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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

**1. Name of Property**

=====

historic name: Tontitown School Building

other name/site number: WA0363

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**2. Location**

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

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Tontitown

vicinity: N/A

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

=====

**3. Classification**

=====

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

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

=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

7-14-92  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====  
**5. National Park Service Certification**  
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the  
National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

~~entered in the~~  
National Register

Adams Byrd

9/4/92

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date  
of Action

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic: EDUCATION

Sub: School

Current: EDUCATION

Sub: School

=====  
**7. Description**  
=====

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS

Classical  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Plain Traditional \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Concrete \_\_\_\_\_ roof Asphalt \_\_\_\_\_  
walls Concrete block \_\_\_\_\_ other Stucco \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A \_\_\_\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1920-1940 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Unknown \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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National Park Service

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## Summary

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

## Elaboration

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

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

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

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National Park Service**

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

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

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National Park Service

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**Tontitown School**

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

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

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: Less than one \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

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

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator  
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 13, 1992  
Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346  
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS  
ARKANSAS

Date Listed

ID	Building Name	Date Listed
92001195	Liberty School Cafeteria	9/10/92
92001107	Locust Grove School	9/4/92
92001124	Luber School <i>Substantive Review</i>	9/4/92
92001199	Maxville School Building	9/10/92
92001201	Melbourne Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001103	Men's Gymnasium--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001109	Moorefield School	9/4/92
92001207	Mountain View School	9/10/92
92001216	Mountainburg High School	9/10/92
92001218	Mulberry Home Economics Building	9/10/92
92001220	New Liberty School	9/10/92
92001211	Physical Education Building--Arkansas Tech University	9/10/92
92001193	Plumerville School Building	9/10/92
92001198	Poughkeepsie School Building	9/10/92
92001111	Pyatt School Building	9/4/92
92001126	Quitman High School Building	9/4/92
92001127	Quitman Home Economics Building	9/4/92
92001219	Smithville Public School Building <i>Substantive Review</i>	
92001119	Spring Valley School District 120 Building	9/4/92
92001104	Student Union Building--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001108	Thida Grove School	9/4/92
92001117	Tontitown School Building	9/4/92
92001204	Valley Springs School	9/10/92
92001105	Walker, Vol, Library--University of Arkansas, Fayetteville	9/4/92
92001208	Williamson Hall--Arkansas Tech University <i>Substantive Review</i>	
92001209	Wilson Hall--Arkansas Tech University <i>Substantive Review</i>	
92001351	Center Cross School	<i>Entered in the National Register</i>
93001255	Big Flat School Gymnasium	<i>Entered in the National Register</i> 10/8/92
9301461	Solomon Grove Smith-Hughes Building	<i>Entered in the National Register</i> 11/19/93
		12.9.94

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Tontitown School Building

MULTIPLE NAME: Public Schools in the Ozarks MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 7/28/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/14/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/30/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/11/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001117

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9/4/92 DATE **Entered in the National Register**

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count      \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic      \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage      \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps    \_\_\_USGS maps    \_\_\_photographs    \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Tontitown School

Tontitown, Washington County, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE

MAY, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTH



Tontitown School

Tontitown, Washington County, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE

MAY, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

VIEW FROM NORTH

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500028