical surround of flanking pilasters supporting an entablature and topped by a multi-paned transom. The entries are accessed by uncovered brick porches with concrete steps and wrought iron railing. In the center bay of the main block a classically detailed cornice, entablature, and window trim remain to mark the original entry.

The **Goodloe Apartments (1954)** is a two-story brick building located in the south corner of the Bowie State campus facing Jericho Park Road. The building is surrounded on the east, west, and north by trees, and set back from the road by an asphalt parking area and a grassy lot. The three-bay central block is flanked by two one-bay wings on the east and on the west. The central block and wings have side-gable roofs with a narrow cornice. An interior end brick chimney pierces the southern slope of the main block near the ridge. Sheltering the entrance is a front-gable roof with classical detail supported on the south by single columns forming a modest portico. The wood windows on the façade are three-part units, with an eight-over-eight section flanked by four-over-four sections. The windows have stretcher lintels and header sills. On the east and west elevation of each of the four wings the windows are six-over-six wood sashes. In the center of each elevation are entry doors sheltered by front gable roofs with classical detail supported by columns that stand on a concrete porch deck simulating a portico. There are ventilators in the peak of the gable in each wing, with two ventilators in the peak of the main block gable.

Charlotte Robinson Hall (1960) is a long, low, two-story brick building built into a hill southeast of the campus entrance on Jericho Park Road. Robinson Hall is screened from the road by woods. In front of the building are two small parking lots located on a landscaped parking circle. The building faces west, and only one story of the building is visible on the west façade. The edge of the flat roof projects beyond a portion of the façade on the east and west, and entrances on both elevations are sheltered by flat roofs. Most of the windows appear to be original casements. On the east elevation, the window frames extend from the first to second floor with the area between the floors clad with cement-like panels. West of the building, near the road, is a Bowie State University sign that appears to have been constructed at the same time as Robinson Hall.

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The **Central Heating Plant (1952)** is located on the north side of the campus just west of Loop Road. The block-like two-story structure is clad with brick laid in American bond and has large, tall windows on the south and east elevations. Beneath the windows in the left and right bays on the east elevation are tall roll-up doors to allow equipment access. On the west elevation there are a number of windows centrally located on the façade along with a number of window openings that have been covered. A fading whitewash covers the west elevation. Without having access to the building, the structure's flat roof appears to have a parapet. On the west elevation there is a one-story, one-bay addition clad like the main block and with a flat roof. The windows and entry doors are modern replacements with the exception of a door in the southern corner of the west elevation and the equipment doors on the east elevation.

The **Maintenance Building (1954)** is located on the south side of campus west of the intersection of Loop Road and Campus Drive. The brick building's form reflects at least three periods of construction. On the west is a one-story, seven-bay garage with a flat roof. On the south is a long, one-story block that combines garage, storage, and office space and has a gable roof. East of the garage and north of the combination building and attached to both is a modern building block consisting of a one-story, shed-roof office space with a two-story flat roof section on the south.

The campus possesses a low level of integrity due to changes in the setting resulting from the construction of parking lots and additional facilities (12 buildings since 1960), and the demolition of two historic buildings (President's Residence and Staff House I). Holmes Plaza and its associated buildings possesses a moderate to high level of integrity, retaining original design, workmanship, materials, location, setting, feeling, and association.

The Dwight Holmes Residence Hall, Theodore R. McKeldin Gymnasium, Goodloe Apartments, and Charlotte Robinson Hall possess a moderate to high level of integrity, retaining original design, workmanship, materials, setting, location, feeling, and association. Kennard Residence Hall, possesses a moderate to low level of integrity due to removal of original design elements and reorientation of façade. Further research is necessary to determine the original design of the two remaining buildings, the Boiler Plant and Maintenance Building, to evaluate their eligibility and integrity.

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Section 8. Significance

SUMMARY

The period from 1935 to 1960 was a significant building period in the institutional history of Bowie State University. In the 25-year span, the programs and facilities of Bowie State University were largely shaped by actions of the state and federal government in an era of dramatic social and political change.² Since 1960, twelve buildings have been constructed on the campus, as well as several large parking lots, while two historic buildings, the President's Residence and Staff House I, were demolished.

In 1935, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Commission on Higher Education of Negroes in response to court challenges to the government-supported segregation of Maryland's public colleges and professional schools. In addition to administering a scholarship fund for African-American students to attend out-of-state institutions to receive equivalent education, the commission was asked to study and survey higher education needs of African-Americans and make recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly no later than January 15, 1937.³ In addition to citing the inability of scholarship support to supply African-American students with an education equivalent to that provided by white institutions, the Commission noted the dramatic differences in funding for white and African-American institutions, including the discrepancy in support for construction and maintenance of facilities (\$10 million to white schools and \$421,000 for African-American schools).⁴

² Highlights of the history of Bowie State University are included in Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) forms completed in 1983 and 1996. In these forms, the discussion focuses on the early years of the institution's history, beginning with the establishment of the Baltimore Normal School in 1866 and continuing through the first three decades after the school's relocation to rural Bowie in 1908. The two forms record different founding dates. The date of 1866 is from Martha S. Putney, "The Baltimore Normal School for the Education of Colored Teachers: Its Founders and Its Founding," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, Vol. 73, No. 2, 1976. In providing additional historical information on the institution's history from 1935 to 1960, this addendum seeks to support the significance of campus buildings constructed during this period.

³ Elizabeth Howse Tipton, *A Descriptive Analysis of Selected Forces and Events Which Influenced the Founding, Growth, and Development of Bowie State College from 1869 to 1975*, Ph.D. dissertation, The George Washington University, 1976, 63. Microfilm, Hornbake Library, University of Maryland, College Park

⁴ Conclusions of the "Report on Commission of Higher Education of Negroes" summarized in Tipton, *A Descriptive Analysis*, 64-66

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In 1935, Leonidas S. James, president of the Maryland Normal School at Bowie, requested \$27,500 from the Board of Public Works to build an addition to the women's dormitory and to replace the school's sewage disposal plant. James noted that a federal grant could cover 45 percent of the projected \$47,000 construction cost if the state would cover the rest.⁵ The request was considered but the board was unable to provide money because of lack of funds, McCusker responded a month later. He suggested applying to the Works Progress Administration for federal assistance.⁶ Two years later, the Board of Public Works authorized the filing of an application with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) for construction work to include not only expansion of the women's dormitory and the new sewer system but also the expansion of dining room kitchen and cafeteria, additional men's dormitory space, and the addition of an academic wing to the administration building.⁷ The project was funded later that year with a combined appropriation of \$297,545 from the state legislature and the WPA.⁸ The state's portion may have amounted to \$162,000.⁹ The work was completed in 1938.

In 1937, the Maryland General Assembly approved a bill that replaced the institution's two-year normal school curriculum in elementary education with a four-year college program. The act also renamed the school the "Maryland State Teachers College at Bowie."¹⁰ Enrollment in fall 1940 totaled 150 compared with 100 enrolled in 1935.¹¹ The college awarded its first Bachelor of Science degrees (14) in June 1941; the following year, 41 B.S. degrees were awarded.¹² Despite this progress, a \$7,000 shortfall in student fees from lower than expected enrollment in fall 1941 caused the college president to request additional funds to raise teacher's salaries.¹³ The college's facilities also received attention. In 1942, Thomas G. Pullen Jr., state superintendent of schools, asked the Board

⁵ 2 July 1935 letter from Leonidas S. James to Joseph O. McCusker, Secretary of the Board of Public Works, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State Teachers College, 1934-1949, Vertical File, Maryland State Archives. In subsequent footnotes, the location of the Public Works files is implicit.

⁶ 15 August 1935 letter from McCusker to James, Board of Public Works General File, 1934-1949

⁷ Resolution, 27 July 1935, Maryland Board of Public Works, Board of Public Works General File, 1934-1949

⁸ Tipton, 67

⁹ 15 September 1937 letter from William S. Gordy Jr., state comptroller, to Dr. Albert Cook, state superintendent of schools, regarding General Bond issue of 1937. An appropriation of \$162,000 is included for construction of a sewage system at Bowie Normal School. Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State Teachers College, 1934-1949

¹⁰ Tipton, 67

¹¹ Ibid., 251

¹² Ibid., 67

¹³ 25 September 1941 letter from Leonidas S. James to the Board of Public Works. The Board responded 17 November 1941 that there was no source for the additional money. Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State Teachers College, 1934-1949

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of Public Works to approve a request for bids to repair and alter the old dining hall for use as a gym.¹⁴

In 1947, the state Board of Education created a committee to make recommendations for the development of the State Teacher's College at Bowie. Tipton offers two reasons for the re-evaluation of the institution: first, "with the war emergency over, there was no longer a reason for delaying needed construction;" and, second, "the junior high school movement begun in 1910 had reached Maryland," and the state needed to train teachers for these schools.¹⁵ The recommendations begin with a general statement on the college:

State Teachers College at Bowie is well located to serve both as a teacher training institution for elementary and high school teachers and also as a demonstration center for many cultural activities for the Negro race...Present plant facilities are kept in excellent condition and there is ample evidence that they are maximally and efficiently used.¹⁶

Regarding the physical plant, the committee noted the inadequacy of many campus buildings. In its recommendations, the committee cited the need for new dormitory space to house projected enrollment; for an auditorium with a seating capacity of 900-1000; for a new gymnasium to replace the present physical education building (the converted dining hall) 'as soon as possible;' for a new President's Home, and housing for faculty and staff ('a major problem'); and for a new Demonstration School, 'Such school of the most modern type...'¹⁷

The state soon began to remedy the deficiencies of the Bowie campus called out in the committee's report. A letter from the state superintendent of schools to the Board of Public Works asks the board to authorize the construction of a new president's home "not to exceed the cost of \$25,000 and in conformity with the general architecture of the College buildings and the future plans of over-all building of the institution."¹⁸ The

¹⁴ 27 June 1942 letter from Thomas G. Pullen Jr., state superintendent of schools, to the Board of Public Works. Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State Teachers College, 1934-49. The board's response is not contained in the file.

¹⁵ Tipton, 89

¹⁶ Recommendations from the *Eighty-First Annual Report* of the State Board of Education, 1947, excerpted in Tipton, 90

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ 6 April 1948 letter from Thomas G. Pullen Jr. to the Board of Public Works, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State Teachers College, 1934-1949. Pullen notes that "One of the chief difficulties at Bowie is lack of housing for the institution. There are no decent living accommodations within several miles."

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record shows that in August 1949, Colwill Construction Company was awarded a contract in the amount of \$32,881 for construction of the President's Residence.¹⁹ [The residence, which stood north of the college entrance, was demolished between 2004 and 2007.] In 1949, Turpin, Wachter and Associates were hired to develop plans and specifications for the Boiler Plant [presently known as Central Heating Plant], and Ross & Walton, an architecture firm located in Hyattsville, was hired to design a new men's dormitory.²⁰ [The dormitory was later named Holmes Residence Hall.] In 1950, construction contracts were awarded to Joseph F. Hughes and Company in the amount of \$228,546 for the men's dormitory; and Blair and Sons in the amount of \$52,396 for faculty housing.²¹ The following year, a contract was awarded to Norair Corporation in the amount of \$343,250 for construction of the Boiler Plant.²² In 1951, the college's curriculum was expanded to include training for junior high school teachers.²³

In 1953, Maryland Governor Theodore R. McKeldin appointed a commission to survey the state's needs in the area of higher education. During the two years that the commission was studying the issue, the U.S. Supreme Court considered five cases challenging the separate but equal doctrine in public education and delivered its decision: that segregation in public education was unconstitutional. By the time the state higher education survey was concluded, the Supreme Court had issued its decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. On June 22, 1955, the State Board of Education and the Board of Trustees of the State Teachers Colleges of Maryland issued a resolution abolishing segregation by race at all state teachers colleges Maryland.²⁴ The commission's survey report does not directly address the issue, but concludes a chapter on its philosophy of higher education with the statement:

This commission records its unanimous conviction that the interests of the State are well served when educational opportunity, public or private, is

¹⁹ 18 August 1949 letter from Board of Public Works to Bowie State Teacher's College, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State Teachers College, 1934-1949

²⁰ 31 May 1949 letters from the Board of Public Works to John B. Funk, chief engineer, Department of Public Improvements. Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State Teachers College, 1934-1949

²¹ 22 June 1950 letters from the Board of Public Works to Bowie State Teachers College, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State College, 1948-1961. The building, known as Staff House I, was located just north of the college entrance, and appears on a November 27, 1950 blueprint of campus electric service with the label "under construction." Staff House I was demolished at the same time as the President's Residence.

²² 11 July 1951 letter from the Board of Public Works to Thomas G. Pullen Jr., Board of Public works General File, Bowie State College, 1948-1961

²³ Tipton, 95

²⁴ Tipton, 102

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offered to every youth of our state, limited only by the ability and desire of the individual to make good use of the opportunity and by the ability of the community to maintain it. No question before the State is deserving of more earnest consideration, or more in need of generous sympathy and magnanimous support.²⁵

Survey data covers all of the public and private institutions of higher education in the state including the five Maryland State Teachers Colleges (MSTC): Bowie, Coppin, Frostburg, Salisbury, and Towson. Fall 1952 enrollment at Bowie (323) ranks the school third among MSTC institutions, behind Towson (836) and Frostburg (366).²⁶ Of the four colleges providing student housing (Coppin was a commuter institution), the report states that only Salisbury has “adequate dormitory facilities” equal to its enrollment in June 1953. Bowie is judged to have adequate accommodations for 240 students of the 348 enrolled.²⁷

One of the Commission’s findings was that Maryland had “a qualified teacher deficit” caused by several factors. The first was the state’s high rate of population growth. Between 1940 and 1950, the state’s population had increased 28.6 percent. Growth was expected to continue over the next two decades. The deficit was also caused by state regulations that mandated a student-teacher ratio of 30:1. Also contributing to the problem was the disproportionate number of “emergency certified” teachers created to fill teaching positions, and normal teacher turnover. The Commission forecast that over the next six years, as many as 2,874 new teachers would be needed annually.²⁸ This number was more than three times the total number of teachers annually produced by the state’s colleges.²⁹

The Commission also considered the impact of increasing population on state college enrollments. The report explains that separate data is presented for whites and African Americans, noting that the state of Maryland is in a “transition period when [it] is abandoning its former policy of racially segregated schools.”³⁰ Based on population data gathered by the Commission, the report projects that enrollment of Maryland residents in Maryland colleges will double between 1954 and 1969, increasing from 13,100 to 27,903

²⁵ McKeldin Commission on Higher Education, Thomas G. Pullen Jr., chairman. *The Needs of Higher Education in Maryland*, 1955, 14

²⁶ McKeldin Commission, *The Needs of Higher Education*, 51

²⁷ *Ibid.*, 30

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 75

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 76

³⁰ *Ibid.*, 77

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students.³¹ The Commission concludes that existing institutional facilities will not be able to accommodate the increase. The first in its series of recommendations is that “all institutions in the State study and review requirements in light of the changing character of the high school population and that they consider expanding their facilities as far as possible, consistent with their basic policies and aims...”³²

During this period, when the future of American education at all levels was being decided, improvements to facilities at Bowie State continued. In February 1954, the Board of Public Works approved the appointment of Cyril H. Hebrank and Associates of Baltimore to design a new gymnasium at Bowie.³³ [Theodore R. McKeldin Gymnasium] Landscape architect Martin Funnell of Baltimore was hired to plan “the layout and grading of the gym and campus.”³⁴ Four months later, the firm of Malone and Williams was hired to design a residence hall for women, a duplicate of the one designed by the same firm for the Maryland State Teachers College at Salisbury.³⁵ With Board of Public Works action one week later, Capitol Construction Company was awarded the contract for construction of a garage and shop building at a cost of \$19,800.³⁶ The Board of Public Works rejected initial bids for construction of the women’s residence hall in November 1954, and sought to issue a bid to combine the construction of the dormitory with the gym’s construction.³⁷ The construction contract for the gym was awarded to William F. Sutter in February 1955, with the option of accepting a combined bid if additional money was approved during the current legislation session.³⁸ The additional funds were authorized, and in May 1955, Sutter was awarded a contract in the amount of \$601,316 for the construction of both buildings.³⁹

³¹ Ibid., 87

³² Ibid., 99

³³ 15 February 1954 letter from the Board of Public Works to Thomas G. Pullen Jr., Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State College, 1948-1961

³⁴ 10 September 1954 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen authorizing partial payment of Funnell invoice, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State College, 1948-1961

³⁵ 1 June 1954 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General file, Bowie State College, 1948-1961. The garage and shop form the core of the Maintenance Building located on the south side of campus.

³⁶ 30 June 1954 letter, Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State College, 1948-1961

³⁷ 1 November 1954 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State College, 1948-1961

³⁸ 14 February 1955 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General File, Bowie State College, 1948-1961

³⁹ 13 May 1955 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General Files, 1948-1961

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With construction under way on the gymnasium and women's residence [Kennard Residence Hall], attention was directed in the next two years to other campus improvements. In early 1956, Martin Funnell was retained for a three-phase campus development project.⁴⁰ In August 1956, architect J. Prentiss Brown was hired to develop preliminary plans for the library; his contract was extended in 1957 to cover all phases of the project.⁴¹ The library, named Pullen Library, was constructed in 1959. Pullen Library was partially demolished for the construction of the Wiseman Student Center in 1981. In 1957, Cyril H. Hebrank and Associates was hired to design the Laboratory School.⁴² No records were found that identified the builder of the Laboratory School, although the total cost was \$508,728.79.⁴³

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The seven buildings on the Bowie State University campus constructed between 1938 and 1960 are significant for their association with the history of education for African Americans in the state. During this period, the institution progressed from a two-year normal school to a four-year teachers college awarding the Bachelor of Science degree. Improvements to the campus supported the college's expanded academic program and helped create an environment for further progress in the coming decade. Five of the seven buildings documented in this addendum, the Dwight Holmes Residence Hall, Lucretia Kennard Residence Hall, Theodore R. McKeldin Gymnasium, Goodloe Apartments, and Charlotte Robinson Hall are significant individual resources in the history of Bowie and Prince George's County. In addition to the buildings' Historic and Cultural Significance, the buildings also possess Architectural and Design Significance as representative examples of academic buildings constructed in their respective eras, with Holmes, Kennard, and Goodloe in the Colonial Revival style, McKeldin in a adaptation of the Colonial Revival Style for a specific function, and Robinson Hall as the first building in the International Style.

Holmes Plaza, within the Bowie State University campus is significant in and of itself. The three buildings on the plaza – McKeldin Gymnasium, Dwight Holmes Hall, and Lucretia Kennard Hall – were constructed during a five-year period when the state was

⁴⁰ 2 March 1956 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General Files, 1948-1961

⁴¹ 23 August 1956 letter; 6 June 1957 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General Files, 1948-1961

⁴² 23 August 1956 letter from Board of Public Works to Pullen, Board of Public Works General File, 1948-1961

⁴³ Tipton, 198

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attempting to place the facilities of the institution on a par with white institutions in the state.

The campus of Bowie State University is significant as the location of the first postsecondary school for-African Americans in the state, the campus illustrates the county heritage themes of education, social history, and black history. Construction dates of the 24 buildings on Bowie State University property span the years 1916 to 2007, with seven buildings on campus remodeled or constructed between 1938 and 1960, a time of dramatic developments in the history of the institution and in state higher education. The campus is also significant for its association with the late William Henry, president of Bowie State from 1942-1967. Henry oversaw the transformation of Bowie State from a two-year teachers college to a four-year liberal arts institution and the campus from five to 15 buildings.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ Henry obituary, The Washington Post, 27 January 1996