

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Raus School

other names/site number Raus Community Improvement Club (CIC); Raus CIC Center

2. Location

street & number 125 Smith Chapel Road

NA not for publication

city or town Raus

vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Bedford

code 003

zip code 37388

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

10/2/2012
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register.

other (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

11-21-12

Raus Schoolhouse
Name of Property

Bedford County, Tennessee
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 count)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	2	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school
SOCIAL: civic

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall
SOCIAL: civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: CONCRETE
walls WOOD-Weatherboard
roof METAL
other GLASS

Narrative Description

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

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

Narrative Description

Raus School Building (C)

The Raus School, now known as the Raus Community Center, is a one-story frame weatherboard clad school with a T-plan, gable roof, multi-pane windows, and a stone pier foundation. Circa 1888, the Thompson's Creek Baptist Church donated and moved a one-room frame building to this location for use as a school. The same year, a one-story, slight T-plan, frame building was added on the west elevation and in 1927 a gable roof wing was added to the south elevation. The donated section was removed between 1910 and 1914, giving the school its current T-plan form. The interior of the school retains historic woodwork and its historic plan. Situated on Smith Chapel Road near a bridge over Thompson's Creek, the Raus School retains its historic and architectural integrity.

The school has a gable roof of pressed metal panels and standing metal seam, a dry stack stone pier foundation with stone, mortar and concrete infill and a large, sixteen foot, poplar tree stump beam helping to support the floor joist at the connection of the wing extension and the southern projection. The exterior is clad with weatherboard siding and a ca. 1956 brick and concrete flue is located at the junction of the main block and north projection. The original flue was midway on the ridgeline of the main block but was removed due to deterioration in 1955-56 along with a belfry that once sat atop the ridgeline above the main entry on the west façade.

The main (west) façade faces Smith Chapel Road at the northern end of the bridge that spans Thompson's Creek. The main entry has a double-leaf wood door each with five inset wood panels set within a simple hooded wood surround beneath two, two-light glass and wood transoms. The lower transom was added ca. 1955-56 when the entry was reduced in height in order to accommodate the replacement of the original doors. A four-step stone and concrete stoop facilitates entry into the building. Gable returns are located in the gable field at the roofline.

On the western part of the north elevation are two, original, rectangular four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows set within simple hooded wood surrounds. At the junction of the western part of the north elevation and the slight two- to three- foot projection is a ca. 1956 brick flue with the lower portion swathed in concrete. The north entry to the building is centered on this slight projection and has a three, horizontal-light and three, wood panel door with an aluminum storm/screen door leading out to a ca. 1980 concrete ramp set next to the building above which is a wood handrail attached to the building in order to assist those with disabilities easier access. Sited above the door are two, two-light glass and wood transoms with the lower transom added ca. 1955-56 when the entry was reduced in size, similar to the main entry. The entry and transoms are set within a simple hooded wood surround. Gable returns are also on this elevation within the gable field at the roofline.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

The rear (east) elevation has an exterior of weatherboard, as does the entire building; however, on this elevation, a portion of the weatherboard is different in width due to the addition of the 1927 wing extension. On the southern end of this elevation are two, six-light fixed glass and wood windows set within simple hooded wood surrounds. The foundation on the northern end of this elevation has a continuous concrete foundation added ca. 1980 to give added support to the aforementioned ADA entrance on the north elevation, and what appears to have been a window opening, has been enclosed with weatherboard.

The south elevation has a 1927 wing extension located off the original two- to three-foot projection of the main block and includes the southern entry. The southern entry has an original, five-panel wood door sheltered by a shed roof canopy supported by simple wood brackets and a single step stoop. Located on the western elevation of the wing extension is a ribbon of three, original nine-over-nine, double-hung wood sash windows set within simple wood surrounds. On the southern elevation of the main block are two, original, rectangular, four-over-four, double-hung wood sash windows set within simple hooded wood surrounds and sited parallel to those windows on the northern elevation's main block.

Upon entering the building through the west façade entrance, the interior shows three clearly defined areas; the primary section, which is composed of the west entry and main block, the rear section that is along the east wall and has the north entrance within the two- to three-foot projection on the north elevation and the wing extension on the south elevation. The main and rear sections are not partitioned and can be separated from the wing extension by an open doorway that can be enclosed with several modified doors. Floors are original tongue and groove wood and acoustical tiles, installed ca. 1957-58, cover the original bead board ceilings. Original bare bulbs on a single cord hang from the ceiling for lighting and some of the original benches line the walls. In the main and rear sections, a chair rail runs along the wall set approximately two feet above the floor. Horizontal wood coat racks with metal hooks flank the main entry on the western wall. The original raised wood platform was removed from the rear section of the building ca. 1957-58.

The wing extension section contains the southern entry, the kitchen area along the east wall, and a bank of windows on the west wall. A pantry runs from the southern entry to the east wall and is only partial in height leaving space for storage on the top. The interior of the pantry has wood shelving and interior bead board walls. Walls in the wing extension section are covered with wood paneling.

Associated Outbuildings

Set behind the school building to the east is a ca. 1970, concrete block, gable roof outdoor pit bathroom with two entries; one for men and one for women. The building is divided in half with both sections having a partial divider from the entry hall allowing for privacy while above the wood platform pit. The concrete block bathroom replaced the original wood frame privy. (NC)

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Sited next to Thompson's Creek along the southern boundary of the property and to the south of the school building is a ca. 2002, wood frame pavilion with a gable roof of standing seam metal set on a concrete slab base. The pavilion was built as an Eagle Scouts project. (NC)

Located in the southeastern corner of the property boundary and next to Thompson's Creek is the original stone spring box that provided clean drinking water to the students. The spring box is rectangular in shape with a stone lid and a small rectangular cut-out on the west wall panel. The spring box is no longer in use. (C)

On the northern side of the property is a metal flagpole set within a circular flowerbed that marks the site of the Raus Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The Church was the fourth building on the "meetinghouse tract" that included three churches and the Raus School. On the northwest boundary of the property and running adjacent to Smith Chapel Road is a small half- moon grass and gravel driveway that has a line of trees within which is the Raus Community Center Sign, and a concrete picnic table used for outdoor events and as a wayside pull-out for those traveling on the road.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1888-1962

Significant Dates

1895-1900, 1927, 1955-56

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Baxter, C.F.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

Statement of Significance

The Raus School in Bedford County, Tennessee is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in education and social history and under Criterion C in architecture as a good example of a rural turn-of-the-century schoolhouse. One of the few remaining schoolhouses of its type in Middle Tennessee, the Raus School is significant for its role in the rural history of the community and Bedford County. Built ca. 1888, the Raus School began and thrived as a traditional community school initially with classes for all grades, first through twelfth, up until it was closed in 1954. The Raus School was also used by community organizations and clubs such as the Raus Women's Group in the 1930s. After the school closed in 1954, the Community Improvement Club (CIC) began meeting in the school and subsequently purchased the building from the county in order to maintain the property as a community center. The CIC continues to meet there and remains active in the community by fostering area improvement projects such as cemetery maintenance, supporting other local organizations such as 4-H, and hosting a community "bulletin board" via social media in order to keep the community informed of events and activities.

The Raus School is also eligible under Criterion C, as a good example of the standardized school building plans for rural communities that emerged nationally during the late-19th century. Several organizations, both governmental and private, began publishing pattern books that promoted designs which specifically addressed characteristics that aided in a better learning environment for children such as window placement for ample lighting and ventilation, and even included the characteristics of prominent styles of the time such as Colonial Revival, which can be seen in the Raus School.

Raus Community

Raus School is located in the central eastern portion of Bedford County (2010 population: 45,058) in the rural unincorporated community of Raus. The official name "Raus" was first associated with the history of post offices in Tennessee. Two small communities were known as Thompson Creek, the first located at the Baptist Church area and the second located down the creek about five miles to the northwest where Thompson Creek flows into Duck River. This smaller post office operated through the 1830s to the 1860s and in 1892 started again near Rowesville. In 1892, with the reorganization of post offices and delivery routes, the post office at Thompson Creek and Bennett Branch needed a name other than Thompson Creek, a name heavily used throughout Tennessee.¹ The name Raus (not to be misspelled Ross) was chosen for the owner of the store out of which the post office would operate. Frederick Raus, the store operator for the short span of three years, left his name as a reminder to the community when he moved on to Oklahoma. Raus, as it was known from 1892 forward, thrived as a bustling community with several stores, mills, churches, and schools. While most of the stores and schools existed up and down

¹ Tennessee State Library & Archives, 2012.

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Thompson Creek for various periods of time; the Raus School continued operation as a county school until 1954 when all small county schools were consolidated.

Raus School

Although there were several schools along Thompson Creek, including a log structure near the Bennett Branch/Thompson Creek junction, the first school at Raus was built from part of the Thompson Creek Baptist Church. In the late 1880s, the church members wanted a larger building and proposed new construction. The older building was moved towards the meetinghouse spring in 1888 and remodeled into the school building. This portion of the building was considered to be the "back wing" or "little room" on the east side.² The school began operation in 1889 or 1890 at about the same time Richland Academy, two miles to the north closed. The school became known for a short time as "New Richland" but soon took on the new community name of Raus (see Figures 1 & 4).

Early rural county schools in Tennessee were predominately small, one room buildings built of log but as early as the 1830s, schools were being built to represent a movement that good schoolhouse architecture would facilitate good education. It was felt that a school building that had good lighting and ventilation provided by tall windows, high ceilings and ample room for movement created a better learning environment. This movement was strengthened by the distribution and circulation of educational journals and state publications after the Civil War and led to a standardization of schoolhouse designs and patterns by the end of the 19th century.³

The construction and design of the Raus School is an example of the standard schoolhouse type that became prominent in the late-19th and early-20th century. One such publication was the *Manual on School-Houses and Cottages for the People of the South* by Florida State Superintendent C. Thurston Chase published in 1868.⁴ Suggested architectural elements of the Raus School indicative to several of the school plan manuals including that of Mr. Chase are the gable end entries, a gable roofline, a stone foundation and gable return eaves. Some of these elements are also representative of the Colonial Revival style which was popular at the time of its construction and remain evident on the school building today.

Raus School had the unique location of a four-acre tract of land at the junction of Thompson Creek Road, Elijah Parker Road and Smith's Chapel Road. The school shared this location with the Thompson Creek Baptist Church, the Raus Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Raus Church of Christ (see Figure 2). Earliest church records and family histories reflect that the Baptist congregation began meeting first under a brush arbor there.⁵ The first landowners around the tract established this unusual tract of land for the use of a "meetinghouse." Each land grant

² Stephens, History of Thompson Creek Baptist Church 1980 Volume Six, Number:2, page 53.

³ Stoeker, Oglesby School National Register Nomination, September 2002, p. 4

⁴ Stoeker, Oglesby School National Register Nomination, September 2002, p. 4

⁵ Stephens, History of Thompson Creek Baptist Church 1980 Volume Six, Number: 2, p.54.

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recipient set aside a border of the meetinghouse tract, beginning at the spring, and each land transaction restricted the border by the four-acre tract. This occurred in all four directions, north, south, east, and west. For example, the Wilkins Blanton's Land Grant purchase of 1855 states, "Thence South 36 ½ poles to the center of the spring known as the meeting house spring in the east bank of the creek"⁶ (see Figure 3).

The meetinghouse tract of land has a history as interesting as the buildings. It was established as a village point and meetinghouse location with a spring included. Each Range (Range 6) and Section (Section 4) had 640 acres set aside for land to be sold to support schools and education mainly at the university level. It was organized by the agreement with North Carolina and Tennessee when Tennessee became a state. From 1806–07, when Bedford County was established, this land was leased; but the Tennessee General Assembly permitted four acres in each Range to be set aside for meetinghouses.⁷ The land continued as leased school lands until 1843 when various local surrounding owners lead by the District's Justice of the Peace, Elijah Parker, petitioned the General Assembly's Subcommittee on School Lands to sell the land and exempt the "four acres set aside for meetinghouses."⁸ This land continues this same use today with two churches and this former school building now functioning as a community center.

Raus School began and thrived as a traditional community school with classes for all grades, one through twelve. There would be as many as fifty to seventy-five students at its height of operation in the early 1900s. Students would learn all the basics of reading, writing, mathematics, the sciences and even philosophy and oration.⁹ Through the years, the school operated on a partial "subscription" basis with some help from the county funds. A student's family would pay a part of the subscription, or tuition, or even barter work and upkeep for the building and grounds.¹⁰

Beginning in the 1900s, Bedford County increased some funding to the county schools through county taxes or funds. With this came the increased county responsibility of hiring principals, teachers and building maintenance. As the educational responsibilities continued to change for the county so did the county's approach for schools.

Throughout the years, Raus School was administered by numerous principals and teachers. Bedford County School Minutes record requests and expenditures that reflect the size of the student body and the need for at least two staff members, or classified as a "Two Teacher School." Bedford County District 24 qualified with enumerations for at least three schools.¹¹

⁶ State of Tennessee 1855: TN Land Grants: Record Group 50.

⁷ Whitney, 1891.

⁸ E.E. Parker, 1843.

⁹ Robinson 1928, p 1.

¹⁰ Stephens, "Notes from Oral History Interview with Mrs. A.M. Stephens" 1980, Volume 6, Number 2, p 52.

¹¹ Tennessee Department of Education 1970; RG 273, Box 153, Folder 31, p 1.

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Historic records and photographs identify many of those teachers and students. The historic images also identify some of the subtle changes of the building itself. The newspaper clipping of a 1904 photo identifies the teachers as Professor Ernest Bryant and his wife, Suda H. Bryant. Mr. Bryant's family was in the next community to the west, Flat Creek. The music teacher is identified as Miss Fannie Bly. Mrs. Katie Mitchell Parker identified this photo (see Figure 5) in 1965.¹²

There is another photo identified as 1904 that actually could be as early as 1902 or 1903. The same students who appear in both images seem younger. The teachers are Mrs. Florella Byrom, Will Ervin, and Miss Lillie McQuiddy. Mrs. Florella Byrom continued to teach in Bedford County throughout her career, mainly at Normandy. Mrs. Ruby Prince Brown identified this photo in 1964.¹³ Most of the students on both of these images (see Figures 6 & 7) have been identified.

The 1914 photo identified Tom Farris and his wife Esther Farris as teachers. In addition to the students of the day, the photo identifies a bench on the left side of the image. This rather square bench style still exists in the building today (see Figure 8). A second interesting detail of the 1914 image includes a good view of the original short wing on the right side of the image with a wood shake roof. This would be the south side of the later addition.

The Farris' were followed by several sets of women teachers, such as Miss Lester Arnold, Miss Mattie Foster and Miss Nannie V. Robinson. The 1922 school year started with Miss Lester Arnold who made \$65.00 and Miss Mattie Foster who made \$60.00.¹⁴ By June 8, 1923, the local County Court member, Squire (O.M.) Prince, "requests a man teacher" (see Figure 9).¹⁵ This resulted in hiring of Mr. Leland Jordan, who stayed for several years. The 1924 class photo places Mr. Jordan in the middle of the group.¹⁶ Mr. Jordan was considered Principal or Lead Teacher and made \$80 per month, the Assistant Teacher made only \$50.¹⁷

By 1927, the parents of the neighborhood felt more room was needed for the classes. "A delegation from Raus came before the board requesting addition to the school building. Mr. Blackburn and Mr. Bearden, both School Board Members and Miss Britty Williams, Superintendent, were appointed to a committee to look into the situation and if conditions were justified for an addition, it would receive bids for the same. The committee visited the location and Miss Williams was asked to ascertain if the State would admit by construction of addition to be aided from the Special Elementary School Building Fund, acted same day."¹⁸ By March of 1928, "Mr. Bearden reported on the building at Raus and T.C Couser was awarded the contract and building started."¹⁹ Mr. Couser was a local carpenter and neighbor just to the south in Moore

¹² K. M. Parker, 1965.

¹³ Brown, 1964.

¹⁴ Bedford County Government 1903 -1977 1922, p. 8

¹⁵ Bedford County Government 1903 -1977, 1923, p. 21

¹⁶ Raus School Reunion, 1985.

¹⁷ Bedford County Government 1903 - 1977, 1923, p. 22

¹⁸ Bedford County Government 1903 - 1977 1927, p.64

¹⁹ Bedford County Government 1903 - 1977 1928 p. 68

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County. This brought the school building to three rooms by using a temporary partition or "screen" in the larger room. That same year the teachers were Miss Hazel Harrison and Miss Elizabeth Tune.

The school made a comfortable class with a "little room" built in 1927 on the south side that was used for the younger children and then the students would be "promoted" to the "big room" for the latter grades. Each room was heated by a potbelly stove burning wood or usually coal. The bell in the belfry called the children to class and all activities were carried out in both of the rooms. Special events or programs would take place on a little stage/platform at the front of the "big room" (see Figure 9)."

By 1930, Miss Clara Bob Farrar was Lead Teacher and Miss Julia Prince was the Assistant Teacher. Miss Clara Bob was the school teacher who fascinated the students by driving a pony buggy from her home in Flat Creek, even into the mid-1930s.²⁰ She also gave musical programs to the Raus Woman's Club. This group met in the schoolhouse often when school was closed. The Woman's Club was a neighborhood gathering that often encouraged musical and cultural activities. One entry in their 1934 minutes (see Figure 11) described a work day when they "met all day at the Raus Schoolhouse showing crafts of "making something out of nothing" reflecting the effects of the depression era.²¹

The 1930s also brought to the country, the county, and Raus, the serious consequences of the Great Depression. Schools were not painted or repaired, churches struggled to stay open, and general stores and businesses closed. President Roosevelt's New Deal projects swiftly went to work determining the best approach to helping all levels of communities. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) quickly settled into work in the southern United States and in Bedford County. First, "surveyors" arrived to review the actual status of communities, agricultural levels of economy, and many other details of each county; then made recommendations on programs that would help improve lifestyles of the citizens.²² The TVA's notes reported on all aspects of the schools and reflected the struggles to keep schools open and maintained, to keep clean water from wells and local springs for school children, and on schools with lower attendance and school rooms that were not used.²³ Several schools were considered dilapidated and very poor with water testing positive for bacteria and other diseases.²⁴

Raus School and community were considered average in TVA Surveyor Marvin Carden's remarks compiled in March of 1934:

²⁰ W. D. Roberts 2007.

²¹ Raus Woman's Club 1931

²² Tennessee Valley Authority 1934-35, p. 34.

²³ Tennessee Valley Authority 1934-35, p. 175.

²⁴ Tennessee Valley Authority 1934-35, p.121.

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"Raus Grammar School, 3 room frame building with bell tower, 12% of pupils travel 2 miles or more; 15% 1 mile. Building in good condition, needs paint. No lights for night use. Day lighting, good. Water spring, 60 yards from school. Limestone water, tested for bacteria last year. Pupils go to spring to drink, use dipper. Social life consists of card parties, home gatherings, ladies club meets once a month and your people go to Shelbyville to picture shows."²⁵

TVA and its programs began many changes for the Raus School and the community. TVA events began with surveys, mapping surveys, and many other projects. Construction projects and UT Agricultural Extension educational programs would also continue to change the agricultural and social landscape as well. The most evident broad project was electricity and the resulting construction all around the region. Surrounding schools of Haley and Fairfield, near Wartrace were wired by TVA for electric lights.²⁶ The WPA was involved in construction in the community replacing old wooden bridges with stronger concrete and block bridges. Boys in Raus School found it hard to concentrate while bridge construction continued right outside their window (see Figure 12).²⁷

By the late 1930s, Bedford County School Board began to run low on funds for the schools. Only a few schools had electricity for lights, and several small schools continued to deteriorate. Bedford County began to consider consolidation of the smaller one room schools, especially those with the lowest attendance.²⁸ The state assigned certain levels of attendance based on population. Schools that fell below the levels, even in daily attendance, were given a higher consideration for closing. At this time Jenkins Chapel, and others closed. Raus maintained enough attendance to continue through the 1940s. From about 1939 through 1941, Raus School had their last male teacher and principal, R.D. Hix. He was locally known as a strict disciplinarian and yet a strong example for the students. He was a talented carpenter and left teaching in 1941 as the war effort increased to begin a long career as a master carpenter at Camp Forest and eventually Arnold Engineering Development Center.²⁹ His last salary as a teacher was listed at \$87 per month.³⁰ That was up from his starting salary in 1936 of \$60.³¹ Other teachers at Raus in the 1930s included Mrs. Virginia Dryden, Mrs. Virgil Naron, and Miss Julia Prince.

The 1940s brought the 2nd Army War maneuvers to the community.³² As with the bridge construction, the boys in particular found it difficult to concentrate on their studies when so many trucks, troops, and other equipment would pass through bumping along the bridges, sliding through fields, and breaking down fences. When not in school, the boys would help the soldiers with

²⁵ Tennessee Valley Authority 1934-35, p. 239.

²⁶ Bedford County Government 1903 – 1977, 1936, p. 199.

²⁷ D. Parker, 2007.

²⁸ Bedford County Government 1903 – 1977, 1937, p. 209.

²⁹ D. Parker 2007; Brinkley 2007.

³⁰ Bedford County Government 1903 – 1977, 1940 p. 320.

³¹ Bedford County Government 1903 – 1977, 1936 p. 209.

³² McMillian n.d.

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errands to the general store for snacks and other goodies, sharing with the boys as they went. It is said the soldiers asked why the Raus community had "four" churches together, making it "mighty religious." The boys answered that at least one was their schoolhouse.³³

The 1950s brought the greatest change to the rural Bedford County schools. Small schools continued to close in under the consolidation process. School buses were purchased and routes developed to transport students to Shelbyville for elementary school. High school students were already going to Shelbyville, Flat Creek, and other locations around the county. The School Board and Superintendent, Helen Womack began the systematic and thoughtful distribution of funds to improve both centrally located schools for separate white and colored schools. This budgeting included new elementary schools in Shelbyville, training schools and more buses and a central garage for transportation support. In turn, this created a level of neglect at the small, one- and two-room schools. Each of the one-room schools closed; followed by the two-room schools. The 1953-54 school year was the last class at Raus Grammar School with teachers, Mrs. Beulah Cunningham and Mrs. Nell Rainey.³⁴ The official notice came in the August 27, 1954 meeting. This motion carried in spite of several attempts by parents' petitions and appearances before the board to keep Raus School open.³⁵

The School Board promptly began the process of selling all the "abandoned" and surplus property in 1954. By 1956, it was determined that several schools had to be removed from the sales. Hilltop, Mt. Herman, and Raus schools all had similar reasons for not being sold. Hilltop School land reverted to the original owners of the land. The Mt. Herman School property had been purchased and built by the community. The Raus School also had the similar situation and there was not a clear title to the land within the "meetinghouse tract." Local lawyer and Raus resident, James L. Bomar spoke for the community and the "abandoned" property was removed from all sales transactions.³⁶

Raus Community Improvement Club (CIC)

As Bedford County consolidated schools and closed the rural small sites, a new program was gaining momentum. The Community Improvement Club (CIC) system was a post-war program that UT Agricultural Extension Agency and TVA used to bring educational, cultural, and social events and resources to the rural areas of Tennessee.³⁷ Community Improvement Clubs developed post WWII all across the state and by the mid- 1950s, Bedford County was gaining more clubs. Many Raus families, saddened by the closing of the long cherished 65 year old school, found the new program as the best way to help the citizens of the area and help preserve the building as part of the center of the "meeting house tract" of Raus.

³³ D. Parker 2007; Brinkley 2007.

³⁴ Bedford County Government 1903 – 1977, Vol. 2, p.67.

³⁵ Bedford County Government 1903 – 1977, p. 117.

³⁶ Bedford County Government 1903 – 1977, Vol. 2, p. 147.

³⁷ UT Extension 2010, p.20.

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Section number 8 Page 11

Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

May 7, 1954 marked the formal beginning of the Raus Community Improvement Club.³⁸ Officers and a Board of Trustees were named, and formally adopted the constitution and by-Laws recommended by the Bedford County Council of Community Clubs. The officers were President, Hershel Bomar, Vice President, Dwight Stubblefield, and Secretary, Ocie Brinkley (see Figure 13). With leadership of the County Extension Agent, Adrian Fox, the County Council system made recommendations and included kits of notes, forms describing suggested committees and helpful tasks that would provide leaders with educational components. The Council even provided a theme, "Better Living in Better Communities in Tennessee."³⁹

Raus CIC set to work immediately with plans of caring for the old school building, the grounds, and the Presbyterian Church building also on the grounds (see Figures 14 and 15). Committees were established for fundraising, grounds care, programming and others. In 1954, the fundraising committee established a plan for a barbeque supper and an ice cream supper – bake sale (see Figure 16). The building was painted and the "new" exterior chimney flue was built in 1956 for heating in the winter.

Other CIC programs quickly started in full force to aid the community in many ways. One major project was the cleaning and improvement of cemeteries. The Powell Cemetery in particular needed help of improving tombstones set straight and a new fence to keep farm animals out (see Figure 17). Other cemeteries were also cleaned of brush, grass, and all the help provided ways to straighten fallen tombstones.⁴⁰

CIC Secretary, Miss Ocie Brinkley also set to creating scrapbooks documenting the progress and activities of the new CIC. The original kit of notes made recommendations of activities but the creativity of Miss Brinkley and others such as Mrs. Ruby Brown created a glimpse of life in the community. The minutes, committee reports and scrapbooks documented the Raus CIC and in 1957, the club won the Statewide Council State Championship (see Figure 18).⁴¹ The scrapbooks also documented home tours of "modern" improvements of older homes, church activities and so much more. A brief list of activities held by the CIC includes the following:

- Encouraged activities of the 4-H members and groups.
- Encouraged Young Farmers & Homemakers groups.
- Held Tobacco Grading Schools
- Held Soil Testing Schools and erosion remediation
- Hosted community wide meetings regarding utilities service upgrades such as telephone systems, improvements from TVA, and Duck River Electric Membership Cooperative.

³⁸ Raus Community Improvement Club, 1954, May 1954.

³⁹ Raus Community Improvement Club, 1954.

⁴⁰ Raus Community Improvement Club, 1954.

⁴¹ Raus Community Improvement Club, 1957.

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Section number 8 Page 12

Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

- Reports and representation of the Farm Bureau.
- Political rallies, presentations of candidates and voting precinct.
- Host to other groups: Raus Woman's Club, Raus Home Demonstration Club, Raus School Reunions, 4-H groups, and many family and church activities.

Raus CIC has hosted many opportunities for politicians to define their policies and election debates and 4-Hers' to practice projects and speeches. During the 1980s, State Representative Jim Cooper represented the district and presented a United States flag that "flew over the Capital". Local county officials, the County Mayor and County Commission members regularly make visits to present updates of county government issues. The Raus CIC consistently supports the local Volunteer Fire Departments of both Normandy and Flat Creek as the community is almost equidistant between the two.⁴²

Many activities continue today as in the first year of its organization. The Raus Ice Cream Supper in early June is known around the area for its homemade ice cream, baked goods, and burgers. Annual donations are made to the Powell Cemetery Association to continue the up keep and care of this historic cemetery. The club continues to host examples of events such as:

- Concerned citizens of Duck River watershed.
- Raus district voting precinct (1960s – 2011).
- Educational safety programs from TN Highway Patrol troopers
- Eagle Scout projects
- Social events such as Halloween cookouts
- Hosts a Facebook account for a community "bulletin board" for sharing comments, history and current events (See Figure 19). Many former students and citizens have reconnected and shared memories, including Frederick Raus' descendants.

⁴² Raus Community Improvement Club, 1980.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

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Bedford County, Tennessee

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Raus School
Name of Property

Bedford County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 3.27 acres Normandy, TN 79 NE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 560773 3916891
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carol Roberts; Peggy Nickell (Tennessee Historical Commission)
organization Tennessee State Library and Archives; CIC Member date June 1, 2012
street & number 641 Thompson Creek Road telephone (615) 253-6446
city or town Shelbyville state TN zip code 37160

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

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

name Jeanne Parker Hix, Treasurer, Community Improvement Club (CIC)
street & number 675 Smith Chapel Road telephone 931-695-3041
city or town Tullahoma state TN zip code 37388

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

VERBAL BOUNDARY and JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the nominated property is the property located within Bedford County Tax Parcel #011.00 on Tax Map 130. The parcel includes approximately 3.27 acres of the total of four acres denoted in the property tax information. The approximate 3.27 acres of National Register boundary includes the Raus School, exterior bathrooms, pavilion, springhouse and flagpole (former site of Raus Cumberland Presbyterian Church). The remaining acreage is the floodplain of Thompsons Creek across Smith Chapel Road to the west and the triangular median at the intersection of Smith Chapel Road and Elijah Parker Road and is not included in the National Register boundary for the Raus School. The boundary includes property historically associated with the Raus School and is the land that is currently associated with the community center.

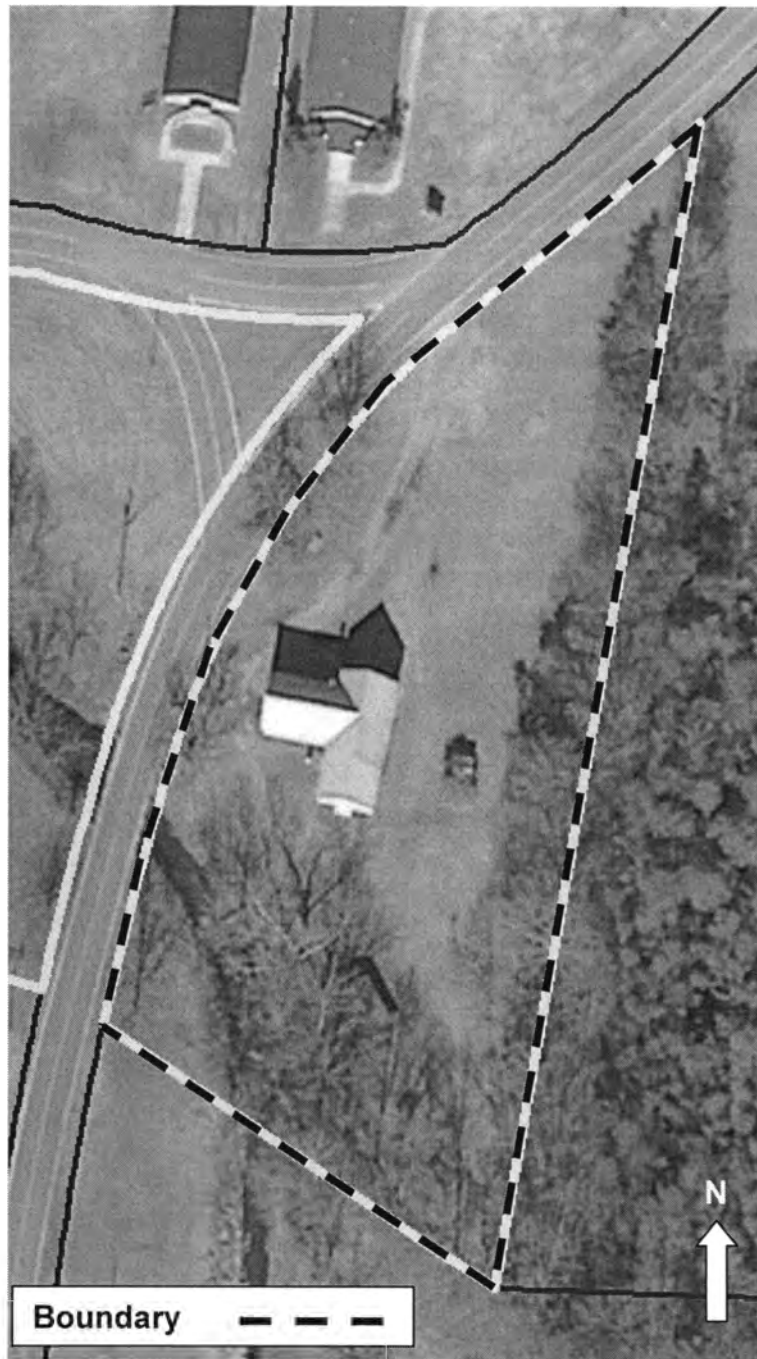
The parcel is bounded on the west along a curve on Smith Chapel Road, on the south and southwest by the irregular meandering of Thompsons Creek, on the east by a rise in the landscape with a tree line that has a barbed wire fence and culminates at a point back at the north with the upper point of the curve of Smith Chapel Road.

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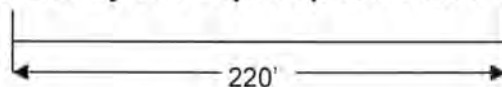
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Bedford County Tax Map: Map 130 Parcel 013.00



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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photos By: Peggy Nickell
Date: June 29, 2012
Digital Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

1 of 33
West Façade and North Elevation.

2 of 33
North elevation.

3 of 33
North and East Elevations.

4 of 33
East Elevation.

5 of 33
South and East Elevations.

6 of 33
South Elevation.

7 of 33
South Elevation and West Façade.

8 of 33
West façade & South Elevation showing wing addition.

9 of 33
Dry Stack Stone Foundation with some mortar and cement repairs on the North Elevation.

10 of 33
Stone Foundation with some mortar and cement repairs on the West Façade.

11 of 33
Main entry on the West Façade.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

12 of 33

Entry on the North Elevation.

13 of 33

South Elevation Entry with shed roof canopy supported by wood brackets.

14 of 33

Original four-over-four double-hung wood rectangular window with wood surround on the North Elevation.

15 of 33

Ribbon of three, ca. 1920 nine-over-nine double-hung wood windows with wood surrounds.

16 of 33

Six-light wood awning windows on the East Elevation.

17 of 33

Brick and concrete flue constructed in 1956.

18 of 33

Interior – Original Main Section- View to the west.

19 of 33

Interior- Original Main Section and North Entry - View to the northwest.

20 of 33

Interior- Original Main Section and Rear Room – View to the east.

21 of 33

Interior – South Wing/Kitchen area/South Entry- View to the south.

22 of 33

Interior – South Wing/Kitchen Area – View to the southeast.

23 of 33

Interior – Main Entry on West Façade – View to the west.

24 of 33

Interior – Original Four-Over-Four Double-hung Wood Sash Windows – View to the North.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

25 of 33

Interior – Original Beadboard Ceiling hidden beneath ca. 1935 acoustical tile ceiling tiles.

26 of 33

Interior – Original Tongue and Groove Wood Floors.

27 of 33

Stone Springhouse – View to the southeast.

28 of 33

Stone Springhouse – View to the southeast from School Building.

29 of 33

Ca. 2005 Wood Pavilion- View to the south with Thompsons Creek in the background.

30 of 33

Ca. 1970 Concrete Block Outdoor Bathrooms. View to the east.

31 of 33

View to the North from Raus School.

32 of 33

View to the North from Smith Chapel Road and the Thompson's Creek Bridge.

33 of 33

View to the North – Community of Raus and the "Meetinghouse Tracts".

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

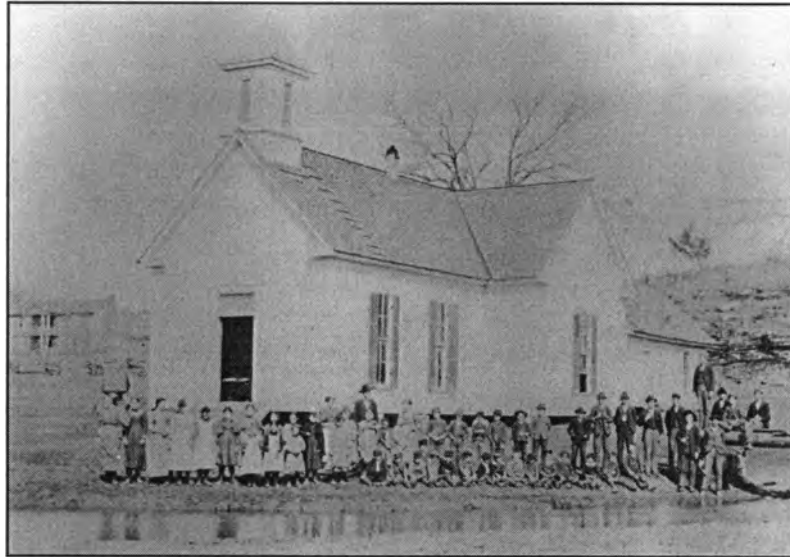


Figure 1: Raus School ca. 1888–1900. The rear wing is believed to be part of the first Thompson Creek Baptist Church building.



Figure 2: Raus School and Meetinghouse Tract ca. 1960.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

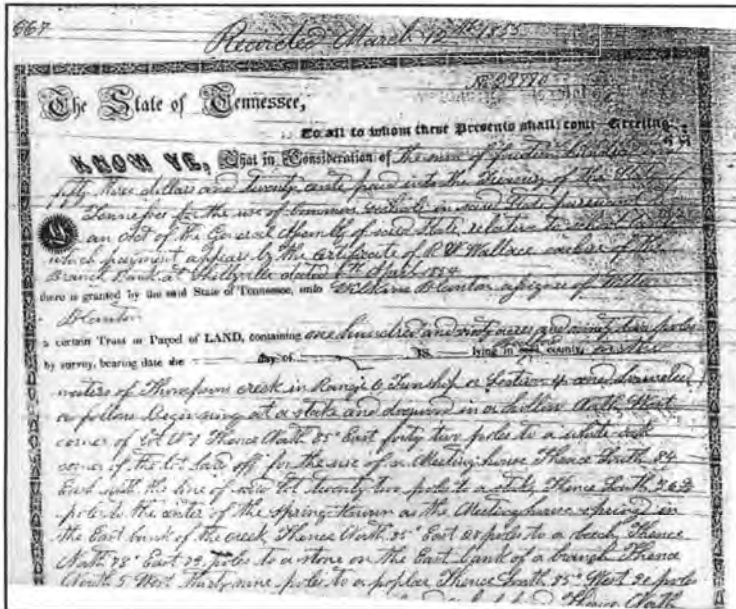


Figure 3: "Thence South 36 1/2 poles to the center of the spring known as the meeting house spring in the east bank of the creek," Example of Wilkins Blanton Land Grant purchase of 1855 (#23770).

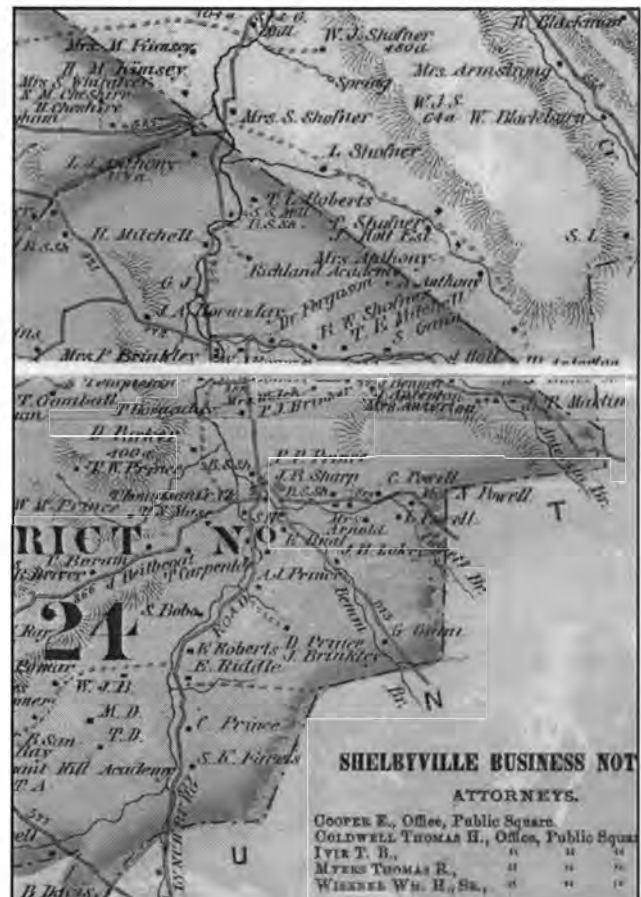


Figure 4: Note Richland Academy slightly above the fold line and "Thompson Creek Ch and S.H." at the cross roads of Thompson Creek and Lynchburg Road. (Portion of D.G. Beers Map 1877)

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Figure 5: Raus School in 1904. The bench on the left side of the photograph is still located inside the school.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Figure 6: Children outside the school in ca. 1902-03.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Figure 7: 1909 School Group Photo.



Figure 7: 1910 School Group Photograph.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Figure 8: 1914 School Group standing in front of main entry.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Figure 10: 1932 School Group.

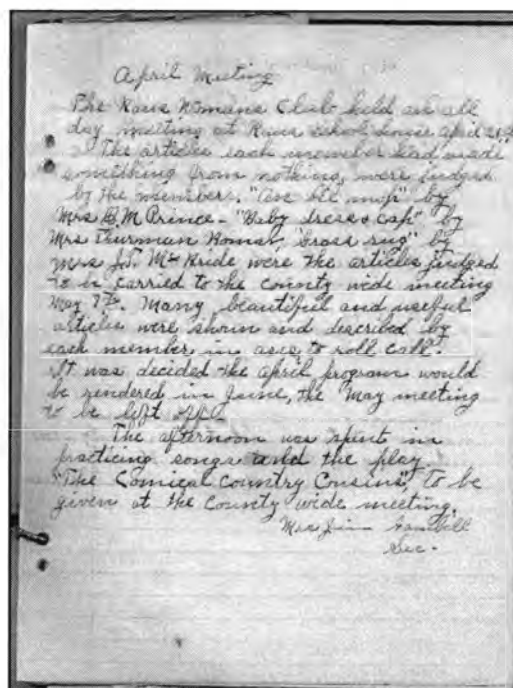


Figure 11: Example of 1932 Raus Women's Club minutes.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Figure 12: December 1933 school group on the old wood bridge and in front of two churches.



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Section number Figures Page 30

Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee



Figure 13: First CIC officers, 1954.

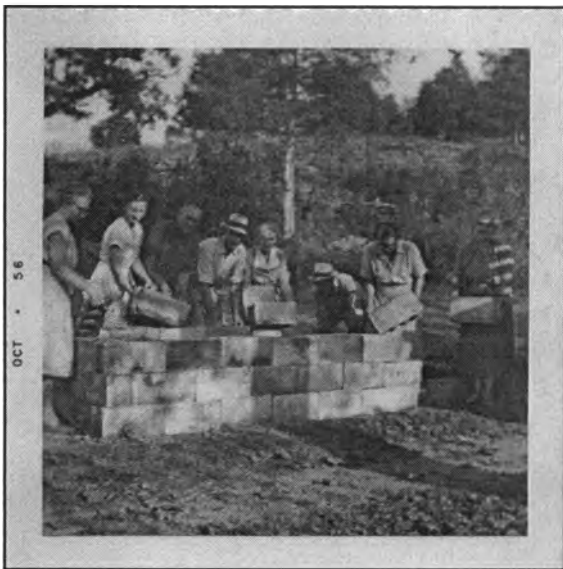


Figure 14: Building BBQ Pit in 1954.



Figure 15: Putting up curtains in 1954.

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Bedford County, Tennessee

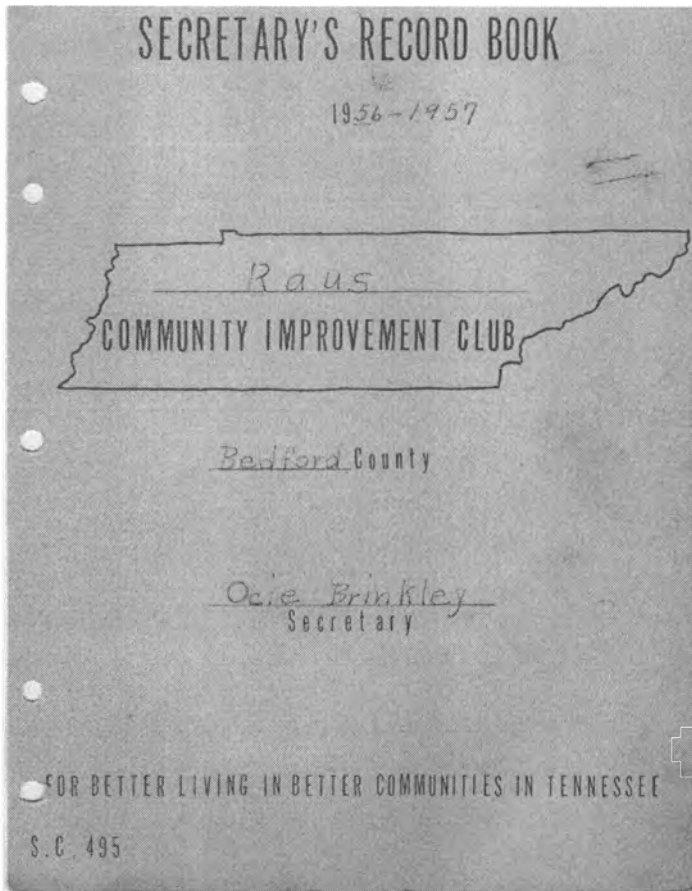
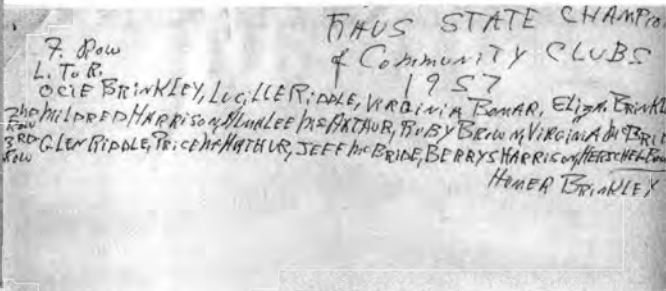


Figure 16: 1956 Sample of CIC Minutes.



Summary of activities 1956-1957

Educational slides on Korea & Japan

Barbecue Supper -
12 members from Haley Club as guests

Halloween party, work on road
for young people

Tabacco grading school

Chest x-ray clinic

Christmas Dinner - Tree - Educational
Picture

Work Day at Powell Cemetery

Party for U-H Club. Neighboring
Club invited

Spring Working at Powell Cemetery

Barbecue Dinner

County Council Meeting

Helped on float for Armed Forces Day

Boys' cups and silver for
the Club kitchen

Roof of Club House painted

Leaders Training School - 24
members attended

Educational Pictures of Western
States and Canada

Outstanding Young Farmer -
2nd State Award

Sink installed in kitchen
Footing built
New floor built
Outside building painted

Adult U-H Leaders

Day Clinic

Churches Improved

Armenian Bible School

Ladies Mid Week Bible Class

Sunday Night Bible Study Class

Sponsored letters to camp

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Raus School
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Figure 17: 1956 Powell Cemetery Clean-up Crew.



Figure 18: 1957 State Championship Club Group.

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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

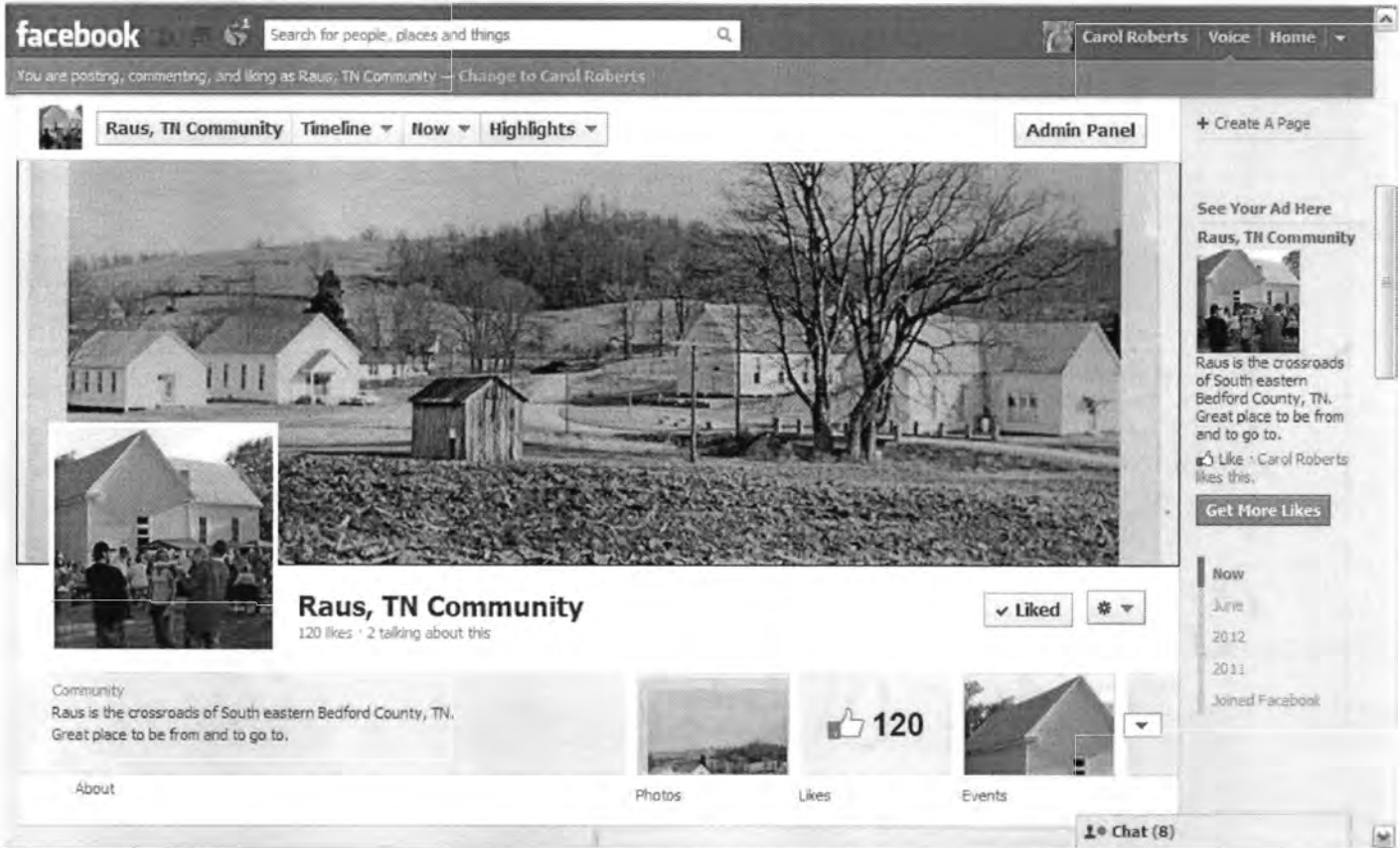


Figure 19: 2012 Facebook Page.

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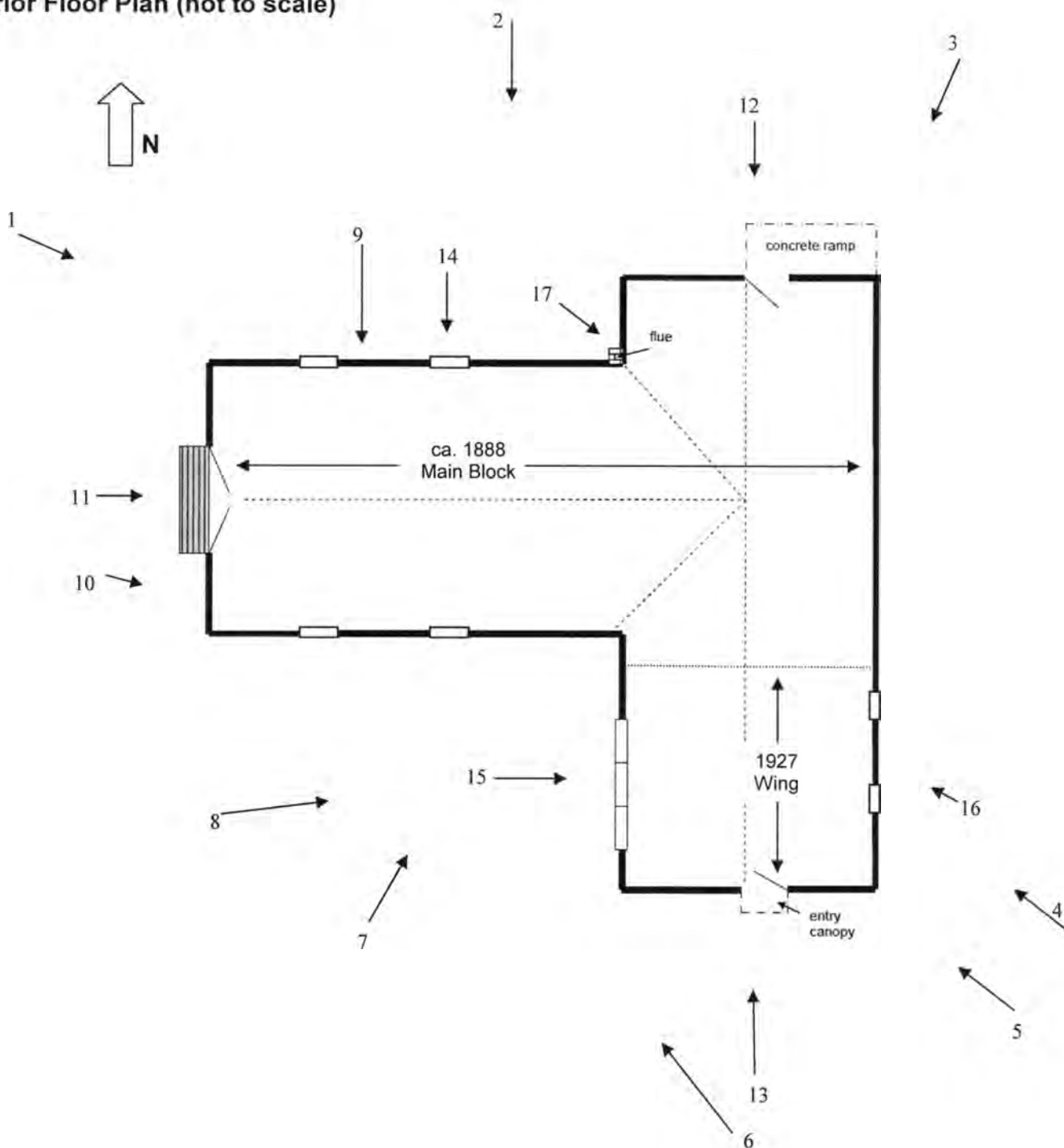
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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

Floor Plans and Photo Keys

Exterior Floor Plan (not to scale)



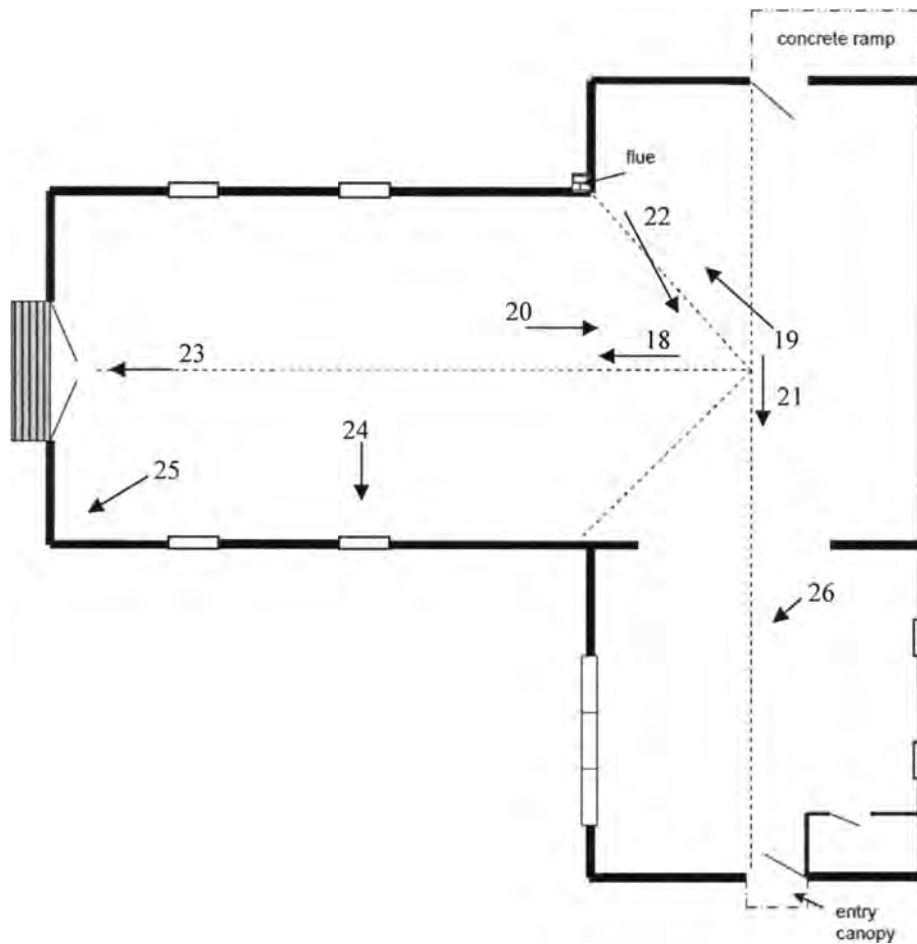
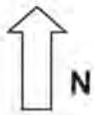
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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

Interior Floor Plan (not to scale)



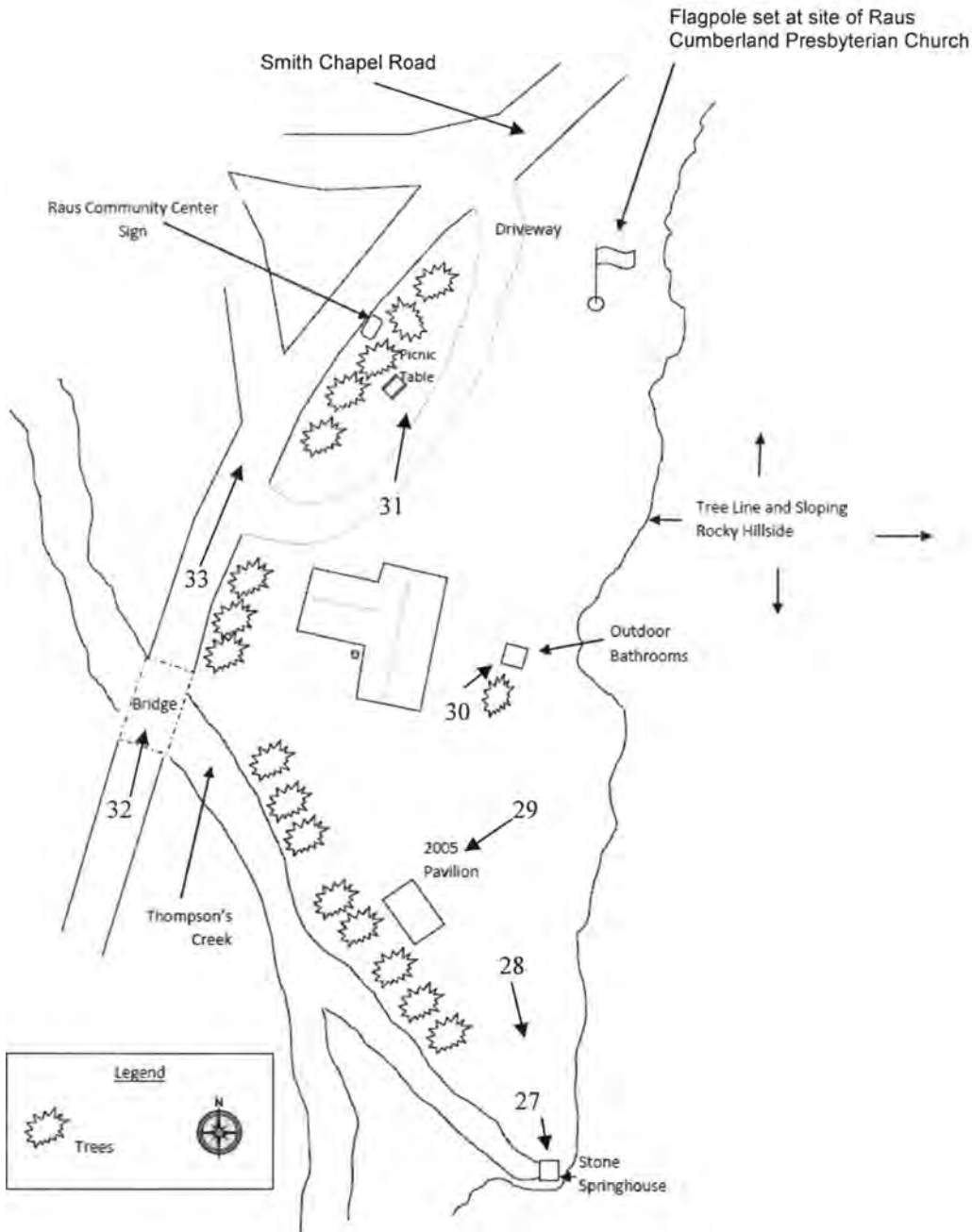
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Raus School
Bedford County, Tennessee

Site Plan (not to scale)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Raus School
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TENNESSEE, Bedford

DATE RECEIVED: 10/05/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/07/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/22/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/21/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000966

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 11.21.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ 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.















































**NO
SMOKING**











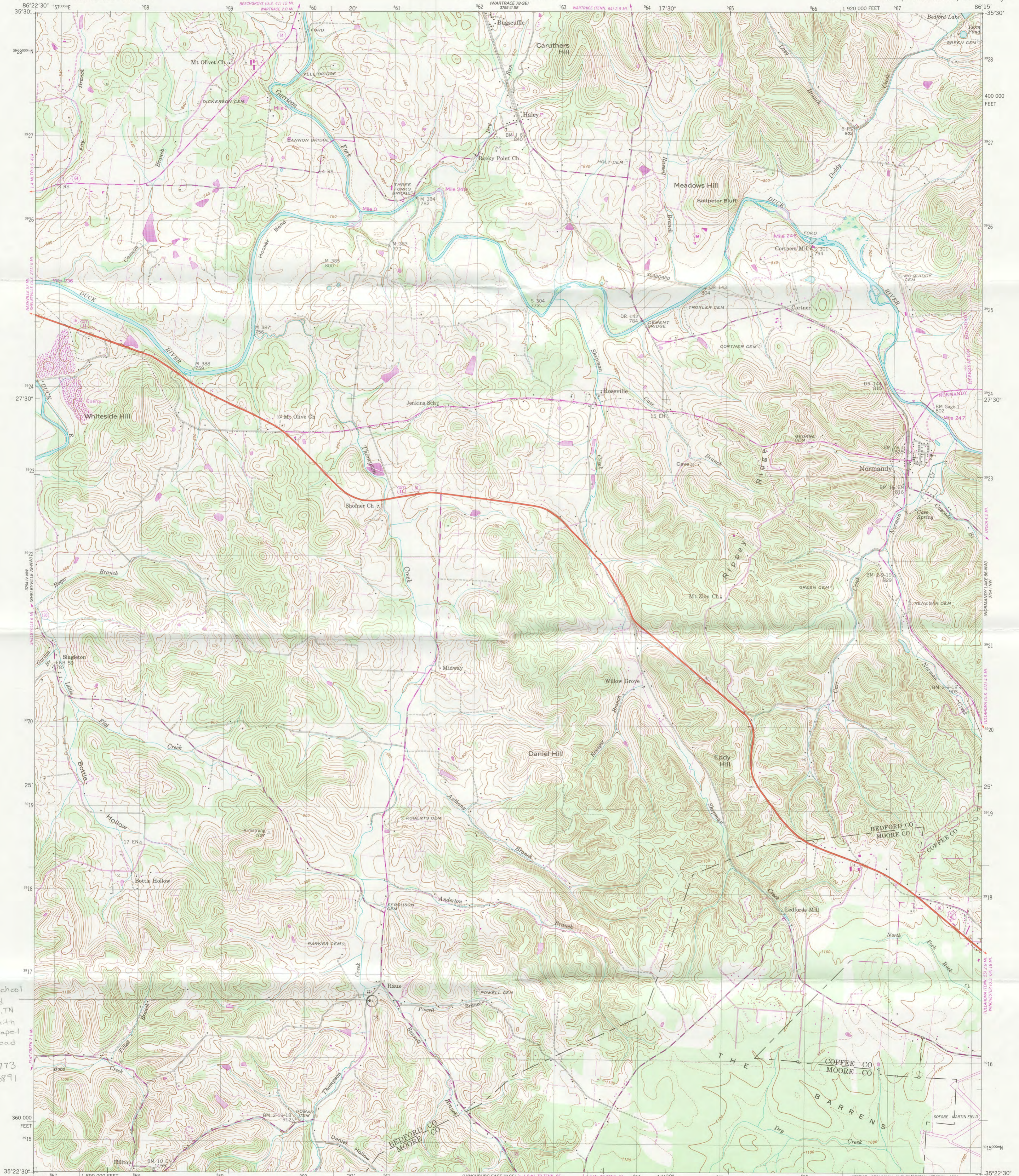








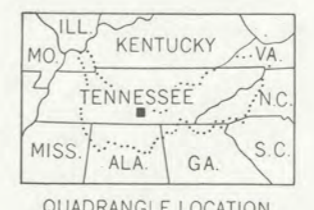
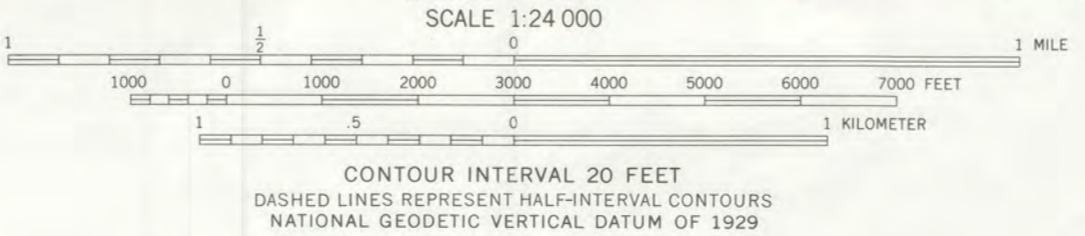




Raus School
Bedford, TN
125 Smith
Chapel
Road

16 560773
3918891

Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority
Published by the Geological Survey
Control by NOS/NOAA, USGS, WPA and TVA
Topography by USGS and TVA by photogrammetric
methods using aerial photographs
Map field checked by TVA 1947
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Tennessee
coordinate system. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator
grid, zone 16, 1927 North American Datum. To place on the
predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection
lines 7 meters south and 2 meters west as shown by
dashed corner ticks
Fine purple dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines
where generally visible on aerial photographs.



ROAD CLASSIFICATION (TVA 79-NE)
Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route
U. S. Route
State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092,
TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENN., 37219
AND U. S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, CHATTANOOGA, TENN., 37401 OR KNOXVILLE, TENN., 37902
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NORMANDY, TENN.
35086-D3-TF-024
1947
PHOTOREVISED 1983
DMA 3754 IV NE-SERIES V841





TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION
2941 LEBANON ROAD
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-0442
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 532-1550, ext. 105
www.TDEC.net/hist

October 2, 2012

Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register Branch
1201 Eye Street NW
8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed please find the documentation to nominate the *Raus School* to the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, contact Peggy Nickell at 615/532-1550, extension 128 or Peggy.Nickell@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EPM:cs

Enclosures