

NR LIS

FEB 04 2000

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Fair View School

Other Name/Site Number: PP0372

2. Location

Street & Number: 2367 Mill Creek Road

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Russellville

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Pope

Code: AR115 Zip Code: 72801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>          </u>	Buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>          </u>	Sites
<u>3</u>	<u>          </u>	Structures
	<u>1</u>	Objects
	<u>1</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Public Schools in the Ozarks 1920-1940

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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.

Cathy L. Sater  
Signature of certifying official

12-15-99  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

Historic:	<u>Education</u>	Sub:	<u>School</u>
	<u>Social</u>		<u>Meeting Hall</u>
Current :	<u>Vacant/Not in use</u>	Sub:	

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification:  
Craftsman

Materials: foundation Cast concrete roof Composition shingle  
walls Fieldstone veneer other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**SECTION 7: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

**Introduction:**

The Fair View School building is a single-story, T-plan structure built in 1938 by Works Progress Administration (WPA) labor and designed in the Craftsman style. The school building, as well as the two adjoining service buildings (coal house and well shed) was constructed of fieldstone veneer and rests on a continuous concrete foundation. The central projecting cross-gable entry dominates the front elevation. A fieldstone and wrought-iron gate with a filigreed wrought-iron arch reading "FAIR VIEW SCHOOL" was constructed in the 1990s just off Mill Creek Drive to the north of the school building. The school and its related outbuildings are situated on a hilltop in Russellville on Mill Creek Road. The property is in a rural area and it encompasses approximately ten-and-a-half acres. The land has been largely cleared of vegetation except for a few scattered pine trees and planting by the school's foundation.

**Contributing Buildings and Structures Inside the Designated Boundaries:**

**Fair View School**

The southern, or front, elevation of the school is solid fieldstone except for a concrete cornerstone at the northwest corner that reads "ERECTED 1938/SCHOOL BOARD/L.C. SMITH PRES./C.T. SHINN SEC./W.A. SMITH/COUNTY EXAMINER/TOM D. BULLOCK/STONE DONATED/W.P. FERGUSON". The stone porch is a single centered bay with an arched entry beneath a gabled roof. The porch bay extends north from the building approximately ten feet. Two fifteen-light

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French doors with six-light transoms lead into the foyer of the school from the porch. Two interior stone chimneys that provided venting for a pair of wood burning stoves inside the classrooms rise from the valley of the roof on either side of the porch.

The west and east ends of the main elevation have no windows, and are solid stone walls. The western and eastern elevations of the porch walls both contain a pair of double-hung, six-over-six windows that provide light for the cloakrooms.

The southern elevation contains a single-leaf door reached by seven concrete steps at the southwest corner. This facade is fenestrated with four ribbons of three, nine-over-nine, double-hung windows leading east from the stage door.

The interior foyer is flanked by two cloakrooms accessed through tall paneled doors. Built-in wooden cabinets in the cloakrooms provided storage for books and supplies. The cabinets also provided storage for student's lunch containers, since there were no provisions for school lunches in the late 1930s.

Two paneled doors topped with six-light transoms provide access to the classroom from the foyer. The classroom is a rectangular room with hardwood floors divided by a large square opening in the center of the room, but it can be divided by two suspended wooden partitions at the center that can be raised or lowered by a unique rope, pulley, and weight system. When lowered, the partitions rest on a three-piece, removable, wooden base. When the building needed to be used as an auditorium, the partitions were raised by the rope and pulley system and suspended into the wall, and the three-piece wooden base moved into temporary storage inside one of the cloakrooms. One original chalkboard remains on the northeastern wall and the frame for the other board remains on the northwestern wall. The tray ceiling consists of open rafters. Two original wood burning stoves stand to the east and west of the foyer. They are no longer functional but will remain in the building. The curtain for the stage was removed and placed in another school during the consolidation of school districts in the 1960s.

#### **The Coal House**

The coal house, seventy-five feet to the south of the school, is a rectangular stone structure with a paneled wooden entrance door in the northern facade and a small boarded-up window in the rear, south facade. The building, which is approximately six-by-ten feet, has a gabled composition roof. The door and window have deteriorated to a degree that replacement is necessary.

#### **The Well Shed**

The well shed is an open pavilion, approximately ten-by-ten feet square, with a pyramid roof. The half-walls of the structure, as well as the four piers that support the roof are of fieldstone. The half-walls are topped with concrete caps. A drilled well is located in the center of the structure with a drain through the concrete slab to the outside of the structure. Originally the well shed contained a mechanical hand pump, hence the drain system for pills and overflows. The pump was later replaced with a bucket, rope, and pulley system, used to fill a wooden keg that the children and teachers could

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access for drinking or for washing hands. The well shed is located to the rear and approximately seventy-five feet from the southwest corner of the school building.

**Noncontributing Object Located Inside the Designated Boundaries:**

**Entry gate**

The entry gate to the north of the school was constructed in the 1990s, well outside of the period of significance, therefore it is not considered contributing to this nomination. The gate consists of six square fieldstone piers capped with concrete, wrought-iron gates, and a wrought-iron arch. Two piers stand to the east and two to the west of the driveway leading from Mill Creek Road. Both pairs of piers are spanned by a short width of wrought-iron fencing and the inner piers are topped with a wrought-iron filigree. Two wrought-iron single-leaf gates to the east and west close off the driveway. A pair of stone piers connected by fencing and topped with a iron arch reading "FAIR VIEW SCHOOL" are placed in the center of the entry. A low stone planter extends from the front of the center piers.

**Integrity:**

Fair View School remains a very sound structure just as it did in 1938. The composition roof of the school, as well as the two outbuildings, was replaced in the late 1970s. More recently (1990s) a temporary door was installed in the southwest corner of the school to replace the original, which was deteriorated and easily fell prey to vandals. These are the only alterations made to the buildings, to date. The Fair View School remains in its original location and has sustained minimal alterations, one of which (stage door at southwest corner) will be returned to its original design. The current owner wishes to maintain the architectural integrity of its WPA design and is using in-kind materials to further preserve its historic legacy while making it comfortable and useful to modern life.

Future plans are for the buildings and grounds to be used primarily as a historic site, with open house visitation on weekends and holidays. In addition, it will be available as a meeting place for civic and social activities that benefit the community, such as 4-H Club and Home Demonstration Club meetings. The new owner seeks to foster community interest in the building such as that seen in the 1940s and 1950s, and that the old school building will once again be the focal point for civic and social affairs of that area. Many of the former students have expressed a desire to meet there every two years for a reunion.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C & A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
Social History

Period(s) of Significance: 1938

Significant Dates: 1938

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: K.W. Brown, WPA engineer  
Leon Reed, construction foreman

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above:

**SECTION 8: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**Introduction:**

Fair View School is the result of three communities working together during one of the most difficult periods in this century, to achieve a state mandate for consolidating rural school districts, and the renewal of hope and prosperity in the area during the difficult periods of the Great Depression, and World War II. Fair View School symbolizes a period of extensive unemployment in Pope County. By the early 1930s, the Great Depression had taken its toll on the county, and people were trying desperately to make ends meet and to find the wherewithal to feed and clothe their families.

Prior to the school's construction the community it is located in was known as Orchard, due to three or four prominent farm families who owned large peach and apple orchards. Orchard had no school building and children attended either the Ball Hill School to the east, or the Rachel School to the west, depending on which part of the community the family resided in. In the

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late 1920s, the two school districts were consolidated and officials sought a central location for a school that would serve the three communities of Ball Hill, Orchard, and East Point, which was in the Rachel school district. The Depression depleted state funding for new public buildings, so the children continued to attend Ball Hill and Rachel (or East Point) schools. The combined school districts known as Ball Hill School District 10, were fortunate enough to find a location in the Orchard area that would serve all three communities, and in September 1929, the new school board purchased the land where Fair View School stands today.

Funds for a new school were delayed further until President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program was organized. One of the most important relief agencies to stem from the New Deal was the Works Progress Administration (WPA), established in 1935 to provide useful skills for those on the relief rolls. Arkansas WPA workers learned the necessary skills to build roads, public buildings, and many other projects including public schools.

#### **Fair View School**

By March 1, 1938, Pope County had received WPA and other Federal benefits totaling \$1,036,175.33, according to the report filed by then County Judge M.L. Turnbow. In early January 1938, a budget was allocated for construction of a school building for the Ball Hill School District as a WPA project. The Fair View School was completed in late June 1938 and the first term was held in July 1938. For several years after that classes were held in the summer and winter so the children could be off in the spring and fall for planting and harvesting. Children grades one through eight in 1938 were taught at Fair View by the principal, J.E. McAlister and teacher Scott Smith. With the completion of the school building public notice was given in the *Courier-Democrat, Russellville, Arkansas* that the community of Orchard would be renamed Fairview. (*The Courier-Democrat, Russellville, Arkansas* reports the community's new name as one word and not two as seen in connection with the school)

From 1938 until 1960, the Fair View School was a focal point for, not only education, but also a social and civic center for the area. The building was used for meetings of the 4-H and Home Demonstration Clubs, as well as meeting the recreational needs of Fairview and surrounding communities by showing movies and hosting various entertainment and fundraising events. Fair View School District 10 was consolidated with Russellville School District 14 in 1960 and in 1968 the buildings and land were sold at auction.

#### **Local Significance in Education:**

The Fair View School in Russellville is being nominated with local significance under Criterion A through its direct association with the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during the period covered by the historic context, **Public Schools in the Ozarks, 1920-1940.**

#### **Local Significance in Architecture:**

The documented WPA construction and the educational purpose of the building during this period clearly identify it with this context. It also qualifies for nomination to the National Register with local significance under

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Criterion C as an intact example of a construction method attributed to the Works Progress Administration, an organization created out of desperation to teach unemployed farmers and young men to be skilled stonemasons and carpenters.

**Present Function:**

Fair View School will be restored to its original state and the community will be invited to utilize the building once again for social and civic activities. The current owner plans for the property to be used primarily as a historic site, opening the building on weekends and holidays for tours, as well as serving as a community center.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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History of Pope County Arkansas, Pope County Historical Association, First Edition, 1979.

Ferguson, John L. and Atkinson, J.H. Historic Arkansas. Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1966.

The Courier-Democrat, Russellville, Arkansas. 10 March 1938, 12 May 1938, July, 1938, 4 July 1999. Pope County Library microfilm.

Polsgrove, Sherry. Interview by Jim Vinson December 1998.

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 ten and 1/2 acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>480790</u>	<u>3912070</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Part of the SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 10 Township 8 North Range 21 West, described as beginning at a point 40 rods North of the Southwest corner of the said SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 and run thence South 40 rods; thence East 51 rods to the Public Road; thence a little West of North with said road 28 1/2 rods; thence a little North of West with said road 47 rods to the point of beginning, containing 10 1/2 acres, more or less.

**Boundary Justification:**

This nomination includes all of the property historically associated with Fair View School, Russellville, Arkansas.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Jim Vinson/edited by Holly Hope, AHPP

Organization: Owner of Fair View School building      Date: 12/27/98

Street & Number: 135 Skycrest Drive      Telephone: 281 240-5542

City or Town: Sugar Land      State: TX      ZIP: 77479