

NR Listed: 6-6-02

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 Parks School
other names/site number SC0037

2. Location

street & number Arkansas Highway 28 not for publication
city or town Parks vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Scott code 127 zip code 72950

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.)

Catherine Matthews 4/17/02
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:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Parks School

Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: WPA

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C moved from its original location.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1940

Significant Dates

1940

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

W.P.A.--Builders

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(List the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Advanced Reporter, 23 November 1939.

The Advanced Reporter, 5 September 1940.

The Advanced Reporter, 12 September 1940.

The Advanced Reporter, 1 May 1941.

Goodner, Norman. A Scott County Scrapbook (Scott County Historical Society).

Goodner, Norman. "A History of Scott County Arkansas" 1941, 1983.

_____, "Echoes" (Scott county Historical and Genealogical Society Journal) Spring 1997.

Interview with Joyce Grimes (Director of Scott County Senior Citizens Center), 27 September 2001.

Interview with Fuel McCraw (son of Wade McCraw who was hired by the WPA), 27 September 2001.

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

Name of repository: _____

Parks School
Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Range of Property Approximately 5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 412230 3851430
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Beginning at the NW corner of the SE 1/4 NE 1/4, Section 27 Township 2 North, Range 28 West, running east on a line said forty acre tract 130 yards, thence in a southwesterly direction 184 yards, thence in a northwesternly direction 100 yards, thence North 130 yards to the Northwest corner to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary contains all of the property historically associated with the Parks School that retains its historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Bennett/Survey Historian and Shelby Frost
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 12/09/01
street & number 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9874
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Located in the town of Parks north of Arkansas Highway 28, the fieldstone Parks School stands to the east of the local cemetery. Built in 1940, the building follows the typical design idioms of the W.P.A.-namely a side-facing gable-on-hip roofline, triangular dormers, and two front-facing gabled porches. The level of craftsmanship devoted to the school is noticeable in the attention devoted to the arches of the front porches. Their openings are arched by two orders of voussoirs and topped by keystones. The only changes to the exterior of the building are the addition of a concrete wheelchair-access ramp on the rear elevation, the covering of some windows with plywood, and a slight change in roof pitch on a section of the rear elevation. Despite the noted changes, Parks School has been largely unaltered since its construction and still retains its original tall fieldstone chimneys, front doors, arched transoms, and the majority of its nine-over-nine-wood framed windows.

ELABORATION

The community of Parks is located 12 miles southeast of Waldron in Scott County. Oriented to the south, the single story Parks School building faces on a large sloping field (now bounded by a concrete walking path). The window configuration that is used throughout the school is nine-over-nine double-hung wood framed windows. Three tall fieldstone chimneys rise high above the gable-on-hip roofline at points located near the center of the two side elevations and at a point located on the western side of the rear hipped roof projection. Two much shorter brick chimneys pierce the roofline at the crest of the roof behind the two dormers. A continuous fieldstone foundation wall is set apart from the rest of the fieldstone veneer walls by a concrete watertable. Adjacent to the building is the Parks Cemetery, but it is not included as part of this nomination.

Before the school building could be converted into the Senior Citizens Center, several alterations had to be made to the interior of the building. The electrical system had to be rewired to accommodate modern fixtures and the building received new plumbing facilities. A new well house was built and the water system tested and approved. Heating and cooling equipment was also added. A modern kitchen was installed and tile flooring was added to the dining area and kitchen. The exterior of the building remains almost exactly as it did in 1940. The addition of a handicap ramp in the back of the building only slightly changed the appearance of the original structure. In 2000 the Good Neighbor Extension Homemakers donated a concrete walking trail to the property, added benches along the trail, dedicated a monument with a time capsule, and planted a rose and flower garden in front of the Parks Senior Citizens Center.

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Front Elevation

The front or south elevation is divided into nine bays. The two bays that flank each the porches contain ribbons of three windows, and the center three bays contain ribbons of five windows. Dominating the front elevation are two projecting gable porch bays. Access to the porches is gained by climbing concrete steps. Interestingly each of the two porches contains a cornerstone inscribed with a shield that states "USA/1940/WPA". The front-facing gables of the porches are arched by two orders of voussoirs and topped by a keystone. Four lights glaze each double-leaf wood door. Above the doors, ten-light transoms are surmounted by their own arch and keystone. Between the porches, two triangular wood-louvered dormers ventilate the attic and add interest to the roofline. After the modernization of the kitchen, the corresponding windows on the front elevation and rear elevations were covered with plywood.

Side Elevations

The east and west side elevations of the principle section of the building are without any fenestration.

Rear Elevation

The north or rear elevation contains the wide auditorium projection and fenestration is the same as the front façade. The main two entries to the interior are located at the junction between the large auditorium projection and the main body of the building. A shed roof porch protects the two separate double-leaf doors with transoms. A modern wheelchair-access ramp is located east of the porch and runs parallel with the exterior wall. A secondary access is located to the northeast corner of the building. Entry is gained through a double-leaf door under a ten-light rectangular transom. The door is protected from the elements by a small shed-roofed porch supported on a single wood post. The roof of the porch has been recently reconstructed. The roofline of the auditorium projection was once a truncated hip; however, recently due to leaking, the deck was given a slight pitch to better shed water.

Interior

The interior of the building contains many of its original features. These include the shellacked and varnished knotty pine walls, many of the original multi-panel doors with transoms and the stage area of the auditorium. A few of the doors were augmented by having one wood panel removed and replaced by glazing. French doors and interior six-over-six wood windows are found in the superintendent's office area. A few alterations to the interior were made, so the school could be converted into the Senior Citizens Center. A modern kitchen was installed in the western part of the building. The original quarter-sawn (edge grain) pine floors are covered by linoleum tiles. The original ceiling material is covered by acoustical tiles and fluorescent lighting is used in the auditorium.

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Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Parks School, located in the community of Parks in Scott County, is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Works Progress Administration-constructed schoolhouse in the area. The ten-room building operated as a public school from 1940 until the 1960s.

ELABORATION

The Parks community is located 12 miles southeast of Waldron in Scott County. Parks came into existence 11 June 1838, when Cyrus Park was named the first postmaster.

L.K. Robertson sold the property to the Parks School District #39 on 17 February 1931. A wooden building was constructed on the site. This school served the Parks community for about twenty-five years until construction of the present building began. During the construction, students attended school in local churches, at the Keener school located only a few miles away, and in other temporary locations.

During this time, the Parks community consisted of the school and two general stores. One store was owned by B.K. Hansard. Virg and Ben Harris owned the other store. The postmaster was Bomar Hansard. Other businesses included Floyd Allen's barbershop and Dr. J. W. Humphrey's office. Dewey Williams and Emsey "Pin Head" Graham were blacksmiths. Many men worked at the lumber mill in Forrester (about twelve miles from Parks). Others were farmers or ranchers. Women were homemakers and worked alongside their husbands in the fields. A few women were teachers.

Prior to the construction of the Parks School, unemployment was at an all-time high for the Parks area and for most of Arkansas. Cotton was the only money crop. Most families had some livestock and a garden. The Great Depression and the Dust Bowl had forced many farmers and their families to leave Arkansas. News of the WPA project and the construction of the new school in Parks provided a spirit of hope among the local residents. Monroe Kuykendall was hired as the main carpenter. His sons Rex and Gus put in windows and doors and did other carpentry work on the building. Wade McCraw hauled rock from School House Hill north of the construction site. A WPA road was built especially for the rock truck. Slim Jeffrey was the rock mason who sized and cut the stones for the outside of the building.

On November 23, 1939, The Advance Reporter newspaper of Waldron, announced that "Work began this week on a \$31,000.00 stone veneer building for the Parks consolidated school district . . ." According to Bee Hawkins, president of the school board, the new school was built from plans provided by the state school authorities.

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According to the Advanced Reporter on 5 September 1940:

"The ten-room, single story building represents an investment of a little over \$30,000, of which the district provided about \$7,000 in the Works Progress Administration project; and replaces a wooden structure which had been used about 25 years. It is 174 feet long, 64 feet wide, contains seven class rooms, an auditorium with a 64x40 foot stage, a library, and the superintendent's room.

The local sponsors of the WPA project were Silas Rhodes, county superintendent of schools, and the Parks school board of which Ben Burruss is secretary. Eugene H. Ashford, a Scott County resident, was placed in charge of construction April 5 when the stone and finish work was begun. The WPA laborers were all local men.

The building has new fixtures throughout, including movable chairs and modern type desks for teachers. Lumber for the edge grain pine floors was milled within 12 miles of the building. All of the knotty pine walls are shellacked and varnished. Ceilings are of one half-inch fiberboard. The heating system consists of eight new coal stoves, and sufficient fuel has already been provided. A well with pressure pump provides water for the drinking fountains. Adequate concrete walks have been laid, and the campus has been graded and set in Bermuda grass."

The article also noted that the superintendent of the Parks School District Rush Rhodes state that he expected to begin the fall term of 1940 with approximately two-hundred-and-fifty students.

The Parks School served the communities of Parks, Cedar Creek, and Keener until all the small country schools consolidated with the Waldron School District in the 1960s. After that time although the building was occasionally used for community events and activities, it fell into disrepair. As the result of the consolidation, the Waldron School District became the owner of the property.

Later the Waldron School District sold the property to the Parks Community Center (incorporated on 25 November 1970). On 21 September 1977, the Parks Community Center sold the property to the Senior Community in Action, Inc. The Senior Community in Action, Inc. later changed its name to the Scott County Senior Citizens, Inc. on 12 August 1985. The first director of the Parks Senior Citizens Center was Margaret Williams (1977-79) followed by Margaret Wagner (1979-2001). The current director is Elainea Allen.

In addition to being the educational center of the area, the Parks School has remained an architectural showplace for the community. It is a landmark and focal point of life in Parks. Through the years of its existence, the Parks School as provided a place for social and civic events. Community organizations that have used the building include the Parks Volunteer Fire Department, the 4-H Club, the Extension

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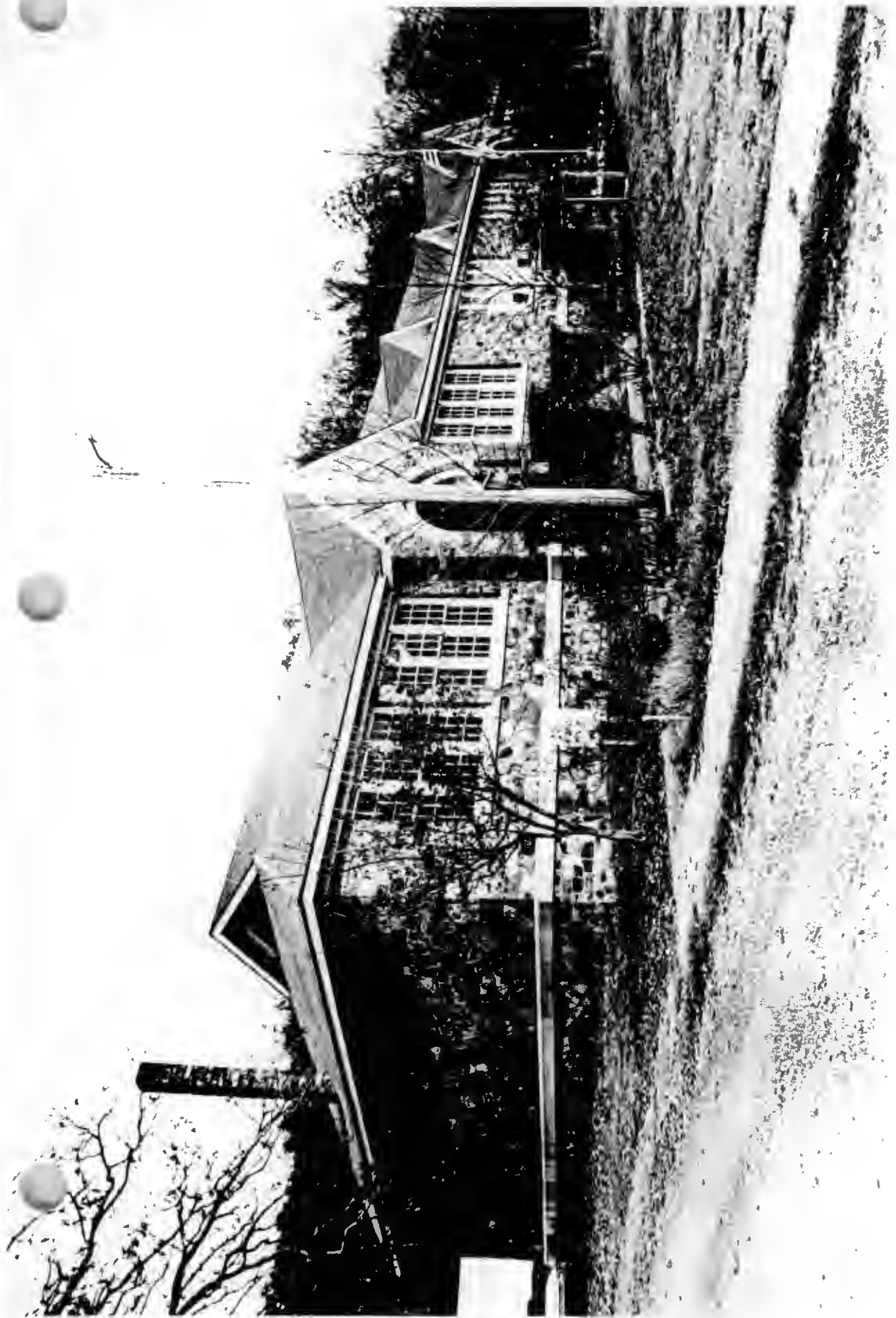
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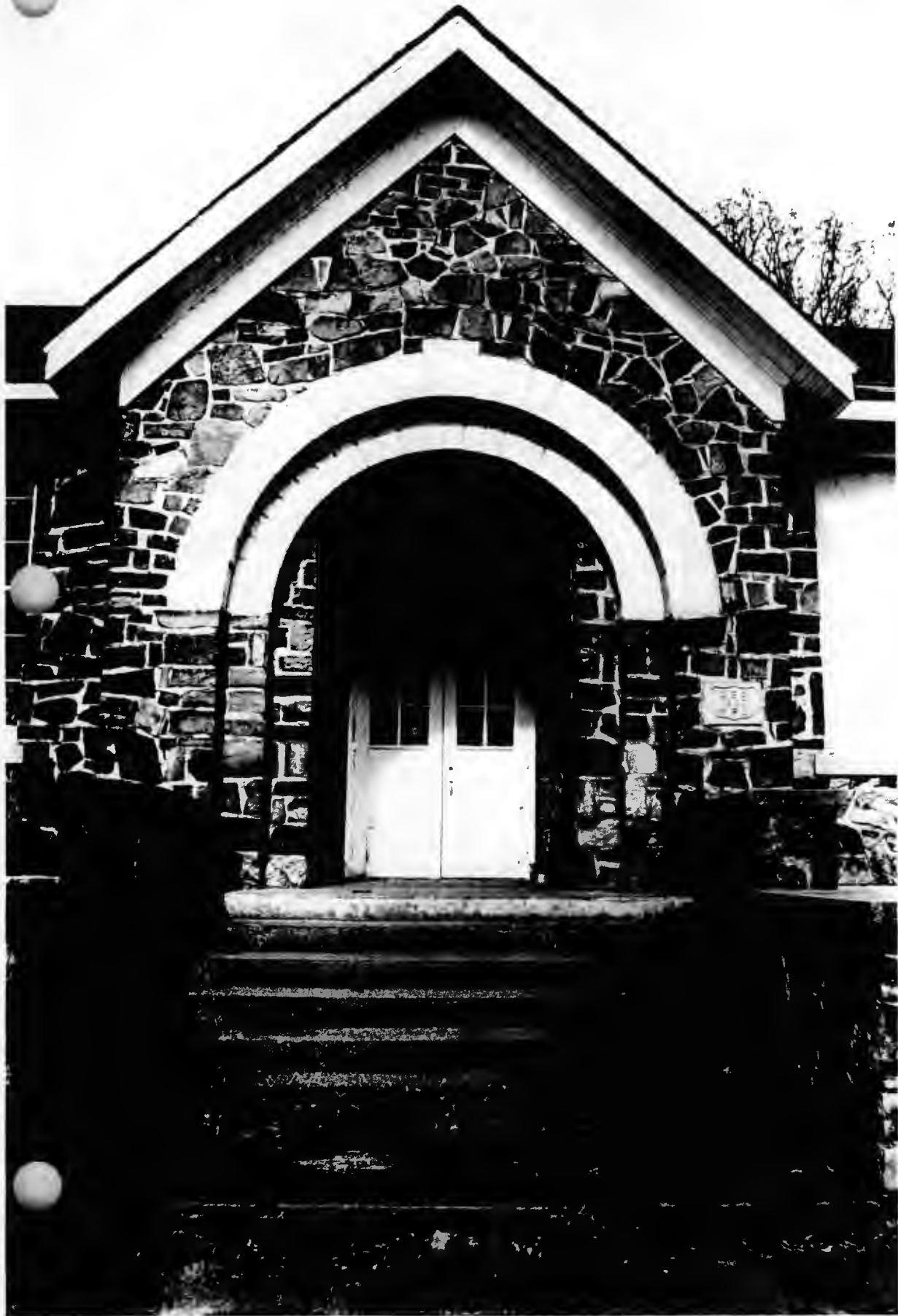
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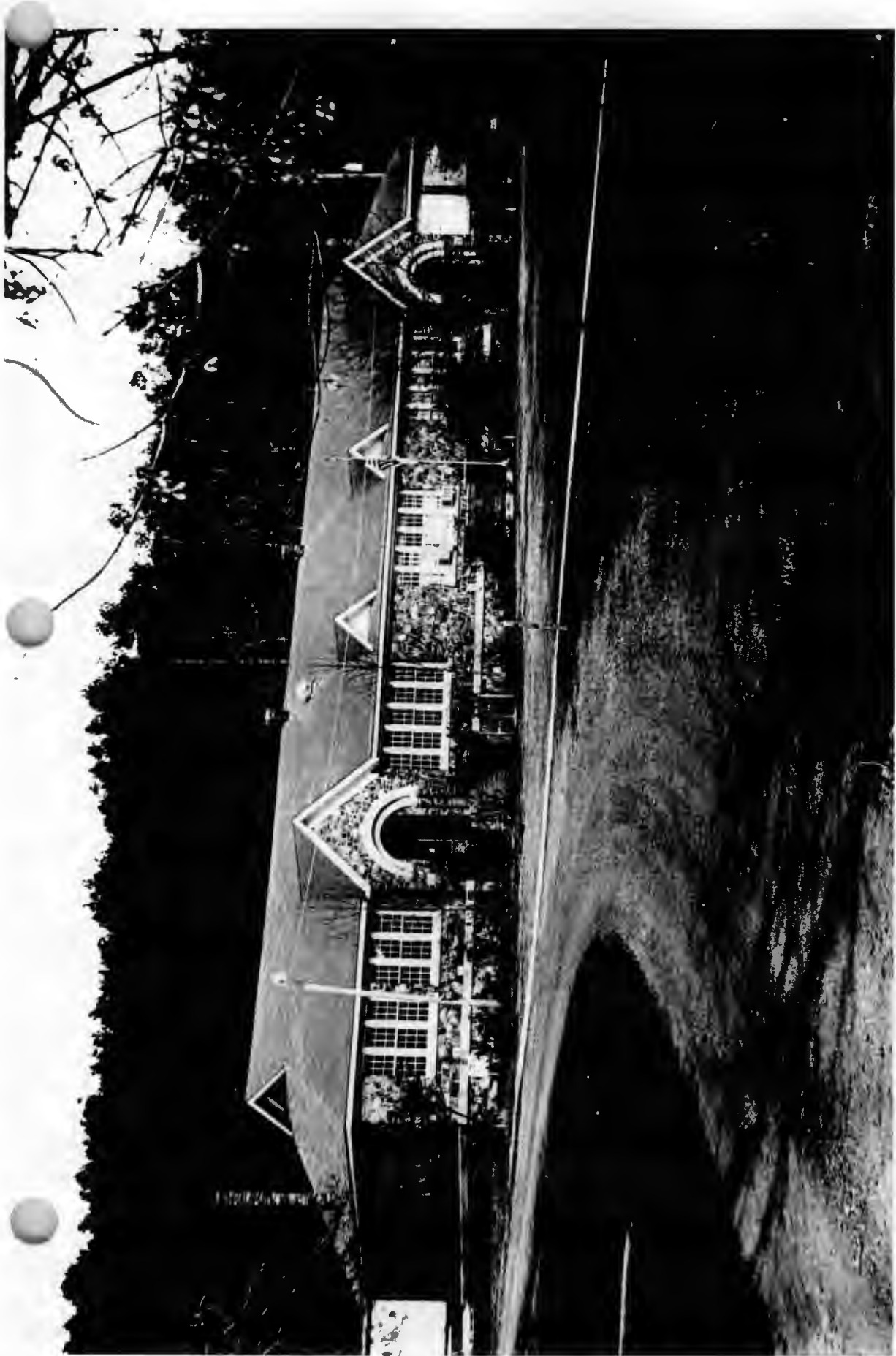
Homemakers (formerly called the Home Demonstration Club), the Waldron School Board, and others. Activities have included pie suppers, fiddle contests, baseball games, weddings, anniversary parties, Halloween carnivals, school and family reunions, political rallies, literary and debating contests, and musical performances. The building has served as a polling place since its construction.

Significance

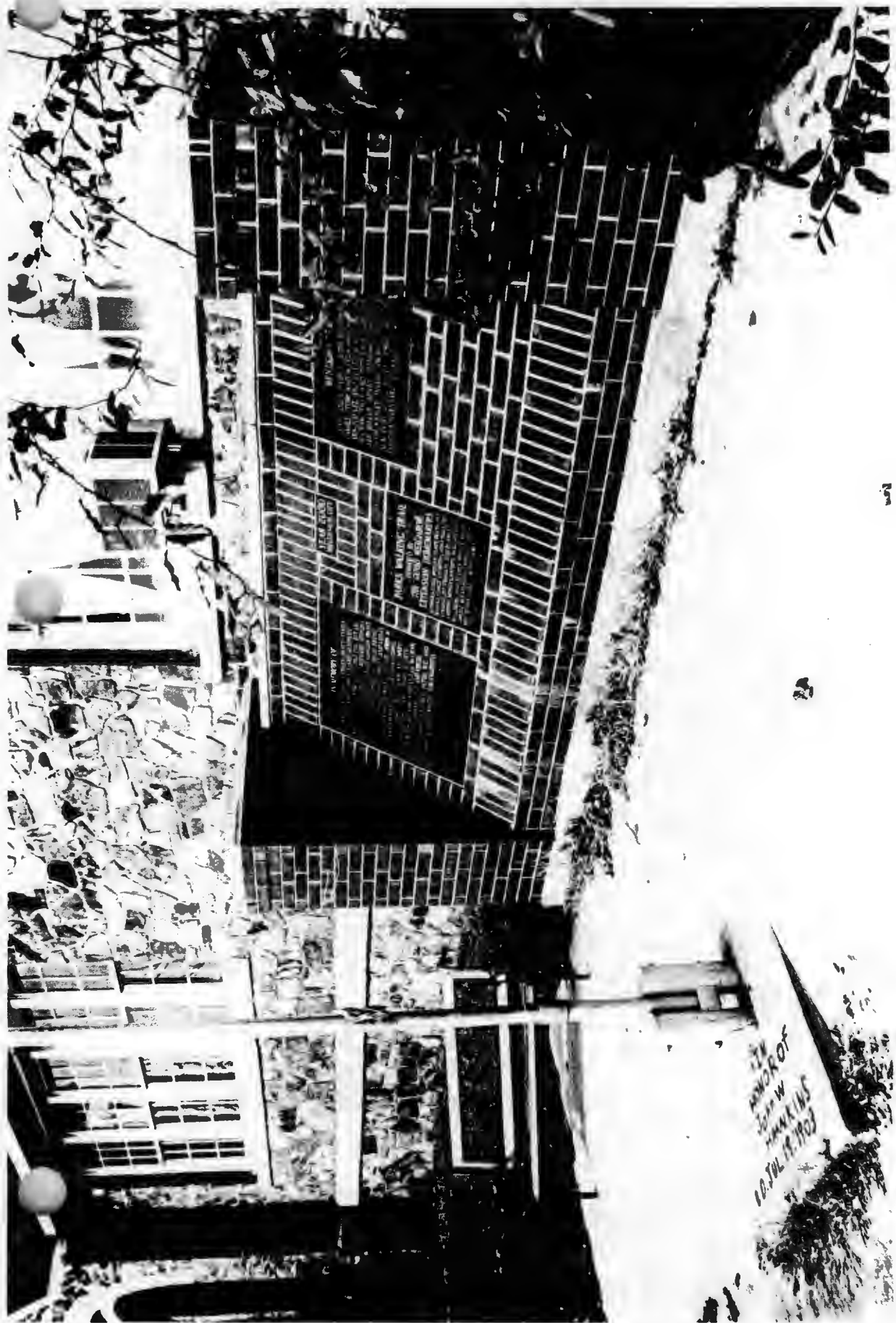
At one time, the Parks School was the largest single school building in Scott County. It remains the only building of its kind anywhere in the county and serves as a monument to the craftsmanship and ingenuity of Arkansans. The structure has been well-maintained and is a visible reminder of past achievements. Preservation of the Parks School will keep those memories alive. It is the center of social and community life in Parks. The solid structure of the building continues to be an uniting force that bonds former students and residents of the area. The Parks School is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Works Progress Administration-constructed schoolhouse in the area. The ten-room building operated as a public school from 1940 until the 1960s.











IN THE
HONOR OF
JAMES EARL RAY
JULY 19 1953

A GROUP BY
JAMES EARL RAY
JULY 19 1953

JAMES EARL RAY
JULY 19 1953

JAMES EARL RAY
JULY 19 1953

Parks School Building
Scott Co., AR
15/412230 / 3851430

