

**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 Cold Water School
other names/site number Cold Water-McPhearson School/ Site # BA0148

2. Location

street & number 2422 Baxter County Road 73 not for publication
city or town Big Flat vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Baxter code 005 zip code 72519

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

Cold Water School
Name of Property

Baxter 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.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls STUCCO

roof METAL/Steel
other

Narrative Description

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

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.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1926-1958

Significant Dates

1926-1958

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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.)

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: _____

Cold Water School
Name of Property

Baxter County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.5 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>566023</u>	<u>3999786</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Annamae Freeman; edited by Van Zbinden, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 3 April 2008
street & number 323 Center Street, Tower Building 1600 telephone (501) 324-9880
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Bert & Mary Cox
street & number 713 West Nabor telephone
city or town Marlor state OK zip code 73055

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Cold Water School building is a traditional one-room school house common to rural school districts across Arkansas in the nineteenth and early to middle twentieth centuries. This building is the second and possibly third school building built on this site near the Cold Water Spring about a mile from the historic location of McPherson.

Elaboration

Situated in a valley between the headwaters of Cold Water Creek and the Cold Water Spring, the Cold Water School is a one-room, plain traditional school house. The first school on this location was also a one-room school house of similar size and plan to that of the current Cold Water School. This first school building was of wood frame construction and the building burned at some point between 1915 and 1925. The current Cold Water School was built by local carpenters and craftsman about 1926. The exterior finish on this second school building was stucco and the interior was finished plaster walls. The foundation of the school is local field stone with bubble mortar for decorative effect. One stove provided all the heat for the building. Bathrooms, or outhouses, were constructed to the rear of the school, and fresh water was ladled from the Cold Water spring.

East Elevation/Front

The front of the school is punctuated by a center porch with gabled roof. The porch is approximately one-half the width of the front. On each side of the porch are double-hung, two-over-two, aluminum windows. The front doors are two adjacent wooden, solid core doors with diagonal window pane. The main roof gable runs east to west and is centered on the front.

North Elevation/Side

The north elevation features a ribbon of twelve double-hung, two-over-two, aluminum windows. The windows are covered in a ¼ inch, chain link fence to protect them from vandalism. The finish is stucco with some evidence of thinning of the stucco on the lower elevation.

West Elevation/Rear

No windows or doors on this elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

South Elevation/Side

One door on the west edge of the south elevation provided exterior entrance and egress. Two small window openings on the south elevation have been filled the west window, originally a stationary, four pane, has been boarded. The east window has had an air conditioning unit installed in the window.

Integrity

Though the school building is currently being used for storage, it retains good integrity. The original stucco finish is in good condition and the metal roof is also in good condition. All of the original double-hung, four-over-four windows were replaced in the 1960s after consolidation with the Big Flat School District. This is also when the wire mesh was installed over the windows to protect from vandalism. A balustrade has been added to the porch that was not original to the building. Also the two adjacent front doors were originally solid doors with no windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Cold Water School, also known as the Cold Water-McPhearson School, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criteria A** for its association with education of children in Baxter County.

Elaboration

The Cold Water School, located at McPhearson, in Baxter County, was one of the earliest schools in Baxter County. The first building was constructed in the late 1880s. The second building was built between 1920 and 1926. This one room school house, was used as school, church, and community gathering center. The Cold Water School is the oldest, and only surviving structure, of the village of McPhearson. McPhearson is in the North Sylamore Region of the Ozark National Forest in southern Baxter County. The former village is approximately twenty-five miles south of Mt. Home, the county seat for Baxter County. Additionally, it is approximately fifteen miles southwest of Norfolk and fifteen miles west of Calico Rock. Though no longer a village or town, the area that once surrounded McPhearson is home to roughly 100 residents.

The first settler in the area may have been Charles or William Sneed. The Sneeds lived in the area and farmed along Cold Water Creek. Cold Water Creek runs into Sneed's Creek at McPhearson. Through the 1830s and 1840s settlement in the area continued to grow. The first post office established was named Table Rock. It operated from June 1854 until September 1866. After a three-and-one-half year closure the Table Rock post office reopened in 1870. Table Rock post office remained open another seven years before closing in November of 1877.

Dr. Thomas Morton established the post office of Sneed very near the present site of the Cold Water School in June 1884. However, the post office was only open a matter of months, closing in September of the same year. The community continued to grow and by the end of the nineteenth century had a steam powered sawmill, a store, and church. Both the sawmill and the store were owned by Sidney C. Mathews. Community growth again spurred the founding of a post office and in March 1888 Dr. Morton established the Morton post office, his second post office. However, in July the name was changed to McPhearson. It is unknown why the name of Morton's second post office was changed to McPhearson. Several families of McPhearsons lived in the community at the time. The most significant was E. C. McPhearson. The McPhearson post office operated until 1939.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Community growth necessitated the need for a school. As early as 1829, the Arkansas Territorial Legislature passed laws concerning public schools. The first laws allowed the state's towns to appoint trustees who were responsible for raising the money and establishing schools. Ultimately, this meant that the school system was a subscription based system. In 1843, the state legislature passed laws establishing public school systems based on public taxes revenue. However, the rural nature of Baxter County settlement meant a funding deficiency and required additional payments from those who wished to attend school; in effect a continuation of the subscription system. This greatly limited educational opportunities in Baxter County.

The location of the first public schools in Baxter County depended primarily on the families and the communities in which they were located. When a community had a population of children large enough to warrant the establishment of a school, they came together to select a central location and began the process to raise the money, or provide the labor to erect a building. Oral tradition holds that the first school in the community of McPhearson was on the same grounds as the current Cold Water School. It was a frame structure with timber provided by the local sawmill. The *Baxter Bulletin*, in 1905, mentioned that the school was made of sawed lumber with a single gable. It is likely that this school was built in the late 1880s with a traditional rectangular plan very similar to that of the current school building.

According to oral history this school burned completely in the 1910s. The destruction of the old building by fire necessitated the construction of a new school. The second Cold Water School was built between 1920 and 1926 as a stucco building with double hung, four-over-four windows. There is not, unfortunately, much information recorded about the schools in the McPhearson-Cold Water district. We know that the district was number 21 in the county. The *Baxter Bulletin* of January 13, 1905, listed the school as being an unpainted, wooden school house with a brass bell. The building was valued at \$600 dollars. One of the few records maintained were 1926 to 1928 school reports. These school records show that there were two teachers, Roy McClellan and Rudolf Martin for the period. The school only offered first through eighth grade education.

Mae Strubhar provided her personal accounts of teaching at the school in her memoir, "Ozark Memories." Strubhar, who taught in the 1942-1943 and 1943-1944 school years, relates that it was difficult adjusting to life in the middle of the woods. The school year began in July and Strubhar relates, "When school started...the hot weather sapped our energy. It was a nice time of the year to make overnight visits to the home of my pupils." Strubhar lived in the small teacher's home adjacent to the school. This small, two room, wood framed home featured a large porch and Strubhar comments that it was "clean" and "snuggled beautifully between two streams."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

From Strubhar's accounts we can learn something of the school building itself. She notes, "The school house was equipped with nice desks and was a stuccoed building, painted on the inside." The school had, "outdoor restroom facilities and a level grass-covered play ground with plenty of space for a good softball diamond and other games at the same time." An oral history from Normalea Acklin, a student at the school in the late 1930s, relates that, "we all went to school barefoot. When it was getting to be cold I remember at recess I'd go out and play then run to warm my feet at a big old wood burning stove in the middle of the room." Aside from the school, the building was also used as community center, church, and Sunday School. Further solidifying the school's importance in the community, Strubhar relates that during her service at the school she was responsible for handing out ration books.

By the 1940s McPhearson had reached its peak. Logging in the area was slowing, the cotton economy was difficult, at best, for farmers in the Ozarks and the depression had driven many people from the community in search of more prosperous lives elsewhere. The community continued to dwindle until the school system consolidated with the Big Flat School in the early 1960s.

Summary

The Cold Water School, also known as the Cold Water-McPhearson School, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with education of children in Baxter County.

Cold Water School
Name of Property

Baxter County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

1926-1928 School Records in the collection of the Baxter County Heritage Museum. Gassville, AR.

Baxter Bulletin. *Baxter County Beginnings, 100 Years Ago*. Mt. Home: 1905.

Baxter County Historical Society. Research Files at Baxter County Historical Society. Gassville, AR.

Strubhar, Mae. "Ozark Memories." (unknown: Edgewood Press, 1945).

Wolfe, John Q. "Life in the Leather Woods."

Cold Water School

Name of Property

Baxter County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at 15S 566115m East 3999803m North thence northwest 402 feet to a point 15S 565994m East 3999825m North thence southeast 370 feet to a point at 15S 566033m East 3999719m North thence 391 feet to the beginning. Part of the Northwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Township 17 North, Range 12 West.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the land historically associated with the Cold Water School.