

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



150

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Hulsey Bend School

Other Name/Site Number: (IN0609)

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2. Location

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Street & Number: Freeze Bend Road .7 miles east of intersection of Hwys 122 and 14

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Oil Trough

Vicinity: X

State: AR County: Independence

Code: AR063

Zip Code: 72564

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

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>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Hulsey Bend School
Name of Property

Independence County, AR
County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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 1-7-99
Signature of certifying official 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

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5. National Park Service Certification

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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): _____

Elson H. Beall 2.12.99

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

Hulsey Bend School
Name of Property

Independence County, AR
County and State

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Education Sub: school

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

OTHER: one-room school

Materials: foundation stone roof metal
walls weatherboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY

This c. 1900 one-room, wood-frame, one-story schoolhouse, painted red with white trim and roofed with corrugated sheet metal, sits at the edge of a wheat field typical of the eastern part of Independence County. The Hulsey Bend School is adjacent to an early 20th-century farmstead, including a house and barn, along with other more recent buildings such as a small house, stable, and agricultural storage facilities.

ELABORATION

The school building faces north, and the front facade has an arched vent in the gable. Both the front and rear elevations feature a single centered door of relatively recent vintage. The eastern elevation has three, one-over-one double-hung wood-framed windows, and an interior brick flue penetrates the roof. The western elevation also has three windows; however, these are four-over-four double-hung wood windows. The only stylistic feature of this simple vernacular balloon-frame building is the use of a small amount of molding at the top of the corner boards to suggest capitals. Concrete steps lead to both doors. Adjacent to the school is

Hulsey Bend School
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the original water pump, also painted red. It is considered a contributing object. A wooden flagpole, not original to the site, sits northwest of the building.

The interior walls and ceiling are clad in beaded board. Approximately four feet from the front exterior wall is a partition running across the building, with door openings at each side. On the schoolroom side of the partition is the blackboard. About half of the original wooden desks remain on the west side of the room. The cast iron pot-bellied stove still sits near the flue on the east side. A few shelves were installed on the back wall in the 1960s to hold donated schoolbooks. The present pine tongue-and-groove flooring was installed over the original floor in 1961, because that floor deteriorated.

Besides the changes noted above, other alterations include demolition of the raised platform at the center front of the classroom, where the teacher's desk originally sat. This feature was torn up and burned for firewood c. 1952 by tenants. On the exterior, the original steps have been replaced with concrete, some of the window sashes have been replaced, and a bell tower originally located adjacent to the western elevation was demolished (again, for firewood) in the late 1940s. The wood shingle roof was replaced with sheet metal after it was heavily damaged by storms in 1943. Accounts state that the bell tower was also damaged by these storms. At some point, the exterior was painted white with green trim rather than the present red with white trim.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1900

Significant Dates: c. 1900

Significant Person(s): N/A

Hulsey Bend School
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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

Despite deterioration, the Hulsey Bend School exhibits a high level of architectural integrity. For these reasons the Hulsey Bend School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance as an exemplary representative of a vernacular c. 1900 school building in Independence County and the best example of such in the Oil Trough area. Also contributing to the nomination is the adjacent water pump.

ELABORATION

Around the turn of the century, twenty or more families lived in the Hulsey Bend area of Independence County, a large horseshoe-shaped bend in White River (named for a pioneering family whose members included Kelley M. Hulsey, a Justice of the Peace, constable, and owner of prime farmland along the riverbank). Mostly tenant families, they farmed cotton with horses and mules. This part of the county contains some of its best farmland, the "Oil Trough Bottoms," with deep, rich soil. The area is also high enough above the river not to be regularly flooded. The 1889 Goodspeed history of the area stated that crop yields were one to one-and-one-half bales of cotton, fifty to a hundred bushels of corn, or twenty to forty bushels of wheat per acre.

In 1898 Mr. Jeff Long, a prosperous landowner at Hulsey Bend, was persuaded to allow a side room of his plantation commissary to be used for a school one summer term. A second term was taught there in 1899. At that time Long held 250 acres of prime farmland. In 1900 the Hulsey Bend School was constructed adjacent to Long's home and near the commissary on land donated by Johnson Fields. Long was a progressive community leader who had Delco system lighting and running water in his rural home before World War I. After his death about 1917, his widow sold the property, including the school site, to her brother Zed Griffith, who lost everything in the early Depression to a Newport, Arkansas, bank. In 1931, the property was purchased by W. J. Freeze, whose son still owns it.

The one-room school accommodated first through eighth grade classes, with as many as 65 children attending during a single term. Over thirty teachers served the school between its opening in 1900 and its last term in the summer of 1947, when it consolidated with the Oil Trough Public

Schools. The building also served as a community center, with an afternoon Sunday School taught there for many years in the late 1930s and early 1940s. A handful of the oldest citizens still living in the area remember attending school and other community events there.

After several years of neglect, the school was repaired by the present owner and opened to school groups and other groups who wished to tour. For a time it was listed as a site that could be visited by Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts who wished to earn a badge related to Arkansas heritage.

This modest vernacular structure is typical of the one-room schools once found all across the country. In 1889, Independence County had eighty-one school districts, many of those with more than one school location. Hulsey Bend, for instance, was one of four small schools operated by the District 95 School Board. The others were located at Elmo, Gum Chapel, and Beeler. All these schools provided educational opportunities for rural children and served as centers for their communities. These simple buildings were an important part of the American dream that each generation could have a life better than that of its parents. With improvements in transportation and higher educational expectations, these schools were consolidated to form larger centralized districts, the buildings continued useful lives in some cases as churches or community gathering places. Hulsey Bend School, the last surviving one-room school in Independence County, typifies these common experiences.

Despite deterioration, the Hulsey Bend School exhibits a high level of architectural integrity. For these reasons the Hulsey Bend School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance as an exemplary representative of a vernacular c. 1900 school building in Independence County and the best example of such in the Oil Trough area. Also contributing to the nomination is the adjacent water pump.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Freeze, Bill J. "Husley [sic] Bend School." One page brochure printed privately for distribution to visitors.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

Hulsey Bend School
Name of Property

Independence County, AR
County and State

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>643230</u>	<u>3944460</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:

Part of the Northwest fractional 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27 T12N R4W, beginning on the E division line of above described land 27 1/2 rods South of the Northeast division corner of above described land, thence running West 95 feet, thence South 115 feet, thence East 95 feet to the East division line of said land, thence North on said division line 115 feet to the place of beginning

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property is the parcel donated for construction of the school in 1900 and contains all surviving historic resources associated with the property.

Hulsey Bend School
Name of Property

Independence County, AR
County and State

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Dr. Diane Tebbets

Organization: _____ Date: June 22, 1998

Street & Number: 561 East Main Street Telephone: (870) 368-7371

City or Town: Batesville State: AR ZIP: 72501

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Hulsey Bend School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Independence

DATE RECEIVED: 1/14/99 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/26/99
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/11/99 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/28/99
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 99000153

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 2.12.99 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



1. Hulsey Bend School
2. Independence Co., AR
3. Holly Hope
4. July, 1998
5. AHPP
6. North facade and east elevation, looking southwest



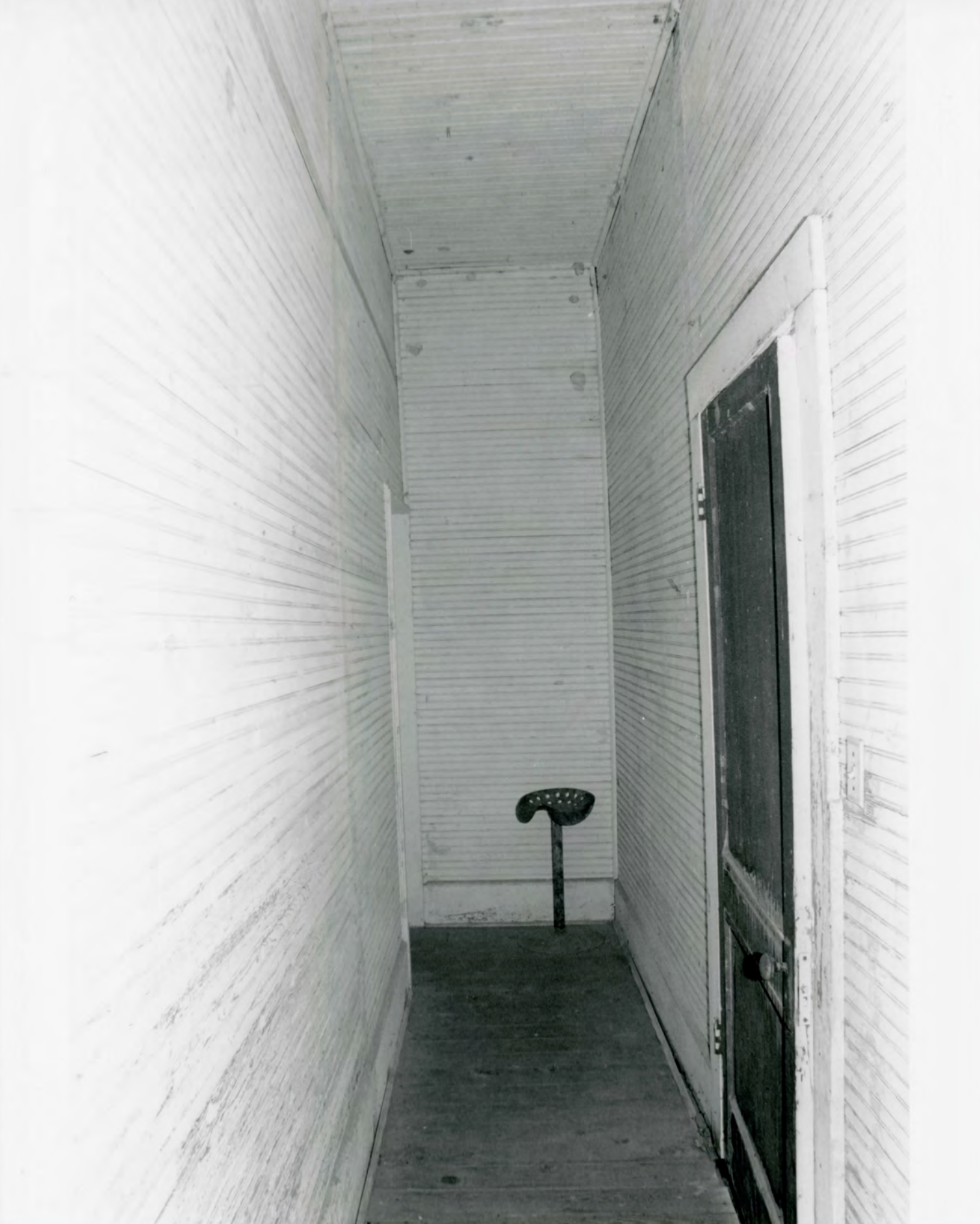
1. Hulsey Bend School
2. Independence Co., AR
3. Holly Hope
4. July, 1998
5. AHPP
6. South and east elevations, looking
northwest (note water pump)



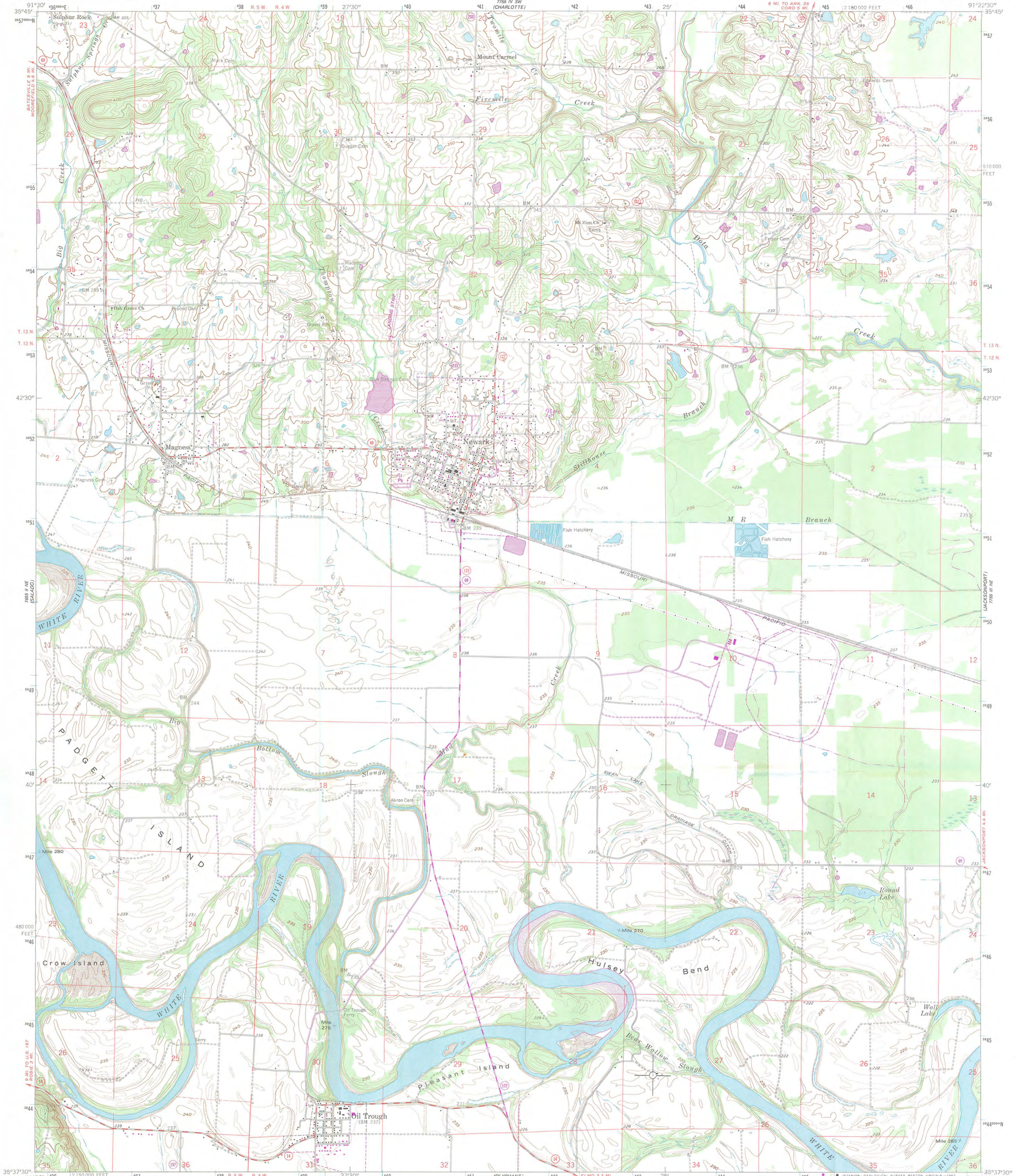
1. Hulsey Bend School
2. Independence Co., AR
3. Holly Hope
4. July, 1998
5. AHPP
6. Interior: looking North



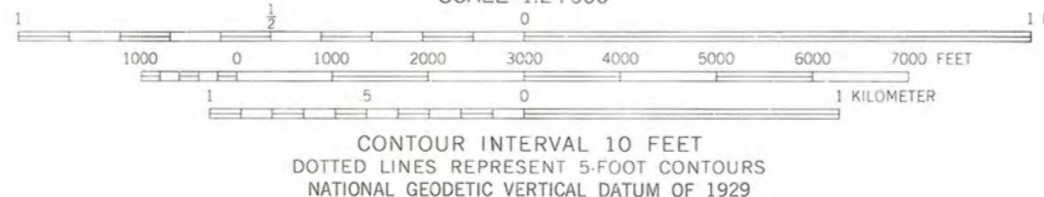
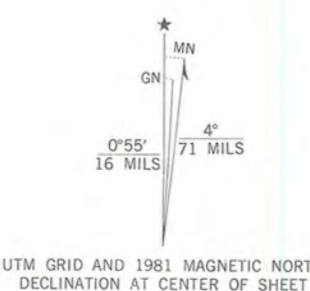
1. Hulsey Bend School
2. Independence Co., AR
3. Holly Hope
4. July, 1998
5. AHPP
6. Interior: Piano, looking southeast



1. Hulsey Bend School
2. Independence Co., AR
3. Holly Hope
4. July, 1998
5. Negative on file at AHPP
6. Interior "foyer" looking east



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
in cooperation with State of Arkansas,
Geological and Conservation Commission
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1961 and planetable surveys 1956 and 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
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 5 meters south and
12 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Huskey Bend School
Oil Trough via,
Independence Co, AR
UTM Reference:
15/643230/3944460



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt ———
State Route

NEWARK, ARK.
NW 1/4 NEWPORT 15' QUADRANGLE
N 3537.5 - W 9122.5 / 7.5
1962
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 7755 III NW-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

January 6, 1999

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:Hulsey Bend School--Oil Trough vicinity, Independence County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. 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:ab

Enclosures

