

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 Sulphur Springs Old School Complex Historic District

other names/site number BE3573

2. Location

street & number 512 Black Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Sulphur Springs

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Benton

code 007

zip code 72768

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.)

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

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

3

buildings

sites

structures

objects

3

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)

EDUCATION/library

RECREATION AND CULTURE

SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Other: WPA

Other: Minimal/Traditional

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

Limestone

walls BRICK

Weatherboard

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

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1941-1949

Significant Dates

1941, 1948, 1949

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Cyrus McGown--Carpenter

Claude Mason—Mason

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

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

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Approximately 3 acres.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>369090</u>	<u>4037700</u>
	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.)

Lots 7-12, Block 21, Original town site.

Boundary Justification

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

This boundary contains all the property originally associated with the nominated resource that retains historic and architectural integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Jim and Willie Coverston (edited by Amy Bennett)</u>	date	<u>December 12, 2000</u>
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	Telephone	<u>(501) 324-9880</u>
street & number	<u>1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street</u>	zip code	<u>72201</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	state	<u>AR</u>

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SUMMARY

The Sulphur Springs Old School Complex Historic District is composed of three buildings utilized by Sulphur Springs' school children. Hyphens and covered walkways connect the buildings, but they are considered to be separate resources. The school, constructed in 1941 by the Works Progress Administration, is a one-story brick building with a gable-on-hip roof. The building contains a partial basement and retains most of its original features on the interior. Although the school is a simple rectangular plan, the use of buff brick detail and shaped door surrounds is a striking contrast. The Craftsman-styled Gym is rectangular with a gable-on-hip roof. The building is sheathed in novelty siding above a cut limestone foundation with an irregular course. A covered walkway from a door on the southwest end of the school connects the two buildings. The Cafeteria built in 1949, is a one-story rectangular brick structure constructed in the Minimal/Traditional style. The Cafeteria and Gym are connected by a weatherboard hyphen at the northern end of the Cafeteria. The complex is located at the edge of a residential area of Sulphur Springs. Woodland surrounds the buildings on the south and west sides. The district is bounded on the east by Black Street, the north by Kerr Creek, the west by Duff Avenue and the south by White Street. The complex covers one city block and has large expanses of green space on the north and west sides.

ELABORATION

School

The eastern, or front facade is fenestrated from left to right by two ribbons of three nine-over-nine windows. A set of fifteen-light French doors beneath a sixteen-light transom are recessed beneath an arched entry to a squared door surround which extends approximately four feet above the eaves of the roof. The arch is elaborated with buff bricks and the top of the surround displays a basket-weave panel. The concrete

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stoop is reached by a set of six concrete steps. A concrete handicapped ramp extends south from the porch. Four pairs of windows proceed north to a second entry that matches the first. Fenestration is completed at the northeast corner of the building by two ribbons of three windows. A belt course of buff soldier bricks encircles the building above the concrete foundation. A concrete cornerstone at the northeast corner just above the foundation reads "USA 1941 WPA."

The land slopes at the north elevation revealing the basement level. A coal chute and a paneled door at the northwest corner of the foundation lead to the basement. The main floor features no doors or windows.

The basement level is visible at the rear, western elevation on the northwestern corner. Two windows to the basement are covered over with plywood. Two ribbons of three windows on the main floor light the northeastern classrooms. Nine concrete steps lead to a double-leaf door. The original fifteen-light French doors are intact beneath a panel of plywood. The doors are recessed beneath a peaked door surround. Five single windows fenestrate the wall between this door and a second similar entry and surround toward the southwest end of the building. These doors have also been covered with plywood. Two ribbons of three windows light the southwest corner. Two brick interior chimneys are placed behind each door surround. The southern elevation of the school is blank except for a large metal louver.

The interior of the school features large classrooms and offices arranged around an H-shaped hall. Original doors, hardwood floors and all wainscoting trim remain intact.

The Gym

The Gym was built originally circa 1925 as an U.S. army barracks. When the buildings went out of use after WWII they were offered free to anybody who would come and move them. During the conversion in 1948 from its use as an army barracks to its new use as a gymnasium, the many building's windows and door were infilled, a chimney was replaced and interior changes occurred. Because the move and the changes were

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completed during the historic period of the building, the Gym contributes to the nomination.

The Gym building is connected to the rear of the school via a gable-roofed walkway. The covered walk is supported by six wooden posts. The front, eastern facade is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. At the end of the covered walk reaching from the school is a paneled door that opens into a bleacher area at the southeast corner of the building. A single nine-over-nine double-hung window is adjacent to a paneled entry door. The windows were infilled upon construction because of plans to make the building a gymnasium. A small six-light window is situated above the porch roof.

Several windows on the northern facade have also been infilled and the only opening is a single door placed high in the wall above the foundation. The rear, western elevation contains a single centered door flanked by two infilled openings. The southwest corner of the building is stepped back approximately twelve feet and contains a door in the corner of the southern and western walls.

The southern elevation is stepped back about twelve feet at the southwest corner. An exterior brick chimney rises from this corner adjacent to a concrete stoop reached by three steps. Seven short six-light windows fenestrate the upper level just beneath the eaves. This section of the building was added to provide bleachers for basketball games after the gym was moved onto the school property.

The gym interior is reached through a foyer running the length of the east facade. Wooden bleachers behind a short wooden wall line the south wall. A raised stage at the west end of the basketball court retains its velvet curtains and a advertising curtain dating from 1949.

Cafeteria

The front, eastern facade of the cafeteria is sheltered beneath an integral porch supported by seven square posts. This elevation is fenestrated left to right by a pair of six-over-six

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windows, a paneled door with a single light, a ribbon of three windows, a second one-light door, and two ribbons of three windows. A weatherboard addition that links the northern end of the cafeteria to the gym is accessed through a paneled door and is lit by a single one-over-one window.

The northern elevation consists of a small shed-roofed wing sheathed in board-and-batten siding. The rear, western elevation of the addition contains a single metal one-over-one window. The rear wall of the cafeteria is fenestrated left to right by two ribbons of three six-over-six windows, and a single window. An infilled door and a paneled door open beneath a shed-roofed stoop supported by two square posts. A pair of windows lights the northwest corner of the building. The southern elevation is fenestrated by two pairs of windows. The pediment of the gable is sheathed in weatherboard above brick.

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SUMMARY

The Sulphur Springs Old School Complex Historic District in Sulphur Springs is composed of three buildings. The Works Progress Administration constructed the 1941 School Building and despite the need for recent small repair jobs, the school retains its original appearance. Additions to the 1949 Cafeteria and the 1948 Gymnasium in mid 1950's blend well in with their architectural plans. This retention of original features contributes to the integrity of the district.

ELABORATION

The first school for Sulphur Springs students was built in the southeast section of the town in the late 1880s. This school was sold and classes were held in a stone building on Hibler Street in Sulphur Springs known as the Cox Building. A three story brick and stone structure was constructed in 1908 on the site of the Old School Complex. By 1938 this building had deteriorated to the point that its destruction became necessary and the Cox Building became a classroom once again. In the interim the Works Progress Administration began working on the new school using local WPA workers. By 1941 the one-story brick building was ready to receive students. Town children attended the Sulphur Springs School until the 1965 consolidation with Gravette Schools. The building continued to be used for third and fourth grades until a new elementary school building in Gravette was completed in 1975. The school building now houses the Sulphur Springs Police Department, the Sulphur Springs Museum, and is used intermittently for classes and community meetings.

With the end of World War II in 1945 came the daily discharge of thousands of servicemen. This meant that large military bases were no longer needed and cutbacks were being implemented. In 1946 Camp Crowder, in Neosho, Missouri began offering Army barracks free of charge to those who would haul them off. The Sulphur Springs Mayor, City Council and School Board decided to take advantage of this offer and utilize one of these buildings for a school gymnasium. Up to this point basketball games were played in the Cox Building which had been converted to a gym and banquet hall.

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The Gymnasium became a community effort with men and students from the town working together to convert the barracks into a basketball court and auditorium. In 1949 a local artist named Harry Heckman painted advertisements on a curtain which still hangs in the gym. This was paid for with money raised from local businesses by students at the school.

In 1949 work began on a separate building housing a cafeteria for the use of the students. It was completed in 1950. In the mid 1950s a wing used as an extra classroom was added linking the gym and the cafeteria on the northern elevation. The classroom currently houses the City Public Library. The dining room continues to be used for community meals that benefit the Sulphur Springs Museum, which was founded in 1995. The police station is also housed in the complex. Other community functions such as karate lessons, square dancing civic group meetings, and other community functions are held in the buildings. There are plans to update the bathrooms and install central heating and air. Other than these small alterations there are no other plans for the buildings.

SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Sulphur Springs was once a thriving resort town, relying on local springs to lure tourists and those seeking rejuvenation. A few buildings remain from those years when the trains discharged crowds looking for stress relief, but those buildings are examples of only one side of the town's personality. The Sulphur Springs Old School Complex Historic District is an example of the day-to-day existence of the residents. The school, gymnasium, and cafeteria met the educational needs of the children of Sulphur Springs and continue, simply by their presence to meet other needs. The complex is a symbol of shared memories for those who attended classes there and grew up in the schools hallways, but it is also makes that way of life more real to those who came after. The Sulphur Springs Old School Complex Historic District is being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion C** for its varied styles of architecture, and under **Criterion A** as an example of the workmanship of the Works Progress Administration.

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Buckley, Lily M. *History of Sulphur Springs*. Rich Hill, Missouri. 1990.

Interview with Julia Eldred July, 2000.

Interview with Nona Heckman Holm June, 2000.

Interview with Dodie Evans Julne, 2000.

Gravette News-Herald, 9 October 1947.

Gravette News-Herald, 6 November 1947.

Gravette News-Herald, 8 January 1948.

Gravette News Herald, 29 January 1948.

Gravette News Herald, 12 February 1948.

SULPHUR SPRINGS OLD SCHOOL COMPLEX HISTORIC DISTRICT

Benton County, Arkansas

1941-1949

(1 Inch=approximately 30 Feet)





















