

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 South Elementary School

other names/site number CS0046

2. Location

street & number 711 E. Union Avenue

not for publication

city or town Wynne

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Cross

code 037

zip code 72396

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.)

Signature of certifying official Cathie Matthews

Date 4/7/06

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

South Elementary School

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

1		buildings
_____		sites
_____		structures
_____		objects
1	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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/elementary school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/plain traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other

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.)

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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1936-1956

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

PWA

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

South Elementary School
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 701515 3900081
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.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth A. James, National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date April 7, 2006
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9789
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.)

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

name County of Cross
street & number 705 E. Union, Room 4 telephone 870-238-5750
city or town Wynne state AR zip code 72396

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The South Elementary School building is a single-story, T-plan structure located at the corner of Union and Mississippi Streets in Wynne, Cross County, Arkansas. It was built circa 1936 in a plain traditional style. The school building is brick and rests on a raised basement. A central gabled porch dominates the front elevation. The front elevation faces north and measures ninety feet across. The east and west elevations of this wing measure forty feet. The rear 'T' measures forty by fifty feet. The school building is located within the city limits of Wynne on the grounds of the Cross County Courthouse complex.

ELABORATION

All elevations of the school are brick. The building has a main rectangular section and a secondary rectangular section in the rear creating a 'T' shaped plan. The school has all of its original metal frame windows in place. The building is capped with a hip roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. It faces north onto Union Street.

North/Front Elevation

Five concrete steps lead up to a central concrete landing and gabled porch where two double glass doors with a glass transom and sidelights lead into a small reception area. From there, two six-light French doors with three-light sidelights and a transom lead from the reception area into the main foyer. The front elevation features eight windows. There are four windows on each side of the central porch. The windows are fixed metal frame units with twelve separate glass panes. The center bottom pane is hinged to allow ventilation. Windows throughout the building are identical, and all have plywood covering the top half of the window on the exterior. Inside there are dropped ceilings which is masked on the outside by the installation of the plywood sheet.

East Elevation

The east elevation is mainly a solid brick wall. The east wall of the front section has only one window at its south end. This window looked into what was originally a restroom. There is a triangular gabled vent in the roof centered on this section of the wall. At this point the east elevation steps back to the rear 'T' section of the building. The east wall of the 'T' has four windows and a door at the southernmost end. A handicap ramp has been installed for access at this door.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

South Elevation

The south elevation of this building is comprised of the south side of the 'T' and the south side of the main portion of the building on either side of the 'T.' The walls all along the south side are blank brick walls. There are no openings on the south side. There is a triangular vent in the roof centered on the south side of the building.

West Elevation

The west elevation is nearly identical to the east elevation. It is mainly a solid brick wall. The west wall of the front section has only one window at its south end. This window looked into what was originally a restroom. There is a triangular gabled vent in the roof centered on this section of the wall. At this point the west elevation steps back to the rear 'T' section of the building. The west wall of the 'T' has four windows and a door at the northernmost end reached by a set of steps.

Interior

The original floor plan of the building contained four very large classrooms, two cloakrooms and girls and boys restrooms which all led off symmetrically from the foyer. Each classroom had its own exit to the outside but two of the doors on the north elevation were bricked-in presumably for security reasons when the building became the Mental Health Center in 1971. The original rooms are intact but several walls have been added dividing the large rooms into small offices which were used by the staff of the Mental Health Center from January 1971 to October 2005. All ceilings have been lowered with the exception of one bathroom and storage closets. Original maple hardwood flooring is visible in storage areas. Carpeting has been placed over the hardwoods in the foyer and office areas in the two front classrooms. Linoleum covers most of the back two rooms but is coming up in some spots revealing the hardwood underneath.

There is a basement which is accessed from outside stairs on the east elevation. The basement houses the original boiler furnace which provided steam heat to the radiators in the classrooms. There is a coal chute near the steps that lead into the basement. The radiators have been removed from the building, probably in the 1970s, and four furnaces installed.

South Elementary School

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

INTEGRITY

South Elementary School remains a very sound structure just as it did circa 1936. The shingles of the hip roof of the school have been replaced with compatible roofing. The South Elementary School remains in its original location and has sustained minimal exterior alterations. An awning has been attached to the front gable over the front double doors that lead into the building. Two original doorways on the front, or north, elevation were bricked-in circa 1970. Another awning is hung over a single-leaf door on the east elevation of the rear wing. This door served as an exit for a classroom as did the single-leaf door on the west elevation of the rear wing. Both of these doors were originally reached by concrete steps but a handicap ramp and railings have replaced the steps of the east door. The building retains all of its eighteen original windows which measure five feet wide and about eight and a half feet in height. It is not known when the front glass doors were installed but they are not original.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

South Elementary School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with under **Criterion A with local significance** for its association with New Deal construction and early education in Wynne. This school was part of an early school complex in Wynne which included a two other classroom buildings and athletic facilities. South Elementary School is the only remaining structure from the original campus and is an important piece of the city's history.

ELABORATION

Prior to the construction of the South Elementary School classes were being held in overcrowded buildings built in 1906 and 1928. The population of Wynne had dramatically increased as had the school enrollment. Wynne was a railroad town and was a junction for tracks running north and south and east and west. Wynne became the county seat in 1903.

The first school building built on the property was completed in 1906. This building consisted of seven large classrooms that housed students in 1st-8th grade and had an auditorium with a capacity for 400. By 1915 the enrollment had increased to the point that there was a need for more classrooms and additional grades. As a result, new additions were added to the west and east ends of the building and classes were now offered for grades 1st-12th. The rural schools only offered to teach through the 8th grade causing many of their students to go to Wynne to complete their high school education. By 1928 the enrollment had once again outgrown its space and a new grammar school building was built as well as a gymnasium.

The population of Wynne continued to grow as did the school enrollment. Due to large class sizes two sessions were held for some grades with half attending in the morning and half in the afternoon. During this time Cross County was suffering effects of the Great Depression along with the rest of the nation. They did not have the funding needed for new classrooms. The creation of the PWA program was their salvation and a new four classroom building was built circa 1936. This new building became known as South

South Elementary School

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Elementary and housed the 3rd and 4th grades classes for many years and eventually became the 2nd grade building. The first teachers were Miss Bobbie Smith and Miss Lucile Kernodle who both taught 3rd grade and Miss Elaine Smith and Leola Hamilton who taught 4th grade. The old grammar school became the 1st and 2nd grade building. The South Elementary School buildings functioned as a school until circa 1970 and is the only surviving school building at this campus.

Mrs. Lucile (Kernodle) McGuire who taught the first year the school opened said classes began with the 1937-1938 school year. Mrs. McGuire, who still lives in Wynne, says she was single when she began to teach at the new school. Cross County marriage records show that Lucile Kernodle married Sam McGuire on June 18, 1938, so this would corroborate that the school was opened at least by fall of 1937.

The February 1, 1968, issue of the *Wynne Progress* reported that the building was built in the early 1930s with PWA funds and the other buildings were built in the 1920s. Another news article in the *Wynne Progress* dated June 27, 1968, also mentions the building being built in the 1930s with PWA funds.

A fire occurred around a furnace in the basement of the building on January 5, 1942. The January 6, 1942, issue of The *Wynne Daily Star-Progress* recorded the temperature on the night of the fire to be four degrees. The same newspaper reported that the school building was the newest structure on the school campus having been finished only three years ago.

Issues of the *Wynne Daily Star-Progress* dated January 6, 1942, and January 9, 1942, claimed that the interior was "practically destroyed but the brick veneer walls were still standing". An interview with Mrs. Lucile (Kernodle) McGuire who was teaching at that time said most of the fire damage was contained to the basement but the classrooms suffered from smoke and water damage. She said they used the same textbooks which never lost the smell of smoke. The newspaper reported that most desks were carried from the building before being damaged.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Makeshift classrooms were setup in the Wynne High School Auditorium while repairs were being made. Two classrooms were setup in the balcony and two in the north half of the main floor. Classes reconvened in the building in the fall of 1942.

Carol Lou Eldridge, who taught during the 1960s, pointed out the sycamore tree that still stands in the front and said they used to read stories to the children under the tree. A former student, Jim Thwing, told of some girls seeing someone throw sheets out of the jail in an attempt to escape. The jail was on the top floor of the courthouse which was next door to the school. Mrs. Eldridge also said that the prisoners would call down from the jail to the students during recess. Another story Mrs. Eldridge recalled was the day the school bell was stuck and wouldn't stop ringing. She said the principal, Mr. Afton Bradshaw, threw his shoe at the bell trying to make it stop ringing but the shoe went through the glass transom over the front door.

During the 1950s and 1960s bond issues were passed which provided funding to replace aging school buildings at the South Complex and Childress Campus. A 1949 bond issue was used to construct a new Wynne High School on Jackson Street and the Childress High School on "E" Street and to purchase land for both sites. The school system was segregated until 1968 so there were separate campuses for Blacks and Whites. A 1958 bond issue was used to construct the Childress Elementary School on "E" Street, the Childress Gymnasium-Auditorium, the Wynne Junior High School on L' Anguille Street, the school shops and to remodel the South Gymnasium into a cafeteria and storage building. A 1962 bond issue was used to build the North Elementary School on Bridges Street. The new North Elementary School housed grades 3-6. The former 3rd & 4th grade building became the 2nd Grade Building and the former 1st & 2nd Grade Building became the 1st Grade Building.

The County of Cross purchased the South Complex property from the Wynne School District #9 in 1968 for purposes of constructing a new county courthouse. The school property adjoined the land of the current courthouse. The only school building still in use on the South School Complex at the time of the sale was South Elementary School. All other buildings were torn down as bond issues were passed and new buildings built.

South Elementary School

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

A Mental Health Clinic moved into the South Elementary School building in January 1971. The large northwest classroom was remodeled to provide a waiting room, four doctors' offices and one conference room. The remodeling was a joint project of the County and the Clinic with the County providing materials and the agency labor. An interview with Ida Hess who worked at the Mental Health Clinic for 20 years says she remembers the three unused classrooms as being dark and spooky. She said the building was very cold and drafty until the glass doors were added to the front entrance. Mrs. Hess also stated that there were beautiful hardwood floors underneath the carpeting. Over the years the Clinic gradually remodeled the other three classrooms. Mrs. Hess also stated that the Clinic originally wanted to put the handicap ramp at the front door but she convinced them to add it to the rear door where there would be space for handicap parking.

Future plans are for the building to be used as a County History Museum that will serve all communities in Cross County. In October 2005 the county gave the Cross County Historical Society, Inc. use of the building rent free. Restoration of the interior will be performed in phases as funding becomes available. The lowered ceilings, carpeting and linoleum flooring will be removed and also some of the added walls.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

South Elementary School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with New Deal construction and early education in Wynne. This school was part of an early school complex in Wynne which included a two other classroom buildings and athletic facilities. South Elementary School is the only remaining structure from the original campus and is an important piece of the city's history.

South Elementary School

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Warranty Deed dated September 10, 1901, Deed Book 7, pages 299-300

1904 Plat of Anna Block Addition

"Grade School Building Here Practically Destroyed by Fire" Wynne Daily Star-Progress,
January 6, 1942, pp. 1, 4

"Grade School Reopens Here" Wynne Daily Star-Progress, January 9, 1942

"Preliminary Plans for Courthouse Expected Soon" Wynne Progress, June 15, 1967, p.1

"Voters Overwhelmingly Approve Construction of New Courthouse" Wynne Progress,
October 5, 1967, p.1

"Wynne School Board Will Submit Big Building Program to Voters" Wynne Progress,
December 14, 1967, p.1

"New Primary Building Needed to Keep Up With Wynne's Growth" Wynne Progress,
Feb 1, 1968, Sec.1, pp. 1, 7

"City Abandons Two Street Lines Across Courthouse Site" Wynne Progress, April 4,
1968, p. 1

"Courthouse Bids Will Be Opened June 12th" Wynne Progress, May 16, 1968, p. 1

"\$544,500 is Low Bid on New Courthouse" Wynne Progress, June 13, 1968, p. 1

"Plan for Desegregation of Wynne School District" Wynne Progress, June 27, 1968, Sec.
2, p. 1

"Proposed Primary Building, Wynne School District" Wynne Progress, January 23, 1969,
p. 1

South Elementary School

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

"Amount of Proposed Bond Issue for the Wynne School District" Wynne Progress, Feb 20, 1969, p.5

"Mental Health Clinic Opens Here Friday" Wynne Progress, January 7, 1971, p.1

"Mental Health Clinic Opens in New Home" Wynne Progress, January 14, 1971, p.1

1968 Warranty Deed, Book 166, page 556

Letter from Shaver & Shaver Law Offices to Judge Stanley Sulcer, May 6, 1968

Letter from 1st National Bank of Little Rock to Shaver & Shaver Attorneys, May 23, 1968

Letter from Wynne Public Schools to Union Planters Nat'l Bank & Trust, May 24, 1968

Letter from Wynne Public Schools to First Nat'l Bank of Little Rock, May 24, 1968

Letter from Wynne Public Schools to Union Planters Nat'l Bank, July 8, 1968

Lucile (Kernodle) McGuire, 908 E Poplar, Wynne, AR 72396, Ph: 870-238-2685, Personal Interview

Ida (Wright) Hess, 531 Hwy 64 Wynne, AR 72396, Ph: 870-697-2514, Personal Interview

Carol Lou Eldridge, 120 W Third St, Wynne, AR 72396, Ph: 870-238-2254, Personal Interview

Julia (Carter) Gardner, 1208 Marion Dr. Wynne, AR 72396, Ph: 870-238-3482, Personal Interview

South Elementary School

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

LEGAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block One (1); Lot One (1) in Anna Block Addition to the City of Wynne, Arkansas,
T7N, R3E, Section 21.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all land historically associated with South Elementary School.

SOUTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
WYNNE, CROSS COUNTY, AR

UTM REFERENCE: 15/701315/3900081

WYNN

7.5 MINUTE

699

700

47° 30'

702

703

24/01

Turkey Creek

Indian

Creek

Creek

WYNNE

284

70

21

Creek

Draw

Creek

Creek

29

28

27

Cathy Lake











