

RECEIVED 2280

JUN 24 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
other names/site number JFL-50  
Related Multiple Property NA

### 2. Location

street & number 1811 Dumesnil Street

NA	not for publication
NA	vicinity

  
city or town Louisville  
state Kentucky code KY county Jefferson code 111 zip code 40210

### 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

Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A     B     C     D

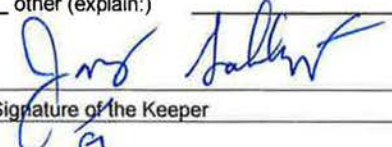
  
Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO Date 6-16-16

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action 8-4-2016

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

NA

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/college

RELIGION/church school

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

RELIGION/religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Colonial Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: \_\_\_\_\_

walls: Brick, concrete

roof: \_\_\_\_\_

other: \_\_\_\_\_

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

## Narrative Description

### Summary Paragraph

Wood F. Axton Hall (JFL-50) is a one-story red-brick building at 1811 Dumesnil Street in the California neighborhood of Louisville, Kentucky. The area proposed for listing includes 1.48 acres and one contributing building.



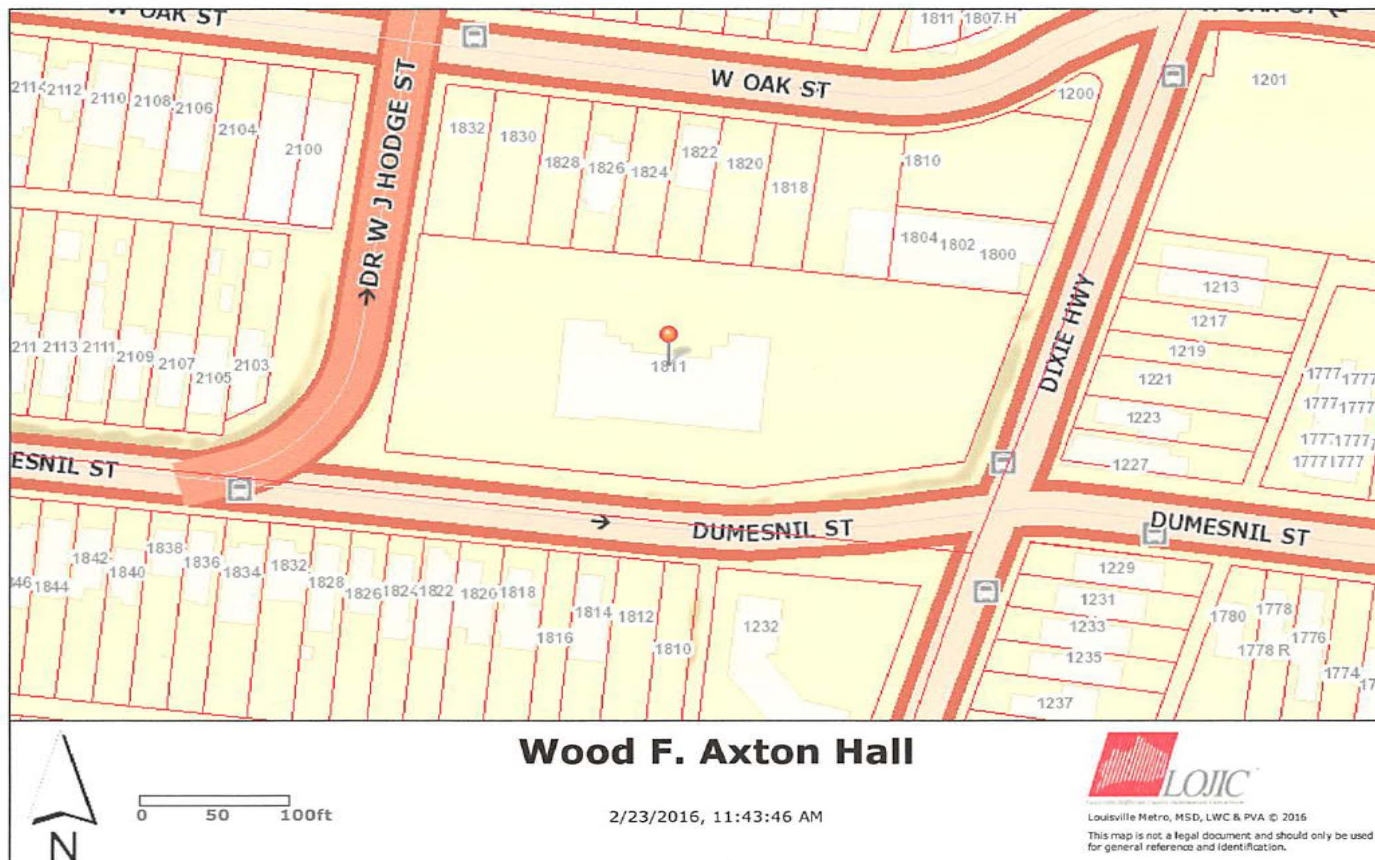
### Character of the Lot and Surroundings

Wood F. Axton Hall is set back from Dumesnil Street approximately 50 feet and stands about 150 feet west of Dixie Highway (U.S. Highway 60), previously known as Eighteenth Street. The surrounding neighborhood is a mix of residential and commercial buildings. Dixie Highway is a major thoroughfare and is predominantly

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

lined with commercial structures. Areas to the south, north, and west of the building are predominantly residential.



The area surrounding the building has changed significantly in the past several decades, with disinvestment and population loss as major trends. The surrounding residential neighborhood is home to mostly low-to-moderate income residents. The former Simmons College men’s dormitory is located a short distance to the west, at 2311 Dumesnil. Directly north of the nominated property is a vacant lot, immediately west of which stand three houses. To the northeast is a small commercial building occupied by a convenience store. Dixie Highway carries a high volume of traffic and is lined mostly by commercial buildings.

The grounds in front and on the sides of the building are landscaped with lush grass. Four mature oak trees stand in front along Dumesnil Street, providing ample shade. In the rear is a parking lot that runs approximately 350 feet in length, in parallel with the plane of the façade and bisecting the block on which the building is located. Behind the parking lot in the rear is an alley.

### Exterior Description

Wood F. Axton Hall was built in Louisville’s west side, to replace the main building of Simmons’s original campus location, in the southern part of downtown, at the corner of Seventh and Kentucky Streets. Axton Hall was designed by Samuel Plato. It contains the pedimented entranceways, the arched windows, and extension of the wings past the main body of the building. The interior, as it was used in the 1960s, contained

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

five classrooms, and a lunchroom in the basement with an office, library, chapel and four classrooms on the first floor.



**East End facade**

Erected in 1949, the building rests on a low berm and is set on a low raised basement. The building fronts Dumesnil Street and faces south. It is built on a modified U-plan with wings on the east and west sides and a central block set in parallel with Dumesnil Street. The wings have front-facing gables with inset shuttered oxeyes (round or oval windows). The central block is covered by a lateral gable roof. In the open section of the U in the rear is a one-story infill section with flat roof.



The building features subdued Colonial Revival styling, consistent with post-World War II-era trends in institutional and public architecture. The most notable features are dual entrances on the façade, each of which has double doors, pediments, engaged columns, and transoms and stands immediately inside the adjoining wing. A short concrete stair leads to each entrance.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

The building is of red-brick masonry construction laid in Flemish bond. The basement is poured-concrete and, although raised, has an exposed trench on sections of the façade and side elevations, which provide light and air circulation to windows that would otherwise be partially below grade. Two soldier courses span the façade, one set three rows above the basement, the other running from the entablature above each entrance across the top of the five window openings. The stoops are walled in on the inside with extended wing walls, another by the doorway, and the third and fourth sides, excluding a walkway from the stairs to the doorway, by a brick wall that is approximately three feet tall and topped with a concrete course and metal railing. Each stoop has a swinging door on the inward facing, outer walls that lead to the basement.

Five windows are set between the two entrances on the facade. The center window has been filled in with a commemorative concrete slab that presents information about Simmons University and the building, including a list of past presidents of the university, the names of members of the building committee, the year the structure was built and who built it. This opening is flanked on both sides by stationary, white wooden shutters. This window, along with the other four, has a windowsill that is made up of a header course. All of the windows are bordered on the top by the upper soldier course, on either side by a singular course and by the windowsill on the bottom. The stack bond courses, however, continue below the sill all the way down to the lower soldier course spanning the facade, creating a space between that is made up on the top and bottom by rowlock courses and filled-in with seven header courses. Above the windows and the soldier course are Roman-style masonry arches extending from the singular stack bond courses bordering the windows. The brick voussoirs are laid in the soldier pattern with another course of rowlock voussoirs following the intrados. The semicircle that is made by the arch and the soldier course is filled in with header courses except for the lowest rowlock course.

The four windows that flank the commemorative slab are identical in appearance. Each is filled with glass blocks tiled six across by nine down with the exception of a rectangular glassed opening that begins on the sixth row down and covers the space of two rows and the area where the tiles from the four middle columns would be. Underneath the four useable windows there are smaller versions in the white concrete of the raised basement. These openings are filled with the glass blocks, tiled six-by-six, with a rectangular portion filled with glass directly centered in the opening, taking up an area of eight tiles.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State



**Commemorative Slab**

The front gable walls of each wing contain a single centered window that is similar to those on the main facade. The windows are bordered by a singular stack bond course on each side, windowsills that mirror the windows previously mentioned, and on the top by rowlock courses. The stack bond courses extend above the windows and form Roman style masonry arches below the window. They continue until they reach the soldier course that borders much of the building. Just like the windows on the front of the main building, the open areas below the windows, within the stack bond courses, are made up of header courses, except for the lowest rowlock courses. The open areas below the arches are made up of one smaller course of rowlock voussoirs following the intrados and then filled-in with header courses.

The side elevations of the wings contain similar features to the front. Each elevation has three large windows that are filled in with rows of glass blocks tiled eighteen across by nine down. There are three rectangular glass openings in each of the three windows. The rectangular openings have five rows of glass blocks above them and two below and are separated from each other with one glass block column on the ends and two between; this creates three smaller windows that take up an area of four blocks wide and two blocks high each.



**East End wall**



**West End wall**

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

The east and west walls are laid in the Flemish bond pattern, just as the main body of the building, and have the same soldier course set low in the walls. These walls also contain soldier courses that create the upper border of the three large windows. Soldier courses also stretch between the windows from windowsill to windowsill, which are done in the same fashion as the windows on the front of the building.



### **Rear of building**

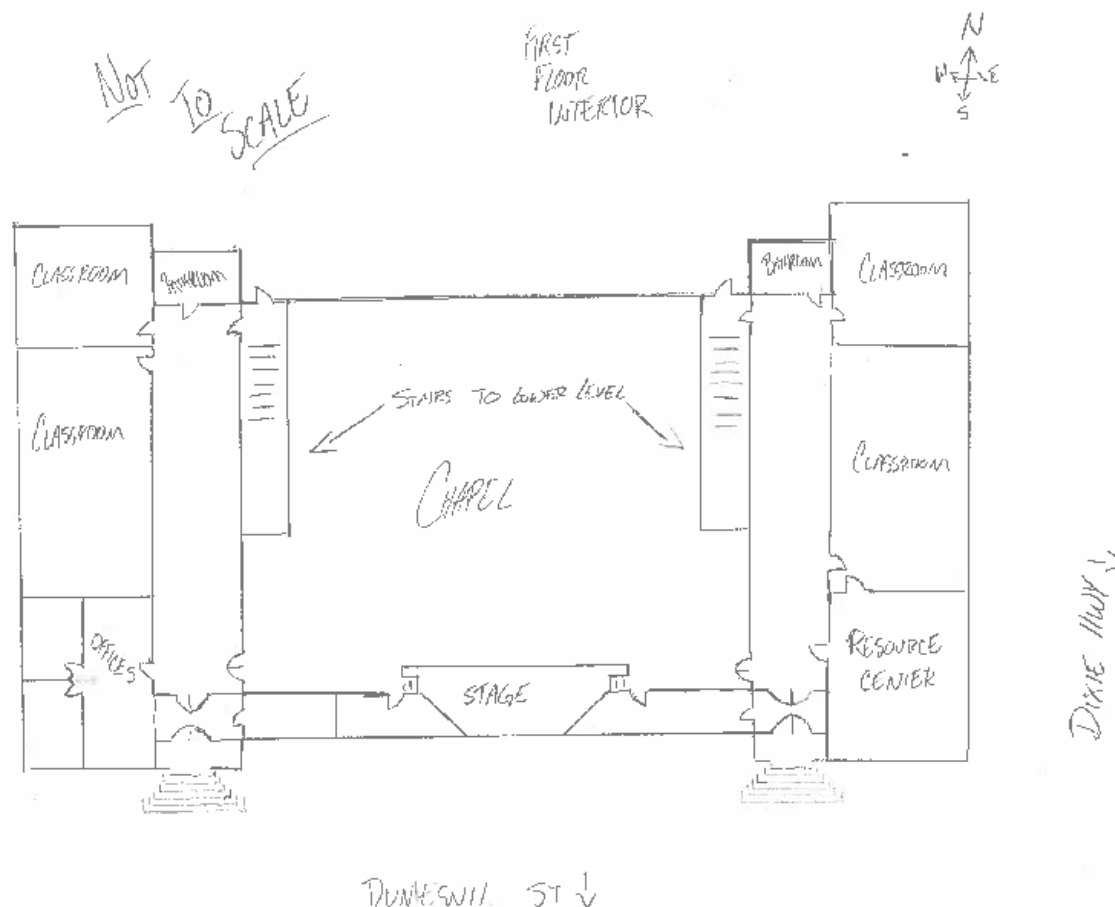
### **Interior Description**

When this author entered Axton Hall, its owners were preparing for renovations and repairs. The building was largely emptied, and it remains in good condition. The layout of the interior is as follows.



Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State



Upon entering the front entrance on the west side of the building, there is a small foyer with a little room off to the right and double doors leading to a hallway directly in front. The hallway extends the length of the building with a restroom on the north end. On the west side of the hallway there is first a door that leads to a room with two offices inside. Further down the hall there are entrances on the western wall to two separate classrooms. On the eastern side of the hallway there are two openings, one set of double doors on the southern end of the wall that leads to the chapel, and a single door that leads to the rear entrance and a stairwell leading to the basement. The east side of the building mirrors the west, with a couple minor changes, maintaining the architectural symmetry. There are only two noticeable differences. First, the first door off of the foyer leads to a slightly larger room that is also connected to the chapel with a door next to the stage. The other difference is that instead of the first room being broken up into offices, it remains open and is labeled for use as a resource room. Two other two classrooms are there, along with the bathroom and northwestern door to the west end downstairs stairwell and the rear entrance.

The chapel takes up the center of the building and spans from the eastern to the western hallways on the first floor. It is a wide open room with a small raised area in the northeastern corner and a large stage in the center of the southern wall. The stage has stairs down either side and it extends to the southern exterior wall in the center with enclosed walls angling north toward the room. Immediately off of the stairs on both sides of the stage is a door that leads to a storage room on the west side. That storage room is bordered by the wall from the closet off of the western foyer, the angled wall of the stage and the exterior wall to the south, and a door on the east that leads to the larger room that connects to the eastern foyer.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

The basement of the building is similar to the main floor. On the western side of the building, the stairs leading down from the rear entrance take lead to a hallway directly below the one on the first floor. When facing south in the hallway, there is a small room to the north and three large rooms off to the west. On the southern end of the hallway there is a small set of stairs that lead outside to the front of the building. On the eastern side of the hallway are three doors; one coming from the rear stairway, one leading to the center hallway and one leading to a small room that then leads to a restroom. The east side of the basement has a mirrored layout of the west. The center hallway that connects the two wings has one room coming off of the southern wall and two doors on the northern wall. The two doors on the northern wall open up into four rooms with the easternmost room standing alone and the other three connected by interior doorways.

### **Changes to the Building since the Period of Significance**

Axton Hall today stands in generally good condition and has been well maintained since its construction. Although minor signs of weathering are present, the building is structurally sound and shows no significant signs of deterioration. The building stands at its original location and has not been significantly altered. There are remnants of the orphanage, chiefly a sidewalk staircase and brick columns, that Simmons acquired in 1934 and used until 1949. A handicapped-accessible ramp has been installed at the easternmost rear entrance and a small shed-roof porch built over the other, and the small inset windows in each of the large block glass windows for air ventilation may be later additions. The windows that were originally made of the same block glass in the basement have since been filled in, as evident in comparing a historic photo alongside a current one. Otherwise, the building is unaltered and retains its original appearance. The surrounding grounds are also believed to be largely unaltered. Source limitations preclude detailed analysis, but the present configuration of the grounds suggests no significant changes have occurred since 1949. The most noticeable visible change is growth of the four trees fronting Dumesnil Street. Overall, Axton Hall stands in excellent condition and has been but little-altered since construction.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1949-1965

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1949

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Plato, Samuel (architect and builder)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance**

The Period of Significance spans the historic period, starting at the year of the building's construction and running to the 50-year point in the past. The building is significant within its historic context during this span of time.

**Criteria Consideration A** is selected because this building was once owned by a religious institution. Its significance is interpreted not as much for its religious association but for its role in African American higher education.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

## Statement of Significance

### Summary Paragraph

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University (JFL- 50) meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the historic context African American Higher Education in Kentucky, 1865-1965. The nominated property served as the main educational building of Simmons University during its operation as a bible college between 1949 and 2007. The school which became Simmons University developed in the aftermath of the Civil War, as African Americans founded educational institutions in their quest for social, economic, and political advancement. Established as the Kentucky Normal and Theological Institute in November 1879, the school changed its name to Simmons University in 1918. In 1934, Simmons moved from downtown Louisville to the California neighborhood as a result of financial difficulties. Simmons operated as a religious training facility until 2007, when it returned to its original location and reestablished a liberal arts curriculum. Axton Hall supported the religious training of African Americans during the era of Jim Crow and the civil rights movement. It retains integrity from its period of significance and stands today as an important example of African Americans' drive for social, moral, and intellectual advancement under segregation.

Although Axton Hall documents a time in the history of Simmons where the curriculum had been greatly reduced to only include religious training it still stands as a testament to the determination of African American educational facilities and the importance of religious training within the African American community. With its rise back to affluence in recent years, the role that Axton Hall played in its survival is invaluable. The continued presence of Simmons as a smaller religious school has allowed for its triumphant return to an accredited institution for higher education for African Americans today.

### Historic Context: African American Higher Education in Kentucky, 1865-1965

#### African American Higher Education Nationally

After the Civil War, African Americans faced the difficult task of adjusting to life in a free society. Many turned to education as a means of social and economic advancement. Also, many saw participation in the workforce as paramount for achieving equality. By the late-nineteenth century, two contrasting educational visions developed. Figures such as Booker T. Washington, the president of Tuskegee Institute, favored what was termed "industrial education." Arguing that blacks could expect to attain employment as manual laborers and semi-skilled tradesmen, he saw vocational training as vital. Washington believed that this strategy would lead to long-term economic advancement for large numbers of African Americans. By contrast, figures such as W. E. B. Du Bois argued that industrial education undermined black potential<sup>i</sup> by having "as its objective the creation of a conservative black leadership group that would not challenge white supremacy and the racial status quo in the South."<sup>ii</sup> He believed that if African Americans became complacent with subservient jobs, then economic equality would never be realized. Du Bois instead argued that intelligent blacks should seek to attain training at colleges and universities. Doing so, he believed, would create a class

<sup>i</sup> John A. Hardin, *Fifty Years of Segregation: Black Higher Education in Kentucky, 1904-1954* (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1997), 1-10.

<sup>ii</sup> Gerald Home and Mary Young, eds., *W.E.B. DuBois: An Encyclopedia* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2001), 70.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

of black leaders that would guide the race to “political and economic progress.”<sup>iii</sup>

The differing visions espoused by Washington and Du Bois divided African Americans. Some institutions, such as Hampton Institute in Virginia (later known as Hampton University), Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, and the Slater Industrial and State Normal School in North Carolina, focused on industrial education. By contrast, institutions such as Fisk University in Tennessee and Howard University in Washington, D.C.,<sup>iv</sup> focused on the liberal arts. Despite differences of opinion, most blacks saw education as an instrument of social advancement and crucial for acquiring greater economic power.

African Americans’ access to education had been limited during the Antebellum era. Most southern states forbade educating slaves by law, fearful of the potential for learning to stimulate rebellious behavior. Some owners educated their workers in religious beliefs, their rationale being that pious workers would be likely to serve dutifully, without complaint. The bible reinforced this view. While the books of the Torah depicted slavery during the Mosaic era as a condition to escape from, as late as the first century of the Christian era, the writings of St. Paul did not challenge the general existence of slavery, nor advised particular disciples who were slaves to abandon their owners.

In the northern states, opportunities for African American education developed slowly. Oberlin College in Ohio, founded in 1833, admitted blacks from the beginning, and Harvard Medical School began accepting black students in 1850.<sup>v</sup> In addition, “Cheyney University (1837) and Lincoln University (1854) in Pennsylvania and Wilberforce in Ohio (1856)” are among the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), both private and public, in the nation.<sup>vi</sup>

HBCUs “were born out of the exclusionary and discriminatory laws and practices of the dominant white society” and they “are committed to the education, training, and development of blacks.”<sup>vii</sup> Out of all of the HBCUs in existence, “approximately 74 percent were established between 1865 and 1899, and over 90 percent are located in the South,” the first one being Shaw University, founded in 1865 in North Carolina.<sup>viii</sup> So many of these institutions were established in the South where, after the Civil War, segregation was more heavily enforced.

However, opportunities for black higher education went beyond HBCUs. There were schools that allowed integrated classrooms, such as the University of Michigan, the University of Chicago, and Cornell University.<sup>ix</sup> While these schools tended to exist in the North, they enrolled fewer students than HBCUs and the *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision greatly affected them. The Supreme Court even “extended its mandate...to private higher education in 1908 when it outlawed the voluntary racial integration” practiced at Kentucky’s Berea College, a

<sup>iii</sup> William E. Ellis, *A History of Education in Kentucky* (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2011), Google eBook, accessed April 5, 2015, [https://books.google.com/books?id=NigFCeHbpvIC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=NigFCeHbpvIC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false).

<sup>iv</sup> Jessie Carney Smith, ed., *Encyclopedia of African American Business* (Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006), I: 92.

<sup>v</sup> “Key Events in Black Higher Education,” *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, accessed April 5, 2015, <http://www.jbhe.com/chronology/>.

<sup>vi</sup> Charles L. Betsey, ed., *Historically Black Colleges and Universities* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Transaction Publishers, 2008), 1-3.

<sup>vii</sup> Cynthia L. Jackson and Eleanor F. Nunn, *Historically Black Colleges and Universities: A Reference Handbook* (Santa Barbara, California: ABC-CLIO, Inc., 2003), 2-3.

<sup>viii</sup> *Ibid*, 3 & 10. This book was written in 2003 when there were only 103 HBCUs. As of today there are 107, with Simmons being the most recent addition.

<sup>ix</sup> “Key Events in Black Higher Education.”

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

private institution.<sup>x</sup>

During the last third of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth, over 100 additional public and private black colleges were established. The overwhelming majority of them were concentrated in the 17 Southern and border states. Out of the seventeen southern states, which include Kentucky, “land-grant colleges enrolled approximately one-third of the nation’s white college students in 1916,”<sup>xi</sup> while “a 1930 study...revealed that only 12 students were enrolled in college-level work at the 17 Black land-grant colleges”<sup>xii</sup> the same year.<sup>xiii</sup> With black colleges devoting the majority of their instruction to preparatory and secondary courses, the term “college” is somewhat generous.<sup>xiv</sup>

Higher education opportunities for African Americans remained scarce up through the first few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. “Estimates of total black undergraduate enrollment at colleges and universities apart from the segregated black campuses ranged from about fifteen hundred to two thousand per year in the mid-1930s.”<sup>xv</sup> There were, however, some steps made to help black students in the South. Some states implemented “state scholarship funds for black students to pursue graduate studies and professional degrees outside the state.”<sup>xvi</sup> Kentucky, for example, passed the Anderson-Mayer State Aid Act in 1936 for that purpose.<sup>xvii</sup> In addition, in 1938, in *Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada*, the Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to force black students to leave the state for law school when there is a law school for whites available; the result was a black student was granted admission to an all-white law school.<sup>xviii</sup>

The contribution of blacks to the military during World War II raised hopes that the situation for African Americans might change in post-war America. Instead, blacks were met with renewed racism and discrimination. The Selective Service Readjustment Act, more commonly referred to as the GI Bill, was implemented in 1944 and was supposed to aid returning veterans by providing assistance with education, healthcare and overall assimilation back into American society. This bill instead “did more to increase the economic gap between African Americans and their white counterparts.”<sup>xix</sup> The bill, much like others implemented during this era, “was written under the patronage of Jim Crow and was prone to practice

---

<sup>x</sup> Kofi Lomotey, ed., *Encyclopedia of African American Education* (Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2010), 327.

<sup>xi</sup> Craig S. Pascoe, Karen Trahan Leathem and Andy Ambrose, eds., *The American South in the Twentieth Century* (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2005), 276.

<sup>xii</sup> Rebeka L. Maples, *The Legacy of Desegregation* (New York City: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014), 20.

<sup>xiii</sup> Arthur J. Klein, chief, “Survey of land-grant colleges and universities,” Division of collegiate and professional education, office of education, 1930, 856. The full list of the black land-grant colleges includes: State Agricultural and Mechanical Institute of Alabama; Agricultural, Mechanical, and Normal College of Arkansas; State College for Colored Students of Delaware; Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College; Georgia State Industrial College; Kentucky State Industrial College; Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College of Louisiana; Princess Anne Academy of Maryland; Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College of Mississippi; Lincoln University of Missouri; Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina; Colored Agricultural and Normal University of Oklahoma; State Agricultural and Mechanical College of South Carolina; Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial State Teachers College; Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College of Texas; Virginia State College for Negroes; and West Virginia State College.

<sup>xiv</sup> Lomotey, *Encyclopedia of African American Education*, 327.

<sup>xv</sup> John R. Thelin, *A History of American Higher Education, Second Edition* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011).

<sup>xvi</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>xvii</sup> Gerald L. Smith, Karen Cotton McDaniel, and John A. Hardin, eds., *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia* (Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2015), 24.

<sup>xviii</sup> “Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada,” Cornell University Law School Legal Information Institute, accessed September 15, 2015, <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/305/337>.

<sup>xix</sup> Nikki L. M. Brown and Barry M. Stentiford, eds., *The Jim Crow Encyclopedia: Greenwood Milestones in African American History* (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2008), 594.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

exclusionary policies that either rejected blacks outright or under funded them dramatically in comparison.”<sup>xx</sup> While the bill proved to have racial tendencies, many blacks did enjoy the educational benefits. “A total of 7.8 million veterans, or 50.5 percent of the World War II veteran population received training or education under the bill” and as part of this “the bill greatly expanded the population of African Americans attending college and graduate school” and “in 1940, enrollment at Black colleges was 1.08 percent of the total U.S. college enrollment; in 1950 it was 3.6 percent.”<sup>xxi</sup>

Not until the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision, overturned the *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling of separate but equal education, could fuller academic integration be realized. Steps toward actually rectifying the segregation issue “would have to wait until the 1960s when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964” which, among other things, “restricted federal funding to schools and colleges that discriminated on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.”<sup>xxii</sup>

### **African American Higher Education in Kentucky**

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, African American churches served the spiritual, social, and political needs of their congregations in multiple ways. Far more than serving solely as houses of worship, African American churches provided forums for debating important social and political questions and anchored the organizational capacity of black communities. Ministers played crucial roles in tending to congregants’ spiritual needs, providing social and political leadership, and negotiating with white authorities. Ministers comprised much of the black elite, commanding respect among African Americans, and held influence with white civic and business leaders. The history of Higher Education for African Americans in Kentucky cannot be completely disconnected from efforts of African American churches to provide for the social welfare.

Blacks seeking higher education in Kentucky faced challenges inherent in a border state with southern sympathies. Berea College, located in central Kentucky, was founded in 1855 by abolitionist John G. Fee, a proponent of integrated schools. Although this institution received hostility from some of the state’s whites, it remained racially integrated until the 1904 passing of the Day Law, which prohibited racially-integrated classrooms. Passage of the law forced Berea to dismiss its 174 black students,<sup>xxiii</sup> but when the law was amended in 1950 and integration was allowed above the high school level, “Berea immediately admitted 3 black students.”<sup>xxiv</sup> In response to the passing of the Day law, which was aimed at Berea’s integrated classrooms, the school set aside money to open the Lincoln Institute, an educational facility for African Americans in Shelby County. This institution opened in 1912.<sup>xxv</sup> Although the goal was for the Lincoln Institute to “educate Berea’s black students,” it only “offered some college-level courses until 1932” and “essentially functioned as a prominent and private secondary boarding school for black students who could not get an education in their home school districts.” After the *Brown v. Board of Education* decisions the

---

<sup>xx</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xxi</sup> Ronald Roach, “From Combat to Campus: GI Bill Gave a Generation of African Americans an Opportunity to Pursue the American Dream,” *Black Issues in Higher Education* 14, no. 13 (August 21, 1998), 26-27.

<sup>xxii</sup> Edward P. St. John and Michael D. Parsons, eds., *Public Funding of Higher Education: Changing Contexts and New Rationales* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004), 61.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Hardin, *Fifty Years*, 6-8.

<sup>xxiv</sup> Smith, McDaniel and Hardin, *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia*, 42.

<sup>xxv</sup> John E. Kleber, ed., *The Kentucky Encyclopedia* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2015), 558.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

“state could no longer operate a legally segregated school” so 1966 saw the last class graduate.<sup>xxvi</sup>

In 1865, a group met to discuss the formation of a black Baptist association. The group became the Kentucky General Association of Colored Baptists March 5, 1873.<sup>xxvii</sup> Their vision fused both education and religion, hoping to establish a black Baptist college to train ministers and teachers. They declared their group “was committed to sharing the gospel and establishing an institution of learning,”<sup>xxviii</sup> A tract of land was purchased in Frankfort on "Old Fort Hill," but the General Association eventually dismissed the location, and the institution was built in Louisville at Seventh and Kentucky streets. On November 25, 1879 the Kentucky Normal and Theological Institute officially opened and became the first African American-controlled higher education institution in Kentucky.<sup>xxix</sup>

Elijah Marrs, the first President of the Kentucky Normal and Theological Institute, along with his brother Henry Marrs, the school’s first Principal, were among the ex-slaves who founded the institute in 1879. Elijah Marrs was very influential in the Commonwealth throughout his lifetime. He was born into slavery in 1840, was taught to read by “white playmates and an old black man conducting a surreptitious night school,” earned his freedom by enlisting in the Union army, was the “first African American teacher in La Grange, New Castle, and Louisville,” and served as a pastor from his ordination in 1875 until his death, at the Beargrass Colored Baptist Church, which he founded, and at St. John Baptist Church.<sup>xxx</sup>

The year after the school opened, it attracted Rev. William J. Simmons, a highly-respected educator, to become its president. Simmons had attended Madison University of New York, Rochester University, and Howard University in Washington D.C., from which he graduated in 1873.<sup>xxxi</sup> The institution grew to include preparatory, academic, teacher and religious education programs under Simmons' leadership. In 1885, the school changed its name to State University after a college program was added. Due to the school's religious foundations, it received no public funding or help from secular white philanthropic organizations. The school survived on the financial support from Baptists, both Northern and Southern.

In addition to private institutions such as State University, public institutions also developed. In 1886, the Kentucky legislature established the Kentucky State Normal School for Colored Persons in Frankfort.<sup>xxxii</sup> This institution eventually became Kentucky State University. It originally focused on teacher training.<sup>xxxiii</sup> In addition to the teacher education curriculum, in 1890 the school was allowed to operate a farm, thanks to the second federal Morrill Land Grant Act.<sup>xxxiv</sup> With more support by whites throughout the state for the industrial educational model, the Kentucky state legislature increased the funds and land for Kentucky State, and in 1902 the school “required all students ‘to take industry’ or vocational skill classes.”<sup>xxxv</sup> Industrial

---

<sup>xxvi</sup> Smith, McDaniel and Hardin, *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia*, 328-329.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Jefferson County Clerk’s Office, “Amendment to Charter of General Association of Colored Baptists of Kentucky,” General Index to Corporations Section G, Book 33, page 539, December 21, 1923.

<sup>xxviii</sup> Ibid, 201.

<sup>xxix</sup> Kleber, *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, 822-823.

<sup>xxx</sup> Smith, McDaniel and Hardin, *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia*, 347-348.

<sup>xxxi</sup> Ibid, 822.

<sup>xxxii</sup> Kleber, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, 514.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> Hardin, *Fifty Years*, 4-5.

<sup>xxxiv</sup> Smith, McDaniel and Hardin, *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia*, 308-309.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Ibid, 309.



Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

education prepared black students for jobs that whites did not want, thereby lessening competition along racial lines. With increased support, Kentucky State provided a way for “the state to remove black teacher training from the outside influence of northern whites at Berea College, and it diluted the influence of the state’s black Baptists on higher education.”<sup>xxxvi</sup> African Americans throughout Kentucky initially accepted the racist tactics but would eventually recognize the social inequalities that were apparent in their system and would reject it.

After the Day Law was upheld, numerous small schools opened up around the Commonwealth but did not survive long due to financial constraints. In fact, “no institution had emerged by 1918 to replace what Berea had offered blacks in the field of liberal arts education.”<sup>xxxvii</sup> Relatively little would occur in the coming decades that would challenge the status quo in Kentucky’s higher education institutions.

At its peak in the 1920s, Simmons had schools of medicine, pharmacy, law, business, and religion. Yet as the Great Depression began, financial constraints for the school mounted, and Simmons reduced its curriculum to theological courses.<sup>xxxviii</sup> The Louisville Municipal College for Negroes largely took over role of liberal arts education, especially when Louisville Municipal’s President, Raymond Kent, claimed that it “was the only liberal arts municipal college for blacks in the country.”<sup>xxxix</sup> In fact, in 1937 the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools decreed that Louisville Municipal, a strong liberal arts college, “was meeting the standards of white colleges.”<sup>xl</sup> Louisville Municipal College thrived for years but closed in April 1950 after the University of Louisville desegregated.<sup>xli</sup>

The end of segregated higher education in the Commonwealth began in 1949, as the University of Kentucky’s graduate school was forced to integrate when Lyman T. Johnson won a lawsuit against the school. He made the claim that the University of Kentucky’s facilities were not equal to what was being offered to the blacks at Kentucky State, which was deemed unconstitutional. That summer there were 31 other black students enrolled in classes.<sup>xlii</sup> The following year there was a lawsuit to desegregate Paducah College and the local chapter of the NAACP worked toward full integration of the University of Louisville. “After the General Assembly amended the Day Law in March 1950 to end segregation in higher education in the state, Berea, Bellarmine, Nazareth, and Ursuline colleges desegregated immediately. Most other Kentucky colleges and universities had desegregated by 1955.”<sup>xliii</sup>

During the Civil Rights Movement there was a system of community colleges established across the Commonwealth. These schools operated under the authority of the University of Kentucky. While the development of these institutions made “postsecondary education more accessible to many blacks” it proved

---

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Ibid, 6.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Kleber, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, 286.

<sup>xxxviii</sup> Henry H. Mitchell, *Black Church Beginnings: The Long-Hidden Realities of the First Years* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004), Google eBook, accessed April 5, 2015,

[https://books.google.com/books?id=T8YnhqReFKYC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=T8YnhqReFKYC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false).

<sup>xxxix</sup> Hardin, *Fifty Years*, 49.

<sup>xl</sup> Ibid, 52-53.

<sup>xli</sup> Smith, McDaniel and Hardin, *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia*, 336. “The University of Louisville desegregated on the graduate level in June 1950 and on the undergraduate level in 1951.”

<sup>xlii</sup> Wade Hall, *The Rest of the Dream: The Black Odyssey of Lyman Johnson* (Lexington, Kentucky: The University Press of Kentucky, 1988), 154-155.

<sup>xliii</sup> Kleber, *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*, 286-287.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

insufficient to truly combat the mostly segregated “historically white institutions.”<sup>xliv</sup> This led to “protests at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville in 1968 and 1969 and the creation of special programs to increase black enrollment.”<sup>xlv</sup>

### **Simmons University’s History**

Simmons traces its origins to the meeting of the Kentucky General Association of Baptists, a collection of African Americans who first met in 1865 seeking to establish a new place for themselves in American society as citizens. The association established Kentucky Normal and Theological Institute in 1879, which became State University in 1885, and Simmons University in 1918, in honor of its former President. During its first 3 decades of existence, the school served as the primary black college in the state, along with Berea until the Day law ended the racially integrated classrooms at Berea.<sup>xlvi</sup> It continued to thrive into the 1930s as an institution offering both academic education as well as religious training.

Yet in spite of its success, several factors—weak funding, increased property values in downtown Louisville leading to increased property taxes, and the general economic pressures of the Great Depression—caused the school to go bankrupt. In 1930, Simmons sold its property at 7<sup>th</sup> and Kentucky Streets to the University of Louisville, which used that site to open the Louisville Municipal College for Negroes in 1931. Simmons reduced its offerings to religious instruction.

With its educational mission reduced during the Great Depression, Simmons’ enrollment shrank. In 1925, Simmons had 523 students and 21 faculty members.<sup>xlvii</sup> By 1939 the total enrollment had declined to 130,<sup>xlviii</sup> and from 1955 through 1965, Simmons graduated an average of five students a year.<sup>xlix</sup> While enrollment figures were not found for the decades immediately following the school’s relocation, the school’s reduced class offerings and minimal housing—only one dormitory on Dumesnil that housed 22 male students—suggests that enrollment was minimal.

In 1934, expansion by the University of Louisville led Simmons to move its operation to the nominated property, at 18<sup>th</sup> and Dumesnil Streets, about two-and-a-half miles west of the original site. The school purchased three acres of farmland and take up residence in the building formerly occupied by the Colored Orphans Home.<sup>1</sup> The reuse of the Orphans Home for an education facility followed strong traditions—economy, mutual assistance, self-reliance—that had historically sustained African Americans during the Jim Crow era.

The Orphans Home had outlived its usefulness by the end of World War II, leading the school to erect a new

---

<sup>xliv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xlv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>xlvi</sup> George C. Wright, *A History of Blacks in Kentucky: In Pursuit of Equality, 1890-1980* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1992), 132.

<sup>xlvii</sup> “52 Years of History of Simmons,” Plato Family Papers, 1924-1967, A P718, Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky.

<sup>xlviii</sup> Dr. M. B. Lanier, “Simmons University,” *The Louisville Leader*, April 29, 1939, 3.

<sup>xlix</sup> Simmons Bible College Catalogue, 1967-1968, Box 1, Simmons Bible College Records, 1869-1971, RG105, University Archives and Records Center, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

<sup>1</sup> Kleber, *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, 822-823; Deed of Sale, Colored Orphans Home Society of Louisville to the General Association of Colored Baptists in Kentucky, December 2, 1935 (filed 9 December, 1935), Jefferson County, Deed Book D, page 159, Jefferson County Clerk’s Office, Louisville, Kentucky.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

building. Samuel Plato, the well-known African American architect and a Simmons alumnus, designed a one-story brick building to replace the Orphans Home building. Erected in 1949, it continues to serve Simmons today.<sup>li</sup> As a builder, Plato embodied the value of the industrial education model, and as a designer, bridged the aspirations of a professional education that African American colleges sought to impart.

Plato was one of the first African Americans to work professionally as a building contractor and architect. He moved to Louisville, attending State University (which later became Simmons University) in 1898.<sup>lii</sup> While a student, he took correspondence courses in architecture and carpentry. Plato moved to Marion, Indiana, around 1902 and began his practice. He quickly became recognized as a capable architect and contractor. Although he initially met some resistance from whites, it did not take long for him to establish himself as one of the most highly sought designer/builders in the region. Some of the white contractors who had initially refused to work for Plato changed their stance when he won several large commissions and needed laborers. Plato also empowered the black working class by refusing to hire white Union workers unless those various Unions accepted African Americans in their organizations.<sup>liii</sup> Plato moved back to Louisville in 1921, where he lived until his death in 1957. While working as a builder-designer, Plato received the first commission to build a U.S. post office to be awarded to an African American in Decatur, Alabama and would go on to build over forty.<sup>liv</sup> According to the *Courier-Journal*, Plato was also “one of the few Negroes in the United States to be awarded a defense housing contract” during WWII.<sup>lv</sup> He continued to excel as a prominent architect and builder in Louisville and is responsible for several important buildings in the area. At least eight of his buildings are listed on the National Register for Historic Places including; the Virginia Avenue Colored School in Louisville, Kentucky, the Broadway Temple A.M.E. Zion Church in Louisville, Kentucky, and William H. Steward Hall on the original Simmons University campus. It should be noted that Axton Hall’s design is Plato’s tribute to Steward Hall and is there as a testament to Simmons’ great history.

When the building was completed in 1949, it was named for Woodford Fitch Axton, co-founder of the Axton-Fisher Tobacco Company. Axton was known for his progressive views and his reputation as an advocate of the working man.<sup>lvi</sup> His company gained national fame as the first manufacturer of menthol cigarettes, which helped make it one of the largest independent tobacco companies in America. Its sales totaled \$28 million in 1934.<sup>lvii</sup> Mr. Axton “was a generous contributor of Simmons University while he lived and who splendidly remembered the institution in his will.”<sup>lviii</sup> J. H. Chandler, a Louisville attorney, stated in a tribute to Axton that Woodford was one of the “Big Four that worked together to save Simmons University” and that “one of the crowning things of Mr. Axton’s career was the help that he rendered the colored people.”<sup>lix</sup>

Simmons changed its name to Simmons Bible College in 1982 and then again to Simmons College of Kentucky

---

<sup>li</sup> This is stated on a commemorative stone slab located where the center window would be on the facade of the building.

<sup>lii</sup> Kleber, *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, 708.

<sup>liii</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Virginia Avenue Colored School, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #04000244.

<sup>liv</sup> Ibid.

<sup>lv</sup> National Register for Historic Places, Municipal College Campus (Simmons University), Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky, National Register #76000906.

<sup>lvi</sup> John E. Kleber, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Louisville* (Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2001), 56.

<sup>lvii</sup> Kris Applegate, *Legendary Locals of Louisville* (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014), 37; Kleber, *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, 885.

<sup>lviii</sup> William H. Ferris, “Pay Tribute to Wood F. Axton,” *The Louisville Leader*, May 18, 1935, 1.

<sup>lix</sup> Ibid.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

in 2005.<sup>lx</sup> It remained at the Eighteenth and Dumesnil location until 2007, when it returned to its original location at Seventh and Kentucky streets.<sup>lxi</sup> Upon returning to its original location, Simmons reinstated a liberal arts curriculum. The institution is now named Simmons College of Kentucky, and has averaged 120-150 students per semester in recent years. In 2015, Simmons became the nation's 107<sup>th</sup> official historically black college and university (HCBU). This designation has caused a sharp increase in enrollment. Two hundred students are signed up to take classes during the fall 2015 semester.

Simmons now boasts of being "the fastest growing college, percentage wise, in the Commonwealth of KY (a 95% enrollment growth)."<sup>lxii</sup> Simmons offers bachelor's degrees in business administration, communications, religious studies, and sociology and associates degrees in general studies and religious studies. Simmons also acts as a junior college of a sort, for students may transfer up to 64 credit hours to the University of Louisville. Simmons' current mission statement emphasizes its dedication "to educating people in the urban context through strong academic and professional programs in order that they may become productive citizens and agents of change in society."<sup>lxiii</sup> In 2014, Simmons received national accreditation from the Association for Biblical Higher Education.<sup>lxiv</sup>

Wood F. Axton Hall today serves as Simmons' West Louisville campus and marks an important phase in the institution's history. While Simmons is usually celebrated for its post-Civil War-era origins and its longevity, its commitment to theological education forms a vital part of its history.

## Orphanages

Although Axton Hall is significant mainly for its association with Simmons University, the earlier use of the site by the Louisville Colored Orphans Home forms an important backdrop to the story. The first orphanage in Louisville opened its doors in 1832. By 1875 the city had ten. With the exception of two, the Colored Orphans Home and the Masonic Widows and Orphans Home and Infirmary of Kentucky, all were associated with churches. After the Civil War, the first civil institution to house orphans was established on what is now the University of Louisville Belknap Campus and it was called the House of Refuge. This orphanage dealt with kids from seven to sixteen and had them segregated by race and gender. Admission to this institution was always upon orders from a judge, but the residents were not all guilty of crimes, some just would not be admitted elsewhere due to restrictions of race, age, space and creed.<sup>lxv</sup>

The Colored Orphans Home opened in 1878. As Louisville's first orphanage for African American children, it filled a vital need. The home was originally located in an abandoned army hospital in the Taylor Barracks, on the block bounded by Second, Third, Oak, and Ormsby streets. The following year it moved to an old brick house on the corner of Eighteenth and Dumesnil Streets that sat on three acres of farmland. The orphanage

---

<sup>lx</sup> "Simmons College of Kentucky [Louisville] (1879-)," BlackPast.org, accessed September 2, 2015, <http://www.blackpast.org/aah/simmons-college-kentucky-1879>.

<sup>lxi</sup> "Highlights of Simmons College of KY," Simmons College of Kentucky, accessed September 2, 2015, <http://simmonsisme.org/ten-reasons-hbcus-are-still-relevant/>.

<sup>lxii</sup> "Highlights of Simmons College of KY," Simmons College of Kentucky, accessed April 18, 2015, <http://simmonsisme.org/ten-reasons-hbcus-are-still-relevant/>.

<sup>lxiii</sup> "Our Mission and Values," Simmons College of Kentucky, accessed April 18, 2015, <http://simmonsisme.org/our-mission/>.

<sup>lxiv</sup> Simmons College of Kentucky, accessed April 18, 2015, <http://simmonsisme.org>

<sup>lxv</sup> Kleber, *Encyclopedia of Louisville*, 679-682.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

suffered from chronic underfunding and survived solely on a diet of meager donations received from churches and friends. In 1920, the home came under the protection of the Welfare League, which improved living conditions and rebuilt the house the orphans occupied, which had become severely deteriorated. In 1934, the land and the associated building were sold to Simmons.<sup>lxvi</sup>

In 1922, Louisville ranked first in the nation, among comparably sized cities, in the number of institutionalized children. Homes such as the All-Prayer Foundling Home survived on donations. It cared for over 1,000 infants and 500 mothers. The orphanage at the Sisters of Good Shepherd Convent (Maryhurst) was the first in the United States established by the nuns of this French religious order. In 1963 it housed seventy-five women. The House of Refuge, which would later be called the Industrial School of Reform and finally Ormsby Village, had separate facilities for white boys, white girls, black boys, and black girls. It helped thousands of children during the course of its history. Many orphanages had separate facilities or organizations to care for African American children. The Kentucky Children's Home Society, for example, had a segregated affiliate that opened in 1908 as the Kentucky Home Society for Colored Children. By the mid-twentieth century the number of orphans and orphanages declined. The need for housing orphans decreased as society became more accepting of unwed mothers living alone with their children. Moreover, improved public health reduced deaths among adults of childrearing age. Finally, after the Great Depression, the establishment of the Kentucky Department of Welfare provided public assistance to people in need throughout the Commonwealth.<sup>lxvii</sup>

The Colored Orphans Home secured a place for itself in the annals of Louisville history as the city's first African American orphanage. When Simmons sold their original downtown campus in the 1930s, relocating to the West End was a logical choice since it had become the new center of the black community in Louisville. Wood F. Axton Hall embodies the tradition of self-reliance that sustained African Americans during an era of profound inequality.

### **Evaluation of the Significance of the Administration of Simmons University within the context of African American Higher Education in Kentucky, 1865-1965**

State University played an important role in African Americans' educational advancement. Members of the black elite sought to acquire degrees and after the passing of the Day Law in 1904, with State University as the major center of higher education since schools such as Berea College became segregated.<sup>lxviii</sup> Enforcement of the Day Law varied, however. Simmons, for example, hired white faculty to teach areas such as foreign language.<sup>lxix</sup> Trustees and others involved in the success of State University played important roles throughout the city of Louisville. William Steward, for example, who served as president of the school after Simmons, was the first African American mailman in Louisville and held influence among the cities elites, both black and white, and even played a large part in "appointing black public school teachers, firemen, and policemen in the city of Louisville."<sup>lxx</sup>

---

<sup>lxvi</sup> Ibid.

<sup>lxvii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>lxviii</sup> Lawrence H. Williams, *Black Higher Education in Kentucky 1879-1930: The History of Simmons University* (Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1987), 89.

<sup>lxix</sup> Ibid, 95-96.

<sup>lxx</sup> Ibid, 69-70.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, African American churches served the spiritual, social, and political needs of their congregations in multiple ways. Far more than serving solely as houses of worship, African American churches provided forums for debating important social and political questions and anchored the organizational capacity of black communities. Ministers played crucial roles in tending to congregants' spiritual needs, providing social and political leadership, and negotiating with white authorities. Ministers figured among a black elite that commanded respect among African Americans and held influence with white civic and business leaders. In this sense, the history of Simmons Bible College is more than merely a phase of the university's institutional history; it is central to the educational advancement of African Americans in twentieth-century Louisville and the continuing struggle for black equality.

### **Evaluation of the Integrity between the Historic Significance of Axton Hall at Simmons University and its Current Physical Condition**

Axton Hall today stands in generally good condition and has been well maintained since its construction. Although minor signs of weathering are present, the building is structurally sound and shows no significant signs of deterioration. It is nominated under Criterion A, which depends upon the maintenance of historic associations for eligibility. Those important associations will be maintained if the property retains a sufficient integrity of location, setting, materials, and design.

It also retains integrity of **location**. Wood F. Axton hall has not been moved since its construction in 1949. In addition to that, its location in the California neighborhood is to also be noted. The West End of Louisville has historically been predominantly African American and continues to remain that way today. It was no accident that Simmons chose to relocate to 1811 Dumesnil Street. The location of the original campus is in downtown Louisville, but after World War II California, along with Parkland, Little Africa, and Cabbage Path, consisted of black communities and before long "the entire West End – with the exception of the predominantly white Portland neighborhood – became black."<sup>lxxi</sup> It only made sense that if the school was to continue serving the African American community, it should do so within the African American neighborhoods. Maintaining the self-reliant nature of the African American community, Simmons chose to buy the land from the Colored Orphans Home that was failing, thus ensuring that the site would remain a staple of assistance for the black community.

This site also retains integrity of **setting**. Although the traffic around Dixie Highway (previously Eighteenth Street) has increased with time and commercial success, Axton Hall still sits in a combined residential and commercial setting, but it is believed that not much has changed in the surrounding area. Within the site setting are remnants of the orphanage that once stood there—chiefly a sidewalk staircase and brick columns—that Simmons acquired in 1934 and used until 1949. The surrounding grounds are also believed to be largely unaltered. Project limitations preclude detailed analysis, but the present configuration of the grounds suggests no significant changes have occurred since 1949. The most noticeable visible change is growth of the four trees fronting Dumesnil Street. Overall, Axton Hall stands in excellent condition and has been but little-altered since construction.

---

<sup>lxxi</sup> Mervin Aubespin, Kenneth Clay and J. Blaine Hudson, *Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History* (Louisville: Butler Books, 2011), 193-194.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

The movement of the main campus back to its original downtown location has not affected the site's integrity of setting or location. Simmons is remodeling the nominated building in order to utilize it as their West End Campus. This means its location is still very important since, according to [socialexplorer.com](http://socialexplorer.com), the University's particular Census tract was over 92% African American in 2014. Providing a remote location for education for the West End of Louisville is important for the HBCU to appropriately and conveniently reach the entire city. Axton Hall still holds significant importance to the neighborhood and with proper modernizations and rehabilitations to the facility it will once again serve to educate Louisville's residents.

([www.socialexplorer.com](http://www.socialexplorer.com))

Axton Hall also maintains integrity of **materials**. Since its construction, the building has undergone minimal changes. The basement windows have since been covered but all of the glass block windows remain original, and no significant repairs appear to have been needed in its lifetime. The small inset windows in each of the large block glass windows for air ventilation may be later additions. The windows that were originally made of the same block glass in the basement have since been filled in, as one will notice when they compare the historic photo alongside a current one. Otherwise, the building is unaltered and retains its original appearance.

Finally, Axton Hall possesses integrity of **design**. The original design by Plato has been relatively unchanged, with the exception of the aforementioned safety precautions. The building stands in remarkable condition and the property even contains remnants of the orphanage that preceded Simmons. Plato's original design, that was supposed to inspire a sense of pride and memorialize the great legacy of Simmons by showing similarities with Steward Hall on the original campus, remains wholly visible. The protruding wings and symmetry of both Steward and Axton Halls are visible and the relationship is still easily inferred.

Because the property retains integrity of location, setting, materials, and design, Axton Hall can be said to retain integrity of **association** with black higher education and have a religious importance in African American communities. Since the building's construction, it has only been owned by Simmons College of Kentucky, as it is known today. Since the school relocated back to its original location in 2007, it has often allowed for the building to be used by local, predominantly African American, churches. With new signs being constructed on the site and remodeling in the works, Simmons College of Kentucky intends once again to use Axton Hall for educational purposes; it will serve as their West End Campus.

Overall, Wood F. Axton Hall retains more than a sufficient amount of integrity of association, location setting, materials and design to meet criterion A. It stands today with relatively little modification to its outward appearance and role in the local African American community as a whole.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

- Applegate, Kris. *Legendary Locals of Louisville*. Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2014.
- Aubespain, Mervin, Kenneth Clay, and J. Blaine Hudson. *Two Centuries of Black Louisville: A Photographic History*. Louisville: Butler Books, 2011.
- Betsey, Charles L., ed. *Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2008.
- Black Past. "Simmons College of Kentucky [Louisville] (1879-)." Accessed September 2, 2015.  
<http://www.blackpast.org/aah/simmons-college-kentucky-1879>.
- Brown, Nikki L. M. and Barry M. Stentiford, eds. *The Jim Crow Encyclopedia: Greenwood Milestones in African American History*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2008.
- Cornell University Law School Legal Information Institute. "Missouri ex rel. Gaines v. Canada." Accessed September 15, 2015. <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/305/337>.
- Ellis, William E. *A History of Education in Kentucky*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2011.  
Accessed April 5, 2015.  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=NigFCeHbpvIC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=NigFCeHbpvIC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false).
- Ferris, William H. "Pay Tribute to Wood F. Axton." *The Louisville Leader*, May 18, 1935.
- Hall, Wade. *The Rest of the Dream: The Black Odyssey of Lyman Johnson*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1988.
- Hardin, John A. *Fifty Years of Segregation: Black Higher Education in Kentucky, 1904-1954*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 1997.
- Home, Gerald, and Mary Young, eds. *W.E.B. DuBois: An Encyclopedia*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2001.
- Jackson, Cynthia L., and Eleanor F. Nunn. *Historically Black Colleges and Universities: A Reference Handbook*. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, Inc., 2003.
- Jefferson County Clerk's Office. "Amendment to Charter of General Association of Colored Baptists of Kentucky." General Index to Corporations Section G, Book 33, Page 539, December 21, 1923.
- Jefferson County Clerk's Office. "Deed of Sale; Colored Orphans Home Society of Louisville to the General Association of Colored Baptists in Kentucky, December 2, 1935." Jefferson County Deed Book D, Page 159.



Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

Journal of Blacks in Higher Education. "Key Events in Black Higher Education." Accessed April 5, 2015.  
<http://www.jbhe.com/chronology/>.

Kleber, John E., ed. *The Encyclopedia of Louisville*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2001.

Kleber, John E., ed. *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky, 2015.

Klein, Arthur J. "Survey of land-grant colleges and universities." Division of collegiate and professional education. Office of Education. 1930.

Lanier, Dr. M. B. "Simmons University." *The Louisville Leader*. April 29, 1939.

Lomotey, Kofi ed. *Encyclopedia of African American Education*. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications, Inc., 2010.

Maples, Rebeka L. *The Legacy of Desegregation*. New York City: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.

Mitchell, Henry H. *Black Church Beginnings: The Long-Hidden Realities of the First Years*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2004. Accessed April 5, 2015.  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=T8YnhqReFKYC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs\\_ge\\_summary\\_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=T8YnhqReFKYC&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false).

National Register of Historic Places. Municipal College Campus (Simmons University). Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. National Register #76000906.

National Register of Historic Places. Virginia Avenue Colored School, Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky. National Register #04000244.

Pascoe, Craig S., Karen Trahan Leathem and Andy Ambrose, eds. *The American South in the Twentieth Century*. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2005.

Plato Family Papers, 1924-1967, A P718. "52 Years of History of Simmons." Filson Historical Society, Louisville, Kentucky.

Roach, Ronald. "From Combat to Campus: GI Bill Gave a Generation of African Americans as Opportunity to Pursue the American Dream." *Black Issues in Higher Education* 14 (1998): 26-28.

Simmons Bible College Records, 1869-1971. "Simmons Bible College Catalogue, 1967-1968." Box 1. University Archives and Records Center, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky.

Simmons College of Kentucky. Accessed April 18, 2015. <http://simmonsism.org>.

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

Simmons College of Kentucky. "Highlights of Simmons College of KY." Accessed September 2, 2015.  
<http://simmonsism.org/ten-reasons-hbcus-are-still-relevant/>.

Simmons College of Kentucky. "Our Mission and Values." Accessed April 18, 2015.  
<http://simmonsism.org/our-mission/>.

Smith, Gerald L., Karen Cotton McDaniel, and John A Hardin, eds. *The Kentucky African American Encyclopedia*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 2015.

Smith, Jessie Carney, ed. *Encyclopedia of African American Business*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2006.

St. John, Edward P. and Michael D. Parsons, eds. *Public Funding of Higher Education: Changing Contexts and New Rationales*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.

Thelin, John R. *A History of American Higher Education, Second Edition*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011.

Williams, Lawrence H. *Black Higher Education in Kentucky 1879-1930: The History Of Simmons University*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1987.

Wright, George C. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky: In Pursuit of Equality, 1890-1980*. Lexington, KY: The University Press of Kentucky, 1992.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**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): \_\_\_\_\_ JFL-50 \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**



Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

## Photographs

Information for the following photographs:

Name of Property: Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Location of Property: Louisville, Kentucky  
Name of Photographers: Dr. Daniel Vivian and Wes Cunningham  
Date of Photographs: 19 June, 2015  
Location of Original Negatives: In the possession of Daniel J. Vivian, Department of History, University of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky

1. East End Façade facing north
2. Front (Southern) Façade facing west
3. Memorial Plaque
4. East End front door facing north
5. Close up of east end front door
6. Close up of doorway with engaged column and transom
7. East end façade facing west
8. West end façade facing east
9. Rear (Northern) façade of the building facing south
10. Rear (Northern) east end façade
11. Rear (Northern) west end façade
12. View of the west end of the building facing southeast
13. View of the east end of the building facing southwest
14. Rear (Northern) west end façade close up
15. Rear door on the east end of the building
16. Wheelchair ramp that leads to the rear door on the east end of the building
17. Rear of the building facing east
18. Rear of the building facing west
19. Close up of the basement window in the front (southern) façade of the building
20. Close up of small glass window
21. Small glass window in façade
22. Close up of large glass window
23. Oxeye in the façade's gable
24. Stairs leading to the basement door in the rear of the building
25. View of the corner of Dixie Highway and Dumesnil; one of the brick sign posts can be seen on the corner
26. Brick sign post on the corner of Dumesnil and Dr. W. J. Hodge Sts facing southwest
27. Brick sign post on the corner of Dumesnil and Dr. W. J. Hodge Sts. facing east
28. Brick columns and old stairs (presumed to be from the original orphanage building) on the east boundary of the property facing west
29. Brick columns and old stairs (presumed to be from the original orphanage building) on the east boundary of the property facing north; another column can be seen on the northeast corner of the property

Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons University  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Kentucky  
County and State

- 30. Brick sign post on the corner of Dumesnil and Dixie Highway facing north
- 31. Lone column on the corner of Dumesnil and Dixie Highway facing northwest

Historic Photographs

Information for the following photographs:

Name of Property: Wood F. Axton Hall  
Location of Property: Louisville, Kentucky  
Images accessed from the University of Louisville Archives and Special Collections.  
Collection Name: Simmons College of Kentucky Collection  
Collection Website: <http://digital.library.louisville.edu/cdm/description/collection/simmons>

- 1. Wood F. Axton Hall with students and faculty, Simmons University, Louisville, Kentucky, 1949; the building being built facing west – Image Number: ULUA Simmons 6.18.1
- 2. Wood F. Axton Hall at Simmons University, Louisville, Kentucky, 1950s; facing northwest; in the right side of the photograph the original orphanage can be seen, this building was used by Simmons until Axton Hall’s construction – Image Number: ULUA Simmons 6.18.2
- 3. Wood F. Axton Hall at Simmons University, Louisville, Kentucky, 1950s; facing northeast; the current building remains mostly unchanged since this picture – Image Number: ULUA Simmons 6.18.3

---

**Property Owner:**

---

name Simmons College of Kentucky  
street & number 1000 S. Fourth St. telephone 502-776-1443  
city or town Louisville state Kentucky zip code 40203





SIMMONS SEMINARY BUILDING

TRIBUTE TO PIONEER BAPTISTS 1865-1879  
WHO FOUNDED

SIMMONS UNIVERSITY

THE FIRST COLLEGE FOR NEGROES IN KENTUCKY

PRESIDENTS

ELIJAH P. MARRS	MARSHALL B. LANIER
WILLIAM J. SIMMONS	JAMES R. L. DIGGS
JAMES H. GARNETT	WILLIAM T. AMIGER
CHARLES H. PURCE	CHARLES H. PARRISH
WILLIAM H. STEWART, ACTING	

BENEFACTOR

WOOD F. AXTON  
1872 — 1935

OFFICERS

WILLIAM H. BALLEW, MODERATOR  
GENERAL ASSOCIATION OF COLORED BAPTISTS  
MARSHALL B. LANIER, PRESIDENT

TRUSTEES

H. W. JONES	P. A. CARTER
F. S. JONES	S. L. TAYLOR
R. H. CARTER	H. C. RUSSELL
W. A. JONES	D. E. KING
C. J. CUNNINGHAM	M. M. D. PERDUE
E. PULLEN	W. AUGUSTUS JONES

ERECTED 1949

BUILDING COMMITTEE

H. W. JONES	H. C. RUSSELL
M. B. LANIER	R. H. JOHNSON
H. E. NUTTER	

SAMUEL PLATO  
CONTRACTOR & BUILDER































Lampton

602-587-1541

Rev. Rob



ARM BOY

City of Bristol  
Bristol, VA



Lampton Baptist Church

504-233-1111  
Pastor



















COOL CALORE  
CATERING SERVICE

Cool  
CALORE  
CATERING SERVICE



HODGE ST  
WOOD DUMESNIL ST

  
SIMMONS  
COLLEGE OF KENTUCKY  
**SIMMONS WEST CAMPUS**  
[WWW.SIMMONSCOLLEGEKY.EDU](http://WWW.SIMMONSCOLLEGEKY.EDU)



*"from a great past, to a glorious future"*

**SAMPTON**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

RE ROBERT L. LYONS - SR. PASTOR  
(501) 772-2800 OFFICE [SBC.ORG](http://www.sbc.org)





**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
Monday - Friday  
June 22 - 26, 2015  
9:30 - 8:15 p.m.

**Classes for ALL ages!**

Call the church  
(502) 772-2800  
For transportation  
and more information

1811 Dumas St.  
Pastor L. L. Lusk, Pastor

**Evangelist Church**  
**Vacation Bible School**





St. James Church  
Monday - Friday  
June 22 - 28, 2015  
8:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Classes for ALL ages!  
For transportation and more information  
Call (812) 772-2800

OUTFRONT  
STRETCH YOUR TAX \$S  
PUBLIC AUTO AUCTION  
WIDE SELECTION WEEKLY  
Wed. 6 PM 812-283-5555  
clarkcountyauction.com  
Clark County Public Auto Auction  
1-55 N. Exit 1 - Jeffersonville

KENTUCKY LOTTERY

REV. ROBERT L. LYONS - SR. PASTOR  
LAMPONBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG  
(502) 772-2800 OFFICE

# LAMPTON

## BAPTIST CHURCH

*"...from a great past, to a glorious future!"*







Edna S. India  
319 M. Chestnut St.  
Cincinnati, Ky.

1949

1949





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Afton, Wood F., Hall, Simmons University  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 6/24/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/15/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/01/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/09/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000497

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 8-4-2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Significant for Association with ABCU; only Academic  
Bldg left from 2<sup>nd</sup> Campus

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

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

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

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

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



**Kentucky Certified Local Government Report Form**  
**Review of National Register Nomination by Local Authority**

*(Type and print your responses, then sign and return to the Kentucky Heritage Council, which is the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The document has been set up as an electronic form for convenience.)*

**Name of Certified Local Government (CLG):** Louisville-Jefferson County Metro Government

**Name of Property under Review:** Wood F. Axton Hall

**Initiation:** *(Check one response. Enter this date, and all others, using the m/d/yy format).*

The nomination was submitted by the CLG to the Kentucky Heritage Council with this form and requests that the nomination be reviewed by KHC as soon as possible. Date submitted to KHC:

KHC submitted nomination to the CLG for review. The CLG has 60 days to review the nomination and return this report form to KHC. Date nomination was received by CLG: **3/4/16**

**Date of Public Meeting in which Nomination was reviewed by the CLG:** **4/21/16**

**No. of public attendees in addition to commission members and staff:** **9**

**Review Basis:** *(Check at least one box of Resource Type/Criterion).*

**Resource Type**

**Criterion Selected on Nomination Form**

- Historical
- Architectural
- Archaeological

- National Register Criterion A or B
- National Register Criterion C
- National Register Criterion D

**Name of Commission Member(s) with Expertise in Area of Significance** *(Fill in if applicable to your commission).*

Historian (when property meets Criterion A or B): Joanne Weeter  
Architectural Historian/Architect (for Criterion C): Bob Bajandas  
Archaeologist (when property meets Criterion D): Jay Stottman

**Recommendation:** *(Please check the box that is appropriate to the nomination. Attach any relevant documentation, such as commission reports, staff reports/recommendations, public comments, and/or meeting minutes).*

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission recommends that the property or properties should **not** be listed in the National Register of Historic Places for the following reasons:

**Commission Chair or Representative:**  **Approved**  **Not Approved**

Print Name: Robert B. Vice

Signature: *Robert B. Vice* Date: April 21, 2016

**Chief Elected Official:**  **Approved**  **Not Approved**

Print Name/Title:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



MATTHEW G. BEVIN  
GOVERNOR

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

DON PARKINSON  
SECRETARY

**THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
PHONE (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820  
[www.heritage.ky.gov](http://www.heritage.ky.gov)  
June 20, 2016

CRAIG A. POTTS  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

RECEIVED 2280

JUN 24 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW 8th Floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed are the nominations approved by the Review Board at their May 20, 2016 meeting. We submit these forms so the properties can be listed in the National Register:

- Harlan Hubbard Home and Studio, Campbell County, Kentucky
- Edgewood, Fayette County, Kentucky
- New Castle Historic District, Henry County, Kentucky
- ✓ Wood F. Axton Hall, Simmons College, Jefferson County, Kentucky
- E.L. Hughes Company Building, Jefferson County, Kentucky
- Seventh Street School, Jefferson County, Kentucky
- Independence Historic District, Kenton County, Kentucky
- Peaselburg Historic District, Kenton County, Kentucky
- Maysville Historic District (Boundary Increase), Mason County, Kentucky
- Johnson's Landing House & Farm, Oldham County, Kentucky
- Woodland, Oldham County, Kentucky

We also enclose the **State Tuberculosis Hospitals of Kentucky MPS**, which includes two nominations: **London Tuberculosis Hospital** in Laurel County and **Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital** in Hopkins County.

We enclose documentation for three previously listed properties. This includes new information for the **Elks Athletic Club**, Jefferson County KY (NRIS 79001003) relating to its role in Louisville's LGBTQ past. The second item supports a name change for two previously-listed properties: the **Martin House**, Clark County, KY (NRIS 79003591) would become the **Jonathan Bush House**, and the **Martin-Holder-Bush-Hampton Mill**, Clark County KY (80001498), would become the **Jonathan Bush Mill**.

We thank you for your assistance in listing these properties.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Potts  
Executive Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer