Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Pleasant Valley School District #2

Other name/site number Pleasant Valley Community Club, 059-0000-0199

2. Location

Street & number 3905 Thomas Road ☐ not for publication

City or town Wellsville ☒ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Franklin Code 059 Zip code 66092

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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Pankratz DSHPO January 13, 2004

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kansas State Historical Society

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 commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

- ☐ 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:)

Pleasant Valley School District #2
Name of property

Franklin, KS
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Education: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: gable roof, rectangular

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone
walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Wood: shingle

other

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

Name of Property Pleasant Valley School District #2 | County and State Franklin County, KS

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for Natonal Register

☒ **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 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 it 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1889- 1953

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mignot, Henry

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 lising (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:

Name of Property Pleasant Valley School District #2 County and State Franklin County, KS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	15	313380	4288160
2			
3			
4			

☐ 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 Sandy Roger, President

Organization Pleasant Valley Community Club Date January 27, 2003

Street & number 4068 Thomas Road Telephone 785-883-4589

City or town Wellsville State KS Zip code 66092

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 SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name Pleasant Valley Community Club, c/o Sandy Rogers- President

street & number 4068 Thomas Road telephone 785-883-4589

city or town Wellsville state KS zip code 66092

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. 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 20503

Pleasant Valley School District #2 (c.1889) sits on one acre of native prairie grasses, on the SW corner of SW ¼; Section 24; Twp. 15; Range 20. It stands in a rural area, at the intersection of two gravel roads four miles west of Wellsville, Franklin County, Kansas, (population 1,800). The one-story building has a front-faced gable roof. Along the front façade is a full-length width porch, with a pent roof, supported by four turned spindle supports. The building rests on a cement foundation. The dual, four-panel entrance doors, on the southern elevation are accompanied by transom windows. The north (rear) elevation of the building was widened (c.1920), extending the continuous gable roof. Both the main gable roof and the porch roof were originally covered by wood shingles which remain under the composition shingles. The building is sided with horizontal white pine weatherboard. A brick chimney is on the west eave wall.

The interior space of the building is comprised of a large central classroom, with one small coatroom on the west wall. The flooring is 3" oak or pine; the classroom is sided halfway up the length of the building with vertical wainscoting, above which are affixed the original long blackboards. The two side elevations are symmetrically fashioned, with three long, narrow single pane, double hung windows piercing both elevations; two smaller windows are found on the north and south ends of both elevations. Both the door and window surrounds are plain, milled boards, with no molding. The stage stands at the north end of the classroom, with an outside access door opening south in the extension.

On September 9, 1963, electricity was added to the schoolhouse; light fixtures were attached to the 11 ft. ceilings. A 1960s refrigerator was added, and later, an electric cook stove for community dinners. There is no inside plumbing to date. The school building is used monthly by the Pleasant Valley Community Club. The playground equipment, bell tower, hand pump and flag pole are gone. The building itself is suffering from age, neglect, plus some minor vandalism. The roof and windows are in need of repair, and there is some rotting in the northwest corner of the stage floor.

Pleasant Valley School District #2 (c. 1889) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with education in Franklin County, Kansas, and for its architectural significance as a one-room schoolhouse. The present Pleasant Valley School District #2 served rural Wellsville, Franklin County, Kansas from its completion in 1889 until 1954, when consolidation forced its closure. Use of the schoolhouse has continued to present, by Pleasant Valley Community members for a regular meeting place. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity; the structural integrity has suffered from weather and neglect.

School District Number 2 was organized in 1863. The first school was held in the Roussey family home, then in their log corn crib. This property is one half mile north of the current school building, and owned by Joe Broers. The first teacher was Miss Rosie Styll, 18 years old. In 1869, the district hired George Lovitt to build a school on the Knoeppel farm (now owned by the Lester Coffman family, ½ mile south of current location) from native lumber. Spelling, Rays' Arithmetic, Grammar, Reading and Geography were studied. Due to flooding, this building was considered unfit and sold to the Henry Matile farm to be used as a barn.

In 1883, Henry Rand was hired to build again, on the present location, and a school board was organized. The one-acre parcel of land was purchased for $1.00 from Albert Johnson and the school was built for $419.08. There were between 60 – 80 students attending. It burned six years later, due to a faulty flue. In 1889 Henry Mignot built the schoolhouse from white pine. On December 16, 1916 the school became the tenth standardized school in Kansas. School attendance ranged from 30 to 45 pupils, ages 5 to 25 years. The district served an area of roughly three square miles.

Pleasant Valley School exemplifies the prototypical, one-room country schoolhouse in its form and design. The one-story, front-gabled schoolhouse is typical of the one-room prairie schoolhouses constructed in rural Kansas during the last half of the nineteenth century. It was fronted by a full width, shed roof porch, which provided shade toward the southern exposure. The transom windows above the typical four-panel entry doors provided much needed breezes to cool the classroom. During cold weather, it was heated with coal.

The school represents one of many one-room schoolhouses that were constructed every three miles or so in each township. These schools were funded with public money and usually stood on an acre of land donated by a farmer. Until consolidation forced the closure of many of Kansas' one-room schools in the 1950s and 1960s, Kansas children learned their ABCs and algebra in small groups taught by only one teacher.

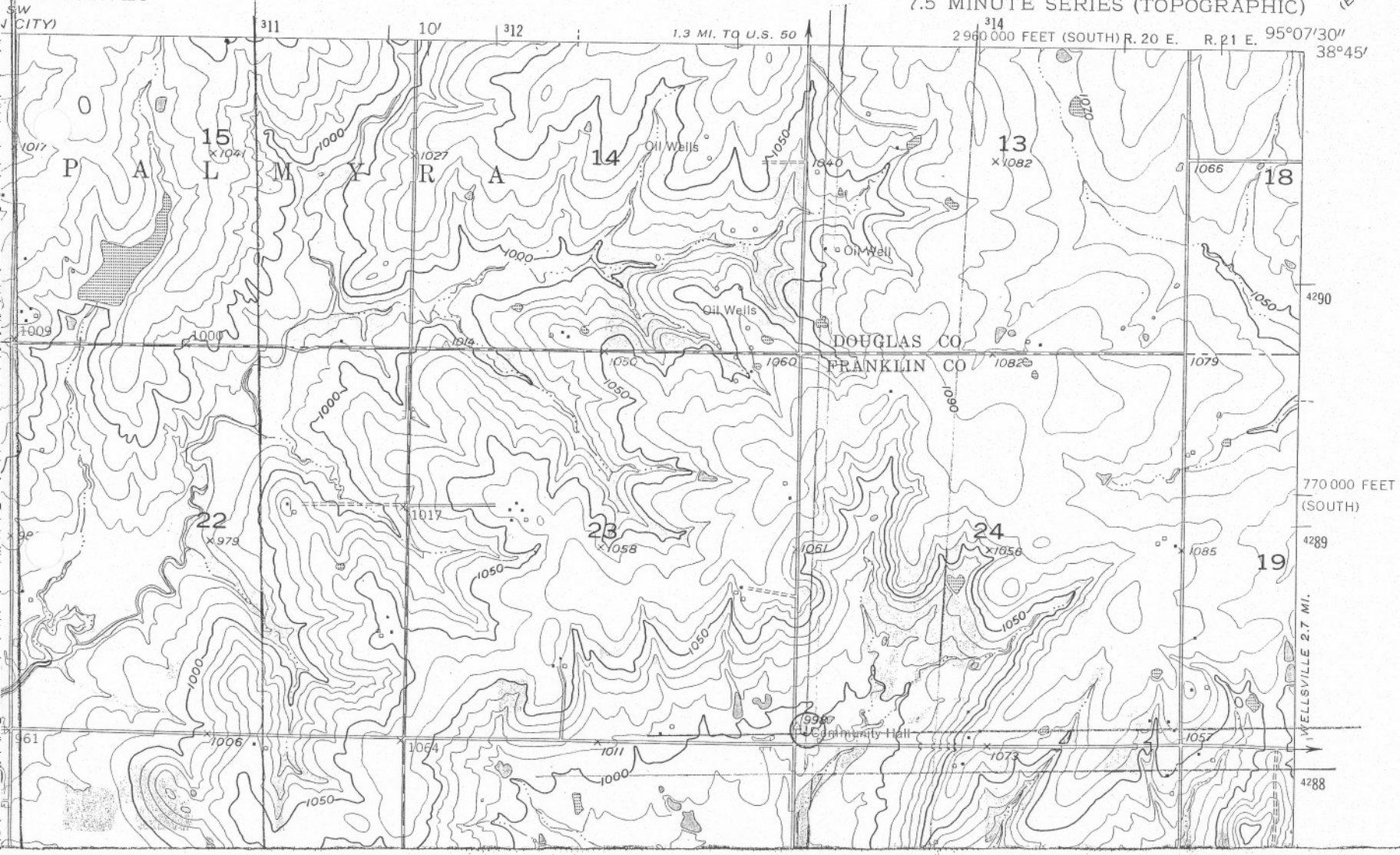
Ramsey's Year Record of Classification and Attendance for District and Graded Schools were the record books used for Pleasant Valley School, with the subjects graded being reading, Orthography, Arithmetic, Geography, History, Grammar, Physical Education Writing, Civic Government, Philosophy, Bookkeeping, and Deportment. Many other interests were pursued by Pleasant Valley, such as quilting for the Junior Red Cross, a Pleasant Valley Baseball team, and a Pleasant Valley Band. In 1892, the students sewed and displayed a large flag for a Columbus Day celebration in October of the same year. Well over 200 people attended, and the Ottawa Herald recorded the celebration.

The typical teacher contract secured an agreement that the young female teacher would refrain from keeping company with young men, be home between the hours of 8:00 pm and 6:00 am unless in attendance at a school function, not to dress in bright colors, or ride in a carriage or automobile with any man, save her brother or father. She must not dye her hair, wear a dress any shorter than two inches above the ankle, wear at least two petticoats, and must sweep and scrub the schoolhouse, start the fire at 7:00 am. For her efforts she would be awarded a salary of $75.00 monthly. The earliest in hand school records were for 1893-1894 school year, teacher C. W. Taylor, Superintendent J. F. Maxey, with 57 students registered.

Pleasant Valley School served the families of District #2 for sixty-five years as the educational center, as well as public meeting place. Its historical significance spans the years 1889, when it was rebuilt and the doors opened, until 1953, the National Register fifty year cut off date for significance, although the building remained in active use as a school until the following year, and as a public meeting place to date. Today the building is maintained by the Pleasant Valley Community and used monthly for meetings and other events.

Pleasant Valley School
UTM Coordinates
15 313380 4288160

KANSAS
OF KANSAS
ICAL SURVEY

LE LOUP QUADRANGLE
KANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

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