

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cedar Grove School #81

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Brockett Community approximately five miles north of Pocahontas,
Arkansas, on Highway 115.

☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Pocahontas

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Randolph code 121 zip code 72455

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/08/03
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ 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:) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

1/21/04
Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

3

0

buildings

0

0

sites

0

0

structures

0

0

objects

3

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940.

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT—NOT IN USE

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets See continuation sheet.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Constructed in 1938, the Cedar Grove School #81 is located on one acre of land along Arkansas Highway 115 approximately five miles north of Pocahontas, Arkansas, in the Brockett Community. The building faces east toward the highway, but is obscured from view by dense vegetation. The one-room school building is covered with weatherboard siding and sits atop a continuous concrete foundation. Located within a few feet of the front of the building is the well house, which also houses the school bell. Located in the extreme northwest corner of the property is a two-booth privy. The building is virtually unaltered.

Elaboration

Cedar Grove School #81 is a Greek Revival influenced building clad in weatherboard siding. The 23' X 41' 2" building sits atop a concrete foundation and is sheltered beneath a gable roof topped with composition shingles. Wood windows are located only in the front and back of the building.

The building faces east and features a centrally located front entryway sheltered beneath a Greek Revival style porch. The building's double-door entryway is crowned by a six-light transom. A small four-pane stationary window is located on the upper portion of the building on both the right and left side of the entryway.

Both the north and south side elevation are void of details. They do both retain original weatherboard siding.

The back of the building faces west and is the location of most of the building's windows. Three ribbons of two double-hung, four-over-four windows provided an abundance of natural lighting for the school. Each window is crowned with a single-light transom. A slightly smaller four-over-four window is located near the north end of the elevation.

The interior of the Cedar Grove building consists of 1" X 6" unpainted center match flooring. The 11' 10" walls consist of 49" beaded wainscoting and 4' battened painted beaverboard. There are four black boards in the classroom. There are two 4' X 8' black boards on the south wall, and two black boards on the east wall—one measures 48" X 58" and the other measures 48" X 34". The ceiling consists of 16" X 32" ceiling tiles. The room is lit by three round-globed lights suspended by chains. An 8' stage (two feet high) is located on the north end of the building. The interior remains virtually unaltered.

Located only a short distance from the front of the building is a small wood-frame structure that served as both well house and bell house. It measures 8' X 8' and is topped with a small cupola that houses the school bell. The small building is a contributing resource.

A 5' X 6' privy is the only other building on the property. The two-booth privy is located at the northwest corner of the property. It is also a contributing resource.

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1949

Significant Dates

1938

1949

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Cedar Grove School #81 is located in the Brockett Community approximately five miles north of Pocahontas, Arkansas, in Randolph County. The building functioned as a one-room school from 1938 until 1949 when the school was consolidated with the Pocahontas School District. The building was built in 1938 after a tornado destroyed the original school building. After mass consolidation of Arkansas schools in 1948, the building was used by the Brockett Home Extension Club, and other groups, as a community meeting place. The Cedar Grove School is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with education in the Brockett Community. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a Greek Revival influenced school building. The nomination is being submitted under the historic context *Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*.

Elaboration

The Cedar Grove School #81 is located in the Brockett Community approximately five miles north of Pocahontas, Arkansas, in Randolph County. By October 7, 1919, ninety-nine school districts had been named and formed in Randolph County. Cedar Grove School District #81 was formed in October 1890 by a division of District #40. R.M. Bigger and Allace, his wife, and G.A. Sago and Lettie Sago, his wife, sold the land to the Directors of School District #81 in 1896.

There were two different buildings functioning as the Cedar Grove School from 1890 until consolidation in 1949. The first continued until a tornado destroyed it on March 30, 1938. Grace Ulmer who attended the school from 1907-1916 remembers the first building as a one-room building with boards for siding and steps coming up to a landing in the front of the building. The interior consisted of boards on the floor, on the walls, and on the ceiling. Mrs. Ulmer appears in a photograph taken in 1916 when she was in the eighth grade. Only a small portion of the building is distinguishable from the photograph, but the building is more visible in a photograph taken in 1906. The original building was plain traditional with a stacked stone foundation. The wallboards appear to have been shiplap boards and the roof covered with wood shakes. According to the *Pocahontas Star Herald*, "The school buildings at Cedar Grove and Davis were destroyed . . ." The present Cedar Grove School building was built in the summer of 1938, however, at this time the builder has not been identified. It served as the Cedar Grove School #81 until November 1948 when citizens of Arkansas passed Initiated Act no. 1, School District Reorganization, which resulted in mass consolidation throughout the State of Arkansas.

The Cedar Grove School consolidated into Pocahontas School District #19. Before consolidation could take place, however, each school district had to file a petition to consolidate the school district, advertise, and conduct a hearing, resulting in passage. Twenty-three patrons signed the Cedar Grove School District #81 Petition to Consolidate. The Petition was filed on December 18, 1948, advertised on 23 and 30 December 1948, the hearing was conducted on 11 Jan. 1949, and the Petition to Consolidate was passed. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Pocahontas School Board (Charles Baker, Lawrence Dalton, A. F. Million, T. H. Mills, and R. P. Sallee) met and voted unanimously to annex the Cedar Grove School into the Pocahontas School District #19. P. E. Buxton was Cedar Grove's last teacher in 1949. According to the 1948-1949 school picture, there were twenty-two students in grades one through eight. The school enumeration records kept by the County School Supervisor listed students from 1933-48, but the class of '49 was not listed. In 1949 the property was annexed into the Pocahontas School District, but in 1950 the property changed oversight again.

The Pocahontas School Board deeded the property, which served as the grounds for Cedar Grove School #81 for forty-nine years, to the Brockett Home Demonstration Club for \$1. The first trustees of the property were Lovelle Spikes, Mrs. Marvin Spikes, and Joe Difani. The deed calls "for the Brockett Home Demonstration Club to be used for community purposes and unto their successors forever . . ." The Brockett Home Demonstration Club was formerly the Pettit Extension Club, according to Ethel Caldwell.

The Pettit Extension Club was organized on September 12, 1935, and Ruth Sago was named first president. During the early years, the club's main projects were on home food production, preservation, and all kinds of homemaking skills, according to Caldwell. Another club project was making mattresses for community residents. Ruth Sago was one of the leaders who canvassed the community signing up customers for rural electricity. The Pettit Club met in homes until the transfer of the Cedar Grove Property in 1950. At an Extension reception in 1989, Mrs. Sago was honored with a fifty-year certificate. Ruth (Skiles) Sago attended school at Cedar Grove and is in the 1906 class photograph.

A number of community activities have taken place in the building and on the grounds after the Brockett Home Extension Club took charge. For several years, the Sago-Ulmer Reunion was held at the Cedar Grove School. In addition, in the 1960s and '70s the Brockett Club hosted several foxhunters meetings. According to Ethel Caldwell, these were long weekend meetings where the club ladies (and men) hosted the Tri-County Fox Hunters Association by serving meals and providing camping area for the hunters.

In 1988 the majority of the Brockett Club members voted to meet in homes, thus ceasing to meet in the community building. A few continued to meet as the Brockett Home Demonstration Club. By 1994 Mrs. Ruth Sago, a life-long member of the community, was placed in the nursing home, and Vallie Smith had died. This left three members—Ruby Cassidy, Patricia Colbert, and Frankie Davidson. They voted to disconnect the electricity because of the expense and the fear that the rodents might have caused damage to the wiring thus creating a danger. The members voted to form the Brockett Community Park & Museum, which was their intension to restore the building to the one-room schoolhouse. The club members approached Gary Buxton, Conway Jarrett, Mike Ulmer, and Cleo Cassidy, Jr. to become trustees of the property. All agreed. As it stands, very little has been accomplished.

The Cedar Grove School #81 serves as a reminder of days gone by when small school buildings dotted the landscape of rural Arkansas. It is hoped that this building can be preserved and used as a teaching tool to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

show today's students how the educational environment has evolved from small local school buildings to the larger centralized schools of the present. Placing the building on the National Register of Historic Places will be a very significant part of the preservation and restoration of the Cedar Grove School.

Statement of Significance

The Cedar Grove School is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with education in the Brockett Community. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a Greek Revival influenced school building. The nomination is being submitted under the historic context *Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Bigger and Sago to School District #81, Special Warranty Deed, Circuit Clerk, Randolph County Court House, Book 86, Page 26.

Bigger and Sago to School District #81, Warranty Deed, Circuit Clerk, Randolph County Court House, Book 40, Page 37.

Caldwell, Ethel. "Fourche EHC," *Randolph County EHC Newsletter*, Feb. 1998.

Cedar Grove School (1906) class photograph, Property of Floy Brooks (daughter to Ruth (Skiles) Sago). The same photograph (property of Dixie Nibert Thompson) appeared in a clipping from the *Pocahontas Star Herald* in 1967.

Cedar Grove School (1948-1949), grades 1-8 class photograph. Property of Gary Buxton.

"Petition to Consolidate School District," To Randolph County Board of Education, Filed 18 December 1948. Dates are hand written for filing, advertising, hearing, and passing.

Pocahontas School Board decision, Carbon copy to Randolph County Board of Education, Meeting held at the Pocahontas High School at 1 P.M. No date.

"Pocahontas School Dist. #19 to Brockett Home Demonstration Club," Special Warranty Deed, Circuit Clerk's Office, Randolph County Court House, Book 86, Page 26, Filed 14 Nov. 1950.

"Proof of Publication," To Randolph County Board of Education, 11 Jan. 1949, Eunice BO'Baugh, Editor *Pocahontas Star Herald*.

"Storm Damages Many Buildings in this County," *Pocahontas Star Herald*, 7 April 1938, Front page.

Stubblefield. *Abstracts of the Formation of School Districts in Randolph County*. This book is the original county record book. It is not known when Mr. Stubblefield began recording all of the school districts in Randolph County.

Ulmer, Grace. Interview by author, tape recording, Stokes, Arkansas, 16 June 2002.

Acreage of Property 1 acre

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>683843</u>	<u>4022590</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

3
Zone Easting Northing☐ See continuation sheet

(One (1) acre of land, described at the northeast corner of south half of northeast quarter of southeast (S1/2 NE1/4 SE1/4) quarter of section thirty four (34), township twenty (20) north range one (1) east, described ed as follows: commencing at the above name corner and running west 634 links; thence south 317 links; thence east 634 links; thence north to place of beginning, being one acre in the southeast corner of north half of northeast quarter of southeast quarter of section 34, township 20, north range 1 east. Being the same tract of land as described in deed of record in Deed Record No. 40, page 39 of the records of Randolph County, R. M. Bigger and wife, G. A. Sago and wife to School District No. 81, May 27, 1896.

The boundary includes all remaining resources historically associated with Cedar Grove School.

name/title Garv Buxton and Zac Cothren

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date Aug. 21, 2003

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center St. telephone (501) 324-9789

city or town	Little Rock	state	AR	zip code	72201
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property. Included with the D. O. E.

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number telephone

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cedar Grove School #81
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Randolph

DATE RECEIVED: 12/10/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/06/04
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/21/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/23/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001452

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1/21/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in the
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



1. Cedar Grove School # 81
2. Randolph Co., AR
3. Zoe Cothren
4. Sept. 2003
5. AHPP
6. East elevation Looking West - School and bell/well house
7. #1



1. Cedar Grove School #81
2. Randolph Co., AR
3. Zac Cothren
4. Sept. 2003
5. AHPP
6. South elevation, Looking north
7. #2



1. Cedar Grove School #81
2. Randolph Co, AR
3. Zec Cothron
4. Sept. 2003
5. AHPP
6. West elevation - looking east.
7. #3



1. Cedar Grove School #81

2. Randolph Co., AR

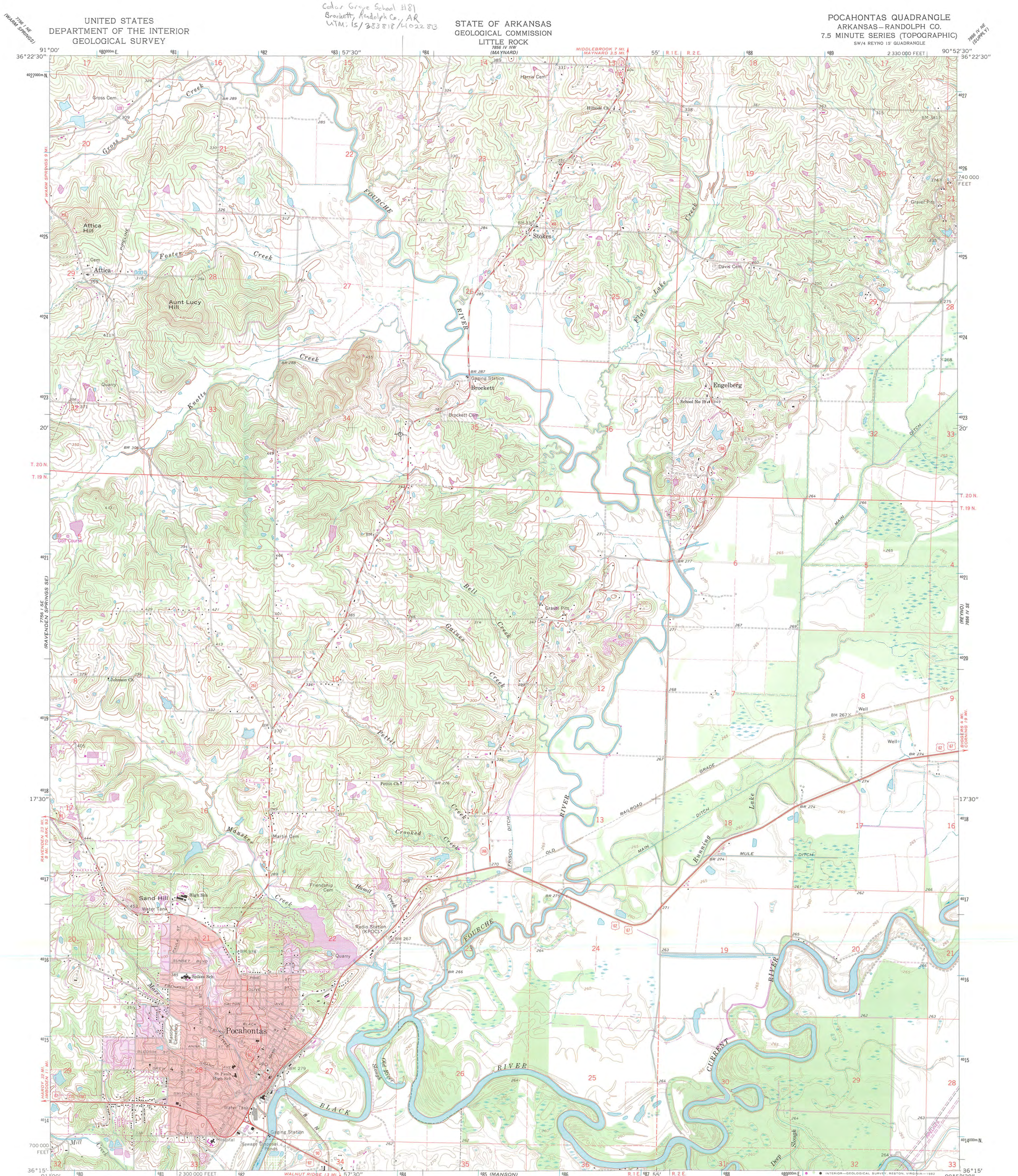
3. Zac Cothren

4. Sept. 2003

5. AHPP

6. Privy. Looking northwest from school -

7. #4



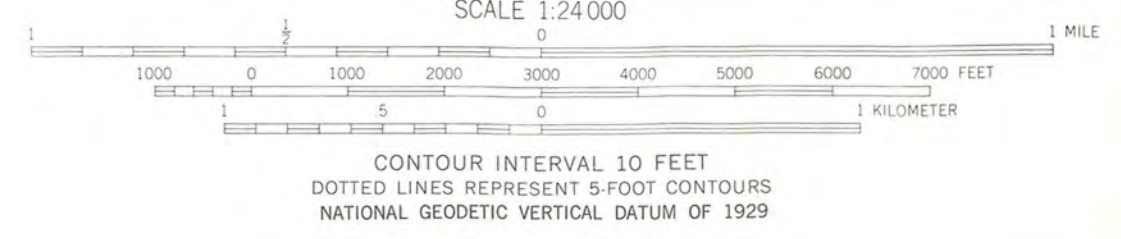
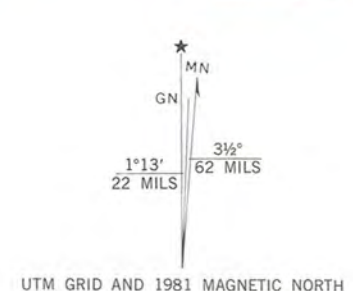
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Cedar Grove School H81
Brockett, Randolph Co., AR
UTM: 15/383818/4022813

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
LITTLE ROCK
(MAYNARD)

POCAHONTAS QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-RANDOLPH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW4 REYNOLDS 15 QUADRANGLE

Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965 and planetair surveys 1966
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 4 meters south and
11 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken
1980. Map edited 1981. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———

POCAHONTAS, ARK.
N3615—W9052.5/7.5
1966
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 7856 IV SW—SERIES V884



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

December 4, 2003

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Cedar Grove School #81- Brockett Community, Randolph
County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

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

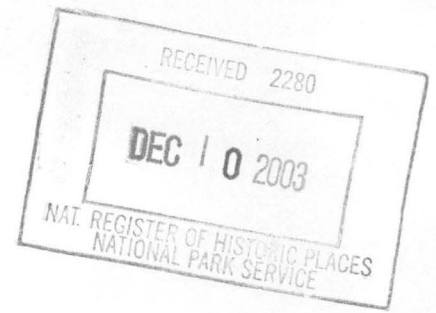
If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:zac

Enclosure



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