

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MPD 3339

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Oak Hill School House
Other names/site number: Oak Hill Church/Community Building, Site #SE0478
Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic and Architectural Resources of Searcy County, Arkansas
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 151 Little Oak Hill Road (southwest of the Star Mountain Road and Crossing Road intersection)
City or town: Marshall State: Arkansas County: Searcy
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 X A B C D

 <hr/> Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	<u>10-12-18</u> <hr/> Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <hr/> Signature of commenting official:	
<hr/> Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

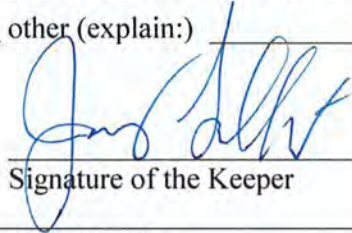
Oak Hill School House
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

1-24-2019
Date of Action

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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Plain-Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Oak Hill School House is a one-story vernacular Plain-Traditional-style structure located in rural Searcy County. The building was built as a one-room school c.1934 and served as the school for the area until the mid-1950s when the school was consolidated with Witts Springs. The building rests on a continuous stone foundation. The building's walls are built of fieldstone and the front-facing gable roof is covered in sheets of corrugated metal. The entrance is located on the north side of the building and the windows are mainly double-hung, six-over-six windows. The site also contains a small retaining wall and a modern shed.

Narrative Description

The Oak Hill School House is a one-story vernacular Plain-Traditional-style structure located in rural Searcy County near the county seat of Marshall. The building is rectangular in plan and was built as a one-room school c.1934. The Oak Hill School House served as the school for the area until the mid-1950s when the school was consolidated with nearby Witts Springs. The building rests on a continuous fieldstone foundation. The building's walls are built of fieldstone and the front-facing gable roof is covered in sheets of corrugated metal. A brick chimney pierces the roof peak near the rear of the building and allowed for a stove to heat the inside of the building. A small gable-roofed porch shelters the building's entrance. The entrance is located

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on the north side of the building and the windows are mainly original double-hung, six-over-six windows although one window has been replaced with a one-over-one, double-hung window.

SCHOOL BUILDING - CONTRIBUTING

Front/North Façade

The front façade of the building is symmetrical in arrangement with a central entrance with two solid-wood doors. The entrance is sheltered by a gable-roofed front porch. The porch is supported at each of its corners by a square concrete column. The front-facing gable of the porch has a hand-painted sign that reads "OAK HILL / CHURCH." The rest of the front façade is devoid of fenestration, and consists of the fieldstone walls.

Side/East Façade

The east façade of the building is fenestrated by two pairs of double-hung windows that were originally six-over-six windows, although the lower sashes have deteriorated some. The east side of the open front porch has a fieldstone knee wall with a cast-concrete cap on it. The exposed rafter tails on the building and on the porch are also visible at the roof's eaves.

Rear/South Façade

The building's rear façade is comprised of a solid fieldstone wall and is devoid of fenestration.

Side/West Façade

The west façade of the building matches the east façade in layout and is fenestrated by two pairs of double-hung windows that were originally six-over-six windows. The southern pair has a replacement window and the other window is missing and only has a storm window. The northern pair has lower sashes that have deteriorated some. The west side of the open front porch has a fieldstone knee wall with a cast-concrete cap on it. The exposed rafter tails on the building and on the porch are also visible at the roof's eaves.

Interior

The interior of the building still retains its original one-room plan. The chimney is visible on the south wall of the interior, and a circular hole near the ceiling allowed a stovepipe to vent into the chimney. The interior currently houses several rows of west-facing church pews and a pulpit along the west wall, which are from the building's recent use as a church. An upright piano is located in the southeast corner.

RETAINING WALL – CONTRIBUTING

The retaining wall is located a short distance to the north of the building and enabled a flat area to be constructed to the north of the front porch. It is constructed of approximately three courses of fieldstones and appears to have been built at the same time as the building.

SHED – NON-CONTRIBUTING

The shed was built in the late-twentieth century and is sided with vertical wood board siding. The front-facing gable building has a central entrance with a metal door on the west side that is

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flanked on each side by a modern, six-over-six, double-hung window. The north and south sides of the building have central modern, six-over-six, double-hung windows while the rear of the building has no fenestration.

Integrity

Overall, the Oak Hill School retains good integrity from the time of its construction in the mid-1930s. The largest changes to the building are the replacement of some of the windows, but the replacement windows retain the size and pane arrangement of the original windows. The interior of the building still retains its one-room plan, a character-defining feature of this type of building. The exterior also retains its original design and materials. The setting around the school also reflects the setting of this part of Searcy County during the 1930s. It is a largely rural area with few buildings and the school is located at the intersection of two gravel county roads.

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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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance
c.1934-c.1955

Significant Dates
c.1934

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

When it was built c.1934, the Oak Hill School House became an important component of the education system for that part of rural Searcy County. The school not only educated students from that area, but also served as a community gathering place. The school remained an important part of the education system in Searcy County until it was consolidated with Witts Springs in the mid-1950s. Due to the school's importance to the educational history of Searcy County, the Oak Hill School House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. Additionally, due to the fact that the building is used for religious purposes, it is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A** as a religious property.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Searcy County was first established on November 5, 1835, and it comprised what is now Marion and Searcy counties along with parts of Boone, Baxter, and Stone counties. It was named after Richard Searcy, a major landowner and circuit court judge. The county was renamed Marion County in September 1836. Searcy County was reestablished on December 13, 1838, with the original temporary county seat being established at James Eagan's residence. However, the county commissioners soon chose a place on Bear Creek, which they named Lebanon, as the county seat, and a post office was established there on March 7, 1840.¹

The area did not grow fast and by 1880 the county only had 7,278 people. By 1890 the county had 9,664 residents. According to *A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region*:

The number in each township is given as follows: Bear Creek (including 278 in Marshall Village,, 2,238; Beaver 387; Calf Creek, 1,350; Campbell 681; Mount Pleasant, 364; Prairie, 448; Red River, 717; Richland, 784; St. Joe, 738; Sulphur Springs, 336; Tomahawk, 674, and Wiley Cove, 947. The postal villages are Bear Creek, Blanco, Campbell, Debie, Duff, Fawn, Ivanhoe, Leslie, Marshall, Point Peter, St. Joe, Snowball, Tomahawk, Watts and Witt's Springs.²

By the 1850s, however, there was a movement in the county to find another location for the county seat, although it is not clear why. As a result, in 1856, John H. Marshall, James W. Gray,

¹ Johnston, James J. "Searcy County." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

² *A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region*. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1894, p. 39.

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and Littleton Baker were elected as county commissioners to find another location for the county seat. A site was chosen on the bench of Devil's Backbone Mountain at Raccoon Springs, and the legislature approved the site on December 31, 1856. The new location was named Burrowsville after Napoleon Bonaparte Burrow, a politician and planter from Crawford County.³

On May 16, 1857, the county spent five dollars to purchase eleven acres from George and Rachel Norman for the new county seat. Burrowsville was constructed around a square which contained a log courthouse. The town also had a two-story log hotel, the McCarn & Thomas mercantile store, and several houses that were scattered around the town. The name of the town was changed to Marshall after the Civil War when Unionists in the county lobbied to rename Burrowsville to honor U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall. The state legislature approved the name change on March 18, 1867.⁴

The geography of the county was such that small community schools were a necessity, especially in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The hilly terrain of the county would have made travel over long distances challenging. As a result, schools like the Oak Hill School were an important part of the early education system of the county.

The current Oak Hill School House is located in a rural area in southwest Searcy County and was built approximately 1934. The land was purchased by the Board for School District No. 64 from S. G. and Mary Stewart on August 31, 1910. Shortly after the purchase of the land by School District No. 64, a wood frame school house was built on the site. The original frame building served as the school for the area's students until it burned in the early 1930s.⁵

The construction of the current building was undertaken by local community men using native stone hand gathered from the area. The School Board made the decision to use rock for the construction of the building due to the fact that it was suspected that arson had been involved in the destruction of the previous frame building.⁶

The first teacher in the new building was Miss Mabel Moore. Miss Mabel rode the Missouri and North Arkansas Train into Marshall from Duff, Arkansas, to be picked up by the School Board President, Omer Benjamin Housley. Ironically, the new school desks to furnish the new school were on the train with her. Unbeknownst to Miss Mabel, Robert Housley, her future husband, met the train. He was driving his 1933 Ford one-ton truck, one of very few trucks in the county. The men loaded the truck down with the new school desks and they took the desks and Mabel to the Oak Hill Community.⁷

³ Johnston, James J. "Marshall." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=986>.

⁴ Johnston, James J. "Marshall." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=986>.

⁵ Housley, Mabel. Interview with Thereisa Housley. c.2005.

⁶ Housley, Mabel. Interview with Thereisa Housley. c.2005.

⁷ Housley, Mabel. Interview with Thereisa Housley. c.2005.

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Mabel Moore was born in Gilbert, Arkansas, on March 26, 1905, with her twin sister Mae, but lived most of her life in Marshall. She came to Oak Hill in the 1930s to teach at the new Oak Hill School House. On December 26, 1956, she married Robery Housley. Interestingly, even though Mabel Moore was teaching by the 1930s, she didn't earn her degree until 1956 when she graduated from Arkansas State Teachers College, now known as the University of Central Arkansas. When she retired, she had taught elementary school in Searcy County for 42 years. She died on April 1, 2005, just a few days after her 100th birthday.⁸

The current building was used as the school building for the Oak Hill community until the mid-1950s when the school consolidated with the Witt Springs School District. After Oak Hill School consolidated with Witt Springs School the school building was deeded back to the community by then Witt Springs School Superintendent, Edgar Loftin on September 15, 1986. Through the years the building has been used for family reunions and church services, and as a general community building, a function that it still serves today.⁹

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

From the time of its completion in c.1934 until the mid-1950s when it consolidated with the school in Witts Springs, the Oak Hill School House was the center of the area's educational system. The fact that it was many miles to the next nearest school over rough terrain meant that the Oak Hill School was where students had to go to get an education in that rural area of Searcy County. The importance of the Oak Hill School was not just limited to the Oak Hill community, but it was important to that whole part of rural Searcy County.

In addition, the Oak Hill School was likely not only a significant part of that area of Searcy County when it came to education, but it was also likely an important part of the Oak Hill community's social life. As with churches, schools were often an important part of the community, not just during the week, but on the weekends as well. Even today, the school is used as a community building for the residents of that area.

Due to the school's importance to the educational history of Searcy County, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. Additionally, due to the fact that the building is used for religious purposes, it is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A** as a religious property.

⁸ Obituary for Mabel Moore Housley. *Bolivar (Missouri) Herald-Free Press*. 4 April 2005.

⁹ Housley, Mabel. Interview with Thereisa Housley. c.2005.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1894.

Housley, Mabel. Interview with Thereisa Housley. c.2005.

Johnston, James J. "Marshall." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.* Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=986>.

Johnston, James J. "Searcy County." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.* Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=806>.

Obituary for Mabel Moore Housley. *Bolivar (Missouri) Herald-Free Press.* 4 April 2005.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SE0478

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 1.5 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 524355 | Northing: 3964295 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel #001-04694-000. Part of the East 1/2 of the southwest quarter of Section 30, Township 14 North, Range 16 West.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Thereisa Housley, edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey
Coordinator

organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 1100 North Street

city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201

e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov

telephone: (501) 324-9787

date: August 24, 2018

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Oak Hill School House

City or Vicinity: Marshall vic.

County: Searcy County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: January 26, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 12 . North façade of the school, looking southwest.

2 of 12 . East façade of the school, looking southwest.

3 of 12 . East façade of the school, looking northwest.

4 of 12 . South façade of the school, looking north.

5 of 12 . South and west façades of the school, looking northeast.

6 of 12 . West façade of the school, looking southeast.

7 of 12 . Interior of the school, looking northeast.

8 of 12 . Interior of the school, looking south.

9 of 12 . Retaining wall, looking southwest.

10 of 12 . East façade of the shed, looking west.

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11 of 12. North and east façades of the shed, looking southwest.

12 of 12. West and south façades of the school, looking northeast.

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

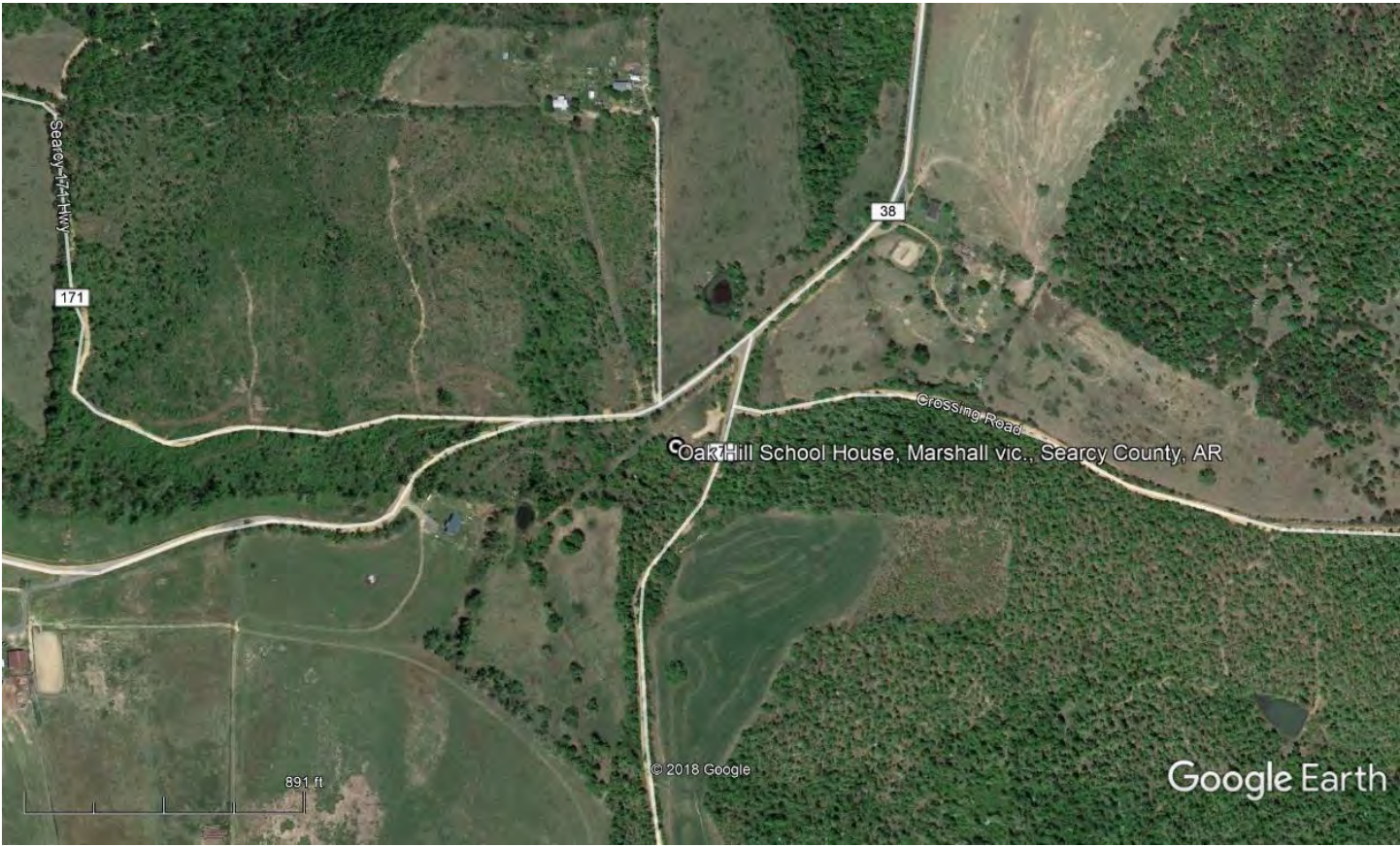


|-----289'-----|

Oak Hill School House
Marshall vic., Searcy County, AR
15 524355E 3964295N



North



|-----891'-----|

Oak Hill School House

Marshall vic., Searcy County, AR

15 524355E 3964295N



North



OAK HILL
CHURCH















CHRIST IS RISEN









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Oak Hill School House
Multiple Name: Searcy County MPS
State & County: ARKANSAS, Searcy

Date Received: 12/10/2018 Date of Pending List: 12/28/2018 Date of 16th Day: 1/14/2019 Date of 45th Day: 1/24/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100003339
Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept Return Reject 1/24/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Automatic listing due to Federal Government shutdown

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

Reviewer: Jim Gabbert Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2275 Date: 1/29/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

December 5, 2018



Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington D.C. 20240

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Oak Hill School House – Marshall vic., Searcy County,
Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Oak Hill School House to the National Register of Historic Places. 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,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsW

Enclosure



ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



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fax: (501) 324-9184

info@arkansaspreservation.org
www.arkansaspreservation.com

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