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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

DEC 22 1987

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Walnut Grove School
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Walnut Grove Road
city, town Caneyville (1 & 1/2 miles west of Caneyville, KY)
state Kentucky code 021 county Grayson code 085 zip code 42721

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private (checked)
Category of Property: building(s) (checked)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects. Total 1.
Name of related multiple property listing:
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

4. 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 (checked) does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: David C. Meyer
Date: 12-15-87
State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Kentucky

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:
entered in the National Register. (checked)
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)
Signature of the Keeper: Patricia Andrews
Date of Action: 2/2/88

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/School

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Museum/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Limestone (piers)

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Metal/Steel

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Walnut Grove School is a one-story, one-room, rectangular frame building resting on stone piers. It is located on Walnut Grove Road, an unpaved county road approximately two miles north of the village of Caneyville and fifteen miles west of the Grayson County seat of Leitchfield. Grayson County is located in West Central Kentucky, seventy miles southwest of Louisville. The county which is the easternmost county in the Western Coal Field Cultural Landscape area is characterized by narrow relatively steep ridges and broad flat valleys. In the western part of the county, much of the land is forested. The area has experienced surface mining activity but to a lesser extent than counties to the west. A comprehensive survey of historic properties has been carried out in Grayson County under the supervision of Dr. Albert Petersen of Western Kentucky University's Geography Department. Prior to the survey, six properties had been listed in the National Register from Grayson County including the Green Family Farms Historic District, fifteen miles north of the Walnut Grove School, and the Leitchfield Historic Commercial District in the county seat.

The School is situated on level ground between the Walnut Grove Road and a branch of Jarrett Creek. It is a one-story frame building measuring 30 feet by 24 1/2 feet. The gable end facing the road is divided into two bays with four-over-four windows. A small louvered vent is located in the gable. On the east side are two doors, one for boys and one for girls, each located about five feet from the building's corners. No other window openings are found on this side. The west side contains four symmetrically spaced four-over-four windows while the north side is pierced by one door frame five feet from the right side. The low pitched roof is covered with corrugated metal. A centrally located chimney flue pierces the roof at the mid point of the ridge line. The entire structure sits approximately two feet from the ground on stone piers set at the corners and mid-points of the sides.

The interior of the school is remarkably unaltered. The tongue and grove pine boards provide both the ceiling and wall finishes. The floor is also of pine and near the center of the room is a cast iron stove which is surrounded primarily by iron frame desks which have been in the school since its construction. Walnut Grove School retains a high degree of integrity, having experienced almost no changes in materials and setting since its construction.

The site contains one contributing and no non-contributing structures.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1911-1937

Significant Dates

1911

Cultural Affiliation

N.A.

Significant Person

N.A.

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Walnut Grove School is significant in the early twentieth century educational history of Grayson County. Public education in Grayson County, as in much of rural Kentucky, utilized one-room schools as the basic organizational unit for public education until the 1950s. Beginning in the first decade of the twentieth century, the Grayson County School Board erected approximately 100 one-room schools in the county which served almost 6,000 students at their peak enrollment. These frame one-room schools were replaced with multi-classroom schools in the 1950s. The Walnut Grove School is the best preserved representative of this important phase in the educational history of Grayson County.

Public education developed slowly in Kentucky as in most of the South. Private academics served the children of parents who could afford education for their children. The first school census prepared by the State of Kentucky showed that in 1829 Grayson County had eight schools with 252 students. By 1848, the county had 25 schools which were open for three-to-six month terms. Most of these early community schools were one-room log buildings in which one teacher taught all grades and subjects.

The first school erected in the Walnut Grove community dates from the late 1860s. A log building, measuring 30' x 40', it could accommodate up to 60 students. It also served as a Baptist Church and community center. In 1875 the log school was replaced by a frame structure which was in turn replaced by the current structure in 1911. The 1911 school continued to be used for church services and community meetings into the 1950s. The school closed in 1956 when students were first bussed to a consolidated school in Caneyville, two miles to the southeast. Almost all of Grayson County's frame one-room schools built in the early 20th century have been demolished. The others which survive have been extensively altered in the conversion to residential use. Fortunately, the Walnut Grove School has been preserved. First Warren Payton then Zacher Dutczak and finally Reverend Howard French owned and maintained it during the period from 1957 to 1979 when the building was conveyed to the Grayson County Historical Society which continues to maintain the building as a museum.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"History of Education in Grayson County" by E. E. McMullin.

"Grayson County Schools from Infancy into Adulthood" by Retired Teacher Ura Dermitt, Grayson County Gazette/Bicentennial Issue.

"History of Grayson County" by Duvall Morrison (1956).

"Memories of One-Room Schools" by Retired Teacher Bernice Shartzter, Grayson County Gazette/Bicentennial Issue.

Interviews and Questionnaires obtained from former Walnut Grove Teachers and pupils.

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 3.00

UTM References

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A three-acre parcel of land bounded by the Caneyville and Spring Lick Road in the south and the J. L. Bratcher property to the north and east. The School is located in the southwest corner of the property. Approximately fifteen feet from the Caneyville and Spring Lick Road. The nominated area contains the entire parcel of land which has historically been associated with the Walnut Grove School.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes the three-acre tract which has been used for the Walnut Grove School beginning in the 19th century.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark E. Nevils and Robert M. Polsgrove (Kentucky Heritage Council)
 organization Grayson County Historical Society date September, 1985
 street & number Grayson Springs Inn telephone 502/242-7911; 502/259-3423
 city or town Leitchfield state Kentucky zip code 42754

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 87002516

Date Listed: 2/2/88

Walnut Grove School
Property Name

Grayson
County

KY
State

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.

Patrick Andrus
for Signature of the Keeper

2/2/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The verbal boundary description does not provide a western boundary definition. A check with Bob Polsgrove of KY SHPO on 2/2/88 corrects this oversight. The verbal boundary description is ammended to read: "A three acre parcel of land bounded by the Caneyville and Spring Lick Road in the south and west...".

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)