

NR 1-21-04

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 Cedar Grove School #81

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Brockett Community approximately five miles north of Pocahontas, Arkansas, on Highway 115.

not for publication N/A

city or town Pocahontas

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Randolph code 121 zip code 72455

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.)

Cathie Matthews

12/08/03

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Cedar Grove School #81

Randolph County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

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	
3	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT—NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets See continuation sheet.

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1938-1949

Significant Dates

1938

1949

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See 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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal Agency, Local Government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Summary

Constructed in 1938, the Cedar Grove School #81 is located on one acre of land along Arkansas Highway 115 approximately five miles north of Pocahontas, Arkansas, in the Brockett Community. The building faces east toward the highway, but is obscured from view by dense vegetation. The one-room school building is covered with weatherboard siding and sits atop a continuous concrete foundation. Located within a few feet of the front of the building is the well house, which also houses the school bell. Located in the extreme northwest corner of the property is a two-booth privy. The building is virtually unaltered.

Elaboration

Cedar Grove School #81 is a Greek Revival influenced building clad in weatherboard siding. The 23' X 41' 2" building sits atop a concrete foundation and is sheltered beneath a gable roof topped with composition shingles. Wood windows are located only in the front and back of the building.

The building faces east and features a centrally located front entryway sheltered beneath a Greek Revival style porch. The building's double-door entryway is crowned by a six-light transom. A small four-pane stationary window is located on the upper portion of the building on both the right and left side of the entryway.

Both the north and south side elevation are void of details. They do both retain original weatherboard siding.

The back of the building faces west and is the location of most of the building's windows. Three ribbons of two double-hung, four-over-four windows provided an abundance of natural lighting for the school. Each window is crowned with a single-light transom. A slightly smaller four-over-four window is located near the north end of the elevation.

The interior of the Cedar Grove building consists of 1" X 6" unpainted center match flooring. The 11' 10" walls consist of 49" beaded wainscoting and 4' battened painted beaverboard. There are four black boards in the classroom. There are two 4' X 8' black boards on the south wall, and two black boards on the east wall—one measures 48" X 58" and the other measures 48" X 34". The ceiling consists of 16" X 32" ceiling tiles. The room is lit by three round-globed lights suspended by chains. An 8' stage (two feet high) is located on the north end of the building. The interior remains virtually unaltered.

Located only a short distance from the front of the building is a small wood-frame structure that served as both well house and bell house. It measures 8' X 8' and is topped with a small cupola that houses the school bell. The small building is a contributing resource.

A 5' X 6' privy is the only other building on the property. The two-booth privy is located at the northwest corner of the property. It is also a contributing resource.

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Summary

The Cedar Grove School #81 is located in the Brockett Community approximately five miles north of Pocahontas, Arkansas, in Randolph County. The building functioned as a one-room school from 1938 until 1949 when the school was consolidated with the Pocahontas School District. The building was built in 1938 after a tornado destroyed the original school building. After mass consolidation of Arkansas schools in 1948, the building was used by the Brockett Home Extension Club, and other groups, as a community meeting place. The Cedar Grove School is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with education in the Brockett Community. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a Greek Revival influenced school building. The nomination is being submitted under the historic context *Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*.

Elaboration

The Cedar Grove School #81 is located in the Brockett Community approximately five miles north of Pocahontas, Arkansas, in Randolph County. By October 7, 1919, ninety-nine school districts had been named and formed in Randolph County. Cedar Grove School District #81 was formed in October 1890 by a division of District #40. R.M. Bigger and Allace, his wife, and G.A. Sago and Lettie Sago, his wife, sold the land to the Directors of School District #81 in 1896.

There were two different buildings functioning as the Cedar Grove School from 1890 until consolidation in 1949. The first continued until a tornado destroyed it on March 30, 1938. Grace Ulmer who attended the school from 1907-1916 remembers the first building as a one-room building with boards for siding and steps coming up to a landing in the front of the building. The interior consisted of boards on the floor, on the walls, and on the ceiling. Mrs. Ulmer appears in a photograph taken in 1916 when she was in the eighth grade. Only a small portion of the building is distinguishable from the photograph, but the building is more visible in a photograph taken in 1906. The original building was plain traditional with a stacked stone foundation. The wallboards appear to have been shiplap boards and the roof covered with wood shakes. According to the *Pocahontas Star Herald*, "The school buildings at Cedar Grove and Davis were destroyed . . ." The present Cedar Grove School building was built in the summer of 1938, however, at this time the builder has not been identified. It served as the Cedar Grove School #81 until November 1948 when citizens of Arkansas passed Initiated Act no. 1, School District Reorganization, which resulted in mass consolidation throughout the State of Arkansas.

The Cedar Grove School consolidated into Pocahontas School District #19. Before consolidation could take place, however, each school district had to file a petition to consolidate the school district, advertise, and conduct a hearing, resulting in passage. Twenty-three patrons signed the Cedar Grove School District #81 Petition to Consolidate. The Petition was filed on December 18, 1948, advertised on 23 and 30 December 1948, the hearing was conducted on 11 Jan. 1949, and the Petition to Consolidate was passed. The

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Pocahontas School Board (Charles Baker, Lawrence Dalton, A. F. Million, T. H. Mills, and R. P. Sallee) met and voted unanimously to annex the Cedar Grove School into the Pocahontas School District #19. P. E. Buxton was Cedar Grove's last teacher in 1949. According to the 1948-1949 school picture, there were twenty-two students in grades one through eight. The school enumeration records kept by the County School Supervisor listed students from 1933-48, but the class of '49 was not listed. In 1949 the property was annexed into the Pocahontas School District, but in 1950 the property changed oversight again.

The Pocahontas School Board deeded the property, which served as the grounds for Cedar Grove School #81 for forty-nine years, to the Brockett Home Demonstration Club for \$1. The first trustees of the property were Lovelle Spikes, Mrs. Marvin Spikes, and Joe Difani. The deed calls "for the Brockett Home Demonstration Club to be used for community purposes and unto their successors forever . . ." The Brockett Home Demonstration Club was formerly the Pettit Extension Club, according to Ethel Caldwell.

The Pettit Extension Club was organized on September 12, 1935, and Ruth Sago was named first president. During the early years, the club's main projects were on home food production, preservation, and all kinds of homemaking skills, according to Caldwell. Another club project was making mattresses for community residents. Ruth Sago was one of the leaders who canvassed the community signing up customers for rural electricity. The Pettit Club met in homes until the transfer of the Cedar Grove Property in 1950. At an Extension reception in 1989, Mrs. Sago was honored with a fifty-year certificate. Ruth (Skiles) Sago attended school at Cedar Grove and is in the 1906 class photograph.

A number of community activities have taken place in the building and on the grounds after the Brockett Home Extension Club took charge. For several years, the Sago-Ulmer Reunion was held at the Cedar Grove School. In addition, in the 1960s and '70s the Brockett Club hosted several foxhunters meetings. According to Ethel Caldwell, these were long weekend meetings where the club ladies (and men) hosted the Tri-County Fox Hunters Association by serving meals and providing camping area for the hunters.

In 1988 the majority of the Brockett Club members voted to meet in homes, thus ceasing to meet in the community building. A few continued to meet as the Brockett Home Demonstration Club. By 1994 Mrs. Ruth Sago, a life-long member of the community, was placed in the nursing home, and Vallie Smith had died. This left three members—Ruby Cassidy, Patricia Colbert, and Frankie Davidson. They voted to disconnect the electricity because of the expense and the fear that the rodents might have caused damage to the wiring thus creating a danger. The members voted to form the Brockett Community Park & Museum, which was their intension to restore the building to the one-room schoolhouse. The club members approached Gary Buxton, Conway Jarrett, Mike Ulmer, and Cleo Cassidy, Jr. to become trustees of the property. All agreed. As it stands, very little has been accomplished.

The Cedar Grove School #81 serves as a reminder of days gone by when small school buildings dotted the landscape of rural Arkansas. It is hoped that this building can be preserved and used as a teaching tool to

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show today's students how the educational environment has evolved from small local school buildings to the larger centralized schools of the present. Placing the building on the National Register of Historic Places will be a very significant part of the preservation and restoration of the Cedar Grove School.

Statement of Significance

The Cedar Grove School is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** with **local significance** for its association with education in the Brockett Community. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of a Greek Revival influenced school building. The nomination is being submitted under the historic context *Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*.

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Bibliography

Bigger and Sago to School District #81, Special Warranty Deed, Circuit Clerk, Randolph County Court House, Book 86, Page 26.

Bigger and Sago to School District #81, Warranty Deed, Circuit Clerk, Randolph County Court House, Book 40, Page 37.

Caldwell, Ethel. "Fourche EHC," *Randolph County EHC Newsletter*, Feb. 1998.

Cedar Grove School (1906) class photograph, Property of Floy Brooks (daughter to Ruth (Skiles) Sago). The same photograph (property of Dixie Nibert Thompson) appeared in a clipping from the *Pocahontas Star Herald* in 1967.

Cedar Grove School (1948-1949), grades 1-8 class photograph. Property of Gary Buxton.

"Petition to Consolidate School District," To Randolph County Board of Education, Filed 18 December 1948. Dates are hand written for filing, advertising, hearing, and passing.

Pocahontas School Board decision, Carbon copy to Randolph County Board of Education, Meeting held at the Pocahontas High School at 1 P.M. No date.

"Pocahontas School Dist. #19 to Brockett Home Demonstration Club," Special Warranty Deed, Circuit Clerk's Office, Randolph County Court House, Book 86, Page 26, Filed 14 Nov. 1950.

"Proof of Publication," To Randolph County Board of Education, 11 Jan. 1949, Eunice BO'Baugh, Editor *Pocahontas Star Herald*.

"Storm Damages Many Buildings in this County," *Pocahontas Star Herald*, 7 April 1938, Front page.

Stubblefield. *Abstracts of the Formation of School Districts in Randolph County*. This book is the original county record book. It is not known when Mr. Stubblefield began recording all of the school districts in Randolph County.

imer, Grace. Interview by author, tape recording, Stokes, Arkansas, 16 June 2002.









Cedar Grove School H81
Brockett, Randolph Co., AR
UTM: 15/383818/4022813

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION

LITTLE ROCK

7856 IV NW
(MAYNARD)

MIDDLEBROOK 7 MI.
MAYNARD 3.5 MI.

