

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0681300

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **AUG 9 1978**
DATE ENTERED **DEC 12 1978**

**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

Big Bend Rural School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Missouri Highway 19

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Steelville

VICINITY OF
CODE

#9 - Hon. Harold L. Volkmer

STATE

Missouri

29

Crawford

055

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

___PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

OTHER: Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Crawford County Historical Society

STREET & NUMBER

Recklein Memorial Building, adjacent to 304 North Smith Street

CITY, TOWN

Cuba

VICINITY OF

Missouri 65453

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Crawford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Steelville

STATE

Missouri 65565

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Missouri State Historical Survey

DATE

1975, 1978

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Jefferson City

STATE

Missouri 65102

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bid Bend Rural School, Steelville vicinity, Crawford County, Missouri is a rectangular, frame building which is constructed in simple, utilitarian manner.

EXTERIOR

Dimensions

The school measures 20' along its east and west sides and 25' along the north and south. Since it is built on a slight slope, its foundations are 8" high at its east end and nearly 3' high on the west.

Features of construction

Big Bend Rural School is constructed on a foundation of native sandstone. Its exterior walls are faced with pine clapboards which were originally painted white. The gabled roof encloses a boxed cornice and is covered by a galvanized, standing seam, tin roof. The school originally had six windows, three on the east and three on the west. Five of these have been boarded up, and one, that at the southeast corner of the school, has been replaced by additional pine clapboarding. The present makeshift door is composed of three, vertically placed oak boards. A plain, brick, interior chimney is located on the gable ridge at the west end of the school.

INTERIOR

Big Bend School is a one room structure with no basement or attic. Its interior walls are faced with 1 1/2" tongue and groove boards placed horizontally to within 2 1/2' of the floor. Here, vertical tongue and groove wainscoting with panels 1 1/2" wide continues to the floor and encircles the room. The ceiling is faced with 2" tongue and groove panels, and the floor is covered by 3" floorboards. Stretching the length of the west wall is a low podium which is 8" in height and 3' deep. In the center of the west wall, near the gable peak, a flu is located which originally served a wood burning stove.

ALTERATIONS

The fabric of the building is unaltered except for the replacement of a window at the southeast corner with horizontal clapboarding. The roof of the school was originally covered with wooden shingles and featured a short, rectangular, wooden belfry at its east end which was faced with clapboards and topped with a gabled roof. This belfry was placed on the roof ridge at the east end of the school, just above the front door. These features were removed at an unknown date. The original windows were two-over-two, double-hung sash.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

SITE

Big Bend School is located in a clearing on a prominent hill, three miles north of Steelville, Missouri, approximately 30' west of Missouri Highway 19. It is surrounded by ar. oak woods which stretches north and as far as the Meramec River on the south and west.² A sawmill for the Arneson Timber Company is located 1/4 mile to the southwest.

The school has two associated outbuildings. Directly northwest of the building is a dilapidated, rectangular, frame structure which rests on a concrete foundation and measures approximately 20' along its north and south sides and 10' along the east and west. It has an entrance opening on the south. This structure served as the original woodshed for the school. Further to the northwest and approximately 120' from the school, is a dilapidated, frame outhouse which faces south. Adjacent to the school, at its northwest corner, an underground, rainwater cistern is located, as well as vestiges of a former pump. The cistern was fed by a downspout which runs from the cornice on the corner of the school. Neither the outhouse nor the cistern is original to the building. In addition, the blackboard, which stretched along the west wall of the interior, the student's benches and the wood burning stove have all vanished at unknown dates.³

PRESENT STATUS AND CONDITION

The school and its property are securely under the protective ownership of the Crawford County Historical Society and restoration is planned pending the acquisition of funds. The building is in a deteriorated condition, especially at its west end where substantial cracks in the foundation have caused the frame to shift and the west wall to bow outward.

FOOTNOTES

1. James Breuer, "Big Bend School Organized in 1893," Cuba [Missouri] Free Press, November 29, 1973, pp. 18-19.
2. The school was named for the bend in the Meramec River which surrounds it at a distance.
3. Statement by Mr. Leroy Leezy, one of the original pupils of the school in 1893, personal interview with the Department of Natural Resources, May 11, 1978.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1949	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

John Salzer - Enterprise Planing Mill

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Big Bend Rural School, Steelville vicinity, Crawford County, Missouri is locally significant as a reminder of a simple, more rural way of life which has vanished from the American scene. In addition, the history of this school is intimately involved with several important periods and events in the story of education in Missouri.

In Missouri, formal movement toward a statewide system of education began in 1825 when the state legislature made it mandatory for each congressional township to form one or more school districts.¹ In 1839 the passage of the Geyer Act made possible the creation of a state school fund by authorizing the sale of the sixteenth section of land in each township to raise money for this purpose. In addition, this act designated each congressional township as an individual school district. The Kelly Act of 1853 abolished the township as the unit of educational organization and created instead small, autonomous districts of seven to nine square miles in area.² The passage of a law in 1866 returned to each township the duties of educational supervision, but by 1874, this law was revised, and the autonomous district was once again the educational unit in Missouri.³

By the 1850's and 1860's concern was growing over the quality of education in rural schools and conditions in one room schools in general within the state.⁴ Due to the passage of laws which provided more revenue for public schools and to the increasing availability of better, more qualified teachers as they completed courses of study in the state's normal schools, there was much improvement in the 1870's and 1880's.⁵ In Crawford County, however, there remained much concern over low enrollments and poor attendance. Early in the decade of the 1870's, only one-third of the county's children were enrolled in school, and few of those attended regularly.⁶

By the late 1880's, state allowances for education had again increased as a result of higher taxes and the sale of cleared, state swampland. In Crawford County by this date, over one-half of the male children of school age and nearly three-quarters of the females attended one of the eighty-seven county schools.⁷

The organization of Big Bend Rural School was a part of this growing interest in and availability of education in rural Missouri in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The school stands on one acre of an eighty acre tract which was granted by the U.S. Government to Levisa Wood, wife of John Wood, on September 2, 1882. On August 3, 1893 this land was sold to School District #6 in Crawford County for the sum of \$5.⁸ Pine lumber for the construction of the school was hauled by wagon from Smith's Sawmill in Washington County, Missouri, a distance of more than fifty miles. The building was constructed for the sum of \$100 by John Salzer, a partner with J.E. Hollow in the Enterprise Planing Mill.⁹

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Big Bend School Record. In possession of Mr. Leroy Leezy, Cuba, Missouri.
2. Breuer, James. "Big Bend School Organized in 1893," Cuba [Missouri] Free Press, November 29, 1973, pp. 18-19.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME "Steelville, Missouri"

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 642645 420600

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of one acre of land being a part of the northwest quarter (1/4) of the southwest quarter (1/4) of Section 21, Township 38 North, Range 4 West. Commencing 34 rods from the northwest corner of said tract running south with said tract 12 1/2 rods, thence

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

ORGANIZATION I. Noelle Soren, Architectural Historian

DATE

Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources

314/751-4096

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 176

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jefferson City Missouri 65102

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Robert L. Drensend

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 1, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

for Charles W. Hering

DATE

12-12-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

William H. Brathan 12-4-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

School began at Big Bend in September, 1893. Classes covered eight grade levels, and school was in session, in the early years, for only four to five months of the year due to farming activities which demanded the children's time.

At first there was neither outhouse nor running water at Big Bend. A wood-burning stove was located in the center of the school room, and its pipe stretched to the flu in the west wall. This extra length of pipe provided a little more heating surface on cold, winter days, and there was much competition to get seats under it or near the stove itself. Seating was provided for the students on a series of benches placed north and south, facing the teacher's desk on the west wall.¹⁰

Initially, the communities in the area of Big Bend placed a higher emphasis on their livelihood, farming, than on education. Consequently, students were often absent, and they remained at any given grade level as long as it required for them to complete the work to advance to the next. Due to this practice, they ranged in age from five or six to thirty years. During the school day, at the teacher's direction, the front bench was occupied by pupils in each grade level in succession so that each could receive the day's lesson at the blackboard on the west wall. At the same time, the rest of the students occupied the back rows of benches in study.

Students who completed the eight levels at the Big Bend School in the early years normally did not continue on to high school since it was not yet obligatory to do so. Those who did, however, were often highly motivated and encouraged on to greater things by their elementary school teachers.¹¹

In the early years and into the twentieth century, teachers at Big Bend were paid \$25 per month.¹² At this early date no special education or certification was required to enter the teaching profession in preparation for teaching at a small, rural school in Missouri.¹³ An outline for the basic course of instruction was provided to the teacher in standardized form from the Missouri Department of Education. It emphasized nature study and observation, such as seasonal studies of weather, insects and changes in plant life in the surrounding woods, as well as subjects such as simple arithmetic, American history and world geography.¹⁴ Instruction was primitive by today's standards, but the one room format allowed the motivated student to excel, move ahead of his fellows and finish sooner than would be possible under today's regimented system.¹⁵

Big Bend School closed in 1949 as a result of statewide school reorganization which was authorized under Missouri Senate Bill No. 307 of 1948. Its students joined the much larger, consolidated R-3 District in Steelville. Big Bend School and its associated land was sold at auction by the state on February 27, 1950 for \$651 to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Clinton. As a result of local citizen action on behalf of the school, the Clintons sold it and the land around it to the Crawford County Historical Society for the sum of \$1 on October 3, 1973.¹⁶

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The closing of Big Bend School and others like it was a part of the response of rural life to industrialization and the lure of the city which was felt across the country at the turn of the century.¹⁷ In Missouri, this change in the attitude toward education was a result of a declining rural population, changes in the dominant mode of transportation and efforts to provide equal educational opportunities for all on an equal basis. From an average of approximately fifty students per rural school in 1875, school population in small schools fell to such a degree that by 1944, 48% of the school districts in Missouri had fewer than ten pupils enrolled, and 12% had fewer than five pupils. In Crawford County by this date, fifty districts out of eighty-seven had fallen below fifteen in their average daily attendance and thirty-five schools had fallen below ten. Because of the strain which low attendance put on the cost of education per pupil, small schools quickly became difficult and uneconomical to maintain.¹⁸

Changes in the dominant mode of transportation in the early twentieth century also aided in the demise of the rural school. The location and multiplicity of early, rural schools was due to the practice of constructing them no more than the child-walking-distance per hour (two and one-half to three miles) from the families which they were designed to serve.¹⁹ With the advent of good, all-weather roads, the automobile and, finally, mass transit, this situation changed drastically. The need for many, closely-spaced schools vanished, and their existence became a financial burden to the state.²⁰ For example, it has been calculated that by the late forties the transportation of students by bus to larger schools cost school districts up to one-third less than to keep many small schools open near the students' homes.²¹

The last major cause of the demise of the rural school in Missouri can be found in the concern of adults for the safety and health of their children, the quality of their education and the equality with which it is administered. The White House Conference on Rural Education (1944) declared in its charter the right of each student to a good education equally available to all, adequate health services, library facilities, rural-oriented and well trained teachers, a twelve month course of study designed to cover twelve years and a modern, well equipped school building. Small rural schools such as Big Bend could not hope to meet these recommendations. Standards in teaching requirements at rural schools tended to be below those of larger, urban schools because small schools could not provide salaries high enough to attract highly educated and motivated teachers to an often isolated, rural environment. Very often rural teachers were those who could not find work in other more desirable locations.²² Moreover, due to high costs, rural schools such as Big Bend could not afford to stretch their school year from its five to eight month length for eight years to that recommended by the White House Commission. One result of this situation was the prevailing belief that rural students were not receiving as fine an education as their urban counterparts.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

In addition to these problems, small school buildings such as that at Big Bend were structurally not equipped to fulfill higher, modern standards of sanitation and comfort. As early as 1908 Missouri State Department of Education guidelines for school building construction included recommendations for water fountains, modern toilet facilities, efficient furnace systems rather than wood-burning stoves, cloakrooms and carefully controlled light sources emanating from left and rear of the school room only.²³ The date of these recommendations may provide a terminus post quem for the construction of the outhouse and cistern at Big Bend, but even with these improvements the school could not hope to be approved by the Board of Education due to its other basic deficiencies.²⁴

School consolidation moved slowly in Missouri. The state's first, far-reaching consolidation law, the Buford-Colley Law (1913), permitted but did not require the combining of districts, though state aid was granted as an incentive for consolidation.²⁵ This law was passed as a result of a nationwide survey completed by the Russell Sage Foundation in 1912 which ranked schools qualitatively. Missouri's schools ranked thirty-second, a circumstance which caused much concern and disbelief in the state. At the invitation of Missouri's Governor, Elliot W. Major, the Carnegie Foundation conducted another survey here in 1914 and found that the educational system of Missouri ranked below more than half of the other states with regard to quality due primarily to the low standards observed in the preparatory education of its teachers.²⁶ This result was anticipated by the Missouri General Assembly in 1913 when the Crossley Teacher Training Law was passed which required high school training and certification for all teachers in the state.²⁷

Another survey in 1927 in which Missouri gained a low ranking led to the passage of the School Law of 1931 which enlarged all districts to at least fifty square miles or \$1,500,000 assessed valuation. An assenting majority of voters in each district was required for passage of this redistricting, so consolidation remained a matter of choice.²⁸ By 1933 the state was encouraging consolidation under this law by giving aid to counties in the amount of \$1000 for each old school building abandoned.²⁹ The White House Conference on Rural Education (1944), which has already been mentioned, brought to the public's attention the degree of deficiency in rural education in a way in which it could no longer be ignored. The small schools in Missouri and elsewhere had to either adapt and provide expensive alterations, or die.

By 1948, due to these previously passed consolidation laws, the number of school districts in Missouri was reduced from 10,000 to 8,300.³⁰ In that year, Missouri Senate Bill No. 307 further reduced this number to 6,400. Crawford County reduced its districts from eighty-seven, many with fewer than ten pupils, to four, spelling the end for many small, rural schools including Big Bend.³¹ But, the school still stands, a reminder of the simpler, slower paced way of life from America's rural past.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on their selection as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." Big Bend School, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the theme of "Education."

FOOTNOTES

1. C.A. Phillips, "A Century of Education in Missouri," Missouri Historical Review, XV (January, 1921), p. 299.
2. Robert S. Townsend, Education in Missouri - An Informal History (Jefferson City: Missouri State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1976), p. 25 and Phillips, "A Century of Education in Missouri," p. 300. Mr. Townsend's book contains an excellent chronological outline of important events in the history of Missouri education.
3. Ray Scantlin, Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri (Jefferson City: Mid-State Printing Co., 1945), p. 24.
4. C.A. Phillips, A History of Education in Missouri (Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Co., 1911), pp. 47-51.
5. C.A. Phillips, "A Century of Education in Missouri," p. 202 and W.T. Carrington, History of Education in Missouri (Jefferson City: W.T. Carrington, State Superintendent, 1931), p. 136.
6. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888), pp. 612-613.
7. Ibid., p. 613.
8. James Breuer, "Big Bend School Organized in 1893," Cuba [Missouri] Free Press, November 29, 1973, pp. 18-19. School District #6 included sections 21, 22 and 28, Township 38, Range 4. The deed for this sale is in the possession of Mr. Leroy Leezy, Cuba, Missouri.
9. Ibid.
10. Statements in the above paragraphs are by Mr. Leroy Leezy, personal interview with the Department of Natural Resources, May 11, 1978.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

11. One such student was Leroy Leezy who still resides in Cuba, Missouri. Mr. Leezy was born on February 26, 1888 and attended Big Bend School from its beginning. He rapidly completed the eight grade levels there, and, due to the encouragement of his teacher at Big Bend, Miss Ollie Lay, he continued through high school in Steelville and college at Washington University at St. Louis. Mr. Leezy has served in many capacities: as U.S. Army Mechanic First Class overseas during World War I; as a farmer and school teacher; as 16th Congressional District Deputy County Assessor; as County Treasurer and Probate Judge; as Justice of the Peace, City Councilman, undertaker, oil and milling businessman; as Postmaster of Oak Hill, Missouri; as Cashier and Director of the Bank of Oak Hill; as Treasurer of the City of Cuba; as Director of People's Bank in Cuba; as Director of Cuba Development Company and as a real estate and insurance businessman. He is a member of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Order of the Eastern Star and the American Legion, among other organizations. Mr. Leezy fondly remembers Big Bend School and readily acknowledges that its organization enabled him to move ahead in class at a faster pace than would be possible under conventional educational organization today. Statement by Leroy Leezy, personal interview with the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation, May 11, 1978 and Who's What and Why in Missouri (Hopkinsville: Historical Record Association, 1959), p. 282.
12. Big Bend School Record, n.p. lists the salaries paid to each teacher. Male teachers were always paid a dollar or two more than their female counterparts.
13. The Crossley Teacher Training Law which set standards for the education of teachers was not passed until 1913. See below, Section 8, Page 3.
14. W.T. Carrington, Courses of Study Recommended for Rural and Village Schools (Jefferson City: W.T. Carrington, State Superintendent, 1903) and Howard A. Gass, ed., State Course of Study for Rural and Graded Schools in the State of Missouri (Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Education, 1915) are outlines of such courses of study.
15. Leroy Leezy is a living example of this. It is interesting to note that today's "progressive" educators are opting for school rooms without walls where students can learn from each other and from the teacher each at his or her own pace in something which approaches a one room environment.
16. James Breuer, "Big Bend School Organized in 1893." A copy of this deed is in the possession of the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri, 65102.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 9 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 6

17. Bertram I. Lawrence, "Some Fundamental Considerations Concerning Reorganizing School Units in Missouri" (unpublished Doctor's dissertation, University of Missouri, 1935), p. 17. By 1905, twenty states had passed school redistricting legislation.
18. Ray Scantlin, Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri, pp. 123, 135 and 152.
19. Ibid., p. 123. This area would have covered six to nine sections of land occupied by fifteen to twenty-five families in those days.
20. Bertram I. Lawrence, "Some Fundamental Considerations Concerning Reorganizing School Units in Missouri", p. 9 and Ray Scantlin, Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri, pp. 126 and 141.
21. Missouri Looks at Her Rural Schools (Missouri Farm Bureau, et. al., 1946), n.p.
22. Ray Scantlin, Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri, p. 131 and Bertram I. Lawrence, "Some Fundamental Considerations Concerning Reorganizing School Units in Missouri", pp. 26-28. In 1935, teachers in small schools in Missouri did not meet minimum requirements in 90% of cases. One-sixth of them had no college education and another one-sixth had no previous teaching experience.
23. Recommendations for building requirements can be found in Howard A. Gass, School Buildings for Rural Villages and Districts (Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Co., 1908), pp. 5-13 and George W. Reavis, Plans for School Improvement in Villages and Rural Communities (Jefferson City: State Department of Education, 1914), pp. 50-51.
24. The existence of books such as that by George W. Reavis which is cited above indicates that rural schools did make an effort to improve even though costs were prohibitive.
25. Robert Townsend, Education in Missouri - An Informal History, p. 30 and Hubert Wheeler, Summary of School District Reorganization Under Senate Bill No. 307 (Jefferson City: Missouri State Department of Education, 1950), p. 1.
26. Ray Scantlin, Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri, p. 28.
27. C.A. Phillips, "A Century of Education in Missouri", p. 314.
28. Ray Scantlin, Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri, p. 34.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 7

29. Ibid., p. 35.

30. Hubert Wheeler, Summary of School District Reorganization Under Senate Bill No. 307, p. 1.

31. Ray Scantlin, Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri, pp. 144-146, Hubert Wheeler, Summary of School District Reorganization under Senate Bill No. 307, p. 23 and James Breuer, Crawford County and Cuba, Missouri (Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1972), p. 176.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. ----- . Crawford County and Cuba, Missouri. Cape Girardeau: Ramfre Press, 1972.
4. Carrington, W.T. Courses of Study Recommended for Rural and Village Schools. Jefferson City: W.T. Carrington, State Superintendant, 1903.
5. ----- . History of Education in Missouri. Jefferson City: W.T. Carrington, State Superintendant, 1931.
6. Gass, Howard A. School Buildings for Rural Villages and Districts. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Co., 1908.
7. ----- . ed. State Course of Study for Rural and Graded Schools in the State of Missouri. Jefferson City: Missouri Department of Education, 1915.
8. History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford and Gasconade Counties, Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888.
9. Lawrence, Bertram I. "Some Fundamental Considerations Concerning Reorganizing School Units in Missouri." Unpublished Doctor's dissertation, University of Missouri, 1935.
10. Leazy, Leroy. Personal interview with the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Historic Preservation, May 11, 1978.
11. Missouri Looks at Her Rural Schools. Missouri Farm Bureau, et. al., 1946.
12. Phillips, C.A. "A Century of Education in Missouri." Missouri Historical Review, XV (January, 1921), 298-314.
13. ----- . A History of Education in Missouri. Jefferson City: Hugh Stephens Printing Co., 1911.
14. Reavis, George W. Plans for School Improvement in Villages and Rural Communities. Jefferson City: State Department of Education, 1914.
15. Scantlin, Ray. Rural Education and Rural Life in Missouri. Jefferson City: Mid-State Printing Co., 1945.
16. Townsend, Robert S. Education in Missouri - An Informal History. Jefferson City: Missouri State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1976.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 9 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 12 1978

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

17. Wheeler, Hubert. Summary of School District Reorganization Under Senate Bill No. 307. Jefferson City: Missouri State Department of Education, 1950.

18. Who's What and Why in Missouri. Hopkinsville: Historical Record Association, 1959.

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

east 12 1/2 rods, thence north 12/ 1/2 rods, thence west 12 1/2 rods to the place of beginning, containing one acre more or less.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Mrs. J. Allen Kerr, Secretary
Crawford County Historical Society
Recklein Center
Cuba

Missouri 65453

Property

Big Bend Rural School

78001643

State

Mo.

Working Number

8.9.78.3794

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

~~U+M~~

CONTROL

pl

OK- 8.10.78

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT

DOBIE 12/1/78

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept

Bravham

12.4.78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

accept
Bravham

12.4.78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

2-6-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered

DEC 12 1978

Federal Register Entry

INT:2106-74



**BIG BEND
SCHOOL**
1893-1949
PROPERTY OF
CRAWFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL
Steelville vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Noelle Soren
May, 1978

#1

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
East side, entrance. Note wood shed to north-
west. Arneson Timber Company is just beyond
trees to southwest.

DEC 12 1978

AUG 9 1978



BIG BEND RURAL SCHOOL #2
Steelville vicinity, Missouri
Photographer: Noelle Soren
May, 1978

Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
South and west sides. Note paneled windows and
clapboarded window at southeast corner.

DEC 12 1978 AUG 9 1978

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MISSOURI
REPRESENTED BY THE
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND WATER RESOURCES

MISSOURI
STEELVILLE QUADRANGLE



U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle (1949)
Scale: 1:62,500
Big Bend Rural School
UTM REFERENCE:
15/ 642045/ 420607

RECEIVED
AUG 9 1978
NATIONAL REGISTER

Topography by F.L. Whaley
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken by Air Corps U.S. Army
Control by U.S. Geological Survey
Surveyed in 1932-1933
Partial highway revision, 1949

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Unimproved dirt - - - - -
State Route

APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1933



FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 2, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Polyconic projection: 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri (East)
rectangular coordinate system
1100-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

To join Meramec Spring map use dotted
projection corners

STEELVILLE, MO.
N 3745-W9115/15

1949

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MISSOURI

Date Entered **DEC 12 1978**

Name

Location

Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Depot

Marion City
Holt County

Big Bend Rural School

Stoesville vicinity
Crawford County

Honorable John C. Danforth
Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
Honorable E. Thomas Coleman
Honorable Richard H. Ichord

Also Notified

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Fred A. Laffer
State Department of Natural Resources
1001 SW. Blvd.
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Big Bend Rural School
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: DEC 12 1978
 ④ county code: 055

⑤ LOCATION street & number: MO 19
 city / town: Steelville
 vicinity of:
 state: MO
 county: Crawford
 ⑥ NPS REGION: Midwest

⑦ OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name)
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL
 ⑩ FUNDED? YES NO
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 9
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: NO
 ⑮ ACREAGE:
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION
 excellent good fair
 deteriorated ruins unexposed unexcavated
 altered unaltered reconstructed excavated
 original site moved unknown

⑰ features:
 INTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS: YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO
 ⑳ SAVED? YES
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 AGRICULTURE-3 ARCHITECTURE-4 ART-5
 ENGINEERING-11 ENTERTAINMENT-26 EXPLORATION-12 CONSERVATION-8 ECONOMICS-9 EDUCATION-10
 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 LAW-16 LITERATURE-17 MILITARY-18 MUSIC-19 PHILOSOPHY-20
 POLITICS/GOVT.-21 RELIGION-22 SCIENCE-23 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 TRANSPORTATION-25
 RECREATION-28 SETTLEMENT-29 URBAN PLANNING-31 OTHER (SPECIFY)

㉒ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉓ functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:
 ㉔ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:
 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉖ architectural style(s):
 ㉗ architect:
 ㉘ master builder:
 ㉙ engineer:

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉛ interior decorator:
 ㉜ artist:
 ㉝ artisan:
 ㉞ builder/contractor:

㉟ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP