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NE LISTED 9/29/95
OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Oark School/Methodist Church

Other Name/Site Number: JO 0093

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2. Location

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Street & Number: NE of int. State Hwy. 215 & Co. Rd. 34

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Oark

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR

County: Johnson

Code: AR 071

Zip Code: 72854

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: "Public Schools of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920 - 1940"

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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 _____ Date just 11, 1995
Signature of certifying official

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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: Education Sub: School
Religion Religious Facility

Current : Social Sub: Civic

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Craftsman

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal
walls Weatherboard other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Oark School/Methodist Church is a single-story, rectangular-plan frame building that was constructed c. 1923 in a restrained version of the Craftsman style of architecture.

Elaboration

Constructed c. 1923, the Oark School/Methodist Church is a single-story, rectangular-plan frame building. The frame walls rest upon a continuous fieldstone foundation and are clad with false-bevel novelty siding. The side gable roof is covered with ribbed metal sheets over the original wood shingles and features a small hipped roof belfry on the north elevation and a central interior brick chimney. Both gable ends are embellished with five supporting triangular knee brackets.

The front, or eastern, elevation contains a double-leaf entrance with two-pane transom that is positioned just north of center. Originally the building was entered through two separate single-leaf doors with transoms. The northern door of the current entrance is in its original location, while ~~the second door was situated a few feet to the south and divided by a narrow wall.~~ Two unusual window groupings comprise the fenestration for this elevation. The windows are symmetrically arranged near each end of the facade and consist of ~~two one-over-one, double-hung windows flanking two short, single-pane, stationary windows.~~ ~~The one-over-one window nearest the corner in both groups is longer in length than the inside window.~~

Both the southern and northern elevations are non-fenestrated. The western elevation duplicates the window composition of the front elevation, but with two extra stationary windows per group. A photograph of the school/church taken in 1938 reveals a later hipped-roof addition that had been somewhat crudely attached to the northern elevation. It has since been removed.

The interior is virtually unaltered since construction and reveals flush-board walls, a double-beaded board ceiling, and a raised stage at the north end of the room.

Although the associated Oak Cemetery is located to the northeast of the school/church, it is not included within the boundaries of this nomination.

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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): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1923

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

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 Oak School/Methodist Church is being nominated as an amendment to the "Public Schools of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920 - 1940" under Criterion C with ~~local significance as the best example in Oak and the surrounding community~~ of a Craftsman-style school building.

Elaboration

The Oark School/Methodist Church originated as a result of the collaborative efforts of the Oark School District and the local Methodist Church. Upon the building's completion circa 1923, half of the school was partitioned off by a curtain and served as a Methodist high school academy. Unfortunately, only three students enrolled, and the academy ceased operation after the inaugural year. The Oark School District held classes in the building for grades one through eight until about 1938 when the district consolidated with the Catalpa and Mulberry Grove school districts. The new school building was constructed by the Works Progress Administration at a different location.

As the name indicates, the building was also used by the Methodists and other denominations as a church during this time. In the late 1950's, the Oark School/Methodist Church building was once again used to hold school classes when the new school building burned. Shortly thereafter, the building was deeded to the community for use as a common building. It is currently used for public meetings, voting, funerals, and other community activities.

The Oark School/Methodist Church is being nominated as an amendment to the "Public Schools of the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920 - 1940" multiple property nomination under Criterion C as the best example of a Craftsman-style structure in the Oark community. Although the building is similar in many respects to other Plain Traditional-style, one-room school/church buildings in the Ozark Mountain region, the Oark School/Methodist Church is differentiated by its subtle application of Craftsman-style elements, most notably the unusual window groupings.

Major Bibliographical References

Information submitted by Doug Langdon, Secretary for the Oark Community Building. November, 1994.

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>448340</u>	<u>3949640</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:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line formed by the eastern edge of Co. Rd. 34 and a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the northern elevation of the school, proceed easterly along said line to its junction with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the eastern (front) elevation of the building; thence proceed southerly along this line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty feet from, the southern elevation of the school; thence proceed westerly along said line to its junction with the eastern edge of Co. Rd. 34; thence proceed northerly along the road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the historic school/church and associated property but excludes the adjacent cemetery.

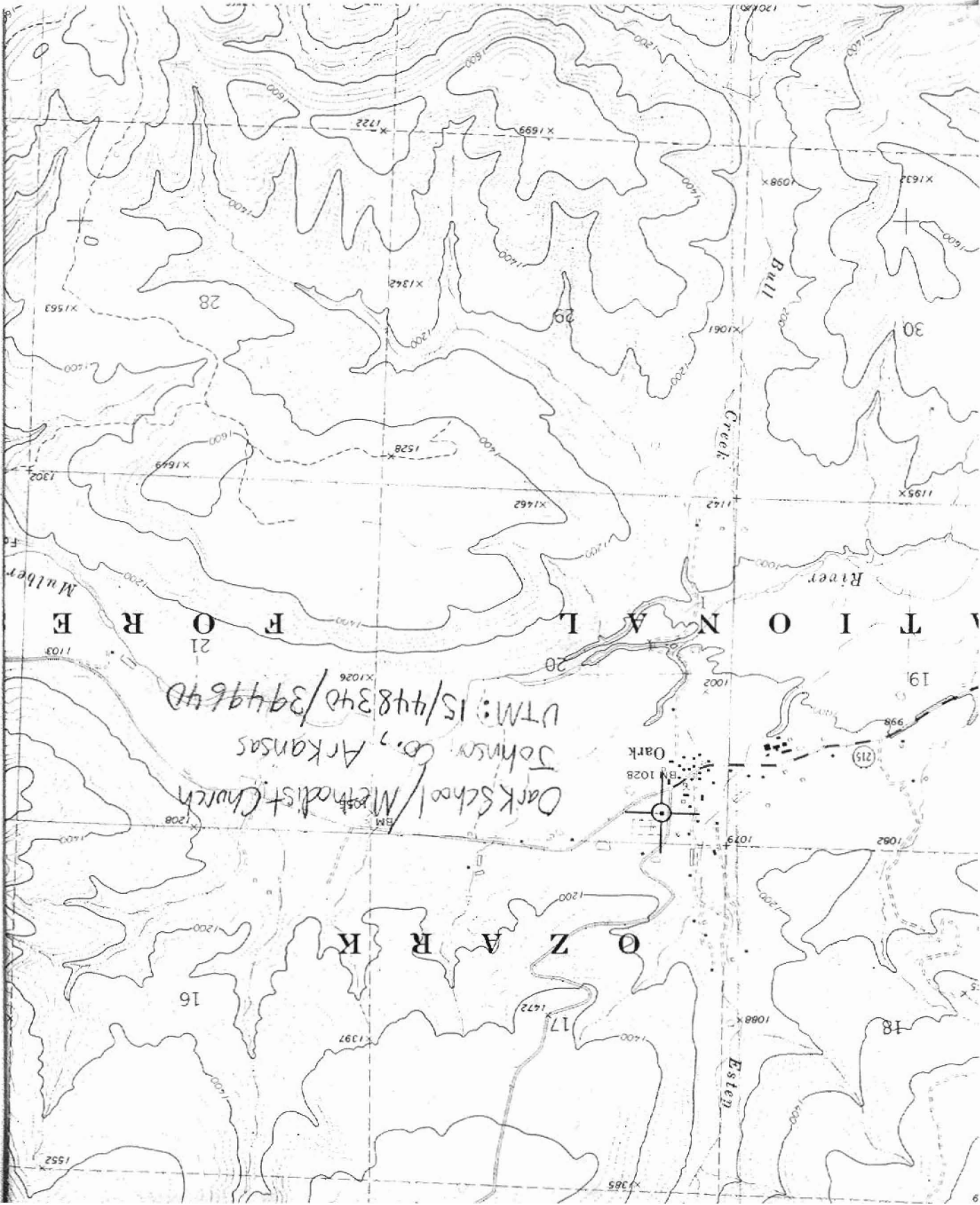
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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 11, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



Dark School / Methodist Church
Johnson Co., Arkansas
UTM: 15/448340/3949640

