

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECORDED
DEC 21 1990

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pleasant Valley School
other names/site number Pleasant Valley School District #15 - Payne County, Oklahoma

2. Location

street & number 1901 South Sangre Road N/A not for publication
city, town Stillwater N/A vicinity
state Oklahoma code OK county Payne code 119 zip code 74074

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] Date 12/14/90
Signature of certifying official
State Historic Preservation Office
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. Entered in the National Register
 N/A See continuation sheet. 25 Jan. 1991
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Auditorium

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: National

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/Sandstone

walls WOOD/Weatherboard

roof WOOD/Shingle

other BRICK/Chimney

BRICK/Catch Basin for Cistern

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The Pleasant Valley School is a one-story wooden building designed in the National idiom. It is located on 1.49 acres of land at the southeast corner of 19th Street and Sangre Road in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Two outhouses (one for boys and one for girls) are located directly east of the building and a small parking lot has been built on the northeast corner of the 1.49 acre lot. The property is surrounded with a barbed wire fence with metal posts. It is located in an open field and is approximately 1/4 mile from a residential neighborhood that was built in the 1960's and 1970's. Oklahoma State University is located approximately 2 1/2 miles to the northeast, the Indian Meridian Vo-Tech School is located 1/2 mile north, the Sangre Ridge Elementary School is located 3/8 mile south, and the Stillwater Middle School is located 1/4 mile south. The Pleasant Valley School retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Description

The Pleasant Valley School building is a one-room wood frame building with a native stone foundation. The building is rectangular in plan and the facade is symmetrical. The building measures 24 feet - 6 inches wide by 40 feet - 6 inches long and is 23 feet - 3 inches high. The clear ceiling height is 12 feet. Both the interior and exterior of the building retain the original appearance of the time it was constructed in 1899. There is a one-story entry porch that is sheltered by a pedimented gabled roof. A shed lean-to room was added to the rear of the building in 1907 and the front porch was added in 1912.

The front-gabled roof is covered with red cedar shingles. There is a small ridge chimney on the south end and a bell cupola on the north end. The school's original bell was returned to the bell cupola in 1988.

There are 12 windows set in architrave surrounds, 4 each on both the east and west walls and 2 each on the north and south sides. All windows are 2/2, wood, and double hung. There are 5 doors; 1 north exterior, 1 east exterior, 2 doors for the cloak room at the front of the school, and 1 door for entrance into the lean-to room at the back of the school. All doors are 3 feet wide and 7 feet high with 5 panels and no lights.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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The interior has slate board on all four walls. A wood bead-board wainscot is below the slate and gypsum board is above the slate. The ceiling is the same mill pattern as the wainscot. The wainscot on the north wall and the ceiling of the cloak room are all original wood. All other wood has been replaced with wood that was specifically milled to match the bead-board pattern of the original. The wood stain and paint color are the same used when the building was originally built in 1899. The floor is 1 X 4 fir on plywood sub-flooring. The floor has a linseed oil finish.

Noncontributing Resources

The two outhouses are reconstructions with the exterior appearance of the original outhouses. Each is equipped with running cold (not heated) water, a sink, and a water closet. A septic system has been installed in accordance with state health codes. These noncontributing resources were built in the late 1980's.

Alterations

In the late 1980's all windows and doors were replaced because the original windows were broken and the original doors were missing. The replacements replicate the originals as verified by historic photographs of the school building. These modifications have not adversely affected the property's overall integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT/Recreation

Significant Person

N/A

Period of Significance

1899 - 1940

1899 - 1940

Significant Dates

1899

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 Pleasant Valley School building is historically significant to Payne County because it is a rare example of the one-room country schools that were common throughout Oklahoma during the late 1800's and early 1900's. The building was built in 1899 and continued to function as a one-room school until 1941. It remains the only extant one-room, frame school building in Payne County. Moreover, it is significant for its role as a social center in the county. It is one of the very few in Oklahoma still located on its original site and still playing the role of an educational and social center.

Historical Background

The first public school in this portion of Payne County was established under the Territorial Township School Act of 1890, which called for four schools in each township. Territorial Governor George Steel had suggested Section 28 as one of the sites to be considered. However, settlers located their first school on a plot on adjacent Section 20. The small building was generally known as the Lyons school. The facilities were crude, small, with its valuation for 1897 listed as only \$150 by the Territorial Superintendent of Education. Though dissatisfied with the primitive conditions, settlers handicapped by the low tax base and a national economic depression could not immediately provide better facilities.

Improved economic conditions in 1897 and 1898 stirred a general interest in new schools in Payne County. Warrants could finally be paid at face value, bonds could be sold, and consequently new school buildings appeared. Directors of School District #15 also moved ahead. By August, 1899 they had purchased two acres of land, the site of Pleasant Valley School, from John Zuck for \$5.00. The building, apparently built on a plan which was one of several suggested by the County Superintendent of Schools, was quickly completed and classes begun.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Appraisal of School Property 1897, Territorial Superintendent of Schools, Oklahoma Territory, MSS Volume, Oklahoma Historical Society Archives.

Baird, W. David, and Norbert R. Mahnken, Interviews of Former Students and Residents (Ed Glover, Ralph Jacob, Emma Nuss Petty, Maynard Human), Collected at Various Times During 1987-1989.

Hays, Ward, Drifting Down Memory Lane. Perkins, Oklahoma: Evans Publications, 1985.

Human, Mae Faye, Videotaped Interview of Former Teacher, Mae Faye Human, in Possession of Pleasant Valley School Foundation, Inc., May 15, 1988.

See continuation sheet

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

Acreeage of property 1.5 acres

UTM References

A

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6	7	4	9	2	0
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3	9	9	5	2	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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 Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description One and one-half (1 1/2) acres in the Northwest corner of the Northwest quarter (NW/4) of Section 28, Township 19 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian, in Payne County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the Northwest corner of the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section 28, Township 19 North, Range 2 East of the Indian Meridian, thence South 315 feet; thence East 209 feet; then North 315 feet; thence West 209 feet to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary is defined as that part of the original property deeded by John Zuck on April 11, 1899, that is presently owned by the City of Stillwater and historically associated with the Pleasant Valley School.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Garold D. Oberlander, President, and Norbert R. Mahnken, PVS Historian
 organization Pleasant Valley School Foundation, Inc. date August 1, 1990
 street & number P.O. Box 352 telephone (405) 377-2774
 city or town Stillwater, Oklahoma state Oklahoma zip code 74076

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Historical Significance

The Pleasant Valley School building is significant to the educational history of Payne County because children were educated there from before statehood into the middle of the 20th century. The one-room country school emphasized the simultaneous education of students in grades 1 through 8. It is the only extant example of this type of school in Payne County.

The Pleasant Valley schoolhouse, like many frontier schools, also served as a cultural and social center. The building functioned as a religious center in which services were held almost every Sunday. Immediately after the school opened, a small organ was acquired to provide musical accompaniment at the Sunday worship services. In addition, a full range of community activities took place - public speakers, debates, political rallies, pie suppers and other fund raising activities. For the early settlers of that township the Pleasant Valley School provided a rallying center for group activities and community identification.

Classes at Pleasant Valley School ended in 1941, students were transferred to Stillwater city schools, and the property eventually reverted to the City of Stillwater. Although the abandoned building deteriorated over time, particularly the interior, the exterior framework remained remarkably solid. In 1986, after it was proposed that the building be torn down or moved, alumni and other concerned citizens worked to preserve the original materials whenever possible and exactly reproduced those elements that were missing or damaged beyond repair. In 1988, the building opened as a "living history" museum. Classes of fourth-grade students visit to spend the day in a territorial school. In addition, numerous private educational and cultural groups meet in the schoolhouse, as it resumes its 90-year role as an educational community center.

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Payne County Historical Review, Vol. 2, #3 (January 1982), also Vol. 4, #3
(Winter, 1984).

School District #15 Records, Payne County Oklahoma Superintendent of Schools:
Payne County Courthouse.

Stewart, Dora Ann, Government and Development of Oklahoma Territory, Oklahoma
City, Oklahoma: Harlow Publishing Company, 1933.

Stillwater Gazette, Stillwater, Oklahoma: October 1899-1900.

Stillwater News Press, Varied Issues, Reporting Alumni Reunions, Notably
April 30, 1969 and April 23, 1978.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page

AD
90-2182

Pleasant Valley School
name of property
Payne County, Oklahoma
county and State

CORRECTION TO UTM LOCATION

The Universal Transverse Mercator locational information submitted for the Pleasant Valley School (90002182) located in Payne County, Oklahoma, were incorrect.

The proper location is:

Zone Easting Northing
14 670650 3996580

A corrected USGS 7.5 minute series topographic map (Stillwater South Quadrangle) accompanies this.


SHPO, Oklahoma Historical Society

1-24-02
Date