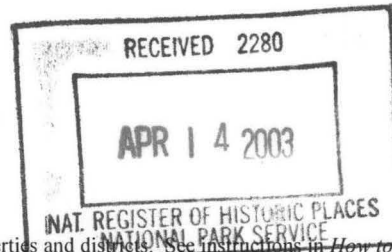


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Maness Schoolhouse

other names/site number SB0429

2. Location

street & number 8801 Wells Lake Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Barling

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Sebastian code 131 zip code 72903

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.)

Cathy Matich
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/4/03
Date

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 R. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

5/29/03
Date of Action

Maness Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas
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	
1	0	buildings
2	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.)

N/A

**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)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Plain/traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STONE

roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Located on Wells Lake Road, two and half miles southwest of the town of Barling, Arkansas, is the Maness Schoolhouse. Constructed in 1937 to serve the community of Massard, the stone one-room school building was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The structure is the only existing Massard building that was not moved or destroyed when the Department of Defense acquired the surrounding 72,000 acres to build Camp Chaffee in 1941. German POWs added a rear porch in 1943. When the base closed in 1997, the military marked it as an historical landmark to be preserved. The structure is located on 5.21 acres of excess property from the closure of the Fort Chaffee Military Base by the Department of Defense under the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC 95). The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, located in the Fort Smith and Barling city limits, owns the structure and land. The future home of the western Arkansas \$4 million nature center will built ½ mile away from the school.

ELABORATION

The Maness Schoolhouse is a single story building with one classroom built by the WPA in February 1937. There are separate restrooms and probable coatrooms along the west side of the classroom. The exterior dimensions are 31 feet 6 inches by 61 feet 8 inches (9.6 meters by 18.8 meters). German POWs added the rear porch in 1943, as indicated by the inscription on the north wall of the rear steps. The porch is 15 feet by 61 feet and 8 inches (4.6 meters by 18.8 meters).

The WPA used native sandstone and built the schoolhouse in a plain/traditional style. The dressed stone, thin mortar joints and fine ashlar work found at the Maness school indicates the hand of a trained stonemason. The native stone structure of the Maness School represents an integral part of the history of vernacular architecture in northwest Arkansas. Records indicate Joe Bullington was one of the WPA stonemasons hired for construction of the school.

The schoolhouse and porch are in good condition, although the headers over the rear windows are beginning to deteriorate. The Army maintained the composition shingled roof and it is in good condition. The Army also added gutters on the east and west side to control runoff. At one time there were two outhouses. However, they were removed when the military acquired the land in 1941. Other alterations include the installation of restrooms in the girl's cloakroom. Blackboards were removed and a window was replaced by a door in order for soldiers to go out on the porch. The remaining windows are original to the 1937 construction and are intact. All alterations to the school were made after the military acquired the land between 1941 and 1943.

West Elevation

The main façade of this building faces west and is defined by a gable one-bay central front porch with stone columns over two separate wooden doors. Wood siding and a vent cover the gable end of the porch. A poured concrete slab welcomes visitors to enter through either door. The façade, moving north to south, is fenestrated with two six-over-six windows, one four-over-zero window, then two more six-over-six windows. The stone wall exhibits random ashlar on the fringes of the walls moving toward rubble construction in the middle.

South Elevation

The south side of this building is not fenestrated except for a wooden vent located in the gable end. Large sandstone chunks were roughly squared and set on end with thick mortar joints in an ashlar pattern.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

East Elevation

The rear of this building faces east and is defined by the large windows and full rear porch. The rear, moving south to north, is fenestrated with three nine-over-nine windows, a set of double, four-panel windows, doors located below a five-paned transom, then five nine-over-nine windows. The stone wall exhibits random ashlar on the fringes of the walls moving toward rubble construction in the middle. Two interior chimneys are located on the north elevation. A red brick chimney is located on the north side of the rear, and a metal chimney is located on the southern side.

Protruding away from the building on the east elevation is the full rear open porch with balustrades constructed by German POWs. Located along the steps of the porch, a handmade plaque bares witness to the labor of the stonemason who built the porch. Some of the letters of the epigraph are childishy scrawled into wet concrete; others appear either impressed or written by a surer, more literate hand. The message "Built by German Prisoner of War 1943" offers a mute testimony to the useful, mundane work of a foreigner held against his will in the middle of an ocean of land.

The German stonemasons participated in a craft tradition known and practiced in Europe as well as the United States. The WPA stonework on the building itself is random, while the German POW stonework on the rear porch is dressed and laid in courses. In addition, as you walk down the porch stairs, the German POWs laid a large concrete slab. North of the slab and schoolhouse, the German POWs also constructed a stone bar-b-que pit.

North Elevation

The north side of this building is identical to the south side. It is not fenestrated except for a wooden vent located in the gable end. Large sandstone chunks were roughly squared and set on end with thick mortar joints in an ashlar pattern.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Maness Schoolhouse is a wonderful example of WPA construction and a rare example of German POW stone masonry. The building is the last remaining structure from the community of Massard.

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)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1937-1943

Significant Dates

1937 (built), 1943 (porch added)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

W.P.A.-Builders, Joe Bullington-W.P.A. stonemason

German P.O.W. construction

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more 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

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

Located on Wells Lake Road, two and half miles southwest of the town of Barling, Arkansas, is the Maness Schoolhouse. Constructed in 1937 to serve the community of Massard, the stone one-room school building was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The structure is the only existing Massard building that was not moved or destroyed when the Department of Defense acquired the surrounding 72,000 acres to build Camp Chaffee in 1941. German POWs added a rear porch in 1943. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with early 20th Century education in Sebastian County. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of WPA and German POW construction.

ELABORATION

In the 1820's, President Monroe awarded William McAlister a land grant. The current Maness Schoolhouse was eventually built on land from this grant. The community of Massard grew in this area, and a need for a schoolhouse quickly developed. The first school structure was a log building located a half-mile east of the current building. Sometime later, a white frame building was built to replace the log schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was called the Mazzard Schoolhouse because it was located on the Mazzard Prairie.

In 1889, another school was built on Little Rock Road near the Massard Post Office. The town's name changed from Mazzard to Massard, sometime in the mid-1800s. Since there were two schools named Mazzard/Massard, the first Mazzard School was renamed. Following the custom of the time, the first schoolhouse was named after the family that lived closest to it, which was the John Maness Family. The Maness family was one of the early settlers and was active in the community.

In 1930, the white frame building was replaced with a red brick building. This building burned in November 1936. In February 1937, the current stone building was completed by WPA workers. The schoolhouse was the only public building and was the center of community life. It was used for school, Sunday school, prayer meetings, gospel singing, 4-H Club and Home Demonstration Club meetings, Christmas programs, pie suppers and ice cream socials. After electricity was installed in the building, movies were held once a week.

In 1941 and 1942, the United States Army acquired 72,000 acres to develop Camp Chaffee, including the community of Massard. This was a difficult time for area residents. Approximately 1,300 families were forced to leave their farms and homes when Camp Chaffee was built. The Maness Schoolhouse was saved since the building was only four years old when the military acquired the land. It was turned into a recreational building for military personnel.

In 1943, German World War II prisoners built a rock porch across the back of the building. They also built a stone bar-b-que pit and laid a concrete slab. When the base closed in 1997, the military marked it as an historical landmark to be preserved.

Since 1990, former Maness pupils have held school reunions. A non-profit Maness School Historical Society was organized to keep and preserve the school building. Fundraisers have been held to assist with the preservation of the building and pursue restoration options.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Today, the Maness Schoolhouse in Fort Smith is a living reminder of the now non-existent community of Massard, and the workmanship of the WPA and German POWs. Also, as the last remaining building associated with Massard, the Maness Schoolhouse represents a rare and fast vanishing resource type.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located on Wells Lake Road, two and half miles southwest of the town of Barling, Arkansas, is the Maness Schoolhouse. Constructed in 1937 to serve the community of Massard, the stone one-room school building was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The structure is the only existing Massard building that was not moved or destroyed when the Department of Defense acquired the surrounding 72,000 acres to build Camp Chaffee in 1941. German POWs added a rear porch in 1943. It is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with early 20th Century education in Sebastian County. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of WPA and German POW construction.

Maness Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arnold, J., Cande, R.F., Imhoff, S.M. (1997). Mid-Continental Research Associates, Inc., Documentation of Native Stone Architecture Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

Hansen, T. "Fort Chaffee created in 1941." Times Record Insight 2000. p. 150.

Smith, S. "WPA program held things together." Times Record Insight 2000. p. 120.

Smith, S. "WPA program helped city get new look." Times Record Insight 2000. p. 172.

Wingfield, L. "Country schools disappeared with creation of Fort Chaffee." Times Record Insight 2000. p. 151.

Maness Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.21

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 378637 3906617
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Edited by Wendy S. Perkins, National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 1/23/03
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority
street & number 12508 Fort Smith Boulevard P.O. Box 11921 telephone 479-452-4554
city or town Fort Smith state AR zip code 72917

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

A tract of land situated in the Southeast Quarter of Section, Seven, Township Seven North, Range Thirty-one West of the Fifth Principal Meridian (SE Cor. Sec. 7, T-7-N, R-31-W 5th P.M.), located in Sebastian County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast Corner of Section Seven, Township Seven North, Range Thirty-one West of the Fifth Principal Meridian (SE Cor. Sec. 7, T-7-N, R-31-W 5th P.M.). THENCE North 87 degrees 14 minutes 41 seconds West for a distance of 1248.04 feet along the south line of said Sec. 7 to a point; THENCE North 00 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East for a distance of 1232.25 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE North 39 degrees 15 minutes 46 seconds East for a distance of 765.18 feet to a point; THENCE South 16 degrees 02 minutes 48 seconds East for a distance of 394.17 feet to a point; THENCE South 28 degrees 01 minutes 01 seconds West for a distance of 487.18 feet to a point; THENCE North 59 degrees 17 minutes 15 seconds West for a distance of 423.82 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Together with and subject to covenants, easements, and restricts of record. Said property contains 5.21 acres more or less.

Verbal Boundary Justification

This boundary contains all of the structures and sites associated with the Maness Schoolhouse that retains its historic integrity.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Maness Schoolhouse
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Sebastian

DATE RECEIVED: 4/14/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/13/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/29/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/29/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000466

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 5/29/03 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

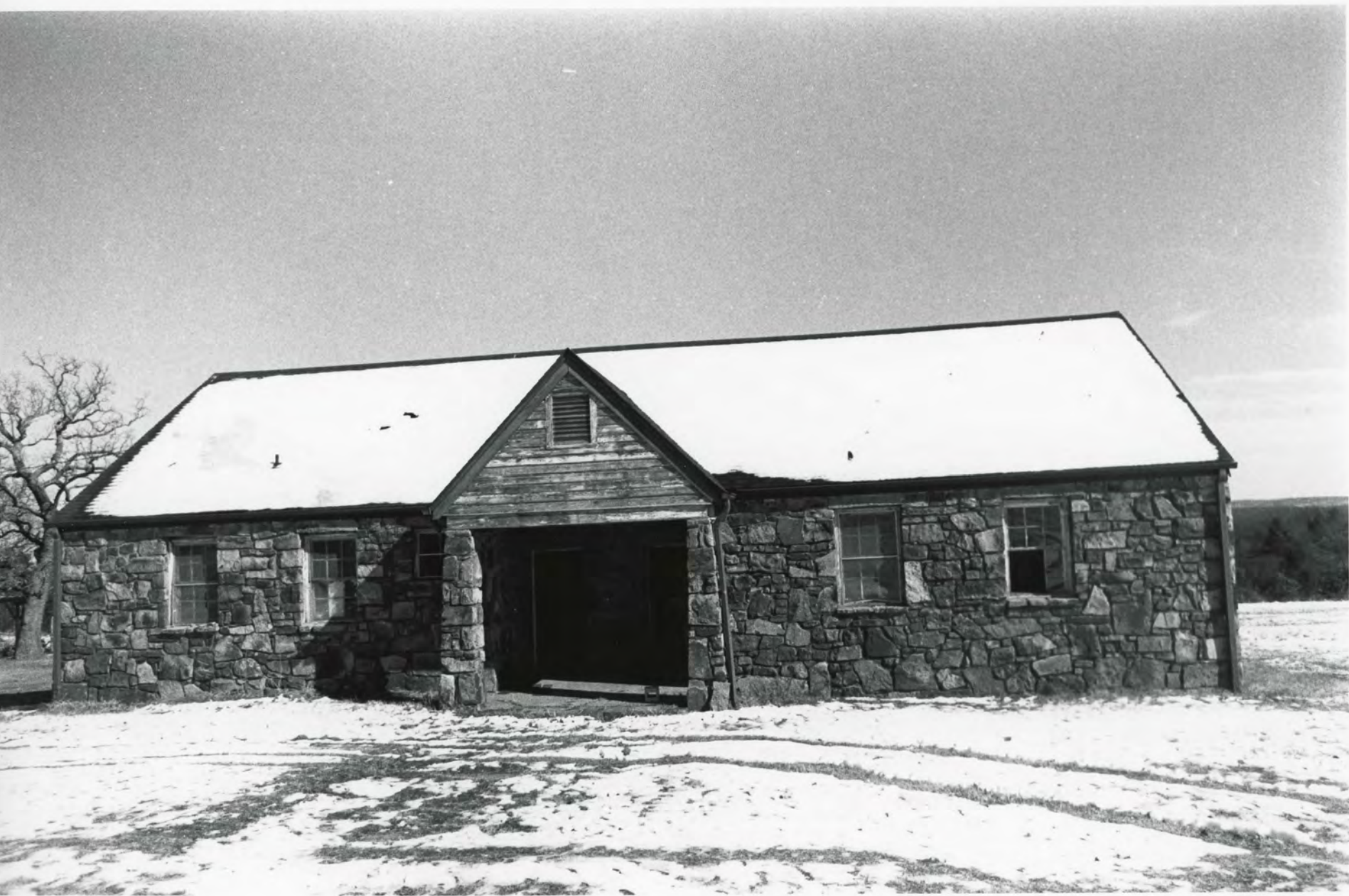
Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



MANESS School House

SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Wendy Perkins

7 February 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

WEST ELEVATION - main facade - looking east
1



Maness Schoolhouse
Sebastian County
Wendy Perkins
7 February 2003
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
East elevation, rear porch, looking west
#2

BUILT BY
GERMAN
PRISONER
OF WAR
1943

MANESS SCHOOL HOUSE
SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
WENDY PERKINS

7 FEBRUARY 2008

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
EAST ELEVATION- NORTH STAIR RAIL-

#3



MANESS SCHOOLHOUSE - BAR-B-QUE PIT
SEBASTIAN COUNTY, ARKANSAS
WENDY PERKINS

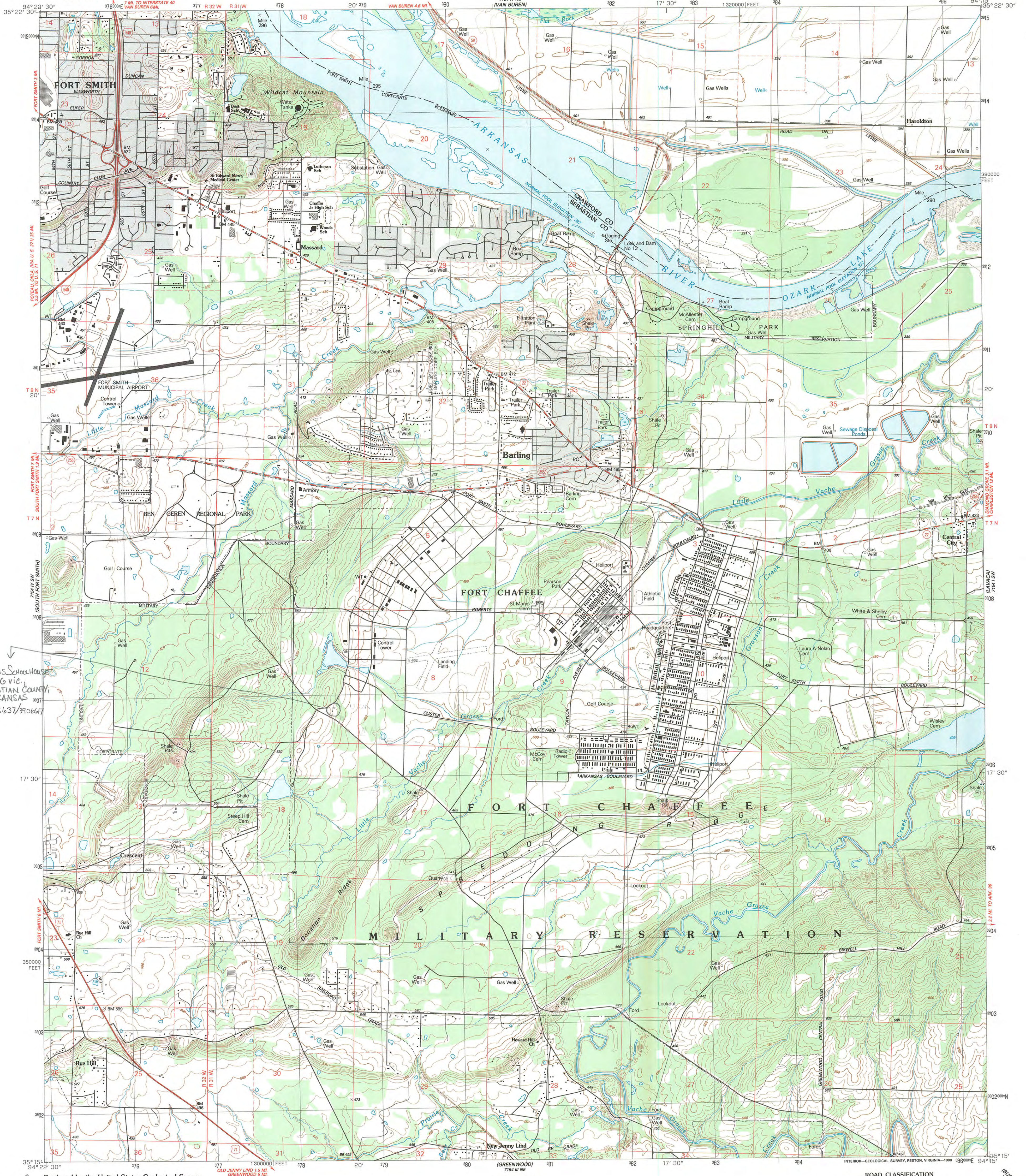
7 FEBRUARY 2003

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

NORTH OF MANESS SCHOOLHOUSE - SOUTH ELEVATION - LOOKING NORTH
#4

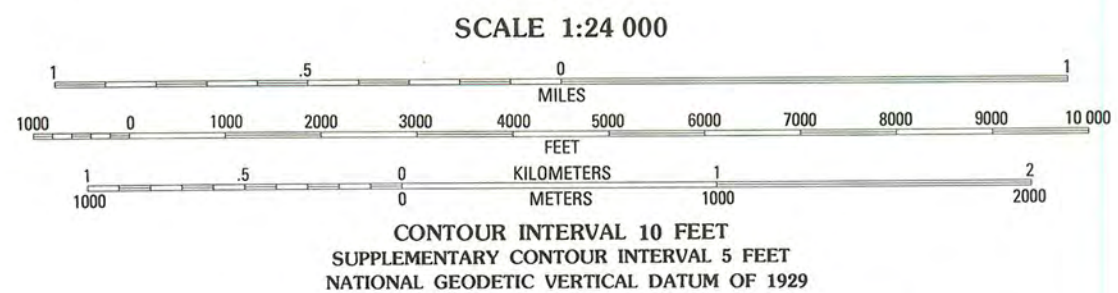
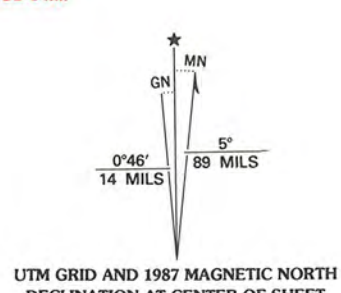
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BARLING QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SE 1/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE



MANESS SCHOOLHOUSE
BARLING VIC.
SEBASTIAN COUNTY,
ARKANSAS
15/578637/390667

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1983. Field checked 1985. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1947
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
18 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



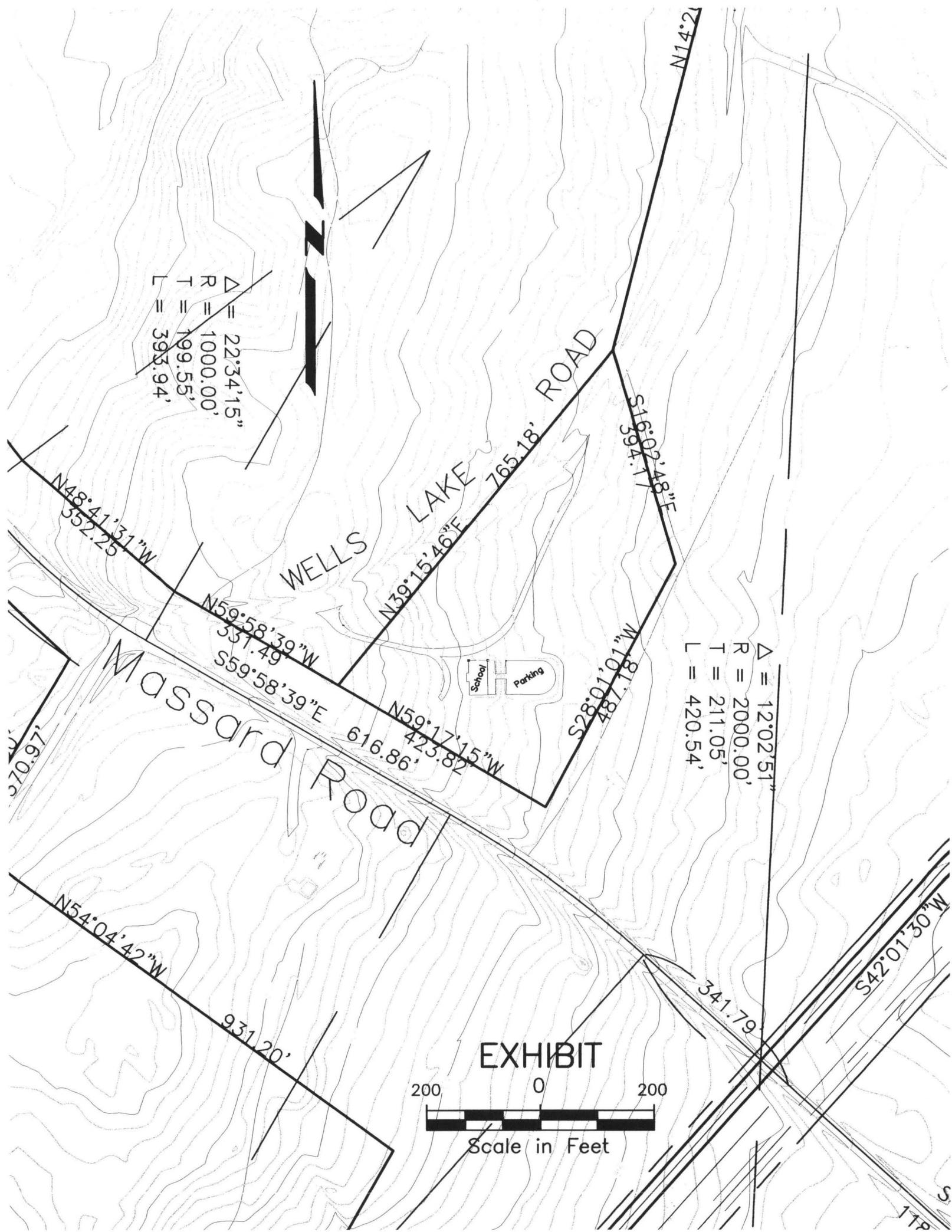
ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Unimproved road
BARLING, ARK.
SE 1/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE
35094-C3-TF-024
1987
DMA 7154 IV SE-SERIES V884

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



$\Delta = 22.34'15''$
 $R = 1000.00'$
 $T = 199.55'$
 $L = 393.94'$

$\Delta = 12.02'51''$
 $R = 2000.00'$
 $T = 211.05'$
 $L = 420.54'$





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

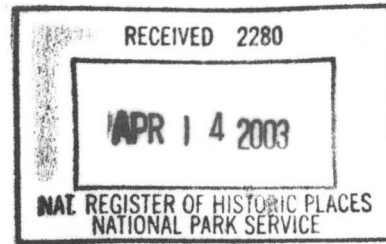
tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org



4 April 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: Maness Schoolhouse – Barling vic., Sebastian County

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews,
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:zc

Enclosures

An Equal Opportunity Employer

