

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Brewer School

other names/site number CE0104

### 2. Location

street & number Brewer Road  not for publication

city or town Brewer  vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Cleburne code 23 zip code 72130

### 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.)

Calieh D. Nease  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/8/04  
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

Brewer School  
Name of Property

Cleburne County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

## Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

## Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Plain-Traditional

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

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**

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### **SUMMARY**

Constructed in 1910, the Brewer School is located in the small community of Brewer in the northwest corner of Cleburne County, Arkansas. The rectangular-shaped building sits atop a continuous fieldstone foundation and is sheathed in weatherboard siding. A brick chimney pierces the center of the building's composition shingle-clad hipped roof. With the exception of a wheelchair ramp, the building has remained virtually unaltered since the 1940s.

### **ELABORATION**

The Brewer School is located in the small community of Brewer in the northwest corner of Cleburne County, Arkansas. Constructed in 1910 to serve as a school for the community, the Plain-Traditional-style building is rectangular-shaped and contains a single interior room. The building sits atop a continuous fieldstone foundation and is sheathed in weatherboard siding. A front porch supported on posts shelters the building's front entryway. With the exception of a wheelchair ramp, the building has remained virtually unaltered since the 1940s. The privy, located to the northeast of the property, is extant and is a contributing resource.

### **South Elevation**

The front of the building faces south. A shed roof porch supported by wood posts shelters the building's front entryway. It is believed that the porch was added in the 1940s, but there is no written documentation to support this. The building is entered through a pair of centrally located wood double-doors. The school bell still hangs to the east side of the front porch. The only non-historic change that has occurred to the exterior is the addition of a wheelchair ramp along the west side of the porch.

### **East and West Elevations**

The east and west side elevations are identical. Each is fenestrated by four symmetrically placed four-over-four double-hung windows. The northernmost window on the west side has been covered with plywood.

### **North Elevation**

The back of the building faces north. A single wood door provides access to the back of the building.

### **Interior**

Original pine floors remain in the interior. A small iron stove is located in the center of the floor. A piano and rows of church pews remain from the building's secondary use as a church.

**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.

**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 #

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)ARCHITECTURE  
EDUCATION**Period of Significance**

1910-1951

**Significant Dates**

1910

1951

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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

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### SUMMARY

The Brewer School is located in the Brewer Community which is in the northwest corner of Cleburne County, Arkansas. The building functioned as a one-room school from 1910 until 1950 when the school was consolidated with the West Side School District. The building was built in 1910 after a fire destroyed the original school building. After the school was closed the building continued to serve as a church and community meeting place. The Brewer School is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with education in the Brewer Community. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a Plain-Traditional designed school building.

### ELABORATION

Present day Cleburne County was first settled in 1815 by the John Standlee family. The family homesteaded and built a ferry near the mouth of the Devil's Fork of the Little Red River a relatively short distance from present day Brewer. The area along the river was settled rather quickly due to the flat fertile soil in the river bottom. The mountainous areas, like Brewer, were only sparsely settled throughout the first half of the nineteenth-century.

On February 20, 1883, Cleburne County became the seventy-fifth and final county established in Arkansas. It was created from land annexed from Van Buren, White and Independence counties. The area around Brewer slowly began to grow as better roads were cut through the treacherous hills that had isolated the location from the rest of the county.

The Brewer community lies in the northwest corner of Cleburne County. Known since 1890 as Poff Township, present day Brewer was first awarded a post office in 1906. Although the area was already known as Poff Township, the post office was named for postmaster George G. Brewer and the community became known by that name.

The first school to serve the area was built sometime around 1900 and was known as Copper Springs School. This school was located within a few hundred yards of the current building and was adjacent to the community cemetery. Copper Springs School burned between 1908 and 1909 leaving the community without a place to educate their children.

In 1910 the Poff family donated one acre of land and residents pulled together funds and labor to build a new school. The Brewer School's purpose was primarily to hold classes for local children. However, as was tradition in most rural hill communities, the building served to meet both the religious and educational needs of the local citizenry.

The school covered first through seventh grade. At one time there were as many as 40 students attending the school.

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National Park Service

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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It is believed that Mr. Albert Stark was the first teacher. Some other teachers at Brewer School were Buena Smith Turney, Louise Smith, Orf Sutterfield and Lena Mae Hipp. The teachers traveled to the school on horseback and boarded with the Hughs family during bad weather. One former teacher, Louise Smith, recalled in a recent interview riding her pony through the hollow and crossing a creek to reach the school.

The school was officially consolidated with West Side School in 1950. However, the students were unable to get to the consolidated school because a bridge between the community and the school was out of service. So, the school was not physically consolidated until 1951.

With the completion of the Greers Ferry Dam near Heber Springs in 1963, the already somewhat isolated area of Brewer was cut off from other small towns to the south with the filling of Greers Ferry Lake. Population in the area declined and today Brewer is home to only a small group of full time residents.

Although the building no longer hosts church services and has not held classes for over fifty years, it still serves the community. Each election year the building once again serves the community as the polling location for area residents.

Until 1948 many small one and two room school buildings dotted the landscape of Cleburne County and most other rural parts of Arkansas. Today very few remain. Built in 1910, the Brewer School remains as an almost unaltered example of this once common building type. It stands today as a reminder of what education once was in rural Arkansas. Although the building was last used as a school over fifty years ago, the building continues to serve the community as a polling place during elections. By listing the building on the National Register of Historic Places, it is hoped that the building will gain recognition for the important role it has played in the community for over ninety years.

### **Statement of Significance**

Good examples of the traditional one-room church/school of rural areas are becoming scarce. Brewer School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of the Plain-Traditional style of architecture that was often used in the construction of rural schools. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with rural education in Cleburne County, more specifically the Brewer Community.

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Berry, Evalena. *Time and the River: A History of Cleburne County*. Cleburne County Historical Society, (Heber Springs) 1982. pp. 61, 131,134-137,145, 221, 236.

Brown, Lois. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

Brown, Willie. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

Duren, Paul. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

Endsley, Fate. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

McElroy, Junior. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

McElroy, Otis. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

Knapp, Bess. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

Smith, Louise. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

Ware, Doc. Interview with Kay Roseberry, January2004.

Brewer School  
Name of Property

Cleburne County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** One acre.

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>573990</u>	<u>3947372</u>
	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.)

SE ¼, SW ¼, SW ¼, SE ¼, Section 17, Township 12N, Range 11W

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all resources historically associated with the school.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Zac Cothren  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 2/17/1978  
street & number 1600 Tower Building 323 Center Street 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Brewer School  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Cleburne

DATE RECEIVED: 4/14/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/07/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/22/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04000506

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 5/26/04 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Broner School

Cleburne County, AR

Zae Cotter

Jan. 2004

AHPP

South elevation looking north.

#1



Brecher School

Cleburne County, AR

Zac Cothern

Jan. 2004

AHPP

North east corner border Southwest

#2



Brenner School

Cleburne County, AR

Zoe Cithran

Jan. 2004

AHPP

West elevation looking east.

H3



Brewer School

Cleburne County, AR

Zac Cothron

Jan. 2004

A HPP

Privy - Northeast corner of property.

#4



Brewer School

Cleburne County, AR

Zac Cothran

Jan 2004

AHPP

Bell located at front corner of building

H S





# The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council  
Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission  
Historic Arkansas Museum  
Delta Cultural Center  
Old State House Museum



## Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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

April 8, 2004

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005



RE: Brewer School- Brewer, Cleburne County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

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 Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:zac

Enclosure

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