Driving Tour of One-Room School Houses in Texas County, Mo.

The Texas County, Mo., Genealogical & Historical Society has a document labeled “1924 School Districts, Texas County, Mo.” The document lists 140 rural school districts that are one-room schools. There are six “High Schools-3rd Class” listed, which include Raymondville, Ozark, White Rock, Elk Creek, Shady Grove, and Gravel Point. Plato is then listed as “High School-2nd Class.” The list concludes with four “High Schools-1st Class,” which include Summersville, Cabool, Licking, and Houston.

As of March 2011, a total of 23 one-room schools have been identified as still standing in Texas County. Seven of those are now homes; one is a church, and four are community centers. Six of the seven homes are beautiful rock structures built by Work Projects Administration (WPA) Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) crews.

Assistance with this tour was provided by Top of the Ozarks RC&D — a not-for-profit organization to assist in identifying, designing, and implementing community projects in Dent, Douglas, Howell, La-Clede, Oregon, Ozark, Pulaski, Shannon, Texas and Wright counties — that can be reached at 417-967-2028 or at Top of the Ozarks RC&D, 6726 S. Hwy 63; Houston, MO 65483.

This driving tour was researched by Wilbur Bill and Peter Maki for the RC&D. David Burton, with MU Extension and the Ozarks Country School Association designed the tour and this publication.

Stop #1

Oak Hill: starting your tour in Houston, proceed north on Highway 63 to Highway E. Located on the NE corner of Highway E and Tiffany Drive is Oak Hill School, a beautiful example of WPA stone craftsmanship. The Oak Hill School is now a private residence, so please respect the owners’ privacy.

Stop #2

Brown Hill: just across from the Emmett Kelly Park on Highway 63 in Houston, take Brushy Creek Drive for three miles to Brown Hill Road, go left one-eighth mile to the school on the left. Brown Hill School is now a private residence. The field stone structure, with the spider web raised grout line, is a beautiful example of WPA workmanship. The original playground equipment and hand water pump still exist.

Stop #3

Mt. Vernon: proceed north from Raymondville on Highway 137, and just west of Oscar on Clayton Road is Mt. Vernon School, now a community center. The building is well maintained, and even has its original bell tower.

Stop #4

Ozark: east of Houston just off Hwy. 17, by the Ozark Baptist Church, is Ozark School. It is now a private residence and owner privacy is appreciated.

Stop #5

Tyrone: located on Highway H between Highways DD and 137 is Tyrone School, now a community center. It is in good condition.
Pleasant Grove: located on Cross Road just north of Malberg Road east of Highway 63, Pleasant Grove School is now a private residence. It was built by the WPA, and is another example of fine stone craftsman-

Gum Springs: located five miles south of Dunn on Kings Road is Gum Springs School. It is in rough condition.

Dunn: located on Old Highway 60 at Dunn is Dunn School, renovated in 2001.

Gravel Point: located at Hillside and Gravel Point Roads is Gravel Point School. It was built by the WPA and was a “Job High School.” After the students attended two or three years of high school, they could attend Houston or Mountain Grove and graduate with a high school diploma. It is another example of WPA stone craftsmanship, and is a private residence.

Murr: from Bado, twelve miles north of Cabool on Highway M, take Murr Road by the Piney Creek bridge west for three miles. The building has been untouched since the last classes were held.

Barnun: also know as Rackett Ridge, it is located on Rackett Ridge Drive, just off Barnum Drive, north of Bado. It is in tough condition.

Alice: located on Highways M/38, Alice School has been restored by Maxine Allen, and is in excellent condition.

Number One: located behind the church at Astoria Road and Highway M, Number One School is still standing, but quite abandoned.

The Ozarks Country School Association is a program of University of Missouri Extension
Craddock: located NW of Licking, take Highway AF off Highway N to Craddock Drive. Craddock School is now a community center.

Oak Grove: located west of Simmons on Highway Z is Oak Grove School. Oak Grove School became Lone Star School, and now serves as a community center. It is in excellent condition.

Pine Ridge: located ½ mile east of Lynch Road between Bucyrus and Ellis Prairie is Pine Ridge School. It is in good condition and is on private property.

White Rock: located on White Rock Road west of Houston, take Highway ZZ off Highway 17 to German Road, to Norris Road and then White Rock Road. The concrete block building is the fourth White Rock School building, as the previous three buildings all burned. Around 1960 classes ceased, as White Rock School consolidated with Houston Schools. In 2010 the use as a community center ceased, and the property reverted to the original deed. White Rock School is listed on the 1924 School Districts list as a “High School-3rd Class.” Also called a “working high school,” students could attend high school for a few years and then attend a high school in town and receive a diploma.
Our partners in Texas County are working on a more detailed map that will be printed with this guide and also available online. This project was made possible by funds raised by the Ozarks Country School Association.