

NR listed 9/04/92

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hirst-Matthew Hall

other name/site number: MR0018

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 235 Spur

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Bruno

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Marion

code: AR 089

zip code: 72618

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

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 in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940



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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Craftsman

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt  
walls Stone other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1929-1940

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Robinson, J.G.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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See "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" Multiple Property Form, Section H.

\_\_\_ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreeage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>519670</u>	<u>3999500</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line running along the eastern edge of State Highway 235 Spur with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation and located 50 feet to the south thereof, proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 225 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a line running parallel to the building's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 225 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the eastern edge of State Highway 235 Spur; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both the historic resource and all the surrounding property known to have been historically associated therewith that retains its integrity.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 15, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Summary

The Hirst-Matthew Hall is a rectangular-plan, single-story building of the Plain Traditional style of architecture. It features a gable-on-hip roof covering rubble-finished, field-stone veneer walls which rest on a continuous cast-concrete foundation.

### Elaboration

Constructed in 1929 by J. G. Robinson, the Hirst-Matthew Hall is a single-story, rectangular plan building that was originally used as classrooms. The gable-on-hip roof is covered with composition shingles and features Craftsman exposed rafters. The front or northern elevation consists of a central bay porch with a gable roof supported by four columns set on a raised concrete platform. This roof contains weatherboarding in the gable end and exposed rafters under the eaves. Access is gained by double-leaf doors with each upper half lighted by four-pane windows. Two six-pane windows compose the transom. Two sets of paired, six-over-six, double-hung windows are symmetrically arranged on both sides of the porch.

The eastern elevation features fourteen nine-over-nine double-hung windows asymmetrically arranged in sets of six, three, and five from the north to south respectively. A narrow, single-leaf door with a six-pane transom and a shed roof is located near the southeast corner of the building. The southern elevation features a centrally placed double-leaf door entrance with a twelve-pane transom covered by a shed roof. Immediately to the east of the doorway is a later one-room, white-painted, concrete-block addition with a shed roof that begins approximately two feet below the main roofline. Comparable composition shingles and exposed rafters are used in the new construction. A single-leaf door provides access to the west. An interior brick chimney is located to the east of the central doorway; and a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows to the west of the doorway completes the southern elevation inventory. Two sets of six side-by-side, nine-over-nine, double-hung windows are symmetrically arranged and comprise the western elevation.

The Hirst-Matthew Hall is currently used as a textile mill/factory.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Hirst-Matthew Hall**

In the early twentieth century, the isolated community of Bruno, fifteen miles from the nearest railroads in Yellville and St. Joe, was divided into two school districts, Numbers 6 and 63. Newspaper accounts reported that students of the respective schools would do battle with taunts and rocks across a stream which divided the two districts. In 1921, J. B. Ewart, a recent graduate of Arkansas State University, arrived in Bruno and founded the Bruno Agricultural School. During Ewart's tenure the two districts were consolidated into the Bruno Consolidated School, and over the years Ewart oversaw the construction of an auditorium-gymnasium, a stone and cement workshop, and a swimming pool.<sup>1</sup>

The implementation of the Smith-Hughes Act in Arkansas concentrated initially on agricultural education, with impressive results. In 1923, the vocational agricultural students at Bruno High School organized the Lincoln Aggie Club, believed to be the first Future Farmers organization of its kind in the nation. Smith-Hughes and later New Deal programs allowed the Bruno School to grow into an impressive educational complex, one of the largest in the Ozarks and certainly atypical for a town the size of Bruno.

The construction of Hirst-Matthew Hall by J. G. Robinson in 1929 further expanded the campus of the Bruno school complex and complemented the institution's local reputation in the Ozarks. Hirst-Matthew was probably built through the Smith-Hughes program as well, and may have housed the school's home economics programs. It is currently used as a textile factory.<sup>2</sup>

Hirst-Matthew Hall, constructed during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*, is a representative example of a large stone school building constructed for a rural school district. Its use during this period as a local school building clearly identifies it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion A through its direct associations with both the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period and the relatively early efforts of J.B. Ewart to create a consolidated local school district that would more effectively educate and train the youth of Bruno and the surrounding area.

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<sup>1</sup>Harrison Daily Times, April 5, 1940.

<sup>2</sup>Frank W. Cannaday, "Arkansas," in Education in the States: Historical Development and Outlook: A Project of the Council of Chief State School Officers, 79-115.

