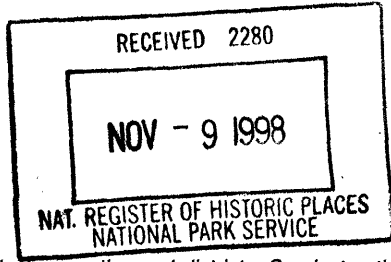


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1497

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 Audubon School

other names/site number He-H-221

2. Location

street & number 1400 Clay Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Henderson N/A  vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Henderson code 101 zip code 42420

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.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and  
Executive Director, KHC 10-29-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
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

Date of Action

Patrick Andrews

12/22/98

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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility/  
dance hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals:

Other: Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

roof METAL

other STONE

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**

(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

**Period of Significance**

1906-1976

**Significant Dates**

1906

1928

1976

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Tribble, Spalding (Architect)

**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):**

- 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:

The Downtown Henderson Project

P.O. Box 962

Henderson, Kentucky 42420

Audubon School ,  
Name of Property

Henderson Co., Kentucky  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.25 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

1	6	4	4	8	9	8	0	4	1	8	6	4	0	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

 Henderson Quad

3 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

2 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

4 

Zone		Easting					Northing							

[ ] 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 Donna G. Logsdon, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Logsdon & Logsdon Architects date 8/1/98

street & number P.O. Box 177 telephone (502) 528-4698

city or town Hardyville state Kentucky zip code 42746

### 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 Shirley & Pauline Howell

street & number 2453 N. Park Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Henderson state Kentucky zip code 42420

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

### 7. Narrative Description

#### Site Characteristics

The **Audubon School** (He-H-221) is located in Henderson County, Kentucky, southeast of the downtown commercial district, at 1400 Clay Street. Situated on the southeast corner of Clay and Letcher Streets in the Audubon residential neighborhood, the property consists of 1.25 acres and is accessed by on-street parking.

This two-story masonry school building was designed by Architect E. Spalding Tribble and built by contractors Mundo and McGraw with brickwork by R.P. Farnsworth. Containing ten rooms, a principals office, and library, the floors were maple, except for the basement which was concrete. Heated by steam and using electric lights, the building cost \$ 30,000 ("Audubon," 1907) when it was constructed in 1906 (Arnett, 1976: 85), as indicated in the pedimented portico over the front entry. A two-story addition consisting of a gymnasium at ground level with classrooms, a library, and toilets on the second floor was constructed on the east end of the building in 1928 by Tom Overby who lived in the 1500 block of Cumnock Street (Burrus interview, 1998). After the school closed in 1976, an appliance store occupied the building with antique cars in the gymnasium. In 1996, the present owner purchased the building and developed it into an artists' studio concentrating in ceramics, a gift shop stocked with handmade items, with one classroom currently rented to a children's dance theatre. The school is the only prominent building on the property.

The **Audubon School** is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Henderson's early education history. These events include: the early history of school development and the construction of city schools in Henderson; the annexation of the Audubon neighborhood in 1905; the decision by Henderson's Board of Education to build the Audubon School in 1906 and to construct an addition in 1928; selling the abandoned school building to private individuals after the explosion in 1976; and not rebuilding a new school in its place.

#### Descriptive Statement

The **Audubon School** embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type of school architecture found in Henderson County that was constructed in the late-1800s and early-1900s. Similar in materials, mass and style as the Seventh Street School, 1893 and the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   7   Page   2  

## **Audubon School**

## **Henderson County, Kentucky**

Jefferson Street School, 1901, it expresses historic integrity in terms of its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling, while representing the year it was built, 1906. The area proposed for nomination includes a young children’s playground on the west end and a ballfield on the east end of the building.

The name **Audubon School** came from the neighborhood in which it is located. That neighborhood was named for ornithologist John James Audubon who built the first house in this once-wooded wilderness. This two-story brick edifice is situated on a prominent corner of the neighborhood and is partially hidden from view by large shade trees. One-and one-and-a-half story wood-frame residences, dating from the early-1900s through the mid-1940s, surround the school with a strip of small commercial buildings lining Letcher Street. The **Audubon School** was used to educate children who lived in the surrounding residential neighborhood from 1906 until 1976 when the school closed unexpectedly due to structural damage caused by a boiler explosion.

The character-defining features of the **Audubon School** include: a low hipped roof intersected by two front cross gabled roofs with pediments; the date “1906” engraved in the main entry pediment; the name “Audubon School” in raised stone letters above the main entry; narrow slightly arched multilight windows accented by stone keystones; paired and single semi-circular arched 4-over-4 wood windows highlighted by stone arches; romanesque arched entries accessed by steps; brick pilasters; and metal framed multilight windows in the gymnasium. These exterior and numerous interior features such as beaded board wainscotting and ceilings; plaster walls; narrow wooden floor boards; transoms over classroom doors; chalkboards; and pressed tin ceilings; remain intact. Presently, the building is used as an artist's studio and a rehearsal hall for a children's dance theater. The current owner respects the historic character-defining features that remain intact.

### List of Resources

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date of Construction</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
1	Audubon School	1906	Contributing
2	Playground	1906	Contributing
3	Ballfield	1906	Contributing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

### Building Characteristics

1 The **Audubon School**, located on 1.25 acres of land, faces Clay Street and is situated in a primarily residential neighborhood comprised of one- and one-and-a-half story wood-frame buildings, dating from the late-1800s to mid-1900s. The school is bound by Clay Street on the north, a narrow alley on the south, Shelby Street on the east, and Letcher Street on the west. On-street parking is available on three sides of the building.

This two-story brick building is five bays wide and three piles deep. The front (north) facade is highlighted by two projecting arched entries accessed by concrete steps. The eastern entry contains a pair of doors that are slightly recessed and are accented by narrow arched windows highlighted by stone keystones. The name, "Audubon School," appears in raised letters in a horizontal stone band above the main entry while the date of construction, 1906, is inscribed in the pediment. A pair of windows, connected together by a semi-circular arched window, is centered above the entry on the second floor and is flanked by similar single narrow arched windows. A continuous stone arch undulates over the three sets of windows, accenting the projecting pedimented entry.

The gymnasium entry, on the eastern end, is similar to the main entry, however, narrower in width. Paired wood entry doors have small windows set in the doors with a glass arched transom above. Two small slightly arched windows appear above the entry doors with two tall single windows with arched window heads on the second floor. A pair of continuous stone arches highlight the windows with a pediment situated above. Corbelled brick arched window hoods accent the paired and single 4-over-4 wood windows which pierce the brick facade, allowing light to penetrate the almost square classrooms.

A brick water table wraps around the entire building about two feet above grade. Stone caps top the brick pilasters which are centered between the paired windows. Interior brick chimneys with corbelled caps emerge above the low sloping hipped roof. Large metal framed multilight windows pierce the 1928 gymnasium and second floor classroom addition.

Inside the 1906 portion of the building are five large classrooms, two cloak rooms, and a teacher's restroom on both the first and second floor levels. A teacher's work room and teacher's locker room are found on the second floor as well as a secretary and principal's office. Dark stained beaded board wainscoting and ceilings, plaster walls, narrow wood plank floor boards, transoms over five-paneled wood doors, and chalkboards still remain intact. An octagonal opening in the second floor that was surrounded by a railing was

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

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### **Audubon School**

### **Henderson County, Kentucky**

enclosed by order of the State Fire Marshall in the 1970s. The boiler room, two water fountains and two large restrooms, one for girls and one for boys, are separated by a large open cloak room space in the basement. Both restrooms are accessed through large openings with a long sink trough for handwashing situated opposite a row of toilet and shower stalls.

In 1928, an auditorium, which contains the gymnasium and stage, was added in the basement. Basketball was played on a smaller-than official basketball court in the gymnasium without formal bleachers. Seating was available in later years along one side. On the south end of the gymnasium is a raised stage where concerts and Christmas plays were performed. Two separate dressing rooms, located underneath the stage area, are entered by two sets of stairs, one at each end. The cafeteria provided lunch for students and staff while the gymnasium served as the lunchroom. Tables, lined up along the gymnasium walls were pulled out and opened up for lunch.

Above the auditorium on the second floor, is a library, extension room, four classrooms, a cloak room, and student restrooms. Built-in storage units are still located in two classrooms with a locked medicine cabinet mounted on the wall in another. The student restrooms, separated by a dividing wall, are lighted by a continuous skylight. Dark stained beaded board wainscotting, similar to the original, is found in the hallway and classrooms unifying the building interior.

**2** The **playground**, located on the west side of the building facing Letcher Street, was used by the younger children. Shaded by large trees, this grassy area is surrounded by a six-foot-tall chain link fence which protected children from street traffic and on-street parking.

**3** The **ballfield**, located in the large open area on the east side of the building facing Shelby Street, contained two small ball diamonds and was used by the older children. The ballfield was enlarged in the 1970s when two homes that faced Shelby Street were purchased by the Board of Education and torn down.

The **Audubon School**, with its auditorium, playground, and ballfield, is exceptional in Henderson County since it tells us about the type of educational facilities that were traditionally designed and accepted by Henderson's Board of Education for use by the children and teachers in Henderson. It is also the only school building dating from the early-1900s that is in existence in the city today. The school has retained its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship and feeling while contributing to the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

history of Henderson's education.

### Integrity Evaluation

The **Audubon School** is being considered for nomination under National Register Criterion A for its significance within the area of Education and is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Henderson's early education history. The property also embodies the distinctive characteristics of school architecture that was prevalent in the late-1800s and early-1900s in Henderson County. The **Audubon School** possesses the integrity of design since it is distinct in being the only school in Henderson built in the early-1900s, that remains in existence today. It also retains the integrity of location, setting, materials, design, workmanship, and feeling from the date of its construction, 1906, reflecting an educational facility that was built in response to the growing needs of the Audubon community.

The **Audubon School** retains integrity of location due to the fact that the land it is situated on was specifically purchased by the Board of Education for \$ 2,675.00 in 1906 and that the school was designed by Architect, Spalding Tribble. Its setting is enhanced by the large shade trees on the north and west sides of the building and at the east end of the ballfield. Located on a prominent corner in the Audubon neighborhood, it is surrounded by residences that were constructed between the late-1800s to mid-1900s for the growing community of people that worked in the Henderson Cotton Mills and Marstall Furniture. Today, the building blends in with the neighborhood and is used for public meetings, an artist's studio, a gift shop, and a children's dance theatre.

Integrity of materials has been retained by the exterior brick walls vertically divided into bays by brick pilasters with stone caps; wood and metal framed multilight windows; as well as stone arches and keystones. On the interior, the chalkboards, beaded board wainscotting and ceilings, narrow wood floor boards, transoms, and five paneled wood doors remain intact.

The integrity of design of the **Audubon School** has been maintained since the main structure with its classrooms, cloak rooms, stairs, halls and toilets remain intact as it was constructed in 1906. The auditorium addition, built in 1928, used similar materials, construction techniques and incorporated details, such as the brick wall pattern, the continuous frieze and brick water table that both physically and visually connect the two buildings together.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

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### **Audubon School**

### **Henderson County, Kentucky**

In comparison with four other elementary schools in Henderson, dating between the late-1800s and early-1900s, all were constructed of brick, had a central projecting entry, were based on a similar floor plan design, and looked similar. Therefore, the building materials must have been readily available and the building style and design popular. Of these elementary schools: the Seventh Street School, built in 1893; the Jefferson Street School, built in 1901; and the Center Street School, built in 1870; only the **Audubon School** remains intact today.

The integrity of workmanship is displayed at the building entries. Arched openings highlighted by stone arches and windows accented by stone keystones; the school name in raised letters above the main entry; the date inscribed in the pediment; stone capped brick pilasters; and arched window heads that accent the exterior portrays a high level of workmanship that was available between the late-1800s and early-1900s in Henderson. Beaded board ceilings and wainscoting in the classrooms and hallway, combined with narrow wooden floor boards and chalkboards, are some of the interior character-defining features that have been maintained.

The integrity of feeling is expressed in the building's exterior facade since all of the original character-defining features remain intact, displaying the 1906 and later 1928 appearance. These features include: tall, narrow paired and single multilight wood windows; large metal framed multilight windows; brick pilasters; a low hipped roof; arched entries accented with stone details; and the name and date of construction inscription. Although the majority of the interior features including woodwork, plaster walls, high ceilings, wood floors, stairs and room configuration remain intact, slight building modifications occurred after the 1928 addition was constructed. Prior to 1960, two cloak rooms were removed on the second floor and a wide stairway was installed to provide access to the gymnasium.

After the **Audubon School** closed in 1976, it was purchased by Jim and Brenda Roman. During their ownership, a few modifications took place. On the east facade, a portion of the brick and metal framed multilight windows were removed from the northern most bay on the east facade and replaced with a garage door providing access for antique cars that were being restored inside the gymnasium. Also, the majority of wire glass window panes were replaced with plexiglass due to vandalism. Although acoustical tile ceilings were installed in several classrooms to lower the ceiling height in order to reduce utility bills, the original beaded board ceilings remain intact and are slowly being revealed as the current owner removes the acoustical ceiling panels.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   7   Page   7  

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### **Audubon School**

### **Henderson County, Kentucky**

Despite these few minor modifications, the integrity of building materials has remained intact including the exterior brick walls pierced by single and paired wood windows as well as large metal framed multilight windows, paired wooden entry doors, interior woodwork, classrooms, plaster walls, and chalkboards. The majority of original design features also remain intact such as a projecting entry; brick pilasters dividing the building vertically into bays; as well as the continuous frieze and water table, gymnasium, main hallway, stairs and classrooms.

A high level of integrity of workmanship is displayed as indicated by the date "1906" inscribed in the pediment; the name of the school in raised letters above the front entry doors; and the integration of building materials, such as brick, connecting the 1928 gymnasium to the existing 1906 school building. The integrity of its location in the Audubon neighborhood as well as its setting, including the grassy playground and ballfield shaded by large trees and low foliage, has been maintained for over 92 years. These elements of integrity: location, setting, materials, design, and workmanship; combined together express the feeling of what it was like to attend and be educated at the **Audubon School** between 1906 and 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   8   Page   1  

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

### **8. Statement of Significance**

The **Audubon School** (He-H-221) is being considered for nomination under National Register Criterion A for its significance within the area of Education because it is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Henderson's early education history. These events include: the early history of school development and the construction of city schools in Henderson; the annexation of the Audubon neighborhood in 1905; the decision by Henderson's Board of Education to build the Audubon School in 1906 and to construct an addition in 1928; selling the abandoned school building to private individuals after the explosion in 1976; and not rebuilding a new school in its place.

The property was evaluated within the context "Education in Henderson, 1869-1976" focusing on the built environment and the people who made contributions to the growth and development of Henderson schools. This context was developed as a part of the survey of Henderson in 1997 and 1998 and is included in the "Henderson Historic Resources Survey and National Register Nominations Final Survey Summary Report" on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council in Frankfort, Kentucky. Excerpts from the context "Education in Henderson, 1869-1976" are included in the following Statement of Significance. The significance of the property is associated with events and is associated with events that made a significant contribution to the history of Henderson's Education.

### **EDUCATION IN HENDERSON, 1869-1976**

The city of Henderson was established in 1797, one year prior to the formation of Henderson County (Industrial, 1913: 2). Educational efforts were underway as early as 1798 when a legislative act was passed to provide for the designation of public land for certain educational institutions (Henderson, 1941: 65). Just prior to 1799, it is noted that the County Court met in what is considered to be the earliest school house in Henderson that was located on the northeast corner of Main and Second Streets. This school house was constructed of logs (Arnett, 1976: 19) and was approximately 14 feet square, with walls of unhewn logs, and logs hewn on one side serving as the joists (Starling, 1996: 51).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   8   Page   2  

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### Audubon School

### Henderson County, Kentucky

#### Public Education

Public education in Henderson dates from when the Literary Act was passed by the General Assembly in 1821 and the county was divided into twelve districts (Arnett, 1976: 79). Just one year later, the first school law was enacted for the establishment of common schools in Kentucky (Starling, 1996: 410). Although educational progress was hindered during the Civil War (Arnett, 1976: 80), by 1869, an act was passed incorporating Henderson High School and authorizing the Henderson Public School system. This act permitted the city to issue bonds of up to \$ 50,000 for the purpose of erecting a school building, provided that such action be approved by public vote. The bond issue carried and the proceeds of the bond sale went to the construction of the first public school building (Henderson, 1941: 66-67). This year marked another milestone with the separation of two school systems: rural, supervised by the county commissioners appointed by the fiscal court, and the city, administered by a city superintendent (Arnett, 1976: 80).

#### Henderson City Schools

On June 9, 1869, the Board of Education purchased a 158 x 300 foot lot from John W. Alves on the corner of Elm and Green Streets for \$ 6,600 cash. School Board member, A.H. Talbot, was sent to Louisville to secure plans and specifications for a new school building. Talbot contracted architect A.H. Clark to design the first public school building, known as the **Center Street School** on the corner of Green and Center Streets. When it opened in 1870, it contained fourteen large rooms with slate black chalkboards, an assembly room, and a basement (Starling, 1996: 422). This three-story building housed all twelve grades with a total of 13 elementary teachers and two secondary teachers (Arnett, 1976: 80). City children were educated free of charge while non-resident pupils were taxed a small tuition fee (Starling, 1996: 422). The first commencement was held on June 1872 with 10 graduates (Arnett, 1976: 80). Fire Insurance Sanborn Maps, dating between 1892 and 1913, confirm the location and plan type of the school. In 1975, a new school named **Central Elementary**, was constructed (Arnett, 1976: 88) in a new location on Center Street near North Alvasia, replacing the old Center Street School.

In 1871, Henderson's City Council's Board of Trustees (Arnett, 1976: 274) purchased a lot measuring 72 by 200 feet at the corner of First and Alves Street, for a black school known as the **Alves Street School**. A frame building with two rooms, each 30 feet square, was erected and the school opened September 2, 1872. In 1878, the City Council added

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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### Audubon School

### Henderson County, Kentucky

another room to the school building and another teacher. Other additions were made to the school building since attendance increased from 145 pupils in 1874 to 368 in 1882 (Starling, 1996: 426) reflecting the growth in the county's black population from 5,990 in 1870 to 7,572 in 1880 (Starling, 1996: 249). When the school opened for the 1882-1883 school year, there were four teachers. The school was governed by the same rules as the public school for white children and its sessions were ten months with three departments: primary, elementary and intermediate (Starling, 1996: 426).

By 1893, Henderson's population had grown to the extent it was necessary to build another elementary school to house 250 elementary students. That school was built on the corner of Seventh and Green Streets. Known as the **Seventh Street Public School**, this two-story brick building was noted in 1897 and is drawn on the 1906 Fire Insurance Sanborn Maps as a square building with corner turrets. A 1910 photograph of the building reveals it to be a structure that is three bays wide and two piles deep. An exposed pulley on the roof for the school bell projects through a flat hipped roof above the central projecting entry. A flat hipped roof covers the entire building while pyramidal roofs cover each turret. Stone lintels and sills accented the tall narrow windows with a stone water table surrounding the base of the building. See Figure 1. In 1975, this school was replaced with a new structure (Arnett, 1976: 88) on the same site and is now called **Seventh Street Elementary**.

The **Jefferson Street Public School**, built in 1901 on the corner of Jefferson and Elm Streets (Arnett, 1976: 85), was located in the southwestern part of the city. Noted in existence, according to a 1901 Fire Insurance Sanborn Map, by 1906, this two-story rectangular brick building had central projections on each facade. A 1910 photograph reveals the front elevation to be three-bays wide and two-stories tall with exposed basement windows making it similar in style and materials as the old Seventh Street Public School. The central projecting bay has an arched opening with a recessed entry. Tall narrow windows with stone lintel and sills flank the entry and rhythmically pierce the facade. See Figure 2. In 1963, additional land was purchased adjoining the Jefferson Street School and a new facility was constructed replacing the old school (Arnett, 1976: 88).

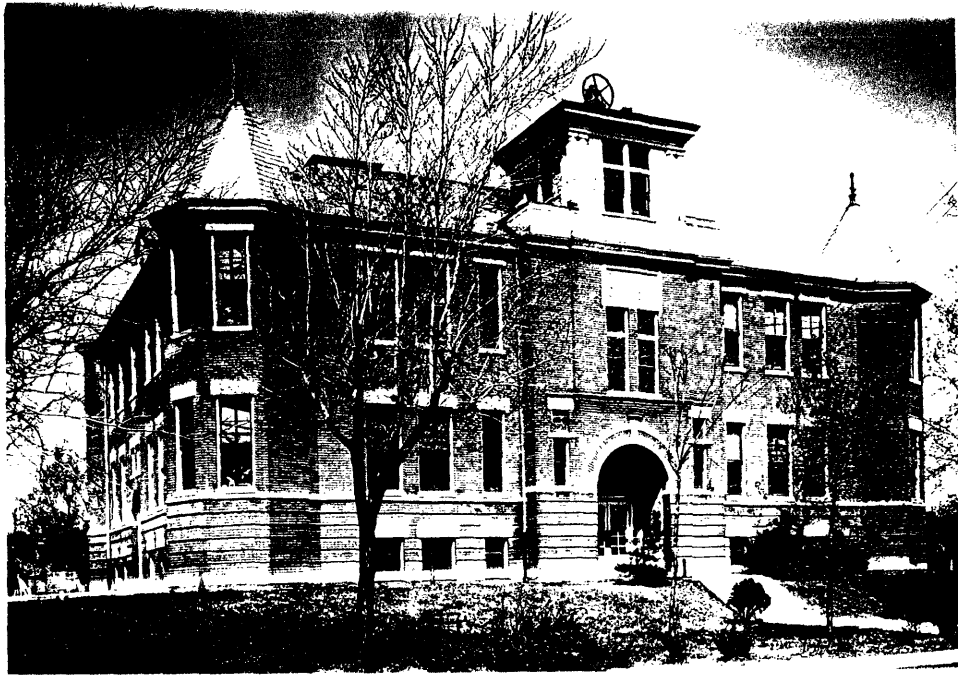


Figure 1, Seventh Street School

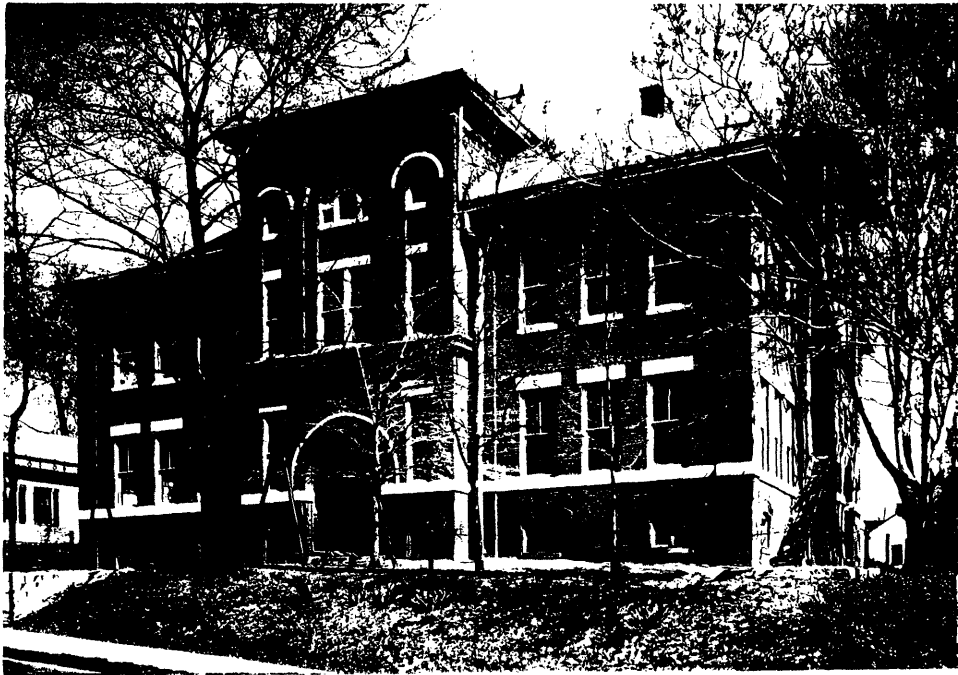


Figure 2, Jefferson Street School

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

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### **Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

### **Audubon School**

Audubon's first "hall of wisdom" was constructed by the Henderson Cotton Mill officials (Structure, 1950) who built the mill and sixteen two-story brick duplexes in 1883 to house employees and their families. This big school house was built for the children in the Audubon neighborhood near the northwest corner of Letcher and Powell Streets in 1885 (Important, 1950). According to the 1901 Fire Insurance Sanborn Map, this one-story, U-shaped, wood-frame building had a central two-story bell tower and heat stoves. See Figure 3. Two teachers taught 90 pupils in that school building in 1898. Former city judge, Ed Hare, reminisced about his old school in an interview in 1950, commenting that only the younger children attended because many were working in the mill by age nine (Arnett, 1976: 204).

As Henderson continued to grow, so did the Audubon neighborhood. In 1886, the Ohio Valley Furniture Company, later known as Marstell Furniture, established their business in this area, generating numerous jobs. In order to accommodate the increase in population, a multitude of one- and two-story brick and wood-frame dwellings, dating between the late-1800s through the early-1900s, were constructed in this area. Other employment opportunities in this burgeoning east end of town brought many families to the area with school age children.

By 1889, Audubon's population reached 200 and in 1894, Audubon was referred to as a village on a property deed (Kentucky, 1950: D-4). In 1905, when the City of Henderson began talking about annexation, the citizens of Audubon began demanding a new school to accommodate the numerous school age children. One year after Audubon was annexed (Arnett, 1976: 205), the Board of Education purchased the Fourth Presbyterian Church mission house and lot on the southeast corner of Letcher and Clay Streets for \$ 2,675.00 (Arnett, 1976: 85). This was the future site of the new **Audubon School**. See Figure 4.

The **Audubon School** was a ten classroom school building, large enough to accommodate 400 children in 1906. By 1928, four additional classrooms and an assembly hall were added to keep pace with the rapidly expanding Audubon area which had surpassed the 1913 population of 3,200. By 1950, the population reached 7,000 (Population, 1950: D-8) with 500 pupils and 15 teachers attending the **Audubon School** (Every, 1950: C-6).

Today, the present **Audubon School** is the only turn-of-the-century elementary school building in existence that remains associated with Henderson's early education. Designed by Architect Spalding Tribble (Arnett, 1976: 85) in 1906, this two-story brick edifice



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

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### **Audubon School**

### **Henderson County, Kentucky**

reflects the plan type and style that was prevalent in the 1893 Seventh Street School and the 1901 Jefferson Street School. See Figure 5. Constructed of brick, it is three bays wide with a central projecting bay that has the name of the school above the entry. A large semi-circular arched opening provides access to the interior through a pair of recessed wood and glass doors. Stone lintels and sills accent the tall narrow multilight wood windows and a stone beltcourse at water table level surrounds the building. A basement is revealed by small glass windows below the water table.

Except for the corner turrets on the Seventh Street School and the flat hipped roof on both the Seventh Street and Jefferson Street Schools, similarities exist among the schools. Comparatively, the **Audubon School** closely resembles the Jefferson Street School with its rectangular plan, central projections and exterior brick and stone details. Of all the early elementary schools constructed in Henderson, only **Audubon School** had a later addition, a gymnasium and stage in 1928 as confirmed by the 1931 Fire Insurance Sanborn Maps. See Figure 6.

**Audubon School's** continued existence and use since its closing as an educational facility in 1976 is a direct reflection of the community's interest in preserving a historic building that marks the end of an era in education as well as the school board's decisions to alter school district boundaries and plans for new construction. Several of the schools were replaced including the historic Jefferson Street School in 1963, and the Seventh Street School in 1975. Some schools were abandoned and students redistributed as with the **Audubon School**, while other schools were relocated such as the Center Street School in 1975.

After the **Audubon School** closed in 1976, it was purchased and occupied by private citizens from 1976 to 1994. Several modifications occurred to the east wall of the gymnasium in 1978 and the ceilings were lowered. As of April 1996, the current owners, Shirley and Pauline Howell, respect the historic building and have retained all of the character defining features such as the beaded board wainscoting and ceilings; chalkboards; pressed tin ceilings, narrow wood floor boards; tall, narrow multilight wood windows; and transoms and doors; in an effort to preserve the building. The Howells continue to restore the facility and landscape the school yard.

Remaining in good condition, the **Audubon School**, which once played a vital part in the history of Henderson's educational growth and development, is the only surviving school building that represents a time period spanning between 1906 and 1976.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

### 9. Bibliography

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   2  

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   3  

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

### **9. Bibliography-continued**

#### **Interviews:**

Bob Baird  
Jim Bates  
Barbara Belcher  
Carl Bonnell  
Dorothy Bonnell  
George Burns  
Mary Carroll  
Dorothy Chadwell  
Ron Chapman  
Darlene Cosby  
Marilyn Dixon  
Rudolph Griffin  
Linda Hallmark  
Steve Hargis  
James Harmon  
Johnell Harmon  
Pauline Howell  
Ruth Jacobs  
Ralph Jung  
Wilma Jung  
Marie Kruse  
Everline Lancaster  
Julie Martin  
Steve Martin  
Donald Wathen  
James L. Ward  
Mary Winchester

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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**Audubon School**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

### **10. Verbal Boundary Description**

The **Audubon School** is located on Property Identification Map H-2-22, lots 1 and 2, in Henderson, Kentucky. Encompassing one-half of a city block, the parcel is 133 feet wide and 410 feet long. It is bound on the north by Clay Street, on the east by Shelby Street, on the south by a narrow alley, and on the west by Letcher Street. See attached map.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary chosen for this property encompasses the significant building and associated playground and ballfield areas associated with the **Audubon School**. The majority of the entire 1.25 acres, lot number 1, has been associated with the property since the school was constructed in 1906. Only a small portion, lot number 2, has been a part of the school grounds since the early-1970s when the school board purchased the property and demolished the two residential buildings, extending the ballfield area.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**Audubon School  
Photographs**

**Henderson County, Kentucky**

The following information is the same for all photographs.

3. Donna G. Logsdon
4. 10/97
5. Kentucky Heritage Council  
300 Washington Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

**Photograph # 1**

6. North (front) facade of the  
1928 Audubon School Auditorium

**Photograph # 2**

6. North (front) facade of the  
Audubon School

**Photograph # 3**

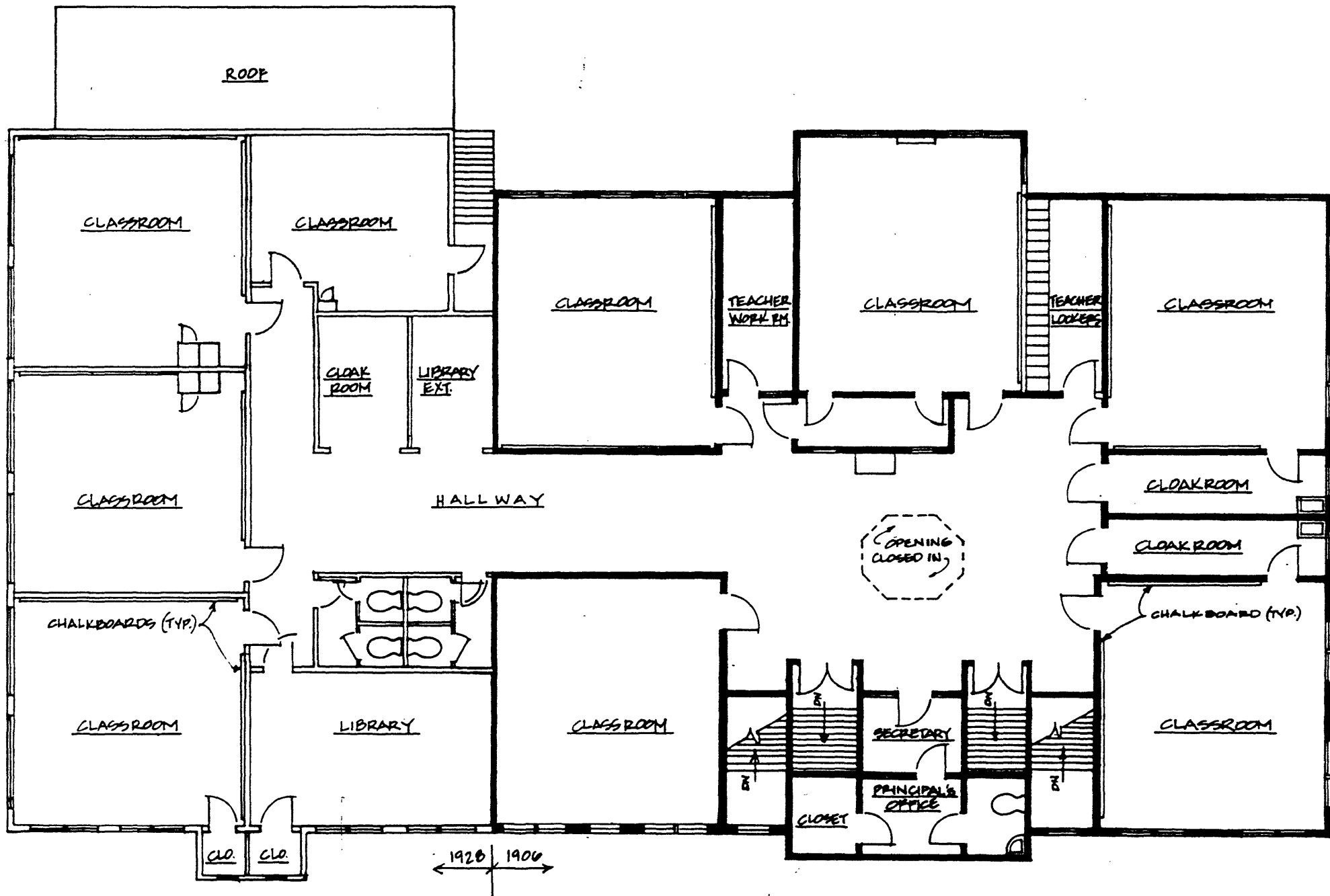
6. Northwest corner of the  
Audubon School

**Photograph # 4**

6. Southwest corner of the  
Audubon School

**Photograph # 5**

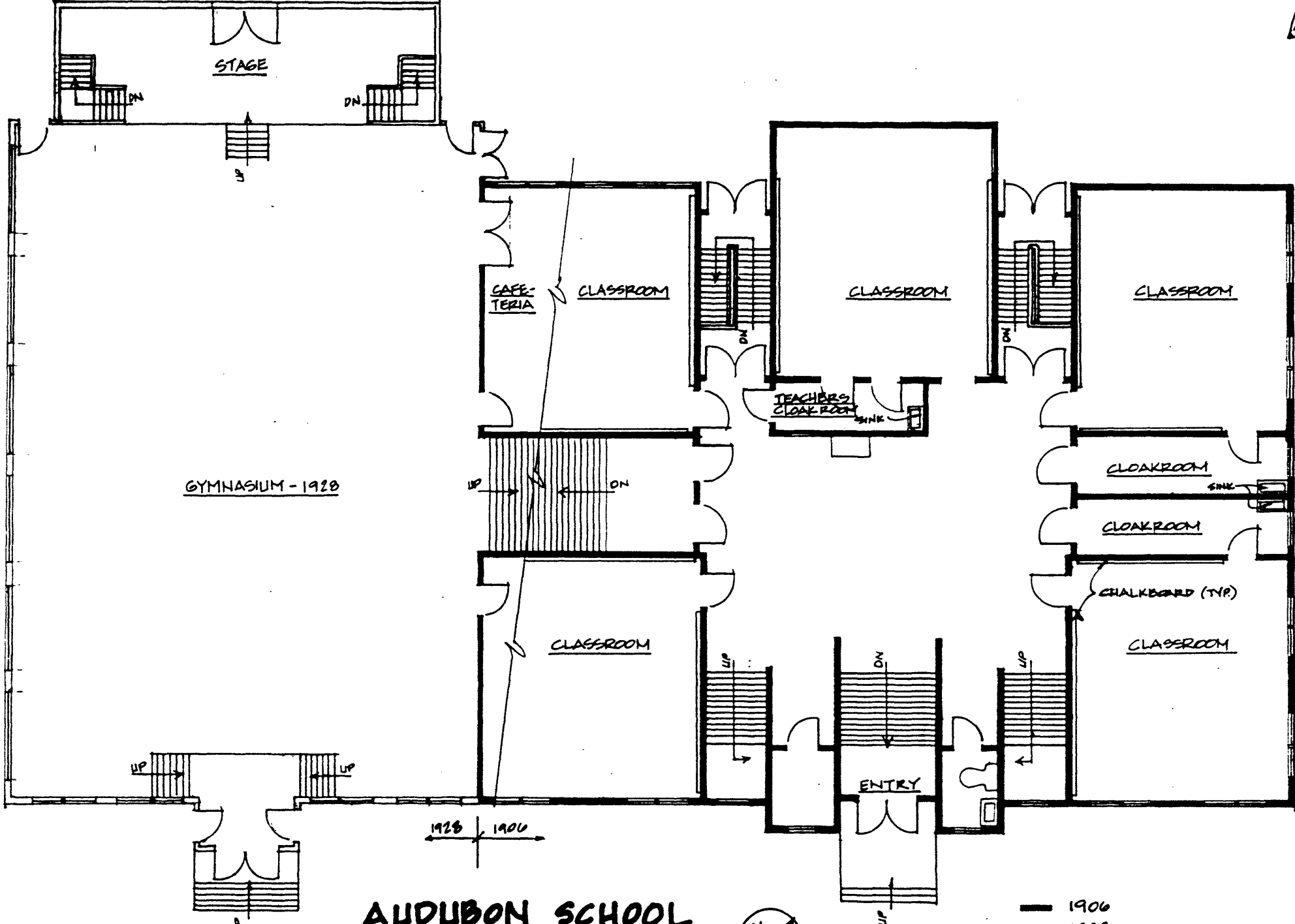
6. Southwest corner of the  
Audubon School Auditorium



**AUDUBON SCHOOL**  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
 NOT TO SCALE



— 1906  
 — 1928



**AUDUBON SCHOOL**  
 FIRST FLOOR PLAN &  
 PARTIAL BASEMENT PLAN  
 NOT TO SCALE

- 1906
- ▨ 1928
- △ PHOTO ANGLE

2

1

4

3



AUG 1901  
HENDERSON  
KY.

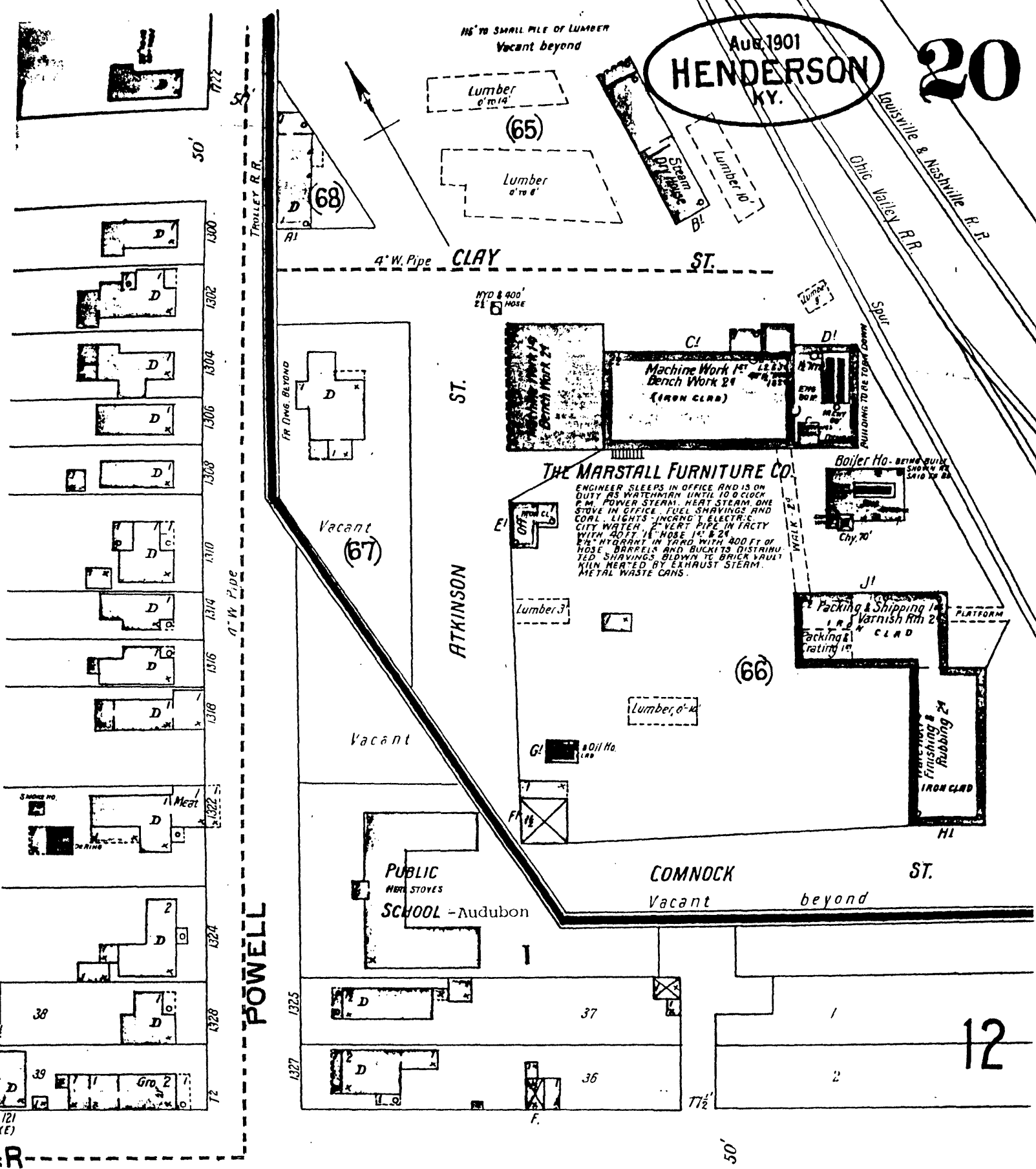
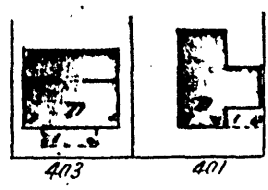
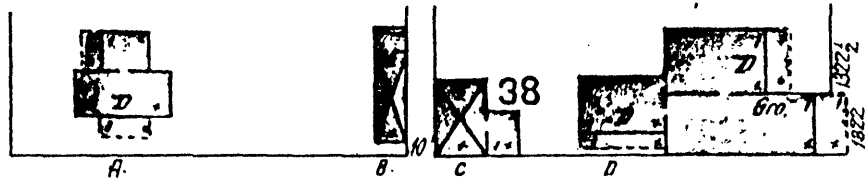


Figure 3



50'

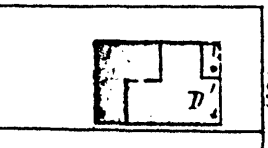
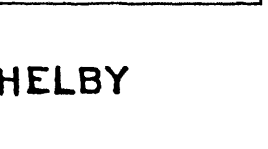
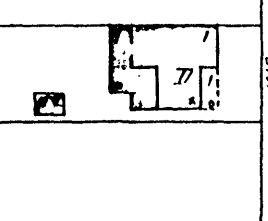
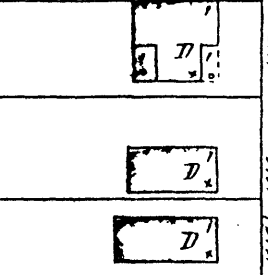
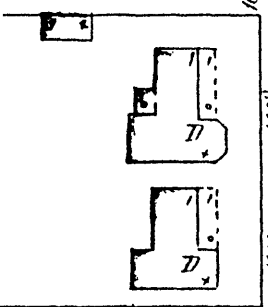
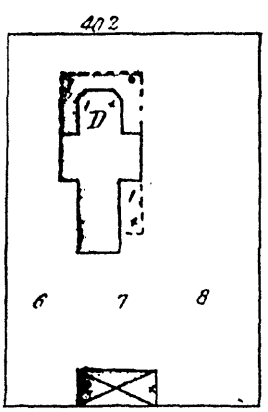


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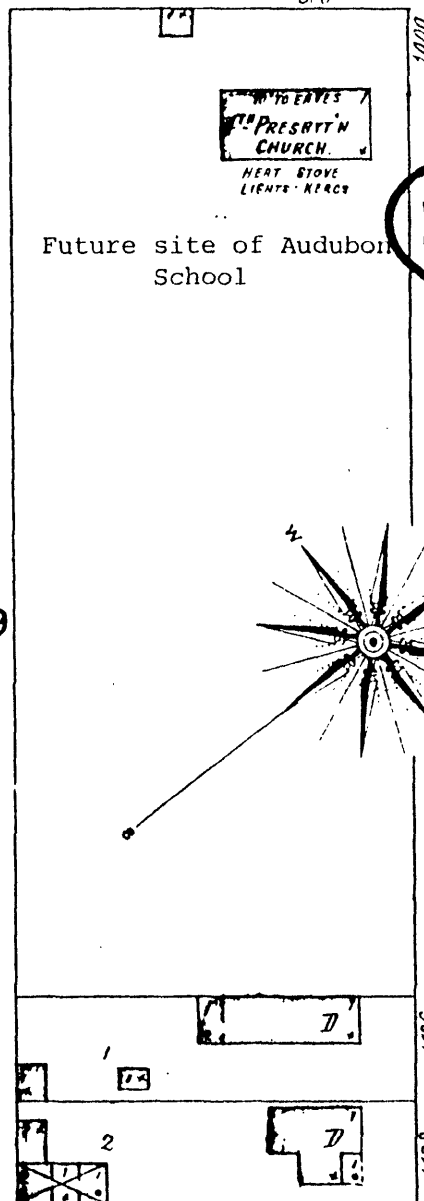
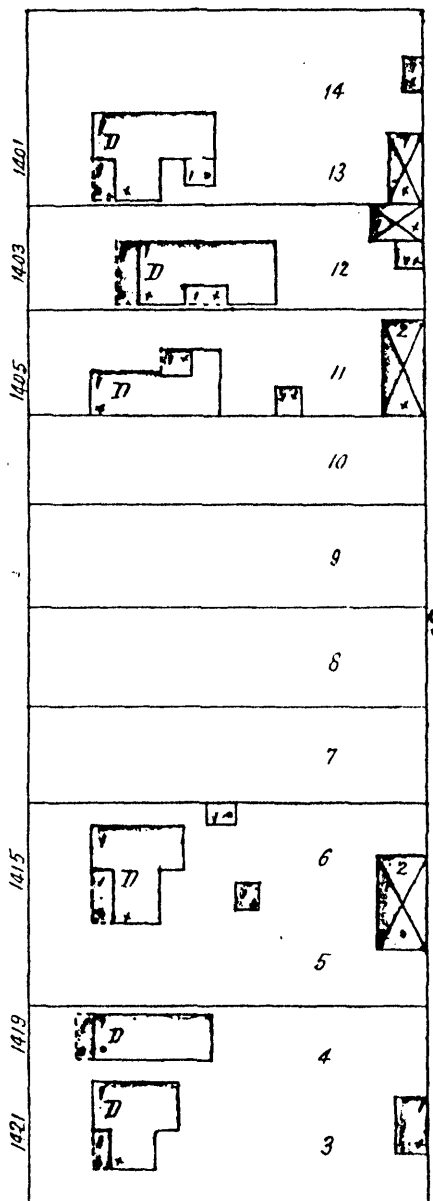
50'

31

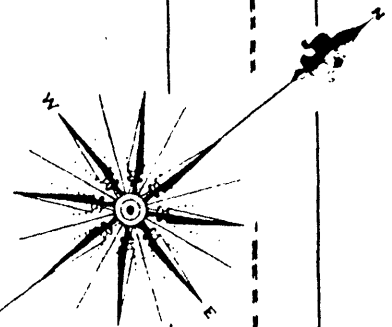
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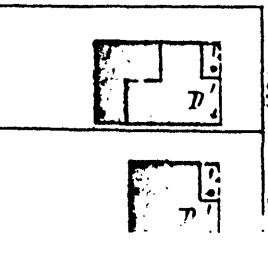
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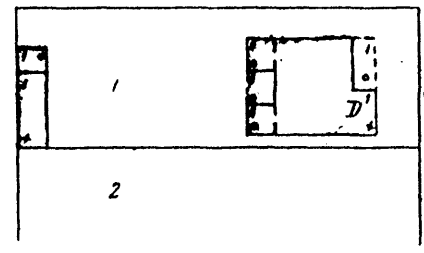
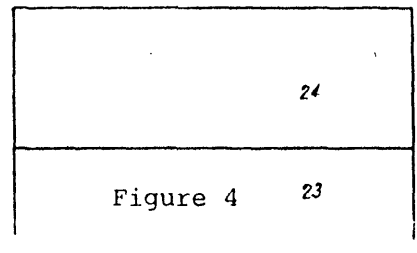
MAR. 1906  
HENDERSON  
KY.



HELBY



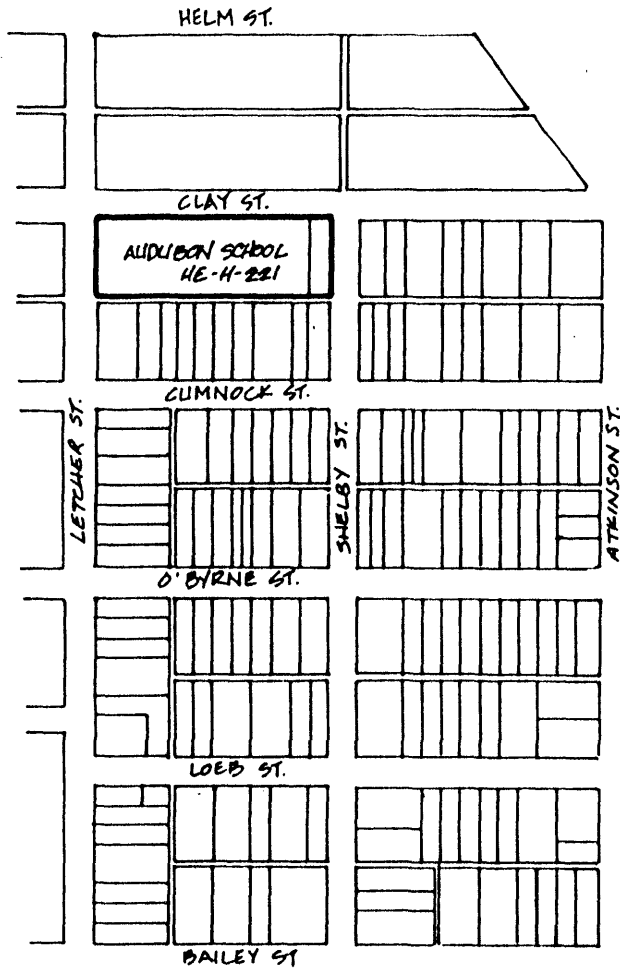
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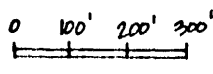
50'

4" W. Pipe (NOT PAVED)

32



**AUDUBON SCHOOL**  
 1400 CLAY ST. HENDERSON, KY.



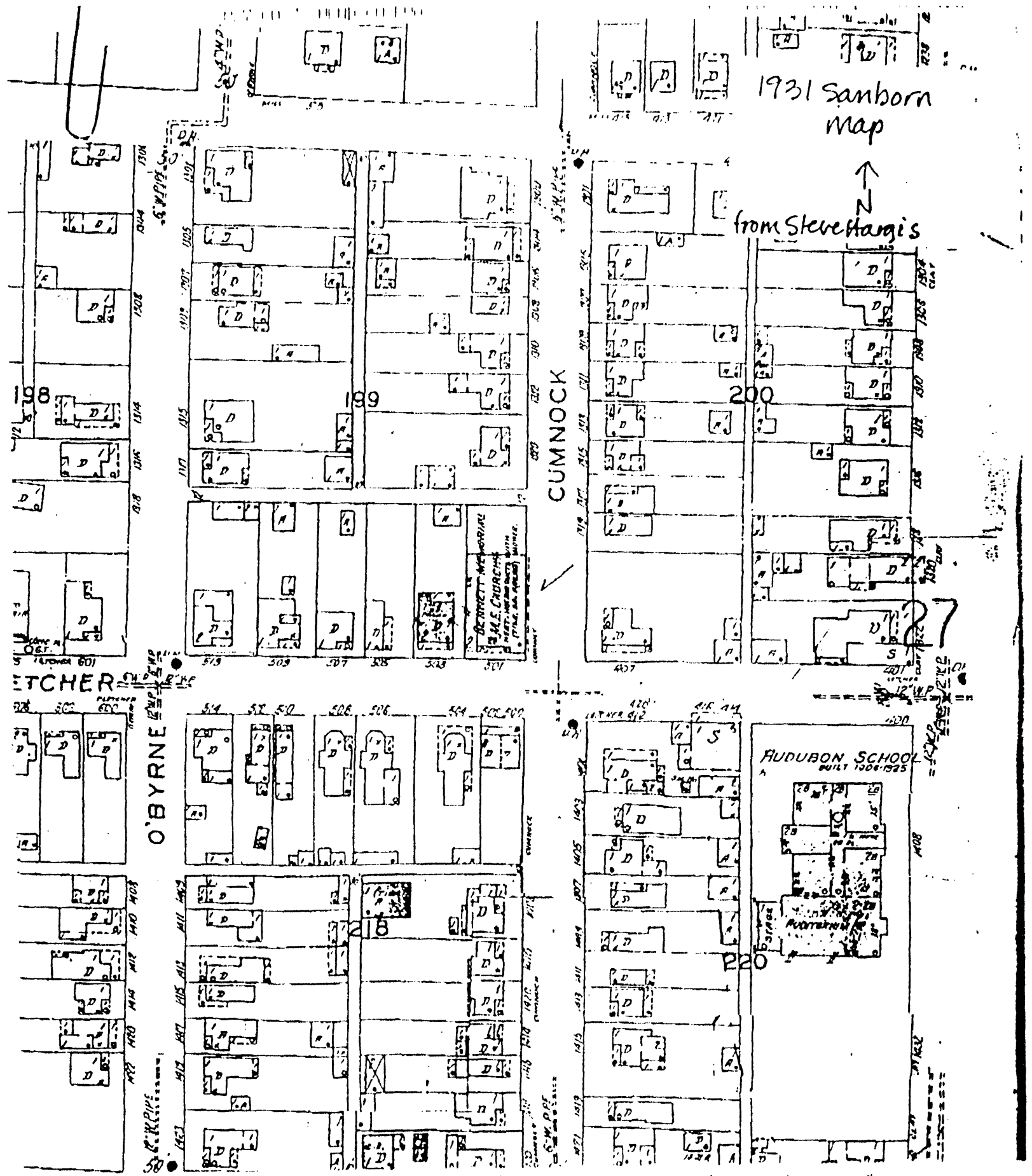


Figure 6

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 98001497      Date Listed: 12/22/98

Audubon School                      Henderson      KY  
Property Name:                      County:          State:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrews  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

6/1/99  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR makes a substantive amendment to the nomination by changing the Period of Significance. The form selects 1976 as the end of the Period of Significance. In consultation with the KY SHPO this is changed to 1948, the 50 year cut-off point.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**