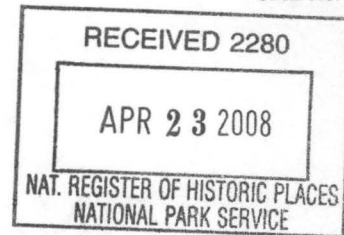


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



485

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 Cold Water School

other names/site number Cold Water-McPhearson School/ Site # BA0148

2. Location

street & number 2422 Baxter County Road 73

☐ not for publication

city or town Big Flat

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Baxter code 005 zip code 72519

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. [Signature]

4/4/08

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 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

[Signature]

5/29/2008

Cold Water School  
Name of Property

Baxter 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

**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)

OTHER

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls STUCCO  
  
roof METAL/Steel  
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 Cold Water School building is a traditional one-room school house common to rural school districts across Arkansas in the nineteenth and early to middle twentieth centuries. This building is the second and possibly third school building built on this site near the Cold Water Spring about a mile from the historic location of McPherson.

### Elaboration

Situated in a valley between the headwaters of Cold Water Creek and the Cold Water Spring, the Cold Water School is a one-room, plain traditional school house. The first school on this location was also a one-room school house of similar size and plan to that of the current Cold Water School. This first school building was of wood frame construction and the building burned at some point between 1915 and 1925. The current Cold Water School was built by local carpenters and craftsman about 1926. The exterior finish on this second school building was stucco and the interior was finished plaster walls. The foundation of the school is local field stone with bubble mortar for decorative effect. One stove provided all the heat for the building. Bathrooms, or outhouses, were constructed to the rear of the school, and fresh water was ladled from the Cold Water spring.

### East Elevation/Front

The front of the school is punctuated by a center porch with gabled roof. The porch is approximately one-half the width of the front. On each side of the porch are double-hung, two-over-two, aluminum windows. The front doors are two adjacent wooden, solid core doors with diagonal window pane. The main roof gable runs east to west and is centered on the front.

### North Elevation/Side

The north elevation features a ribbon of twelve double-hung, two-over-two, aluminum windows. The windows are covered in a ¼ inch, chain link fence to protect them from vandalism. The finish is stucco with some evidence of thinning of the stucco on the lower elevation.

### West Elevation/Rear

No windows or doors on this elevation.

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

## **National Register of Historic Places**

### **Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

---

#### **South Elevation/Side**

One door on the west edge of the south elevation provided exterior entrance and egress. Two small window openings on the south elevation have been filled the west window, originally a stationary, four pane, has been boarded. The east window has had an air conditioning unit installed in the window.

#### **Integrity**

Though the school building is currently being used for storage, it retains good integrity. The original stucco finish is in good condition and the metal roof is also in good condition. All of the original double-hung, four-over-four windows were replaced in the 1960s after consolidation with the Big Flat School District. This is also when the wire mesh was installed over the windows to protect from vandalism. A balustrade has been added to the porch that was not original to the building. Also the two adjacent front doors were originally solid doors with no windows.



**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

**Period of Significance**

1926-1958

**Significant Dates**

1926-1958

**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 8 Page 1

### Summary

The Cold Water School, also known as the Cold Water-McPhearson School, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criteria A** for its association with education of children in Baxter County.

### Elaboration

The Cold Water School, located at McPhearson, in Baxter County, was one of the earliest schools in Baxter County. The first building was constructed in the late 1880s. The second building was built between 1920 and 1926. This one room school house, was used as school, church, and community gathering center. The Cold Water School is the oldest, and only surviving structure, of the village of McPhearson. McPhearson is in the North Sylamore Region of the Ozark National Forest in southern Baxter County. The former village is approximately twenty-five miles south of Mt. Home, the county seat for Baxter County. Additionally, it is approximately fifteen miles southwest of Norfolk and fifteen miles west of Calico Rock. Though no longer a village or town, the area that once surrounded McPhearson is home to roughly 100 residents.

The first settler in the area may have been Charles or William Sneed. The Sneeds lived in the area and farmed along Cold Water Creek. Cold Water Creek runs into Sneed's Creek at McPhearson. Through the 1830s and 1840s settlement in the area continued to grow. The first post office established was named Table Rock. It operated from June 1854 until September 1866. After a three-and-one-half year closure the Table Rock post office reopened in 1870. Table Rock post office remained open another seven years before closing in November of 1877.

Dr. Thomas Morton established the post office of Sneed very near the present site of the Cold Water School in June 1884. However, the post office was only open a matter of months, closing in September of the same year. The community continued to grow and by the end of the nineteenth century had a steam powered sawmill, a store, and church. Both the sawmill and the store were owned by Sidney C. Mathews. Community growth again spurred the founding of a post office and in March 1888 Dr. Morton established the Morton post office, his second post office. However, in July the name was changed to McPhearson. It is unknown why the name of Morton's second post office was changed to McPhearson. Several families of McPhearsons lived in the community at the time. The most significant was E. C. McPhearson. The McPhearson post office operated until 1939.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Community growth necessitated the need for a school. As early as 1829, the Arkansas Territorial Legislature passed laws concerning public schools. The first laws allowed the state's towns to appoint trustees who were responsible for raising the money and establishing schools. Ultimately, this meant that the school system was a subscription based system. In 1843, the state legislature passed laws establishing public school systems based on public taxes revenue. However, the rural nature of Baxter County settlement meant a funding deficiency and required additional payments from those who wished to attend school; in effect a continuation of the subscription system. This greatly limited educational opportunities in Baxter County.

The location of the first public schools in Baxter County depended primarily on the families and the communities in which they were located. When a community had a population of children large enough to warrant the establishment of a school, they came together to select a central location and began the process to raise the money, or provide the labor to erect a building. Oral tradition holds that the first school in the community of McPhearson was on the same grounds as the current Cold Water School. It was a frame structure with timber provided by the local sawmill. The *Baxter Bulletin*, in 1905, mentioned that the school was made of sawed lumber with a single gable. It is likely that this school was built in the late 1880s with a traditional rectangular plan very similar to that of the current school building.

According to oral history this school burned completely in the 1910s. The destruction of the old building by fire necessitated the construction of a new school. The second Cold Water School was built between 1920 and 1926 as a stucco building with double hung, four-over-four windows. There is not, unfortunately, much information recorded about the schools in the McPhearson-Cold Water district. We know that the district was number 21 in the county. The *Baxter Bulletin* of January 13, 1905, listed the school as being an unpainted, wooden school house with a brass bell. The building was valued at \$600 dollars. One of the few records maintained were 1926 to 1928 school reports. These school records show that there were two teachers, Roy McClellan and Rudolf Martin for the period. The school only offered first through eighth grade education.

Mae Strubhar provided her personal accounts of teaching at the school in her memoir, "Ozark Memories." Strubhar, who taught in the 1942-1943 and 1943-1944 school years, relates that it was difficult adjusting to life in the middle of the woods. The school year began in July and Strubhar relates, "When school started...the hot weather sapped our energy. It was a nice time of the year to make overnight visits to the home of my pupils." Strubhar lived in the small teacher's home adjacent to the school. This small, two room, wood framed home featured a large porch and Strubhar comments that it was "clean" and "snuggled beautifully between two streams."

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

---

From Strubhar's accounts we can learn something of the school building itself. She notes, "The school house was equipped with nice desks and was a stuccoed building, painted on the inside." The school had, "outdoor restroom facilities and a level grass-covered play ground with plenty of space for a good softball diamond and other games at the same time." An oral history from Normalea Acklin, a student at the school in the late 1930s, relates that, "we all went to school barefoot. When it was getting to be cold I remember at recess I'd go out and play then run to warm my feet at a big old wood burning stove in the middle of the room." Aside from the school, the building was also used as community center, church, and Sunday School. Further solidifying the school's importance in the community, Strubhar relates that during her service at the school she was responsible for handing out ration books.

By the 1940s McPhearson had reached its peak. Logging in the area was slowing, the cotton economy was difficult, at best, for farmers in the Ozarks and the depression had driven many people from the community in search of more prosperous lives elsewhere. The community continued to dwindle until the school system consolidated with the Big Flat School in the early 1960s.

### Summary

The Cold Water School, also known as the Cold Water-McPhearson School, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with education of children in Baxter County.



Cold Water School  
Name of Property

Baxter 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

1926-1928 School Records in the collection of the Baxter County Heritage Museum. Gassville, AR.

Baxter Bulletin. *Baxter County Beginnings, 100 Years Ago*. Mt. Home: 1905.

Baxter County Historical Society. Research Files at Baxter County Historical Society. Gassville, AR.

Strubhar, Mae. "Ozark Memories." (unknown: Edgewood Press, 1945).

Wolfe, John Q. "Life in the Leather Woods."



Cold Water School

Name of Property

Baxter County, Arkansas

County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 Acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 566023 3999786  
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 Annamae Freeman; edited by Van Zbinden, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 3 April 2008  
street & number 323 Center Street, Tower Building 1600 telephone (501) 324-9880  
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 Bert & Mary Cox  
street & number 713 West Nabor telephone  
city or town Marlor state OK zip code 73055

**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.

Cold Water School  
Name of Property

Baxter 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

Beginning at 15S 566115m East 3999803m North thence northwest 402 feet to a point 15S 565994m East 3999825m North thence southeast 370 feet to a point at 15S 566033m East 3999719m North thence 391 feet to the beginning. Part of the Northwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Township 17 North, Range 12 West.

### Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the land historically associated with the Cold Water School.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cold Water School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Baxter

DATE RECEIVED: 4/23/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/12/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/27/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/06/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000485

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT ☐ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

A Rural School Serving a dispersed farming/mining Community, The Cold Water School served not only as the primary educational facility for the area but also as a community center. Meets the criteria under A at the local level.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept / Crit A

REVIEWER J. E. Gibbons DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE  DATE

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





1. COLD WATER SCHOOL
2. BIG FLAT VIC., BAXTER COUNTY, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. OCTOBER 25, 2007
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. EAST ELEVATION LOOKING WEST
7. #1





COLD WATER School

BIG FLAT VIC., BAXTER County, AR

3. SARAH MARICK

4. October 25, 2007

5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

6. EAST FACADE & NORTH ELEVATION Looking SOUTH WEST

7. # 2





1. COLD WATER SCHOOL
2. BIG FLAT VIC., BAXTER COUNTY, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. OCTOBER 25, 2007
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. NORTH ELEVATION Looking South
7. # 3







1. COLD WATER SCHOOL
2. BIG FLAT VIC., BAXTER COUNTY, AR
3. SARAH MARICS
4. October 25, 2007
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. NORTH FACADE + WEST ELEVATION LOOKING SOUTHEAST
7. #4



1. COLD WATER SCHOOL
2. BIG FLAT VIC., BAXTER COUNTY, AR
3. SARAH MARKS
4. OCTOBER 25, 2007
5. ARIZONA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. SOUTH ELEVATION LOOKING NORTH
7. H S





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

NORFORK QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS—BAXTER CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



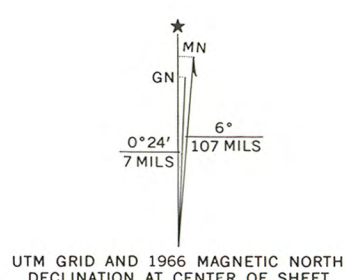
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

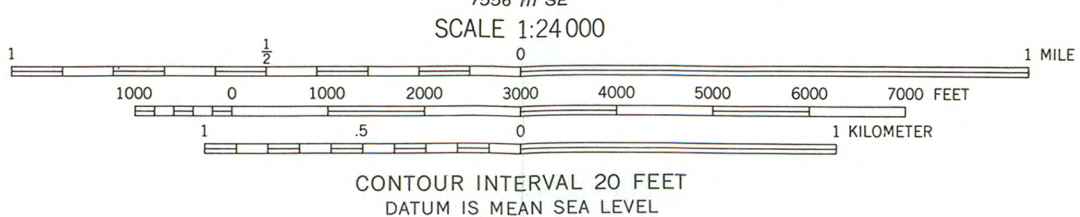
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966

Polycyclic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1966 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Medium-duty ..... Light-duty .....  
Unimproved dirt .....  
State Route

NORFORK, ARK.  
N3607.5—W9215.7.5

1966

AMS 7556 III NE—SERIES V884

COLD WATER SCHOOL  
BIG FLAT VIC.  
BAXTER CO.  
UTM:  
15/566023/  
3999786







The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

\*

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

\*

Delta Cultural Center

\*

Historic Arkansas Museum

\*

Mosaic Templars  
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](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

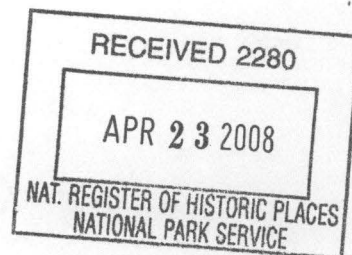
website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



April 4, 2008



Dr. Janet Matthews  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

RE: Cold Water School, Big Flat vicinity, Baxter County

Dear Dr. Matthews,

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. 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 Van Zbinden of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:vz

Enclosure