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 Pond School
   other names/site number Old Pond School

2. Location

   street & number 17123 Manchester Road
   city or town Wildwood
   state Missouri code MO county St. Louis code 189 zip code 63040

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 forth 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

   ___ national ___ statewide ___ local

   Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO
   Date Sept. 19, 2012

   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
**5. Classification**

<table>
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<th>Ownership of Property</th>
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**Name of related multiple property listing**

One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

EDUCATION: School

**Current Functions**

RECREATION & CULTURE: Hall

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

Other: One-room schoolhouse

Other: Architect Designed/Plan book school

**Materials**

Foundation: Concrete

Walls: Stucco

Roof: Ceramic Tile

Other: 
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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1914 - 1951

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(n/a)

Cultural Affiliation

(n/a)

Architect/Builder

Felt, J. H.

Seibel, Henry

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:

- x State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- x Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property              0.9 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:__________

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1  38.578210   -90.646662
   Latitude:   Longitude:

2   Latitude:   Longitude:

3   Latitude:   Longitude:

4   Latitude:   Longitude:

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Lynn Josse
organization Preservation Research Office
street & number  3517 Connecticut St.
city or town    St. Louis
state           MO
zip code        63118
e-mail          lynnjosse@sbcglobal.net

date June 22, 2012
telephone   (314) 229-0793

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               City of Wildwood
street & number    183 Plaza Drive
city or town       Wildwood
state             MO
zip code          63040

date June 22, 2012
telephone   (636) 458-0440

date June 22, 2012
telephone   (636) 458-0440

date June 22, 2012
telephone   (636) 458-0440

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.
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Pond School is a one-teacher schoolhouse in western St. Louis County, Missouri. The property is nominated under the “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973” MPDF (2011) and is an example of the “Architect Designed/ Plan Book One-Teacher Schools” property type. The building’s plan by J. H. Felt & Co. of Kansas City was widely published in Missouri and nationally around the time that the Pond School was constructed in 1914. The finished school follows Felt’s exterior design very faithfully, and uses the interior plan with only minor modifications. The building’s stuccoed tile structure and tile roof were designed to resist fire. The interior of the school is dominated by the single classroom, with its large bank of north-facing windows to admit maximum light. A sensitive restoration begun in 2002 has retained most significant character-defining features.

Site

Pond School is located on the north side of Manchester Road, a historic east-west road that connected the communities of St. Louis and Manchester and Jefferson City. The school is at the eastern end of the hamlet of Pond. Its lot measures roughly 125' x 390', with its narrow end along Manchester Road.

The lot slopes steeply upward from the road at its southern end, leveling to a near-plateau in front of the building. The school building is sited about 140 feet back from the Manchester right of way and some 15' above it. The adjacent property to the east is wooded, and the lot to the west is occupied by a frame bungalow (roughly the same age as the school or later) and, farther from the road, a modern gabled industrial building. Across Manchester Road is another undeveloped wooded area.

The historic site has been improved as a city park and now includes a non-contributing rectangular gazebo (Photo 5) at the northwest end of the parking lot, as well as a new playground (a non-contributing site). The site is bordered to the west by the adjacent property's gravel drive.

A modern decorative metal fence set on a historic stone retaining wall defines the front of the lot along Manchester Road (Photo 1). The stone wall, said to have been constructed by the WPA, is counted as a contributing structure. The fence is a non-contributing object. The fence is interrupted for the steps and sidewalk leading up to the school, and ends at the site's concrete drive which runs along the eastern edge of the lot. The stone wall turns the corner and runs along
the north driveway. Here, the base of the retaining wall includes a stone-lined gutter that is considered part of the same resource. There is a concrete parking lot behind the school.

At the northeast edge of the parking lot is a fenced enclosure housing a portable toilet (not counted). North of this feature is a concrete ruin which has been identified as the school’s privy. The ruin is counted as a contributing site because it tells a story about the evolution and use of the schoolyard during the period of significance.

There is a large oak tree immediately east of the building and a row of three north of the playground.

**Exterior: South elevation (Façade)**

Pond School is a stuccoed structural tile building with an almost rectangular T-shaped plan and high raised basement. The front section of the roof is a prominent front gable extending from a side gabled rear section. The roof is covered with a contemporary (c. 2002) red clay tile. Interior use is reflected in the footprint of the building, which has a front section accommodating the foyer, hall and restroom, and a wider rear classroom section.

The first story facade (south elevation) is separated into three bays. At the left bay, seven poured concrete steps (modern) lead to wood double doors under a historic 12-light transom window. At the center bay is a triple set of 9/1 windows on a wood sill. To the right is a pair of 9/1 wood sash windows, also on a wood sill. The windows and doors, like those on all of the other elevations, are set back within plain stucco wall openings without any decorative framing. A wood frieze board separates the first floor from the gable end above. There is a contemporary (historically styled) electric light fixture over the front doors. In the gable end is a Palladian-style set of two 8-pane windows (triangular panes formed by a spoked pattern) to either side of an arched louvered vent. Over a wood fascia board which bends in at either end, the beadboard eaves are fronted by a vergeboard with an interior curve. The poured concrete foundation (as at the other elevations) is scored to imitate block with mortar joints. At the basement level are two 3-light transom windows.

**North elevation**

The back door is level with a concrete paver patio (nonhistoric) with four benches, two trash cans and a drinking fountain. There is therefore no foundation level at this elevation (except at the far east end) - the patio slopes up very slightly from the parking lot to provide barrier-free access to the back door. The first floor is centered by a set of six openings - five 9/1 wood sash windows and, fourth from the left, a nine-light window over a three-panel door. The door itself was added at an unknown date; it was not part of the original plan, but was in place prior to the 2002
restoration. Mullions between the windows and door are wood, as are the sill and frame. There is a frieze board similar to that at the front elevation, but the rear gable is narrower while the building itself is wider here, making the cross gable something of a very large wall dormer. Within the gable wall is a large rectangular louvered vent (wood). Other detailing is similar to the facade. At the left gutter there is a circular metal downspout which splits in two and disappears into the pavement.

**West and East elevations**

At the foyer section of the west elevation there is a 9/1 window; the side elevation windows are much shorter than those at the north and south. Three more 9/1s are at the classroom section, which has a similarly detailed gable with rectangular louvered vent. At the foundation are a 3-light and a 2-light basement window. Circular metal downspouts are at either end of gable section.

At the south section of the east elevation, the earth is cut away for steps to a wood basement door. A wood 9/1 window is at the first floor above it. At the rear (classroom section) of the building, two pairs of 6-light casements are placed high in the wall (accommodating the placement of the chalkboard inside). Unlike the other windows, these have painted brick sills (all other window sills are wood). There are two 3-light basement windows. The roof detail and louvered vent are similar to that at the west elevation. There is a metal downspout at south end of the gable.

**Interior**

The interior of the school building was restored beginning in 2002 from plans by Lauren Strutman Architects. Non-historic partitions were removed, and most extant historic material was restored or left alone.

Historic pine flooring, 3 ¼” wide, was restored throughout the first floor. Tin ceilings are modern, but oral history accounts indicate that there were tin ceilings in the school in the 1930s. Fixtures are modern. Interior hardware is both new and replacement.

The vestibule of the school measures roughly 8’ x 10’. Double doors lead north into the classroom, and a single door opens to the cloakroom space along the south wall. Stairs to the basement were added in the restoration project, but the architects reported evidence that a similar staircase could have existed at an earlier period. The stairs run along the south wall of the

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1 Oral history interview with Dovie Poertner Berry, June 4 1999, interviewed by Jo Beck (based on various conversations 1996-99). Transcript on file with the City of Wildwood.
building. A new ADA compliant restroom has been added along the east wall of the southern part of the school, replacing two earlier (non-original) restrooms.

The largest part of the floor plan is devoted to the large single classroom, which occupies the rear section of the building. The locations of windows indicated the primary chalkboard wall. Since no historic interior views of the Pond School were found, the lighting and chalkboard were modeled on those in a historic schoolroom photo from the same area. The paired casements high on the east wall above the chalkboard may not be original, since their bricks sills are different from those of the school’s other windows. Architects left intact two historic stovepipe holes in the south wall of the classroom.

The basement has an east-west structural wall running along the division between the two sections of the building, supporting the major interior wall above it. The basement is poured concrete. It is not clear if the basement was original or if it was added after the original construction. Some residents believe it was at one time used as a classroom space. It never included restrooms (as on some variations of the Felt plans).

**Integrity**

Pond School retains all seven aspects of integrity. The most significant exterior alteration is the removal of one of the six windows at the north elevation; this was replaced with a door for direct access to the classroom prior to 2000 (possibly during the period of significance). The southeast corner of the interior has been reconfigured to provide basement access and an accessible restroom. The site has changed in character from a rural schoolyard to a modern playground with adjacent parking, but the concrete remnants of the privy and the WPA-era stone retaining wall still offer some sense of the historic grounds.
Summary

Pond School is located in the community of Pond (now part of Wildwood, Missouri). The school is eligible for National Register listing for its local significance under Criterion A in the area of Education and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. It is a good representative of contexts developed in the Multiple Property Documentation Form “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973” (2011). The restored school meets the registration requirements described in the “Architect Designed/Plan Book One-Teacher Schools” property type. The period of significance begins in 1914, when the school was constructed, and ends in 1951, when regular classes ended.

Historical Background

The community of Pond developed around the store that property owner Cyrus Speers opened in 1835 on the road between St. Louis and the new state capitol in Jefferson City (now Manchester Road). Its first post office opened in 1866, and by the 1870s the original Pond School was in operation. This first school was located near the intersection of Manchester and Pond Roads. After the donation of a new site to the east by the Dreinhoefer family (c. 1880), a second school was built at the present site. Oral history relates that this frame structure, located immediately to the north of the present building, burned down. The historical record has not yielded any details on the date or exact nature of the fire that prompted the small district to seek a replacement structure. The school was still in operation in May of 1914, when the district announced a graduating (eighth grade) class of three.

Pond was still a very small community at the time. A 1911 report put the population at about 70, with two general stores, two blacksmith shops, the Pond Hotel, and a “whip manufactory.” Although rural district consolidation was promoted and to some extent incentivized by the State, Pond chose to rebuild its school rather than merge with another district.

In July 1914, the Pond School District announced that it was accepting bids for a new school according to “plans and specifications now in the hands of the Board of Directors.”

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2 The Past in Our Presence, 35.
3 “St. Louis County Schools: Diplomas and Promotion Certificates to be Presented by Prof. Grove,” Watchman-Advocate, May 29, 1914.
announcement was published in the *Watchman-Advocate*,\(^5\) and no further notices were published. This evidence supports the memory of students such as Curtis Eatherton and Nelson Gaehle, early students of the school, who recalled the existence of a sign on the building indicating a date of 1914.\(^6\) The same students remembered that the signage indicated that the school was built by “Seithel & Sons” of Manchester, Missouri. This is evidently a reference to Henry Seibel & Sons, a large St. Louis County contracting firm.\(^7\)

The plans that were “already drawn up” were not from another local architect or builder, but were a standardized model plan which had already been published statewide and nationally (Figures 5-6). The associated MPDF relates that schools constructed from the same plan by Kansas City architect J. H. Felt were built in many Missouri counties around the same time. The Hicklin School (c. 1914), a frame example in Lafayette County, was listed in the NRHP in 2007. Other examples and variations have been identified in Adair, Chariton, Clark, Gentry, Greene, and Jasper Counties. While most known examples are of frame construction, the plan was easily adaptable to a variety of materials. Pond School was constructed of hollow clay tile (stuccoed on the exterior) with a clay tile roof. The choice of materials would have been influenced by the desire to erect a fireproof structure and the availability of products from local clay mines.

Felt’s model plan was drawn up with the latest technology and scientific theories in mind. Variations were published to accommodate either a furnace or jacketed stove, and an optional basement could include toilets for districts that had access to running water. Like other modern schools, the Felt model had a wall of windows to one side of the classroom. Placement of the original main chalkboard was determined by the orientation of the school – theorists argued that light sources must be to the left of students, allowing a shadow-free writing experience for right-handers. At the Pond School, the bank of windows faces north and the chalkboard wall is therefore located to the east.

In addition to providing safe and clean facilities for student use, adoption of a standardized plan such as Felt’s could lead to “approved rural school” status. This program, initiated by the State in 1909, awarded handsome certificates to schools that met state goals for curriculum, sanitation, lighting, ventilation, attendance, library, teacher salary and qualifications, and grounds. The new

\(^{5}\) August 14, 1914.

\(^{6}\) Oral history as related by Lynne Martin, past president of the Wildwood Historical Society. Interview with Lynn Josse, April 30, 2012.

\(^{7}\) Karen Bode Baxter, “Henry Avenue Historic District” National Register documentation, 2002. This nomination for a small rural district in St. Louis County includes three of Seibel’s residential buildings as well as their brick Manchester School (1907). According to the nomination, Seibel & Son (which used several variations on the same name over the company’s long history) was the largest contractor in St. Louis County. The historic town of Manchester is located about eight miles east of Pond on Manchester Road.
Pond School was listed as “Approved” as of January 1915. Analysis of the same report shows that teacher Miss Lottie Hildebrand had a below-average salary compared to other teachers in the 44 approved single-teacher schools in rural St. Louis County. The library in the school was also among the smallest, but so was the tax base. The 1916 report indicated a total of 91 one- and two-room schools in the county. In 1919, St. Louis County reported a total of 89 districts. At that time Pond’s new facility was one of 56 one-room schoolhouses.

In the first known photograph of the school, dated May 1918, only 34 students are in attendance (figure 7). One of them must have been Maude Poe Boyd, who started at Pond School in that year. In an oral history interview she recalled the Pond School in its early years:

The outside of the school looked pretty much like it does now, a white stucco. Inside, the walls were white or beige, with blackboards all around the room, with the alphabet around that. The floors were varnished. A big potbelly stove sat in the corner and it had a little fence around it so no one would get burned. Ken Franklin, one of the bigger boys, kept the fire fed, and he got a little something for doing that. The school was always kept up nice.

In this and other interviews, it is noted that the one-classroom schoolhouse was later divided (in 1928, according to Boyd) to accommodate two classrooms. Supporting this recollection, remnants of a track partition system were found during the restoration of the building. The stone retaining wall at the south end of the property was, according to graduate Dovie Poertner Berry, a WPA project of the 1930s.

The historic Pond School operated until 1951 when the new Pond School opened nearby. This Pond School, the fourth of its name, is still in operation today as an elementary school in the Rockwood district. The historic building was used for special education classes into the 1960s and then for administrative purposes. By the end of the 1990s, citizens began an effort to restore the school. In 2002, after a series of transactions returning the restricted property to the original family, descendant Loraine Conreux deeded the lot to the City of Wildwood. The City engaged Lauren Strutman Architects to design the restoration project. An interior stair was added against

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10 Oral history interview with Maude Poe Boyd, Thornton Road, Franklin County, Mo. Interviewed April – September 1996 by Jo Beck. On file with City of Wildwood.

11 Oral history interview with Dovie Poertner Berry, June 4 1999, interviewed by Jo Beck (based on various conversations 1996-99). On file with City of Wildwood. The privy may also have been a WPA project; efforts are underway to locate supporting records.
the front wall for basement access, and the two small restrooms were reconfigured into a single ADA compliant restroom. Beyond these updates, the building’s original configuration was restored. Partition walls in the classroom were removed, floors were restored, walls were replastered, and tin ceilings and historic replica lighting fixtures were installed.

**Felt Model Schools**

J. H. Felt’s plan for a “rural model school” was adaptable to a variety of locations and materials. Pond School’s detailing is so closely derived from Felt’s published rendering that even the fenestration patterns (9/1 and triangular-paned windows) match. Pond varies from some other examples because the rear elevation has a wide cross gable, allowing for more attic space. Placement of the exterior basement door varied from the published plan, and it appears likely that the floor plan of the front section of the building also deviated. This section has been partially remodeled to allow for basement access and an ADA-compliant restroom, and it is not possible to fully reconstruct the original placement of walls in this area. The design of the classroom varies somewhat as well in its placement of windows on the east and west walls in addition to the main bank of windows to the north.

**Integrity/Registration Requirements**

The Pond School meets the registration requirements for the “Architect Designed/ Plan Book One-Teacher Schools” property type. The MPDF requires examples of the type to be “fairly pristine,” with original fenestration, materials, and roof form. With the exception of one north window replaced with a door for ADA compliant access, these features are all intact at the Pond School. There are no additions, and the property has not been moved.
Selected Bibliography


Oral history interview with Maude Poe Boyd, Thornton Road, Franklin County, Mo. Interviewed April – September 1996 by Jo Beck. On file with City of Wildwood, Missouri.


Patterson, Tiffany. “One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973” National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 2011.


*Watchman-Advocate* (Saint Louis County), May 29, 1914; August 14, 1914; May 8, 1914.
Verbal Boundary Description

In St. Louis County, Missouri, the nominated property is recorded as “Lot Pt. 3, 300 feet west of Highway C (School Lot)” in the Dreinhoefer Estate.

Boundary Justification

This is the lot historically associated with Pond School.
The following information is common to all photographs:

Pond School
Saint Louis County, Missouri
March, 2012
Photographer: Lynn Josse
Location of files: State Historic Preservation Office

1. Camera facing north across Manchester Road

2. Camera facing west

3. Camera facing south

4. Camera facing northeast

5. Camera facing north from school

6. Ruins. Camera facing southwest

7. Classroom interior facing east

8. Classroom interior facing west
List of figures

1. Sketch plan
2. Site survey (pre-restoration)
3. Dreinhofer property in 1868, located on the north side of the Manchester Road between Pond Road and Eatherton Road. Source: Pitzman’s Atlas of 1868.
4. St. Louis County Atlas, 1909
7. Pond School student body of 1918
8. Pond School Geographical Data Map
9. Pond School, Locational Map

Figure 1
sketch plan of Pond School (source: Lauren Strutman Architects)
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Pond School
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973
St. Louis County, Missouri

Figure 2
pre-restoration survey
Figure 3: Dreinhoef er property in 1868, located on the north side of the Manchester Road between Pond Road and Eatherton Road. Source: Pitzman’s Atlas of 1868.
National Register of Historic Places
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Pond School
One-Teacher Public Schools of Missouri, c. 1774 to c. 1973
St. Louis County, Missouri

Figure 4
St. Louis County Atlas, 1909

Figure 5
Figure 6
Figure 7
Pond School student body and teacher in May, 1918. This is the first identified photograph of the new school.
Figure 8: Geographical Data
Pond School, St. Louis, County, Missouri
Center point reference: latitude: 38.578210 longitude: -90.646662
Figure 9: Locational Map