

NR listed 9/04/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Tontitown School Building

other name/site number: WA0363

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2. Location

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street & number: State Highway 412 (formerly State Highway 68)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Tontitown

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Washington code: AR 143 zip code: 72770

3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Carolyn A. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

7-14-92
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: EDUCATION

Sub: School

Current: EDUCATION

Sub: School

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS
Classical

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Concrete block other Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION

Period(s) of Significance: 1920-1940

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" Multiple Property Form, Section H.

___ 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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>389090</u>	<u>4004060</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point located on the northern edge of State Highway 412 (formerly State Highway 68) formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the school building's eastern elevation and located 50 feet to the east thereof, proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the school's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the school's western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of State Highway 412; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both the historic resource and all the surrounding property known to have been historically associated therewith that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 13, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Tontitown School Building is a concrete block masonry classroom building that is a single story in height with a raised basement. The overall style is Plain Traditional, though certain clear Classical elements have also been included. The asphalt shingle hipped roof is relieved by two large roof dormers on both its northern and southern slopes, both of which are lighted by a central pair of small, arched windows. The concrete block and stucco walls rest upon a continuous concrete block foundation.

Elaboration

The Tontitown School Building is a concrete block masonry classroom building that is a single story in height with a raised basement. The overall style is Plain Traditional, though certain clear Classical elements have also been included. Its' plan is essentially rectangular, with two central entrances placed directly opposite each other on the northern and southern elevations. A single brick chimney rises through the roof to the east of the ridgeline near the northern end of the building. The asphalt shingle hipped roof is relieved by two large roof dormers on both its northern and southern slopes, both of which are lighted by a central pair of small, arched windows. The concrete block and stucco walls rest upon a continuous concrete block foundation.

The southern or front elevation is dominated by the triangular roof dormer placed centrally above the pedimented porch roof. The dormer is lighted by two centrally-placed arched one-over-one windows and otherwise filled with imbricated shingles. The pedimented porch roof is supported by four Corinthian columns that are in turn supported upon the two concrete block stoops that frame the staircase that leads up to the double-leaf entrance and transom. The walls to either side of the entrance are symmetrically organized, each containing four nine-over-nine wood sash windows split into pairs. The raised basement is constructed of ashlar-faced concrete blocks, and raised concrete quoins finish the corners of the elevation. The northern elevation opposite is similar in that it features an identical dormer and pedimented central porch (which has since been filled). However, this elevation is lighted only by four nine-over-nine wood sash windows placed to the east of the porch, and is also distinguished by an arched entrance in the lower half of the porch that provides access to the basement, and by another square-headed basement entrance to the east, below the bank of windows. Two more square, fixed windows light the basement wall between the square-headed entrance and the eastern end of the elevation.

The eastern and western elevations are similar in that each features two separate banks of six

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

nine-over-nine wood sash windows and eight square casement windows in the basement below. The only significant difference is the single nine-over-nine wood sash window placed to the north of the other windows on the eastern elevation.

The Tontitown School has suffered no significant exterior alterations; in fact, the filling of the rear porch is the only alteration of any note whatsoever.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Tontitown School

After the failure of the Sunnyside Colony in Chicot County at the turn of the century, the Italian colony's spiritual leader, Father Pietro Bandini led 35 Italian families to the Ozarks, where they founded the community of Tontitown. This Italian community is credited with introducing grape cultivation and wine-making to northwest Arkansas. The Tontitown School was constructed around 1920 to accommodate the growing population.¹

The Tontitown School, constructed during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*, is a representative example of a concrete block and stucco school building constructed for a rural school district. Its use during this period as a local school building clearly identifies it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion A through its direct associations with the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period.

¹William D. Baker, Minority Settlement in the Mississippi River Counties of the Arkansas Delta, 1870-1930, (Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1990), 17.





