

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

PH0682811

FOR NPS USE ONLY	AUG 23 1978
RECEIVED	DEC 13 1978
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Portia School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

City Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Portia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE
05

COUNTY

Lawrence

CODE
075**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

 DISTRICT PUBLIC OCCUPIED AGRICULTURE MUSEUM BUILDING(S) PRIVATE UNOCCUPIED COMMERCIAL PARK STRUCTURE BOTH WORK IN PROGRESS EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION****ACCESSIBLE** ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS OBJECT IN PROCESS YES: RESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC BEING CONSIDERED YES: UNRESTRICTED INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION NO MILITARY C.B. Club**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

City of Portia, c/o Riley Millegon, Mayor

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Portia

VICINITY OF

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lawrence County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courtsquare

STATE

CITY, TOWN

Walnut Ridge

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Portia High School is a two story brick structure facing north. The front of the building has five bays with each of the side bays stepping back from the entrance bay. This makes the building almost cross shaped in plan. There is a c. 1920 rectangular addition to the south. The major roof is bracketed and hipped with a cupola in the center. A gabled roof with wooden pediment having full entablature is over the entrance bay. ~~Lentels~~ are stone and diamond-shaped stones decorate the building at the storyline. The entrance has double doors with nine lights. The transom above has been infilled. There are two small eight over one windows on either side of the doors. Above the entrance is a window flanked by side lights having vertical strips dividing the window into triangular shaped lights. ^{Above} the double doors and ^{below} the three part windows (at the storyline) is a stone bearing the date of construction, 1914. Corners are quoined. Windows are eight over one lights.

The interior is original; however, the second floor is in poor condition. The building works off of a central hall on both floors with a stair at the rear. Ceilings are pressed tin.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1914

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1914, the Portia School is an ell-shaped two story, red-brick structure which served as Portia's only school building for over thirty years. The school building is the most impressive example of early twentieth-century architecture in this community of four hundred people, and area residents take great pride in both its appearance and its ties with the history of the town; especially with regard to reknowned Portia political rallies.

The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is currently conducting a statewide survey of historic school buildings , and preliminary investigation indicates approximately fifteen brick Arkansas school buildings contemporary with the Portia School, survive. Of these schools, only three remain in northeast Arkansas, the general location of Portia. In addition to being a locally significant example of architecture, the Portia school appears to be a significant example of early twentieth-century, brick school building construction in Arkansas.

Its significance is further compounded by the fact that the city of Portia plans to rehabilitate the rapidly deteriorating and vacant structure for use as a City Hall and Community Center.

The earliest settlement of Portia occurred shortly after the Civil War and the development of the town was assured in the mid-1880's when the Fort Scott-Kansas City Railroad was routed through the village. In addition to the benefits derived from being a rail center for northern Lawrence County, the economy of the town was sustained by local cotton and melon production. By 1900 the population numbered 400 people, approximately the same as the current figure for the town's population.

The first school built in Portia was a white frame, two-room school, located on the grounds now occupied by the present school building. The "New School," as Portia residents referred to the seven-room, two-story red brick school building, opened for classes in 1915. It served all grades until 1948, when the high school merged with the Black Rock school district and students were bussed to that town, which was several miles west of Portia. Several years after the high school merger, all students in the Portia school were bussed to Black Rock. Today, the building houses the meetings of a local Citizen Band radio club, but otherwise, the structure is vacant. City officials hope to use the school building as a Community Center and City Hall after it is rehabilitated.

The school building exhibits some classical detailing, especially in the pediment over the central bay on the entrance (north) elevation. However, its overall appearance fits more closely into that pattern design that distinguishes many turn-of-the-century Arkansas

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Corey, Reta Goff. A handwritten, untitled ten page history of Portia. On file at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Hough, Willeen, Interview, Little Rock, 5-30-78.

Johnson, J.D., "The Portia School House", an unpublished, typewritten history of the school, 1978. On file at the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

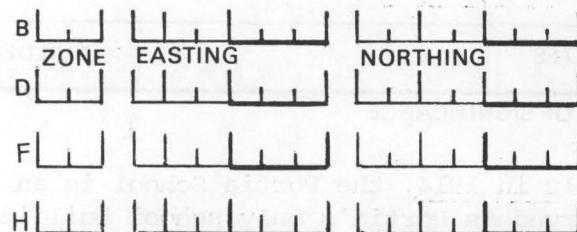
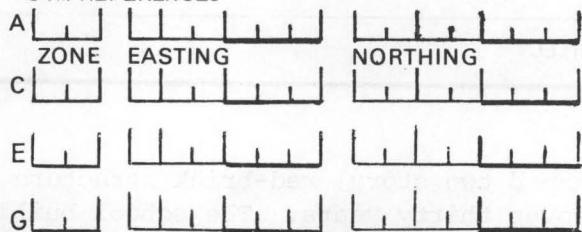
Longitude: 36 05' 05"

Latitude: 91 04' 15"

QUADRANGLE NAME Powhatan, Ark.

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES



VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frezzil Miller and Mike Shinn, Historians June 2, 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

501-371-2763

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Suite 500, Continental Bldg., Main & Markham Streets

STATE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Little Rock,

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

8/2/78 BR

Called back 11/6/78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-13-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-12-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

school buildings; a design type characterized by rectangular, bulky forms that generate at once both an institutional and functional impression. Aside from the pediment, other interesting features of the building are the brick quoining on its corners, the concrete diamonds at the story line between the first and second floors, and the louvered cupola on its roof. The only major alteration to the exterior is a matching addition attached to the school's southeast corner before 1924.

Like the exterior, the interior has been marred by few alterations. The two front school rooms have been slightly modified by the C. B. Club, but these modifications are primarily the product of paint and plywood and are easily reversible. Outstanding interior features include the two wooden stairways, the wooden wainscoting and door and window trim, the pressed tin ceilings and the auditorium on the second floor which retains its original stage and many of the original theatre chairs. Neglect has, however, endangered much of the interior.

While the school building and its immediate lot are the subject of the nomination, the land surrounding the school house is the town park. For a number of years this park has been the site of Arkansas's most famous political rally. Conducted on the Fourth of July during election years, the rally habitually draws the candidates for all of Arkansas major elective positions and crowds often exceed 10,000. The Portia school building is integrally connected with these rallies and as such is something of a landmark in political circles as well as to the citizens of Portia.

Property

Portia School

State

Ark.

Working Number

8.23.78.3927

78000604

TECHNICAL

Photos

6

Maps

1

Date OKBB

CONTROL

pe

8.24.78

HISTORIAN

Idefy

12-5-78

accept

Excellent ~~█~~ assessment of significance of this school to its particular community - in context of education and associative "landmark" qualities. Also good state context. More land could have been submitted, given the political associations discussed.

Building possesses high integrity of design ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
+ reflects architectural characteristics of school building type in early 20th century. As one of a genre throughout state (recently surveyed) it also will yield historical architectural information. Accept. Save 12/11/78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

Significance as described above.
Good nomination

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Idefy for
12-12-78

accept

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

2-6-79

Send-back _____

Entered DEC 13 1978

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



Portia School
Poertia, Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
North elevation from the north
#1

AUG 23 1978

DEC 13 1978



Portia School
Portia, Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
North and east elevations from the
northeast

#2

AUG 23 1978

DEC 13 1978



Portia School
Portia, Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978

East and south elevations from the
southeast

#3

AUG 23 1978

DEC 13 1978



Po rtia School
Poertia, Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978

West and north elevations from the
northwest
#4

AUG 23 1978

DEC 13 1978



Portia School
Portia Arkansas
Mike Shinn
1978

Joinery between the original structure
and the 1920 addition/ west elevation
#5

AUG 23 1978

DEC 13 1978



Portia School
Portia Arkansas

Mike Shinn

1978

Pressed tin ceiling on the first floor

#6

AUG 23 1978

DEC 13 1978

PR 9-5-78

TOWN OF PORTIA

P. O. Box 70

Portia, Arkansas 72457

Portia, Ar.
Sept. 7, 1978

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Murtagh,

Our comments on the Portia School Building in Portia, Arkansas.

This building is owned by the town of Portia, Ark. . It is located in a 10 acre Park owned by the town. It is the oldest building in this vicinity.

Our Park is near the top on the 4th of July for picnic and political speaking and has had 72 annual picnics.

The people in the town of Portia would like very much to have it put in the National Register and for the property to be restored nicely.

Please notice our Mayor is now Dale Freeman.

Sincerely Yours,
Mayor Dale Freeman

Dale Freeman

ENCLOSURES

CITY OF PORTIA, C/O RILEY MILEGON,
MAYOR
CITY HALL
PORTIA, AR.

RE: PORTIA SCHOOL

ATTACHMENT

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

DATE REC'D	SEP 18 1978
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)	
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATIVE ADDITIONAL SITES	
<input type="checkbox"/> TECHNICAL CITE (ATTACHED)	
DATE ACTION TAKEN	SEP 27 1978
INITIALS:	DM

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered DEC 13 1978

Name

Location

Portia School

Portia
Lawrence County

Mississippi County Courthouse

Osceola
Mississippi County

White, W. J., House

Russellville
Pope County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Honorable David Pryor
Honorable Bill Alexander
Honorable John P. Hammerschmidt

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

1522 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Reply to:

Lake Plaza South, Suite 616
44 Union Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80228

November 19, 1980

Mr. John W. Faris
Acting Regional Environmental Officer
Southwestern Regional Office
Economic Development Administration
600 American Bank Tower
221 West 6th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

COPY

AR

Dear Mr. Faris:

The Council is in receipt of your letter, dated November 12, 1980, concerning the proposed rehabilitation of the Portia Schoolhouse, Portia, Arkansas, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Your letter requests the concurrence of the Executive Director for a determination of no adverse effect made by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), provided certain conditions specified by the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer and EDA are met.

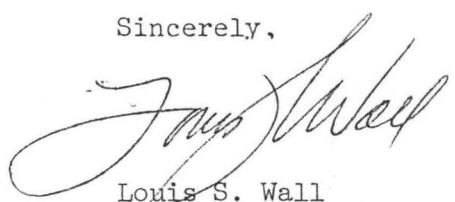
The Executive Director cannot comment on your determination of no adverse effect because the extensive nature of the undertaking and the apparent architectural significance of the school's interior and exterior features require that additional project information be provided to this office. Upon receipt and review of the information requested below, the Executive Director will comment on EDA's finding of no adverse effect. Please provide the Council with the following:

1. Photographs of the building exterior, plus a view of the interior lobby and stairs.
2. A copy of preliminary project plans and specifications.
3. If specifications are not available, please provide information regarding the method selected for cleaning the masonry walls, of effecting repairs to the cupola, and for determining the finish and original character of the interior walls, millwork, doors, etc., as proposed in the project description provided with your letter.

Page 2
Mr. John W. Faris
Portia Schoolhouse
November 19, 1980

Your cooperation in supplying this information is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Louis S. Wall
Chief, Western Division
of Project Review

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Portia School		② OTHER NAMES:		③ date of entry: DEC 13 1978		④ county code: 075
⑤ LOCATION street & number City Park		city / town Portia	vicinity of	state AR	county Lawrence	⑥ NPS REGION: SW
⑦ OWNER <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)						
⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONGRESS. DISTRICT 1st <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOURCE OF NOMINATION <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL if state who prepared form?						
⑩ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME _____ <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑪ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME _____		⑫ AGREEABLE <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑬ LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION
⑭ CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated		⑮ altered <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> excavated <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> unknown		⑯ features: <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7	⑯ features: <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8	⑯ features: <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9
⑯ ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES-Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown		⑰ ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		⑱ SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES	⑲ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
⑳ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10		<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOV'T.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25		⑳ CLAIMS: explain 'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only' <input type="checkbox"/>		㉑ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
㉒ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:		㉓ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:				
㉔ architectural style(s):		㉕ architect:	㉖ master builder:	㉗ engineer:		
㉘ landscape architect / garden designer:		㉙ interior decorator:	㉚ artist:	㉛ artisan:	㉜ builder/contractor:	
㉖ NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL:						
㉗ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP						