

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property


historic name Sylvan School (preferred)
other names/site number Pig Ankle School; Sylvan Community Building; Sylvan Sunday School; Church of the Firstborn

2. Location

street & number Co.Rd. H4, approx. 2 mi. sw. of jct. MO 142 and W [n/a] not for publication
city or town Naylor [X] vicinity
state Missouri code MO county Ripley code 181 zip code 63953

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide [x] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments [].)


Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date 2 Aug 02
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper Date

- [] 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 see continuation sheet [].

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
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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 see continuation sheet [].

5. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | | contributing | noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | 1 | 0 building |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-state | <input type="checkbox"/> site | 0 | 0 sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | 0 | 0 structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | 0 | 0 objects |
| | | 1 | 0 total |

Name of related multiple property listing.

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

EDUCATION: school

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

SOCIAL: meeting hall

RELIGIOUS: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Other: one-room schoolhouse

Materials

foundation CONCRETE

walls Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

see continuation sheet [].

see continuation sheet [].

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet [x]

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or grave.

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.

Areas of Significance

EDUCATION

ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1926-1952

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rodgers, W.D. (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1 acre

UTM References

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| A. Zone 15 | Easting 711340 | Northing 4045930 | B. Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C. Zone | Easting | Northing | D. Zone | Easting | Northing |

[] 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 See continuation sheet
organization _____ date _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 Church of the Firstborn Contact: Roberta DeCelis
street & number 33983 13th St. telephone _____
city or town Chandler state Oklahoma zip code 74834

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri

Section 7 Page 1

SUMMARY:

Constructed in 1926, Sylvan School (preferred) is a frame, one-room rural schoolhouse in the vicinity of Naylor in Ripley County, Missouri. The symmetrical, hipped roof building is located on the west side of County Road H4, approximately two miles southwest of the junction of Missouri Highways H and 142. The design of Sylvan School exemplifies that of a standardized schoolhouse of its period. The entrance is centered in the south facade of the white-painted building where a small hipped porch is located. Rafter ends are exposed on all elevations. The schoolhouse sits on the one-acre parcel of land which it has always occupied, facing a narrow gravel surface county road which runs north-south past the property. The exterior is virtually unaltered and the beveled wood siding is in generally good condition. The interior contains much historic fabric including original accordion doors for dividing the interior into two classrooms. The concrete foundation of a schoolyard privy is near the west boundary of the property. The concrete foundation of a coal shed is situated just west of the building. The schoolyard is essentially level with a scattering of trees along the perimeter. Sylvan School retains a high level of integrity of location, design, materials, craftsmanship and setting.¹

ELABORATION:

The environment of Sylvan School, also known as Pig Ankle School, consists of gently rolling agricultural land used for crops. The location is in southeast Missouri, approximately four miles southwest of Naylor and slightly more than two miles north of the Arkansas border. The area is sparsely settled and the county road along which the schoolhouse sits sees only light to moderate traffic. The one-acre tract is marked with a wire fence along the north boundary but otherwise is unfenced.

Sylvan School rests on its original foundation of rough gravel concrete. The building's footprint is rectangular, with the longest dimension (48'4") from side to side. The schoolhouse is 38'4" deep. Each classroom measures 23'5" by 29'4". There is no basement. The hipped roof is moderately pitched and has an east-west ridge. The beveled siding is probably cypress, an abundant local wood at the time of construction. Roofing consists of asphalt shingles, the same as when the schoolhouse was constructed in 1926. Brick interior chimneys emerge from the northeast and northwest corners.

The primary south facade is five-bay with a transomed front entrance. An open porch with a hipped roof is supported by two square wood posts. The posts rest on the top tier of a rough gravel concrete porch which is stepped on three sides. A single hand railing is made of iron pipe. The entrance (it is the only entrance in the building) contains a single-leaf door with horizontal panels. This door is original but its lower panel was damaged and has been replaced. The transom is two-part. Flanking the entrance on each side are two small, square, four-light windows which are situated high in the facade. The entrance opens into a vestibule, at the end of which are two doors for access to the twin classrooms.

The north (rear) elevation contains a dozen side-by-side windows arranged in two groups (banks) of six. These windows are double-hung 4/4s. By their location in the north wall these windows provided even, natural lighting for the two classrooms.

The east and west (side) elevations contain identical fenestration: three small, square, evenly-spaced windows which are oriented slightly toward the north corner. These windows are situated high in the facade. On each side

¹The construction date for the present building is based on an article in the Doniphan Prospect-News, August 12, 1926. An earlier Sylvan School was constructed on approximately the same site in about 1907.

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Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri

elevation, the middle window is partially covered and contains an air conditioning unit. The south windows in both elevations are covered with wood siding. The north window in the west elevation is covered with a panel. The north window in the east elevation has been painted white. Whether the original windows are intact behind the covered south windows was not determined. A small pump house with a shed roof is near the south corner of the west elevation.

The interior of Sylvan School essentially retains its original floor plan and contains much historic material. The two classrooms are divided by a folding partition which can be opened to create one large (46'10" by 58'8") room for assembly purposes. Cloakrooms and a modern kitchenette and bathroom flank the 12'5" by 7'5" vestibule. From the vestibule, the west door opens into the west classroom which retains its original high ceiling, tongue-and-groove floor and original iron heating stove. The stove is vented into an interior brick chimney which has been plastered. Approximately 15 original school desks are in this room. Original wainscoting is present, and the walls above it as well as the ceiling are covered with fiberboard which has been painted gray. The school's large slate blackboards have been removed.

The east classroom is similar to the west classroom, except that the ceiling has been lowered and the wood floor is covered with carpet. Walls and wainscoting are painted white. A propane heater is vented into an interior chimney. This room is currently used for church purposes and contains several old wooden church pews and a piano. Modern ceiling fans with lights have been installed in each classroom.

East of the vestibule, two original cloakrooms fill a 16'9" x 7'5" space. These cloakrooms are currently used for storage. West of the vestibule, the space which originally contained two additional cloakrooms is currently filled by a 10'10" by 7'5" kitchenette and a 6' by 7'5" bathroom. Two original five-panel doors are between the cloakrooms and the east classroom. Two doors similar to these are between the kitchenette and the west classroom. Access to the bathroom is from the kitchen.

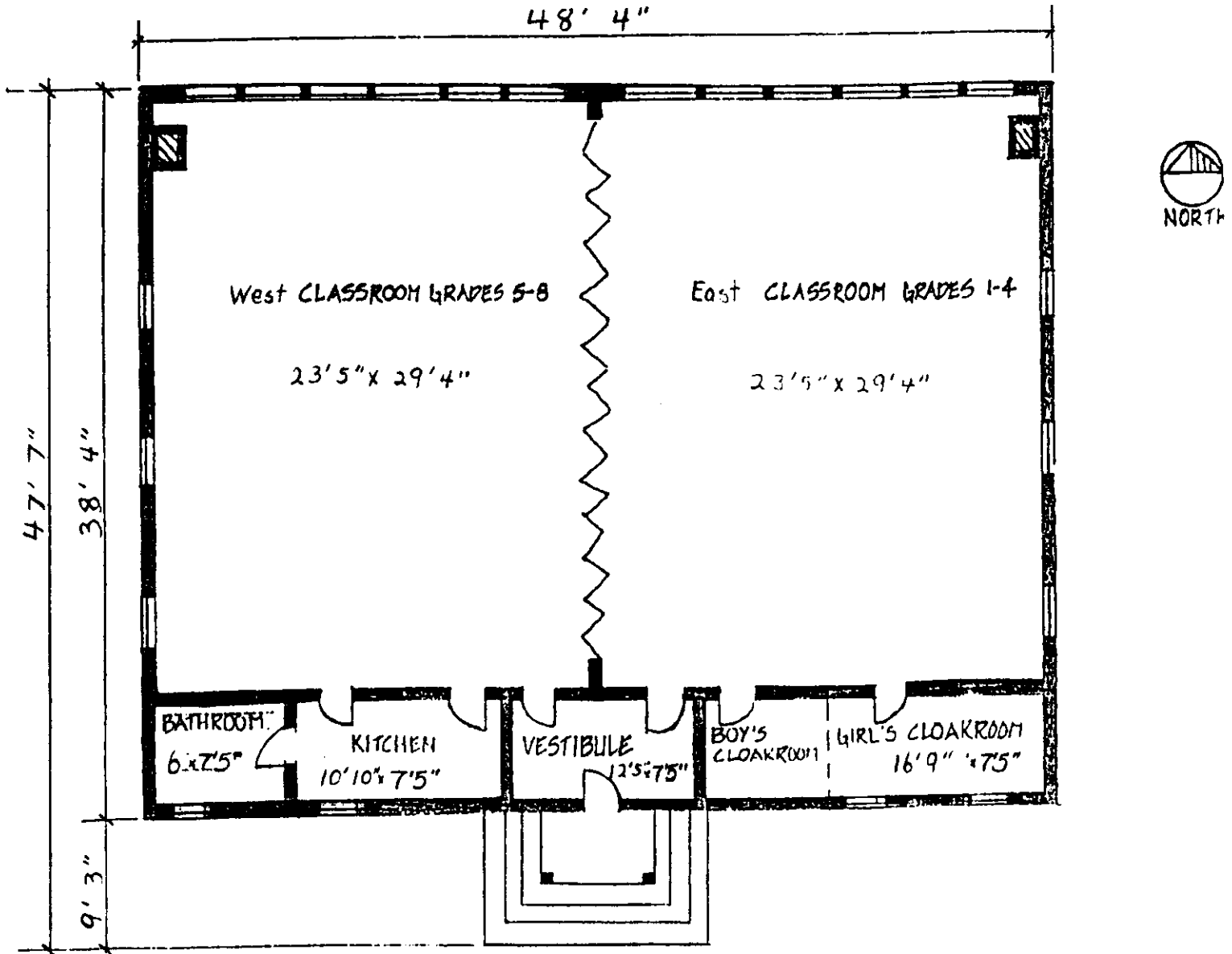
Except for the superficial covering of some windows and the addition of two small air conditioners, the exterior of Sylvan School strongly reflects its appearance at the time of construction in 1926. Portions of the interior have been altered since the period of significance, but the alterations were not substantial, and much historic material remains. At some point, the ceiling of the east classroom was lowered and its floor was carpeted. In 1995, cloakrooms on the west side of the vestibule were converted into a kitchenette and a bathroom. At this time a well was drilled, a pump was installed and a water heater was added. A small pumphouse on the west elevation is part of the 1995 work. Modern lighting and ceiling fans have been installed, blackboards have been removed, and one of the original iron stoves has been replaced with a modern propane heater. At some point a hand pump was removed from near the porch and two outhouses were removed from the schoolyard.

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Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri



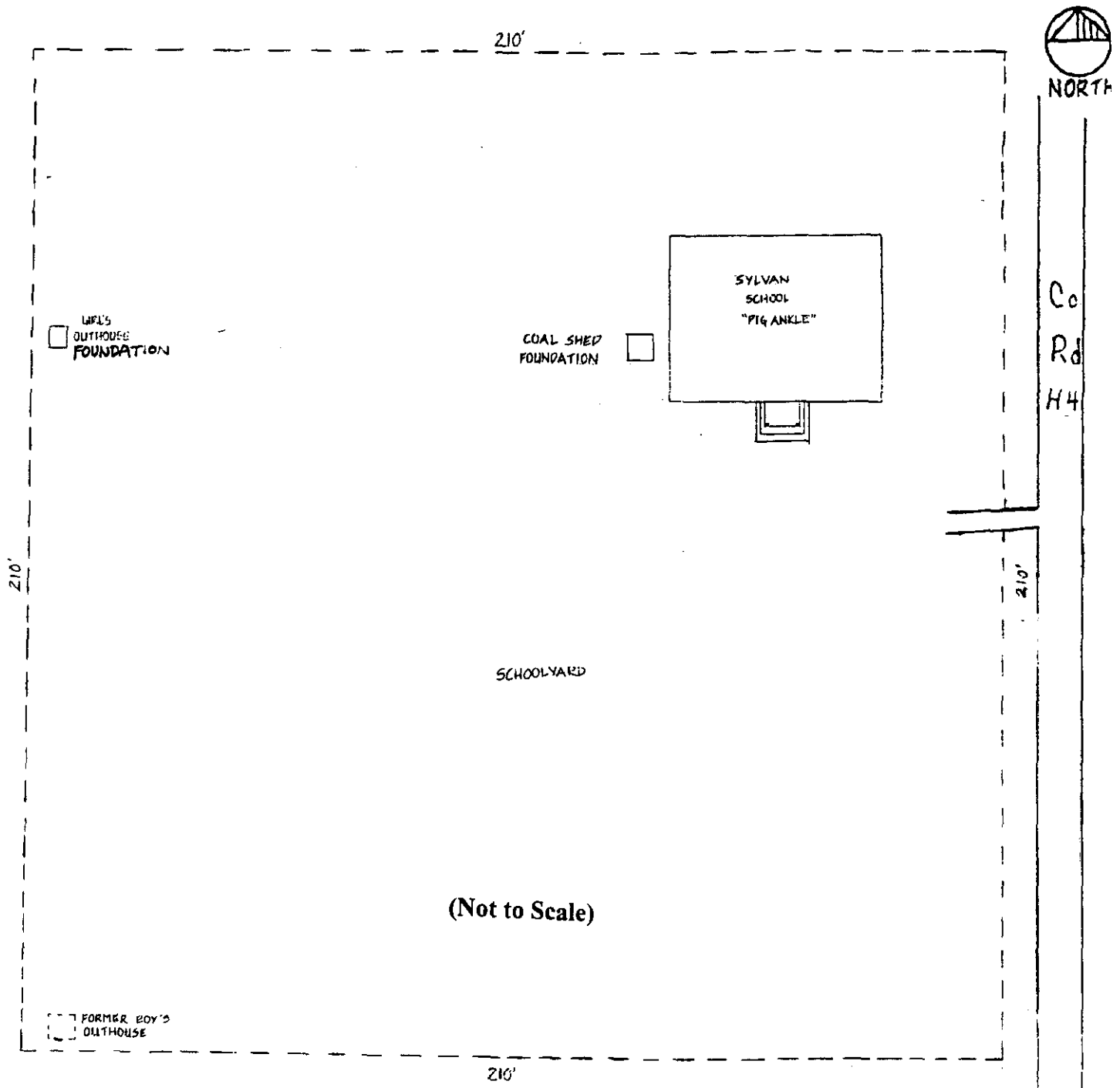
(Not to Scale)

United States Department of the Interior
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Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri



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Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri

Section 8 Page 5

SUMMARY:

Sylvan School (preferred) near Naylor in Ripley County is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A in the area of EDUCATION and under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Constructed in 1926, Sylvan School exemplifies a standardized "one-room" rural schoolhouse built from an architect's design, of which it is an excellent and well-preserved local example.² For 30 years, children in grades one through eight who lived in Naylor School District No. 68 received a basic education in the twin classrooms of Sylvan School. Although Sylvan School was its formal name, the schoolhouse was also known locally as Pig Ankle School. Classes were continued in the building until 1956, three years after consolidation with the Naylor R-II School District. The building remains in use for church and/or community purposes at least once a week as well as for annual meetings, Christmas parties and other community gatherings. Because the current religious function is not exclusive and the building is associated with broad patterns of education in Ripley County while also possessing architectural significance, the property meets Criteria Consideration A. Standardized features seen in Sylvan School include banks of windows on one side of the twin classrooms and the placement of cloakrooms along the front portion of the interior, while its hipped roof with a ridge was also a typical element in the design of standardized schools.³ A sense of the building's past is easily conveyed by the setting within an agricultural landscape. The period of significance runs from 1926 when the schoolhouse opened through 1952, the arbitrary cut-off date for National Register properties.

ELABORATION:

The earliest schools in Ripley County were subscription schools conducted in private homes by teachers whose salaries were directly paid by the parents. In the 1880s, an early subscription school in the Sylvan area south of Naylor was in a log dwelling on what became known as the McCarty farm. The teacher was a Mrs. Rigdon. The first building constructed as a schoolhouse in the Sylvan area was located on the John Hale farm and was known as Gamblin School. This school was in operation by 1904, and for an undetermined period before that. Teachers at Gamblin School included Att Cope and Mabel Slayton. In 1907, School District No. 68 was organized and the first of two Sylvan Schools was constructed. The land was donated by Dave Young. Emma Green was the first teacher.⁴ Apparently the name Pig Ankle stemmed from this period:

The district was named Sylvan but it was better known as Pig Ankle. No one living today knows exactly why such a name was preferred by some over Sylvan. Apparently, the most prevalent tale is the one about hogs sleeping under the schoolhouse. It would be many years before the enactment of stock laws. Farmers allowed their cattle and hogs to roam and graze at will. The story goes that some of the hogs died under the schoolhouse, leading to a very unpleasant situation.⁵

²While Sylvan School actually had two classrooms divided by a movable partition, its basic form is that of the one-room country schoolhouse. Sylvan School exemplifies the Hipped or Pyramided Roofed Cube schoolhouse property type defined by the State Historic Preservation Office, a type most commonly found in the one-room version but which may have more than one classroom.

³Andrew Gulliford, America's Country Schools, Washington, D.C., The Preservation Press, 1984, pp. 193-194.

⁴Naylor School Historical Society, "Naylor School: A Bit of History," Clay County Courier, Corning, AR, 1983, pp.129-130.

⁵Ibid.

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Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri

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Like the nominated schoolhouse, the first Sylvan School faced east. However, it stood on a foundation of concrete blocks rather than poured concrete like the present building, and gaps in the foundation apparently allowed hogs to wander in off the open range. According to Bertha Hall, the name originated with some schoolboys who discovered "a horrible smell coming from underneath the school" when they stopped to get a drink of water at the pump one hot day while classes were dismissed for picking the cotton crop. Some of the hogs that liked to sleep under the building had died, apparently from cholera. The boys started calling the school "Pig Ankle" and when the new building was constructed, the nickname proved too colorful to be forgotten.⁶

Surel Cunningham, who attended the original Sylvan School for eight years beginning in 1912, recalled that enrollment gradually increased until there were more students than a single teacher could deal with in a relatively small building containing one classroom.⁷ By the time the new Sylvan School opened, over 50 pupils were regularly attending classes. Many of Missouri's rural districts had no more than 20 or 30 students, on average, and as Gulliford has pointed out, discipline could be a problem even with classes of that size. "A one-room schoolhouse," Gulliford noted, "was a heavy responsibility for a single teacher who may have had [only] 30 children in eight grades."⁸ Fifty-six students are pictured in the two Sylvan School class photos for 1926-27, 35 in the first through the fourth grades and 21 in the fifth through the eighth grades; some may have been absent. This number of pupils would have overwhelmed many teachers, and individualized instruction was virtually impossible in such a situation. One former Sylvan teacher, R. O. Marlin, said he recalled having to teach as many as 90 pupils before the present building was constructed.⁹

Opposition to a bond issue was eventually overcome in School District No. 68, and in 1926 bonds in the amount of \$3,600 were approved to construct and equip a new schoolhouse on the approximate site of the 1907 Sylvan schoolhouse. The Doniphan Prospect-News reported that the cost of the building alone was \$2,750. The remaining \$850 was spent on such things as desks, seating, heating stoves and other items. The contractor was W. D. Rodgers. School board members who were instrumental in seeing the project carried out were the Rev. S. M. Marlin, Tom Emmons and Fred Nall.¹⁰

The new Sylvan School was dedicated on August 8, 1926. In addition to members of the Sylvan community, the celebration--which included a sermon, a picnic dinner in the schoolyard, speakers and singing--attracted visitors from adjoining neighborhoods and from the towns of Naylor and Doniphan. The Doniphan Prospect-News described the building as "one of the best and most up-to-date rural schoolhouses in the country. It is a one-story, two room house with entrance hall and two cloak rooms for each of the two school rooms, large and well lighted, and is to be heated with modern heating systems. Both the big rooms can be thrown together by means of a

⁶Bertha Hall. Mrs. Hall, a longtime resident of the Sylvan community, was interviewed by Wanda DeCelis Moutrie in 1950 while doing research for a term paper on Sylvan School.

⁷Naylor School Historical Society, "Naylor School: A Bit of History," Coming, AR: Clay County Courier, 1983, pp. 129-136.

⁸Gulliford, p. 36.

⁹Naylor School Historical Society, op cit., p. 130.

¹⁰Doniphan Prospect-News, August 12, 1926; and Ripley County school records at Ripley County Courthouse.

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Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri

folding partition for assembly purposes." The speakers included former Sylvan teacher Mrs. E. B. Slayton of Fairdealing and the two teachers for the new building, Archie Bennett and Miss Mary Carlyle.¹¹

The east classroom was used for grades 1-4. The west classroom was used for grades 5-8.

Before electricity became available in the area in 1949, kerosene lamps on the walls were used to provide artificial lighting at Sylvan School. A pot-bellied stove in the corner of each classroom provided heat. A student who lived nearby would come early to start the fire in the winter, but it was the teacher's responsibility to keep it going. She would send a student who had completed his lessons to get a bucket of coal from the coal shed. Being selected for this chore was considered an honor.¹²

Roberta Richmond DeCelis attended Sylvan School beginning in 1940. According to her recollection of the daily educational routine during this decade, Sylvan was probably a very typical one-roomer notwithstanding the fact that two classrooms were actually used. Each school day started with a recitation of the pledge of allegiance, Mrs. DeCelis recalled. On a typical day the teacher wrote an assignment on the blackboard for the older students and then listened to the younger ones read. After that, each grade in turn came to the front of the classroom where the chairs were arranged in a circle "to see if they were learning," she said. The curriculum included reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic and geography. On special days there were spelling bees, arithmetic matches and geography competitions. The folding doors between the classrooms eliminated many distractions and helped provide each group with an identity of its own.

Sylvan students sat at traditional school desks which were arranged in rows. The desks were in various sizes but all had folding seats, tops with a pencil groove and a hole for an ink well, and a book storage shelf with ornate iron sides. To facilitate rearrangement, they were attached to wooden runners rather than bolted to the floor. Large slate blackboards covered most of the east and west classroom walls; a portion of the slate remains in the east classroom. Maps that pulled down like window shades were attached to the blackboard tops. The blackboard has been removed from the west classroom, but this room is otherwise intact with original desks and an iron stove in a corner.

During the lunch hour and at recess, outside games were played when weather permitted. During inclement weather, Mrs. DeCelis recalled, the girls might play jacks or learn to crochet. A typical student's lunch consisted of a biscuit with ham, sausage, or bacon taken to school in a lard or syrup bucket. Fresh fruit might be included if it was in season. In 1947, a hot lunch program was instituted consisting of hot chocolate and pork and beans. A teacher prepared these meals in two large granite pots on the coal burning stove. The children washed their own dishes which were brought from home. By the time Mrs. DeCelis completed her time at Sylvan, the school was only eight years from closing.

Like the first Sylvan School, the new building was not only a schoolhouse but the focal point of a well-adjusted farming community as well. During the Great Depression, the local school board (School District No. 68) voted to open the school for community activities. These activities were religious as well as social or literary. When money for gasoline was scarce, some local families attended church services and Sunday school classes in the Sylvan schoolhouse because it was closer than the nearest church. Monthly "entertainments" including dramatic presentations, singings and readings were popular. Makeshift stage curtains were made for plays put on by

¹¹ Doniphan Prospect-News, August 5 and August 12, 1926.

¹² Roberta Richmond DeCelis, interviewed by Janet DeCelis Wright, February 2001.

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Sylvan School (preferred)

Section 8 Page 8

Ripley County, Missouri

members of the community, and there were appearances by traveling puppet shows. Covered dishes were brought for potluck "biscuit suppers" and a baseball team was organized in summertime. A hat was passed to collect money to buy a new baseball for each game.¹³ As the Sylvan community changed along with the rest of society, the role of the rural schoolhouse within the fabric of community life gradually diminished but never quite ended.

As early as 1901, the General Assembly had authorized the development of consolidated school districts in Missouri. The theory was that students who attended one-room schools received an inferior education compared with those who attended consolidated schools where they could be more completely separated according to grade level. As late as 1946, there were still nearly 6,000 one-room schools in use in Missouri and most were considered liabilities by educators of the period.¹⁴ The last year for one-room schools in Missouri was 1973, when the final 25 were closed.¹⁵ Many of the rural schools that were consolidated had considerably fewer pupils than Sylvan, which had more than 50.

Consolidation with Naylor R-II School District, one of four reorganized school districts in Ripley County, was approved by the voters in 1953. The last year of classes at Sylvan School was 1955-56. After consolidation with Naylor R-II, members of the Sylvan Board of Education took steps to assure that the old schoolhouse would continue to serve its rural community in perpetuity. To that end, \$300 was collected from members of the community in order to purchase the schoolhouse from Naylor R-II School District. In 1956, a general warranty deed transferred the property to the "Sylvan Sunday School" with the stipulation that it be available for religious purposes by any religious group or for community meetings for the general welfare of the community. If the schoolhouse is not so used, according to the deed it reverts back to the Naylor school district.¹⁶

Since consolidation, the building has been used for Sunday school classes, occasional revival meetings, annual "Heritage Day" activities and other events when former students return with their children and grandchildren, community activities and, since 1972, weekly meetings of the Church of the Firstborn. In an affidavit filed with the Ripley County recorder in January 2000, the Church of the Firstborn noted that Sylvan Sunday School changed its name to Church of the Firstborn in 1972, and reaffirmed that the building is used for church and community purposes as required.¹⁷ The Church of the Firstborn has maintained the building since a storm toppled nearby trees and some of the limbs fell onto the roof in 1972. The Ripley County Assessor recognizes the Church of the Firstborn as the property owner, and the church remains physically and financially responsible for its upkeep.

¹³"Naylor School: A Bit of History," p. 131.

¹⁴Administrative Committee of the Cooperative Study of Rural Education and Rural Life, Missouri Looks at Her Rural Schools, December, 1946, p. 4.

¹⁵Leslie C. Swanson, Rural One-Room Schools of Mid-America, Moline, IL: Leslie Swanson, 1970, pp. 30-31.

¹⁶General Warranty Deed, Book 148, Page 304, Recorder's Office, Ripley County Courthouse, Doniphan, MO.

¹⁷The affidavit, sworn to by Verneal King, vice president of the Church of the Firstborn, was filed in response to an attempt by the Naylor School Board to sell the property to a third party.

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ARCHITECTURE:

Architecturally, Sylvan School is a plan book building, one of four rural schoolhouse categories suggested by Fred E. H. Schroeder.¹⁸ Schroeder, a country school historian, suggested two broad categories: vernacular schoolhouses and architect-designed buildings. Vernacular included both folk vernacular buildings constructed of local materials by local builders, and mass-vernacular buildings utilizing dimension lumber and other mass-produced construction materials. The mass-vernacular schoolhouse was the most common type, according to Schroeder. Regardless of whether the materials were homemade or commercially produced, the design of vernacular buildings was always traditional. Architect-designed schoolhouses included buildings designed by an architect commissioned for the project (the least common type) and those based on designs selected from architectural plan books or actually provided by state educational bodies. Both folk and mass-vernacular examples are likely to be easier to identify from a distance because they look more like traditional schoolhouses, whereas architect-designed buildings generally assumed a less-traditional form.

Sylvan School exemplifies a schoolhouse design that was clearly based on a standardized plan such as was provided by the Missouri Department of Education. The number of plan book design schoolhouses that were constructed in Ripley County is unknown, but at least one survey has indicated that Sylvan School is the best extant example of a one-room schoolhouse in the Naylor area of southeastern Ripley County.¹⁹

The main external differences between designed and vernacular schoolhouses were in roof type and applied decorative features. Hipped or pyramidal roofs were popular for designed buildings but uncommon on traditional schoolhouses. While a traditional or vernacular schoolhouse might have a pyramidal roof, gable ends were more common. While floorplans of designed buildings usually included auxiliary rooms and other features designed to enhance the educational experience, a one-room teaching space was as typical for designed buildings as it was for vernacular schoolhouses.²⁰ Thus Sylvan School, with its two large rooms separated by folding doors instead of a single classroom, was a mild exception.

By the time Sylvan School was constructed in 1926, the days of the vernacular schoolhouse were about over. By this time, contractors working from architects' designs incorporated "hipped roofs, Palladian porticos or porches and even dormers, creating a striking resemblance to bungalow houses of the same period. Windows were on one side of the room, close together to produce the effect of one large window, based on the common presumption that nerve disorders were traceable directly to eyestrain."²¹

Most one-room rural schools constructed in the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Area from the turn of the century to about 1930 were of frame construction with gable or hipped roofs, and were based on a standardized plan. In 1991, a survey of the five county Ozark Foothills Region (consisting of Ripley, Butler, Carter, Reynolds

¹⁸ Fred E. H. Schroeder's categorizations are discussed by Andrew Gulliford in America's Country Schools, Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984, pp. 164-171.

¹⁹ Thomason and Associates, "An Overview of the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Area," prepared for the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, Poplar Bluff, Missouri, 1991, pp. 274-284. This project was funded through a matching Missouri Historic Preservation Fund grant from the State Historic Preservation Office.

²⁰ Andrew Gulliford, America's Country Schools, Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984, pp. 193-195.

²¹ Gulliford, p. 194.

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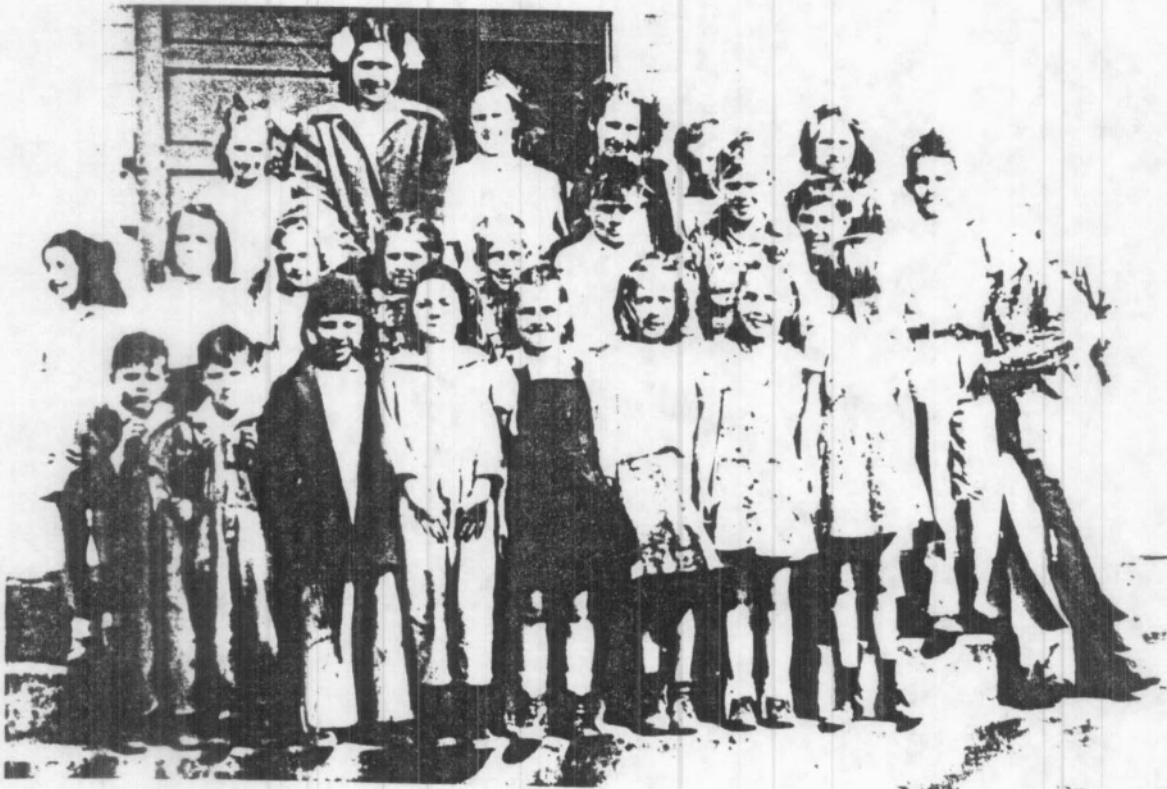
Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri

and Wayne Counties) indicated that the most common type of extant school building had a hipped or pyramidal roof, was either square or rectangular in shape, and had exposed rafter ends. While the survey indicated that the hipped or pyramidal roof type was prevalent throughout the region, it found that it was even more prevalent in Ripley and Butler Counties. Presumably because of its integrity, Sylvan School (referred to in the survey as "RI-19") was the only hipped roof example selected for the project report as representative of the type.²² Sylvan School is an almost pristine example of the type.

In addition to Sylvan School, two other Ripley County schoolhouses were included in the report. One of these, Pratt School, located about 10 miles west of Sylvan School, has since burned. The other, identified in the report as Sinsabaugh School but also known as Cypress Grove School (District No. 70) or Acorn School, is about three miles southwest of Sylvan School. However, it is currently being used as a private residence. Another historic schoolhouse at the crossroads community of Oxly, about five miles northwest of Sylvan School, has been converted into a large church building. Naylor vicinity schools that are no longer in existence include Buncombe, Beech Ridge, Gum, Taylor (also known as Torch), Harris Ridge, Sewell and Tucker.

Sylvan School, constructed from a plan book design in 1926, stands as an excellent and relatively intact local example of this diminishing type of resource in Ripley County.

Photo Source: Naylor School Historical Society



Sylvan School Students, Grades 1-5, 1946

²²Thomason and Associates, pp. 278-279.

United States Department of the Interior
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Sylvan School (preferred)
Ripley County, Missouri



Sylvan School Students, Grades 6-8, 1946

Photo Source: Naylor School Historical Society

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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Sylvan School (preferred)

Ripley County, Missouri

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of Sylvan School (preferred), Ripley County, Missouri, is described as follows: Beginning at the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of Section 21, Township 22 North, Range 4 East, to run north 210 feet; thence west 210 feet; thence south 210 feet; thence east 210 feet to place of beginning, containing one acre more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with Sylvan School.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Sylvan School (preferred)

Ripley County, Missouri

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February 11, 2002
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July 3, 2002
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Editor and revisions

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Sylvan School (preferred)

Naylor vicinity

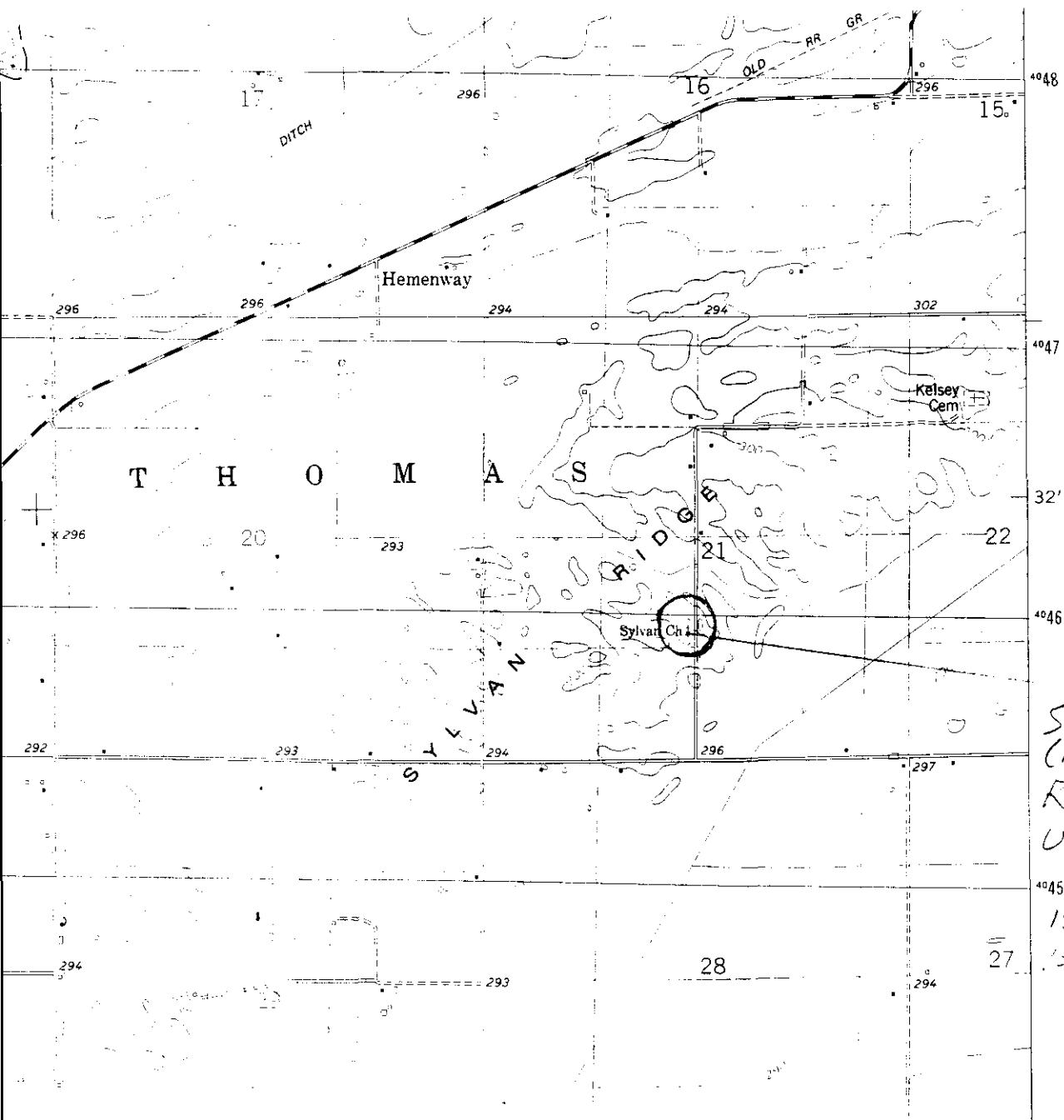
Ripley County, Missouri

Photographer: Anna Sebourn

Date: January 2001, except as noted

Location of negatives: Roberta DeCelis, 33983 13th St., Chandler, OK 74834

1. Primary (south) facade, facing north.
2. North elevation, facing south.
3. West elevation, facing east.
4. East elevation, facing west.
5. Porch detail, facing north.
6. Folding (partition) doors between classrooms.
7. Floor detail in west classroom.
8. Detail of stove in west classroom.
9. East classroom used for church services.
10. West classroom with original desks.
11. Former cloakroom with original shelf and coat hooks.
12. Storage area in former cloakroom.

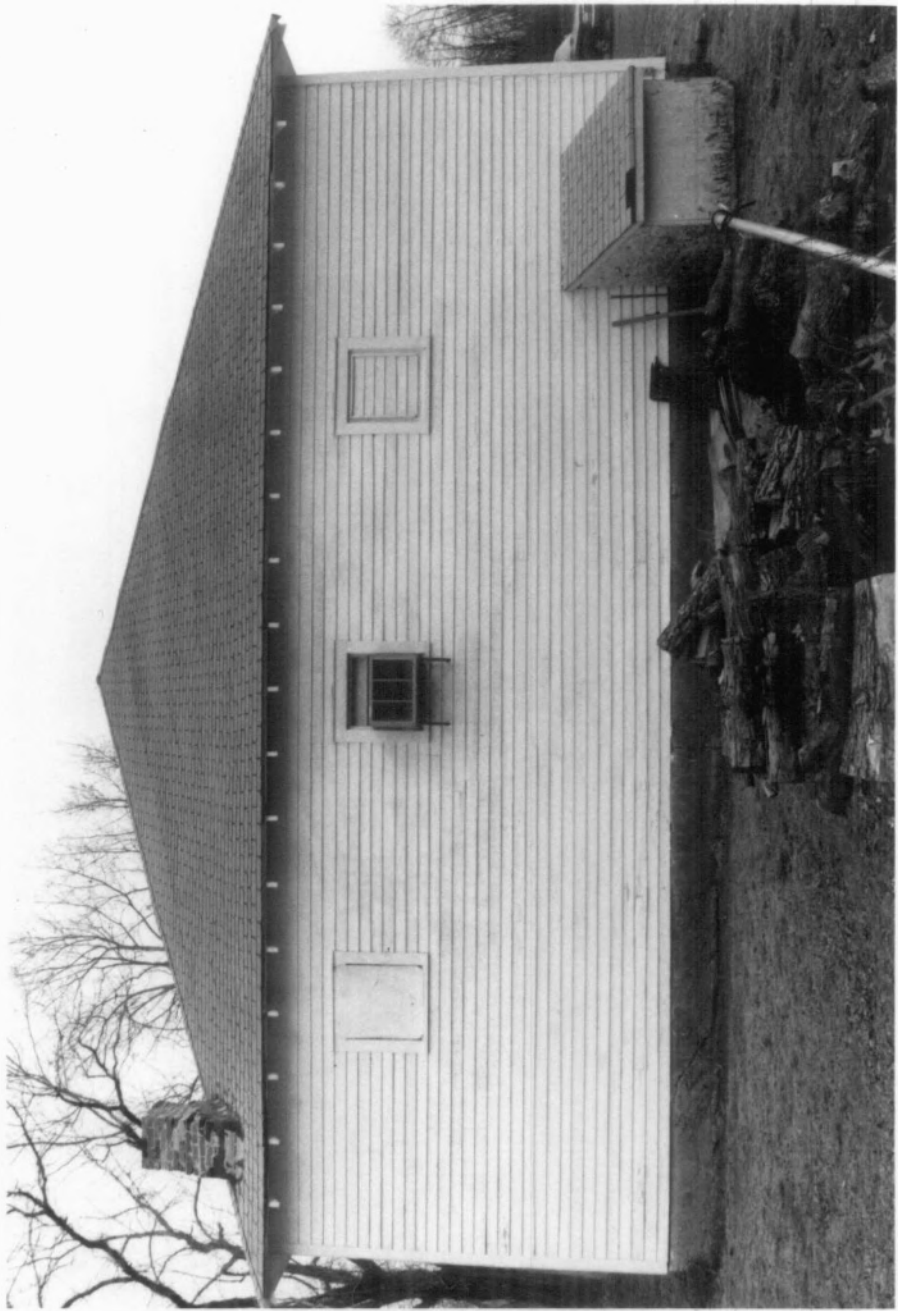


SYLVAN SCHOOL
(PREFERRED)
RIFLEY CO, MO
UTM REFS:

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27 15/4045750N

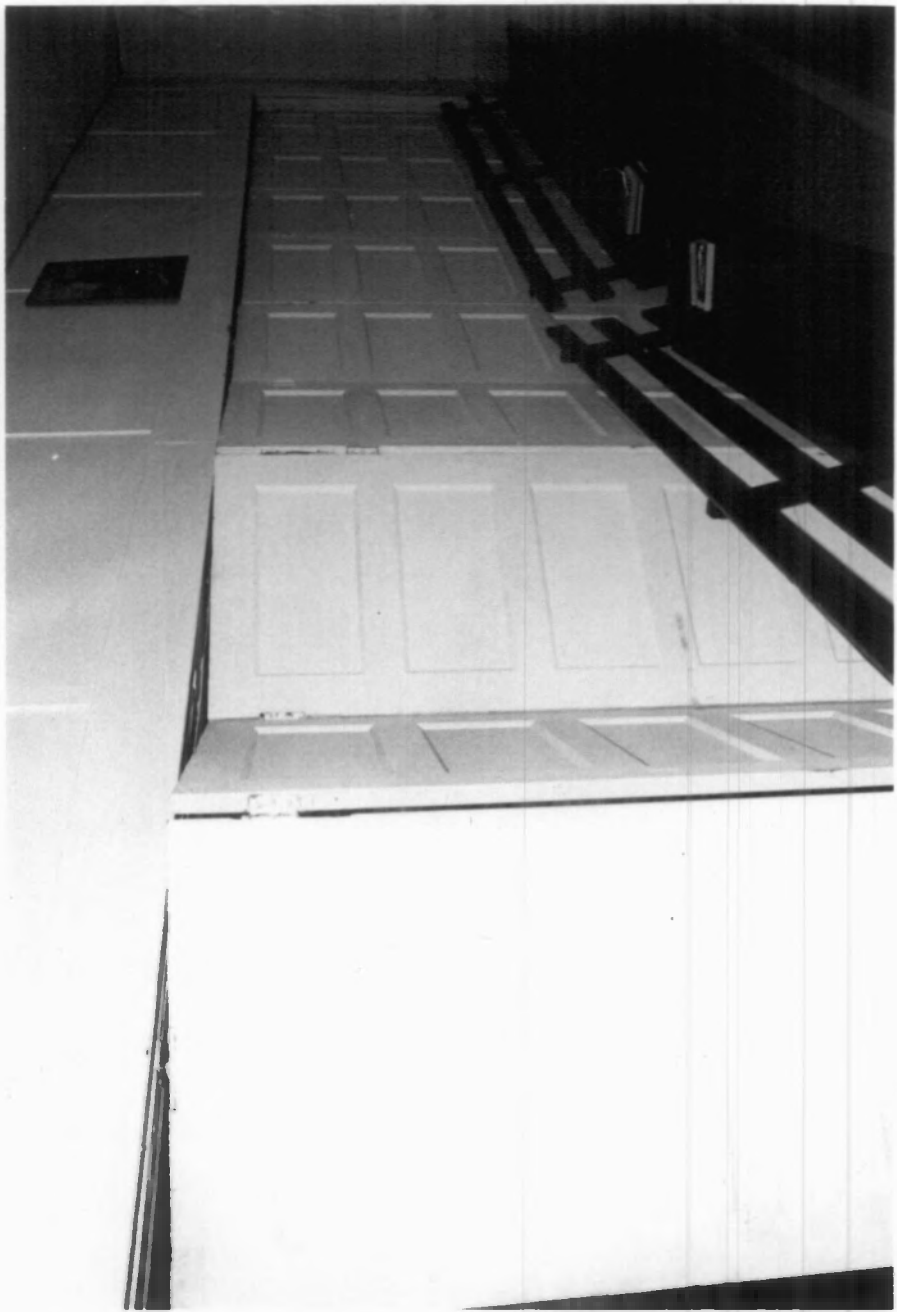


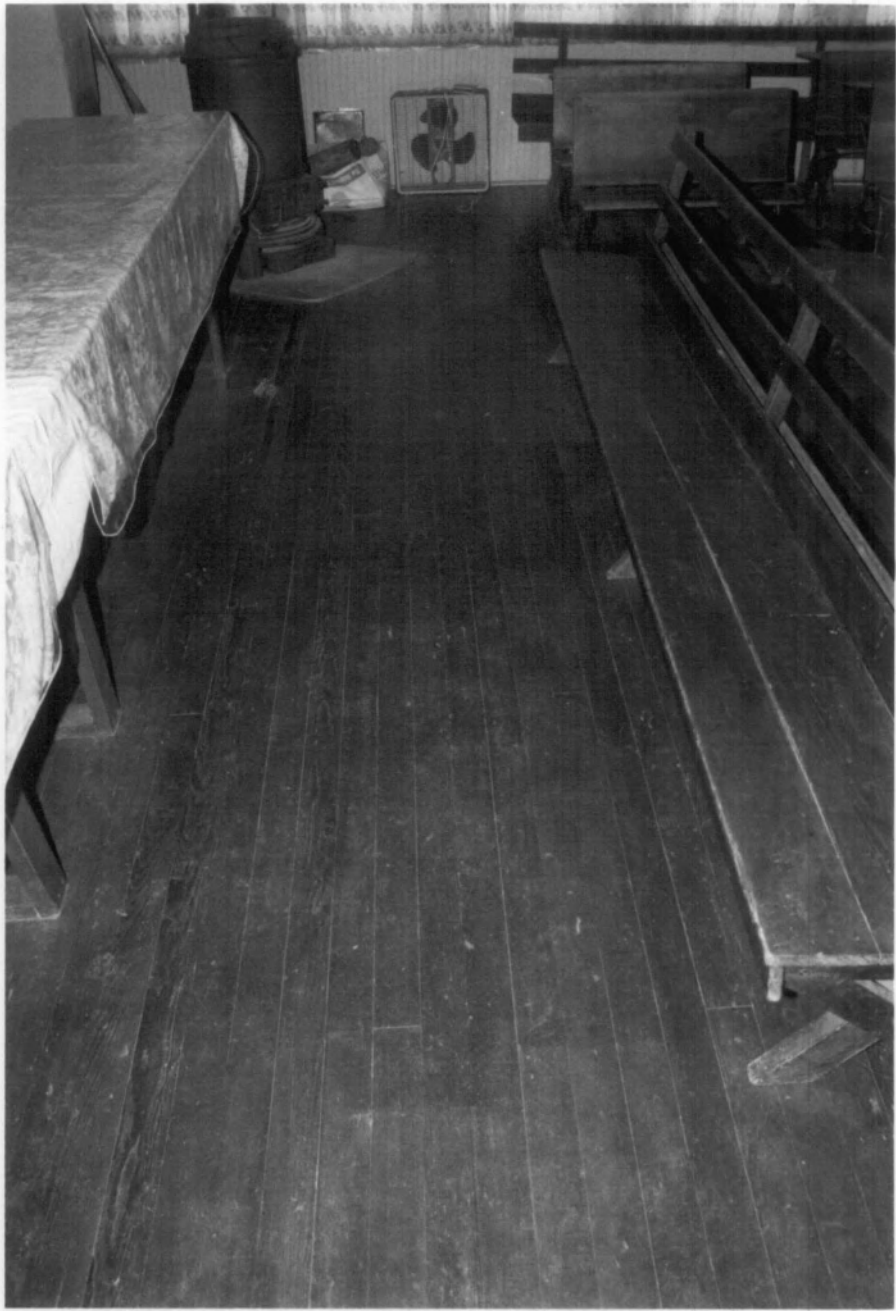




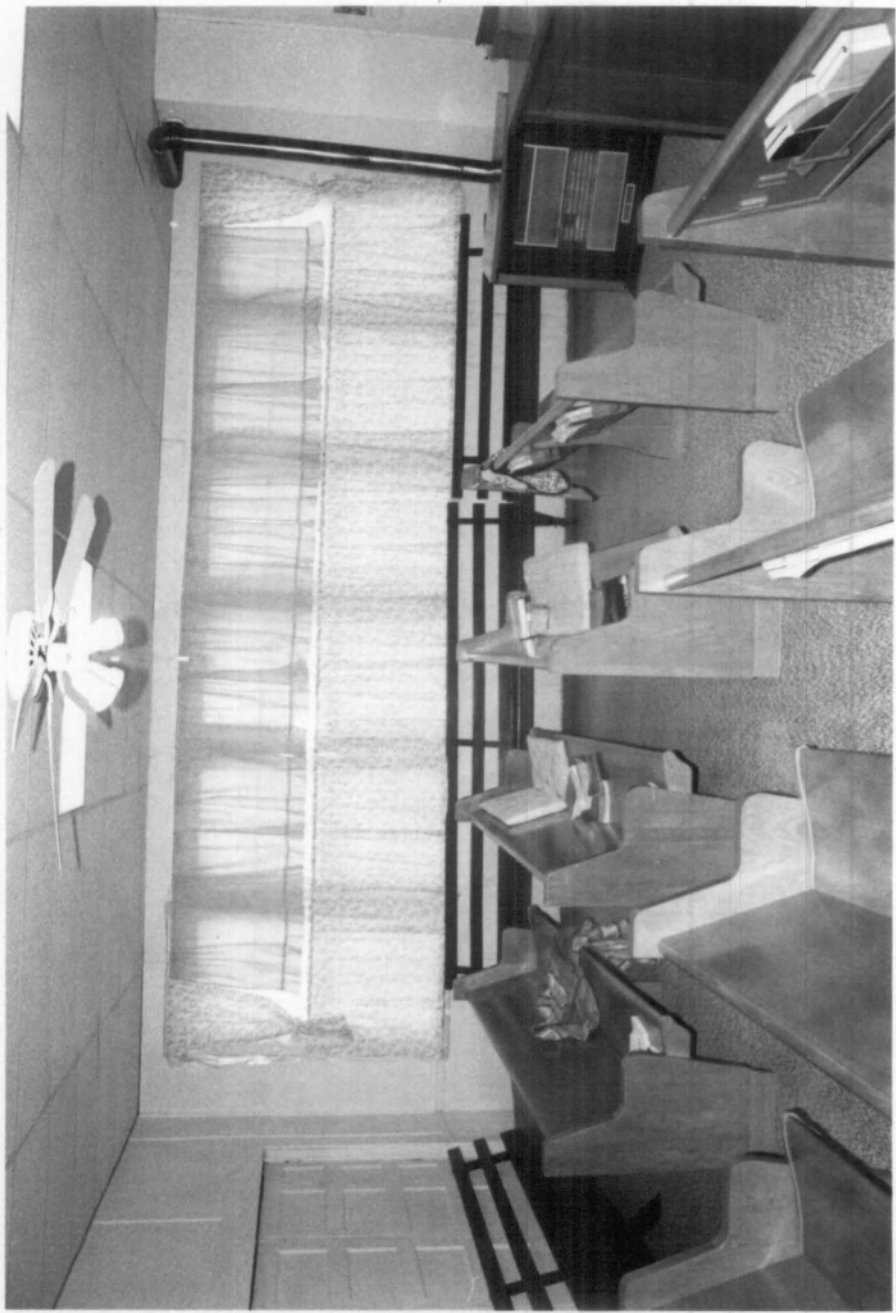






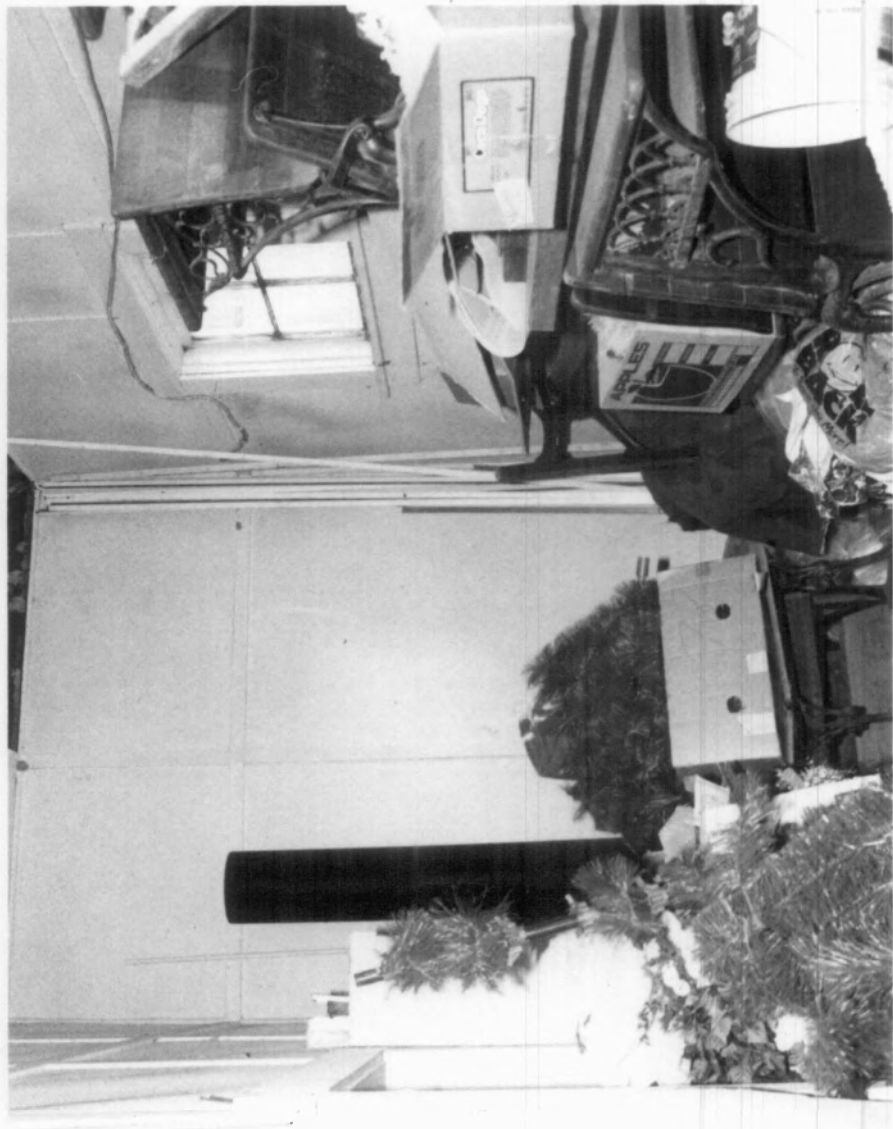












EXTRA

PHOTOS

