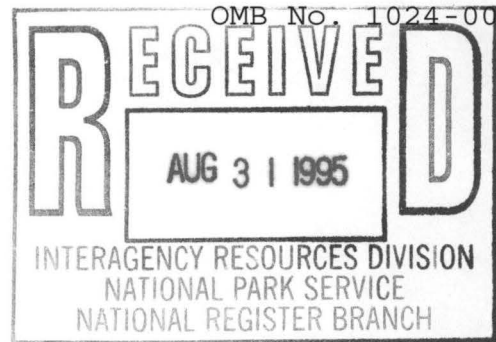


1147

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Old Cotter High School Gymnasium

Other Name/Site Number: BA 0049

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2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 412 Powell Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Cotter

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR

County: Baxter

Code: AR 005

Zip Code: 72626

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3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn H. Slater
Signature of certifying official

8-15-95
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this 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 9/29/95
Entered in the
National Register

Signature of Keeper
Beall
Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Recreation and Culture Sub: Sports Facility

Current : Work In Progress Sub: _____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Other: WPA Rustic

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Metal, Asphalt
walls Stone other Concrete
Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 412 Powell Street, in the center of the town of Cotter, the Old Cotter High School Gymnasium is a rectangular stone structure with a gable-on-hip roof that was built by the Works Progress Administration from 1936 to 1938.

Elaboration

Constructed from 1936 to 1938, the Old Cotter High School Gymnasium is a single-story, gable-on-hip roof structure that was built by the Works Progress Administration in a heavy, rustic manner utilizing rough-cut native stone from Calico Rock. The almost monolithic expanse of irregular-coursed stone is punctuated on each elevation by concrete window sills and lintels.

The front, or northern, elevation is symmetrically composed with a dominant projecting center section that features two large concrete arches with keystones flanked by concrete pilasters. The arches originally denoted the opening into a large, recessed porch. Unfortunately, these arches were recently bricked-in and double doors installed within each archway. On either side of the projecting entrance bay, the facade is fenestrated by a pair of window openings with unadorned lintels and sills. The windows on all sides of the gymnasium were filled in with wood at some point, and the original sash configuration of the windows is currently unknown. Both window groups are outlined by a pair of plain concrete pilasters.

The northern end of the western elevation is fenestrated by two tall windows which are at the same height and configuration of those seen on the north facade. The remainder of the western elevation projects several feet out from the northernmost end. Although the interior is one-story in height, the projecting body of this western elevation is fenestrated by windows at both the top and the bottom levels which effectively divides the large mass of the structure. Another device that is used to add texture to the surface of the western elevation are the six pilasters which are spaced evenly along the wall. They begin as a part of the continuous cast concrete foundation and rise up almost to the eave. The four smaller windows on the first "level" and the five larger windows on the second "level" of the projection all have simple concrete sills and lintels.

Pilasters are absent on the rear, or southern, elevation, which contains two small windows directly under the eaves in the center and two larger windows directly below. Access to the interior can be gained on this elevation by two single-leaf doors on either side of the four center windows.

The eastern and western elevations are similarly composed; however, pilasters are not utilized on the eastern elevation, and there is only one level of windows due to shorter wall height.

The roof of the structure was altered in 1988 when the gabled portion of the roof was replaced with a metal design. The hipped roof component features an overhanging eave with exposed rafter ends. At the time the roof was changed, the concrete platform which flanks the entrance on the northern side was also replaced due to cracking and general deterioration.

The interior of the structure features new seating (which approximates the original style) on the east side and the original stage on the west side of the gym floor. The majority of the gymnasium floor is original, although certain sections have been replaced. The stage area features a brown formed concrete arched opening with a keystone and a single pilaster on each side. This concrete is intended to replicate randomly patterned stonework, much like that seen on the exterior of the structure.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Social History
Education

Period(s) of Significance: 1936 - 1938

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Old Cotter High School Gymnasium is being nominated under Criterion A as an amendment to the multiple property nomination, "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940." The gym is locally significant for its association with Works Progress Administration and as the only extant component of the historic Cotter High School complex.

Elaboration

Located on bluffs overlooking the White River, the town of Cotter was incorporated on July 7, 1904. The land was first homesteaded by Jonathan Cunningham in 1868, although the site had long been popular by the Native Americans due to the presence of the "Big Spring" (within the current Cotter City Park). Cunningham later sold his 300 acres to L. P. Kemp, and a ferry and steamboat landing were soon established under the name of "Lake's" near the Big Spring. Lake's Ferry became popular as a summer resort for many city dwellers during this period. In 1892, Thomas Combs purchased the land from Kemp, but prospects for development stagnated until a survey crew for the White River Division of the Missouri Pacific Railroad visited Baxter County

in 1901. Two years later, Combs formed the Red Bud Realty Company with W. V. Powell of St. Louis and Jerry South of Mountain Home. Powell was a member of the first survey crew and was in charge of securing right of ways. A new town was laid out in a grid pattern with provisions for the train yard and roundhouse to be located on the river bottom, the residential district extending up the bluffs, and the business district in between. The Cotter Post Office was established on January 26, 1903.

At the time of incorporation, the town had approximately 600 residents, many of whom were living in a "tent city" that was located along the river. However, the population more than doubled by the official opening ceremonies for the town on November 23, 1905, and most of the tent dwellers had moved into frame houses. In the late 1920's, Cotter was the most populated town in Baxter County due in part to the presence of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad repair shops.

During the difficult times of the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration contributed to the struggling local economy by employing local craftsmen in the construction of a new high school and gymnasium for the town. Unfortunately, the high school building was destroyed by fire in 1977. In 1982, the ruins were leveled by the city to create Warrior Memorial Park, which includes a playground area and tennis courts. The gymnasium continued to be utilized by the school district until 1980, when the new high school complex was finished. Currently, the structure is undergoing rehabilitation for use as the North Arkansas Youth Center and will continue to be used as a gymnasium.

The Old Cotter High School Gymnasium is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with Works Progress Administration and as the only extant component of the historic Cotter High School complex. It is being nominated as an amendment to the multiple property nomination, "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information submitted by Marshall Berg, Secretary/Treasurer for the North Arkansas Youth Center Board of Directors. October, 1994.

Messick, Mary Ann. *History of Baxter County: Centennial Edition 1873-1973*. (Mountain Home: Mountain Home Chamber of Commerce, 1973). Reprinted by Baxter County Historical Society, 1986.

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:

X State historic preservation office

— Other state agency

— Federal agency

— Local government

— University

— Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>541700</u>	<u>4013850</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point created by the intersection of a line formed by the southern curblineline of Powell St. and a line formed by, yet fifteen feet from, the western elevation of the gym, proceed southerly along said line to its junction with a line formed by, yet fifteen feet from, the southern elevation of the building; thence proceed easterly along a line formed by the southern elevation of the gym for approximately 108 feet to the intersection of said line and a line formed by a stone retaining wall (approximately eight feet from eastern elevation wall); thence proceed northerly along this line to the southern edge of Powell St.; thence proceed westerly along the road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic gymnasium and surrounding associated property but excludes the adjacent nonhistoric tennis courts.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian
Helen Barry, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 14, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cotter High School Gymnasium, Old
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Baxter

DATE RECEIVED: 8/31/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/13/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/29/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/15/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001147

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 9/29/95 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



Old Cotter High School Gymnasium
Baxter Co., Arkansas
Photograph by P. Zollner
April 1995

Negative on file at AHP
View of the front elevation
from the north/northwest



Old Cotter High School Gymnasium
Baxter Co., Ark.

Photo. by P. Zollner

April 1995

Negative on file at AHPA
View from the southwest



Old Cotter High School Gymnasium
Baxter Co., Ark.

Photo. by P. Zollner

April 1995

Negative on file at AHPD
View from the south



Old Cotter High School Gymnasium
Baxter Co., Arkansas
Photo. by P. Zollner
April 1995

Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northeast

NORTH ARKANSAS YOUTH CENTER

1938

Warrior Memorial Gymnasium

1980

Former Home Of The Warriors



Old Cotter High School Gymnasium
Baxter Co., Ark.

Photo. by P. Zollner
April 1995

Negative on file at AHPP
View from the north



Old Cotter High School Gymnasium
Baxter Co., Arkansas
Photograph by P. Zollner
April 1995

Negative on file at AHPP
View of the stage from
the west

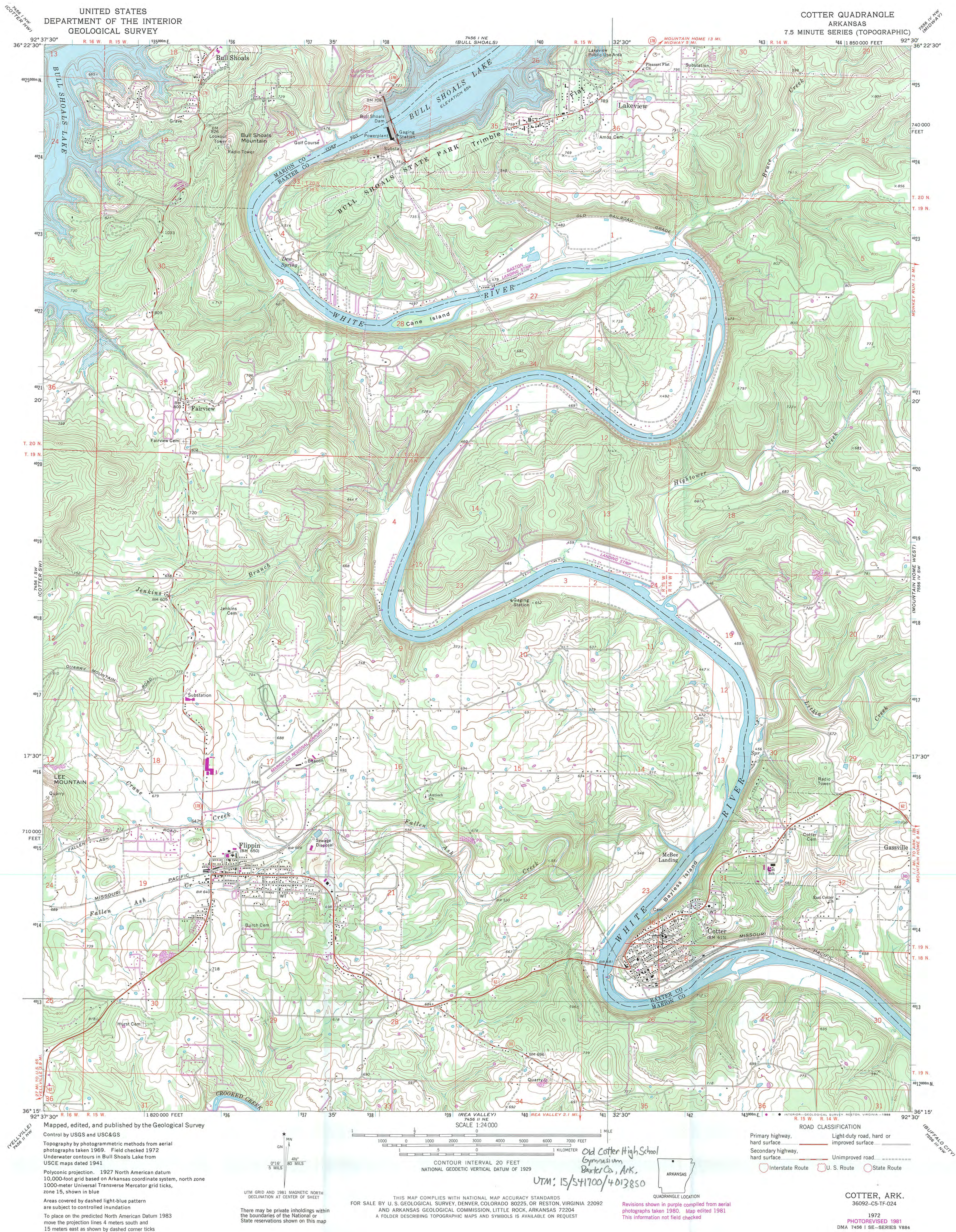


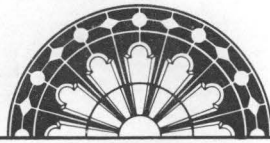
Old Cotter High School Gymnasium
Baxter Co., Arkansas

Photograph by P. Zollner
April 1995

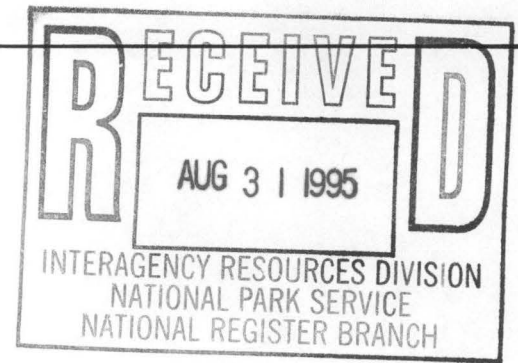
Negative on file at AHPID

View of interior from the
northeast corner





ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM



August 15, 1995

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Old Cotter High School Gymnasium ✓
Cotter, Baxter 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,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

