

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

received JUL 1 - 1983  
date entered JUL 28 1983

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Mimosa School

and/or common same

**2. Location**

street & number Mimosa Road N/A not for publication

city, town Mimosa N/A vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Lincoln code 103

**3. Classification**

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                           | <b>Status</b>                                       | <b>Present Use</b>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>N/A</u> in process                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government                                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered  | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                                |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military                                  |
|   |  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: <u>community center</u> |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Lincoln County

street & number Lincoln County Courthouse

city, town Fayetteville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37334

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Lincoln County Courthouse

city, town Fayetteville state Tennessee 37334

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Located on the Mimosa Road approximately seven miles northeast of Fayetteville, Tennessee, the Mimosa School is a one-and-a-half-story, rusticated stone and concrete block building. Constructed in 1911, the school is roughly T-shaped in plan with a prominent four-story tower and belfry in the front angle of the building. The large wing which forms the crossbar of the T-shaped plan is one-and-a-half stories high and has a gable roof. The smaller section forming the stem of the T is one story high and has a hip roof. The first story of the school is built of rusticated limestone blocks, and the gable ends and the upper stories of the tower are of rusticated concrete blocks. The building is almost completely unaltered and retains its architectural integrity to a high degree.

The Mimosa School is primarily constructed of long, rectangular limestone blocks with a rusticated face. The remainder of the exterior is composed of rusticated concrete blocks used in the gable ends of the building's largest wing and on the second and third stories of the tower. The one-story belfry which tops the tower has simple wooden corner posts and a pyramidal roof with flared eaves. The fenestration consists of four-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The gable and tower windows have temporarily been covered with fiberglass panels.

Entrance to the interior is through the first story of the tower which forms a small vestibule. The smaller of the two wings consists of a single open space which was used for the primary grades. The first story of the other wing contains a large room which was occupied by the upper grades and a small room behind the stage at one end of the large room. On the upper floor of this wing is another large room. There is a small music room on the second floor of the tower.

The site of the school is relatively flat with no distinguishing landscape features. The only out-building is a small stone privy.

## 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/<br>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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

**Specific dates** 1911 **Builder/Architect** unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mimosa School is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its significance in the educational history of Lincoln County, Tennessee, and for its local architectural importance. Constructed in 1911, the school resulted from the desire of local citizens to improve the educational system in the Mimosa community of Lincoln County and the surrounding area. Architecturally, the building is an outstanding local example of vernacular craftsmanship.

Like many other rural areas of Tennessee in the early 1900's, the community of Mimosa had only a one-room, one-teacher school, which was open only three months a year. Under the impetus of the Conger family, the citizens of the community decided to construct a larger and more comprehensive school using their own labor and materials. Although no document has been found which records the name of the building's architect, it is probable that the design was a combined effort of Charles Conger and two masons, Elisha Brown of Lincoln County and Walter Finney of Moore County. In addition to supplying their own labor in the actual construction of the school, the men of the community quarried and dressed the stone and manned the Sears and Roebuck machine which molded the concrete blocks. The only materials supplied by the county government were the windows, doors, and milled lumber.

As a result of the building of the school, four or five small one-teacher schools were closed within a three to five mile radius, so making the Mimosa School one of the first consolidated schools in Tennessee. Operated as grades one through ten, the public school proved to be so popular that a dormitory was constructed for boarding students and teachers. Improved roads and the automobile eventually reduced the need for the school, and it closed in 1953. Since 1954 the building has been used as the community center for Mimosa.

Architecturally, the school is an outstanding local example of vernacular craftsmanship. Although the building has little formal architectural detailing; its simple proportions and clear expression of materials and function have a definite aesthetic and architectural value.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Conger, John B. and Mary. "Mimosa School." Manuscripts.  
Lincoln County Board of Education. Minutes.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 4.88 acres

Quadrangle name Fayetteville, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 6 | 5       | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 0 | 3        | 8 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is bounded on the east by Mimosa Road and on the south, west, and north by adjoining property lines. The nomination includes only the 4.88 acres historically associated with the school.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mr. and Mrs. John B. Conger, Sr.  
Lloyd Ostby, Coordinator of Field Services

organization N/A  
Tennessee Historical Commission

date March 1983

street & number Route 5, Box 338  
701 Broadway

telephone 615-433-3335  
615-742-6723

city or town Fayetteville  
Nashville

state Tennessee 37334  
Tennessee 37203

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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.

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert E. Hagen

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 6/27/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Entered in the  
National Register

date 7/28/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration