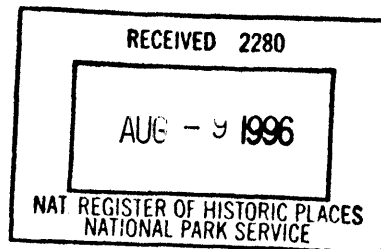


NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number Intersection of County Rds. 409 & 24.5 not for publication N/A  
city or town Nowata vicinity X  
state Oklahoma code OK county Nowata code 105  
zip code 74048

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this XX 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 XX meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. ( N/A See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

B. Wade 31 July 1996  
Signature of certifying official Date

Oklahoma Historical Society, SHPO  
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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Beth Polanco 9/23/96  
     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 Keeper 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
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>4</u>     | <u>0</u>        | buildings  |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | structures |
| <u>0</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>4</u>     | <u>0</u>        | Total      |

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

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

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

|                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Cat: <u>EDUCATION</u>         | Sub: <u>school</u>  |
| <u>SOCIAL</u>                 | <u>meeting hall</u> |
| <u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u> | <u>auditorium</u>   |
| _____                         | _____               |
| _____                         | _____               |
| _____                         | _____               |
| _____                         | _____               |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Cat: <u>SOCIAL</u> | Sub: <u>meeting hall</u> |
| _____              | _____                    |
| _____              | _____                    |
| _____              | _____                    |
| _____              | _____                    |
| _____              | _____                    |
| _____              | _____                    |

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

roof ASPHALT

walls BRICK

other BRICK/Chimney

BRICK/Catch Basin for Cistern

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

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 a grave.
- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1919-1946

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
8. Statement of Significance (Continued)  
=====

Significant Dates   N/A    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)  
  N/A    
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation   N/A    
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder   Unknown    
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
9. Major Bibliographical References  
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data  
 State Historic Preservation Office

- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
10. Geographical Data  
=====

Acreage of Property One Acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

|   | Zone       | Easting                        | Northing       | Zone | Easting     | Northing    |
|---|------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | <u>15</u>  | <u>256890</u>                  | <u>4060740</u> | 3    | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| 2 | <u>N/A</u> | <u>See continuation sheet.</u> |                | 4    | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

name/title Ann Yirsa Dugger, Ed.D., President: edited by Cynthia Smelker  
Architectural Historian

organization Diamond Point Preservation Assoc. date February 1996

street & number 1623 W. Liberty Avenue telephone 405/624-3380

city or town Stillwater state OK zip code 74075

=====  
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)

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form  
Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School  
Nowata County, Oklahoma

Page 8

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Diamond Point Preservation Association

street & number Rt. 2, Box 153 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Nowata state OK zip code 74048



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Diamond Point Dependent  
District #44 School  
name of property  
Nowata County, Oklahoma  
county and State

SUMMARY

The Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School is an atypical brick, one-room schoolhouse built in 1919. It is situated on its original site on the northwest corner of the intersection of County Roads 409 and 24.5. The one-story school building is constructed of red brick with a native stone foundation. The cross gabled roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The west elevation boasts a distinctive two-story, hipped roof bell tower. Other exterior features include a gable roofed entry porch on the south wall and a brick chimney on the east elevation. Decorative details consist of extended eaves and double and triple windows. The school grounds encompass one acre of rolling, rural terrain approximately eight miles southwest of the town Nowata, Oklahoma. Two contributing outhouses, a separate boys and girls, are located along the north property line behind the schoolhouse. Directly behind the school is a contributing, stucco, combination coalhouse and garage. To the east of the southeast corner of the school building, is a concrete block pumphouse. The property is surrounded by a pipe fence built during the early 1940s. The school building has undergone minor alterations, such as modifications to the bell tower, but has retained its overall integrity to a fairly high degree.

EXTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School is a one-room, brick building with a native stone foundation. The schoolhouse was built with all load bearing brick walls for exterior surfaces. This method of construction with multi-brick (three) layers has the added advantage of passive resistance to heat and cold. The building was constructed of modular brick from Coffeyville, Kansas. The asphalt covered roof is cross gabled. The east and west elevations have brick gables, while the gable on the entry porch is weatherboard.

The facade of the building, the south elevation, contains the primary entrance and five six-over-six, double hung windows. The entrance is sheltered by a gable roofed entry porch supported by two brick columns. The door is wood slab and is not original. The windows have wooden sashes and limestone sills. The two outer windows are single, while the three interior form a ribbon window. In the center, above the ribbon window, is a distinguishing semi-circular window.

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Diamond Point Dependent  
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The west elevation contains the distinctive two-story bell tower. The hipped roof bell tower is covered with asphalt shingles. Originally open, the bell tower has been enclosed with louvered wood. Other elements on the west side of the building include one six-over-six window in the entry hall.

The building's rear features six six-over-six windows. The wooden, double hung windows are paired and cover the entire elevation.

The east elevation has no windows. The wall is divided almost equally with the placement of the tall, brick chimney. To the northern side of the chimney is the only opening on the east wall, a non-original door. This slab door was added in compliance with fire codes around 1957. It is sheltered by a metal awning and has cement steps with a handcrafted blacksmith rod ironing rails.

Located north of the school, along the property line, are two contributing outhouses. The outhouses are also brick with asphalt covered, gable roofs. The outhouses are currently without their wood doors and privacy screens due to deterioration. To the immediate north of the school building is a stucco, hipped roof building with exposed rafter tails formerly used as a coalhouse and garage. Both the outhouses and the coalhouse/garage were constructed in the late 1930s utilizing used brick. The coalhouse/garage was converted into a cooking/lunchroom facility when the school began serving hot lunches to the students. As such, on the east side of the garage where the large door was, a single door has replaced the former garage door and the remainder of the area has been infilled with cement block. The coalhouse/garage, however, was stripped of its cabinets, water heater, stove, refrigerator and sink when the school was annexed in 1968. A cement block building directly east of the southeast corner of the school building houses a pump used to provide cistern water to the building until the late 1960s. Slightly to the east of the school remains some playground equipment. The school property is encircled by a pipe fence.

INTERIOR DESCRIPTION

The total area of the schoolhouse is 1,152.5 square feet. The schoolhouse has an 8' by 9' entry hall. To the right of the entrance is a 7' by 9' cloak room. At the time of construction, the main school room was L-shaped and one level.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Diamond Point Dependent  
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Currently, the school building contains a stage which measures 23' by 8'7", a 29' by 23' main room, two 4'6" by 6' restrooms and an 11' by 9' kitchen area.

The original wood floor is intact but was covered with tile in 1955. Interior walls are plastered and painted. The walls are currently in need of repair and painting. Most of the 3' by 4' slate chalkboards are original and intact. Electricity and electric lights were added to the building in the late 1940s. Propane stoves replaced the pot-bellied coal stoves about the same time. The bookcases and cabinets were changed in 1960. Indoor bathrooms were added during the summer of 1966. The windows and glass panes are original and in good condition but in need of maintenance. Three interior doors are original. These doors are 3' wide and 7' high with two panels. The clear ceiling height is 12'. The original ceiling was plaster but it was covered with acoustical tile during the summer of 1956.

ALTERATIONS

The Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School has undergone little alteration. The only major alteration has been the addition of the second entrance on the east side of the building in 1957 to comply with fire codes. This entrance does not detract from the building's integrity as it is on the side elevation and it does not adversely impact the building's overall form or characteristics. Other alterations include the infill of the bell tower with louvered wood and slight modifications to the interior. These alterations are minor and do not detract from the overall impact of the school. Overall, the Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School continues to maintain its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and conveys the feeling of its past environment.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Diamond Point Dependent  
District #44 School  
name of property  
Nowata County, Oklahoma  
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School, located in the vicinity of Nowata, Oklahoma, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an example of a one-room, country school that served the educational needs of the community of Diamond Point from 1919 to 1968. The school also played an important role in the community's social history as a community gathering center for various social and political functions. The period of significance for the Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School is 1919 to 1946. It begins with the year of construction of the school and extends to the National Register fifty year benchmark. The school is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C as a rare surviving example of an early twentieth century one-room brick school house with a brick bell tower. It is the only example of this type of school in Nowata County that retains its integrity.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The Diamond Point community was predominately settled by Mennonite wheat farmers that had moved into the area from Kansas. Local lore indicates that the Diamond Point citizens were very educationally minded and desired to provide a better school and environment for the children of this area. The original Diamond Point schoolhouse was located .5 miles west and on the south side of County Road 24.5 from the current schoolhouse site. In 1919, one acre of land for a new school was sold to Diamond Point Dependent District #44 for the sum of one dollar by W. E. and Mary E. Roberts.

During the 1918-1919 school year, construction began on the new school building while classes were held in the old white frame one-room school typical of Nowata County after Indian Territory and Oklahoma Territory united to become the state of Oklahoma in 1907. The new school was ready for the 1919-1920 school year and the old school building was torn down.

In 1995, after it was proposed by the Nowata Public Schools Superintendent to sell the property, alumni, Diamond Point community members and other concerned citizens worked to form the Diamond Point Preservation Association (DPPA) to preserve the

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Diamond Point Dependent  
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school and all original materials wherever possible. In December, 1995, the building was sold to the DPPA for the sum of one hundred dollars with a reversal clause if the building is not operated as a community center.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Diamond Point Dependent District #44 is significant to the educational history of Nowata County because of its contribution to the education of the community's children from 1919 to 1968. The period of significance for the school extends from 1919 to 1946. The period of significance ends in 1946 to conform with the National Register fifty year mark. The one-room country school emphasized the simultaneous education of area students in grades one through eight during that time. A dependent school district did not have high school accreditation and was required to remit funds to an independent district to allow its eighth grade graduates to attend high school. Many graduates from Diamond Point were satisfied with an eighth grade education while others lived with relatives in town to obtain a high school diploma. Without the rural one-room schools, many children would not have received any formal education.

Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School was one of two remaining one-room country schools in Nowata County in 1968. It was one of the last operating one-room country schools in the state of Oklahoma. Classes at Diamond Point Dependent District #44 ended in May 1968. Students and property ownership of the school buildings were then transferred to Nowata City Schools. The building and grounds have been maintained by the Diamond Point community and Diamond Point Sunday School.

In addition to providing education, the Diamond Point school served the community as a cultural and social center. School events such as Pie Suppers, Christmas Programs, Spelling Bees and debates provided the community with entertainment. Furthermore, a full range of community activities were held in the school, such as public speakers, political rallies, community bridal and baby showers and other activities. Social events at the school usually meant "standing room only" as young and old gathered to participate. Members of the Diamond Point community were farm and ranch families that took an active role in local politics and community affairs. The school also served as a landmark and provided geographic identification for the community residents.

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Diamond Point Dependent  
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=====  
Other functions of the school were added during World War II. During the war, the school served as the community center for social and charitable projects. Women met for quilting bees and made a patriotic quilt which contained every community member's name serving in the Armed Forces.

Additionally during the war years, as it was near impossible to buy tires and gasoline, a center close to home for the rural children to attend and receive religious training was needed. The Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School was in a central location making it convenient for the residents to use. Its gasoline lights and coal stove also made it ideal during the lean war years. The Diamond Point Sunday School was organized in 1943 for the purpose of giving the residents of the rural community an opportunity to meet and worship. The Sunday School remained non-denominational because the community consisted of people from several denominations. The Diamond Point Sunday School continued meeting at the school until it disbanded in November of 1994.

Since World War II, the Diamond Point School has also served as the meeting place for the community Home Demonstration Club, 4-H Club, Rural Electric Association and Rural Water District.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School represents a departure from the architecture usually found in Oklahoma rural schools. The walls are three bricks deep with two wall cavities surrounding the center brick serving as insulation from the cold and heat. No wood was used to frame the exterior walls which are all load bearing walls. Wood was used in the construction of the school building walls only to frame the windows. The south, west and east elevations have brick gables. On the front of the school a semi-circular window to the attic provides ventilation and is also a decorative detail not common to rural, one-room schools. In addition, the two-story side bell tower on the west elevation over the entryway of the school is very unusual.

Furthermore, the Diamond Point Dependent District #44 School is the only intact, brick, one-room school building in Nowata County. It is one of the very few in Oklahoma still located on its original site and still playing an important role as community center.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gulliford, Andrew. America's Country Schools. Washington, D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1984.

Jenzen, Rudie. Oral interview with Ann Y. Dugger. Summer 1995.

May, Charles A. Oral interview with Ann Y. Dugger. 14 June 1995.

Nowata County Records, Warranty Deed, vol. 182 at 140 of the records.

Nowata County Superintendent Annual Report. August 1920.

Yirsa, B. G. Oral Interview with Ann Y. Dugger. 12 July 1995.

Yirsa, Helen J. Unpublished manuscript, 30 June 1987.

=====  
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at point 160 rods South of the NE corner of Section 8, Township 25 N, Range 15 E, thence in a westerly direction a distance of 264 feet, thence in a northerly direction 165 feet, thence easterly direction 264 feet, thence in a southerly direction 165 feet to the point of beginning and containing one acre.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all the property historically associated with the school.