

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Oark School/Methodist Church

Other Name/Site Number: JO 0093

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: NE of int. State Hwy. 215 & Co. Rd. 34

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Oark

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Johnson Code: AR 071 Zip Code: 72854

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: "Public Schools of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920 - 1940"

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater

Signature of certifying official

August 11, 1995

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
_____ other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall

Entered in the
National Register

9/29/95

Joe

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic:	<u>Education</u>	Sub:	<u>School</u>
	<u>Religion</u>		<u>Religious Facility</u>
Current :	<u>Social</u>	Sub:	<u>Civic</u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Craftsman

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal
walls Weatherboard other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Oak School/Methodist Church is a single-story, rectangular-plan frame building that was constructed c. 1923 in a restrained version of the Craftsman style of architecture.

Elaboration

Constructed c. 1923, the Oak School/Methodist Church is a single-story, rectangular-plan frame building. The frame walls rest upon a continuous fieldstone foundation and are clad with false-bevel novelty siding. The side gable roof is covered with ribbed metal sheets over the original wood shingles and features a small hipped roof belfry on the north elevation and a central interior brick chimney. Both gable ends are embellished with five supporting triangular knee brackets.

The front, or eastern, elevation contains a double-leaf entrance with two-pane transom that is positioned just north of center. Originally the building was entered through two separate single-leaf doors with transoms. The northern door of the current entrance is in its original location, while the second door was situated a few feet to the south and divided by a narrow wall. Two unusual window groupings comprise the fenestration for this elevation. The windows are symmetrically arranged near each end of the facade and consist of two one-over-one, double-hung windows flanking two short, single-pane, stationary windows. The one-over-one window nearest the corner in both groups is longer in length than the inside window.

Both the southern and northern elevations are non-fenestrated. The western elevation duplicates the window composition of the front elevation, but with two extra stationary windows per group. A photograph of the school/church taken in 1938 reveals a later hipped-roof addition that had been somewhat crudely attached to the northern elevation. It has since been removed.

The interior is virtually unaltered since construction and reveals flush-board walls, a double-beaded board ceiling, and a raised stage at the north end of the room.

Although the associated Oak Cemetery is located to the northeast of the school/church, it is not included within the boundaries of this nomination.

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1923

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

Summary

The Oak School/Methodist Church is being nominated as an amendment to the "Public Schools of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920 - 1940" under Criterion C with local significance as the best example in Oak and the surrounding community of a Craftsman-style school building.

Elaboration

The Oark School/Methodist Church originated as a result of the collaborative efforts of the Oark School District and the local Methodist Church. Upon the building's completion circa 1923, half of the school was partitioned off by a curtain and served as a Methodist high school academy. Unfortunately, only three students enrolled, and the academy ceased operation after the inaugural year. The Oark School District held classes in the building for grades one through eight until about 1938 when the district consolidated with the Catalpa and Mulberry Grove school districts. The new school building was constructed by the Works Progress Administration at a different location.

As the name indicates, the building was also used by the Methodists and other denominations as a church during this time. In the late 1950's, the Oark School/Methodist Church building was once again used to hold school classes when the new school building burned. Shortly thereafter, the building was deeded to the community for use as a common building. It is currently used for public meetings, voting, funerals, and other community activities.

The Oark School/Methodist Church is being nominated as an amendment to the "Public Schools of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920 - 1940" multiple property nomination under Criterion C as the best example of a Craftsman-style structure in the Oark community. Although the building is similar in many respects to other Plain Traditional-style, one-room school/church buildings in the Ozark Mountain region, the Oark School/Methodist Church is differentiated by its subtle application of Craftsman-style elements, most notably the unusual window groupings.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Information submitted by Doug Langdon, Secretary for the Oark Community Building. November, 1994.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>448340</u>	<u>3949640</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line formed by the eastern edge of Co. Rd. 34 and a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the northern elevation of the school, proceed easterly along said line to its junction with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the eastern (front) elevation of the building; thence proceed southerly along this line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the southern elevation of the school; thence proceed westerly along said line to its junction with the eastern edge of Co. Rd. 34; thence proceed northerly along the road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic school/church and associated property but excludes the adjacent cemetery.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 11, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Oark School--Methodist Church
NAME:

MULTIPLE Public Schools of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940 MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Johnson

DATE RECEIVED: 8/30/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/13/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/29/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/14/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001142

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9/29/95 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS: Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Oark School / Methodist Church
Oark, Johnson Co., Ark.
Photo by Ken Story
May, 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
View of front elevation
from the east



Dark School / Methodist Church
Dark, Johnson Co., Ark.

Photo by Ihen Story

May, 1995

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the southwest



Dark School / Methodist Church

Dark, Johnson Co., Ark.

Photo by Ken Story

May, 1995

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the northeast



Dark School / Methodist Church
Dark, Johnson Co., Ark.

Photo by Ken Story

May, 1995

Negative on file at AHP

View from the north



Dark School / Methodist Church
Dark, Johnson Co., Ark.
Photo by Ken Story
May, 1995
Negative on file at AHPP
View of stage area from the south



Dark School / Methodist Church

Dark, Johnson Co., Ark.

Photo by Ken Storly

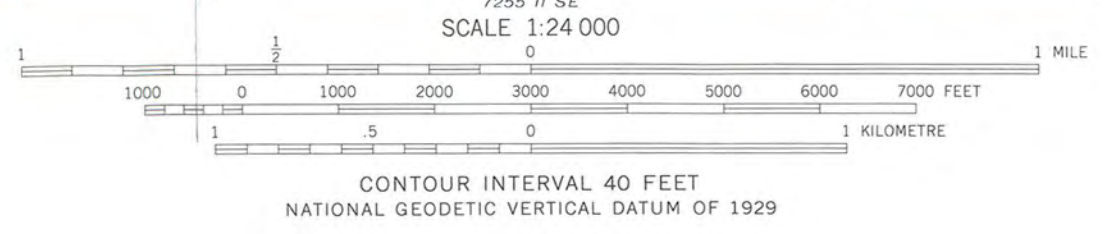
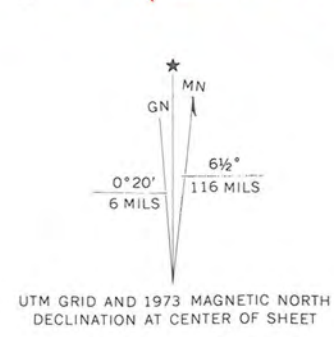
May, 1995

Negative on file at AHPP

View of western elevation windows
from the interior



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
16 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

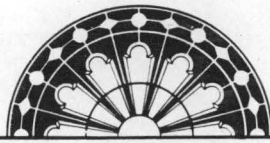


ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

OARK, ARK.
35093-F5-1F-024

1973

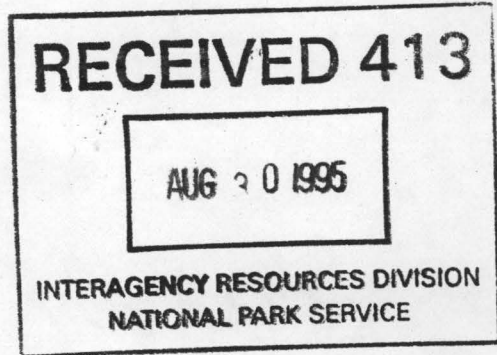
DMA 7255 II NE-SERIES V684



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

August 11, 1995

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002



RE: Fisher, John P., House
Portland, Ashley County

Oark School/Methodist Church
Oark, Johnson County ✓

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced properties. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

