

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 Meniffee High School Gymnasium

other names/site number CN0160

2. Location

street & number Northwest Corner of North Park Street and East Mustang Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Meniffee ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR County Conway code 029 zip code 72107

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.)

Cedric Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/17/02  
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

Memfee High School Gymnasium  
Name of Property

Conway 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.)

Public Schools in the Ozarks, 1920-1940

#### Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

#### 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)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

### Period of Significance

1938

### Significant Dates

1938

### Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

### Architect/Builder

WPA

### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Correspondence from Rubye M. Jamison to Roy L. Wert, 2001.

English, J.W. *Menifee Past and Present*, p. 6, 14, 18.

eman McKindra's 1995 speech (unpublished).

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
☐ Other State Agency

- ☐ 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Federal Agency  
☐ Local Government  
☐ University  
☐ Other

Name of repository:

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Meniffee High School Gymnasium

Conway County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Range of Property Less than one acre.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>541291</u>	<u>3889253</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

3	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Section 24, Township 6, Range 15W. Beginning at an imaginary point located 20 feet north the northwest corner of the driveway turn west and continue west for a distance of 75 feet to a point formed by the intersection of this line with the easternmost property boundary, turn facing south and continue south approximately 65 feet to a point formed by the intersection of this line with the southernmost property boundary, turn facing east and continue east approximately 75 feet until you reach the curb of the road, turning north and follow the curb until you reach the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

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

This boundary contains the 1938 gymnasium which is the only building remaining from the school complex after the 1960 tornado.

**11. Form Prepared By**Name/title Jerry Coleman/President (Edited by Amy Bennett/Survey Historian)organization Meniffee Community Development Center, Inc.date 12/12/01street & number P.O. Box 147telephone (501) 324-9874city or town MeniffeeState Arkansaszip code 72107

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Meniffee High School Gymnasium, constructed in 1938 by the WPA, is a one-story uncoursed fieldstone gymnasium with a rectangular plan and a gable roof. Though the primary windows are now covered by plywood, they are nine-over-six double-hung wood frame windows. A second row of smaller windows beneath the cornice provides light to the large space within. These are circa 1970 replacements of the original clerestory windows. The building's exposed rafter ends, side gabled roof, and the two prominent porches supported by field stone piers make it a representative example of a WPA designed gymnasium. Sited on a gradually sloping hill just south of the northwest corner of North Park Street and East Mustang Street, the gymnasium is the only building of the circa 1938 school complex to survive the 1960 tornado. The only outbuilding to survive the tornado intact now lies outside the property boundary of the gymnasium. This well house has suffered the reconfiguration of its roofline from pyramidal to gable.

### ELABORATION

The Meniffee High School Gymnasium is a single story, fieldstone veneer gymnasium building designed in a restrained version of the Craftsman style. Its rectangular plan is highlighted only by the two prominent single bay porches located on either end of the front façade. The side gabled roof is covered by composition shingles and is pierced by an interior chimney near the northwestern corner. The only addition to the building is located on the north elevation. This addition was added in the mid 1970s and features concrete block walls, and a low-pitched gable roof. The addition housed new shower facilities for the students.

The two porches feature a gable roof supported upon two fieldstone columns. The entrances are double-leafed with transom windows. The area above in the gable end is covered with a wide weatherboard siding. The north porch is the primary entrance and grants access to the break box and the old concession stand.

The interior consists of a stage located on the east side of the building, with a classroom on both ends of the stage. The walls are clad in beaded board in the public spaces and plain horizontal boards in the restrooms. The original restrooms are still accessible and are located underneath both ends of the bleachers. Four wooden columns extend from floor to ceiling. The beams are interfaced with the bleacher section. Lighting for the interior is accomplished by five rows of lights. The original gym floor is in poor condition due to water infiltration and pigeon droppings. Located near the property, but outside of this nomination is the aforementioned well house.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Meniffee High School Gymnasium in Conway County 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*.

### ELABORATION

The Meniffee High School Gymnasium constructed in 1938 falls under the historic context *Public Schools in the Ozarks, 1920-1940*, as a representative example of a stone gymnasium building constructed for a rural school district. It is significant locally under Criterion A through its association with the Works Progress Administration, School principal J. C. McDaniel and the school board were able to have a gymnasium built. At the time of its construction, it was one of the "first three buildings established for the purpose of sporting events indoors in Arkansas for African Americans." The three structures were Rosston in Nevada County; Meniffee's gym in Conway County; and AM&N's gym in Jefferson County." According to Mr. Mckindra, a graduate of the Conway County Training School, the building became "the life of the community." Citizens in the community worked on the building project. According to a letter from Ms. Ruby M. Jamison, the following Meniffee carpenters also worked on the project: Mr. Robert Jamison, Mr. Charles "Boy" Thompson, Mr. Dewitt Winston, and a member of the Hines family.

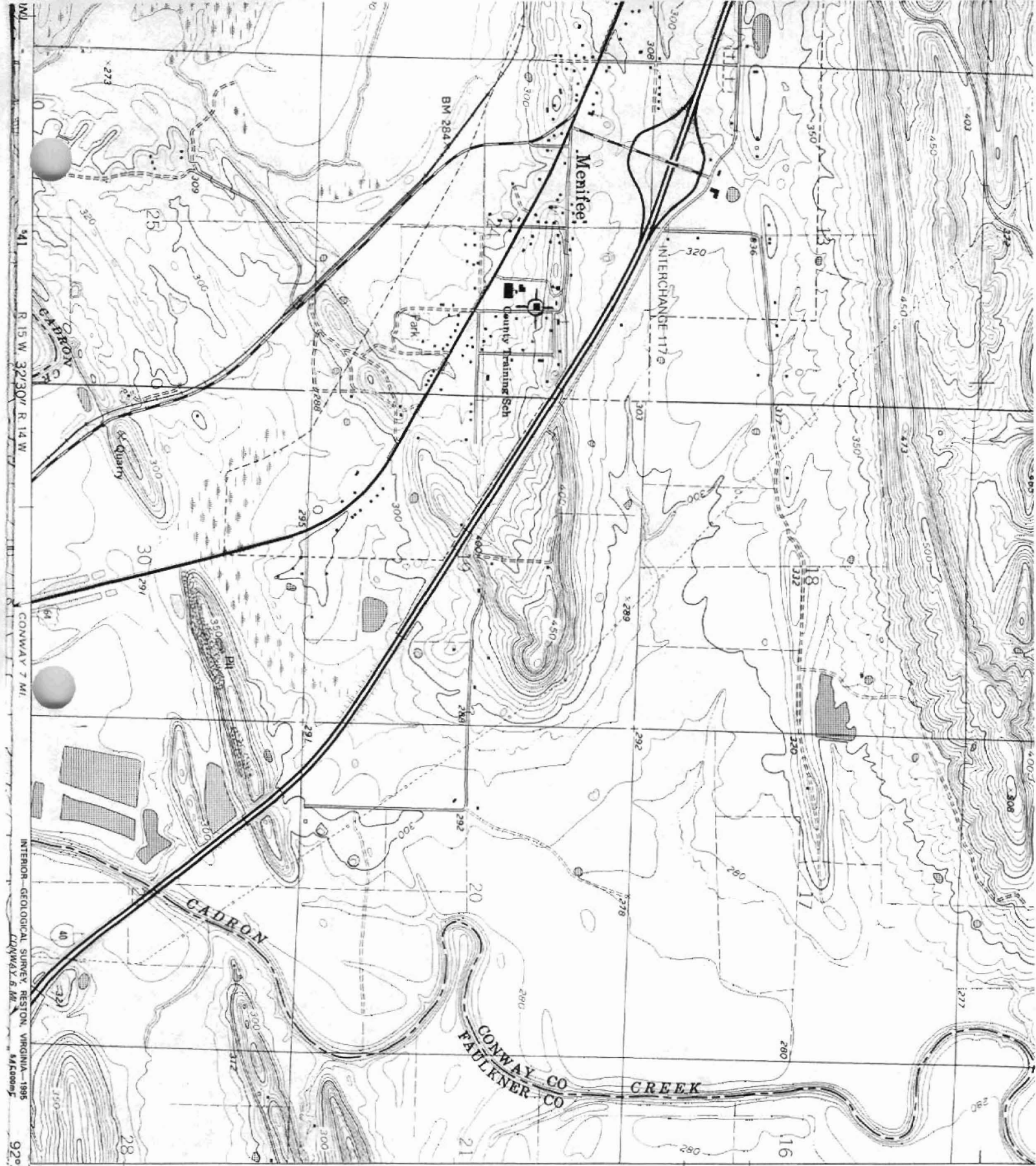
The Meniffee High School Gymnasium became a place of pride for the students and families in Meniffee. It was the place for local and state basketball tournaments; Meniffee won several state basketball championships. In 1941, Eddie Lee Sutton, an English instructor began hosting "The Dramatic Tournament" on the stage inside the gymnasium. The school debating team also hosted state events on the stage of the gym. The spring agricultural shows hosted by Meniffee's NFA were held in the gymnasium. In addition, all proms and large school assemblies were held in the gymnasium building.

The Meniffee High School Gymnasium also served as a community center hosting public events for the community of Meniffee. The gymnasium maintained its prominence in the community in that it was the only one of the school buildings to survive the 5 May 1960 tornado intact. Following the tornado, the gymnasium was used as a temporary classroom building for students until other arrangements could be made to continue classes.

Since 1965, Meniffee has been an incorporated town with a Mayor/Alderman form of governing. In 1966, the town hired its first town Marshall and established the Meniffee Waterworks. In the 1970s, gravel lanes became paved streets with street signs. It was also during the 1970s that the building gained an addition to the building containing modern showers. In 1980, the Meniffee School was merged with the Morrilton and Plummerville Schools to form the South Conway County School District, and in June 1989, the district gave the City of Meniffee its gymnasium back. Since that time the building and its property have been in the hands of the Meniffee City government.

### Significance

The Meniffee High School Gymnasium constructed in 1938 falls under the historic context *Public Schools in the Ozarks, 1920-1940*, as a representative example of a stone gymnasium building constructed for a rural school district. It is being nominated under Criterion A with local significance.



Menifee Gymnasium  
Conway Co, AR  
LTM Reference  
15 1541391/3889253

R 15 W 32 30' R 14 W  
CONWAY 7 MI.  
INTERIOR- GEOLOGICAL SURVEY REGION, VIRGINIA-1985  
CONWAY 6 MI.  
35°07'30"  
92°30'



