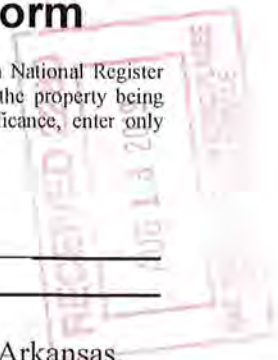


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

4437

# 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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Waldron School Historic District

Other names/site number: Site #SC0047-SC0048

Name of related multiple property listing:

An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943.

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 403 and 429 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street

City or town: Waldron State: Arkansas County: 72958

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

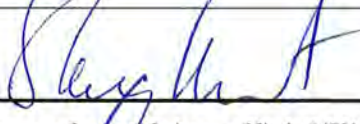
I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A     B     C     D

	<p>7-15-19</p>
<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	<b>Date</b>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

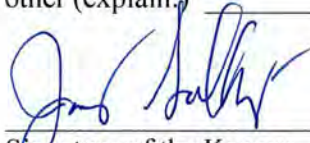
Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

9.27.2019

Date of Action

#### 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

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	buildings
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	sites
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	structures
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register           

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/School  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not In Use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Plain-Traditional

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone, Concrete, Asphalt

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Waldron School Historic District is located at the corner of West 5<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street. Within the campus are two contributing buildings, the C.E. Forrester Building (Home Economics Building) and the Vocational Agriculture Building. Both buildings were constructed by the WPA in the late 1930s.

The Vocational Agriculture building, located at 403 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, is a split-level stone building that was constructed in 1939 as part of a series of WPA projects. The building was constructed using native stone from the area. The level of craftsmanship is noticeable in the attention devoted to the arched porch entry and the arrangement of the horizontal native stone. The Vocational Agriculture Building is located at the northeast corner of the old Waldron High School Campus and current location of University of Arkansas Rich Mountain's satellite campus. There have been no additions made and only minor exterior damage to the building, therefore retaining much of its historical integrity. The only current exterior changes that exist are the plywood boards used to protect the remaining panes of glass and original window frames. The interior of the building is in a state of disrepair.



Waldron School Historic District

Scott County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

The C.E. Forrester building, located at 429 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, is a one-story stone building that was constructed in 1938 as part of a series of WPA projects. The building was constructed using native stone from the area. The level of craftsmanship is noticeable in the attention devoted to the arched porch entryways, chimney and arrangement of the horizontal native stone. The C.E. Forrester building is located at the northeast corner of the old Waldron High School Campus and current location of University of Arkansas Rich Mountain's satellite campus. There have been few additions made and only minor exterior damage to the building, therefore retaining much of its historical integrity. The original roof was replaced in the early 2000s due to leaks. The only other exterior changes that exist are the plywood boards covering all of the remaining panes of glass and original window frames. The interior of the building, however, is in a state of disrepair. The interior sheetrock and asbestos have been removed entirely.

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### **Narrative Description**

The Waldron Schools Historic District is located at the corner of West 5<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street. The campus has been the site of Waldron's school since the 1890's. Within the campus are two contributing buildings, the C.E. Forrester Building (Home Economics Building) built in 1938 and the Vocational Agriculture Building built in 1939. Both buildings were constructed by the WPA with help from the CCC and NYA.

#### **Vocational Agriculture Building - Contributing**

The Vocational Agriculture Building is oriented facing south on a small hill that slopes downward to the north. The building is on a side-facing T-Plan with a projecting porch on the primary structural unit of the building. The porch is composed of a full height arched entrance with a gabled roof, and is located in the center of the southern façade of the main structural unit. The building is constructed with horizontal native stone. The main structural unit is oriented horizontally facing south with a vertically oriented wing on the west end. The roof is composed of asphalt shingles and is cross hipped with gablets. Rafter tails are exposed along the eaves of the building. The gablets are covered with horizontally slotted gable vents. Two stone chimneys are located in the middle of the northern façade of the main structural unit.

#### ***Front - Southern Facade***

The southern façade of the main structural unit is fenestrated with five nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The window sills are concrete. In order from west to east there is a set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows, followed by the main entry porch, another set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows and a slightly smaller nine-over-nine double hung window. The full height main entry is arched and supported by two large stone piers on both sides. The porch is open and covered by a gabled roof. The side openings are likewise arched. A circular vent is located above the arch near the peak of the roof covering. One concrete step leads up to the porch. On both sides of the steps are stone stairway buttresses connected to a square stone plinth. The buttresses and plinths both have concrete caps. A concrete plaque is located within the left pier of the entry which reads, "Vocational Agricultural Building Waldron High School. Board of Directors, W.B. Pile Pres. E. Holland Sec. T.J. Gray, L.E. Windham, Donald Poe, L.R. Sawyer Supt. M.D. Johnson Sr. Voc. Inst. Cooperating with National Youth Administration of Arkansas 1939." The entry door is the original wooden door with three rectangular panes on the upper half.

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

On both sides of the door are side lights with six panes in a two-over-two pattern. A concrete path leads up to the main entrance.

***Side – Eastern Façade***

The eastern façade of the main structural unit is fenestrated with seven nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The window sills are concrete. In order from south to north there is a single nine-over-nine double-hung window, followed by three sets of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows. Two exterior vents are located beneath the first and third windows. Below the sixth window is a basement door with a set of three concrete steps leading down to it from ground level.

***Rear – Northern Façade***

The northern façade of the main structural unit is fenestrated with six nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The window sills are concrete. In order from east to west there is a stone chimney one third of the way down the façade, followed by a set two nine-over-nine double-hung windows, a second stone chimney, and two sets of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows. Both chimneys are squared and extend through the overhanging eaves of the roof line. A single rectangular exterior vent is located to the east of the first chimney near the base of the building.

***Side – Eastern Façade, Northern End, Wing***

The eastern façade on the northern end of the building's wing is fenestrated with four nine-over-nine double-hung windows in two sets of two. The window sills are concrete. An electrical box and meter are located on the northern corner of the façade. A metal electrical pole connected to the meter extends up along the façade and through the overhanging eaves of the roof line.

***Rear – Northern Façade, Wing***

On the northern façade of the wing are two large wooden bay doors that lead to the workshop area of the building. A concrete ramp leads up to the doors from the road. Stone blocks have been attached to the sides of the ramp.

***Side – Western Façade, Wing***

The western façade of the wing is fenestrated with six nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The windows are arranged in three sets of two in the center of the façade. The window sills are concrete.

***Front – Southern Façade, Wing***

The southern façade of the wing is fenestrated with five nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The windows are arranged in one set offset to the west of the facade. The window sill is concrete. A concrete sidewalk is located adjacent to the façade leading towards the main entrance of the building.

***Side – Eastern Façade, Southern End, Wing***

The eastern façade on the southern end of the building's wing is fenestrated with two nine-over-nine double-hung windows. In order from south to north there is a side entrance with the original

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

door, followed by a set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The window sills are concrete. A sidewalk is located adjacent to the façade leading towards the main entrance.

### ***Interior***

The interior of the building is currently in a state of disrepair. The original wood ceiling is still intact; however, there are several places where leaks have caused water damage. The original pendant light fixtures appear to be intact. Several of the exterior windows have been broken. All of the interior windows and doors are still intact. The interior walls are composed of both native stone and wooden panels. All of the interior walls appear to be intact. There are some areas of water leaks have caused damage to the interior walls. The building is currently storing unused school items.

### ***Interior Layout***

The main entrance to the Vocational Agriculture building opens to a small foyer. Directly to the left is a small closet with hinged double doors. Directly to the right is a large storage room/closet. Passing through the foyer leads to a classroom on the upper level. In the southeast corner of the classroom is a large storage room/closet. From the classroom near the foyer, a set of three concrete steps leads down to a second classroom on the lower level. A small storage room/closet and bathroom are located in the center of the southern interior wall of the second classroom. A large doorway with a sliding barn door leads from the second classroom to a large shop room in the western wing of the building. The shop room is approximately two thirds of the wing. A set of five wooden steps leads from the shop room to a classroom at the southern end of the wing on the upper level of the building. A small closet/storage room is located in the center of the eastern exterior wall of the third classroom. A second entry and foyer are located in the southeastern corner of the third classroom.

### **C.E. Forrester Building - Contributing**

The C.E. Forrester building is oriented facing south on a small hill that slopes downward to the north. The building is on a simple square plan with a projecting porch. The porch is composed of a full height arched entrance with a steeply-pitched roof located on the west end of the southern façade. The building is constructed with horizontal native stone. The roof is composed of asphalt shingles and is hipped with gablets at the west and east ends. Rafter tails are exposed along the eaves of the building. The gablets are covered with horizontally slotted gable vents. Three chimneys extend from the roof of the buildings. One is composed of native stone along the western façade, while the other two are brick extending from the west gablet and from the roof near the corner of the northern and eastern facades.

### ***Front – Southern Façade***

The southern façade is fenestrated with eight nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The window sills are concrete. In order from west to east there is a single nine-over-nine double-hung window located on the west end of the southern façade, followed by the main entry porch, a set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows, a set of three nine-over-nine double-hung windows, a set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows and a second corner entrance. The main entry is arched with a triangular pediment composed of native stone. The porch is enclosed and protrudes

Waldron School Historic District

Scott County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

about two feet from the façade, with a concrete path leading to the entrance. The entry is covered by a steeply-pitched roof. The walls within the entry are also native stone, while the floor is concrete. There are two original doors within the entry, one on the northern wall of the entry and the other on the east wall offset to the inside of the entry. The door on the north entry wall contains fifteen panes, of which the glass has been mostly broken. Above the door is a curved stone pediment. Within the pediment is a marker which reads "The C.E. Forrester Building." The marker does not appear to be original to the building. The second door contains nine panes on the upper half that have been broken. A concrete lintel is located above the second door. The ceiling of the main entry is composed of wooden slats with a small exterior light located in the center. The corner entry is located at the corner of the southern and eastern facades, with a concrete path leading to the entrance. A large stone pier is located on the corner, supporting the double opening. The second entryway on the southern façade is arched and flush with the rest of the façade. A pair of original wooden double doors, each containing fifteen panes, are located on the west wall of the second entry. A transom window with twelve panes is located above the double doors. The floor of the second entry is concrete with a single step leading up to the double doors. The ceiling is also composed of wooden slats with a small exterior light in the center.

### ***Side – Southern Facade***

The eastern façade is fenestrated with three nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The window sills are concrete. In order from south to north there are two nine-over-nine double-hung windows located to the south of the corner entrance, followed by a side entrance and a third slightly smaller nine-over-nine double-hung window. A square crawl space vent with a wooden frame is located directly below the first window near the base of the building. Two additional square vents with steel mesh covers are located beneath the other two windows. The side entrance is covered with a fixed awning made of lumber. The top of the awning has fallen in from neglect and was previously covered with asphalt shingles. A set of five concrete steps adjacent to the façade leads up to the side entrance. A pipe hand rail is also located on the right side of the staircase. The entrance contains the original wooden door with nine panes on the upper half. A transom window is located above the door with six panes.

### ***Rear – Northern Facade***

The northern façade is fenestrated with eleven nine-over-nine double-hung windows. Each window sill is concrete. In order from east to west there is a set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows, followed by a slightly smaller set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows, a small set of three nine-over-nine double-hung windows, a small set of two nine-over-nine double-hung windows, a single nine-over-nine double-hung window, a rear entrance and another single nine-over-nine double-hung window. Four square vents with steel mesh covers are located below each set of windows to the east of the rear entrance. A square crawl space access door is located below the single window on the west end of the façade. A set of ten concrete steps adjacent to the façade leads up to the rear entrance. A pipe hand rail is also located on the right side of the staircase. The rear entrance is covered with a fixed awning made of lumber. The top of the awning is covered with asphalt shingles. The original door with nine panes on the upper half is intact.

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

***Side – Western Façade***

The western façade is fenestrated with five nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The window sills are concrete. In order from north to south there are four individual nine-over-nine double-hung windows followed by a stone chimney and a fifth nine-over-nine double-hung window. Three square exterior vents with steel mesh covers are located below the middle three windows. The first window at the north end of the façade is slightly smaller than the others. The stone chimney is wide at the base of the building, eventually becoming narrower near the roof line and extending well above the roof. A double flue extends several inches beyond the chimney cap.

***Interior***

The interior of the building is currently in a state of disrepair. There are several holes in the original wood floor near the main entrance. Most of the glass has been broken out of the exterior windows and doors; however, the window frames and muntins are still intact. The interior sheetrock and asbestos has been removed, exposing the wooden laths beneath. Most of the fiberboard ceiling tiles are still intact, however there are areas where they have fallen in. Several of the original flush mounted globe lights are still intact on the ceiling. The Interior doors are also intact; however, the glass has been broken out of them.

***Interior layout***

The main entrance of the Forrester Building opens to a small foyer. Directly ahead is a small storage room with a brick chimney stack on the eastern interior wall of the room. Directly to the right is a large classroom. The classroom leads immediately into a second classroom space at the northeast corner of the building. A brick chimney stack is located at the northeast corner of the second classroom. One small storage room/closet is located in the second classroom in the center of the western interior wall of the room. One doorway at the northwestern corner of the room, and a small hallway at the southwestern corner of the room lead to a third classroom space. In the center of the southern wall of the small hallway is a small storage room/closet. A second small storage room/closet is located in the center of the northern wall of the hallway. A small storage room/closet is located at the northwestern corner of the third classroom. A brick fireplace is also located on the western exterior wall of the third classroom.

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

Social History

Politics/Government

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1938 – 1940

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1938

1939

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

WPA, Builders

Dutch Creek CCC Camp Workers

NYA, Builders

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Waldron School Historic District represents an important part of Waldron's educational history and is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the activities of the WPA, CCC and NYA in Scott County during the 1930s. Both buildings within the historic district served the city of Waldron and its public school system in equal but distinctive ways. The Home Economics (C.E. Forrester) Building completed in 1938 and the Vocational Agriculture Building completed in 1939 are excellent examples WPA-era architecture using horizontal native stone. The buildings were constructed as part of a series of WPA projects begun in Scott County in 1934. From the time of their construction in 1938 and 1939 to the closing of the old High School in 2005 several thousand students passed through their doors and participated in a variety of home economics and vocational education classes. The buildings served the community's educational needs for 67 years. Contextually the building relates to other WPA era buildings in Scott County. The Waldron School Historic District is also being nominated under the multiple property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **History of the Property**

Scott County was formed in 1833 and was named for Supreme Court Judge Andrew Scott. The original area of the county also included the townships of Boon, Washburn and Reveille, which since 1875 have been part of Logan County. The county seat was originally established near present day Booneville in what was known as Cauthron.<sup>1</sup>

In the 1830s William G. Featherston arrived in the area that would become Waldron and was perhaps the town's first citizen. By 1840 many of Scott County's residents wanted the county seat moved closer to the center of the county. On January 5, 1843, the change was made official and the seat was moved to the community of Winfield located northeast of present day Waldron. A log court house was erected in Winfield, which was also used as a post office and tavern. Soon after in 1845 William Featherston offered the county ten acres of land near his home as a third location for the county seat. The offer was accepted and the land was surveyed by John P. Waldron.<sup>2</sup> Waldron had studied surveying in the eastern United States. The town was later named in his honor. The area he surveyed is known as the Featherston Addition.<sup>3</sup> The Village of Waldron was officially incorporated on December 17 1852. Featherston's barn was used as the

<sup>1</sup> McCutchen, Henry Grady, "History of Scott County Arkansas," *Early Political History*, (McCutchen, Arkansas 1922) pg. 22.

<sup>2</sup> Goodner, Norman, "Scott County Days Gone By", *Chapter 2 1830-1839*, pg. 10.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, Goodner, Norman, pg. 10.

Waldron School Historic District

Scott County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

first court house until a new one was built later in 1859.<sup>4</sup> Several early businesses in Waldron included cotton mills, lumber mills and grist mills.

During the Civil War Waldron was attacked on four occasions in 1863. Union forces were sent to Waldron to capture Confederate forces and guard the southern and western military roads leading to Fort Smith. When the Second Kansas Cavalry departed in 1864 they burned much of the town to the ground. After the Civil War, Waldron had a difficult time regaining order. During the years from 1873-1879 the town went through a period of violence known as “the Waldron War,” in which more than thirty people were murdered. To restore order the governors Elisha B. Baxter, August H. Garland and William R. Miller ordered the militia to Waldron.

Waldron grew steadily during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>5</sup> In 1904 the Arkansas Western Railway, a branch of the Kansas City Southern Railway, built a 31.7-mile line from Heavener, Oklahoma, to Waldron in order to serve the timber industry. The introduction of the railroad enabled Waldron to become an important shipping location and brought economic growth to the area. By 1920 the town had a bank, newspaper, telephones, brick factory, canning factory, ice and cold storage plant, soda plant, numerous lumber interests, a hotel and several mercantile businesses.<sup>6</sup> A 23-mile extension was later built in 1931 to serve the Caddo River Lumber Company in Forester southeast of Waldron. The Forester extension was later abandoned in 1954 when the sawmill closed two years earlier in 1952.<sup>7</sup>

In the 1960s Arkansas Valley Poultry, now Tyson Foods, established a plant in Waldron. This marked the beginning of the poultry industry’s massive economic impact on Waldron. Currently Tyson Foods is the largest employer of Waldron’s citizens. Other businesses have developed over the years contributing to Waldron’s growth including Rice Furniture, Weigh Tech and STI Industries.<sup>8</sup>

In 1840, several years after Arkansas had entered the union as a state, there were no schools in Scott County. Ten years later in 1850 the county had six school districts after the common school law was enacted. Four of these schools were located in Hickman Township, one was in Mountain Township and one in Tomlinson Township.<sup>9</sup> The log court house erected in 1859 on Featherston’s land served as Waldron’s first school as well.<sup>10</sup> Ten years later in 1860 there were ten public schools located throughout the county, including one remaining in Waldron.<sup>11</sup> Despite disruption during the Civil War schooling continued in Waldron and actually improved after the

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<sup>4</sup> Gray, Wanda M., “Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture,” *Waldron (Scott County)*, (Last Updated 10/9/2018), <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=985>.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, Gray, Wanda M., *Waldron (Scott County)*.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, Gray, Wanda M., *Waldron (Scott County)*.

<sup>7</sup> Duggan, Tom, “Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture,” *Kansas City Southern Railway*, (Last Updated 12/14/2015), <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=6302>.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, Gray, Wanda M., *Waldron (Scott County)*.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, McCutchen, Henry Grady, pg. 32, 33.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, Goodner, Norman, pg. 11.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, McCutchen, Henry Grady, pg. 33.

Waldron School Historic District

Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas

County and State

war ended. In 1870 the school building destroyed during the Civil War was replaced by a two-story structure with the first floor being used as a school and church.<sup>12</sup>

In May 1882 the Scott County Court house burned, thus destroying all records that defined the boundaries of the various school districts that had been established throughout the county. Several months later in August the county court re-established the boundaries of the 56 school districts active in the county, including Waldron (district number 15).<sup>13</sup> A new two-room school building was erected in east Waldron in 1886. Three years later a two-room addition was added and the first high school class was taught in Waldron. This school was known as the Waldron Academy. The school began facing financial problems in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and it was announced in 1897 that Waldron High School would convert to a subscription school on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

As the town of Waldron grew so did the school. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Waldron High School was reported to be one of the best institutions of learning in western Arkansas. A new two-story brick high school building was constructed in 1905 by Morris and Sublett of Mena. The school continued to progress and by 1911 had a six member orchestra, an expression class and a Homeric Literary Society.<sup>14</sup>

In May 1928 the Waldron High School Building was destroyed by a fire. The building was insured for \$10,000, but this only covered about one third of the total loss. Thousands of dollars' worth of equipment, books, teaching material and classroom furniture was lost in the fire. The school met the next Wednesday and determined that continuing school for the remainder of the semester would be useless. They decided also to let the teaching staff go ahead and determine each student's eligibility to pass or graduate.<sup>15</sup> A new two-story brick school building was constructed in time for a late opening the next school year. The school was built on a small hill closer to the center of town and across the street from the future location of the Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics Buildings.

Arguably the most important person responsible for the development of the Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics Buildings was Charlie Edward Forrester. Charlie Edward Forrester was born in Parks, Arkansas, in 1871. After his mother passed he moved to Waldron with his father John. Charlie was a prolific businessman early in his career. He began working at his father's general store, and eventually bought him out forming the Forrester-Goolsby Corporation. Forrester expanded his operation and soon began to invest in timber and cotton. He established sawmills throughout the area and eventually formed a partnership with a Mr. Roseborough in the 1920s. Together they established the lumber town of Forrester next to the

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<sup>12</sup> *Ibid*, Goodner, Norman, pg. 15, 16.

<sup>13</sup> O'Nale, John P., "Scott County, Arkansas: Its Formation and Political Subdivisions," *Schools*, Volume IV, (Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society), pg. 1-1, 2, 4.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, Goodner, Norman, pg. 26, 28, 29, 39.

<sup>15</sup> Author Unknown, "Waldron High School Building Destroyed by Fire," Newspaper Clipping, Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Waldron School Historic District

Scott County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Caddo River Lumber Company in southeast Scott County near the Fourche La Fave River.<sup>16</sup> Mr. Forrester convinced the Arkansas Western Railroad, a division of the Kansas City Southern, to expand a track from Waldron to Forrester. The town soon contained a population larger than Waldron's. Due to the depletion of timber resources and poor management, the Caddo River Lumber Company closed the mill in 1953. Charlie Forrester's philanthropic efforts included donating land for the public school, including the Home Economics Building and the Vocational Agriculture Building.<sup>17</sup>

The consolidation of rural Scott County schools to Waldron School District began in 1929. This was the first time that Waldron schools had opened on a non-tuition basis in the last 15 years. The consolidation of Evening Shade and Natty (Union Hill) School Districts increased the high school enrollment by 33 percent. With the consolidation of the two school districts, the Waldron School District was established as a new school district (number 45).<sup>18</sup> Consolidation of various school districts throughout Scott County would continue through 1954. By the end of 1954 all Scott county schools had consolidated with either Waldron, Mansfield or Fourche Valley School Districts. Some grades were still being taught in Boles and Parks, but most children in the county were attending school in Waldron.

In 1961 the Waldron High school was destroyed yet again by fire. For the remainder of the year students were sent to the nearby communities of Boles and Parks to attend school.<sup>19</sup> After the school burned, there was a realization for a larger and more up-to-date school. At the cost of \$200,000 a new school was built adjacent to the current Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture building on land donated by C.E. Forrester. A junior high wing, cafeteria and auditorium were also built, bringing the total expenditure to \$260,000. A new gymnasium was constructed a year prior across the street from the new school for \$102,000. Likewise a new elementary school was built in front of the Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture Buildings. The completion of the new school and supporting facilities in 1962 modernized the Waldron school system and drastically expanded the campus.<sup>20</sup>

For several decades the school and supporting facilities served Waldron's educational needs. In 1980 a new Middle School Building was constructed on the west side of Waldron. A new gymnasium was added to the middle school later in 1989. In 1993 an elementary school building was constructed beside the new middle school. The 1962 school building, Vocational Agriculture Building and Home Economics Building and old gymnasium served only high school students from 1980 until 2007. In 2007 another new high school was constructed near the new middle school and elementary school campuses. The old high school was torn down and the campus has

<sup>16</sup> Hope, Holly, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form," *C.E. Forrester House*, OMB No. 1024-0018, 03/31/98, pg. 6.

<sup>17</sup> Smalling, Evelyn Standerfer, "Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture," *Forrester*, Last Updated 9/19/2017, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=6194>.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*, O'Nale, pg. 16.

<sup>19</sup> Hunsucker, A.E., "Waldron Intermediate School Building Destroyed by Fire," Newspaper Clipping, Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society.

<sup>20</sup> Author Unknown, "New School Symbolizes Progress," Newspaper Clipping, (1962), Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Waldron School Historic District

Scott County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

since been converted into a city park. The gymnasium serves as the county's Boys and Girls Club, while the Vocational Agriculture building, Home Economic building and old Elementary School building are owned by University of Arkansas Rich Mountain Community College and used as a satellite campus.

### Significance of the Property

Education in Waldron has been important to residents from its early history to present day. Education played an important role in the community before Waldron was incorporated and continued even against obstacles such as war, natural disaster and economic devastation. As Scott County began to consolidate schools in 1929, the Great Depression struck and crippled the nation. Waldron was one of the many schools throughout the country that faced economic hardship. However, Waldron would continue its role in educating young minds despite financial hardship, its rural setting and low funding. The school district was in the past considered one of the best educational institutions in western Arkansas. Several important figures have passed through the doors of the Waldron School system and by connection the Home Economics and Vocational Agriculture Building. These figures include Senior United States District Judge Billy Roy Wilson, State Representative Marcus Richmond, and State Senator Terry Rice.

The Waldron School Historic District is important for its association with Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. The Waldron School Historic District is an excellent example of the work of the WPA in Scott County and the Ouachita region. The WPA (Works Progress Administration) encompassed all emergency public works, non-federal PWA (Public Works Administration) projects, the federal-state highway program, CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) and regular federal department projects. The WPA also provided funds for work relief, while the projects were required to benefit public health and welfare.<sup>21</sup> A series of WPA projects began in Waldron in 1934. These projects included the Art Deco County Court House built in 1934 and the Parks School House built in 1940. The WPA led the project to construct the Home Economics Building in 1938 and the Vocational Agriculture Building in 1939. The indigenous Folk style of architecture associated with the WPA is synonymous throughout Arkansas and in the Ozark and Ouachita regions in particular. The buildings that comprise the Waldron School Historic District are excellent examples of this architectural style. The native fieldstone used in each building was commonly used for schools that were built during this period.<sup>22</sup>

The WPA authorized \$4,949.00 on June 30, 1938, for the Home Economics Building. The Waldron School District also contributed \$2,452.00 to the project. Additional WPA funds were later approved in November in the amount of \$1,296.00, while the Waldron School District again contributed funds in the amount of \$600.00. Charlie Forrester also allocated funds to the project. Work began on the building thereafter and was completed in late 1938. From 1938 to the late 1990s the school building was used to teach Home Economics classes to Waldron's high school

<sup>21</sup> Hope, Holly, "Works Progress Administration," *An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943*, (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock 2006), pg. 32.

<sup>22</sup> Baker, William D., "Characteristics of Ozark School Buildings," *Public Schools in the Ozarks, 1920-40*, (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock) pg. 19.



Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

students. The building was also used by the community for canning and sewing classes. Likewise the Future Homemakers of America organization used the building to hold their meetings in.<sup>23</sup>

The Waldron School Historic District is also important for its association with the CCC and the relevance of the organization's work in Scott County and the Ouachita region. Accompanying the WPA in Scott County was a CCC camp that was established east of Waldron. CCC camps usually consisted of approximately 200 men and were usually chosen by the Army with advice from a Forest Service or National Park Service Representative. The Dutch Creek CCC camp was located on Highway 80 East about 13 miles from Waldron. There are several CCC structures located throughout the county including the Cold Spring built circa 1936, Powder Magazine built circa 1935, Poteau Work Center built circa 1939 and two Poteau Work Center Residences built circa 1938. Even though the main purpose of the CCC was to provide labor in park and forest lands, they occasionally assisted in urban areas also.<sup>24</sup> The Dutch Creek CCC camp provided labor for the Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics Buildings when they were being constructed.

Lastly the Waldron School Historic District is important as an excellent example of the work of the NYA in Scott County and the Ouachita region. During the depression the Office of Education collaborated with the WPA to organize the NYA (National Youth Administration) to offer the nation's youth educational, financial and psychological guidance.<sup>25</sup> Youths from the area who were part of the organization contributed to the construction of Vocational Agriculture Building in 1939. This was one of 67 vocational agriculture buildings in Arkansas that were constructed by the NYA by 1943.

The Waldron School Historic District reflects the importance of education in Waldron, as well as the presence of the WPA, CCC and NYA in the 1930s. The Waldron School Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the WPA, CCC and NYA during President Roosevelt's New Deal and for its important role in education for the city of Waldron. The Waldron School Historic District is also being nominated under the multiple property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

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<sup>23</sup> Grey, Wanda M. "Waldron News", *WPA Buildings: Home "Ec" and "Agri"*, May 20, 2009, pg. 6.

<sup>24</sup> Smith, Sandra Taylor, "The CCC Camps", *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942*, (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock), pg. 8.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, Hope, Holly, pg. 27.

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### **Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

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O'Nale, John P., "Scott County, Arkansas: Its Formation and Political Subdivisions," *Schools*, Volume IV, (Scott County Historical and Genealogical Society), pg. 1-1, 2, 4, 16.

Smalling, Evelyn Standerfer, "Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture," *Forrester*, Last Updated 9/19/2017, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=6194>.

Smith, Sandra Taylor, "The CCC Camps," *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942*, (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock), pg. 8.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** SC0047-SC0048

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acree of Property** 2.96 acres.

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                  |
|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 399904 | Northing: 386201 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:        |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:        |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:        |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Part of Lots 1 and 2 of Block 8 Forrester Duncan Addition to the town of Waldron, Scott County, Arkansas, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the northeast corner of said lot 1; Thence north 86 degrees 52 minutes 08 seconds west 24:00 feet to a point; Thence south 02 degrees 30 minutes 25 seconds west 280.00 feet to a point; Thence north 86 degrees 52 minutes 15 seconds west 460.0 feet to a found one half inch rebar PS NO 947; Thence north 02 degrees 30 minutes 24 seconds east 280.00 feet to a found one half inch rebar PS NO. 947; Thence south 86 degrees 52 minutes 08 seconds east 460.00 feet to the point of beginning. Containing 128,796 square feet or 2.96 acres more or less.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Arkansas Historical Records Survey Project. Inventory of the County Archives of Arkansas: Scott County. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies. Central Arkansas Library System, Little Rock, AR.

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Waldron Public Schools Historic District includes the C.E. Forrester Building, Vocational Agriculture Building and the lot that they are situated on that was donated by Charlie Forrester and has historically been associated with the property. The C.E. Forrester Building at 429 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street and the Vocational Agriculture Building at 403 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street are on the corner of West 5<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street. The University of Arkansas Rich Mountain Waldron campus office and classroom building are located directly south of the building on adjoining lots at the corner of West 6<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Street. To the west is Forrester – Davis Park on adjoining lots.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ty Richardson, Richardson Preservation Consulting, edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
street & number: 1100 North Street  
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201  
e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov  
telephone: (501) 324-9787  
date: April 12, 2019

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Waldron School Historic District

City or Vicinity: Waldron

County: Scott County State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed: February 26, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 18 . South and east façades of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking northwest.
- 2 of 18 . East façade of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking west.
- 3 of 18 . North and east façades of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking southwest.
- 4 of 18 . North façade of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking southeast.
- 5 of 18 . South and west façades of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking northeast.
- 6 of 18 . West façade of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking northeast.
- 7 of 18 . Front porch detail of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking north.
- 8 of 18 . Cornerstone of the Vocational Agricultural Building, looking north.
- 9 of 18 . South façade of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking northeast.



Waldron School Historic District  
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas  
County and State

- 10 of 18 . South and east façades of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking northwest.
- 11 of 18 . North and east façades of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking southwest.
- 12 of 18 . North and east façades of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking southwest.
- 13 of 18 . North façade of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking southeast.
- 14 of 18 . West façade of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking southeast.
- 15 of 18 . West and south façades of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking northeast.
- 16 of 18 . Front porch detail of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking north.
- 17 of 18 . Interior of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking west.
- 18 of 18 . Interior of the C.E. Forrester Building, looking northwest.

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

















403















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THE  
GE. FORRESTER  
BUILDING











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Waldron School Historic District

Multiple Name: New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS

State & County: ARKANSAS, Scott

Date Received: 8/13/2019      Date of Pending List: 9/13/2019      Date of 16th Day: 9/30/2019      Date of 45th Day: 9/27/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100004437

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

X Accept       Return       Reject      9/27/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Automatic listing  
Reviewed and no substantive issues. Meets registration requirements of MPS

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / A

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*



August 7, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street, NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: Waldron School Historic District – Waldron, Scott County,  
Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Waldron School Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. 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 cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



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