

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **NOV 7 1975**
DATE ENTERED **JAN 2 1976**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Marvin College Boys' Dormitory (Hotel Jewell) and President's House

AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Dormitory: 416 North Washington Street
House: 404 North Washington Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

VICINITY OF

01

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Hickman

CODE

105

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Thomas Harper (Dormitory); Thomas Harpole (House)

STREET & NUMBER

416 North Washington Street; 404 North Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Clinton Courtsquare

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

401 Wapping Street

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Clinton remains a fairly small town, the county seat of one of Kentucky's far western counties that border on the Mississippi. The town is laid out on a grid system with the Hickman County Courthouse (placed on the National Register on September 11, 1975) at the original center. In the 1870's and '80s the town extended northward several blocks along the railroad (on the west) and to accommodate Clinton and Marvin Colleges.

The latter was located on the east side of the main north-south axis, North Washington, on a slight rise of ground. The Main Building and Boys' Dormitory were located side by side, with the playing field behind to the east (see photos 3 and 4), with the cupola of the Main Building, razed in the 1930s, as their focal point.

Both the surviving Boys' Dormitory and the President's House (somewhat closer to the street southwest of the dormitory) are plain, substantial brick buildings. The dormitory has three tall stories. The low hipped roof is broken by low gables on brackets-- the only ornamental feature of the building--in the centers of the sides over the central bays which project barely visibly from the bare surfaces. The tall, narrow openings have shallow segmental arches of two headers with a raised course above. There is a bulky brick porch over the entrance. The whole effect might be forbidding if it were not for the setting of fine shade trees.

The President's House is very similar, but somewhat less blocklike, with a higher hipped roof and asymetrically placed gables, one over a shallow two-story bay-window. There is a brick-and-frame porch across the front and a frame addition at the rear. The house is not well maintained, but retains a dignified and reserved character.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
1899-1900 (house)	
1910 (dormitory)	Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Marvin College Boys' Dormitory and President's House are the only buildings extant associated with Marvin College. This small Methodist institution, founded in 1884, had as one of its students and short-time teachers, Alben W. Barkley, former U.S. Senator and Senate majority leader during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Vice President of the United States under President Harry S. Truman. The college played an important part in Barkley's development and assisted in his transformation from a young unsophisticated farmboy to a skilled orator and successful politician. At Marvin College, Barkley secured an education, training, and experience that sustained him throughout his long distinguished public career. This college (along with the Baptist Clinton College, which rivaled Marvin from 1873 to 1922 and of which only four columns and a bell remain as tangible evidence) was also one of the significant earlier cultural institutions of the Jackson Purchase area of western Kentucky--an area much of which developed only late in the 19th century. After the school closed in the late 1920's the Boys' Dormitory was to be later used as a well-known resort hotel and restaurant. Like the President's House, it is now a private residence.

Marvin College was located in Clinton in far southwestern Kentucky in a county which borders on the Mississippi River. It was a small town with a population in 1870 of only 123 people, but was to prosper soon thereafter under the impetus of the completion of the Illinois Central Railroad through the county in 1873. Clinton was distinguished by the first high school west of the Tennessee River. Established in 1846, the school did much toward awakening an interest in education throughout Hickman County. The building was destroyed by fire in 1852 and on the grounds a new school was constructed in 1854, Clinton Academy. Clinton College, the first institution of higher learning in the area, was founded in 1873 under the auspices of the West Union Association of the Baptist Church.

Clinton, labeled by one historian "the Athens of west Kentucky as regards educational interests," was to acquire another institution of higher learning (Perrin, p. 72). In 1885 the Methodist Church South established Marvin College, "situated on a commanding eminence in the northern part of Clinton." The main building, completed at a cost of \$12,000, was described as "the finest school edifice in Hickman County" (Perrin, p. 68) (see photos 3 and 4). The school opened for instruction August 31, 1885, with Professor J.H. Callaway serving as its first President. The college started with a small enrollment, only 76 students.

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Alben William Barkley," Who Was Who in America, Vol. III. Chicago: A.N. Marquis Co., 1960, p. 49.

Barkley, Allen W. "Kentucky's most Famous Citizen Relates His Experience in Clinton." The Hickman County Gazette, April 30, 1953, Section 2, p. 1.

Barkley, Alben W. That Reminds Me. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., Inc., 1954.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres 36° 40' 18" Latitude 88° 59' 35" Longitude
 UTM REFERENCES (not available)

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. R.B. Jewell Jr., County Representative, KHC. (GM & WEL)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

316 South Washington Street

8/29/1974

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Clinton

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Cedred W. Melton

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

11-4-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/2/96

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Gumbel

DATE

12/31/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

2019

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Marvin College Boy's Dormitory and President's House

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Within a four-year period, however, the number had increased to 247 (Gazette, Section 9, p. 4). In 1899-1900, a two-story brick building was erected to serve as the President's House, which still stands today. Ten years later the existing three-story dormitory was constructed just north of the main building.

The School continued to prosper during this period, although it was not without its problems. In 1908 the Board of Curators announced that action was being taken to change the school "from an inadequately equipped college to a high-grade training school to make it conform to the approved educational ideal, which is to have colleges and universities, endowed and equipped for their work by training schools in which an educational foundation has been laid with painstaking care and thoroughness" (from the 1908-09 college catalogue as quoted in the Gazette, Section 9, p. 4). During this period of transition, the course of study was drastically changed to meet the demands of the two classes of students--those in college classes and those enrolled in college preparatory courses.

The availability of free public education took its toll on student enrollment and by 1921 it was evident that the demise of Marvin School was approaching. The following year the last class was graduated. Clinton College closed soon after.

As has been mentioned, the most famous of Marvin College's graduates was Alben W. Barkley (1877-1956), born in a log house on his grandfather's farm in Graves County, Kentucky. In 1891, his family moved to a small farm just west of Clinton. Of his educational goals Barkley wrote: "As the fall of 1892 approached, I found myself fired with an ambition to attend Marvin College. At that time, there were two very excellent colleges in Clinton--Clinton College, operated under the jurisdiction of the Baptist Church, and Marvin College, named for a former Methodist bishop, operated under the jurisdiction of the Methodist Church. Having been reared Presbyterian, but my family having joined the Methodist Church when we moved to Clinton, I very naturally decided to attend the Methodist college, if some way could be found for paying my tuition as well as sparing the time from the farm work" (Gazette, Section 2, p.1). A way was found to finance his schooling--through his working as one of the school's janitors. "I made the fires, swept the rooms, rang the bell, carried the water, dusted the desks and tables..." (Gazette, Section 2, p.1).

While at Marvin, Barkley soon revealed his talents for oratory, one year winning the Declaimer's Medal. "I became a real stump speaker, for I used to go into the woods

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and in thundering tones rehearse my orations to the helpless trees and stumps" (Barkley p. 54). In 1897, after five years of work and study, Barkley received his Bachelor of Arts degree, one of the five members of his graduating class. He wished to continue his education but was forced to take a teaching position at Marvin after a brief stay at Emory College in Georgia. He began reading law during the interval and found it more to his liking than teaching. After one semester, he left Clinton to enter the law school at the University of Virginia.

Barkley obtained his law degree in 1903 and went on to become prosecuting attorney for McCracken County, Kentucky, and was elected U.S. Senator for four terms beginning 1927, 1933, 1939, and 1945. He was selected Democratic majority leader from 1936-1949. A loyal supporter of Roosevelt's New Deal, Barkley was also "a hard-working honest politician," in Harry Truman's words, "and one of the most popular men in the Democratic party." (Truman, Vol. II, p. 191).

Barkley was not to forget his old school where his debating and oratorical talents were first discovered and developed, assets later used with such skill in his career in politics. The citizens of Clinton were also proud of the college's achievements and its contribution to the community, as was expressed in a 1953 special edition of their local newspaper. As stated in an editorial:

The influence of this mighty educational effort of the people of Hickman County is still felt in this entire region. Great energy and sacrifice on the part of the sturdy farmers, merchants and professional personnel was expended and not by any manner of means in vain.

Our county, state and union and our people in general will continue to profit from the results of Marvin College.

Who among us will not declare that it was worth the struggle when thinking and dreaming of the life of many of its graduates? (Gazett, Sec. 9, p. 7).

After the close of Marvin School, the old Boys' Dormitory was used for a time as a grade school. In 1928 the Board of Directors finally sold the buildings and grounds, with the dormitory being purchased by R. B. Jewell, Sr., and H. E. Jewell. Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Jewell operated it as a well-known resort hotel, popular with many prominent persons throughout the country. In 1938 it was bought by their daughter, Mrs. Lewis A. Birk, and her husband. Mrs. Birk managed Hotel Jewell until 1973 when it was sold and the interior remodeled for use as a residence. The President's House still stands, now owned by Homer H. Harpole. The foundation of the main Marvin School Building, razed in the early 1930's, is located on the Harpole property.

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Morton, 1874, p. 342.

Hichman County Deed Book 41, p. 412.

The Hickman County Gazette, Section 9, pp. 4, 7, 83, Section 13, p. 113.

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Government Printing Office, 1899.

Truman, Harry S. Memoirs. Vols. I, II. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., 1956.