

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas
COUNTY:
Fulton
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

25-32-4020-52



1. NAME

COMMON:
County Line School and Lodge
AND/OR HISTORIC:
County Line Academy

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: West of Baxter-Fulton County line, 2 miles south of the Missouri-Arkansas state line
CITY OR TOWN: Rural Route, Gepp
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First
STATE: Arkansas
CODE: 05
COUNTY: Fulton
CODE: 049

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	Masonic	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	Lodge	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
County Line Masonic Lodge (John Morris, Secretary)
STREET AND NUMBER:
Rural Route
CITY OR TOWN: Gepp
STATE: Arkansas
CODE: 05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Recorder's Office
STREET AND NUMBER:
Fulton County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Salem
STATE: Arkansas
CODE: 05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE
COUNTY
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DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The County Line School and Lodge is a two-storey frame structure built circa 1879. The basic floor plan is rectangular and measures approximately 40 feet by 25 feet. White clapboard walls and a gable roof of shingles enclose the structure. Though quite steep when originally constructed, the ridge line was lowered about four feet when the roof was rebuilt in 1972.

Pine trees cut from a nearby lot were handplaned to use in construction of the building. The original schoolroom furnishings were also made from handplaned lumber.

The simple exterior lines of the structure are broken only by window and door openings, all of which have overhead trim suggestive of a pediment. Aluminum storm doors now cover the double-door entry and the three window openings along the east and west elevations of the first floor. Six-light double hung sash windows are located on the second floor.

A fourteen-inch wide sill cover surrounds the exterior, resting above the cast stone foundation fill added about 1920. Other alterations of that decade include a concrete porch at the entry, and a brick flue and chimney added to the northwest interior corner.

The simplicity of the exterior is repeated in the interior. The original floor on the first storey has been twice covered by new flooring, but the original hand-planed flooring on the second storey remains. The first floor consists of a single open room with no interior walls dividing the space. Lying across the east wall is a six-inch high, five-foot wide platform. The original school benches, with the writing surfaces removed from the back of each, now serve the church congregation which meets weekly in the building. The only new furnishings are a speaker's podium and a piano, both used during religious services.

An enclosed stairway rises along the west interior wall to a hallway on the second floor. The main room on this floor is still used as the meeting place for the County Line Masonic Lodge. Its purpose is reflected in the furnishings used in Masonic meetings and ceremonies. A three-foot wide, six-inch high platform lies across the east wall of this floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Fulton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. Description (County Line School and Lodge - Page 2)

The simple features of this late 19th century structure reflect its utilitarian purpose. The community's need for a school and lodge was met in this one building. The County Line School and Lodge remains intact and much the same today as when first constructed almost 100 years ago.

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-
losophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>fraternal</u>
<u>organization</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape
Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-
itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The County Line School and Lodge was built almost one hundred years ago to serve a rural area of the north Arkansas Ozarks. Built with a tri-fold purpose it represents one of Arkansas' earliest community buildings.

The County Line School and Lodge, built circa 1879, originally housed on its lower floor a one-room school for students from a two county area. The second floor of the building was designed to serve as a meeting place for the local Masonic Lodge. Decendants of the early Lodge members report that the building was also used for Sunday worship services by the Oak Hill Baptist Church congregation.

Construction of the County Line School and Lodge was completed by November, 1879. The two-storey frame structure was functionally designed, and, except for trim above the windows and door, was devoid of ornamentation.

It was originally intended that the school and lodge lie squarely on the Baxter-Fulton County line, thereby serving both counties. However, a later survey showed that the structure lies entirely in Fulton County, missing the county line by a few feet.

The building was constructed by local citizens, primarily John Milton Durham and Thomas Benton Caldwell. According to his son, John Durham arrived in Fulton County about 1867. A native of North Carolina, Mr. Durham was a skilled carpenter, and reputedly built a number of structures in the area.

Thomas Benton Caldwell, also reported to have been one of the builders, was born in 1840 in Fulton County, Missouri. As an artillery sergeant with the Missouri Confederate Volunteers, Caldwell was captured by Union forces in the spring of 1862. Later that year he was freed as part of

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Arkansas
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8. Significance (County Line School and Lodge - Page 2)

a prisoner exchange. Following the Civil War, Caldwell moved to Fulton County Arkansas, where he made his living by farming and educated his five children at the County Line Academy.

Across the front of the first floor school room was a lecture platform raised about six inches off the floor. Hand-made benches served as desks for the students. A board extended behind the top of each bench and served as a writing surface for the student on the bench behind. Other than the removal of this rear extension, the benches remain much the same today as when used by 19th century students.

Professor G. W Tomkins, whose name appears on a school certificate issued in 1881, was probably the first principal of the County Line Academy. In 1887 James H. Caldwell, eldest son of Thomas B. Caldwell, became principal of the school in which he had been a student just a few years before.

The County Line School was operated continually until 1948. By that time improved roads and methods of transportation made possible the creation of consolidated school systems which replaced one-room neighborhood schools. The County Line School is representative of the effects of consolidation on rural schools.

The fraternal purpose for which the County Line School and Lodge was built is still being fulfilled. Since it was chartered on November 28, 1879, Masonic Lodge #373 has continually met on the second floor of the County Line School and Lodge. John M. Durham, who built the structure, was a charter member and first Master of the County Line Lodge. Another of the sixteen charter members was Thomas Benton Caldwell.

Though children no longer learn to read and write within its walls, the old building continues to house its original Masonic Lodge, and to serve as a Sunday meeting place for a small Baptist congregation. Other than the loss of its educational role, very little of its purpose or appearance has changed in the almost 100 years since the County Line School and Lodge was first constructed.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance (County Line School and Lodge - Page 3)

This multi-purpose building which served early settlers in two counties of the Arkansas Ozarks, is still needed and used today. Its preservation and upkeep will continue because of both sentimental attachment and the continuing need for such a structure.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baxter Bulletin (Jasper, Arkansas) September 5, 1974.
 Caldwell, Arthur B. "Memorandum Concerning the County Line School and Lodge Building at County Line, Arkansas." Unpublished report, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1974.
 Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889.
 Morris, John A. Personal interview at County Line School and Lodge. September 24, 1974

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36	29	12.8
NE	° ' "	° ' "		92	08	58.4
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dianna Kirk, Historian and Anthony S. Riddle

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program DATE: 12-10-74

STREET AND NUMBER: Suite 1030, Plaza West, McKinley and Lee Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name William E. Henderson
 Title State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date December 10, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

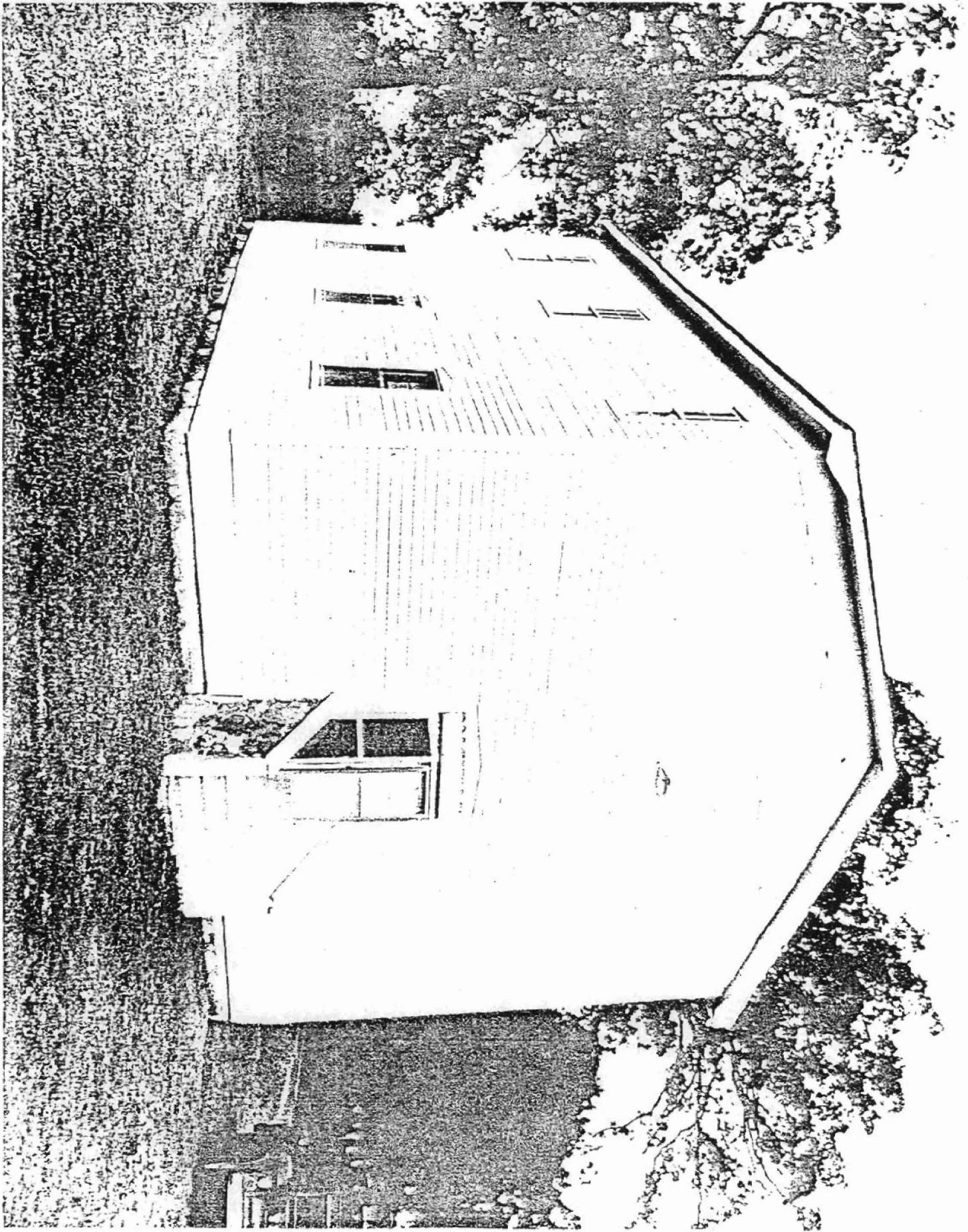
Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

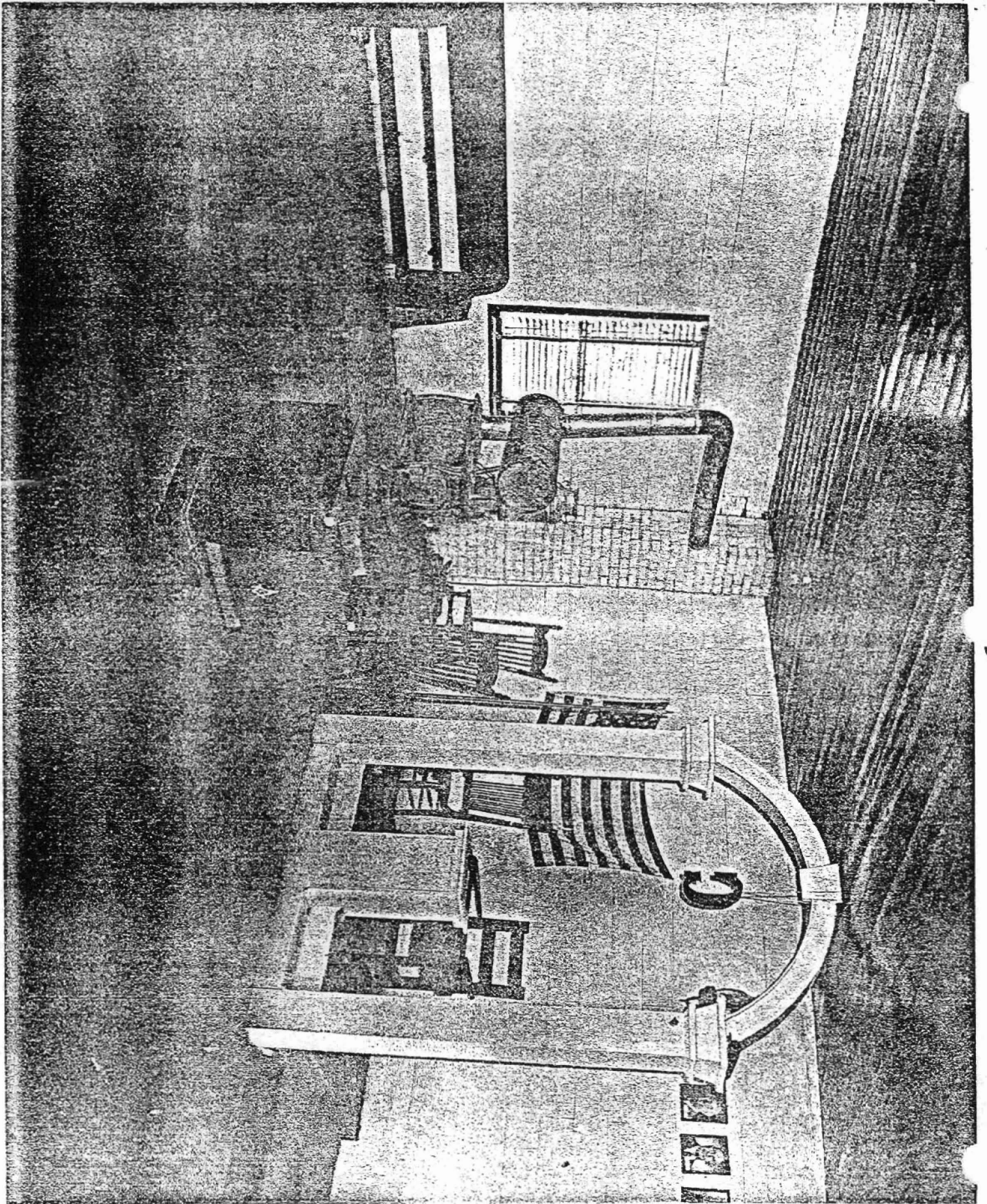


FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
County Line School & Lodge	County Line Academy	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Fulton	near Gepp
STREET AND NUMBER		
on rural road at point just west of Baxter-Fulton county line, and about two miles south of Arkansas-Missouri state line.		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	September, 1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Facade and north elevation, viewed from northwest

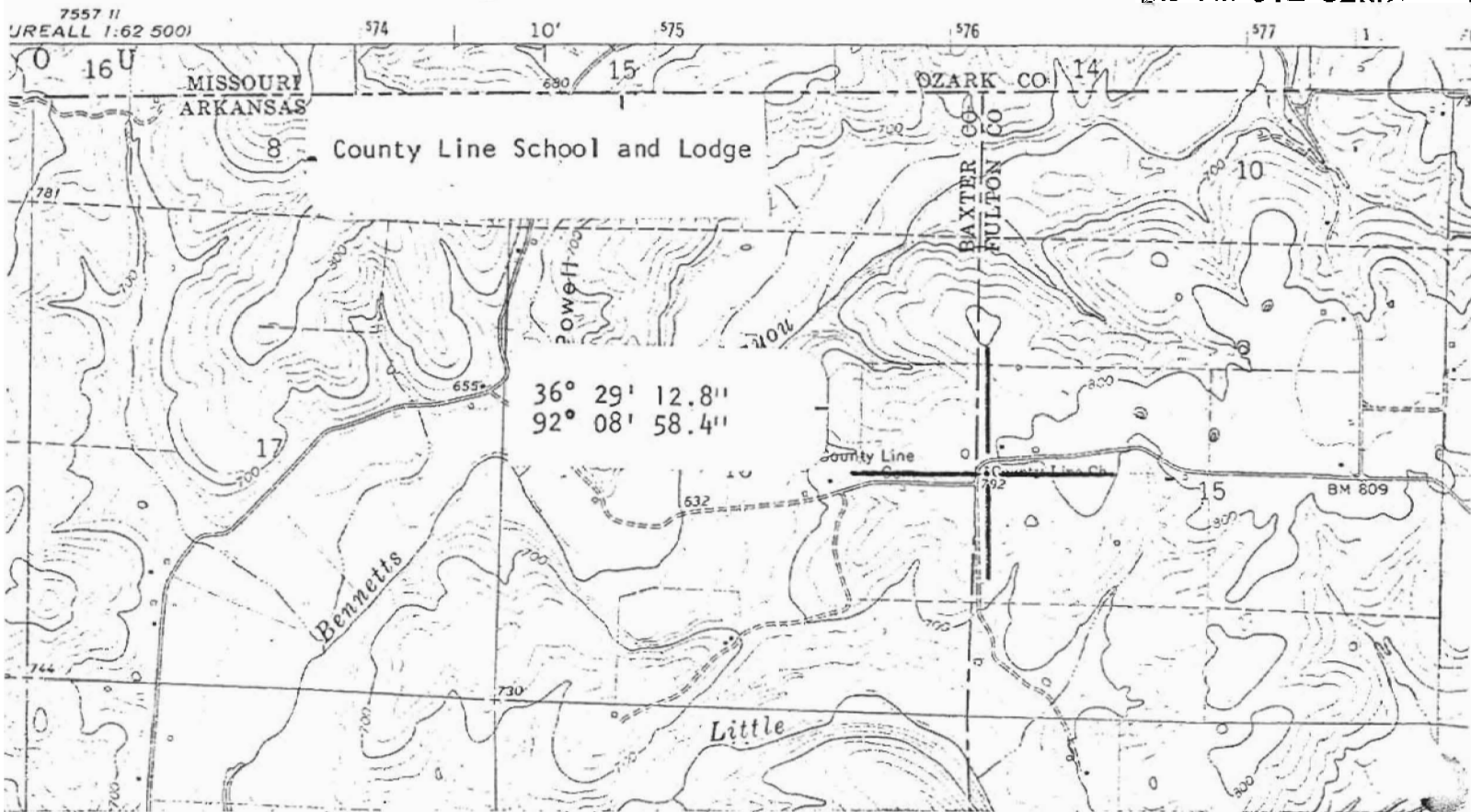


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PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	September, 1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Second floor interior



Form 10-301
 (July 1958)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 PROPERTY MAP FORM
 (Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
County Line School and Lodge	County Line Academy	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Fulton	near Gepp
STREET AND NUMBER		
west of the Baxter-Fulton county line; two miles south of the Missouri-Arkansas state line		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Gamaliel Quadrangle	1965	1/24000

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW: