

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 Ravenden Springs School

other names/site number RA0034

2. Location

street & number HWY 90 ☐ not for publication

city or town Ravenden Springs ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Randolph code 121 zip code 72460

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 M. Mason
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/04/03
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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

1.14.04

Ravenden Springs School
Name of Property

Randolph 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

2

buildings

sites

structures

objects

2

0

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Public Schools of the Ozarks

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Field Stone

roof Composition Shingle

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

The Ravenden Springs School is a one-story, rectangular-shaped building located at the corner of Wells Road and an unnamed street, two blocks SW of Spring Street in the Ravenden Springs community in Randolph County, Arkansas. It was built in 1941, in the Craftsman style. The Ravenden Springs School sits on a cast concrete foundation, and is crowned by a gable on hip roof which is covered in composition shingles. The walls are covered in field stone.

ELABORATION

The Ravenden Springs School is a one-story, rectangular-shaped building located at the corner of Wells Road and an unnamed street, two blocks SW of Spring Street in the Ravenden Springs community in Randolph County, Arkansas. It was built in 1941 in the Craftsman style.

The building rests on a cast concrete foundation, and is of stone construction.

The interior of the building was built with four classrooms; however, the floor plan is not intact, as the interior of the building is undergoing renovation for use as the Town Hall and Community Center. Though window panes have been replaced, the frames are original.

Side/Northwest Façade

The side façade of the building faces northeast, and is comprised of three bays. The main entrance to the building is located in the center section of the façade, and has a wood door with windows, as well as side and transom lights. There is a concrete sidewalk leading up to the school, and two concrete steps lead up to the central entrance. The entrance is covered by a one bay, hipped, central porch. The entrance is flanked on each side by two wood-framed, double-hung, six-over-six windows, as well as side lights and transom lights. There is minor wood ornamentation. A brick chimney is located on the right side of the facade.

Rear/Southwest Façade

The southeast facade of the building is comprised of five bays. All five bays contain bands of windows, with only two of the bands not currently boarded up. Between the fourth and fifth bands from the left, there is a door covered by an awning. The windows are wood-framed, double-hung, nine-over-nine. There are two chimneys in this section. One is at the left side of the building, close to the eastern front façade, and the other is centrally located in the roofline.

Side/Southeast Façade

There are three bays which comprise the side façade of the building. There are two doors in the center bay of this façade which are covered by a shed porch. One door leads into the library, and the other leads into a classroom. A bank of windows flank either side of the porch, and the windows are currently boarded up. A chimney is above the center of this facade.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Front/Northeastern Façade

The southeastern corner consists of five wood-framed, double-hung, nine-over-nine windows. The next bay is comprised of an entrance which is covered by a shed porch. Side and transom lights are present at the door. Six concrete steps lead up to the porch.

The following bay is comprised of a bank of three wood-framed, double-hung, nine-over-nine windows, and an entrance which is covered by a central, one-bay, hipped porch. Stone posts support the porch, and minimal wood ornamentation is present. As with the other door on this façade, side and transom lights are present.

The next bay of comprised of two banks of three wood-framed, double-hung, nine-over-nine windows.

The last bay of this façade is comprised of a bank of six wood-framed, double-hung, nine-over-nine windows.

Interior

The interior of the building contains four classrooms, and a library. The original floor plan is not intact, as the building is being renovated for use as the Town Hall and Community Center.

Jail

There is a small jail on the southwestern edge of the rear façade. The jail was dismantled and moved from its original location at the edge of the canyon to the school grounds approximately 50 years ago. It is currently used for storage. The jail is rectangular in plan, with one story. It is of concrete construction, with the walls covered in concrete block. The roof is flat, and covered in concrete slab. Since the jail has been on the site approximately 50 years, it is considered to be contributing to the nomination.

Integrity

The Ravenden Springs School retains good architectural integrity, and closely reflects the time of its construction in 1941. The building retains its original windows, and all of the entrances are intact. Though the interior of the building is undergoing renovation for use as the Town Hall and Community Center, the community is being sensitive to the building's architectural character.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Ravenden Springs School is being nominated under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for association with education in Ravenden Springs and Randolph County, and **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example in Ravenden Springs of a Craftsman style schoolhouse.

Elaboration

The first known school in Ravenden Springs was the Case School, dating back to 1815. Classes were held in a cave on Hall's Creek, close to what is now Ravenden Springs. Run by Caleb Lindsey, this was the first free school in Arkansas.

Also known as "Dream Town," Ravenden Springs was established in 1880. A Methodist minister by the name of William Bailey had a series of dreams about a spring in the area that possessed medicinal qualities. After continually drinking water from this spring for an entire week, Bailey, who was seeking relief from a stomach problem, was remedied, and spoke highly of the powers of the spring water. The town soon flourished as a resort area. In 1889, according to *Goodspeed*, the town of Ravenden Springs consisted of "a post office, two general stores, one drug store, a first class hotel, a church, and a school house." The school building mentioned by *Goodspeed* was a one-room frame building, located north of the present Baptist Church. It was led by Professor David Hays and constructed in 1832.

In 1906, a ten room, two-story school was constructed, and in 1907, a high school was established for students from Ravenden Springs, Pocahontas, and other surrounding towns. In the fall of 1909, this two story building burned and was replaced with a larger, two-story, frame building. This larger school remained standing until it also burned in the middle of the 1939 school term. During the interim period between the 1939 fire and the construction of the new building in 1941, classes were held in local church buildings.

Built in 1941, and used until consolidation in 1974, the Ravenden Springs School is a wonderful example of a Craftsman style school house in Ravenden Springs. With its wood-framed, nine-over-nine, double-hung windows, stone construction, and hipped porches, it is the only extant Craftsman school building in Ravenden Springs. Two other buildings belonging to the school are no longer extant, as the Gymnasium was demolished, and the Home Economics Building burned. Having changed ownership many times over its history, the school was acquired by the town in 1990.

There is also a small jail at the southwestern corner of the building. The jail was dismantled and moved from its original location at the edge of the canyon to the school grounds approximately 50 years ago. It is currently used for storage. The jail is rectangular in plan, with one story. It is of concrete construction, with the walls covered in concrete block. The roof is flat, and covered in concrete slab.

Ravenden Springs School
Name of Property

Randolph County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Statement of Significance

The Ravenden Springs School is being nominated under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for association with education in Ravenden Springs and Randolph County, and **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example in Ravenden Springs of a Craftsman style schoolhouse.

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)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1941-1954

Significant Dates

1941

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

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 Record # _____

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 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Interview with Gene Bloodworth, Mayor, August 14, 2003.

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis:

The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

www.randolphchamber.com/general/history.html

members.yournet.com/nlmatthews/ravenden.htm

Ravenden Springs School
Name of Property

Randolph County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 659440 4020088
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 Ralph Wilcox
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date September 9, 2003
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9787
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 Town of Ravenden Springs, Gene Bloodworth, Mayor
street & number P.O. Box 262 telephone 870-869-7909
city or town Ravenden Springs state AR zip code 72460

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.

Ravenden Springs School
Name of Property

Randolph County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point 230 feet southwest of the south corner of Ash Street and Spring Street intersection, proceed southwesterly 165 feet, then proceed southeasterly 250 feet, then proceed northeasterly 165 feet, then proceed northwesterly 250 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Ravenden Springs School.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Ravenden Springs School

MULTIPLE NAME: Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Randolph

DATE RECEIVED: 12/05/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/16/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/01/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/18/04
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03001379

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 1/14/04 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



1. Ravenden Springs School
2. Randolph County, Arkansas
3. Wendy Perkins
4. 26 March 2003
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. Front/ Northeastern Facade



1. Ravenden Springs School
2. Randolph County, Arkansas
3. Wendy Perkins
4. 26 March 2003
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. Rear / side North Corner



1. Ravenden Springs School
2. Randolph County, Arkansas
3. Wendy Perkins
4. 26 March 2003
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. Side / Northwest Facade



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

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info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

4 December 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: Ravenden Springs School – Ravenden Springs, Randolph 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.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501)324-9787.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews,
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:wp

Enclosures

