

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery

other names/site number Cave Springs School

2. Location

street & number 4323 County Road 4 N/A not for publication

city or town Sarcoxie X vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Jasper code 097 zip code 64862

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local



Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO



Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Name of Property

Jasper County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3		buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
4		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/school

Religion/religious facility

Funerary/cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/school

Recreation and Culture/museum

Funerary/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Mass vernacular one-teacher school

Other: Cemetery

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE/limestone

walls: BRICK

roof: WOOD/Shingle

other: _____

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Name of Property

Jasper County, Missouri
County and State

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 a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Education

Social History

Period of Significance

c. 1840-1966

Significant Dates

1862-1866

1875

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Duncan, William

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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 # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Name of Property

Jasper County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.43 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 405425 4108045
Zone Easting Northing

2 15 405518 4108039
Zone Easting Northing

3 15 405530 4107667
Zone Easting Northing

4 15 405407 4107663
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Helen K. Hunter, Special Projects (also see continuation sheet)

organization Eastern Jasper County Historic Sites Association date October 1, 2011

street & number 1740 S. Maple telephone 417-359-8765

city or town Carthage state MO zip code 64830

e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner:

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

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

Summary:

The Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery are located on County Road 4, north of its intersection with Dogwood Lane in rural Jasper County, Missouri. The nearly 8 acre tract contains the last remnants of the Cave Spring community, a brick school constructed c. 1840 (rebuilt with the same materials in c. 1875) with associated privies (c. 1935) (3 contributing buildings), and a large historic cemetery with graves dating from c. 1840 to 2011 (one contributing site). The gable-front brick schoolhouse is an example of the "Mass Vernacular One-Teacher School" property type described in the "One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri" Multiple Property Documentation Form. It has two front doors and a large hipped roof porch added in the early 20th century. Behind the building are two stone privies with side gable roofs. The large cemetery is located on a long narrow tract approximately 6.5 acres in size. Typical of rural cemeteries, the graves predominantly face east in long rows running north to south. Markers vary from simple limestone slabs to more substantial granite blocks. The cemetery also includes a few examples of markers typical of the Victorian era such as obelisks and urn-topped posts. The property is well maintained and retains integrity to its historic period.

Elaboration:

Setting

Cave Spring School and Cemetery are located in eastern Jasper County, near its border with Lawrence County. The property was at the center of the Cave Spring community, which was not so much a town as a small settlement that provided a social center for the larger agricultural community. The setting today is rural with forested land immediately to the west and northeast and large fields and pastures further out. The cave entrance and spring, from which the school and cemetery take their name, is located across County Road 4, southeast of the school.

The school and cemetery properties are relatively level with densely planted trees along the western and northern borders. A large grassy lot surrounds the school with scattered shade trees. The cemetery is also largely open with grassy lawns and scattered trees. Trees are predominantly native hardwoods, though the cemetery also contains trees historically associated with rural cemeteries such as cedars. Many graves also retain historic plantings typical of rural cemeteries including yuccas. (See photo 13)

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 7 Page 2

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

The overall setting and site have changed little since the school closed in 1966. Some small additions have been made to the site, including the installation in 2009 of a Civil War monument. Installed along the fence-line between the schoolyard and cemetery, the limestone (locally known as Carthage Marble) monument honors the lives of Union Soldiers and Citizens of Cave Spring and nearby Bower's Mill who lost their lives during the Civil War.

Cave Spring School

East elevation:

The Cave Spring School is a one-story brick Mass Vernacular school with a steeply pitched front gable and a wood shingle roof. The simple rectangular plan building sits on a limestone foundation and has a footprint of approximately 21' X 40.' (?). A full-width hipped roof porch, added in c. 1937 (the construction date is written in the cement of the steps), extends across the façade. It has a concrete base and simple square posts. Rafter tails are exposed along the eaves. The porch is deep allowing room for a long-handled pump connected by pipe to Cave Spring, a portion of which runs below the school. The porch also shelters the school's two front doors, one for girls and one for boys. The two doors have three vertical divided lights over three horizontal panels. The doors are not original, but likely date the 1941 remodeling of the building. (See photos 1, 2 and 11) A flagpole is centered in front of the building immediately adjacent to the porch steps. Next to it is a small stone marker commemorating the history of the school and its restoration in 2007.

North and South elevations:

The north wall is four bays wide with evenly spaced two-over-two double hung windows in the western three bays. The eastern most bay has a cross gable, likely the remnant of the roof of a late 19th century frame addition seen in turn-of-the-century photographs. (See figure 1) The window in this bay is smaller than the others on the wall, and the brick around the window shows signs of alterations—likely to enclose the door that accessed the frame addition. Intersecting the corner of the window is a brick chimney that extends up the clapboard gable and through the roofline. Below the windows, near the interior floor line, are three evenly spaced vents. (See photos 1 and 2)

Like the north wall, the south elevation is four bays with each bay containing two-over-two double hung wood sash. The windows on this wall align with those on the north wall, providing cross ventilation.

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Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

West elevation:

The west elevation is a blank brick wall with no fenestration or ornamentation.

Interior:

The interior of the school is one large room with plaster walls and simple wood moldings around doors and windows. The ceiling is grid work of thin wood panels with 1940s era light fixtures. The floors are polished tongue and groove oak boards.

The school retains furnishing typical of early-20th century rural schools. A blackboard lines the (west) wall and wraps the corners of the room to the first window on the north and south walls. A teacher's desk is centered in front of the blackboard and there are four rows of fixed cast iron and wood student desks. The desks graduate in height with the smallest near the front of the classroom. Bookcases line the north wall and there is a wood-burning (non-functioning) cast iron stove in the northeast corner. A built-in storage cupboard is attached to the east wall between the two doors.

Cave Spring School Privies

Behind the school, near the southwest and northwest corners of the property are two stone privies. Thought to have been constructed in the 1930s, possibly with funding from the Works Progress Administration, the two small buildings are identical in design. The small rectangular buildings are of rubble stone construction with a plain wood door centered in one long wall. The roof is side gable with wood shingles and exposed rafter tails.

Cave Spring Cemetery

The Cave Spring Cemetery is located north of the schoolyard on an approximately 6.9 acre lot. A wood fence marks the boundary between the two properties. The cemetery is a long narrow rectangle with the long eastern side fronting County Road 4. The developed portion of the cemetery is concentrated close to the county road and in the northern quarter of the property. Much of the remaining property is heavily wooded and undeveloped. (See Figure 2) An access road enters the cemetery near the northeast corner of the property, roughly where County road 4 begins to curve to the east. The drive extends west across half the width of the cemetery before turning south in a broad S curve. It then follows the tree line and the developed section of the cemetery, entering the school property behind the school building.

National Register of Historic Places
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Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

The cemetery contains more than 420¹ marked graves dating from 1840 to the present. Typical of rural cemeteries, the graves are laid in long rows running north and south with markers facing east. The markers range in type and include simple limestone slabs, the inscriptions of which have been obscured by time and weathering, marble slabs and posts, and more modern granite blocks. Scattered throughout the cemetery are markers reflective of Victorian Era funerary practices, notably slabs with engraved doves, hands, and other symbols and Late Victorian posts with Gothic arches, drapes, and urns.

Most of the trees on the property are concentrated in the south and west, and along the northern border. Scattered among the grave markers, however, are some native hardwood. There are also a few cedar trees, a tree commonly planted in rural cemeteries. Other historic plantings remain around the bases of some markers, notably yucca and lilies. These too are typical of rural Missouri cemeteries.

¹ A cemetery record produced by Colleen Belk in 1968 noted 419 headstones and markers and several fieldstones that could have been used as grave markers. Since 1968, there have been several more interments at the cemetery.

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Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

Summary:

The Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery, located off of County Road 4 in rural eastern Jasper County, Missouri, are locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Social History. The property contains the last remnants of the Cave Spring community and two of its most important institutions—the school and cemetery. The school is an example of the Mass Vernacular one-teacher school property type described by the “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri” Multiple Property Cover Document (MPDF). Initially constructed in c. 1840, the school was used for more than 125 years and its use spans all five periods of rural school development outlined in the MPDF, from settlement period to consolidation. The significance of the school goes beyond its representation of rural school development. During the Civil War the building became the center of a small fort and camp housing Missouri Enrolled Militia (Union) troops led by Capt. Green S. Stotts. With the destruction of the courthouse in Carthage, the building also served as the temporary county courthouse from October 1865 to September 1866. Its rough treatment during the war necessitated its partial reconstruction using many of the same materials in c. 1875. Afterward, the building continued to be used both as a school and social center for the community, housing the polling place, church services and local entertainments. Likewise, the cemetery has a long and significant history. One of the earliest burial grounds in the county with interments dating to c. 1840, the cemetery was an important social institution to the citizens of the region and those buried there represent the earliest settlers and their descendants. The cemetery meets Criteria Consideration D because its significance is due to its representation of early settlement patterns and burial customs of the region. The period of significance of the property is c. 1840, the date of initial construction of the school and earliest burials in the cemetery, to 1966 the date the school closed due to rural school consolidation.

Elaboration:

The Cave Spring Settlement

The Cave Spring community is the second oldest settlement in Jasper County and takes its name from nearby Cave Spring. The spring was an important local source of water and temporary camp ground during the early settlement period of southwestern Missouri. By the early 1830s, the springs were already “quite noted,” and “Oftentimes as many as twenty immigrant wagons could be seen around them, sometimes remaining for days.”² Though a waypoint for many, Cave Springs also attracted permanent settlement clustered around the homestead of William Duncan. Duncan

² *History of Jasper County, Missouri*. Des Moines: Mills & Co., 1883, p.680.

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Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

(1806—1892) came to Cave Springs in 1836 (some accounts say 1833) with his wife Eliza, and parents Moses and Sara.³

Described as “preacher/teacher/brickmaker/tanner,”⁴ William Duncan and his family had a significant impact on the physical and social character of the Cave Spring community. William is cited in several sources as a Methodist minister, and one account notes that he may have aspired to open a Methodist female academy.⁵ This ambition remained unfulfilled, but the Duncans supported the local school, providing land and materials for its construction. William, as noted, was a brick maker and bricks from his kiln were used to construct the two-story Duncan family home (demolished c. 1950), the central passage John Henry Home (burned sometime after c. 1970), and the Cave Spring schoolhouse. It was also the Duncans that donated land for the Cave Spring Cemetery, and members of the family constitute some of the earliest burials.

Cave Spring School

The early history of the Cave Spring School like that of the Cave Spring settlement is murky, at best. The *History of Jasper County*, published in 1883, cites it as the second school in Sarcoxie Township (possibly in the county) and gives 1840 as the date of its organization.⁶ The first terms of the school may have been held in a log building ¼ to ½ mile northwest of its current location. This is gleaned from an account of Mrs. H. J. McPhatridge who in 1861 lived “close to the old log school house northwest of Cave Springs.”⁷ Construction or reuse of a log building for school purposes was common in Missouri’s settlement and early statehood period, and most were replaced as time and funding allowed.⁸

The original log school was used only for a short time before a substantial brick schoolhouse was constructed on the current site, ostensibly to be closer to water. The date of construction for the new schoolhouse varies widely from 1838 to c. 1850.⁹

³ Ibid., pp. 680-681.

⁴ Marvin L. VanGilder. *Jasper County: The First Two Hundred Years*. Carthage: Marvin L. VanGilder and the Jasper County Commission, 1995, p.21.

⁵ Harlan Snow. “Little More than Name Remains . . . Indians, Pioneers, Settlers Found Cave Spring Peaceful, Refreshing.” *Joplin Globe*, June 7, 1970.

⁶ *History of Jasper County, Missouri*, p. 659.

⁷ Leonard Orwig. “A Freedom Ride, Civil War Style,” *Carthage Evening Press Civil War Centennial Edition*, June 28, 1961.

⁸ Tiffany Patterson. “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973,” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2012. Section E, p. 22.

⁹ The DAR marker affixed to the side of the school gives the 1838 date. Guy E. Henry, a descendant of early settler John Henry, asserted that the school was probably constructed in 1849 or 1850, as noted in: Bonnie Robinson, “Cave Springs A Historic Spot.” *Carthage Press*, April 21, 1986.

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Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

There are several references to the school being owned and used by the Methodist Episcopal Church. William Duncan was licensed as a Methodist exhorter (lay minister, usually under the supervision of a circuit rider) in 1846,¹⁰ and he may have built the school around that time for the use of his congregation. Pre-Civil War records of the school are not known to exist, though there are hints in the historic record that a school was operating on the site (or nearby) in the 1840s. The 1850 census shows five of William Duncan's children, ranging in age from 10 to 18, as having attended school "in the last year."¹¹ Similar notations for William Duncan's children and those for his neighbors in the 1860 census indicate continued support of the local school.¹²

The history of the Cave Spring School during the Civil War is more concrete. Like many rural schools during the duration of the war, formal educational activities essentially ceased outside of large cities.¹³ At Cave Spring, they not only ceased teaching but the school was taken over in 1862 by Capt. Green Stotts and his Company C of the 76th Regiment, Enrolled Militia (state supported Union forces). Stotts used the school as the company headquarters until the end of the war in 1865. Cave Springs may have attracted the small Union garrison for several reasons, notably its ready supply of water, the small pocket of Union sympathizers in the area, and the sturdily built brick schoolhouse.

Jasper County was a politically volatile and divided area of the state with sentiments falling into three general categories. Pro-Union minded citizens fell into two camps, those that unconditionally supported the Union, and those that supported the Union as long as the Confederate states were not required to rejoin the Union. The majority of county residents were Southern sympathizers, advocating Missouri's immediate secession.¹⁴ At Cave Springs, the Union found strong support in long-time resident John Henry. Henry had purportedly been a friend to Abraham Lincoln, serving with him during the Black Hawk War and working with him at the Illinois statehouse.¹⁵ While John Henry's size (supposedly about 300 pounds) precluded him from serving, several of his sons joined Federal or State Union regiments. One son, Brice Henry, served in

¹⁰ *History of Jasper County, Missouri*, p. 681.

¹¹ "Sarcoxie, Jasper, Missouri," 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by Family Search. Roll: M432_402; Page: 361B; Image: 275. Accessed 3/12/2012.

¹² "Sarcoxie, Jasper, Missouri," 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by Family Search. Roll: M653_624; Page: 777; Image: 237; Family History Library Film: 803624. Accessed 3/12/2012.

¹³ Patterson, Section E, p. 6.

¹⁴ Ward L. Schrantz. *Jasper County, Missouri, in the Civil War*. Carthage, MO: The Carthage Press, 1923, p. 26.

¹⁵ A. H. Rogers. "Cave Springs Vicinity is Rich in Memories." *Joplin Globe*, March 16, 1958.

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Section number 8 Page 8

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

Company G, Missouri Enrolled Militia and was killed in a skirmish near Carthage in 1864.¹⁶

Cave Springs was also strategically located just north of Sarcoxie, a town which had long been a stronghold of Southern sympathizers. Jasper County historians note that Sarcoxie may have been the first place in Missouri where the Confederate flag was flown, unfurled after news of the surrender of Ft. Sumpter reached town.¹⁷ Even before the April 12, 1861 battle at Ft. Sumpter, State Senator James S. Rains prepared for war by raising some 80 volunteers in Sarcoxie on March 1, 1861 to fight for the Confederate cause. Senator Rains later became a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army.

By 1862 Missouri was ostensibly under Federal control, but strong sympathy for the Southern cause made guerilla warfare a problem in the state. In light of recruitment to guerilla bands and their success in winning skirmishes such as that at Lone Jack in Jackson County (August 16, 1862), Missouri required men of military age that were loyal to the Union to enroll in the "Enrolled Militia."¹⁸ In Jasper County, Capt. Green C. Stotts organized a company known as Company C of the 76th Regiment, Enrolled Militia (later known as Company C, Seventh Provisional). Formed of men from Jasper and Lawrence counties, the company encamped at Cave Springs.¹⁹ Cave Springs and its brick schoolhouse remained the basecamp for the company for most of the war. From there Stotts lead groups to suppress guerilla activity in the region and engaged in numerous skirmishes.

Civil War-related activity at Cave Springs adds an interesting layer to the school's history, but was not kind to the building itself. To secure the school, "Loopholes were cut through the walls for musketry fire, [and] strong abattis of felled trees with sharpened branches pointing outwards prevented any sudden charge by mounted men."²⁰ Holes knocked through the walls and hard use throughout the war years left the schoolhouse compromised structurally. According to a 1922 article on the school "More than one resident of the locality remembers the old school house as it used to be, the loopholes letting in the air and the tottery walls propped up by logs."²¹

Despite its deteriorated condition, at the close of the Civil War the school still had some advantages. It was made of brick and it was still standing, unlike the courthouse in the

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ *History of Jasper County, Missouri*, p. 663.

¹⁸ Scrantz, p. 70.

¹⁹ Ibid. pp. 70 & 113. Enrolled Militia Companies were called up for intermittent service. Provisional Enrolled Militia companies were to be continually in active service.

²⁰ "Historic School House." *Carthage Press*, September 7, 1922.

²¹ Ibid.

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Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery
Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

Jasper County seat of Carthage. Prior to the war, Carthage and Sarcxie were Jasper County's two largest towns, but both sustained damage during various battles and skirmishes—notably the burning of the courthouse in 1863. The destruction of these two communities may have been the reason that the Missouri Governor appointed Cave Springs as the temporary seat of Jasper County government in 1865.

When the Jasper County Court met in October 1865, they convened at Cave Spring School. There they began the critical work of reorganizing county government and reconstituting its records and finances. Prior to the Civil War leading county officials on both sides of the slavery/secession issue worked together to preserve the County's treasury and its court records. Judge John Onstott (a Southern sympathizer) took charge of the county's funds, some \$1,055 in gold and \$200 in currency. The gold he buried on the family farm. Fearing the currency would rot, he entrusted the bills to his wife. Unfortunately, the Onstott home was raided and the \$200 in currency stolen; the gold was undetected. When the County court reconvened at Cave Spring in 1865, Onstott returned the gold to the commission and sold some personal property (horses and a wagon) to make up the \$200.²²

County records were initially entrusted to Stanfield Ross, the county clerk. Ross, also a southern sympathizer, followed Governor Claiborne Jackson and his Confederate troops to Neosho, temporarily storing the records at the jail there. When the Confederates were forced out of Neosho, Norris Hood rescued the records and, escorted by federal troops, took them to Ft. Scott for the duration of the war.²³ When the County Court reconvened on August 7, 1865 one of their first actions was to pay Thomas Alexander \$30 for hauling county records from Hood's residence in Ft. Scott back to Cave Springs.²⁴

At Cave Springs, the County Court wasted no time in reorganizing county government and supporting county businesses. During the month of August 1865, the county appointed several justices of the peace and a new county treasurer (James Spencer). The court ordered an assessment of property for tax purposes, and began licensing businesses. Some of the first to request licenses were dram shops (saloons). The county set the tax on these shops at \$33.00 for each six months in addition to the state tax of \$17.00.²⁵

²²Scrantz, pp. 45-46.

²³Ibid., pp. 47-48.

²⁴"Jasper County Reorganized and Carthage Starts Anew in 1865." *Carthage (MO.) Evening Press*, November 2, 1950.

²⁵Ibid.

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Cemetery

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring

Jasper County, Missouri
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, MPDF

The County Court may have been looking to secure the future of the county, but echos of the war still reverberated. The Circuit Court, also meeting at Cave Spring School, faced at least two wrongful death suits in 1865. Martha Hood and Martha Clark, in separate claims though against the same group of men, charged that on July 20, 1864 the defendants did "unlawfully, maliciously, willfully, deliberately & premeditatedly & feloniously then & there with guns in their hands . . . loaded with gun powder & leaden bullets . . ." kill Orange Clark and William Hood. Clark and Hood, according to the court records had surrendered to the defendants as prisoners. Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Hood asked that \$5000 (each) in damages be awarded to them for the care, clothing and education of their children.²⁶

By October 1866 Carthage, the county seat, had recovered to the extent that the county and circuit court were moved back to the more centrally located city. Cave Springs School returned to the business of serving as a church and educating the youth of the community. Despite the claim in the 1867 gazetteer of Missouri that noted that the Methodist Episcopal Church, South had "a good edifice at Cave Spring,"²⁷ local accounts note that the school was showing signs of age and hard use in the immediate postwar years. In 1873, the Jasper County Superintendent of Schools reported that:

House built by the M.E. Church South, and I understand still owned by that society. It is unfit for school purposes and I am glad to learn that the district contemplates building a house soon. This house is open and cold, is supplied with a huge fire-place at one end, and a box stove at the middle, and the amount of wood consumed by these two destroyers of fuel require nearly all the time of the small boys, and well did they perform their part in this.²⁸

The Cave Spring school district did not take immediate action on the Superintendent's comments, nor did they build a new school from the ground up. Instead in c.1875 the district repaired and reconfigured the existing school reusing many of the original materials. The remodeled schoolhouse sat on the original limestone block foundation,

²⁶ "Martha Clark vs David Rush, Monroe Scott, Hugh Charles, Edward Halsel, Thomas Hockins, Hubbard Johnson, Daniel Johnson, John M Wilson, Wiley Webb, John Webb, James Tunnel, William A. McRae, Isaac Scott & Richard Fisher." Circuit Court Records, 1865. On file at the Jasper County Courthouse, Carthage, Missouri.; "Martha P Hood vs David Rush, Monroe Scott, Hugh Charles, Edward Halsel, Thomas Halsel, Thomas Hockins, Hubbard Johnson, Daniel Johnson, John M Wilson, Wiley Webb, John Webb, James Tunnel, William A. McRae, Isaac Scott & Richard Fisher." Circuit Court Records, 1865. On file at the Jasper County Courthouse, Carthage, Missouri.

²⁷ *Missouri as it is in 1867: An Illustrated Historical Gazetteer of Missouri*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott, 1867, p. 286.

²⁸ "County Superintendent Report." *Carthage Banner*, March 13, 1873.

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but the fireplace was removed in favor of solid walls and more efficient heating stoves. The remodeling may have been completed, in part, by the builder of the original brick school, William Duncan. Unlike previous censuses that listed Duncan as a "farmer," in the 1870 census Duncan claimed "Brick Mason" as his profession.²⁹ The newly remodeled school shared many of the characteristics of the earlier model. Both were constructed on the same limestone foundation, and both had gable roofs. The original brick school may have had its entry on one long side rather than the gable end, as the *Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue* notes that it had a "fireplace on each end."³⁰ It is unknown who provided this information and it could not be found in other references. Regardless, the remodeled school had two front doors evenly spaced on the eastern gable wall, and four windows on the north and south elevation. It is typical of the Mass Vernacular One-Teacher Schools built for rural districts in Missouri. While most examples of the type in the state were of frame construction, the use of brick was not uncommon and was logical considering the schools primary benefactor was a mason and brick maker.

Like the early years of the school, little is known about the school during the Reconstruction Era. The county superintendent's 1873 report of a visit to the school may give a hint as to its general character in the last quarter of the 19th Century. According to the superintendent the term was four months and 59 pupils were enrolled, though the average daily attendance was around 37. Discipline may have been a concern, as he "found a pretty good set of pupils but the order bad and a great amount of confusion."³¹

The number of children enrolled and attending the school likely varied greatly throughout the late 19th Century. Missouri did not have a compulsory attendance law until the early 20th century, so attendance depended on the weather and parents. The school building itself continued to evolve during the period. Historic photographs from the early 1900s show a frame addition on the northeast corner of the property. (See figure 1) One source mentioned that the frame addition was a classroom, but it does not look large enough for such a use in the photograph. Additionally, there were no windows on the addition's east elevation. The room may have been used for storage or to house the teacher. If still owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church at the time of construction, the room may also have been used to house traveling ministers on the

²⁹ "Sarcoxie, Jasper, Missouri," 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by Family Search. Roll: M593_783; Page: 175A; Image: 353; Family History Library Film: 552282.

³⁰ Dorothy J. Caldwell, ed. *Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue*, Columbia, MO: The State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963, p.83.

³¹ "County Superintendent Report." *Carthage Banner*, March 13, 1873.

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local circuit. The addition was removed c. 1928 and reutilized as a garage for the teacher's car and storage shed.³² The removal of the frame addition left its mark on the school, leaving behind a cross gable on the north elevation and a reconfigured window opening.

The last significant alteration to the school occurred in the mid-1930s and/or early 1940s. It is generally held that the large front porch was added to the building in 1937, but it may have been constructed in response to deficiencies in the school outlined by the Jasper County Health Department on December 29, 1941.³³ The Health Department conducted a sanitary survey of the school on December 17, 1941. The letter noted 12 significant deficiencies in the school and provided a list of five recommendations. Several of the health issues related to the privies which did not meet state health specifications, lacked toilet paper, and were not accessible via all-weather walks. Sanitary drinking water and general cleanliness (lack of soap) were also concerns.

The school building was also remarked on, notably the windows and doors. Recommendations for school design and remodeling included a certain amount of window space per room size, and that windows should be grouped on one side of the classroom because one-directional light reduced eye-strain. The list of "defects" included comments that "Window space is not adequate," "Light enters room from both sides" and "Window boards were not provided." The comments also noted that the doors opened inward, a safety issue in case of fire.

The health department's recommendations varied from small things like providing soap, to more expensive alterations to the school building and grounds. There are no written records of the school board's response, but there is some evidence on site that at least some of the recommendations were addressed. The original solid panel front doors were replaced by doors that swung outward and that had glass panes in the upper half. This measure addressed both the fire-hazard concerns and increased the schools window area which was according to recommendations to be "equivalent to 20 percent of the total floor area." The school's trustees also apparently took the recommendation of the health department to apply for assistance from the Works Projects Administration (WPA) to construct new privies. According to the health department "At the present time this type [sanitary pit] of privy can be obtained for the cost of materials only. W.P.A. supplies all labor for construction and installation free of charge." The two stone privies behind the school are typical of WPA construction from the period.

³² Snow.

³³ Letter, Jasper County Health Department to Mr. Jesse M. Dennison, President, Cave Spring School #107., December 29, 1941. On file with the Easter Jasper County Historic Sites Association.

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The c. 1940s era upgrades to the school extended its life and usefulness for nearly three more decades. The building continued to be used as a public school until it was consolidated with the Sarcoxie school district in 1966. Much of what we know about daily life at the school comes from those who taught at or attended the school during this c. 1940 to 1966 period. In 1985 Selma Fieker, the last teacher at Cave Spring School, spoke of her memories of the school and her desire to preserve its history. Fieker started each day with an inspection to insure clean desks, readiness of handkerchiefs, clean hands and ears. After inspection she would lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer. Though Fieker claimed few problems with discipline, she had a ready store of "sermonettes" used to squelch problems and stress honesty and fair play.³⁴

Former teachers and students also had much to say about the school as an important aspect of community life. The school building was in constant use for school and community related activities including Christmas programs, Easter egg hunts, and pie suppers. Selma Fieker remarked that "Every month someone in the district was responsible to plan a program and everyone turned out for it. The whole community backed the Parent Teacher Association."³⁵

Little is reported on the community's reaction to the closing of the school. However, very soon after the school consolidated former teachers and students rallied to preserve the history embodied by the building. In 1967, the Sarcoxie R-3 School District and the heirs of some of Cave Spring's original land owners transferred the school and grounds to the Eastern Jasper County Historic Sites Association.³⁶ Despite hard work and annual work days, lack of funds prevented needed maintenance and upkeep on the building. By 2005, the school was seriously deteriorated. To spur interest in preserving the school, Helen Hunter nominated the school to the list of Missouri's most endangered properties. Reaction to its designation as an endangered property garnered statewide recognition and local response. Soon donations of time and labor helped secure the building, and a \$50,000 grant from the Pat and Carolyn Phelps Foundation of Carthage assisted in the completion of the restoration.³⁷ Today the school stands as an important reminder of Jasper County's settlement period, Civil

³⁴ Marti Attoun, "Schoolmarm, ex-students restore school." *Joplin Globe*, January 13, 1935.

³⁵ Bonnie Robinson. "Cave Springs Memories Live." *The Carthage Press*, April 19, 1986.

³⁶ Snow.

³⁷ Wally Kennedy, "Witness to history." *Joplin Globe*, Jan 14, 2009.

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War period, and its dedication to education. Living history projects and other programs help to continues its educational and social function.

Cave Springs Cemetery

Just to the north of the school is the Cave Springs Cemetery, a site that also has close ties to the community's settlement period and Civil War era history. The cemetery likely started as the Duncan family cemetery. As noted above, William Duncan was the earliest settler at Cave Springs. When Duncan came to the region in c. 1836, he brought with him his parents, wife, and younger brother, Archibald. Archibald arrived in Missouri at the age of 17, and died four years later. He may have been the first to be interred in the cemetery and his headstone is the oldest one still legible.³⁸ Duncan's father, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, and mother were interred in the cemetery in the mid-1840s.

The cemetery may have begun as a family burial ground, but early in its history was open to include the larger Cave Spring community. This may have occurred due to the organization of a Methodist Episcopal, South congregation and the construction of the Cave Spring School. The school was owned by the Methodist Episcopal Church for many years and used intermittently as a church. Cemeteries are commonly associated with rural churches and their use was generally not restricted by church membership, becoming de facto community cemeteries.³⁹

Cave Springs is located in Sarcoxie Township, the first area of the county to be settled. As such it has the oldest cemeteries, Caves Springs possibly being the first. In 1883, the author of the *History of Jasper County, Missouri* wrote rather romantically of the township's cemeteries, noting:

The cemeteries of the township are the oldest in the county. In these were interred many of the pioneer settlers of this vicinity, who came and made new homes near by in Jasper, Lawrence and Newton counties. Always about the sleeping places of the dead there are solemn associations. Here the strong grow weak, mirth turns to sadness, and the giddy-minded person is transposed to a hypochondriac. Here those who

³⁸ Snow.

³⁹ Tiffany Patterson. "Rural Church Architecture of Missouri, c. 1819 to c.1945." National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2011, Section E, p. 10.

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are usually lost in the activities of life pause to consider the end of each and all.⁴⁰

The cemetery may not actually induce hypochondria, but it is a place of reverie and one that embodies the history of Cave Springs. Interred in the cemetery are William Duncan, his wife, parents, brother and several children and grandchildren. The Duncan's home is long gone, so the cemetery is an important monument to their lives and influence on the local community. The John Henry family, also an early settler, is also well represented in the burial ground and the family name is one of the most common in the cemetery.

The cemetery also tells the story of the divided Jasper County during the Civil War. More than twenty graves are for men who died in the war, including six or eight members of Company C 76th Missouri Infantry who died on July 20, 1864. One such was John Blake, who according to oral history was shot down during a skirmish. According to the story,

After the fighting ceased, a mop-up man came over the field to see if any wounded soldiers were still alive. He detected some life in John Blake, drew his pistol and said, "I'll send you to hell." Blake who had fallen with his pistol in hand, said defiantly, "I'll take you with me." There were two shots and both men died instantly.⁴¹

It is unknown who witnessed this event or relayed the story, but the stones themselves tell a more direct story of the war, including the markers of the Crawford Brothers whose markers are inscribed with the epitaph, "Killed by Guerrillas."

A complete inventory of grave markers or study of their epitaphs and symbols has not been completed. Many photographs of individual markers are available on-line, however. A sampling of these photos show that like many cemeteries the types of markers changed over time. The markers dating from c. 1840 to c. 1890 are predominantly stone slabs with inscribed names. Many of these early markers have engraved symbols typical of the Victorian Era. One of the more common symbols in the sampling show clasped hands, a symbol of the farewell and one that may symbolize one spouse leading the other to heaven. Examples of this symbol can be found on the markers of Moses Duncan and his wife Sarah (both died in the 1840s). Other common symbols seen in the cemetery include weeping willows (John Osborn, d. 1885), a

⁴⁰ History of Jasper County, Missouri, p. 659.

⁴¹ Jessie Stemmons "Cave Springs Cemetery, School, Springs, Historic Spot of Beauty." *Carthage Evening Press Civil War Centennial Edition*, June 28, 1961.

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pointing hand (Archibald Duncan, d. 1840), and crowns (Joshua Binney, c. 1888).
Doves and lambs are seen on several graves of infants and children.

By the late 1880s and 1890s, families memorializing their dead were moving away from slab markers and opting for more substantial granite blocks or posts. Carved post markers, notably with Gothic arches and urns or turned finials, were common in the cemetery. Many of these date from the 1890s, including three marking Strait family graves. By the first decade of the 20th century, substantial granite blocks with rusticated sides were increasingly popular.

Since c. 1840 when Archibald Duncan was laid to rest, more than 360 people have been interred in the cemetery. It is still an active cemetery, though most buried there today have strong ties to the Cave Spring community and its early settlers. These graves tell a continuing story of the importance of the community to the county and ongoing connection to this historic place.

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Verbal Boundary Description

School

All that part of the Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 26, Township 28, Range 29, Jasper County, Missouri, described as follows: Beginning at a point 1999.67 feet west and 880.25 feet south of the East one-fourth corner of said Section 26; thence South 195.5 feet; thence east 164 feet; thence south 94 feet, more or less to a point on the north line of public road; thence northeastwardly along the north line of said public road to a limestone which is 20 feet south and 40 feet east of the southeast corner of the Cave Spring Schoolhouse; thence north along the west side of public road to a point directly west of the point of beginning; thence west 288.75 feet to point of beginning.

Cemetery

Tract 1: All that part of the Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 26, Township 28, Range 29, Jasper County, Missouri, described as follows: Beginning at a point 1710.72 Feet, more or less, West of the East one-fourth corner of said Section 26; thence north 120 feet; thence west 288.75 feet, thence south 120 feet; thence east 288.75 feet along the south line of said Northeast Quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$) to place of beginning.

Tract 2: All that part of the Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) of Section 26, Township 28, Range 29, Jasper County, Missouri, described as follows: Beginning at a point 1710.92 feet west of the east one-fourth corner of said Section 26; thence west along the north line of said Northwest Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$) 288.75 feet; thence south 880.25 feet; thence east 288.75 feet to the west line of public road; thence north 880.25 feet, more or less, along west side of public road to place of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the school and its school yard, as well as the land donated and purchased for use as a cemetery.

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Photo Log:

The following is true for all photographs:

Cave Spring School and Cave Spring Cemetery

Jasper County, Missouri

Photographer: Chrystina Hanna

Date of Photographs: October 22, 2011

Digital images: On file with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office

1. Cave Spring School, east and north elevations, looking southwest.
2. Cave Spring School, east and north elevations, looking south southwest.
3. Modern Civil War Memorial, looking north
4. Privy at northwest corner of school yard, looking west.
5. Interior of school, looking west.
6. Interior, north wall, looking northeast.
7. Interior, detail showing woodstove, looking north.
8. Interior, looking southwest.
9. Cemetery, grave marker for Moses Duncan, Revolutionary War veteran.
10. Cemetery, near northern border, looking north.
11. School, east elevation and portion of south wall, looking north toward cemetery.
12. School, north elevation and privy and southwest corner of school grounds, looking southwest.
13. Cemetery, looking north.

Figures:

Figure 1: Historic photograph of school showing frame addition, c. 1900.

Figure 2: Aerial map of cemetery and school lots.

Figure 3: Sketch site plan.

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Figure 1: Historic photograph of school showing frame addition, c. 1900.



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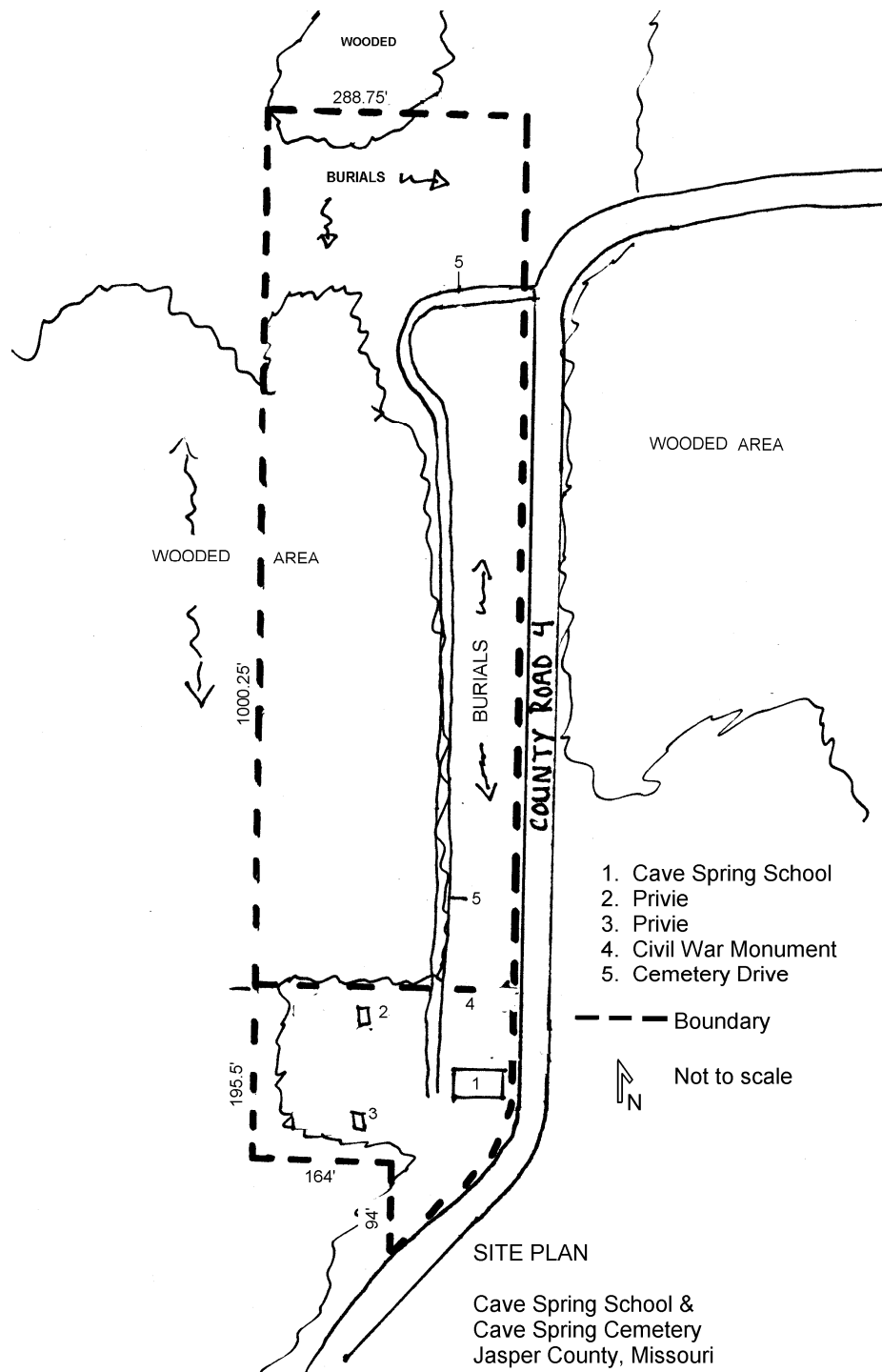
Figure 2: Aerial Map of cemetery and school lots. From "Jasper County, Missouri Geographic Information Services." <http://gis.jaspercounty.org/>.



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Figure 3: Sketch site plan.





HISTORIC
CHURCH
SCHOOL
1870-1900
100 N. 1st St. N.W.
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.



In Memory of the Union Soldiers & Citizens
of Cave Spring and Bowers' Mill Whose Lives
Were Lost in the Defense of Their Homes During the
Terrible Civil War in Southwest Missouri. 1861 - 1865



76th Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia

Cave Spring School
Co. D - Capt. Green C. Stotts
Biddlecome, John Pvt. 10/27/1862 DOD
Cooper, William Pvt. 11/24/1862 Died
Degraffenrud, John Pvt. 03/19/1863 KIA
Downey, George Pvt. 11/08/1862 KIA
Hosha, Stephen Pvt. 11/08/1862 KIA
Lawrence, Franklin Pvt. 10/29/1862 KIA
McGehee, Asa P. Pvt. 11/21/1862 DOD
Moore, George Pvt. 12/25/1862 DOD
Porter, Esquire Pvt. 10/11/1862 KIA
Young, Riley Pvt. 09/06/1862 KIA
Ganther, Ephraim 2nd Lt. Co. C. 11/21/1862 KIA

Bowers' Mill
Capt. Henry Fisher
Co. G - Capt. Thomas Stemmons
Baker, Peter Pvt. 07/20/1864 KIA
Blake, John K. Pvt. 07/20/1864 KIA
Buck, William Pvt. 08/29/1863 KIA
Clark, Orange Pvt. 07/20/1864 KIA
Fisher, Daniel Corp. 09/1/1864 KIA
Fisher, Henry Capt. 03/19/1863 KIA
Henry, Brice 1st Lt. 07/20/1864 KIA
Lawrence, J. P. Pvt. 07/20/1864 KIA
Messic, Gentry Pvt. 08/28/1863 DOD
Rice, Hiram Pvt. 09/17/1863 KIA
Seymour, Robert Pvt. 07/20/1864 KIA
Spencer, William 2nd Sgt. 08/29/1863 KIA

7th Regiment Enrolled Missouri Militia
Commanders

Co. C - Capt. Green C. Stotts
Capt. Thomas Stemmons
Alexander, Absalom Pvt. 11/16/1863 Death
Arthur, Austin L. Corp. 11/23/1863 DOW
Crawford, Stephen Pvt. 10/29/1864 KIA
Estes, Thomas Pvt. 07/16/1863 Died
Henson, Thomas C. Pvt. 09/07/1864 KIA
Jackson, Robert V. Pvt. 06/08/1863 Death
Lawrence, Alfred Pvt. 07/04/1864 KIA
Lowry, James Pvt. 04/12/1864 DOD
Morris, John W. Pvt. 03/27/1864 Died
Sly, Lee Pvt. 08/03/1863 KIA
Wilkinson, John Pvt. 05/02/1863 Died

15th Regiment Cavalry Missouri Volunteers

Co. C
Commander - Capt. Green C. Stotts
Dunkle, George Pvt. 09/14/1864 KIA
Guthrie, Richard Pvt. 09/14/1864 KIA
White, John Pvt. 09/14/1864 KIA

Civilian Casualties

Sarah Alexander	10/05/1863	James H. Colley	06/16/1862
Richard Price Anderson	10/19/1862	Charlotte Colley	06/16/1862 Age 6
Dr. Daniel D. Beck	09/30/1864	Laban T. Fullerton	05/24/1862
Linzy S. Beck	08/28/1863	Frederic M. Humbert	09/14/1864
Dr. J. M. Stemmons	08/10/1862	Isaac S.	09/14/1864

...ation that has no Heroes - Shameful is the Nation that forgets"





Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

THE REBIRTH OF
SCHOOL







Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv

THE REBIRTH
OF
CAVE
SPRINGFIELD
SCHOOL



MOSES DUNCAN

