NPS Form 10-900 **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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: <u>Redfield School Historic District</u>

Other names/site number: <u>Redfield Middle School, Site #JE0942</u>

Name of related multiple property listing:

<u>"An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas,</u> 1933-1943."

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

2. Location

Street & number: <u>101 School Street</u>

City or town: <u>Redfield</u>	State: Arkansas	County: Jefferson
Not For Publication:	Vicinity:	

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this \underline{X} nomination $\underline{}$ 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 \underline{X} meets $\underline{}$ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

D

<u>X</u>A <u>B</u> <u>C</u>

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

field School Historic District	Jefferson County, Arkans County and State	
In my opinion, the property meets	does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date	
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

4. 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes Private:	as apply.)
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	X
Site	

Redfield School Historic District		Jefferson County, Arkansas
Name of Property		County and State
Structure		
Object		

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing <u>4</u>	Noncontributing	buildings
1	1	sites
		structures
		objects
5	3	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) EDUCATION/school

Redfield School Historic District Name of Property

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.) <u>OTHER/Plain-Traditional</u>

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property: <u>BRICK, CONCRETE, ASPHALT</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Redfield School Historic District is located at the intersection of West School and Brodie streets at the northern edge of Redfield. The centerpiece of the campus is the main school building, which was built by the WPA in 1939. In addition to the main school building, the campus contains a gymnasium, several small sheds, three separate classroom buildings, and a well house and carriage house that actually date to the 1910s and the construction of the previous building. The campus also contains the school's football field and baseball field.

Narrative Description

The Redfield School Historic District is located at the intersection of West School and Brodie streets at the northern edge of Redfield. The site has been the site of the school in Redfield since at least the middle 1910s when the building designed by Clyde Ferrell was built on the site. The centerpiece of the campus is the main school building, which was built by the WPA in 1939. It is a gable-roofed H-shaped brick building that sits on a cast-concrete foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. In addition to the main school building, the campus contains a gable-roofed gymnasium that was built in the 1950s, two small modern sheds near the football field, a baseball field/playground area to the southwest of the school, and a brick well house and carriage house with hipped roofs that actually date to the 1910s and the construction of the

Jefferson County, Arkansas

Name of Property County and State previous building. The campus also contains the school's football field at the northern end and baseball field, which is located to the west of the school.

<u>School – Contributing</u>

The Redfield School building is a one-story tall H-shaped building that rests on a continuous cast-concrete foundation. The building is topped by a gable roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. The roof is pierced by three gable-roofed dormers on the front façade. Most of the windows in the building are one-over-one, double-hung windows that are replacement windows. Some of the windows also have stationary transom panels above them.

Front – Southwest Façade

The southwest façade of the front section of the building is symmetrical in appearance. At the center of the façade is a group of five double-hung, one-over-one windows. The center group of windows is flanked on each side by a recessed entrance to the building that is approached by a set of concrete steps. The northern entrance is now covered with a wall that is covered in synthetic siding. Proceeding south from the southern entrance and north from the north entrance, the wall has three groups of fenestration. The outer two groups in each part consist of two groups of three double-hung, one-over-one windows. These windows flank a pair of smaller double-hung, one-over-one windows.

The roof of the southwest façade of the front section of the building is pierced by three gableroofed dormers that are now covered in synthetic siding. The center dormer is above the center group of windows. The outer two dormers are located above the inner sets of two groups of three double-hung, one-over-one windows

The southwest side of the northeast leg of the "H," starting at the center of the building, is fenestrated by three evenly-spaced one-over-one, double-hung windows. Near the northeast end of the wing is a double-wide entrance with a single door and board-and-batten wall that occupies the space that had the other door originally. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed fabric awning with serpentine bottom.

The southwest side of the southeast leg of the "H" is fenestrated by three evenly-spaced pairs of one-over-one, double-hung windows.

Side – Southeast Facade

The southeast side of the main portion of the building has a central recessed entrance that is approached by a set of concrete steps. The entrance has a pair of metal doors with rectangular panes of glass in the top. Above the doors are four-paned transom windows. Above the recessed entrance is a jack-arch lintel with central keystone. In the gable peak above the entrance is a semicircular louvered attic vent.

The central entrance is flanked on each side by a faux window opening. The opening is surrounded on three sides by a border constructed of slightly projecting bricks. The top of the faux window openings are detailed with a jack-arch lintel with central keystone.

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The southeast side of the southeast leg near the western edge is fenestrated by a pair of one-overone, double-hung windows. Near the eastern edge, the façade is fenestrated by what was originally a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows. However, the lower left window has been replaced by a solid metal door. Both window openings are topped by a jack-arch lintel with central keystone.

The southeast side of the "H's" cross bar, beginning at the west end, is fenestrated by three pairs of one-over-one, double-hung windows with transom windows above them. All three window openings are topped with jack-arch lintels with central keystones. At the east end of the crossbar is an entrance with a metal door that is approached by a set of concrete steps. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed fabric awning with serpentine bottom.

Rear – Northeast Facade

At the north end of the northeast façade is a small one-room addition that is sided in vinyl siding. The addition has a shed roof and a door on the northwest side. Otherwise, it is devoid of fenestration. To the south of the addition, the northeast leg of the "H" is fenestrated by three pairs of one-over-one, double-hung windows.

The center part of the northeast façade is the end of the "H's" crossbar and is symmetrically arranged around a large brick chimney. The chimney is flanked on each side by a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows followed by a small one-over-one, double-hung window. Below the small windows are shed-roofed projections. Window openings on the northeast faces of the projections are covered in synthetic siding.

The southern leg of the northeastern façade is fenestrated by three pairs of one-over-one, doublehung windows. The bottom part of a small brick chimney is located in between the southern two pairs of windows.

Side – Northwest Facade

The northwest side of the main portion of the building has a central recessed entrance that is approached by a set of concrete steps. The entrance has a pair of metal doors with rectangular panes of glass in the top. Above the doors are four-paned transom windows. Above the recessed entrance is a jack-arch lintel with central keystone. In the gable peak above the entrance is a semicircular louvered attic vent.

The central entrance is flanked on each side by a faux window opening. The opening is surrounded on three sides by a border constructed of slightly projecting bricks. The top of the faux window openings are detailed with a jack-arch lintel with central keystone.

The northwest side of the northeast leg near the western edge is fenestrated by a pair of oneover-one, double-hung windows. However, the lower right window has been replaced by a board and a louvered vent. Near the eastern edge, the façade is fenestrated by a pair of one-overone, double-hung windows. Both window openings are topped by a jack-arch lintel with central keystone.

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The northwest side of the "H's" cross bar, beginning at the west end, is fenestrated by three pairs of one-over-one, double-hung windows with transom windows above them. All three window openings are topped with jack-arch lintels with central keystones. At the east end of the crossbar is an entrance with a metal door that is approached by a wooden wheelchair ramp. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed fabric awning with serpentine bottom.

<u>Carriage House – Contributing</u>

The carriage house is a brick building with a hipped roof that is covered with asphalt shingles. The building rests on a continuous brick foundation. The building also has a wood-frame addition with a shed roof on the northwest side.

Front – Southwest Facade

The front façade of the original portion of the carriage house is dominated by a double garage door. The door is wood and is constructed of vertical boards with a large horizontal board across the bottom. The front of the addition also has a pair of swing-out garage doors that are constructed of vertical boards. The wall above the doors is sided in vertical board siding.

Side – Southeast Facade

The southeast façade of carriage house has a single window opening, which is covered with a wood board on the inside and with metal bars on the outside.

Rear – Northeast Facade

The rear of the original portion of the building has no fenestration. The rear of the wood-frame addition to the building is sided in horizontal board, except for the center of the façade, which has a single board that likely covers up a doorway.

Side – Northwest Facade

The northwest side of the building has no fenestration. The northwest side of the addition is sided with horizontal siding.

Well House - Contributing

The well house is a small rectangular brick building with a cast-concrete foundation. The original portion of the building is topped by a hipped roof with a gable-roofed monitor. A frame addition with a shed roof is located on the northeast side. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

Front – Southwest Facade

The front of the building has a central doorway with a wood door. Otherwise, the façade has no fenestration.

Side – Southeast Facade

The southeast side of the building has no fenestration.

Rear – Northeast Facade

The northeast façade of the building is the frame addition, and it has no fenestration.

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Side – Northwest Facade

The northwest side has an entrance into the building's frame addition. The entrance has a door constructed of vertical boards.

<u>Gymnasium – Contributing</u>

The Gymnasium is a concrete-block building located to the northwest of the school building. The building rests on a continuous concrete-block foundation and the main part of the building is topped by a gable roof covered in asphalt shingles. The building has two wings, one on the northeast and one on the southwest, which have flat roofs. A variety of windows fenestrate the building.

Front – Southeast Façade

The central section of the building consists of the main gymnasium space, and is symmetrical in appearance. The center bay is fenestrated by a twenty-paned, metal-frame window. On either side of the center bay is a forty-paned, metal-frame window followed by a thirty-paned, metal-frame window.

The southeast side of the northeast wing has a recessed entrance to the left with double-doors with windows in the top half. The main wall of the wing is fenestrated by a single, rectangular, two-pane window.

The southeast side of the southwest wing has a recessed entrance to the right with a single door without windows. The entrance is approached by a set of concrete steps. The main wall of the wing is fenestrated by two, rectangular, two-pane windows.

Side – Northeast Façade

The northeast façade of the gym's northeast wing is fenestrated by three, evenly-spaced, rectangular, two-pane windows. The northeast façade of the main section of the gymnasium has a metal, louvered vent in the gable peak.

Rear – Northwest Facade

As on the southeast side, the central section of the building consists of the main gymnasium space, and is symmetrical in appearance. The center bay is fenestrated by a twenty-paned, metal-frame window. On either side of the center bay is a forty-paned, metal-frame window followed by a thirty-paned, metal-frame window.

The northwest side of the northeast wing is fenestrated on the right with an eight-paned, metalframe window. To the left, the wing is fenestrated by a single, rectangular, two-pane window.

The northwest side of the southwest wing has a recessed entrance to the left with a single door without windows. The entrance is approached by a set of concrete steps. The main wall of the wing is fenestrated by two, rectangular, two-pane windows.

Name of Property Side – Southwest Facade

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The southwest façade of the gym's southwest wing has no fenestration and a wooden, cross-buck door in the bottom of the façade that provides access to the building's crawl space. The northeast façade of the main section of the gymnasium has two concrete-block pilasters located slightly to the left and right of the gable peak.

<u>Shed #1 – Non-Contributing</u>

The first shed is a small metal-framed shed with a front-facing gable roof. The shed's walls and roof are covered with standing-seam metal, while the gable ends are covered in flat metal. A pair of sliding doors is located on the northeast side of the shed. The shed has no fenestration. The shed rests on piers of flat, square concrete tiles.

Shed #2 – Non-Contributing

The second shed is a larger wood-framed shed with a front-facing gable roof. The shed's walls are covered with horizontal wood siding. Each gable end has a louvered metal vent. A pair of wooden doors with a cross-buck pattern in the lower half is located on the southwest façade. The shed rests on concrete-block piers.

Football Field – Non-Contributing

The football field, which is named Woods Field, is located at the northwest edge of the campus and is oriented northeast-southwest. The field was constructed in recent years. Sets of bleachers are located along parts of the southeast side. Goalposts are located at the northeast and southwest ends. A modern scoring box, the Bubba Odom Score Box, is located along the northwest side of the field, and a scoreboard is located at the field's northern corner.

Baseball Field/Playground – Contributing

The baseball field is located to the southwest of the school, and is oriented with home plate and the backstop to the north. The backstop consists of a three-sided chain-link fence. The playground equipment consists of an arch-shaped metal jungle gym and variable height metal horizontal bars with metal vertical supports to the southwest of the baseball field. A metal swingset is also located just to the west of the baseball field's backdrop.

Integrity

The buildings and sites on the Redfield School's campus possess good integrity and illustrate the growth and continued use of the campus from the 1910s up through the closure of the school in 2013. The largest change to the district includes changes to the 1939 school building, most notably the replacement of the building's windows c.1990 and the installation of siding over one of the front entrances along with the building's dormers. Even though the windows have been replaced, the replacement windows are the same size as the original windows. Redfield has remained a small town since its founding in the 1880s, and the Redfield School's current location has been a school campus since at least the 1910s. The setting around the school campus still reflects the small-town appearance that would have been present historically.

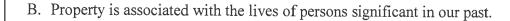
Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

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.)

A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.



- 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location

Х

- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Redfield School Historic District Name of Property

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) EDUCATION POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance c.1914-1964

Significant Dates <u>c.1914, 1939, 1958</u>

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Works Progress Administration, Builder

Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

Name of Property County and State Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Redfield School Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion** A for its associations with the activities of the WPA in Jefferson County during the 1930s, and for its associations with educational activities in Redfield. The Redfield School Historic District represents the educational center for the town of Redfield. Having served as the community's school campus from at least the 1910s until the school's closure in 2013, the campus has been a significant part of the town's educational life for approximately 100 years. The construction of the main building by the WPA in 1939 also represents the New Deal's only known influence on Redfield. The Redfield School Historic District is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Jefferson County was established through an act approved on November 2, 1829, and was created from land taken from Pulaski and Arkansas counties. Furthermore, the act stated that "The temporary seat of justice for the county of Jefferson hereby established, shall be at the house of Joseph Bone [Bonne] until otherwise provided for by law." Changes to the boundary of Jefferson County were made in 1831, 1836, and finally in 1879 when the County reached its current configuration.¹

The development of the Town of Redfield was a direct result of the construction of the railroad through the area in the 1870s and 1880s. In 1873, the Little Rock, Mississippi River & Texas Railroad built a line between Chicot Point in Chicot County and Pine Bluff, although financial problems meant that the completion of the line to Little Rock was delayed for several years. However, anticipating the completion of the line between Pine Bluff and Little Rock, James Kirkwood Brodie bought 163 acres of land from the State of Arkansas for \$71.28 and he also bought a half-interest in 120 acres adjacent to his land.²

In August 1880, the railroad was sold a 300-foot right-of-way through Brodie's land. After the land was sold, Brodie hired Jefferson County Surveyor John Martin to plat a new town on the

¹ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 129.

² Teske, Steven. "Redfield (Jefferson County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Found at: <u>http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=909</u>.

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Name of Property land. Redfield was named after John E. Redfield, president of the railroad from 1875 until 1881.³

By the late 1880s, Redfield had grown quite a bit, thanks in large part to the presence of the railroad line. Goodspeed's history of the area said that,

Redfield grew out of the Little Rock, Mississippi River & Texas Railway interests, together with the efforts of J. K. Broadie, by whom it was laid out recently, although it has been a business point since early in the present decade. It has about 1,000 people, and, besides general stores, has a large wood-working mill. Messrs. Fairman, Daniels, Sallee Brothers and W. C. McKinnis are among the leading men.

Goodspeed also mentioned that "outside of Pine Bluff, the only paper has been the *Redfield Star*, by C. T. Munroe, not now published."⁴

The sawmill in Redfield processed trees grown in the Redfield area, including oak, hickory, gum, pine, and cypress. In addition to the sawmill, by 1890 Redfield had "five stores, two gins, two grist mills, two warehouses, three hotels, a drugstore, a meat shop, two barbers, and three physicians." Redfield also had four churches, two Baptist congregations, one each white and black, and two Methodist congregations, one each white and black. The area around Redfield was engaged a lot in agriculture, with the cultivation of cotton, grapes, plums, berries, and vegetables. By October 29, 1898, Redfield had grown sufficiently to incorporate.⁵

In 1893, Redfield was described as follows:

Redfield, a town on the L. R., M. R. & T. Railway (M. P.), 25 miles west of Pine Bluff, has 1000 inhabitants and is rapidly growing. As it is distant only four miles from the river, its trade extends to the large river plantations, while it commands from the hilly country on the south a considerable mercantile business. The saw and planning mills tributary to it form a large and lucrative industry.⁶

By the early twentieth century, Redfield was considered the most important stop on the railroad between Little Rock and Pine Bluff. Although most of the city's business district was destroyed

³ Teske, Steven. "Redfield (Jefferson County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Found at: <u>http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=909</u>.

⁴ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 137.

⁵ Teske, Steven. "Redfield (Jefferson County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Found at: <u>http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=909</u>.

⁶ Pine Bluff and Jefferson County, Arkansas, Full Description: World's Fair Edition. Pine Bluff, AR: Jefferson County Bureau of Agriculture, Manufacture, and Immigration, 1893, p. 13.



Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

Name of Property County and State by fire on February 24, 1903, the city soon rebuilt and continued to grow. Although Redfield's initial development focused on the railroad, Redfield was also helped by the construction of the Dollarway Road (National Register-listed, May 17, 1974) in 1913, which was the longest continuously paved concrete-road in the country when it opened.⁷

The 1910s brought additional prosperity to Redfield with the opening of the Redfield Canning and Pickling Company in June of 1915 which became one of the city's principal employers. The prosperity in Redfield remained until the Depression, when the agricultural economy of the area collapsed. The population of Redfield dropped, and would not rebound to pre-Depression levels until the opening of the White Bluff Generating Plant in 1980.⁸

As has been noted, "Pioneers have seldom found time and facilities for more than the most meager educational advantages for their children at home, and in this Jefferson County has not proved an exception." The first schools in Jefferson County were Catholic schools that were run by the Sisters at St. Mary's in New Gascony.⁹

Prior to 1841, no schools of note existed in Jefferson County. Rather, wealthy families employed tutors and then sent their sons off to college while daughters would attend seminaries. In 1841, a pioneer Methodist minister named Reverend Hunt opened a school at Pine Bluff in a log house. The other early efforts at education in Jefferson County also originated in Pine Bluff, and consisted of private schools, including academies operated by Col. Alexander, Miss Wasserman, Reverend Cadesman Pope, and Mr. Holloway.¹⁰

However, it is interesting to note that the education efforts in Pine Bluff and Jefferson County during the nineteenth century were not just aimed towards whites. It was also reported that "Most notable among the private enterprises for the education of the colored people after the war were the school of the American Missionary Association, a recent mission school of the Presbyterian Church, Prof. Prewett's Commercial College, Miss Chinn's school, and the new industrial school movement among prominent citizens of Pine Bluff, headed by Rev. J. M. Lucey, pastor of St. Joseph's Church."¹¹

According to the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas,* "The schools outside of Pine Bluff are all merely district schools, and have increased from year to year since 1868. The population is so largely colored, that they are principally in the hands and are composed of

⁷ Teske, Steven. "Redfield (Jefferson County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Found at: <u>http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=909</u>.

⁸ Teske, Steven. "Redfield (Jefferson County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Found at: http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=909.

⁹ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 139.

¹⁰ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 139.

¹¹ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 139.

Jefferson County, Arkansas

Name of Property colored people."¹² Although it was district schools outside of Pine Bluff by the 1860s, some private schools did exist outside the city by the 1850s, including a school at White Sulphur Springs "taught by a Methodist minister," a school at Byrd Spring administered by Professor Newton, and John J. Martin's school at Richland.¹³

With respect to education in Jefferson County, Pine Bluff led the vigorous effort to organize a public school system in 1868, and the rest of the county soon followed. As was written "None in all the South have been quicker to adopt such progressive ideas and put them in practice than the leaders in the educational movements of Jefferson County."¹⁴ As education grew across Jefferson County, it also grew in Redfield with the first school, a one-room schoolhouse, being built in 1882.¹⁵

One of the early schools in operation in Redfield was run by Professor R. H. Waddell, who was also one of the founders of the *Redfield Star*. By the 1890s, when the plat for Redfield was filed at the courthouse, School Street was adjacent to the school property, just as it is today. The success of Redfield's efforts in offering the best education possible to the local students was expressed in an August 1896 edition of the *Pine Bluff Weekly Graphic*, which reported that "Redfield has an excellent graded public school conducted upon the latest and most modern principles."¹⁶

At the end of the 1914 school term, the *Pine Bluff Weekly Graphic* reported that "...plans are being made to erect at Redfield a handsome brick building and add high school work to the curriculum." The new school was designed by the architect Clyde Ferrell under the leadership of the Redfield School Board, which consisted of P. W. Pratt, President; J. T. Kirklin, Secretary; C. Crane, T. W. Moore, T. J. Cunningham, and J. W. Patterson, the building was built by S. A. Sanders. The building is described by Ken Parson, Jr., in his article "Golden Anniversary Redfield School" as "a tall brick building with basement rooms and two stories above, capped with a shining stamped tin tile roof."¹⁷

Although the Redfield School that was built in 1914 was adequate for the district at the time, it was only a couple of decades before the building was crowded and a solution needed to be

¹⁴ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 140.

¹⁵ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 140, and Teske, Steven. "Redfield (Jefferson County)." The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. Found at:

http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=909.

¹² Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 141.

¹³ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 139.

¹⁶ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 23.

¹⁷ Information from the cornerstone of the 1914 building, which is still located at the campus, and Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 23.

Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

Name of Property found. Even though it was the height of the Great Depression, the school board began having meetings with County Examiner W. P. Keith to find a way to build a new school.¹⁸

Although W. P. Keith had dealt with WPA projects in the past, there were some complaints among the local residents of perceived delays in the process. As a result, Keith had to defend his work with the process, especially as the organization of the project and its financing was occurring, which he did in an extensive letter in 1939.

The beginnings of the process for the Redfield School project occurred in 1938 when "In the afternoon of Monday, June 13, 1938, Mr. M. A. Hardin, Mr. O. H. Clark, Mr. Berry and several others from the Redfield School District came to my [Keith's] office to see if we could not secure a P.W.A. or W.P.A. project to rebuild the white school at Redfield."¹⁹ Fortunately, the designing of the school was easy, due to Keith's involvement in previous WPA projects. As he wrote in his letter, "I found when we came back to the office that I already had a set of plans which with some additions were about what the patrons present thought was the type of school building the people would want, so I did the necessary drafting on the plans which I had…"²⁰

Once the plans for the school were in place, two large issues needed to be addressed – financing the school and getting approval to construct the school on the site. The easier of the two issues was the approval of the site. According to Keith, "On Friday, July 9th, I had a call to meet with the Tucker School Board at 10 o'clock A. M. and Mr. [J. O.] Baker. After the meeting Mr. Baker and I came on to Pine Bluff and revised the plans for the Redfield School project, called the President and Secretary of the Redfield Board and met with them at the Redfield school site and Mr. Baker approved both the plans and the school site."²¹

However, the issue of securing the financing for the project was a much more involved process. As Keith related in his letter concerning the project, "On the evening of June 27th [1938] Mr. McGaughy, W.P.A. Project Supervisor, with two other men and I met with the school board and a number of citizens of Redfield and discussed which type of project we should seek. The board decided on the W.P.A. type and authorized me to contact Mr. G. C. Floyd, Director of Finances and Law in the Department of Education, Little Rock, Ark., and see if we could secure a Revolving Loan sufficient to finance the project." By July 19, 1938, Floyd "recommended that we try to secure a loan from the R.F.C. [Reconstruction Finance Corporation] which would be 4% money and better by 1/2 of 1 percent than a loan from the Revolving Loan Fund."²²

¹⁸ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 23.

¹⁹ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 24.

²⁰ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 25.

²¹ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 25.

²² Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 25.

Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

Name of Property Keith wrote to Jesse H. Jones, chairman of the R.F.C. Board, Washington, D.C., on August 4, 1938, concerning securing a loan through the R.F.C. to finance the project. Jones promptly replied on August 11, 1938, indicating partially that, "It (the R.F.C.) does not, however, make loans the proceeds of which would be used to pay outstanding indebtedness." Since the Redfield School District already had a ten thousand dollar indebtedness under a first mortgage with the Revolving Loan Fund, the R.F.C. would not loan them the money. As a result of the loan's denial, Keith was advised by Floyd that they should apply for a loan from the Revolving Loan Fund.²³

In his letter, Keith reported that, "On September first I received a letter from Mr. Floyd saying that the loan was tentatively approved and all blanks necessary to proceed were enclosed upon which notice I advertised notice of a special election to be held on September, 24, 1938, at the regular hour for holding school elections and gave same to the *Pine Bluff Commercial* with instructions to publish it as required by law." The special election was necessary since the school district would have to vote three mills in order to support a twenty-year loan for \$14,000.²⁴

Keith further reported that, "On September 24th the election was held and the returns certified to the County Judge, in turn canvassed by him as provided by law and on October 15th all papers necessary were mailed by registered mail to Mr. G. C. Floyd, who in turn wrote on October 17th acknowledging receipt of the formal application, notified us that the matter was then in the hands of the Attorney General's office. ... We received the money on February 10, 1939, just in time to take advantage of cash discounts of from 2% to 5% and have saved the district by way of cash discounts and attractive bargains for cash some \$900.00 as the project to date stands (March 1, 1939)."²⁵ Although the school district had asked for \$14,000, when Keith received notice on February 10, 1939, from Jefferson County Treasurer Pledger that the money had arrived, it was only \$12,000. However, Keith indicated that "we shall be able to build the new school just as we planned in the beginning, because of the fact that we are able to take advantage of liberal cash discounts and attractive bargains for cash."²⁶

Although securing the financing for the project spilled over into 1939, construction on the building actually began late in 1938. Keith indicated that "On December 13, 1938, we received notice from Washington that the project had been approved and that work would begin on December 29, 1938, and work began that day with a full force of W.P.A. men under the supervision of Mr. Joe Hall, who is an efficient builder and supervisor and is of most invaluable

²³ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, pp. 25-26.

²⁴ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 26.

²⁵ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 26.

²⁶ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 27.

Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

Name of Property County and State assistance in the way, in addition to his supervision, of advising and aiding the Board in selecting and purchasing building materials."²⁷

Although there was apparently some dissatisfaction with Keith's handling of the early stages of the school project, especially with respect to perceived delays, Keith was willing to take the blame. He was also confident that in the end the people of Redfield would be pleased with the new school. As he wrote in his letter:

If there is any dissatisfaction about the building in any way the people may lay the whole blame on me, but I am sure that when that building is completed the whole people of Redfield school district will be very much pleased and are to be highly congratulated on the fact that they have one of the most up to date, practical and most usable school buildings in the entire state. They will have \$50,000.00 building at a cost to the district in actual additional cash of only \$12,000.00, for as has been stated hereinbefore we have already saved the district some \$900.00 on cash discounts and attractive bargains for cash before the building shall have been completed, my prediction is that we shall have been able to save more than an additional thousand dollars because we have the cash or hand to take advantage of them.²⁸

When the construction of the building by the WPA began, the previous gymnasium was partitioned into classrooms, and the 1914 building was demolished as the foundations for the new building were being built. Also, once construction began in December 1938, it proceeded at a feverish pace. Although some of the finishing work was still being done, classes began in the building in September 1939.²⁹

The interior of the building was up-to-date and had features that the previous building did not. An article in the *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly* described the interior by saying

> The new building was of brick veneer construction and contained nine classrooms, a principal's office, a small room used as a candy store, and auditorium with raised stage, a home economics wing and a Smith-Hughes wing for teaching agricultural subjects. It was heated by steam heat from a boiler room under the stage.

Floors were of hand-scraped hardwood. Walls were wainscoted four feet up with brown Masonite, and the remainder

²⁷ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 27.

²⁸ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, pp. 27-28.

²⁹ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 28.

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of the walls and the ceiling were of cellotex "boards." Each room had plenty of windows for light and air, and there were four "schoolhouse" light fixtures hanging from the ceiling of each room. A well was dug with electric pump and pressure tank, and there was fresh running water at two drinking fountains and in two sets of indoor toilets, although the old outdoor toilets were used as a "reserve system" for some years.³⁰

Once the WPA finished construction of the main school building in 1939, changes to the campus were minimal until it was decided to build the current gymnasium. Construction of the current gymnasium took place in the summer of 1958, and included demolition of the previous building and construction of the current gymnasium. Interestingly, some of the school's students were hired for the summer to help with the building's construction.³¹

Beginning in 2012, the White Hall School District considered closing the Redfield School due to declining district enrollment and rising costs. Although there was outcry from local residents to keep the school open, the Redfield School closed after the 2012-2013 school year. Subsequently, the complex was purchased by a group of local citizens that hopes to keep the complex open as a community center for the city's residents.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

From the earliest times of Redfield's history, education was an important part of life in the community. Even though Redfield did not incorporate until 1898, education was already an important part of life in the town, since a school was in place as early as 1882. However, this reflects the fact that Jefferson County was known to be progressive when it came to education. In fact, it had been noted that "Redfield has an excellent graded public school conducted upon the latest and most modern principles."³²

Education continued to be an important part of life in Redfield up through the twentieth-century. The school board in Redfield continued to build new facilities and improve the existing school facilities throughout the first part of the century. From the building built in 1914 that was described as "a handsome brick building,"³³ and that also allowed high school curriculum to be added to the study in Redfield, to the current main building built in 1939 that was anticipated to be "one of the most up to date, practical and most usable school buildings in the entire state," Redfield has made sure that its students have been well taken care of.³⁴ The importance of

³⁰ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, pp. 28-29.

³¹ Banks, Linda. Telephone conversation with the author. 23 April 2014.

³² Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 23.

³³ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, p. 23.

³⁴ Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988, pp. 27-28.

Jefferson County, Arkansas

Name of Property County and State education and this school campus to the community of Redfield is also reflected in the efforts of the community to purchase and save the school since its closing in 2013.

The Redfield School Historic District is also important as a reflection of the work of the WPA in Redfield and Jefferson County. Although the WPA was involved in several projects in Pine Bluff, including the construction of sidewalks, the construction of the Jefferson County Health Center, the construction of the State Highway Department District #2 Complex, and the construction of Taylor Field (NR-listed January 21, 2010), the Redfield School is the only known project that the WPA executed in Redfield. The completion of the new school building in 1939 would not have been possible without the input of the WPA, illustrating the importance of the New Deal and its programs even to the small rural communities across the state.

The Redfield School Historic District definitely reflects the importance of education and the WPA in the life of Redfield. As a result, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with education in Redfield, and also as a reflection of the work of the WPA in Redfield during the 1930s. The Redfield School Historic District is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

Redfield School Historic District Name of Property

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Banks, Linda. Telephone conversation with the author. 23 April 2014.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

Information from the cornerstone of the 1914 building.

Leslie, James W. Pine Bluff and Jefferson County: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, VA: Donning Company, Publishers, 1981.

Parsons, Ken, Jr. "Golden Anniversary Redfield School." *Jefferson County Historical Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 1, 1988.

Pine Bluff and Jefferson County, Arkansas, Full Description: World's Fair Edition. Pine Bluff, AR: Jefferson County Bureau of Agriculture, Manufacture, and Immigration, 1893.

Teske, Steven. "Redfield (Jefferson County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Found at: <u>http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-</u>detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=909.

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 #_____
- _____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- <u>X</u> State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- _____ Federal agency
- ____ Local government
- _____ University

Name of Property

____ Other

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): <u>JE0942</u>

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 8 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 34.448572Longitude: -92.1851362. Latitude:Longitude: -92.1851363. Latitude:Longitude:4. Latitude:Longitude:

Or UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or	× NAD 1983	
1. Zone: 15	Easting: 574854	Northing: 3812195
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Redfield School Historic District Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The subject property is legally described as: All of Lot 52, City of Redfield, and Part of the Southeast Quarter (¹/₄) of the Southwest Quarter (¹/₄) of Section 15, Township 3 South, Range 11 West, Town of Redfield, more particularly described as follows: Beginning 40.8 feet east of the southwest corner of the SE ¹/₄ SW ¹/₄; thence East 296.0 feet; thence South 39°45' East 230.0 feet; thence North 50°15' East 150.0 feet; thence North 39°45' West 420.0 feet; thence South 50°15' West 379.0 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing ±84,703.02 Sq. Ft., or 1.94 Acres, more or less. **AND**

Commence at the southerly corner of Block 18 of the Town of Redfield, Arkansas, which point is at the intersection of Kirkwood Road and Brodie Avenue; thence North 39°45' West along the right-of-way line of Brodie Avenue 275.7'; thence North 50°15' East 150.0 feet; thence North 39°45' West 420.0 feet for the Point of Beginning; thence continue North 39°45' West 516.3 feet; thence South 03°39' East 610.0 feet to a point on the south line of said SE ¹/₄ of the SW ¹/₄; thence East along said south line 39.5 feet; thence North 49°55' East 329.0 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing ±96,635.24 Sq. Ft., or 2.22 Acres, more or less. **AND**

Beginning 551.96 feet north of the southeast corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$; thence North 58°33' West 22.41 feet; thence North 15°15' East 70.16 feet; thence South 00°28'44" East 79.38 feet to the Point of Beginning, containing ±754.9 Sq. Ft., or 0.017 Acre. All together, the subject parcels contain ±348,959 Sq. Ft., or 8.011 Acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all of the land that is historically associated with the Redfield School.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>Ralph S. Wilcox, National Registe</u>	er & Survey Coor	dinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation	Program	
street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 150)0	
city or town: Little Rock	state:AR	zip code: 72201
e-mail: <u>ralph@arkansasheritage.org</u>		
telephone: (501) 324-9787		
date: June 5, 2014		

Redfield School Historic District Name of Property Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Redfield School Historic District

City or Vicinity: Redfield

County: Jefferson

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed: April 6, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of <u>23</u>. Southeast façade of the front part of the main school building, looking northwest.

2 of <u>23</u>. Southwest façade of the main school building, looking northeast.

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3 of <u>23</u>. Playground equipment, looking southwest.

4 of <u>23</u>. Playground equipment and baseball field backstop, looking north.

5 of <u>23</u>. Northwest façade of the front part of the main school building, looking southeast.

6 of 23. Northeast façade of the northwest wing of the front part of the main school building, looking south.

7 of 23. Northwest façade of the center section of the main school building, looking southeast.

8 of <u>23</u>. Southwest and northwest façades of the northwest wing of the rear part of the main school building, looking east.

9 of <u>23</u>. Northwest façade of the northwest wing of the rear part of the main school building, looking south.

10 of <u>23</u>. Northeast façade of the rear portion of the main school building, looking south.

11 of <u>23</u>. Northeast façade of the rear portion of the main school building, looking west.

12 of <u>23</u>. Northwest and northeast façades of the well house, looking south.

13 of <u>23</u>. Northwest and northeast façades of the carriage house, looking south.

14 of <u>23</u>. Southeast and southwest façades of the carriage house, looking north.

15 of <u>23</u>. Southeast and southwest façades of the well house, looking north.

16 of 23. Southeast and southwest façades of the rear and center portions of the main school building, looking north.

17 of <u>23</u>. Northwest façade of the southeast wing of the front portion of the main school building, looking east.

18 of <u>23</u>. Southeast façade of the gymnasium, looking northwest.

19 of <u>23</u>. Northeast façade of the gymnasium, looking southwest.

20 of <u>23</u>. Northeast and southeast façades of the two sheds, looking west.

21 of <u>23</u>. Northwest façade of the gymnasium, looking southeast.

Redfield School Historic District

Name of Property		
22 of <u>23</u> .	Southwest façade of the gymnasium, looking east	mnasium, looking east.

Jefferson County, Arkansas County and State

23 of <u>23</u>. View of the football field, looking north.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).



