

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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kimsey Junior College

other names/site number Ducktown Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 244 State Highway 68 n/a not for publication

city or town Ducktown n/a vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Polk code 139 zip code 37326

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.)

Herbert L. Hays 7/14/92
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer/ Tennessee Historical Commission
Date
State of 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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

William Byers

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

9/2/92

Kimsey Junior College
Name of Property

Polk County, Tennessee
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	3	buildings
	1	sites
1		structures
		objects
2	4	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Resources of the Tennessee Copper Basin

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: college

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Collegiate Gothic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE
terra cotta

Narrative Description

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

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 n/a
(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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1932

1938-1941

Significant Dates

1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Hunt, R. H.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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): n/a

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Southeast Tennessee Development District

Kimsey Junior College
Name of Property

Polk County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 159 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Ducktown, TN 133 SW

1	16	378720	3881760
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	379640	3881280

3	16	378400	3880920
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	378040	3882050

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 Karen L. Daniels/ Historic Preservation Planner
organization Southeast Tennessee Development District date March 1992
street & number 25 Cherokee Boulevard telephone (615) 266-5781
city or town Chattanooga state Tennessee zip code 37405

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 the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name Polk County Board of Education, c/o Superintendent of Education, Danny Rogers
street & number P. O. BBox A telephone (615) 338-4506
city or town Benton state Tennessee zip code 37307

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.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

Historic Appearance

The Kimsey Junior College building, in Ducktown, Polk County, Tennessee is a two story Collegiate Gothic style building constructed in 1932-33 from a design by prominent Chattanooga architect R. H. Hunt.

The building is constructed of red brick with terra cotta detailing on the central three story tower and on the end wings. The building is ten bays wide with original wood 9/9 and 12/12 double hung sash windows. These are arranged in groups of three or five with continuous stone lintels and sills. Three sets of original paired wooden entrance doors are located in the central tower and each wing. The doors are flanked by tarnished brass lamps.

The central tower of the building has terra cotta and stone spandrels, cornice and quoins. Four finials top the corners of the tower. The windows on the third story have round arched heads. They are separated from the second story windows by decorative stone spandrels. The entrance and windows are surrounded by stone. The arrangement of arcaded windows sets below a stone Gothic arch. Above this is a carved stone shield.

The wings on the each end of the building house the auditorium, gymnasium, and library. The windows and doors of the wings are surrounded in stone with stone quoins and carved shields. Stone pilasters separate the three sets of paired doors. On the west side of the building a modern stair tower interrupts the front facade of the building. The stair tower replaced interior stairs in the 1970s.

The sides and rear of the building have little architectural ornamentation. A stone cornice tops the building, there is a stone string course along the side of the auditorium and the windows have stone sills. The gymnasium (west) wing has multi-light awning windows in the rear and the auditorium (east) wing has multi-light awning windows in the side. The rear (north) elevation has 12/12 double hung sash windows.

The only alteration to the exterior of the building has been the construction of stair towers on each end, one on the front, and one in the rear. These towers were built in the 1970s to help the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

building meet fire codes. Although intrusive, they do not detract from the overall design of the building.

The interior of the building was designed to be fireproof. R. H. Hunt's plan called for terrazzo tile floors, tile wainscoting on the plaster walls, and lockers to be built into the corridor walls (extant). The original doors to the classrooms have been replaced by metal framed doors with sidelights and transoms. The original light fixtures remain in the entries and in the auditorium. These are stepped brass fixtures with milk glass.

The classrooms have plaster walls, steam heat radiators under the windows, and tiled floors; blackboards are fixed to the walls. The library and the gymnasium have been retained in their original configuration. Both have wood and tile floors, tile wainscoting, plaster walls and plaster ceilings.

The auditorium is the most altered room in the building. Its flooring has been carpeted and its original seats removed. The plaster pilasters around the stage are original, as is the decorative plaster work above the stage and on the second story balcony. The original light fixtures are supplemented with light cans.

There are four buildings, one structure (#2) and one site (#6) on the Kimsey Junior College property.

Inventory:

1. Kimsey Junior College. description above. (c)
2. Pump House. (Structure) 1932, designed by R. H. Hunt. One story, approximately 20 feet square. Concrete foundation, brick siding, flat roof with stepped parapet. Central door flanked by a window on each side. Stone string course and cornice. Stone lettering of "PUMPING STATION KIMSEY JUNIOR COLLEGE" on front. (c)
3. Wood shed. c. 1970. approximately 10 feet square. Concrete foundation, wood siding, tin shingled gable roof. (nc)
4. Concrete block shed. c. 1980. approximately 10 x 8 feet. Concrete foundation, concrete block siding, tin shingled gable

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

roof. (nc)

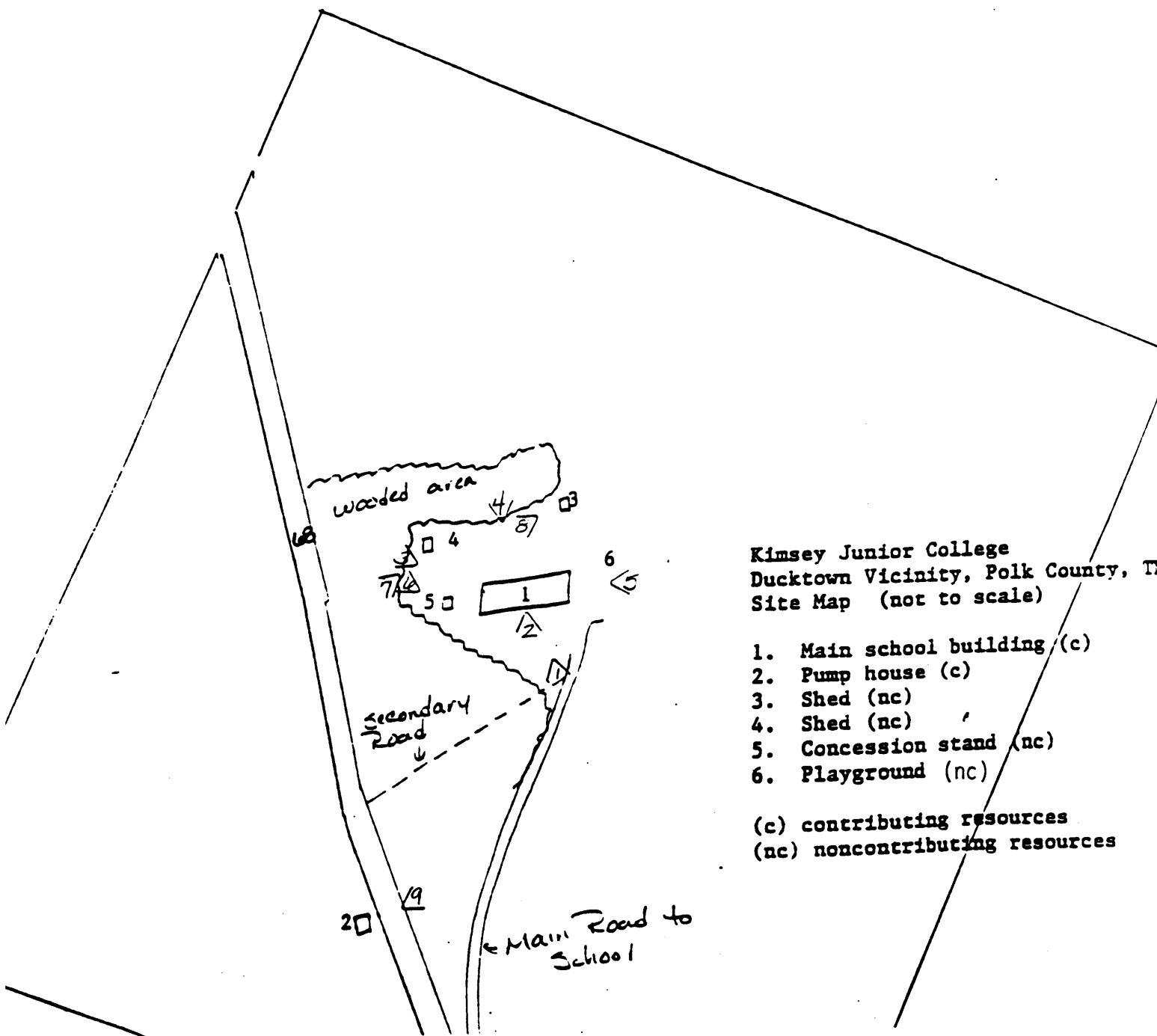
5. Concession stand. c. 1980. approximately 10 x 8 feet.
Concrete foundation, concrete block siding, tin shingled shed roof.
(nc)

6. Playground. (site) c. 1965. consists of swings, teeter
totter, and slides. (nc)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee



Kimsey Junior College
Ducktown Vicinity, Polk County, TN
Site Map (not to scale)

- 1. Main school building (c)
- 2. Pump house (c)
- 3. Shed (nc)
- 4. Shed (nc)
- 5. Concession stand (nc)
- 6. Playground (nc)

(c) contributing resources
(nc) noncontributing resources

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

Significance

Kimsey Junior College, north of Ducktown, Polk County, Tennessee is significant under criteria A and C for its significance in education, and architecture in the Copper Basin.

When the Copper Basin was first surveyed in 1836 the surveyor was instructed by the General Assembly (Acts of 1836) to set aside the sixteenth section of each township, if suitable for cultivation, for the use of schools in the township. Ducktown was located in the fourth fractional township, range 5 east.

In 1843 Tennessee was authorized by the U. S. Congress to sell its school lands or lease them for a period of four years, with the funds going to support the township schools. In 1884 the act was amended to allow for the lease of school lands for more than four years.

In 1889 the Tennessee legislature provided for the election of Township School Commissioners and authorized the leasing of school lands for mining for a term of not more than 25 years. The lease had to be ratified by the voters of the district. In 1923 the legislature removed the clause submitting lease of school lands to the voters.

In 1916 the Fourth Fractional Township school lands were leased for 25 years at an annual rent of \$10,000 a year. The lessee was allowed the right to mine on the lands. In 1929 the lease was extended until 1948, with the privilege of renewing the lease for another 25 years.

Chapter 897 of the Private Acts of 1929 authorized the expenditure of school funds belonging to the public schools in the Fourth Fractional Township of Polk County, provided for a Township School Commission and for the election of the successors of the School Commission. The law also provided for the expenditure of school funds for the construction of a Junior College Building within the Township.

Since the school lands had been leased in 1916 nothing had been done with the rents collected until 1931 when the Township School Commissioners proposed to build a \$150,000 Junior College Building of the school lands. There was \$160,000 in the school fund.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

Some residents were infuriated that the money was going to be used for construction of a new building instead of maintenance of existing grammar schools in Ducktown, Isabella and Copperhill, and the existing high schools in Ducktown and Copperhill. Fifty residents, led by C. B. Dalton filed suit against the three School Commissioners claiming they had no authority to build the building. The case was heard by the Tennessee Supreme Court which ruled that the School Commissioners were acting in accordance with Chapter 897 of the Private Acts of 1929 in which the legislature named the first three township school commissioners, set the date for election of their successors, authorized the commissioners to use the school funds, and authorized them to construct a Junior College.

The court action guaranteed that the Township School Commissioners would construct the building, and guaranteed that money from Section 16 would be used for continued maintenance of the building. Because of this ruling the Ducktown High School and Ducktown Elementary School (which now occupies the building) were controlled and maintained by the Fourth Fractional Township School Commission.

In July 1932, with the legal battles over, the commissioners released a notice to architects requesting written proposals and plans for the Kimsey Junior College. One of the responding architects was R. H. Hunt, a prominent Chattanooga architect, who had designed many public buildings in Chattanooga. Hunt was given the contract for the Junior College and construction began in the fall. (Several of Hunt's buildings were included in the R. H. Hunt thematic resources nomination in 1980).

The building was completed the following year and an application was made to join the state Junior College system. The state decided that they did not want a Junior College in the Copper Basin, which was so far away from population centers, and the Kimsey Junior College Building sat vacant for five years.

In 1938 the Ducktown High School moved from a frame school in town into the building and remained there until the mid 1960s. During this time the building housed both a vocational and regular high school classes for the children of Ducktown. The high school provided the highest level of education that many residents of Ducktown received before they went to work in the mines.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

The Kimsey Junior College Building remains the only architect designed building in the Copper Basin, and is a monument to public architecture of the 1930s. The other school buildings in the Copper Basin were either late 19th century frame buildings, which were destroyed long ago, or are 1950s modern buildings. Kimsey Junior College is also the most ornately decorated building in the Basin. Because little expense was spared in its construction the community received a building that could have been constructed in a larger city.

The Kimsey Junior College building meets requirements for significance and integrity set forth in the Historic Resources of the Tennessee Copper Basin Multiple Property Documentation Form.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 8 Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

Bibliography

Cook, David. Principal. Interview. November 26, 1991.

Dalton v. Kimsey. papers at Tennessee State Library & Archives.

Foster, W. G. "Pioneers Dream School Rises." Chattanooga Sunday Times. November 13, 1932. Magazine section, p.1.

Notice to Architects. Dated July 30th, 1932. At Ducktown Basin Museum.

Patterson, E. C. Letter to W. F. Lamoreaux, dated August 1, 1932. At Ducktown Basin Museum.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, TN

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The property nominated is located on Polk County, Tennessee tax map 104 as lot 20. The area nominated is the area historically associated with the building.

Beginning at point A, the boundary moves southwest approximately 2500 feet, thence northwest approximately 2500 feet, thence northeast approximately 2500 feet, thence southeast approximately 2500 feet to the point of the beginning.

The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1" = 400'. This scale tax map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1" = 400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service. To supplement this map, the nomination includes a detailed verbal boundary description.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 10

Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee

Kimsey Junior College
Ducktown vicinity, Polk County, Tennessee
Photo by: Karen L. Daniels
Date: November 26, 1991
Neg: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

#1 of 12
West (Main) facade

#2 of 12
Detail of Main entrance

#3 of 12
North facade

#4 of 12
East facade

#5 of 12
South facade

#6 of 12
Concession stand along north facade

#7 of 12
Shed in northeast corner of clearing

#8 of 12
Shed along east side of clearing

#9 of 12
Pump house along State Highway 68

#10 of 12
Interior of main entrance

#11 of 12
Interior of auditorium

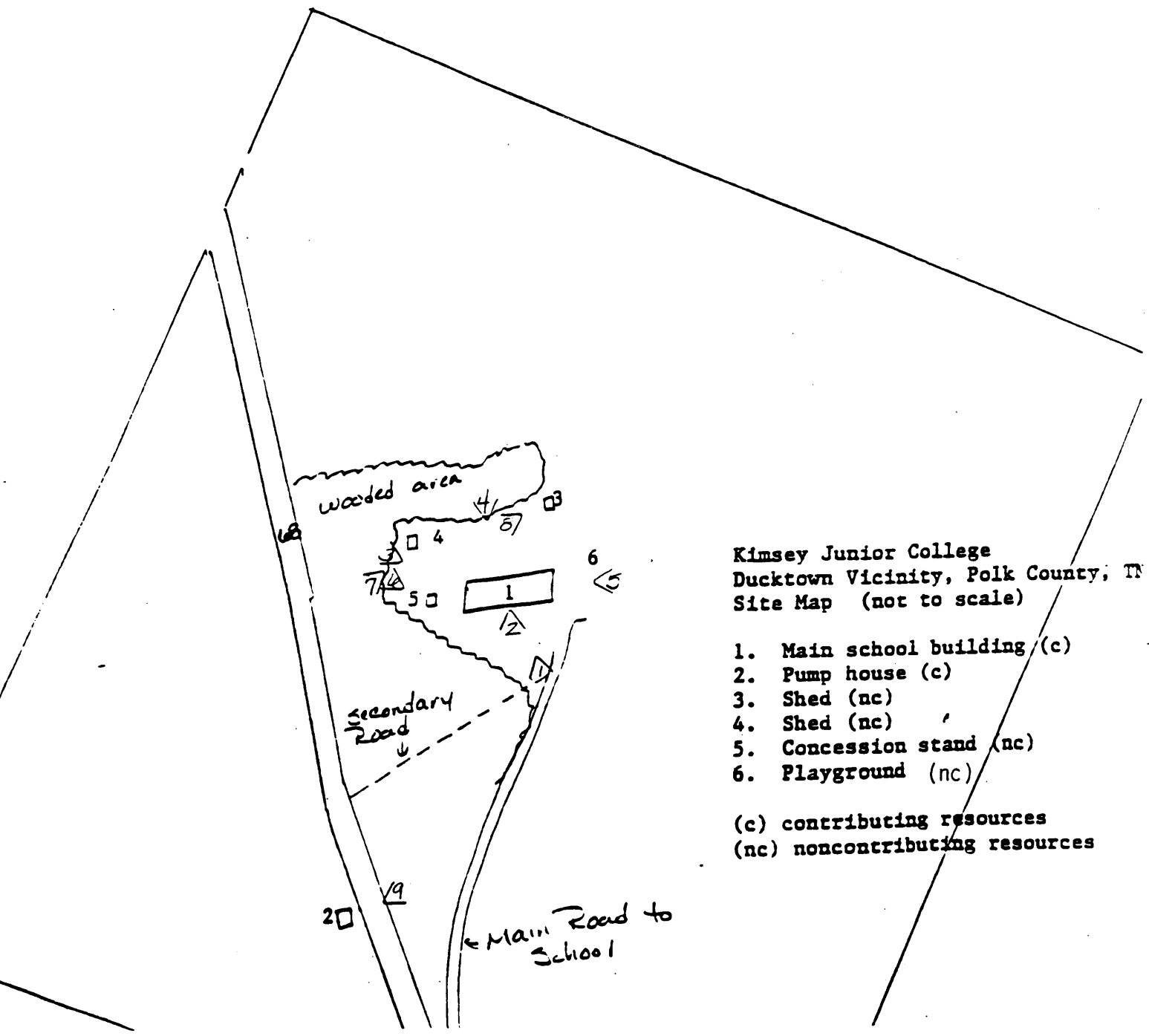
#12 of 12
Interior of second story corridor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 11

Kimsey Junior College
Polk County, Tennessee



Kimsey Junior College
Ducktown Vicinity, Polk County, TN
Site Map (not to scale)

- 1. Main school building (c)
 - 2. Pump house (c)
 - 3. Shed (nc)
 - 4. Shed (nc)
 - 5. Concession stand (nc)
 - 6. Playground (nc)
- (c) contributing resources
(nc) noncontributing resources