

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

1312

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



### 1. Name of Property

historic name FRANKLIN GRADE AND HIGH SCHOOL

other names/site number WILLIAMS HALL, SI-F-245

### 2. Location

street & number 513 WEST MADISON STREET

NA  not for publication

city or town FRANKLIN

NA  vicinity

state KENTUCKY code KY county SIMPSON code 213 zip code 42134

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official Mark Dennen, SHPO

Date 12/24/09

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

\_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_ removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper [Signature]

Date of Action 2/3/2010

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
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

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/EDUCATIONAL FACILITY

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Stone

walls: WOOD weatherboard

roof: METAL (HIP)

other:

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Franklin Grade and High School  
Simpson County, Kentucky

**Description**

Franklin Grade and High School (SI-F- 245), also known as Williams Hall, was built before ca. 1870 as a social hall. It is located Kentucky Highway 383, which serves as the main farm-to-market road between Franklin, Kentucky and Springfield, Tennessee. From 1872 to 1939, the building became Franklin Grade and High School, serving as a school for black children. The building was a centerpiece of the Pea Ridge Community, the first settlement of free African-Americans in Simpson County, Kentucky.

**Character of site and history of ownership**

The Pea Ridge Community was established along an important local travel and trade route, within five blocks of the Simpson County courthouse. Pea Ridge at its largest covered a little more than one urban block. That area is bounded by these present-day streets: Madison Street, Liberty Street, Pea Ridge Street, and Lee Street (see Pea Ridge Historic Map). In its most active phase, ca. 1900, the community had a church, a school, a livery stable, and ten homes.

During the years between the Civil War's end and World War II, a number of black residents from rural Tennessee used the road between Franklin and Springfield to migrate into Kentucky. Some viewed Kentucky as having more opportunities for people of color. Indeed, historic black communities in Kentucky provided a slightly greater amount of social freedoms, particularly ease of travel, residence, and self determination, than existed for blacks outside of these communities. Whether in-migration to Franklin came from rural Simpson County or from Tennessee, two later settlements of African-Americans arose in the town near Pea Ridge—Harristown and Frog Level.

Of the original Pea Ridge structures, only the nominated schoolhouse and two residences remain. A newer school, Simpson Elementary (constructed 1979, major renovation 2005), is within easy walking distance. The Harristown Historic District, (National Register, 1985) sits within three blocks of the nominated property.

In 2003, Preservation Kentucky, a statewide non-profit organization, selected this school as one of the Ten Most Endangered Historic Sites in the state. The building was in private hands from 1940 to 2003, used first as a lumber retailer, and later as a furniture store. The property now is owned by a local non-profit organization who has accomplished its rehabilitation.

**Exterior Description of the building at owner acquisition, 2003**

The building faces northward to West Madison Street. The building was in disrepair when the current owners acquired it for preservation, and photographs from early 2004 reveal a building which remained largely faithful to its historic design, but had seen neglect and some in changes of use.

By 2004, the building exhibited the following exterior features: rectangular form, hipped roof with the ridge running north-south, apparently original wood clapboard siding, symmetrical façade, and sides with irregular spacing of window openings. A chimney rises from the roof's eastern-facing down-slope. Most window openings appeared to have been retained, though many window openings on the building's sides lacked their sashes, and had been boarded up.

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**Franklin Grade and High School  
Simpson County, Kentucky**

A number of non-historic changes to the building were evident. The historic doors, presumably wooden, had been replaced by a pair of modern commercial aluminum-framed glass doors, topped by a non-original glass transom. Non-historic coverings were present: apparent metal sheets covered the upper floor's eastern side, and an asphalt-shingled pent-roof covering, over the entry, spanned the full front façade.

The pattern of openings on the front had been retained; it consisted of a symmetrical arrangement on both floors: a central entry doorway flanked by a bank of 3 windows on the east (left when facing the front) and a pair of double-hung sash windows on the west. Upstairs in the front, two historic windows remained by 2004, both 6-over-6 double hung sashes, one each above a first-floor window.

The sides had irregular arrangements of openings. The west side had 3 windows in the second floor and three openings on the first floor; the outer two of those first-floor openings read as doors, though were boarded up in 2004. One of the west side's second floor sash windows survived. The east side had numerous openings. From the back to the front on that east side, in 2004 there were 3 boarded up windows, an apparent historic door, a boarded up window, and a large door that appears to have been a later opening or expansion of a historic window.

Images of the rear of the building show it to have been covered with corrugated metal sheets. Sometime in the past, a one-over-one double-hung sash window took the place of a door on that back side.

**Exterior Description after rehabilitation, 2009**

The preservation project on the building restored many of the design features of the building that had changed over time. A local electrician, Charles McCutchen, has guided the rehabilitation, attempting only to reestablish the historic building design. To date, \$225,000 has been spent on the project, which is an amount which does not include acquisition costs. The exterior work on the building has been completed at this time. Also at this time, the first floor walls on the interior remain exposed, with electric and plumbing lines roughed in; little work on the second floor interior has occurred.

The exterior wood siding was largely replaced with wood siding. New windows were installed that exhibit the historic 6-over-6 double-hung configuration. Window openings remain as windows; doors remain as doors. Wooden window surrounds and exterior wood trim have been installed, as well as a new wooden cornice, all of which restores the historic design.

A more appropriate treatment for the entry was completed. This involved removal of the full-width pent-roof covering with a one-bay metal-covered shed-roof porch. This small covering is supported by simple round wooden columns, one on each of its front corners. The front porch and back stoop are poured concrete. The building now is entered through a pair of wooden doors with panels, which have glass in their upper half. The back side of the building has two non-historic white metal doors, arranged along with that concrete stoop, to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**Interior Description**

The original blackboards on the first floor, and remnants of the old school stage on the second floor, remain in evidence. Other remaining features include the wood flooring, the stairway, support posts,

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Simpson County, Kentucky**

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**Interior Description**

The original blackboards on the first floor, and remnants of the old school stage on the second floor, remain in evidence. Other remaining features include the wood flooring, the stairway, support posts, ceilings and some interior walls. Most of the building's plaster walls have been uncovered; drywall is planned as the material to cover the walls when that work is undertaken. Utility conduits for electric and water are roughed in, awaiting the finish of interior surfaces. The building still is a work in progress.

The intended use of the building is as a museum and a social meeting space.

**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**

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

**Period of Significance**

1872 - 1939

**Significant Dates**

1872

1939

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

UNKNOWN

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SI-F-245

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**Franklin Grade and High School  
Simpson County, Kentucky**

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**Statement of Significance**

The Franklin Grade and High School (SI-F-245) meets National Criterion A. It is significant for the role it played in a African-American community known as Pea Ridge, in Franklin, Kentucky. The significance of the property is evaluated within the historic context "African-American Communities in Simpson County, Kentucky, 1856-1965." Within any African-American community in Kentucky, two building types tend to stand out as having greatest significance in maintaining the community's identity and strength: a church and a school. Both properties symbolized pathways to freedom, one spiritual and the other intellectual, during an era of racial segregation in public spaces and social oppression. The nominated property functioned as the main public educational center for African Americans in Franklin and Simpson County from 1872 until it closed in 1939. Its continued existence today, especially in view of the disappearance of much of the community's other buildings, offers some testimony to its lasting value for the members of the historic Pea Ridge community and citizens in Simpson County generally.

**Historic Context: African-American Communities in Simpson County, Kentucky, 1856-1965**

**African American Communities in Simpson County**

This project benefits from an unusually good survey of African American resources in Franklin and Simpson County. Donna Logsdon, working with grants from the Kentucky Heritage Council, National Park Service, Simpson County Extension Office, and the Simpson County Historical Society in 1997 completed a documentation of 85 properties targeting African American resources in the County. Logsdon's work drew upon a project running concurrently, interviews of African Americans by folklorist Lynn David, supported by the Kentucky Oral History Commission.

Less than two years before the county-wide survey, Logsdon had completed a nomination form for Franklin's largest African-American neighborhood, Harristown, in Franklin, a 53-acre listing. In the nomination, she offers this tally of the town's black residential areas:

Historically, there were four African-American neighborhoods in Franklin: PeaRidge, New Town, Frog Level and Harristown. Pea Ridge was the first African-American neighborhood in Franklin, however, none of the original buildings exist today. Frog Level, a continuation of Pea Ridge, is located off Springfield Road and has only a small number of historic resources intermixed with contemporary structures. New Town is second to Harristown in terms of numbers of existing structures and population. Harristown has the highest concentration of buildings remaining intact and is considered Franklin's primary African-American neighborhood. In terms of its development, many of the people who resided in Harristown had businesses in Franklin's Downtown Commercial District surrounding the courtsquare (1995: Section 8, p 19).

Two years later, after additional research work, the help of the folklorist's interviews, and field survey of local resources, Logsdon had found a fifth African American neighborhood in Franklin—Black Bottom, whose dozen historic houses had disappeared by 1985. She also documented 15 communities with an African-American residential presence. Further, at least one of Pea Ridge's earliest buildings, Williams Hall, standing by 1870 and the subject of this nomination, was recognized.

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Franklin Grade and High School  
Simpson County, Kentucky

One key interest in the study of African American communities in Kentucky is the question of the way the black community expresses itself in space. Is a black community surrounded by the white community, an adjunct on the white community's edge, or an isolated settlement in a rural locale? Logsdon's coverage of Simpson County's rural communities does not give strong indications of the character of these cultural landscapes, particularly their relation to a nearby white community. In part, this is a problem of definition. Her definition of African-American community is vague, and potentially very broad. Nothing in the text rules out the possibility that a grouping of just two or three houses occupied by blacks could constitute an African American community (2000: 53).

Logsdon's effort to recognize Simpson County's black communities in 1997 was aided by local informants, whose views helped define what area residents historically had regarded as a community. Two very extensive local histories published during the nation's bicentennial by Beach and Snider (1976 & 1977) identify some of the same places that Logsdon does, yet it's difficult to reconcile the two studies on the level of African American communities. Both studies identify these 5 rural communities: Temperance, Black Jack, Middleton, Neosheo, and Price's Mill; Logsdon names 10 more places as black communities which Beach and Snider did not mention: Bats Cave, Loving Chapel, Friendship-Logan, Pleasant View, Turnertown, Sloss, Coffee Bottom, Milliken Chapel, Scroughout, and Whitehall. Yet, in Beach and Snider's 1976 volume, black faces are absent from the historic community photographs, and the verbal descriptions do not identify the towns as black communities.

What accounts for these differences? Are most of these towns essentially "white," as Beach and Snider present them, and Logsdon used a very loose definition of community, and a scattering of black families, to re-define the place as a black settlement? Or, were these indeed racially-mixed communities through history—places that contained a long-term African-American neighborhood—and Beach and Snider's lack of attention demonstrates a continuing social pattern in which whites have left blacks out of the narrative of local history as late as the 1970s?

These two efforts, one in the 1970s and the other in the 1990s, do not lead to any easy conclusions for Kentuckians who wish to authentically define, identify, and document African American communities. It is oversimplification to regard Beach and Snider's history as "whitewashed." In fact, there are suggestions that Simpson County might have witnessed some greater interaction between black and white than in comparably sized counties of Kentucky. Without erring on the side of a counter-view, both studies give indications that the black community was not completely marginalized by and from the white community. If black citizens in Simpson County were not segregated both socially and geographically to the extreme as seen in some other places, then it might be harder to define clear-cut African-American communities, and it might not occur to some authors to treat that town's or the county's African-American History as a separate and discrete subset of local history.

Beach and Snider produced a follow-up volume of Simpson County history in 1977. It provides some evidence that Simpson County's self-perception of community did not fully run along racial lines. The county history written by white authors contains information about the black community. Without a complete knowledge of the names of local black individuals, though, it is difficult to judge just how much of that text reveals the extent of the county's black community.



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Beach and Snider published few photographs in either volume (1976 or 1977) of black individuals or black communities, but they could not publish what is not available. Probably many economically disadvantaged white families, as well as blacks, were left out of the works because both groups lacked historic photographs to contribute. Few blacks or poor whites, both with little disposable cash in the late-nineteenth or early-twentieth century, chose to hire photographers to document their existence. Interestingly, Beach and Snider's 1977 volume contains somewhat greater photographic and text coverage for the African American part of Simpson County. For instance, the story of prominent local doctors includes one of color, Dr. Benjamin Burras (1876-1931); among the images of groups of children attending rural schools is the 1934 Pleasant View School, whose 70 black children all shared a single teacher (1977: 210, 279). Beach and Snider's 1977 volume also covered the local bicentennial celebration, with photographs, text, and the celebration's program—all of which document that the county's residents of both races participated in that festival actively (1977: 35-41).

Logsdon's study also found racially integrated historic housing patterns in at least one of Franklin's black communities, e.g., in New Town (2000: 74). Neither Logsdon nor her informants chose to focus on how pronounced the geographical division between black and white populations was. In fact, the study's methodology section admits to the difficulty in pinpointing the community location, from which we might infer a similar difficulty in sketching the community's borders (2000: 5). The survey's participants, instead, chose to report simply where local perceptions claimed a black community once existed. The survey recorded the evidence of African-American communities in the form of their surviving *individual properties*, rather than attempting to capture a portrait of those rural African American communities as *communities*.

Logsdon's loose use of community led the study to give greater attention to individual African-American farmers than similar works do. From the presentation of survey findings, one gets a view of scattered distribution—rather than concentration—of African Americans throughout the county, with two buildings—churches and schools—providing the important indications of a rural African-American community (2000: 53-55). The maps in Logsdon's study, showing the surveyed sites in each neighborhood, provide workable views of Franklin's African American neighborhoods as definable communities. Logsdon uses the historic importance of church and school, which historically anchored the neighborhood socially, as signposts to define the presence of a historic community, even if the residences surrounding that school or church might have disappeared. Thus, the Franklin Grade and High School, a property with nearly no historic residences surrounding it in the present, helped Logsdon recognize one of Franklin's African-American neighborhood-communities, Pea Ridge, in 1995. By contrast, the absence of a surviving school or church from the small Black Bottom community, did not allow the same recognition in 1995, and required local informants to document the existence of the community through oral means. This leads to the effort here, to look at historic African American schools in Simpson County.

### **Schools in Simpson County's African American Communities and General Education for African Americans in the County**

One of the earliest facilities for African-Americans, the Franklin Public School, was first held in the Little Methodist Episcopal Church on Hale Street (currently John J. Johnson Street) between Jefferson and Jackson Streets in 1867. This school offered education to both adults and children after the Civil War.

In 1867, education for African Americans was delivered in a church building in the Harristown part of Franklin, on Hale Street. Williams Hall, built before 1870 and on West Madison street, was a part of the Pea Ridge community, and so functioned as an early educational facility.

A strong snapshot of African American education came in 1895-1897, with the State Common School report on facilities in Simpson County. At the close of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Simpson County had 12 schools that educated African Americans. These schools conducted classes for 5 months per year. Of the 12 schools in the system, the report author categorized only 3 of the black schools with a condition of "good." With the teacher population at 15, most African American schools had just one teacher. The report said that no teacher in the black part of the county school system held a State teaching certificate, while 9 teachers in the black schools held lower level teaching certificates. These data give a portrait of black education in the county as a badly underfunded operation. With the current thinking that uses educational spending as to measure of educational excellence, these schools would be judged as not capable of delivering a sufficient educational package. However, many people who came through the black school system give an alternative assessment of that experience. That is, despite a much lower per-student level of funding, African American children achieved surprisingly well in schools. This pattern—thriving despite lower levels of economic support—becomes a powerful perspective within which to observe the accomplishments of not just the County's African American schools, but other aspects of the black community. Schools, as churches, become strong symbols to tell this social story.

### **Franklin Grade & High School's History and Evaluation of Significance**

The Franklin Grade and High School began with conversion of an existing building, Williams Hall, into a school in 1872. It housed grades one through eight. Two high school grades were added in 1926, which led to renaming the school Franklin Grade and High School. Another year was added at the end of the 1928 – 1929 term. The graduating class of 1929 had to leave Franklin to complete their fourth year of high school. At the beginning of 1930 – 1931, the fourth year was added. The first graduating class proudly marched in 1931. The school was attended by African Americans until 1939. A new school, Lincoln School (SI-F-181), was erected in Harristown 1940, on Walker Avenue.

The school served the entire city of Franklin. Not only did children attend, but some adults enrolled as well. T. C. Buford Williams was principal until his death in 1932; then G. B. Houston became principal. The Franklin Grade and High School was closed in 1939, in preparation for the moved to the new two-story red brick Lincoln School. G. B. Houston continued as principal at Lincoln School until 1942.

Today, only this school building and two residences remain from Pea Ridge's historic era. In September, 2003, Preservation Kentucky—Kentucky's statewide non-profit preservation organization—chose the Franklin Grade and High School as one of the Ten Most Endangered Historic sites in the State of Kentucky.

The school is important in helping us to acknowledge the existence of a more-or-less autonomous black community, Pea Ridge, where few other landscape elements remain to indicate that important part of the story of African Americans in Simpson County, Kentucky. Franklin's Grade and High School is an important resource in helping explain how one structure, a school, assisted Franklin's African Americans to expand their collective identity beyond the neighborhood level. They could identify themselves with the entire community. The school helped a person to move from saying "I am a black woman from Pea Ridge," to "I am a black woman from Franklin." After the fuller acquisition of civil rights, that same person could say, more simply, "I am from Franklin." The nominated property is one place that, from the 1870s until 1940, facilitated an expanded sense of black identity, one which reached beyond the neighborhood to the limit of the town boundary.

#### **Evaluation of Integrity of the Franklin Grade & High School within the context of the County's African American Communities**

Any school in Simpson County that served the African American population historically has played an important role within the larger story of the county's black communities. The schools are fondly recalled by people who used them, not only from their personal memory, but because a school was seen as a vital component of a thriving African American community. Most schools have disappeared, never built to have the same life span as the building that houses white students. With these factors, the schools will qualify for Criterion A more often than for Criterion C. The schools, regardless of their appearance, remain important for what thoughts people attach to them—i.e., for their associations, rather than for their design aspects. The integrity factors which help reinforce the integrity of associations are integrity of location, a qualified amount of integrity of materials, and integrity of design.

An African American school in Simpson County will have integrity of **location**, and reinforce the important associations with the county's African American communities, if it remains in a location that it once occupied historically, especially if the community it served remains known. An African American school served as a marker of the black community. The county's black schools are known by the community they helped educate and in which they were located. A large part of the identity of a historic black school in Simpson County must be an attempt to define the community that surrounded it. Imagining a school abstractly from the community in which it is located is to deny a large part of the school's identity, as well as a denial of that community's life blood. Recognizing the value of a black school's location in Simpson County requires a sensitivity to the relation between that school and its community. The Franklin Grade and High School remains in its original location. Its integrity of location calls us to reflect upon the geographic range of its community, whether that was limited to Pea Ridge, a neighborhood of Franklin, and when that range extended to the larger community of blacks in the entire town of Franklin.

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Franklin Grade and High School  
Simpson County, Kentucky

An African American school in Simpson County will have integrity of **materials**, and reinforce the important associations with the county's African American communities, if it possesses sufficient historic materials from its use as a school so that it can be regarded as an authentic historic school that served a locality. As explained above, these buildings were not constructed with the same durable materials as used in the construction of white schools. The material qualities of a school are of secondary importance today, in carrying forward the important associations, where the historic design aspect of the building is of primary importance. Thus, a very modest amount of historic material needs to be present and visible, and known to be historic, to maintain the basic associations. For instance, the high attention given to the Franklin Grade and High School's rehabilitation enables the public to learn which historic parts of the property were retained in that project. Some of the key material surfaces that transmit the property's identity, such as the historic black boards, have been retained, and certainly provide that quality of authenticity. In fact, the building has many new exterior features that are not composed of the historic materials: new siding, new windows, and new roof. The judgment, that the Franklin Grade and High School has integrity of materials, begins with a recognition that many of its materials have been lost, that such loss is normal, and is weighed against the reality that most of the historic black schools in the county have completely disappeared. With the building not serving the school function since 1939, and being converted to commercial uses, it is remarkable that as many materials survived as have. The workers rehabilitating this property have attempted to retain as many of its historic materials as practical, in their quest to preserve a historic resource.

An African American school in Simpson County will have integrity of **design**, and reinforce the important associations with the county's African American communities, if its current design allows it to be recognized as the school building it once was. Again, this threshold is lower than for some historic resources, and factors in the great deal of loss of historic black school buildings. The Franklin Grade and High School has actually had most of its historic design restored in the current rehabilitation project, and so has strong integrity of design.

Because the Franklin Grade and High School retains integrity of location, materials, and design, it can be said to maintain the public's ability to associate it with the town's African American community—equivalent to saying it has integrity of **associations**.

Because it is a significant property in light of our understanding of the county's African American communities, and its physical presence today allows us to maintain those important associations, it is eligible to the National Register.

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Franklin Grade and High School  
Simpson County, Kentucky

Bibliography

- African American Heritage Committee, **African American Heritage of Simpson County, Kentucky**, McDowell Publications, 2001
- Beach, Sr., Mrs. James and James Henry Snider, **Franklin and Simpson County: A Picture of Progress 1819 – 1975**, Tompkinsville, Kentucky; Monroe Press, 1976
- Beach, Sr., Mrs. James and James Henry Snider, **Franklin and Simpson County: Reflections of 1976 and A Supplement to A Picture of Progress**, Tompkinsville, Kentucky; Monroe Press, 1977
- Burrus, Virgie Lee James, **Facts to Remember**, Franklin, Kentucky; Printer's, Incorporated, 1984
- Logsdon, Donna. Harristown Historic District. National Register nomination form. 1995
- Logsdon, Donna. African American Heritage of Simpson County, Kentucky. Franklin, Kentucky: Simpson County Historical Society's African American Heritage Committee, 2000.
- Morrow, Michael. "Simpson County Colored Schools, 1867-1947." Russellville, Kentucky: n.p., 1998.
- Transportation Enhancement Program (TEA-21) Application Form, City of Franklin, 2004

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property 0.312 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>537 000</u>	<u>4063 820</u>	3	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	4	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The area proposed for listing is the entire property defined by the Simpson County Property Valuation Office under the property tracking number **4367**, Parcel 013-00-10-001.02 on Map 13. The property on which the school stands fronts (north) West Madison Street. On the east, it is bordered by a commercial business, the Goodrum Pallet Company. The back of the school lot (south) is bounded by private property closed storage building and parking area. The lot is bounded on the west by a driveway which leads to the property behind the school lot.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The area proposed for listing contains the historically significant site which retains its historic integrity. This area is appropriate for listing because it has the same property dimensions from the date in which the school derived its significance as the first school for African-Americans in Franklin.

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Alice Bailey / Pres. & Katherine McCutchen / Vice Pres.organization African-American Heritage Center, Inc.date September 18, 2009street & number 500 Jefferson Streettelephone 270.598.9986city or town Franklinstate KYzip code 42134e-mail africanamericanh@bellsouth.net**Property Owner:**

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER, INC.street & number 500 JEFFERSON STREETtelephone 270.598.9986city or town FRANKLINstate KYzip code 42134

United States Department of the Interior

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**Franklin Grade and High School  
Simpson County, Kentucky**

**Name of Property:** Franklin Grade and High School  
**City or Vicinity:** Franklin  
**County:** Simpson  
**State:** KY  
**Photographer:** Ms. Sharon Taylor  
**Date Photographed:** November 2009  
**Location of Digital media:** Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort Kentucky

<b>Photo Direction of shot</b>	<b>Subject in shot</b>
1 to southeast	Franklin Grade and High School, north and west sides
2 to northeast	Franklin Grade and High School, south and west sides

### Pea Ridge

Pea Ridge was the site of the first settlement of African Americans in Franklin and contains the least number of historic resources. This small, quiet, residential community is located on a major transportation route, West Madison Street, at the intersection of Witt Road. This land that was deeded over to the African Americans in 1882 is now a grain field. During its heyday, the Pea Ridge community consisted of a cluster of ten residential buildings, a livery stable, school and church within a city block area plus three houses along West Madison Street toward downtown Franklin (Figure 41).

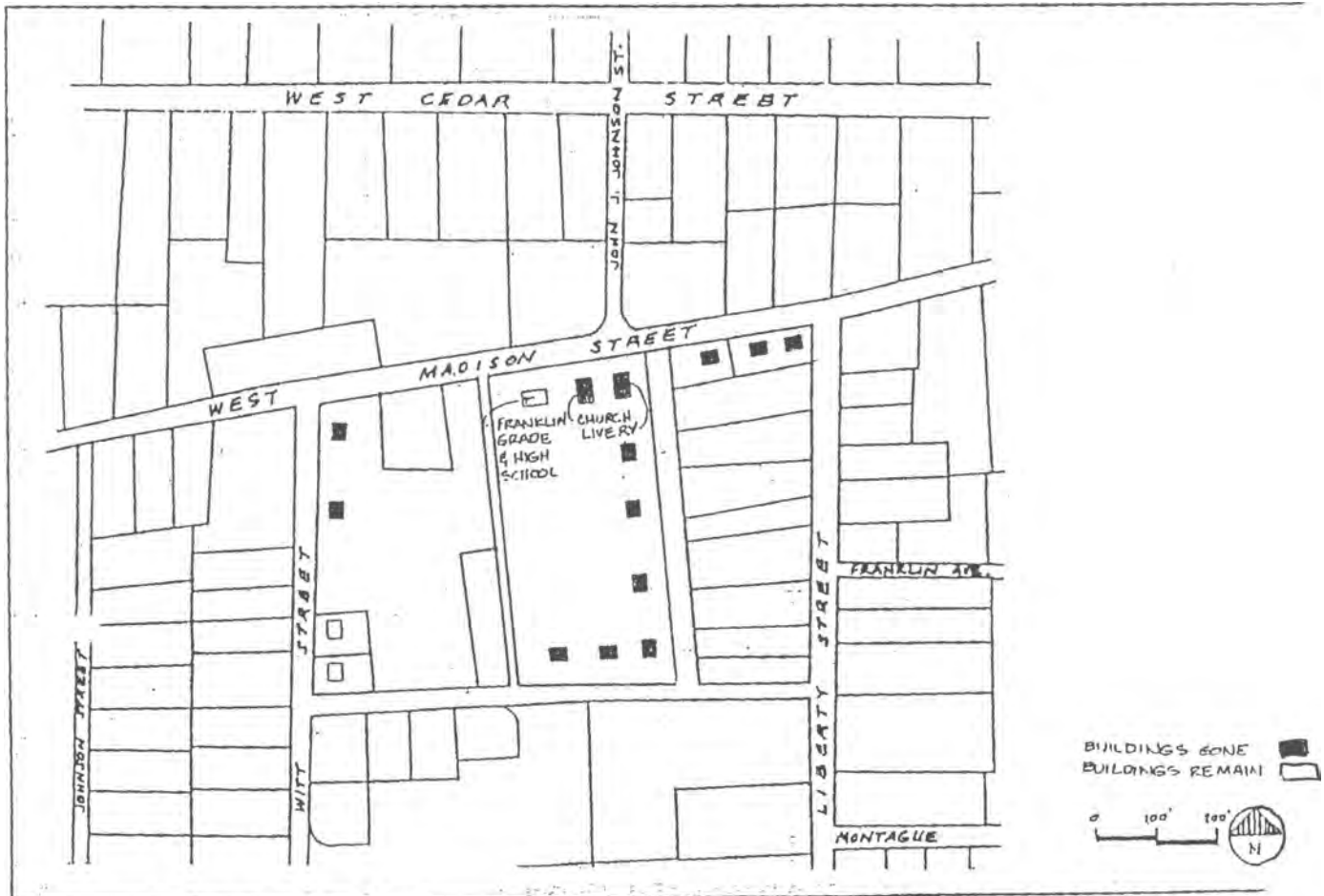


Figure 41, Pea Ridge Historic Map  
From Logsdon, 2000



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Franklin Grade and High School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Simpson

DATE RECEIVED: 12/24/09      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/19/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/03/10      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/07/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09001312

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/3/2010 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Well executed rehab of historic frame school. School served  
as primary & secondary school for Black population of Franklin for 50 years.  
Former Lodge hall adapted to use as school.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gubert      DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

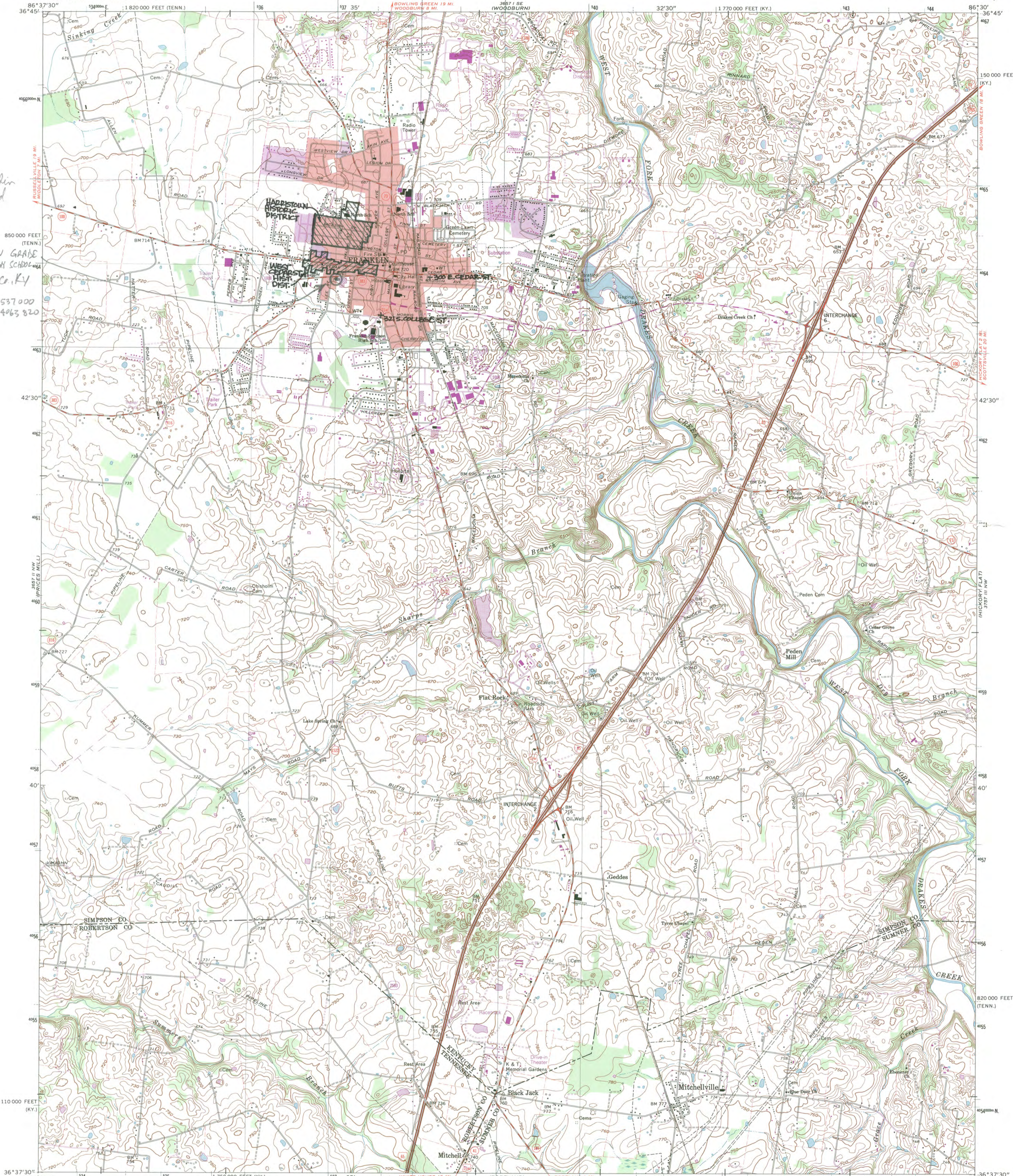
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

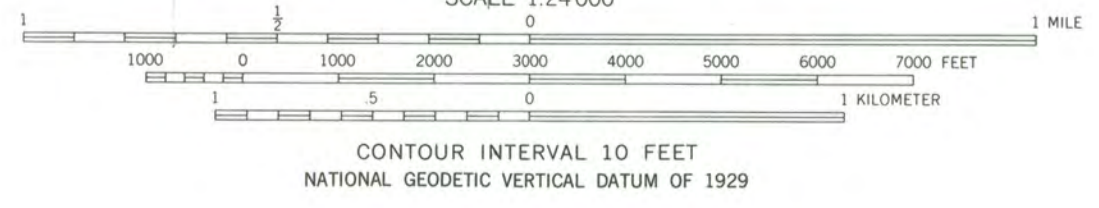




Franklin quad  
FRANKLIN GRADE  
and HIGH SCHOOL  
Simpson Co. KY  
Zone 16  
Easting 537 000  
Northing 4063 820



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1950. Topography by planimetric surveys 1951. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27).  
Projection: Kentucky coordinate system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
10 000-foot ticks: Kentucky coordinate system, south zone and Tennessee coordinate system  
Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 16  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry hard surface

○ Interstate Route    □ U. S. Route    ○ State Route

COMPLIES WITH U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY STANDARDS FOR SPATIAL ACCURACY - CLASS 2  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial photographs taken 1991-92 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1994  
Information shown in purple may not meet USGS content standards and may conflict with previously mapped contours

FRANKLIN, KY-TENN.  
36086-F5-TF-024  
1968  
REVISED 1994  
DMA 3657 II NE-SERIES V853



STEVEN L. BESHEAR  
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

MARCHETA SPARROW  
SECRETARY

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
PHONE (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820  
www.heritage.ky.gov

MARK DENNEN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

December 21, 2009

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington DC 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the December 14, 2009 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

- Colonel Gaines House (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)** Boone County, KY
- Terrace Court Historic District**, Boyle County, Kentucky
- Newport Courthouse Square Historic District**, Campbell County, Kentucky
- Mud Brick House in Greensburg**, Green County, Kentucky
- Callaway-Goodridge-Robertson Farm**, Henry County, Kentucky
- Fourth District Elementary School**, Kenton County, Kentucky
- Helena United Methodist Church**, Mason County, Kentucky
- Franklin Grade and High School**, Simpson County, Kentucky
- Milliken Building**, Warren County, Kentucky

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Mark Dennen, SHPO and  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council