

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Liberty Schoolhouse  
other names/site number Mt. Grove Schoolhouse/School District 91, Site #LO0271

**2. Location**

street & number 12682 Spring Lake Road  not for publication  
city or town Corley  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Logan code 083 zip code 72855

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination   
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets   
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
 nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined eligible for the  
National Register.  
 See continuation sheet  
 determined not eligible for the  
National Register.  
 removed from the National  
Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Liberty Schoolhouse  
Name of Property

Logan County, Arkansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
	2	structures
		objects
1	2	Total

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/School  
RELIGION/Religious Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls WOOD/Weatherboard  
roof METAL  
other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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**

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B.** removed from its original location.
- C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Religion

**Period of Significance**

1897-1944

**Significant Dates**

1897

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

**Architect/Builder**

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Liberty Schoolhouse  
Name of Property

Logan County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreeage of Property** Less than one acre.

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>453614</u> Easting	<u>3895173</u> Northing	3	<u>          </u> Zone	<u>          </u> Easting	<u>          </u> Northing
2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	4	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

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 Evan Silva, Intern, Edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 29, 2009  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Rogers Mt. Grove Cemetery  
street & number 1815 Skyline Dr. telephone (479) 970-0077  
city or town Russellville state AR zip code 72802

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## SUMMARY

The Liberty Schoolhouse is located in a rural area roughly seven miles southeast of Paris. It is a frame building topped with a corrugated metal gable roof. The building rests on a concrete block pier foundation. The building is also fenestrated by four-over-four, wood-frame windows, which are covered with wood shutters. In addition to the schoolhouse, there are two outhouses, which were built c.1997 that are non-contributing. Both the schoolhouse and outhouses are of wood frame construction. There is also an adjacent cemetery, although it is not included in the nomination.

## ELABORATION

The Liberty Schoolhouse, which was also used for religious services, is located in a rural area southeast of Corley. The property is bounded by the Ozark National Forest and the southwestern boundary is the Spring Lake Road and Copper Springs Road intersection. The principle era of construction is 1897. The schoolhouse is a prime example of a wood frame, one-room, and Plain-Traditional style schoolhouse/church in Arkansas. The walls of the building are weatherboard, which replaced the original board and batten siding in 1928, with a concrete block pier foundation. The roof is a steeply-pitched front-gable covered in corrugated tin sheet metal, which probably replaced the original roof in the same year that the siding was replaced. At this time the two front doors were also moved to the sides of the front façade, and two windows were placed in the center. There is also a brick chimney centered on the interior peak of the building.

On the property, there are two outhouses remaining that were built c.1997, both of which are considered to be non-contributing to the historic significance of the property. The outhouses have wood frame construction and board and batten siding. There is also an adjacent cemetery, although it is not included in the nomination.

### Southwest/Front Façade

The front façade of the building faces Spring Lake Road and is defined by its two doorways on the extreme sides of the façade, having been moved in 1928. In between the doorways the façade is fenestrated by two identical double-hung, four-pane windows with wooden shutters. Stone steps with an iron railing lead up to the eastern door, while the eastern doorway now has a vertical board panel. A modern light fixture is also located in the center of the gable peak.

### Northwest and Southeast Façades/Sides

The northwest and southeast façades are identical. These elevations are fenestrated with three, four-over-four, double-hung windows with wooden shutters.

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### Northeast Façade/Rear

The rear of the building faces northeast and is defined by a single door opening that led to a room where the lunches for the students were prepared with wood shutters on the extreme west side of the façade.

### Outhouses

There are two remaining wood frame outhouses that were built c.1997 that mirror the schoolhouse's original board and batten siding. The roofs of the outhouses are corrugated tin sheet metal. They are without fenestration.

### Integrity

The Liberty Schoolhouse has good integrity and still reflects its period of significance. The foundation, which is currently concrete-block piers, is likely a replacement from when the building was leveled in the 1990s that replaced what was probably a stone foundation. The building's siding has also been replaced and the front door and window arrangement has changed, but this occurred in 1928, during the building's period of significance. Also, at an unknown date a room was removed from the rear of the building. However, the building still very much reflects a vernacular church/school that was common in rural parts of Arkansas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In addition, the setting of the Liberty Schoolhouse remains very rural, also reflecting its setting during the building's period of significance.

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### SUMMARY

The Liberty Schoolhouse is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a good example of a Plain-Traditional church/schoolhouse. The exterior of the schoolhouse is without any modern alterations except the weatherboard siding, and a door and window rearrangement on the front façade, all of which took place in 1928. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with associations with education and religion in the Liberty Community. The building is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A** since the building is still used for religious purposes.

### ELABORATION

Logan County, located in the Arkansas River Valley in northwest Arkansas, is one of several counties in Arkansas having two county seats: Paris and Booneville. Although Logan County was not created until 1871, the area that is now Logan County has had a significant impact on the development of western Arkansas dating from territorial days. Some of the oldest settlements in western Arkansas were located in what is now Logan County. During territorial days and throughout the century, Roseville, a busy port on the Arkansas River, played a vital role in river transportation of goods and passengers. Settled around 1830, Booneville was the only trading center between Fort Smith and Dardanelle. The diverse contributions of Logan County in transportation, agriculture, timber production, coal mining, natural gas production, and industry have spurred the economic growth of the region. Logan County has been primarily an agricultural area with small farms growing crops of cotton and corn, raising beef cattle, and producing poultry. Other resources that have contributed to its economy are timber, coal, and natural gas. During the latter part of the 1900s, tourism began to play an important role in the economy when Mount Magazine State Park and other recreational facilities were developed.<sup>3</sup>

The antebellum controversy over slavery had little effect on residents of western Arkansas since most of them were not slave owners. However, when secession of the Southern states became imminent, residents began to line up in favor of either the Union or the Confederacy. After Arkansas joined the Confederacy and the Civil War broke out, Logan County supplied troops to both the Confederate and Union armies. Although military action in the county was limited to a minor skirmish or two during the war, the Logan County area was ransacked by both armies foraging for supplies while lawless bushwhackers raided and terrorized the area. During this period, Logan County was created as Sarber County from parts of Johnson, Yell, Scott, and Franklin counties. John Sarber, a Republican senator from Johnson County and a veteran of the Union army, introduced the bill creating the county in the state legislature at the urging of citizens of Clarksville, the Johnson County seat. The new county was proposed to counteract growing support for the relocation of the Johnson County seat from Clarksville to Spadra on the Arkansas River. Part of Johnson County lay south of

<sup>3</sup> Information found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=786> : Logan County, Information accessed 24 July 2009. Referenced in document as: (L.C.)

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the river, and its residents found it inconvenient and costly to ferry across and proceed to Clarksville, four miles north of the river. Changing the location from Clarksville to Spadra would give them a more convenient access to the county seat. Not wanting to lose the county seat, citizens of Clarksville proposed creating a new county with that part of Johnson County south of the Arkansas River. However, that area was not large enough for a new county. Additional land would have to be acquired from the neighboring counties. A deal was made with neighboring counties of Scott, Franklin, and Yell to grant parts of these counties to form a new county. Senator Sarber presented the proposal for a new county to the legislature, and an act was passed on March 22, 1871, creating "a county called Sarber."<sup>4</sup>

A site was selected on farmland near Short Mountain. A courthouse square was laid out, and the town of Paris grew up around it. By 1875, Reconstruction government had ended, and Democrats regained the dominant role in Arkansas government. Sarber County Democrats vehemently opposed the county being named after Sarber, who was considered a Yankee carpetbagger. The legislature was asked to change the name to Logan County in honor of James Logan, an early settler. On December 14, 1875, the name was changed to Logan County, with Paris named as the official county seat.<sup>5</sup>

At this time, dozens of small school districts were located in the vicinity of Paris. Each district supported a one- or two-room school that offered instruction through eight grades. In 1885, in response to the need for a school of higher learning in the area, the Paris Academy, a private school, was established. Its purpose was to provide a more advanced educational opportunity for young people, to prepare students for college, and to train teachers for the public schools. Many of the students came from towns and communities around Paris and boarded with Paris families to attend the school. In 1909, the school was taken into the Paris school system and, in 1918, became Paris High School, a four-year high school.<sup>6</sup>

The Arkansas Central Railroad began building a rail line from Fort Smith to Dardanelle through north Logan County. To establish industrious farming communities along the rail line, the company embarked on a campaign to entice German Catholic immigrants to settle along the line because the immigrants had proven to be hard-working and successful farmers in other states. Farmland was offered to the immigrants at attractive prices, and the railroad granted land to St. Meinrad Abbey in Indiana for a Catholic mission in Logan County. German settlement along the rail line grew quickly, resulting in the towns of Ratcliff, Subiaco, and Scranton.

<sup>4</sup> (L.C.)

<sup>5</sup> (L.C.)

<sup>6</sup> Information found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=924> : Paris (Logan County), Accessed on 24 July 2009.



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In the 1950s, economic conditions worsened. The coal mines in north Logan County closed. The tuberculosis sanatorium at Booneville cut back its operations as its patient population dropped. Residents again moved out of the county to find jobs. Once flourishing rural communities such as Sugar Grove, Driggs, Barber, Prairie View, Midway, Blaine, Roseville, and Chismville began to fade. Attracting small industries became a priority. These efforts paid off when small factories were established at Booneville, Paris, and Ratcliff, providing jobs for hundreds of workers producing such items as combs, shoes, and clothing.<sup>7</sup>

The Liberty Community was a small cluster of homes located on Huckleberry Mountain southeast of Paris in Logan County. While not serving as a main hub of commerce in the area, the community nevertheless constructed a schoolhouse, which also served as a church, for the use of the locals. The school, also known as the Mt. Grove School was completed in 1897, with the first official school being held in the fall of that year. The school was used until the U.S. involvement in World War II, as the final term was in 1944. A reason for this is the depopulation of the entire county due to high enlistment from this region and people seeking jobs elsewhere in wartime factories. Today, the building is only used on an occasional basis for services or pot luck suppers.

The Liberty Schoolhouse was an important place in the Liberty Community. In addition to the school building, a drilled well existed to the southwest of the building across Spring Lake Road, and a dug storm cellar was located southeast of the Spring Lake Road and Copper Springs Road intersection. A baseball field and playground, located on three acres deeded in 1925 by Alfred and Versia Rogers for \$36 was located to the east of the storm cellar.<sup>8</sup>

Interestingly, although the building was the center of the community, it apparently did not have electricity while it was in use as a school. (Electricity was first installed in the late 1990s.) The electrician who wired the building in the 1990s thought it was odd that a powerline ran off the main line and ended at a pole and transformer right by the building, although no evidence of wires was present in the building. As a result, it is believed that electricity was run to the area c.1945, but was never connected to the building since it was no longer in use by that time.<sup>9</sup>

Buildings like the Liberty Schoolhouse were important buildings in small rural communities throughout Arkansas during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Since they served as the school and, in some cases, like the Liberty Schoolhouse, as a church as well, the building was often the center of community life. It hosted school plays and functions, religious services, and important meetings as needed.

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Liberty Schoolhouse  
Name of Property

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Logan County, Arkansas  
County and State

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<sup>7</sup> (L.C.)

<sup>8</sup> Dickey, Bruce. E-mail to Ralph S. Wilcox of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 2 September 2009.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

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In the case of the Liberty Schoolhouse, the building's importance not only lies in the fact that it hosted the community's school classes and religious services. The Liberty Schoolhouse is also significant as the last remaining building from the former Liberty Community. As rural populations declined in parts of Arkansas during the first part of the twentieth century, a good number of small rural communities disappeared, often with no trace of them remaining today. In the case of the Liberty Community, only the Liberty Schoolhouse and the adjacent cemetery remain.

The Liberty Schoolhouse represents a good example of a vernacular, Plain-Traditional school and church building, a building type that was once common throughout Arkansas. It also represents an important tangible reminder of the religious and educational life of the Liberty Community, and it remains today an important link to this small community of rural Logan County.

## Statement of Significance

The Liberty Schoolhouse is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a good example of a Plain-Traditional church/schoolhouse. The exterior of the schoolhouse is without any modern alterations except the weatherboard siding, and a door and window rearrangement on the front façade, all of which took place in 1928. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with associations with education and religion in the Liberty Community. The building is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A** since the building is still used for religious purposes.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Dickey, Bruce. E-mail to Ralph S. Wilcox of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 2 September 2009.

Dickey, Bruce, Trustee of Rogers Mt. Grove Cemetery. Information submitted to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Logan County, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=786> : Information accessed 24 July 2009.

Paris (Logan County), <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=924> : Information accessed on 24 July 2009.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at UTM Point 15/453598/3895179, proceed southeast parallel to Spring Lake Road for 75 feet, thence proceed northeast perpendicular to Spring Lake Road for 75 feet, thence proceed northwest parallel to Spring Lake Road for 75 feet, thence proceed southwest perpendicular to Spring Lake Road for 75 feet to the beginning point. The property encompasses approximately less than one acre.

### Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the property that is historically associated with the Liberty Schoolhouse.