

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

DEC 16 1983

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Windy Run Grade School

and/or common Windy Run School

2. Location

street & number Tesla Road, Intersection of Co. Route 38 and Co. Route 19/48 HR U.S. 19 not for publication

city, town Tesla vic.  vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Braxton code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Braxton County Board of Education

street & number Main Street

city, town Sutton vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Braxton County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Sutton state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Windy Run School stands in an isolated vale on a half-acre parcel surrounded by an open meadow in the sparsely populated hill country of southeastern Braxton County, West Virginia. The tiny white-painted frame structure, the only remaining one-room schoolhouse in the county, stands out in its rustic setting of summer green and winter gray.

Otter District's Windy Run School is a very well-preserved example of the now-rare 19th-century rural frame schoolhouse. Built in 1889, the spare and functional qualities of its simple design have invested the edifice with longevity because, unlike many larger and more ornate wooden buildings of the period, deterioration of intricate and vulnerable sawn and turned parts was not a factor in the history of the building's maintenance. The schoolhouse is, nevertheless, a substantial example of period carpentry. The twenty-four-foot wide by twenty-eight-foot deep rectangle features generous side walls of 3-bays each and ample fenestration; three broad windows are double hung and contain 6x6 lights per sash. Mouldings, window and door casing, corner boards, and frieze boards are all plain, but well appointed finish items.

Five-inch wide weatherboard siding and standing seam metal roofing lend durability to the Windy Run School. The transom-lighted front door is sheltered beneath a single-bay gabled porch. A commodious single room is finished much as it was when the last classes were held there in 1963. A blackboard, window-blinds, occasional framed pictures, and tables and chairs remain in the building. Heating was provided by a stove centered in the room and attached to a small central chimney. A frame, gable-roofed privy stands 150 feet to the rear of the schoolhouse on the edge of the meadow.

The Windy Run School, presently owned by the Braxton County Board of Education, is vacant. It is the focal point of an annual homecoming of former students who journey to the site each summer to renew old acquaintances. The homecoming group undertakes, with cooperation of the county school board, necessary repairs and maintenance. Dr. Hoy E. Eakle, a leading citizen of the county, has played an important role in this endeavor. Dr. Eakle taught school at Windy Run School in the years 1934-35.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1889 **Builder Architect** Jacob Huffman, builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Built in 1889, the Windy Run School of Otter District, Braxton County, West Virginia, is significant as the only surviving one-room schoolhouse in the county, and as a very well preserved example of 19th-century rural frame vernacular architecture in central West Virginia. The tiny edifice is also important because it remains the focal point of an annual homecoming of former students, many of whom have achieved prominence in professional and public service career fields throughout the United States.

The legendary "ole one-room schoolhouse", often portrayed in literature and popular art, remains a significant and beloved part of the success story of America's public education history. The primary education received by thousands of citizens in these facilities provided a sound footing for those who continued their training in advanced institutions, and gave the many who remained in the rural areas - often engaged in agricultural pursuits - sound, life-long training in rudimentary but necessary educational skills. Jesse Stuart, the noted writer on rural Americana themes, has often alluded to the importance of the rural, primary educational system.

The school at Windy Run was built in 1889 by Jacob Huffman, a local builder, according to the history of the school district and recorded by one Frank Skidmore, in a letter to the Braxton Board of Education, dated March 7, 1936. Speaking "with pardonable pride", Skidmore notes the "advancement made by the pupils" as evidenced by the skills of an early teacher who

"without high school or normal training, twenty two pupils of the school and 10 pupils of near here who finished their primary education and qualified for teachers, many of them making first grade certificates, and many of them entered medical colleges, law schools, business colleges, passed their examinations, graduated and went to work in their chosen professions and have filled, and are now filling, positions of honor and trust."

The frame schoolhouse at Windy Run is the best preserved of the small number of such structures known in central West Virginia. It retains a great deal of its historical integrity, including plumb walls, a fine standing seam metal roof, and good carpentry details such as corner boards, frieze boards, and other elements simply but well fashioned.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Deed Book 19, p. 129, Braxton County Court, Sutton, West Virginia.  
Records of Braxton County Schools, Sutton, West Virginia.  
Frank Skidmore to Braxton County Board of Education, March 9, 1936.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Little Birch, West Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7	5	2	4	0	3	0	4	2	7	2	1	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Includes only the 1/2-acre parcel as described in Braxton County Deed Book 19, p. 129, as follows: (See Continuation Sheet).

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Unit date October 14, 1983  
Dept. of Culture and History

street & number Capitol Complex, The Cultural Center telephone 304/348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia 25305

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

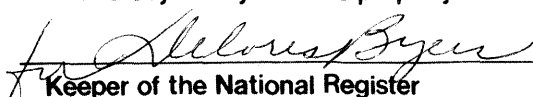
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 7, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 date 1/12/84  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Windy Run School, Braxton County, West Virginia

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

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Within such a humble but essential public facility were many to be furnished, in the words of Mr. Skidmore, with the "primary qualifications for doctors, nurses, lawyers, business men and women, officers and ministers and last but not least the community farmers who are good citizens and kind and obliging neighbors, so we have provided everything necessary for the physical and spiritual needs from the cradle to the grave."

Item #10

Verbal Boundary Description: Continued

"all the certain tract on parcel of land situated in Braxton County on Windy Run below James P. Heffners where the school house now stands beginning at a stake and water beech pointers(?) near the bank of Windy Run west 5 poles to stake S 3½ W 16 poles to a stake E 5 poles to a stake near the bank of creek; thence N 3½ E 16 poles to the beginning containing one half acre of land..."