

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR Listed: 10-04-02

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 Cottonwood School #45

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Cottonwood and Dubuque Road

not for publication

city or town Self

vicinity

state Arkansas

code _____

AR

county Boone

code _____

code 009

zip code 72662

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.)

Catherine Mattar

8/5/02

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE

roof ASPHALT

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1926-1945

Significant Dates

1926

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tom Morris

Charles Kennedy

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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal Agency, Local Government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

Record # _____



Cottonwood School #45

Name of Property

Boone County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 490840 4028690
Zone Easting Northing
2

3 Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

A part of the South half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 20 North, Range 20 West, Boone County, Arkansas, more particularly described as 10'54"E 1070.85 feet, thence N 87 deg. 00'00"E 1116.62 feet to a fence corner for the point of beginning, thence N 89 deg. 28'01" E 146.20 feet to a fence for the point of beginning, thence N 89 deg. 28'01"E 146.20 feet to a fence corner, thence S 30 deg. 26'45" E 188.21 feet to a fence corner, then S 30 deg. 26'45" to a fence corner, thence S 30 deg. 26'45" E 18.46 feet to the center line of existing county road, thence with said center line S 56 deg. 26'15" W 144.45 feet, thence S 58 deg. 00'13" W 159.03 feet, thence leaving said center line of existing county road N 00 deg. 43'35" E 28.06 feet to a fence corner, thence N 00 deg. 43'35" E 312.91 feet to the point of beginning and subject to existing easements and county road right of way.

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes all of the property historically associated with the Cottonwood School #45 and owned by the Dirst family.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Zac Cothren-National Register Historian
Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 7/31/02
Street & number 323 Center Street Suite 1500 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
Street & number telephone
City or town state zip code

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20305.

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Summary

Built in 1926, the Cottonwood School #45 was crafted by local workmen to serve as the community school for Self, Arkansas, situated approximately eight miles north of Harrison near Bear Creek. The school is a side gable-on-hip Craftsman structure sheathed in rubble stone veneer on a continuous concrete foundation. A centered porch supported by three battered posts on rubble stone piers dominates the front facade. The concrete foundation above rubble stone extends from the main wall approximately eight inches. The school consisted of one room and two small cloakrooms flanking the front entry. Today the school is a residence. All original six-over-six double-hung windows were replaced in the 1980s with modern one-over-one metal windows and several doors have been replaced. Recently the current owners removed these windows and replaced them with aluminum double-hung windows from Anderson (c). The glazing pattern replicates the original six-over-six configuration and the design was approved by AHPP as an adequate replacement given the expense of wood windows.

Elaboration

The front, western elevation is lit at the northwest corner by two evenly spaced, one-over-one double-hung windows with concrete sills. A porch supported by three battered posts on rubble stone piers is centered in this facade. Concrete boot scrapers are placed to the north and south of the two front steps leading to the porch floor. The pediment of the porch is composed of three sizes of weatherboard, which graduate from widest at the frieze to thinnest at the apex of the gable roof. Five brackets and a finial at the ridge elaborate the pediment. Centered above the porch frieze is a concrete slab that reads "COTTONWOOD NO. 45" spelled out in small stones. A border of stones lends a decorative touch. Pennies dating from 1926 were originally embedded in the concrete of the name slab. They have since been removed, however the indentations are still evident. The original school bell remains in the gable of the porch and can be rung by pulling on a cord in the porch ceiling. The front wall of the house under the porch roof is recessed approximately five feet. This wall contains a single-leaf door that has been removed and filled in with a false door of wooden planks. The original transom above the door has been removed and filled in with oak planks with battened supports. A small three-light window in the center of the wall has also been removed and replaced with a pair of battened wood shutters. A door to the right of the window is used as the main entry. Two more doors, one facing north and another facing south under the porch roof, have been removed and filled in with battened planks. A pair of one-over-one windows lights the southwest corner of the building. A concrete cornerstone at the level of the foundation on the southwest corner reads:

"OCT. 2, 1926/
TOM MORRIS/
CHAS. KENNEDY"

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The southern elevation is fenestrated by two windows. The concrete cornerstone wraps around to this elevation from the west and is engraved with:

"COMM:J.H. RIDDLESPERGER/
J.R. DOUGHTY/
G.M. SHARPE/

DIRE:E.R. PEMBERTON/
E.G. DICKEY/
LON MURPHY"

A bracket and a small wooden finial are located at the ridge of the gable roof.

The rear, eastern elevation contains four windows above a concrete sill course. Three of the windows have been infilled with battened wooden planks. The fourth window, which was originally a tall, slender opening has been infilled at the top and replaced at the bottom half with a six pane window. An enclosed staircase to the basement that is connected to the rear elevation of the school extends east approximately five-and-a-half feet. Five windows fenestrate the northeast corner. The first window to the north of the ribbon contains a small fixed window above a wooden panel. A double-hung window opens beneath this configuration. The next window is infilled above a double-hung opening. The third window has been completely infilled. The fourth window heading south mirrors the first window and the last window is similar to the second window. In 1997, an open wooden deck that wraps around the northeast corner of the school was added to this elevation.

The northern elevation is blank except for a single-leaf door topped with a concrete lintel at the northeast corner. A small sliding one-beside-one window has been added to the pediment of the gable-on-hip.

Interior:

The historic interior of the school included an eighteen-inch high stage, which covered the entire south wall of the building and extended approximately twelve feet into the room. The classroom consisted of one room and two small cloakrooms, one on either side of the front entry, entered from the north and south doors on the porch. The floor was constructed of pine.

Today, the original pine tongue-and-groove flooring is still used in the home with the exception of ceramic tile flooring in the kitchen. Remodeling in the 1970s resulted in the conversion of the building from school to residence. The modern plan includes a bath and three bedrooms on the north side of the building with a hall opening into the living/dining/kitchen area. The original stage was converted to use as the dining area. In

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1997 the present owners created a pine-floored loft from existing attic space. They also modified the two back bedrooms into one, adding a half-bath.

Noncontributing guest cottage:

On the west side of the property, Steve Horensky, the owner responsible for extensive remodeling in the 1980s, constructed a twenty-by-thirty foot building of vinyl-sided concrete. Now serving as a guest cottage, the building originally served as Horensky's home. This building is considered noncontributing to this nomination.

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Summary

The Self community is located approximately eight miles north of Harrison in Boone County. The families of Dan Jones, Walter Matlock, Jack Andrews, and the Doughtys and Riddlespergers first populated the area in the late 1800s. Access to Self was improved at the turn of the century with the completion of the St. Louis Southern and Iron Railroad in 1905. Later known as the Missouri Pacific, then the Union Pacific, and finally the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad, these tracks are still in use today. Located approximately half a mile from the Cottonwood School #45, the railroad intersects Dubuque Road, a gravel road constructed by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) originating from the settlement of Dubuque on the White River. Dubuque lay north of Self and is now submersed in Bull Shoals Lake.

Historical Background

As with most rural communities, the railroad came to be the center of commerce for the Self community. A mail flag at the depot south of Cottonwood School allowed the train to be flagged down in order to ship hogs, railroad ties, cream, eggs, and other goods to surrounding states. A railroad siding and livestock pens, south of the depot provided storage areas for the livestock and goods to be shipped. The first post office in Self was constructed east of the depot on Dubuque Road in 1906. Bill Self was postmaster there until circa 1920, when the building became the Barnes Store for the next thirteen years. The post office was moved to the George Sharpe store north of the tracks and west of the intersection of Dubuque and Old Cottonwood Roads. In 1937 Leonard Pemberton and his wife, Opal moved the Self Post Office south on Dubuque Road to their home. They continued to serve as postmasters until 1954.

The education of the children of Self began in the early 1800s when settler John Riddlesperger's wife taught her children and any others who were interested, in their home. The second school was located on a ridge north of the present Cottonwood School #45. A log cabin constructed on the bank of Bear Creek in the late 1800s served as the third school. This structure was located in a grove of cottonwood trees and is thought to be the inspiration for the name of Cottonwood School.

Less than a mile from the Cottonwood School stands the Cottonwood Cemetery and the adjacent Bethel Baptist Church. This building served as the only church in the area until 1940 when their last preacher, Troy Eoff, no longer included Richwoods in his horseback circuit. Since the 1950s it has been used as a private residence. The Bethel Church also served as the fourth local school in the early 1900s. Teachers there included Mrs. Pearl Small and Mr. Walter Harris. According to local resident Ermal (Pemberton) Andrews, Cottonwood won first place for several years in competitions with Bluff Springs School, north of Bear Creek. The children would travel to Bluff Springs and attend daylong community events competing in broad jumping, high jumping, foot racing and ballgames.

The school at Bethel Church became overcrowded, so the community constructed Cottonwood School #45 in 1926 to accommodate seventy students in the Cottonwood School District. The land was loaned by Earnest Pemberton for the use of a school. Tom Morris and Charles Kennedy from Omaha, Arkansas were hired to

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provide assistance for community members who donated labor for the building materials. One room served as the classroom for all the children through the eighth grade. Children were transported to and from school by wagon, driven by George Sharpe. Mr. Sharpe began his route at a swinging pedestrian bridge across Bear Creek. In addition to its use as a school, this building was home to various community events. John Riddlesperger III, a former student, remembers mattress makings in 1936. The school served in the summer of that year as a government subsidized industry utilizing cotton, ticking, and needles supplied by the government to upgrade old feather beds. The building was also used through the years for community pie suppers, plays, musical sessions, storytelling, and various fundraisers.

Agriculture was the main source of income for early Self residents. After the railroad arrived people found employment in railroad construction. The Depression and a drought in the 1930s depleted the population of Self as residents moved seeking work. Cottonwood School closed in 1945 due to this movement. The students of Cottonwood attended Hopewell schools until they were consolidated with Harrison a year later. With the closing of the school the property reverted to the ownership of Earnest and Eunice Pemberton, who originally donated the land for the use of the school. They were the first to use the building as a residence in 1948. A partition dividing the classroom into two rooms was added at that time. The school served as a hay barn for a period in the 1970s until Tom and Wilma Pemberton moved in. Steve and Fran Horensky updated the building through extensive renovations in the 1980s and lived there for a year. The current owners have resided in Cottonwood School #45 since 1996.

Historic and Architectural Significance

The Cottonwood School #45 turned residence, is an important reminder of the Self community. The building served as an educational center for Self's school children from 1926 to 1945 and provided a meeting place for residents to gather for community events. In the 1930s Self's population began to drop and consists of a few dozen residents today. Early Self structures such as Bethel Church, John Riddlesperger's cabin, the Doughty House and the home of Mary Waldrup, teacher at Cottonwood #45 remain standing. The Cottonwood School takes its place beside these buildings as an important cornerstone in the community. Thus, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion A**, as a symbol of community life of Self and under **Criterion C** for its Craftsman architecture.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Horensky, Steve. Interviewed by Bill & Shelley Dirst. October 1999.

Pemberton, Tom. Interviewed by Bill & Shelley Dirst. August 1997.

Riddlesperger, John Henry III. Interviewed by Bill & Shelley Dirst. June 1997.

Materials provided by Bill & Shelley Dirst. January 1999.



Cottonwood School #45
 Boone Co., AR
 UTM Reference:
 15/492840/40 28690

750 000
 FEET







OCT. 2, 1926

TOM

MORRIS

CHAS.

KENNEDY





