

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

AUG 01 1991

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Big Four Schoolother names/site number Resource #WHO581

2. Location

street & number County Road 383☐ not for publication N/Acity, town Providence☒ vicinitystate Arkansascode ARcounty Whitecode 145zip code 72081

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1 1

Noncontributing

 buildings sites structures objects0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, ArkansasNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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)

Other: Vernacular/ Plain Traditional

Other: WPA School Design

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls novelty siding

roof shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

AUG 1 1991

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Situated in a grassy, tree-covered field in a remote area, the abandoned Big Four School building was constructed in 1915, but remodeled so extensively in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration that it is actually more representative of this time period. The school stands neglected and is rapidly deteriorating, but it has not been altered and its architectural details remain intact.

Covered in novelty siding, the rectangular, one-story floorplan is of a vernacular design with a few exterior details labeling it as a WPA building. For example, even though most of the panes have been removed from the double-hung windows, the sash still shows nine-over-nine muntins. The one-bay, central front porch has a gable roof and is supported by columns on piers, and there is a three-pane transom over each of the two front doors. Interior details are even more characteristic of federally funded, Depression-era school buildings. A recessed stage on the north elevation faces a large blackboard on the south elevation, with a swing-out partition dividing the two areas. The ceilings and walls are covered with horizontal boards. Even a few of the original WPA school desks remain inside; crudely constructed, each consists of a wooden desktop attached to the rear of a bench-style seat.

The school has an interior chimney along the west elevation, centered between two rows of the nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The two transom-topped doors off of the front porch allow access to the interior, while two more doors on the front elevation lead from an interior horizontal hallway into the main portion of the building. The gable roof is covered with shingles and the continuous foundation is made of stone.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1

Significance

The Big Four School building is locally significant because it is one of only a handful of novelty-sided non-residential structures in the county, and one of only three such structures constructed with the aid of federal programs. Its characteristically WPA design, which consists of a rectangular floorplan and a gable-roofed porch supported by columns on piers, also makes it architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C because it embodies a particular form, method of construction and style of the 1930's. [See the associated property type for Depression era Religious and Institutional buildings]. Its setting in an extremely rural area of White County also adds to its significance, as it was the only school in this vicinity and the only federally funded structure.

The fact that such a small, rural community would even have a school building makes this structure historically significant under Criterion A. Originally built in 1915, it served the community as both school and church for several years, which was a common practice at that time [see Historic Context 2: Development Era; and Historic Context 3: Railroad Era]. In the mid-1930's, the building underwent a major renovation by Works Progress Administration workers and its appearance was altered to resemble other WPA schools from the period. Instead of closing its doors when severe flooding, a drought and plummeting cotton prices sent the farm economy collapsing in the early 1930's, the Big Four School was given a second chance with the aid of the Works Progress Administration. This program's assistance, along with funding from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), allowed small schools like this one to continue operating.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/623340/3912000

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the western edge of County Road 383 with a line running along the northern elevation of the building, proceed westerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western elevation of the building; thence proceed southerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the southern elevation of the building; thence proceed easterly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a line running along the western edge of County Road 383; thence proceed northerly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

19 33-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Projects Administration

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data *map 19*

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification _____

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe De Rose, Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4 April, 1990

street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Big Four School

MULTIPLE NAME: White County MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 8/01/91

DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/31/91

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/15/91

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/15/91

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001192

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: ☒ NATIONAL: ☐

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT

☒ RETURN

REJECT

DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

DATE

Return

Harper

Historian

9/13/91

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed Patrick Andrews Phone _____
Date 9/13/91

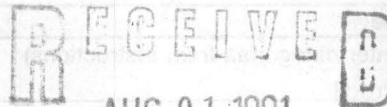
Big Four School
White County MPS
White County, ARKANSAS

Reviewer's Comments

The boundaries of this property are presently located along building lines. A resource listed in the National Register should include all features of the property which contribute to its significance. In almost all cases this includes its historic setting. Page 77 of National Register Bulletin 16, Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms, states that "the boundaries of buildings should include the land surrounding the building, unless the lot occupied by the building contains no surrounding land as in the central business district of most cities."

Please revise the boundaries to include the property historically associated with the resource. If a portion of the original setting has lost its integrity, please explain.

Marilyn Harper
Historian
Sept. 16, 1991



1192

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Big Four School

other names/site number Resource #WH0581

2. Location

street & number County Road 383

☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Providence

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county White

code 145

zip code 72081

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

buildings
sites
structures
objects
0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, ArkansasNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

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:)

7/10/92

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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)

Other: Vernacular/ Plain Traditional

Other: WPA School Design

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls novelty siding

roof shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

☒ See continuation sheet

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

AUG 1 1991

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Situated in a grassy, tree-covered field in a remote area, the abandoned Big Four School building was constructed in 1915, but remodeled so extensively in the 1930's by the Works Progress Administration that it is actually more representative of this time period. The school stands neglected and is rapidly deteriorating, but it has not been altered and its architectural details remain intact.

Covered in novelty siding, the rectangular, one-story floorplan is of a vernacular design with a few exterior details labeling it as a WPA building. For example, even though most of the panes have been removed from the double-hung windows, the sash still shows nine-over-nine muntins. The one-bay, central front porch has a gable roof and is supported by columns on piers, and there is a three-pane transom over each of the two front doors. Interior details are even more characteristic of federally funded, Depression-era school buildings. A recessed stage on the north elevation faces a large blackboard on the south elevation, with a swing-out partition dividing the two areas. The ceilings and walls are covered with horizontal boards. Even a few of the original WPA school desks remain inside; crudely constructed, each consists of a wooden desktop attached to the rear of a bench-style seat.

The school has an interior chimney along the west elevation, centered between two rows of the nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The two transom-topped doors off of the front porch allow access to the interior, while two more doors on the front elevation lead from an interior horizontal hallway into the main portion of the building. The gable roof is covered with shingles and the continuous foundation is made of stone.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locallyApplicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ DCriteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

19 33-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Projects Administration

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

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data *map 19*

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

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

C

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

B

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

D

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

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification _____

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe De Rose, Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4 April, 1990

street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

AUG 1 1991

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1Significance

The Big Four School building is locally significant because it is one of only a handful of novelty-sided non-residential structures in the county, and one of only three such structures constructed with the aid of federal programs. Its characteristically WPA design, which consists of a rectangular floorplan and a gable-roofed porch supported by columns on piers, also makes it architecturally significant under National Register Criterion C because it embodies a particular form, method of construction and style of the 1930's. [See the associated property type for Depression era Religious and Institutional buildings]. Its setting in an extremely rural area of White County also adds to its significance, as it was the only school in this vicinity and the only federally funded structure.

The fact that such a small, rural community would even have a school building makes this structure historically significant under Criterion A. Originally built in 1915, it served the community as both school and church for several years, which was a common practice at that time [see Historic Context 2: Development Era; and Historic Context 3: Railroad Era]. In the mid-1930's, the building underwent a major renovation by Works Progress Administration workers and its appearance was altered to resemble other WPA schools from the period. Instead of closing its doors when severe flooding, a drought and plummeting cotton prices sent the farm economy collapsing in the early 1930's, the Big Four School was given a second chance with the aid of the Works Progress Administration. This program's assistance, along with funding from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), allowed small schools like this one to continue operating.

MAY 28 1992

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References

A 15/623340/3912000

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the western edge of County Road 383 with a line running parallel to the northern elevation of the building and located 50 feet to the north thereof; proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the western elevation of the building; thence proceed southerly for a distance of approximately 200 feet along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the southern elevation of the building; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a line running along the western edge of County Road 383; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The original schoolyard associated with this building has become quite overgrown due to the abandonment of the property and has thus become difficult to distinguish; therefore, this boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

AUG 1 1991

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

145

White County MPS
ARKANSAS

Date Listed

COVER	Substantive Review	Date Listed
91001350	Abington, William Thomas, House Substantive Review	9-12-91
91001322	Ackins House Substantive Review	7/11/92
91001186	American Legion Hall Substantive Review	7/11/92
91001253	Andrews, Col. Ralph, House	9-13-91
91001187	Arnold Farmstead Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001239	Baldock House	9-13-91
91001228	Bank of Searcy	9-5-91
91001251	Beebe Jail	9-5-91
91001265	Beebe Theater	9-13-91
91001201	Bell House	9-5-91
91001262	Berry House	9-5-91
91001192	Big Four School Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001176	Bloom House	7/10/92
91001363	Blunt House Livestock Barn Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001298	Boggs, James William, House	7/10/92
91001275	Bone, Luke, Grocery--Boarding House	9-5-91
91001202	Booth, Green, House	9-13-91
91001345	Booth--Weir House	9-5-91
91001217	Brooks House Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001268	Brown House Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001338	Brown, Joe, House and Farmstead Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001337	Burnett House Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001347	Caldwell House	7/11/92
91001280	Campbell--Chrisp House	9-5-91
91001293	Cary House Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001310	Chandler House Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001349	Childers Farmstead Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001301	Churchill--Hilger House	7/11/92
91001209	Cobb, Pattie, Hall	9-5-91
91001282	Cooley, Sam, Barn Substantive Review	9-5-91
91001229	Coward House Substantive Review	7/11/92
91001320	Cremane House Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001333	Critz, Col. John, Farm, Springhouse Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001259	Cross House Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001225	Cumberland Presbyterian Church Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001179	Cypert, Jesse N., Law Office Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001196	Doniphan Lumber Mill Historic District Substantive Review	7/10/92
91001264	Doss House Substantive Review	9-13-91
91001302	Doyle, David, House No. 2	7-10-92
		9-5-91

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Big Four School

MULTIPLE NAME: White County MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, White

DATE RECEIVED: 5/28/92

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/12/92

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91001192

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7/10/92 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Historically significant school building constructed in 1915 as the only educational institution in ~~the~~ a very small town in rural Arkansas. Substantially remodelled by WPA in 30s. Architecturally significant example of WPA frame school design. Concerns raised in earlier return have been addressed

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/A+C
REVIEWER Harper
DISCIPLINE Historian
DATE 7/10/92

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

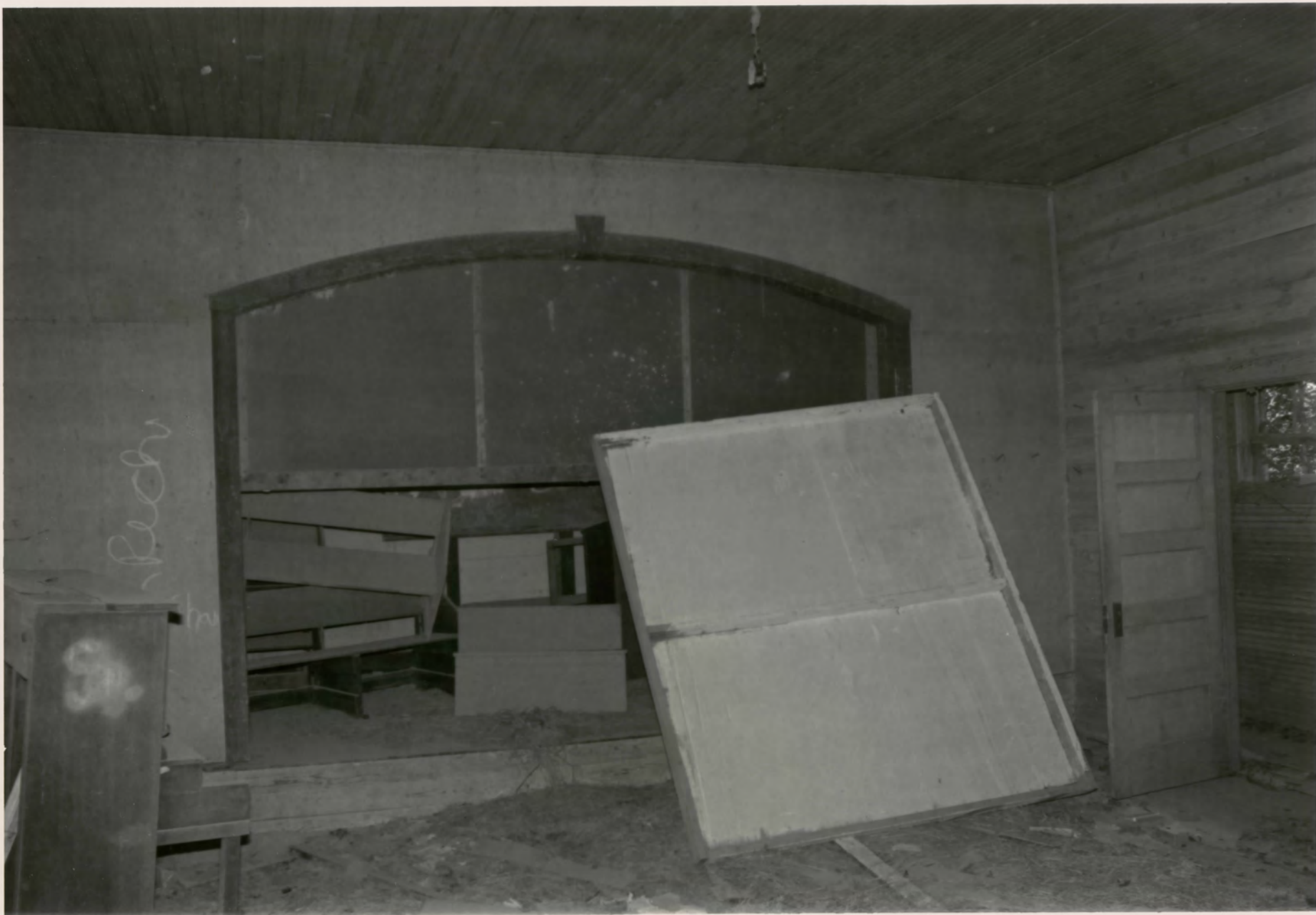
OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date



Reck

Shu

50

100 20

Big Four School

white

PROVIDENCE VIC, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BROWN

OCTOBER, 1886

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

INTERIOR CLASSROOM VIEW



BIG FOUR SCHOOL

PROVIDENCE VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DON BROWN

OCTOBER, 1986

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AKDP

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

White

AUG 1 1991



BIG FOUR SCHOOL white

PROVIDENCE VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BROWN

OCTOBER, 1986

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

INTERIOR CLASSROOM VIEW

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500033