

1178

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Boswell School

other name/site number: Boswell Baptist Church

2. Location

street & number: End of County Road 196

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Boswell

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Izard

code: AR 065

zip code: 72516

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A Byrd
Signature of certifying official

7-16-92
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X 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): _____

M. J. Miller 9/18/92

for Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Education

Sub: School

Current : Religion

Sub: Religious Facility

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt
walls Stone other _____
Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1934

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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Summary

The Boswell School is a single story, fieldstone masonry classroom structure designed in classical WPA Plain Traditional style. It is rectangular in plan with a large gable roof, central front porch on the western facade. The main gable roof is covered with slate, the walls are constructed of fieldstone detailed with grapevine mortar and a continuous stone foundation supports the structure.

Elaboration

The Boswell School is a single story, fieldstone masonry classroom structure designed in classic WPA Plain/Traditional style. It is rectangular in plan with a large, central gable roof front porch on the western facade. The main gable roof is covered with slate, the walls are constructed of fieldstone detailed with grapevine mortar and a continuous stone foundation supports the structure. The building stands on a hilltop overlooking the little town of Boswell. A view from the building displays the White River Valley, composed of Izard and Stone counties, and features steep mountains with limestone bluffs, river bottom fields, and the Union Pacific Railroad track.

The western or front elevation features a large projecting gable roof entry porch ornamented with columns on piers. The gable end of the roof is stuccoed and detailed with wide board banding and a wooden louver vent. There are two entry doors with transom windows located to the sides of the porch. Symmetrically placed, double-hung, nine-over-nine pane windows and two stationary six pane windows complete the fenestration.

The eastern elevation is divided into two large window bays. One bay features six nine-over-nine, double-hung windows. The other bay features five nine-over-nine, double-hung windows. The extreme south end of the elevation features two six-over-six, double-hung windows which provide light to the stage area.

The southern and northern elevations are without detail.

The only interior changes of the structure were made in 1950 after the Boswell School District No. 66 was consolidated with the Calico Rock School District No. 50. The students from the Boswell area were bused to the Calico Rock campus for grades 1 - 12, and the Boswell building became a church facility. The red cloth curtains across the stage were removed and replaced with a partition of paneling to form a classroom. Another partition was fashioned across the opposite end of the sanctuary to create a classroom/fellowship hall. The ceiling in the sanctuary was covered with sheetrock and painted when the original plaster walls were repainted. A raised, six inch platform of pine was constructed in the front of the

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National Park Service**

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sanctuary to provide a pulpit/choir loft area. The school cloakroom was remodeled to be a small kitchen by the addition of a cabinet. The original "blackboard" remains in the classroom. The original pine ceilings remain in four rooms, and the original pine flooring remains also. Electricity was installed in the building in the early 1950's.

No out buildings exist today.

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Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Boswell School is nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best surviving example in both the community of Boswell and Izard County of a school building constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the fieldstone-faced, Plain Traditional style that became the signature style for buildings erected by this organization throughout the Ozark Mountain region in Arkansas.

Elaboration

The small town of Boswell, Arkansas is located on the western line of Izard County near the Missouri Pacific Railroad and on the north side of the White River. In its history, it has had three names: Wideman, Cook, and Boswell. The very first settlement known as Wideman was located on Wideman Creek about four miles from the present town of Boswell. The Wideman school, which pioneer settlers erected early, served a large area as both an educational and social center. This settlement spread quickly, however, all the way down the creek to White River as other people came to live in the territory.

Approval was made in the year of 1905 for a United States Post Office for the little village, but since there was already an existing post office named Wideman in Izard County, the name Cook was selected as there were numerous residents in the area having that name. After the railroad was built and a depot station established, the trainmen and railroad officials referred to the station as Wideman. Later the station was referred to as Boswell since the station agent's name was Robert Boswell. Shipments of freight were tagged for Boswell, but it was necessary that all statements and bills be addressed to the post office of Cook, which resulted in much confusion. Thus, in 1927, the name of the post office was officially changed to Boswell.

Many changes for Boswell came with the building of the railroad during the years of 1901 -1906. Firstly, it provided employment for the natives which helped them pay for homestead lands, build better homes and purchase food for families and livestock. Secondly, the railroad was a source of transportation, not only for people but also for freight and livestock. Better roads were built leading to Melbourne as merchants received much of their freight via railway at Boswell and hauled it by wagon to Melbourne. By the 1930's, the economy of the area was based upon farming, livestock production, and the railroad industry.

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent advent of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) brought a new school to the Boswell area in 1934. The WPA -- an organization

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that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); others included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Among its various other projects, the WPA constructed or repaired a number of rural school buildings throughout the state, and the Boswell School was erected as part of this statewide effort.

When the Boswell School District consolidated in the 1950's, area students were transported into the Calico Rock School District (today the Boswell School building is owned and used by the Boswell Baptist Church). Railroad passenger service was discontinued in 1960, though there is still a small post office in service. Boswell, like many Izard County towns, experienced growth and now, sadly, decline; the population has dwindled to a very small number.

The Boswell School stands as an excellent example of the low, fieldstone-faced school building that has become directly associated with the Works Progress Administration and its construction projects in the Ozark Mountain region of the state.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X 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 -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>585120</u>	<u>3988640</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point approximately 20 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the school, proceed east to a point approximately 20 feet southeast of the southeast corner of the school. Then proceed north to a point approximately 20 feet northeast of the northeast corner of the school. Then proceed west to a point due north of the point of beginning. Then proceed south to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Shannon, Karr, *History of Izard County*, (Melbourne, Arkansas; 1927).

Independence County Chronicle, July, 1970.

Interview with Mrs. Lora Cooper Ross; July, 1991.

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Barbara Lindsey-Allen, Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/29/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS
ARKANSAS

Date Listed

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
92001115	Aggie Hall	9/4/92
92001113	Aggie Workshop	9/4/92
92001098	Agriculture Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001125	Alco School	9/4/92
92001203	Bergman High School	9/10/92
92001214	Berryville Agriculture Building	9/10/92
92001215	Berryville Gymnasium	9/10/92
92001178	Boswell School Substantive Review	9/4/92
92001112	Bruno School Building	9/4/92
92001128	Buford School Building Substantive Review	9/4/92
92001099	Business Administration Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001194	Cafeteria Building--Cleveland School	9/10/92
92001200	Calico Rock Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001213	Caraway Hall--Arkansas Tech University	9/10/92
92001217	Cedarville School Building	9/10/92
92001206	Center Valley Well House	9/10/92
92001100	Chemistry Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001101	Chi Omega Greek Theatre--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001202	Clarksville High School Building No. 1	9/10/92
92001123	Coal Gap School	9/4/92
92001122	Damascus Gymnasium	9/4/92
92001118	Dodson Memorial Building	9/4/92
92001121	Durham School	9/4/92
92001192	Enterprise School	9/10/92
92001110	Eros School Building	9/4/92
92001205	Everton School	9/10/92
92001116	Fairview School Building	9/4/92
92001120	Fishback School	9/4/92
92001212	Girls' Domestic Science and Arts Building--Arkansas Tech University Substantive Review	9/4/92
92001196	Guy High School Gymnasium	9/10/92
92001197	Guy Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001114	Hirst--Mathew Hall	9/4/92
92001102	Home Economics Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001210	Hughes Hall--Arkansas Tech University Substantive Review	9/4/92
92001106	Jamestown School	9/4/92

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 92001178

Date Listed: 9/18/92

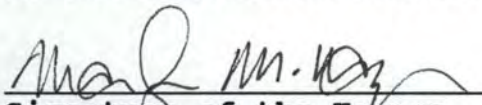
Boswell School
Property Name

Izard
County

ARKANSAS
State

Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

10/23/92
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to add Criteria Consideration A, since the building is presently being used as a church.

This change was confirmed by phone with the Arkansas SHPO (10/23/92).

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Boswell School
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Izard

DATE RECEIVED: 8/05/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/21/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/06/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/19/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001178

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/18/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Significant, largely intact, example of WPA
public school building in tiny town of
Boswell.

Registration requirements of MPS have been
met.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/C
REVIEWER Harper
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 9/18/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

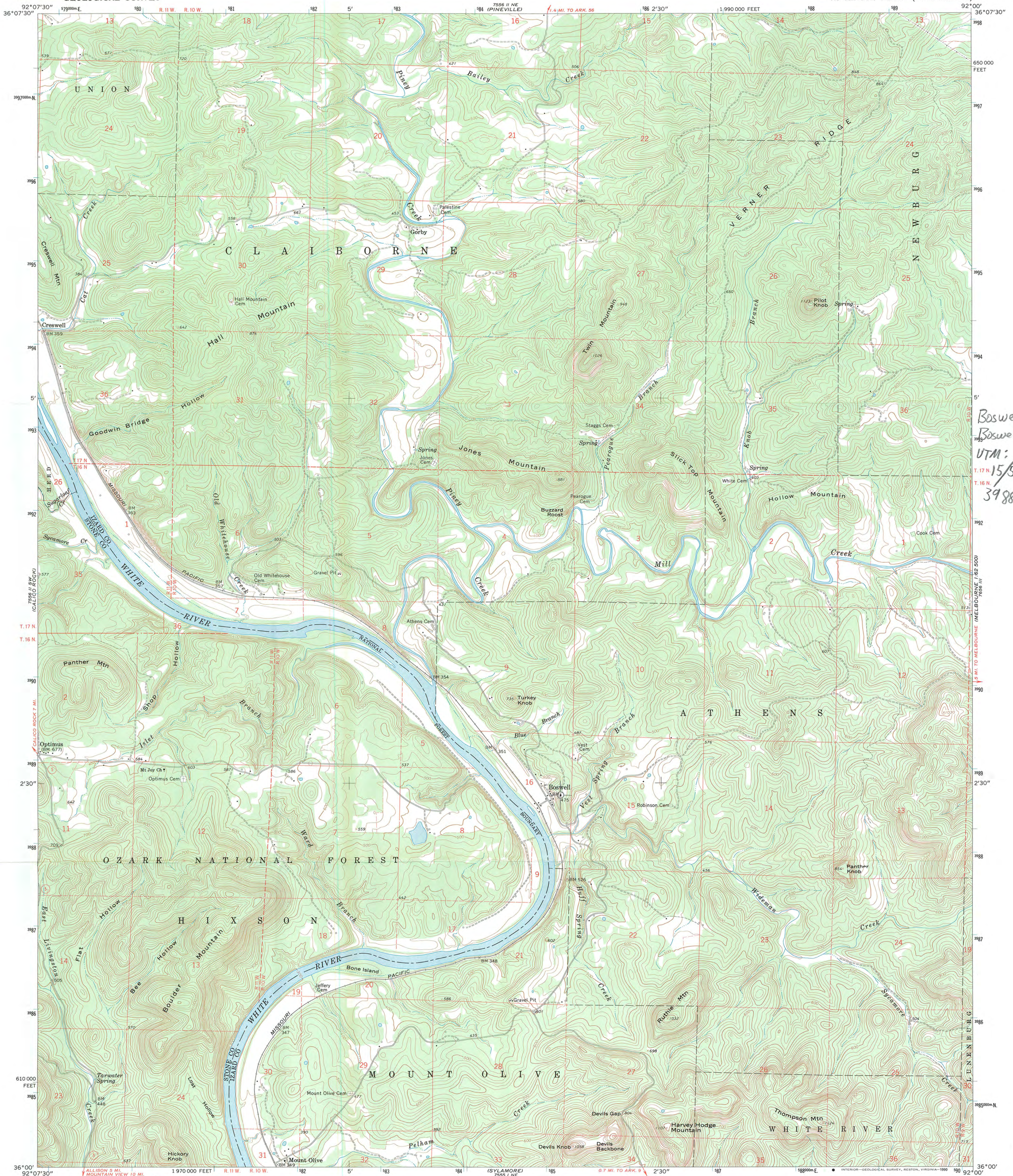
Signed Date



Boswell School
Izard Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Todd Ferguson
July 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the west.

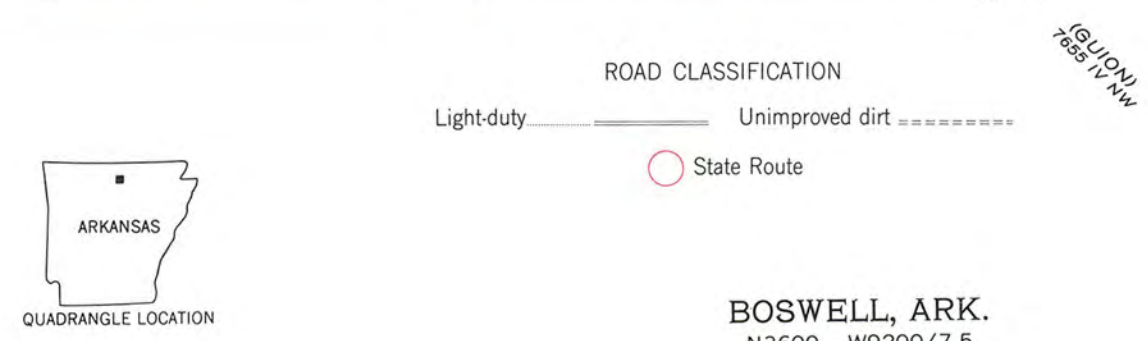
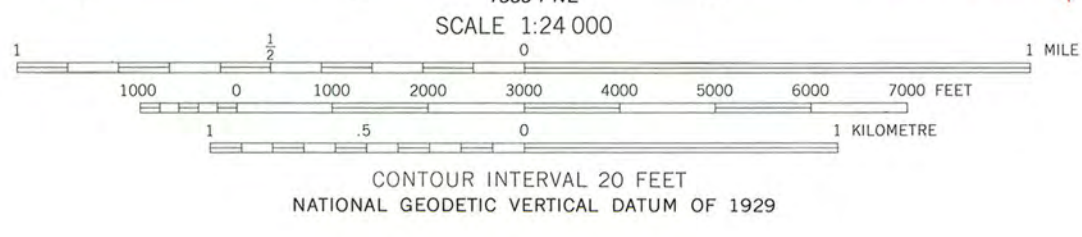
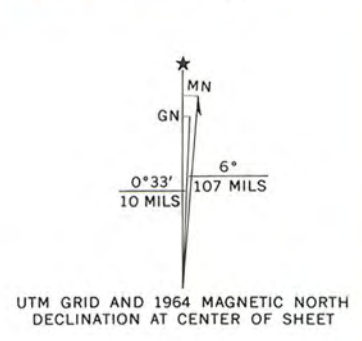


Boswell School
Izard Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Todd Ferguson
July 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the east



Boswell School
Boswell, Arkansas
UTM:
T. 17 N. 15/585120/
3988640

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Map photosinspected 1980
No major culture or drainage changes observed



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

BOSWELL, ARK.
N3600—W9200/7.5
1964
PHOTOINSPECTED 1980
AMS 7556 II SE—SERIES V884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

RECEIVED
AUG 6 - 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

July 16, 1992

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Boswell School
Izard County, AR

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

