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# A Report to the Mississippi State Legislature

Special Legislative Committee (Columbia Training School)

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Miss Schools

State Representative  
John L. Kennedy  
P. O. Box 368  
University, Mississippi

A REPORT

To The

MISSISSIPPI STATE LEGISLATURE

By The

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE  
(COLUMBIA TRAINING SCHOOL)

JANUARY, 1958  
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

To  
His Excellency the Governor of the State of Mississippi  
And  
The Members of the Mississippi Legislature

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the 1957 Extraordinary Session of the Mississippi Legislature there was created under Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 106 a Special Legislative Committee to inspect and study the condition of the buildings and equipment at the Columbia Training School, Columbia, Mississippi, and to make recommendations to the next Regular Legislative Session.

This Committee, composed of Representative Paul Measell, Chairman, Senator R. D. Everitt, Vice-Chairman, Senator Kelly J. Hammond, Secretary, Senator Anos Strickland, Representative Herman Kennedy, Representative Almon Graham, and Representative Lovie Gore, made a thorough investigation of the physical condition and state of repair of all the buildings and equipment at this institution, and an inspection tour of the land and acreage, and submit herewith our report.

On December 16, 1957, the members of your Committee, together with Lieutenant Governor Carroll Gartin, representing the State Building Commission at the request of the Governor, Representative Phillip Singley of Marion County, Mr. James Lee, Architect, Mr. William Minor of the Times Picayune, and Mr. Phil Stroup of the Jackson Daily News,

made the first inspection tour of Columbia Training School. The following buildings were inspected: Administration Building, School Building, Woodworking Shop, Shoe Shop, Rouse Cottage, Franklin Cottage, Eason Hall, Laundry, Mechanic Shop, Dairy Barn, Pavilion, White's Cottage, Columbia Cottage, and the Syrup Mill. It was found that all of the above buildings were in need of repairs. The land and timber was also inspected and recommendations for the surplus land and timber are made a part of this report.

Your Committee met on several occasions with the members of the Board of Trustees of Columbia Training School, Mr. Lewis Rowzee, Superintendent of the Institution, Mr. H. W. Stephenson, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. E. Y. Yelverton, Director, State Building Commission, and Mr. James Lee, Architect, seeking the advice and counsel of the above named persons in determining the state of repair of all buildings at the Institution and the advisability of repairing these buildings, together with estimates as to the cost of such repairs, or the advisability of constructing new buildings, and the comparative cost thereof, and the following recommendations are made by your Committee:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT, including 100 single beds, 150 innerspring mattresses, 150 sets of good heavy steel springs, 150 steel dressers, chairs, and other necessary equipment for all dormitories..... \$ 31,000.00
2. EASON HALL, place in a state of repair to make it adequate (Eason Hall to be equipped to take care of full capacity)..... 17,170.00

|     |  |             |
|-----|--|-------------|
| 3.  | WHITE COTTAGE, repair building removing kitchen<br>and carport.....  | \$12,409.00 |
| 4.  | JACOBS COTTAGE, repairs to building.....   | 14,035.00   |
| 5.  | COULTER COTTAGE, repairs to building.....  | 250.00      |
| 6.  | VOCATIONAL BUILDINGS, repairs and equipment.....   | 5,735.00    |
| 7.  | ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, repairs to building.....  | 4,000.00    |
| 8.  | SUPERINTENDENT'S HOME, repairs to building.....  | 4,975.00    |
| 9.  | EMPLOYEE'S HOMES (seven), repair and re-roof where<br>necessary.....   | 5,770.00    |
| 10. | CHAPLAIN'S HOME, construction of.....  | 7,500.00    |
| 11. | PAVILION, new roof, painting and varnishing.....   | 1,200.00    |
| 12. | MECHANIC SHOP, repairs and equipment.....  | 5,000.00    |
| 13. | SYRUP MILL, new top.....   | 250.00      |
| 14. | DAIRY BARN, repair and re-roof.....  | 1,220.00    |
| 15. | CATTLE BARN, re-roof.....  | 1,160.00    |
| 16. | CHICKEN HOUSES, repair and re-roof.....  | 250.00      |
| 17. | FENCING FOR FARM.....  | 2,000.00    |
| 18. | SCHOOL BUILDING WITH CAFETERIA (equipped),<br>Construct new building.....  | 265,000.00  |
| 19. | BOYS' DORMITORY, construct new building.....   | 120,084.00  |
| 20. | It is recommended that the cottages of ROUSE,<br>FRANKLIN, and MARION be demolished and replaced at<br>the earliest date practicable and feasible, but this<br>is not to be done until adequate housing facilities<br>have been made available at the places now being used,<br>with the exception of Marion Cottage, which is to be<br>demolished at the earliest date practicable with good<br>management. |             |

- 21. COLUMBIA COTTAGE, hold for emergency, and as soon as feasible demolish this building, but not to spend any money on it at this time.
- 22. BUNK HOUSES (two), demolish and use materials for repair work on the farm.

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TOTAL: - - - - - \$499,008.00

It is also recommended that the State Highway Department re-surface the roads at the Columbia Training School.

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SURPLUS LAND

It is recommended that the land at the Columbia Training School not be sold for any purpose, but all surplus agricultural land be placed under the supervision of the Forestry Commission under the T. S. I. Program.

It is the thinking of your Committee that after careful and deliberate consideration and investigation, it is the Committee's recommendation that lands not being used for agricultural purposes at this Institution be dedicated to a program of reforestation under the management and supervision of the State Forestry Commission. It is further recommended that the Act created authorizing the Building Commission to sell lands not being used heretofore for agricultural purposes be amended or repealed and that the Forestry Commission be requested to make an immediate survey of said lands not now being used by said Institution for the purpose of determining the feasibility of cutting certain timbers on said land under their proper management and supervision, and for the purpose of re-seeding and re-planting of pine trees on said land.

EXPENSES

AMOUNT OF APPROPRIATION (S. B. #1518) - - - - - \$750.00

EXPENDITURES, to January 7, 1957:

|               |                             |          |        |
|---------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|
| Voucher No. 1 | - Paul Measell.....         | \$ 91.82 |        |
| " "           | 2 - C. A. Graham.....       | 87.29    |        |
| " "           | 3 - Herman E. Kennedy.....  | 102.99   |        |
| " "           | 4 - R. D. Everitt.....      | 86.40    |        |
| " "           | 5 - Anos Strickland.....    | 87.00    |        |
| " "           | 6 - Kelly J. Hammond.....   | 60.00    |        |
| " "           | 7 - Mrs. Lovie Gore.....    | 97.61    |        |
| " "           | 8 - R. D. Everitt.....      | 9.55     |        |
| " "           | 9 - Anos Strickland.....    | 9.13     |        |
| " "           | 10 - Herman E. Kennedy..... | 7.89     |        |
| " "           | 11 - Kelly J. Hammond.....  | 7.95     |        |
| " "           | 12 - C. A. Graham.....      | 4.10     |        |
| " "           | 13 - Paul Measell.....      | 8.05     |        |
|               |                             | <hr/>    |        |
|               |                             | \$659.78 | 659.78 |

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UNEXPENDED BALANCE .....\$ 90.22

C O N C L U S I O N

This Committee desires to express its appreciation to Governor J. P. Coleman, Lieutenant Governor Carroll Gartin, Speaker Walter Sillers, Members of the Mississippi Legislature, Members of the Board of Trustees of Columbia Training School, the State Building Commission, Superintendent Lewis W. Rowzee and the members of his Staff at Columbia Training School, and Members of the Mississippi Press for the interest they have evidenced in helping your Committee to arrive at the recommendations in this report.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL MEASELL, Chairman

R. D. EVERITT, Vice-Chairman

KELLY J. HAMMOND, Secretary

AMOS STRICKLAND

HERMAN E. KENNEDY

C. ALMAN GRAHAM

LOVIE GORE