

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Powhatan School House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
H.R. 25

CITY, TOWN
Powhatan

VICINITY OF
CODE 05

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Arkansas

COUNTY
Lawrence
CODE 075

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Community of Powhatan

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Powhatan

VICINITY OF

STATE
Arkansas 72138

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lawrence County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Walnut Ridge

STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The School House Building now known as the Powhatan School House was built in the 1880's. It is a one-story frame structure with a gable roof. The double front doors, the only entrance to the building, are located equidistant from the center of the east facade and has double doors with transoms. Four small double-hung sash windows flank the sides of the double entrance doors; two of the windows that immediately flank the entrance are smaller double windows. There are two cloak rooms, one on either side of the foyer, and two doors leading from the foyer into the classroom. A large, sliding wood partition separates the interior room into two smaller classrooms. The north and south sides of the building each have two double windows each. The west side has four windows. There are two brick flues, one at the north wall and one at the south wall of the classrooms, and two wooden stoves which are part of the original furnishings.

The roof has approximately a sixteen-twelve pitch and presently consists of tin which replaced an original roof of wooden shingles. The exterior is covered with simple corner boards, and a simply molded box cornice. The structure rests on a stone foundation. The concrete and stone front steps have eight treads and eight risers, and stone and concrete railings.

The interior contains a flat ceiling with electrical droplets that replaced the old kerosene lamps. The interior has simple and plain wood floors, walls and ceilings.

In recent years a one-room housing was added to the east side of the building to cover the pump that was used to provide water for the school.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW					
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first public school in Powhatan was established in 1854. The school was built by Captain Andrew Imboden of Powhatan for Benjamin F. Matthews, a resident of Rome, Georgia, who landed at Powhatan, after being hauled to the town of Powhatan in an ox wagon, on April 28, 1854. The school was opened on May 1, 1854, with Matthews as instructor. The school was at that time known as "The Powhatan Male and Female Academy," so named by Matthews. Mr. Matthews became an outstanding citizen of Powhatan and played an important role in establishing the town. The first school term lasted for two months. As was the custom in the early days to build a log building that was used for church and school, then perhaps a log building was used for the Powhatan Male and Female Academy. The Academy continued to serve as the learning center for the town until 1861 when the Civil War stopped everything until 1865.

The log cabin building, which either burned or was destroyed, was replaced sometime after the Civil War by a one-story frame structure which was located in Section 37 of the town of Powhatan. The school resumed after the war ended and began to grow until it included a very large area in its district. In 1871 D. L. Montgomery was hired as instructor at the Academy by the School Board Trustees Champ T. Stuart, D. L. Richey, and J. E. Thompson. In 1872 George Matthews was hired as instructor for a three month summer term and a three month winter term at \$50.00 per month salary. In 1874 Miss Fannie Jackson was instructor of the school and was paid \$270.00 from the Black River Township Fund, District #9, out of the Teacher's Fund by John N. Campbell, Trustee. Records of 1880 show that the Lawrence County Court was petitioned by the Directors of School District #9 to allow the Court Room of the Powhatan Courthouse to be used as a school room as there was "no suitable house available for school purposes." Perhaps as the school building burned or was destroyed; there are no records to explain why there was no school building in 1880.

The present school house building was built around 1888. The land the building is situated on was deeded to the School District #9 of Lawrence County, Arkansas from John A. Lindsay, a farmer and resident of Powhatan, on October 18, 1889. In 1889 the school listed 92 students, 57 white males and 57 white females, with J. F. Grant, instructor. Two students, Gertrude Horton, female age 15, and Charles Horton, classified as deaf and dumb.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

Around 1900, as many as six school districts were formed out of the Powhatan School District #9. In the same year the school became known as the Powhatan Public School with W. E. McLeod as teacher. Mr. McLeod was a highly respected educator in Lawrence County and is remembered for his published book of the history of Lawrence County. Many educators served as instructor at the school including C.H.H. Collins (1893, 1898), Maude E. McGee (1894, 1895), N.A. Moore (1895, 1896), J. F. Grant (1889, 1908), Clara Poindexter, Millie Hendrix (Music Instructor), Miss Mary Steadman, Mrs. R. B. Warner, Bill Swink, Vena Saffell Park, Ed Moore, Pauline Chaney, Mrs. Maude Brannon, Mrs. Sylvia Thomas Verkler, Miss Dot Cavenor, Ruth Hall, Jewel Verkler, Annie Alls, Thelma Gray, Eva Williams, Dula Baker, R. C. Ingram, and Farris Herren.

Many outstanding citizens, lawyers, statesmen, surveyors, and educators received their first education in the Powhatan School House. Two outstanding citizens, still living, include E. T. Wayland, outstanding minister and layman with the Methodist Church in Arkansas, and Eugene Sloan, outstanding lawyer in Northeast Arkansas.

In 1955, the Powhatan School District #9 was consolidated with the Black Rock School District #40, thus ending a long and faithful service to the community and county in the area of education. The present Powhatan School House Building is closely located to the Powhatan Courthouse, which is already on the National Register, the Powhatan Methodist Church, built in 1872, the old Jail House, the old Post Office Building and an old log cabin built in 1833. At one time a wooden walkway began at the back of the Powhatan School House, went east and then turned south, passing by the Methodist Church, Jail House, Powhatan Courthouse, and continuing down past the old log cabin and old Post Office Building, continuing to the river bank of Black River. The Powhatan School House Building stands proud and tall as a reminder of the contribution education played in the rural life of Arkansas.

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The Powhatan School House is significant in its reflection of the typical rural educational institution in Arkansas. It also reflects the foundation of many educational experiences in northeast Arkansas. An intense local interest and pride in the building is generating a future for the remaining structures in the historic rural community.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historical School Records, Powhatan Courthouse.
Journal of B. F. Matthews. On file at Powhatan Courthouse.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
UTM REFERENCES

A []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 30, Township 17 North, Range 1 West

Longitude 36° 04' 55"

Latitude 91° 07' 15"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Bobby Flippo, Chairperson

ORGANIZATION

Powhatan Courthouse Restoration Committee

DATE

September 17, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Lake Charles Drive

TELEPHONE

(501) 878-6387

CITY OR TOWN

Powhatan

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

December 14, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Powhatan, Arkansas 72458
August 5, 1976



Arkansas Historical Society Commission
Little Rock, AR 72203

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to ask you to add the two public buildings
in Powhatan to the Historical Society of Buildings.
They are: School House built in 1854
Methodist Church House built in 1872

Both of these buildings are in sight of the Powhatan
Court House that has been restored and since these
buildings are in fair shape and could easily be part
of the Park Area I think they should not be destroyed
but added to the Court House & Park as they would be
Historical and of value to our children which are not
going to be seeing many of the older school & church
houses as they were in the olden days.

Thank you,

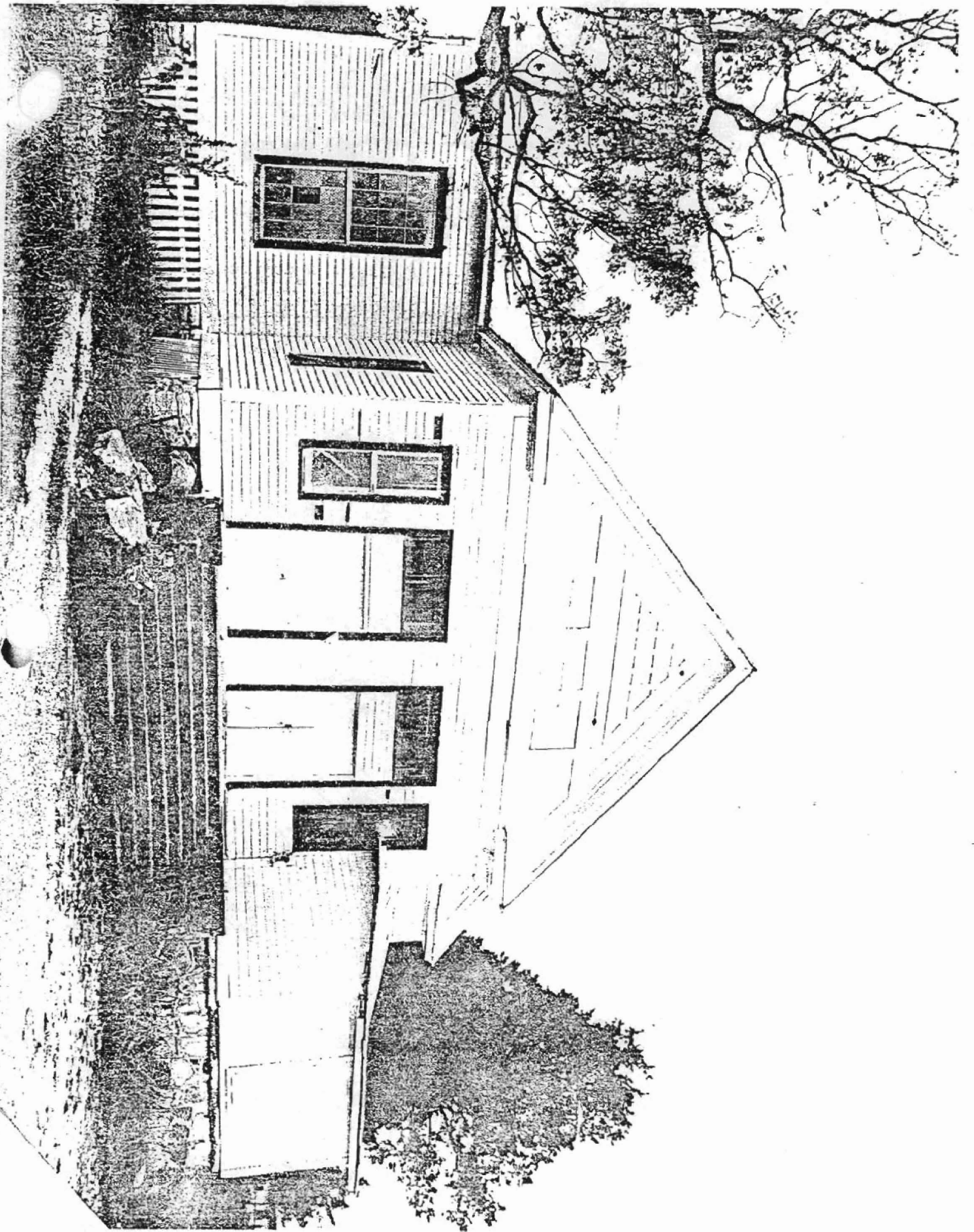
Sincerely,

Winona D. Bruce

To The Arkansas Historical Society:

The undersigned, your petitioners, respectfully representing that there is located on Block 38 of Addition to Powhatan, in the County of Lawrence, State of Arkansas, being known as the School House Block, one School house of great historical value which was established in 1854 with the possibility of being added to the National Historical Register and being restored as a one-room school house, request that the present School House Building be kept as is, added to the National Historical Register, restored as a one-room school house in connection with the Powhatan Courthouse as a tourist attraction, and not to be demolished or torn down.

Dyda McLeod Baker
W. Rainwater
L. R. Garner
Gene Zalaker
Chloe Davidson



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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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NAME

HISTORIC Powhatan School House

AND/OR COMMON



LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Powhatan VICINITY OF COUNTY Lawrence STATE Arkansas



PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program



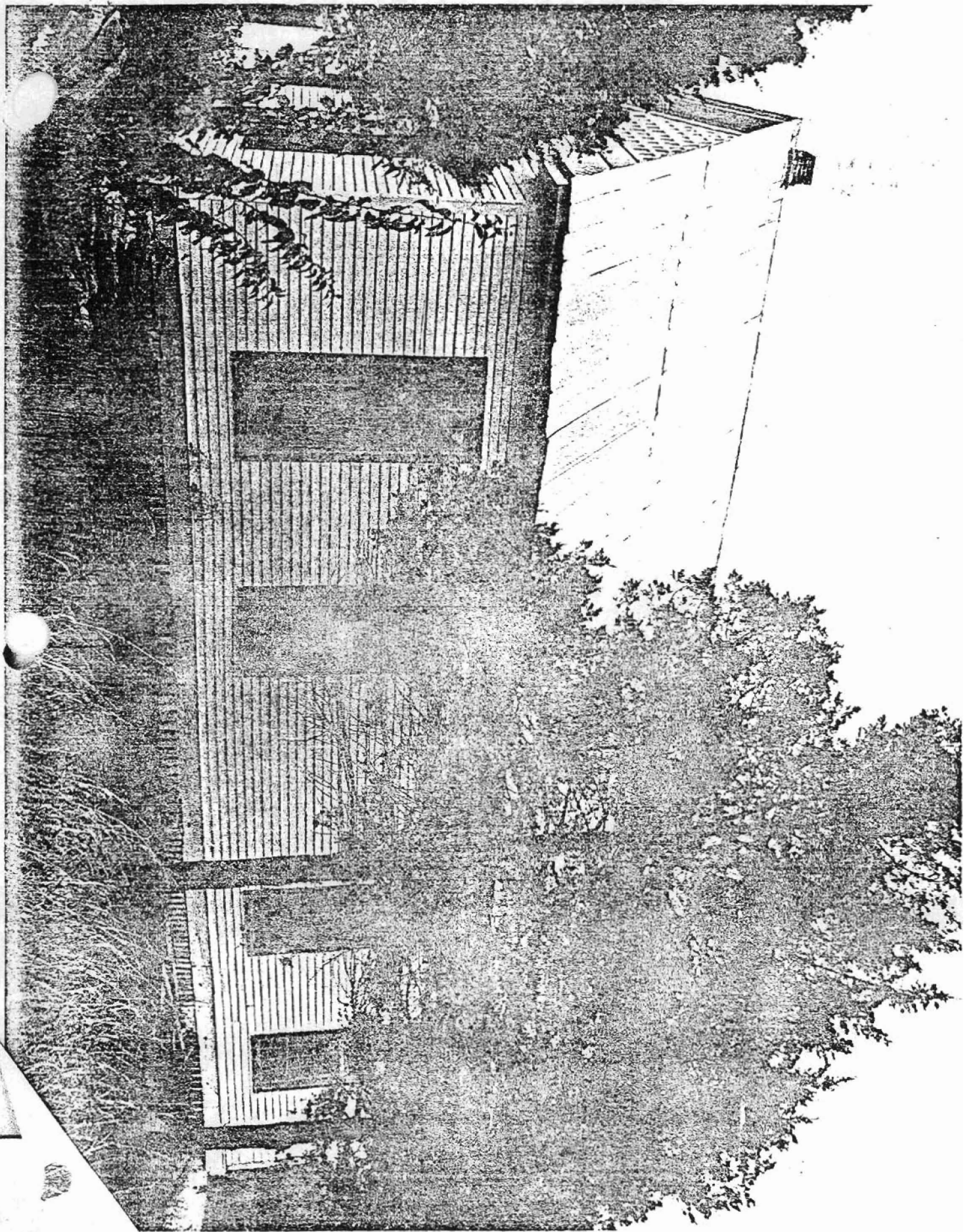
IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View of south elevation

PHOTO NO.

1



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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Powhatan

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Lawrence

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

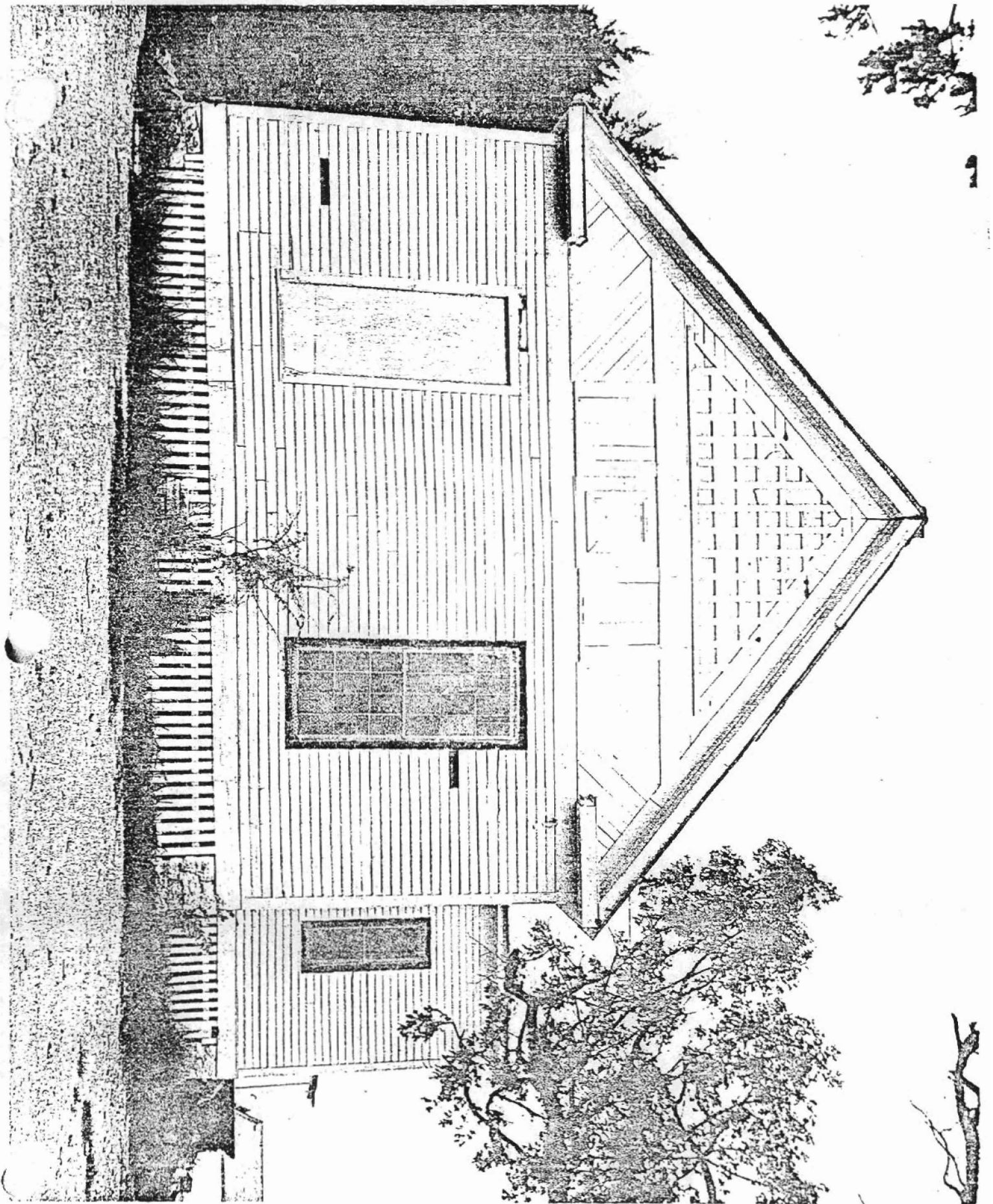
DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
view of the west elevation

PHOTO NO.
3



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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Powhatan VICINITY OF COUNTY Lawrence STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

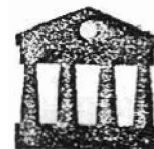
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
view of the north elevation

PHOTO NO.
2



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

November 12, 1976

NOV 18 1976

Mayor of Powhatan
City Hall
Powhatan, Arkansas



Re: Powhatan School and Powhatan
Methodist Church, Powhatan
Lawrence County

Dear Mayor:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Powhatan School and Powhatan Methodist Church which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their December meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

If you have any questions concerning the program or your property's nomination, please contact Donna DuVall of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

BW:emf

I approve of the above property being nominated
to the National Register of Historic Places.

Yes No no

Comments: *on back*

11-15-76
(date)

[Signature]
(signature)

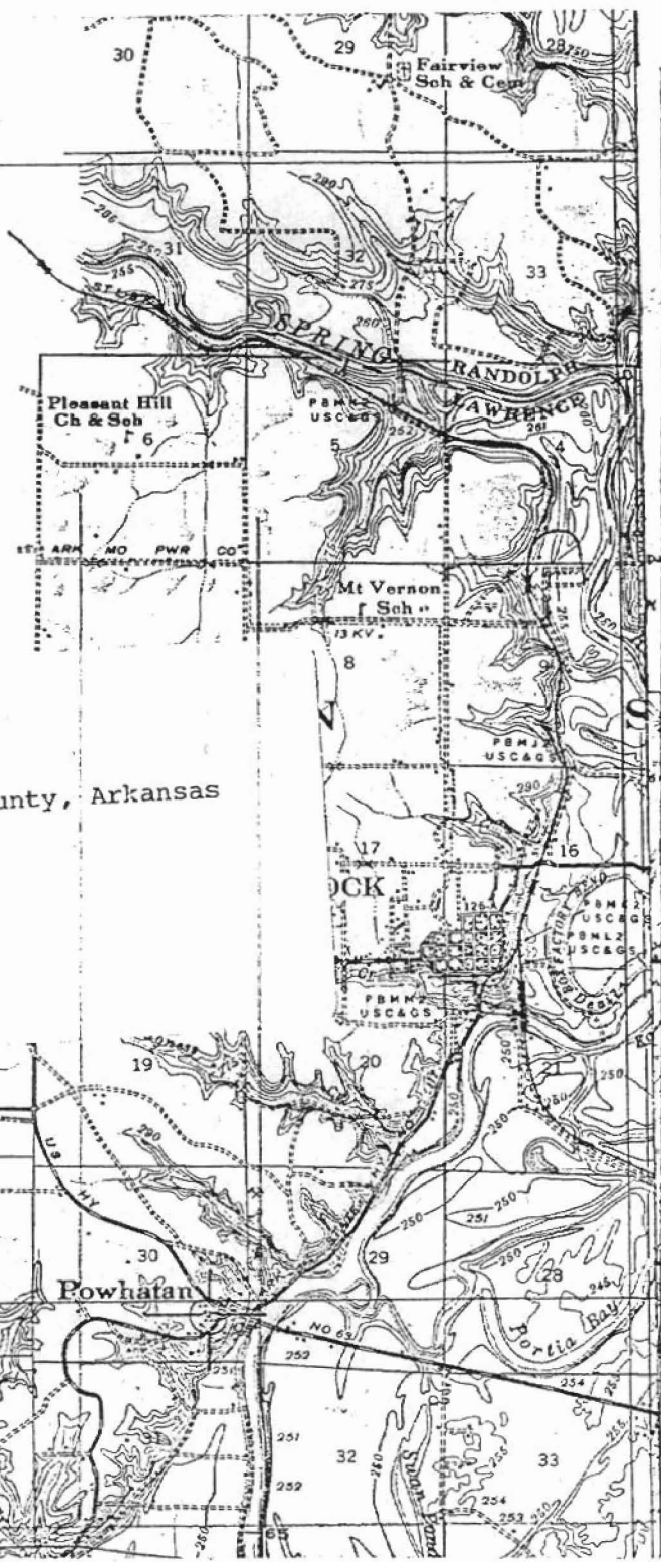
(over)

Dear Mrs. Woodard

Two of the trustees have already signed the deed one won't sign but the building structure is so bad rotten tarcrete eaten + twisted until there would be no way fixing it back in good shape would take an enormous amount of money to fix it back. we are not interested in going to all the trouble + still wouldn't have nothing any good after it was all done. a contractor said it would have to be airborn + start from under neath to fix it said he'd rather build two new buildings as to fix this one. If you have doubts in how bad the condition is come up + look it over and you'll see it isn't worth redoing at all. at one of our Council meetings 33 Voted to tear it down + 1 Voted against.

Sincerely Yours

Mrs. Glen Lawson
or Ruby Lawson Recorder

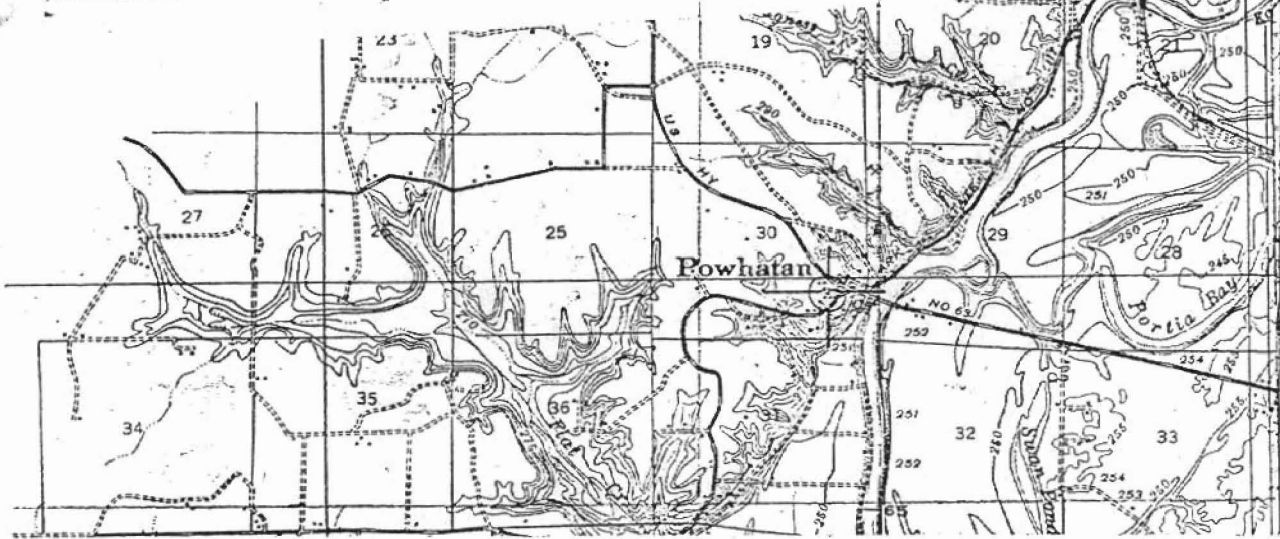


R

Powhatan School House
 Powhatan, Lawrence County, Arkansas

Longitude 36° 04' 55"

Latitude 91° 07' 15"



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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1 NAME

HISTORIC Powhatan School House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Powhatan VICINITY OF COUNTY Lawrence STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Corps of Engineers

SCALE 1:62,500 DATE 1935

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES