

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



1199

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Attucks High School

other names/site number Attucks Middle School / Attucks School/CH-H-98

2. Location

street & number 712 1st Street

NA not for publication

city or town Hopkinsville

NA vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Christian code 047 zip code 42240

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

11/30/2012

Signature of certifying official/Title Lindy Casebier, Acting SHPO Date

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:)

1/23/2012

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box.)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Italian Renaissance Revival
20th Century Modernism

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone
walls: Brick
roof: Asphalt shingle
other: Metal cladding system on gym addition
Glass curtain wall system

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Attucks High School (CH-H-98) is a two story masonry building built in 1916. The property is located at 712 East 1st Street in the heart of the African American community in Hopkinsville, seat of Christian County, Kentucky. It served as the only four-year High School for the African American population of Christian and Trigg counties during the era of segregation in Kentucky. In 1957, Hopkinsville schools began to integrate their facilities over a ten-year period. The last class of Attucks High School graduated in 1967. After its students were consolidated into the integrated school system, the building was used as a Middle School for a racially integrated population. The building served the community in this capacity until it was closed in 1988. It continues to be unused today.

Narrative Description

Character of Site and History of Ownership

The original portion of the building was constructed on lands acquired by a group of African American businessmen and professionals in 1915. Organized as the Trustees of the Hopkinsville Colored Graded School, Ned Turner, Peter Postell, Frank Boyd, Abe Holmes, J.T. Norman, and Will Norman purchased seven residential parcels of land with dwellings thereon for \$2,650.00 at the corner of 1st and Vine Streets (Christian County Deed Book 139, p 76). A two-story, 13,253 square foot brick structure was constructed on this 1.5-acre lot surrounded primarily by an African American residential buildings (*figure 1*). The original construction is very Classical in character with many Italian Renaissance Revival features along with an Egyptian Revival influence.

In 1938, the Hopkinsville Colored Graded School system was absorbed into the white Hopkinsville Independent Schools, and the consolidated, yet segregated school system assumed ownership of Attucks High School. In 1956-1957, the Board of Education of the Hopkinsville Independent School System expanded the site and the campus through the acquisition of adjoining lots. Seven residential lots to the north and to the east of the original structure were purchased to provide land for a large classroom and gymnasium addition (*figures 2 and 3*). Completed in 1957, this two-story 39,747-square foot addition was constructed to the east of the original building and exemplifies the Modern architectural traditions of the 1950s with its curtain wall system and metal cladding on the exterior.

All seven of the lots purchased in the campus expansion of 1957 contained structures, and six of these residential buildings were demolished to make space for the growing school. However, the one-story frame house located at 112 Vine Street along the northwest boundary line of the property was retained by the school for use as its band room. As part of the conveyance, the Board of Education allowed Lizzie Dawson, the grantor of the property, the right to remove the stove, water heater, and kitchen sink before relinquishing ownership (Christian County Deed Book 256, p 271). In the same period, a free-standing metal building was put up on the west section of the property; by 1961 that housed seventh and eighth grade classes (*figure 4*). A window was converted on the west façade of the original structure into a doorway to serve as a connection to this structure. Both of these buildings have since been demolished and the open areas converted to parking lots.

Following the closing of Attucks High School at the time of integration in 1967, and for the next twenty years, the building served the entire community as a middle school for fifth and sixth grades. The school closed its doors as an educational facility at the conclusion of the school year in 1988. The Christian County Board of Education retained ownership of the site until 1998 when fire and water damage and the presence of hazardous materials led them to seek a new owner for the structure. A group of interested alumni of the high school formed the Crispus Attucks Community Association (C.A.C.A.) in 1998 and subsequently purchased the property for \$1.00 (Christian County Deed Book 551, p 44). The C.A.C.A. maintains ownership of the property, and the group is dedicated to the restoration of the building as a multi-functional resource that can serve as a cultural centerpiece for the entire community.

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Original Attucks High School Construction: 1916

Exterior

The original structure was designed by architect John T. Waller and constructed by Forbes Manufacturing Company in 1916. The overall construction was built at a cost of \$17,640.00, with some materials salvaged from the dismantled Clay Street School (1881-1915). The school is a two-story red-brick structure with an asphalt-shingled hipped roof. The foundation is made out of rubblework that was taken from Clay Street School. It has deep double-bracketed eaves at the cornice line. The majority of the windows are six-over-six double-hung sash windows and grouped in sets of three and four with an exception to the windows located in the second floor library, which are nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows. The first floor windows are approximately 38" x 66" and the second floor windows are 38" x 72". The lintels above the windows are made of stone with carvings on each individual window on the first floor. The second floor windows have stone lintels and a rowlock course underneath the lintels. A horizontal stone belt course runs across the entire façade of the original building, separating the foundation from the brickwork.

The overall style of the building is indicative of the Italian Renaissance Revival and features a hipped roof, symmetrical façade, and paired brackets at its eaves. The main entrance is symmetrically placed on the south façade and protrudes from the building with a large staircase leading to it from the sidewalk. Tapered pilasters flank the double entry door. Above this door is a stone jack arch with a large keystone that reaches up to the second floor. A smaller, square window with stone quoins around its opening is found above the main entrance. Two corner stones flank the entrance: one denoting the name of the building, construction date, the name of the architect, and the name of the contracting group; and the second listing the name of the original owner and the trustees responsible for funding the school's construction.

Interior

The floor plan of the original structure is T-shaped with the library/cafeteria wing protruding north of the main wing. From the front entrance, there is an entry foyer with a double door entrance leading up to a split staircase. A staircase above the entrance leads to the principal's office.

A central hallway that runs from east to west separates two rows of classrooms that span through the entire first and second floor. The floors in the hall are wooden, while many of the classrooms have concrete floors. The interior walls of the school are made out of wooden lath and plaster. A second stairwell is located along the west wing of the building and is closed off with a double entry door.

Classroom Annex and Gymnasium Addition: 1957

Exterior

The 1957 classroom and gymnasium addition is of a much different and more modern style than the original structure. This two story red brick building with a flat roof has a curtain wall system installed on both floors along the north and south facades. This curtain wall system consists of floor to ceiling windows with a single large fixed panel over a smaller louvered pane. These windows span across the entirety of the façades. The entrance to the addition is situated asymmetrically on the south façade and continues the fenestration pattern used along the classroom wing. The second floor of the classroom annex cantilevers over the first floor supported by seven concrete columns and creates a sidewalk path along the front of the building.

The gymnasium addition located along the eastern side of the property has a brick veneer along its north and south façades, and the remainder of the cladding is a metal wall panel system. The south façade has a row of square windows at ground level. On the east façade, a row of square windows is located along the roofline of the gymnasium, and a second row of identical windows is located halfway down the wall. A driveway leads to an overhead door that is located on the east façade. The north façade features scattered, square windows and a stairwell that leads to a metal double door entrance to the gym.

Interior

The classroom annex is connected to the original structure through a firewall and double door composition. The concrete floors carry through to the addition and the walls are mainly composed of concrete masonry units. A basement level is

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included under the gymnasium and classroom addition and houses several classrooms and the mechanical room. The central hallway continues through the classroom annex and separates the two rows of classrooms. This hall terminates at the double height ceiling gymnasium. The gymnasium includes a large stage for performances and a wall of bleacher seating.

Changes to the School over Time

As listed above, the major change that has occurred to Attucks High School was the 39,474 square foot classroom and gym addition in 1957. This addition was built in response to overcrowding of the school, as the African American population in Christian and Trigg counties continued to increase. The addition was built in accord with design standards of the 1950s and follows a very traditionally modern school composition.

Another change that was made from the original 1916 construction was the construction and inclusion of additional separate structures on the north and west portions of an expanded campus lot. A band room and a metal building that housed seventh and eighth grade classes were both incorporated in this area of the site. To accommodate these additional structures, entrances were cut into the original structure in place of window bays. Although the auxiliary structures have disappeared from the site, these entrances still remain.

Since the closing of Attucks in 1988, attempts at restoration have been made. Following a destructive fire in the gymnasium in 1997, the C.A.C.A. was formed to save the building from its state of neglect. Since its formation, the association has accomplished the installation of a new roof, asbestos abatement, and the update of electrical, plumbing, and mechanical systems. In addition, many broken windows have been boarded up to deter water penetration, and basic masonry repairs have been completed.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1916-1967

Significant Dates

October 28, 1916 – Opening of school
1957: Kentucky begins desegregating public schools
May 29, 1967 – last Commencement Ceremony

Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Architect: Waller, John T.
Contractor: Forbes Manufacturing Company

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance begins in 1916, when Attucks opened as the area's first four year high school institution for black students during the era of segregation in Kentucky. This educational advancement was especially important for this area, given its sizeable African American population. The significant period continues until the county moved to an integrated school system in 1967. Exceptional significance is not being claimed for the school's associations from 1962-1967, i.e., the years of the Period of Significance beyond the conventional 50-year end of the historic period. During those later years, the school continued to function in the same capacity and held most of the same meanings that it had had for Hopkinsville's citizens from 1916-1962.

Criteria Considerations: NA

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Summary Paragraph

Attucks High School (CH-H-98) meets National Register Criterion A, as it was a significant resource of Hopkinsville, Kentucky's African American community. Constructed in 1916 on the corner of First and Vine Streets, Attucks High School is significant in the historic context, "African American Education in Christian County, Kentucky, 1865-1967." It served as the upper-level school for African Americans in Christian and Trigg counties during the era of segregation. It is significant to us as a resource suggesting that the African American population of Hopkinsville, and perhaps all of Christian County, held a relatively strong political position. The school is clearly superior in its size and construction quality to its contemporaries in surrounding counties. These differences are observed in the historic context, African American Education in Western Kentucky, 1865-1965. Named for Revolutionary War hero and African American Crispus Attucks, the school was designed by local architect John T. Waller and constructed by the Forbes Manufacturing Company for a cost of \$17,640.00. Construction of a gymnasium and classroom addition increased the size of the school in 1957. The improvements in 1957 permitted education that segregated whites from blacks in Hopkinsville until 1967, when the Christian County School System officially desegregated all of its facilities. Unlike many formerly-black schools at the end of segregated schooling, this building continued to be used as an integrated middle school for fifth and sixth grade students through 1988, when it was closed as a school and ceased to be used. Years of neglect and deterioration have encouraged an effort to save the structure. The Crispus Attucks Community Association is dedicated to preserving this highly cherished landmark in the local community.

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

Statewide Education of African Americans in the late-19th Century

At the conclusion the Civil War, Kentucky faced many challenges in providing adequate education for its newly-freed African American population. Unlike other slave states, Kentucky never outlawed the education of slaves or free people of color; however, educational opportunities were incredibly limited to these groups (Kleber, p 285). In 1866, the state passed a law that allowed for one-half of the property taxes received on black-owned property to be dedicated to the betterment of African American educational facilities with the other half of the taxes going to African American paupers. In its first year, this legislation provided \$5,656.01 to the black educational system (Kleber, p 240). Divided among the population, this amount supplied the African American community with 13.5 cents per child. By comparison, similar legislation for the white educational system provided larger sums and supplied 81 cents per child. Although Kentucky had taken strides to improve education for its black population, a severe inequality continued to exist between white and black educational opportunities (Lucas, p 255).

At the time of the earliest legislation, a common school system for African Americans had yet to be established. The first statewide effort to provide educational facilities for African Americans began in 1866 under the U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. The establishment of Freedmen schools opened more than 200 schools in the state of Kentucky. This support extended to the assistance of existing schooling held in black churches and rented facilities (Libraries of University of Kentucky online). Most of these facilities were one-room schoolhouses that were operated by churches and were poorly built due to limited funds. Black businesses and residences also served as educational facilities for much of this time and were also very inadequate. They neither had the space for effective teaching nor the architectural quality or integrity of their white equivalents. In addition, Freedmen schools were not necessarily welcomed by most of the white population, and their existence was cut short due to the burning of many schools and actions taken to run out the teachers who supported the cause of educating the black population. Many cities with Freedmen schools had never before seen the existence of educational facilities for African Americans, and their existence enlightened the population to the ideal of achieving freedom through education. The efforts to promote African American education did not end here but rather sparked a new enthusiasm in the African American population to fight for their freedom and their right to a fair and equal school system (Kousser, p 18).

Legislation to provide for African American education continued in the late-19th century. In 1874, the state created a public school system for African American children that was identical to and separate from the Caucasian school system. This law stated that all state property and license taxes paid by the black population would go towards funding for black education. Because African Americans owned far less property than their white contemporaries, the amount of revenue generated from this legislation proved to be meager and ineffectual. To increase funding, the state established a \$1.00 poll

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tax on all African American males that was dedicated to the educational system.

By 1876, white students received approximately eight times the educational funding than their black contemporaries. This discrimination of funding continued for the next decade and provoked black leaders in the state to push for equal funding. (Tyler, p 28). Eventually, this movement resulted in the controversial topic that in order to maintain segregated schools, funding would have to be distributed more equally in order to keep the traditional white-favored system. African Americans struggled with the acceptance of this concept, but had no choice but to consent in order to receive a fair amount of funding for their school children (Kousser p 19). Overall, the African American educational system in Kentucky would remain segregated from and unequal to the white educational system until integration in the mid-20th century.

African American Education in Nearby Kentucky Counties, 1865-1967

In evaluating the significance of Attucks High School, one cannot only use the argument that the school was the only one of its kind. Rather, a thorough investigation in how it compares to other schools must be done. When comparing to surrounding counties, Christian County played a significant role in the lives of African Americans in western Kentucky. Muhlenberg County established a colored school system in 1886, a decade after the establishment of the school system in Christian County. Like many of the colored schools of this time, the thirteen schools established in this county by the time Attucks High School opened its doors were poorly built log structures which all needed updating and major repairs a mere twenty years after they were constructed.

Neighboring Hopkins County offers another valid comparison. With the colored school system beginning in 1866, Madisonville, the county seat, had a comparable school in Zion High School, which opened its doors in 1893. A Rosenwald school replaced Zion High School around the year 1933. Little information is known about these schools, but neither one remains in existence.

By comparison, Trigg County did not have an established colored high school in the common school system; therefore, black students were bussed from Trigg County to Christian County to attend Attucks High School. Attucks High School served as not only a center of education for Christian County but for students in Trigg County as well, thus expanding its significance to surrounding communities.

African American Education in Christian County, Kentucky, 1865-1967

Hopkinsville, Kentucky, the home to Attucks High School, is the county seat of Christian County. It is the second largest county in the state with a square mileage of 725 (*United State Census Bureau*). With an African American population of thirty percent, it ranks as one of the highest per capita in the state. Given this fact, it is no wonder that a facility such as Attucks High School became a cultural centerpiece of the African American community in western Kentucky. Named after African American Revolutionary War hero Crispus Attucks, Attucks High School began as an initiative started by African American businessmen in the city of Hopkinsville in response to overcrowded schools. Prior to the construction of Attucks High School, opportunities for upper level education were extremely limited for African Americans.

African Americans played a vital role in the history of Christian County's growth and development, but their contributions have gone unacknowledged through the years. Prior to 1865, 95% of African Americans in Christian County were slaves (Tyler, p 25). From 1865 until 1880, the black population in Christian County grew faster than the white population, due to the need for agricultural labor. As the African American population grew in Christian County, so did the push for formal education for the black population.

Like many other counties in the state of Kentucky, educational development for African Americans had been at a standstill for much of its history. In 1875, a common school system for black children was established in Christian County. Funded by the Kentucky Colored School Law of 1874, this system provided the bare minimum of school funding from taxes and fines collected from colored people (Libraries of University of Kentucky online, "African American Schools in Christian County, KY"). With few formal schools, the majority of educational activities were conducted in private homes, churches, and other common community structures. These buildings were often poorly-constructed, inadequate log structures. By 1881, there were forty-one colored school districts in the county and total of twenty-three schools.

Jackson Street School, located on nearby E. 2nd Street, opened its doors in 1890 to house 1st – 8th grade classes for the African American population in Hopkinsville, and in 1912 expanded to house two years of high school. When Attucks High School was constructed, it served as the first four year high school for African Americans in both Christian and Trigg counties in western Kentucky.

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Philanthropic efforts to provide for better educational opportunities for African American children extended into Hopkinsville and Christian County. The Freedmen School System, which had established 200 schools throughout Kentucky, established a school in Hopkinsville. In 1890, Jackson Street School was established; it would be another twenty-six years before another facility would be built in the county for black education (Tyler, p 29). In 1916, Attucks High School was built in the heart of the existing and thriving black community in Hopkinsville. Unlike previous colored schools around the area, Attucks High School provided a four-year high school education in a modern facility that was unlike any other building the African Americans of Christian County could call their own.

After the construction of Attucks High School, philanthropic efforts continued to aid in the establishment of schools for African American students. Between 1920 and 1931, seven Rosenwald schools were built in rural sections of Christian County. By 1937, approximately forty schools were scattered that served the county's African American population. Of these schools, most were located in rural areas, and all were of much lower architectural quality than Attucks High School.

In 1938, the previously separate Hopkinsville Independent School system and the Colored Graded School system merged into one system under the white superintendent and Board of Education. Integration of school facilities officially began in 1957; however, the first three black students to attend a white school did not do so until the 1958-1959 school year. Integration proved to be a slow process, developed on a grade-by-grade basis, with the youngest students integrating first while others received an option to integrate voluntarily (*Kentucky New Era*, 3/31/1962). The last class to graduate from the all-black Attucks High School completed the 1967 school year and ended the era of segregation. In 1968 and after ten years, all educational facilities in Christian County were completely integrated.

History of Attucks School

Attucks High School has adapted through the years to accommodate the evolution of Hopkinsville's educational system. The majority of schoolhouses in the colored school system of the late 1800s and early 1900s were eventually demolished due to poor quality and lack of use. Attucks High School, however, remains and maintains its structural integrity almost a century after it was built. As time passed and African Americans gained in both population and influence, Attucks High School simply adapted to changes and expanded its campus to accommodate the growing need for educational facilities among the community. When overcrowding became an issue, a large addition was constructed in 1957 that doubled the classroom space and provided a state-of-the-art gymnasium complete with a performance stage. When integration was enacted in Christian County, instead of abandoning the building, the school board converted it to a middle school for Hopkinsville's newly-established integrated school system. The renamed Attucks Middle School then functioned for over twenty years as a middle school, gaining significance well beyond the African American population as it began to serve the entire community.

Evaluation of the Significance of Attucks High School within the context African American Education in Christian County, Kentucky, 1865-1967

Attucks High School represents the importance of education to the African American community in Christian County in the early 20th century. Through the construction of the county's first four-year high school institution, the community exhibited its dedication to the education of its youth. The fact that this construction was privately funded by a group of prominent local black businessmen further proves the black community's commitment to providing educational opportunities that were equal to those received by white students. The school proceeded to gain and to maintain accreditation through the 1960s at a time when only 25% of Kentucky high schools had achieved this status (*Kentucky New Era*, 12/16/1961). This devotion to education followed trends in African American culture throughout the state, region, and nation in the 20th century.

Although, the establishment of schools for black children was the first and most essential step to freedom and equality, it was not an easily won battle. Dealing with years of fighting for equal rights in education, African Americans in Christian County made a significant step to the path of equality with the creation of Attucks High School.

Unlike other African American educational facilities in the area, this school was designed and constructed to endure for decades. In addition, Attucks High School recruited and employed well-educated teachers who rivaled and often surpassed their white counterparts in educational credentials. The financial investment in the structure and in the staff illuminates the importance that was placed on Attucks High School at its inception, and the building serves as a physical reminder of what the African American community accomplished through years of hardship and fighting for civil rights.

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After serving for 50 years as an icon of the struggle toward racial equality in education, the property now stands as physical evidence of the African American success in acquiring some measure of fair treatment and Civil Rights in the local community. Its significance stretches far beyond the fact that it was the only place of its kind in Christian County Kentucky in the first half of the 20th century.

Evaluation of the Integrity of the Significance of Attucks High School in light of its current physical condition

Remarkably, Attucks High School maintains a high level of physical integrity in associations, location, design, setting, and materials. Serving as an anomaly in the history of segregated education, Attucks High School remains as a vital structure in the integrated school system of Christian County after its use as an all-black high school. This continuation of use illustrated its architectural and structural value and ultimately provided for the upkeep of the building through the late 1980s. Since its closing in 1988, however, the structure has been neglected and shows distinct signs of deterioration. Overall, its history and significance to this community overshadow any minor loss of integrity that may exist.

A historic African American school in Christian County is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places if it retains integrity of **associations**. The structure's integrity of associations is the primary factor that determines its eligibility based on Criterion A: it is a property that "is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history."

Attucks High School also provides a strong association with the era of segregation and the Civil Rights Movement. As the only high school for African American students in both Christian and Trigg counties. As one of the last African American schools to integrate fully, Attucks High School serves as a cultural icon for a time when separate facilities existed for whites and blacks. The importance of this institution to the community is evident by the fact that black students chose to stay at Attucks when integration was a voluntary option. The class of 1964, for example, had the option to stay at Attucks or to integrate into the white school systems, and they all decided to graduate together from their community's alma mater. Benefits of smaller class sizes and updated facilities came with integration; however, the quality of teachers and education, the strong feeling of community, and the connection to Attucks as a cultural centerpiece kept students at the school until Hopkinsville and Christian County fully integrated in 1967. This association with segregation is representative of the broad patterns of America in the 20th century and makes Attucks High School a significant resource for all of Christian County.

Attucks High School maintains its integrity of **location**. The building has not been moved, and the site has not been divided or developed since the school's period of expansion in the late 1950s. Furthermore, the historic structure maintains its integrity of location by its placement within the community. When constructed, Attucks High School stood in the midst of a thriving African American neighborhood. Plotted and developed in the late 1890s, this area on the east side of Hopkinsville was largely developed and settled by the growing African American middle class of the early 20th century. Black-owned businesses, churches, stores, and houses lined the streets of this area of town. Professionals and the working class lived in this neighborhood, and many of the high school's teachers resided on the nearby streets. By choosing to construct Attucks High School in this neighborhood, the trustees of the original Hopkinsville Colored Graded School established a strong connection between the community and the school. The area provided a substantial accumulation of residents to make the placement of the school both desirable and logical. With this building in its original location, the community is provided with a physical and tangible connection with its educational and cultural history.

Attucks High School maintains a high level of integrity of **design**. The original portion of the school, constructed in 1916, reflected the best in style and design for its time. Unlike most African American schools in the early 20th century, this structure was one of the most sophisticated school structures in the area. Designed and constructed by local, white companies, Attucks High School compares more closely to schools built for white students in urban areas than to those constructed for black students. Attucks High School retains a majority of its character-defining features, including its unique entryway, original windows, stone window heads, low-hipped roof, double brackets at its eaves, and its overall floor plan. Minor alterations have been made to the north and west elevations of the original portion of the building through the installation of new doors and windows. However, the overall integrity of design of this 96-year old structure remains undoubtedly intact.

The 1957 classroom and gymnasium addition to Attucks High School also retains a high level of integrity of design. Reflecting contemporary styles of the 1950s, this addition has remained virtually unchanged since its construction and offers an adequate example of Modern architecture for the community. Through its design, this addition provided the

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school with additional classroom space and with one of the first and most well-equipped gymnasiums in the area. Both of these functions add more significance to the structure's history and heritage as an educational and cultural facility for the African American population of Christian County.

Attucks High School upholds a high level of integrity of **setting**. When constructed, the school stood in the center of a thriving African American community. While the prominence of this community has changed over time, the demographics have remained consistent, and the area continues to be utilized as a residential zone. Lot sizes, types of housing, and density are much like those found decades ago; however, the prevalence of black-owned businesses has dissipated.

The lot on which Attucks High School stands retains a modest level of integrity of setting. While the physical boundaries of the site remain unchanged since the school's expansion in 1957, two auxiliary structures that served the needs of the school have been demolished. A dwelling located on the north portion of the lot that was utilized as the school's band room and a metal structure used to house middle school students in the 1960s are no longer extant on the property. Because neither of these structures was original to the site nor were they integral in the long-term educational capacity and reputation of the school, their loss does not greatly affect the overall integrity of setting for Attucks High School.

Attucks High School preserves a modest integrity of its historic **materials**. Original masonry, including brickwork and many stone details, remain in place and in good condition. However, the bricks in some areas of the building show evidence of spalling, and previous tuck-pointing repairs exhibit use of poor replacement materials. While a large majority of the original windows on the original portion and the addition exist, many have been broken and covered with plywood to protect the interior of the structure. In addition, areas exist where original windows were removed and replaced with doorways or newer-style windows. Finally, the roof of the structure was replaced in 2004 to prevent further water damage to the interior and was done so in a way that maintained the original construction techniques.

The interior of the structure maintains a slightly lower level of integrity of its materials. The majority of the building retains a great deal of its interior features: doors, windows, floors, plaster walls, and overall floor plan. However, water and fire damage resulted in the loss of a great deal of the historic materials in the gymnasium. The original gymnasium and stage floor and the first level of wooden bleachers have been removed due to excessive damage.

Overall, the amount of integrity that exists in association, location, design, setting, and materials at historic Attucks High School proves that this property sufficiently qualifies as eligible to the National Register of Historic Places. In summary, this property offers a piece of tangible history of African American education in the era of segregation in Christian County and provides the entire county with a structural icon and cultural centerpiece for the community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Attucks Scrapbook, prepared by Roy Chester Garrott and Robert Hudson, 1961-1962. From the collection of the Museums of Historic Hopkinsville-Christian County.

Christian County Genealogical Society, *Family Histories Christian County, Kentucky 1797-1986*. Volume 1 Turner Publishing Company: Paducah, Kentucky, 1986.

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Dunnigan, Alice Allison. *The Fascinating Story of Black Kentuckians: Their Heritage and Traditions*. The Associated Publishers, Inc: Washington D.C., 1982

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Attucks High School
Name of Property

Christian County, KY
County and State

Kleber, John E. *The Kentucky Encyclopedia*. The University Press of Kentucky, 1992. Web 27 June 2012.

Kousser, J. Morgan. "Making Separate Equal: Integration of Black and White School Funds in Kentucky." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 1980. 399-402. Web 27 June 2012.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Alfred A. Knopf Incorporated: New York, 1984.

Lucas, Marion B. *A History of Blacks in Kentucky From Slavery to Segregation 1760-1891*. p 255-261. The Kentucky Historical Society. 1992.

Meacham, Charles Mayfield. *A History of Christian County Kentucky*. Marshall & Bruce Co: Nashville, TN, 1930.

Turner, William, *Images of America: Christian County*. Arcadia Publishing: Charleston, SC, 2008.

Tyler, Quentin Romar, "Generational Influences on Educational Perceptions of Rural African Americans." (2011). *Doctoral Dissertations*. Paper 152. http://uknowledge.uky.edu/gradschool_diss/152

Attucks High School
Name of Property

Christian County, KY
County and State

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): CH-H-98

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.7 acres

UTM References

Hopkinsville Quad

Location Expressed in terms of NAD 1983: Zone 16; Easting 457 387; Zone 4080 448

Location Expressed in terms of NAD 1927 below:

1	<u>16</u>	<u>457 386</u>	<u>4080 245</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

The property proposed for listing on the National Register of Historic Places is a parcel described by Christian County Property Valuation Assessor (PVA) with the reference number 220-00 02 001.00. The area was surveyed and platted in November 1956 and March 1957 and is documented in the Christian County Deed Office in Plat Book 1, page 160.

The parcel is bounded to the south by East 1st Street; to the east by Linn Street; and to the west by Vine Street. The northern boundary is approximately 194 feet to the rear of the frontage along East 1st Street. The lot contains historic Attucks High School, the first high school for African American students in Christian County.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries selected for this listing comprise the entire lot owned by the Crispus Attucks Community Association and include the focal resource, Attucks High School, and its surrounding parcel. The boundaries of this parcel reflect the expansion of the lot from 1956-1957 when the school experienced an expansion of its campus and contains approximately 2.7 acres of land.

Attucks High School
Name of Property

Christian County, KY
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Alissa Keller and Hannah Schaefer
organization Museums of Historic Hopkinsville – Christian County date June 1, 2012
street & number 217 E. 9th Street telephone 270-887-4270
city or town Hopkinsville state KY zip code 42240
e-mail Alissa Keller – akeller@museumsofhopkinsville.org

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Attucks High School
Name of Property

Christian County, KY
County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Attucks High School
City or Vicinity: Hopkinsville
County: Christian State: Kentucky
Photographer: Alissa Keller and Hannah Schaefer
Date Photographed: May 31, 2012 / June 21, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 31: South elevation of original Attucks High School construction.
- 2 of 31: Detailed view of front entrance of original structure.
- 3 of 31: Cornerstone with names of Attucks High School Board of Trustees.
- 4 of 31: Cornerstone with date of construction of original school, architect, and contractor.
- 5 of 31: Detailed elevation of fenestration on front façade.
- 6 of 31: View of underside of eaves showing bracket detailing.
- 7 of 31: West elevation of original structure.
- 8 of 31: Detailed elevation of additional entrance on west elevation
- 9 of 31: View showing the cafeteria wing protruding from classroom wing. View from west looking southeast.
- 10 of 31: North elevation of classroom wing.
- 11 of 31: East elevation of cafeteria wing.
- 12 of 31: North elevation of cafeteria.
- 13 of 31: View showing the cafeteria wing protruding from classroom wing. View from north looking southwest.
- 14 of 31: West elevation of cafeteria wing.
- 15 of 21: North elevation of classroom wing.
- 16 of 31: North elevation of classroom annex.
- 17 of 31: East elevation of gymnasium
- 18 of 31: North elevation of gymnasium looking south.
- 19 of 31: North elevation of gymnasium looking southwest.
- 20 of 31: East elevation of gymnasium.
- 21 of 31: South elevation of gymnasium.
- 22 of 31: South elevation of classroom annex.
- 23 of 31: View of original 1916 construction and the connecting classroom annex. View looking northeast.
- 24 of 36: Interior view of main entrance of original structure.
- 25 of 36: View of main entrance and stairs leading to central hallway and mezzanine level principal's office.
- 26 of 36: View of hallway from original structure looking into classroom annex addition.
- 27 of 36: Interior view of west entrance and stairwell.
- 28 of 36: View 1 of 2 of cafeteria space in original structure.
- 29 of 36: View 2 of 2 of cafeteria space in original structure.
- 30 of 36: Interior view of classroom in original structure.
- 31 of 36: Ceiling view of original structure.
- 32 of 36: View of second floor library in original structure.
- 33 of 36: Interior view of classroom in annex addition.
- 34 of 36: View 1 of 2 of gymnasium addition. Bleacher seating area
- 35 of 36: View 2 of 2 of gymnasium addition. Stage area
- 36 of 36: Interior view of classroom in basement of gymnasium addition.

Property Owner:

Attucks High School
Name of Property

Christian County, KY
County and State

name Crispus Attucks Community Association

street & number PO Box 1143 telephone _____

city or town Hopkinsville state KY zip code 42241



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Attucks High School

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Christian

DATE RECEIVED: 12/07/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/23/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001199

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 1-23-2012 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*important representative of racially segregated school system in Hopkinsville.
Window sashes intact behind boards. POS → 1967 is logical end; closed
as segregated school then + reopened as mixed race middle school*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gibbert DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

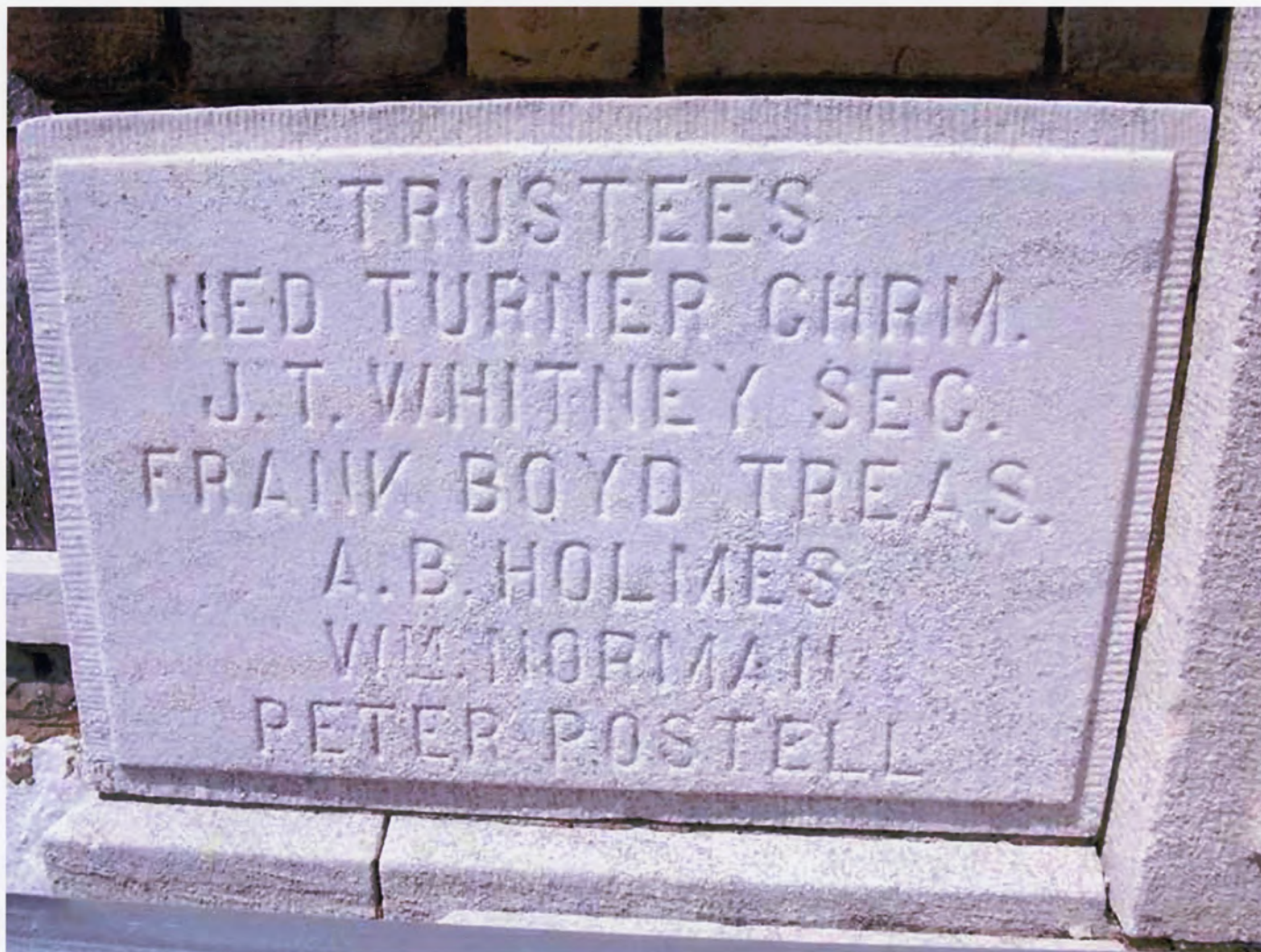
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



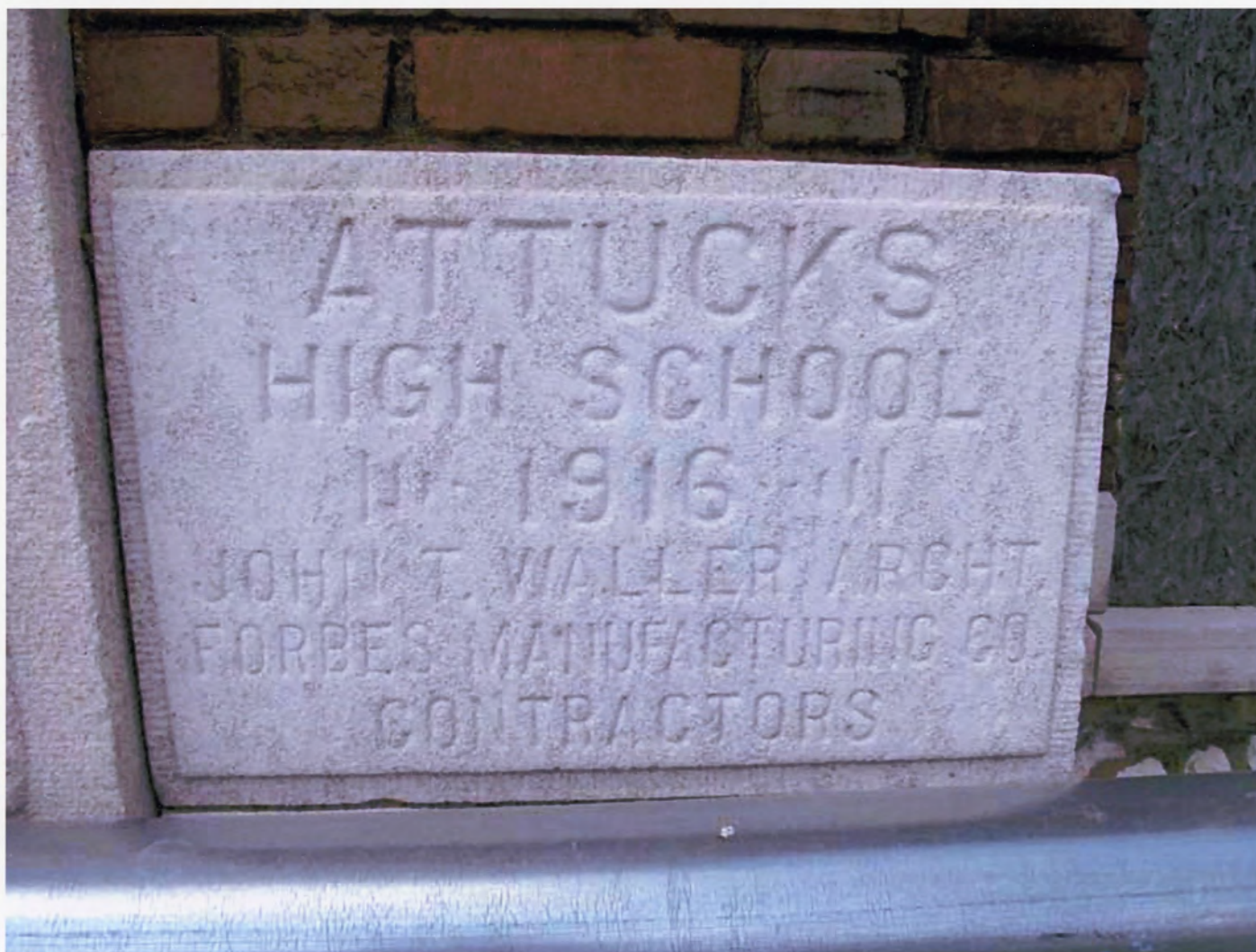
Attucks High School
Christian County, Kentucky



Attucks High School
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Attucks High School
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Attucks High School
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Attucks High School
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Attucks High School
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Attucks High School
Christian County, Kentucky



Attucks High School
Christian County, Kentucky
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Attucks High School
Christian County, Kentucky

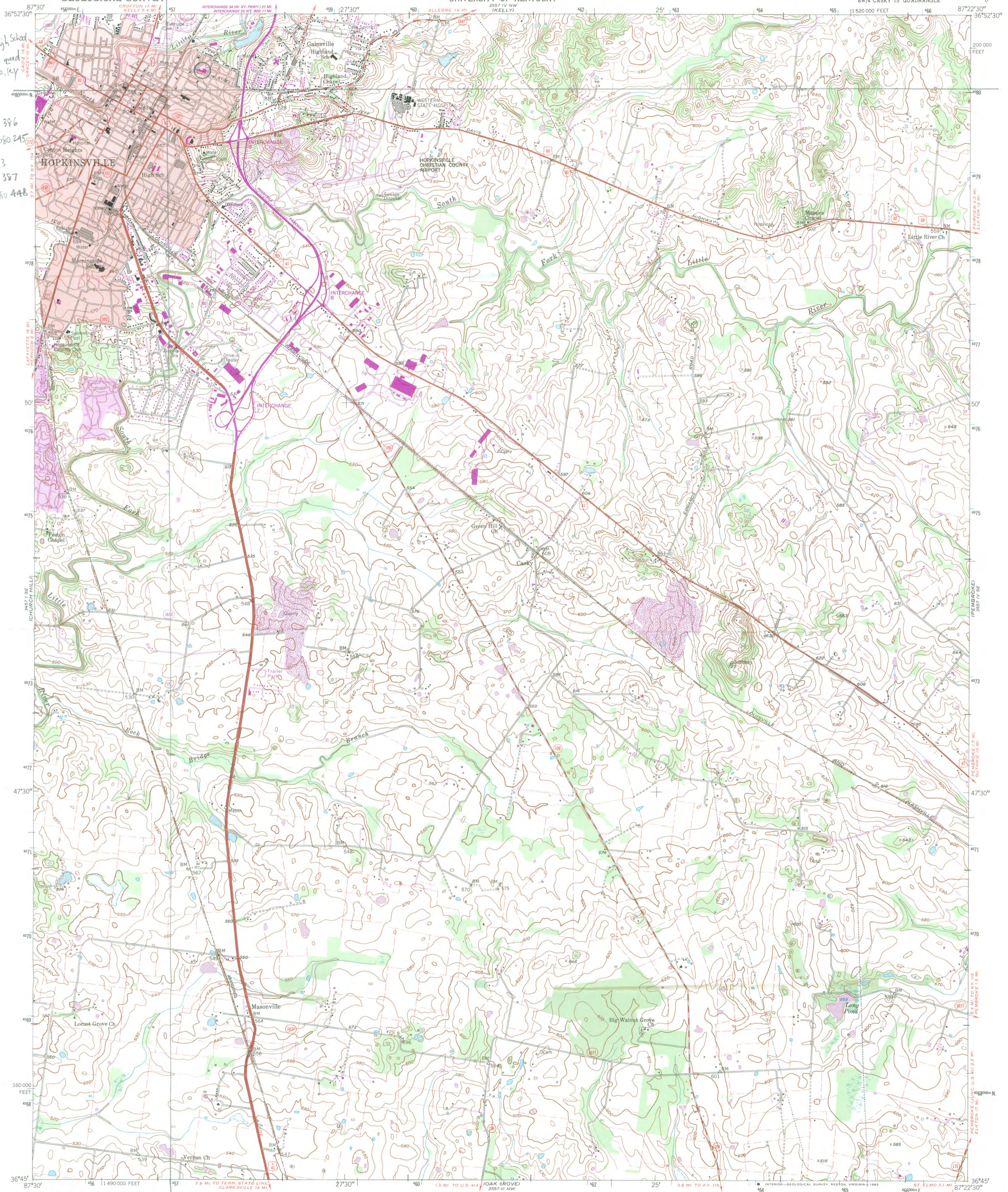


Attucks High School
Christian County, Kentucky



Attucks High School
Christian County, Kentucky

Attucks High School
Hopkinsville quad
Christian Co, KY
Zone 16
NAD 1927
Easting 457 386
Northing 4080 245
NAD 1983
Easting 457 387
Northing 4080 448



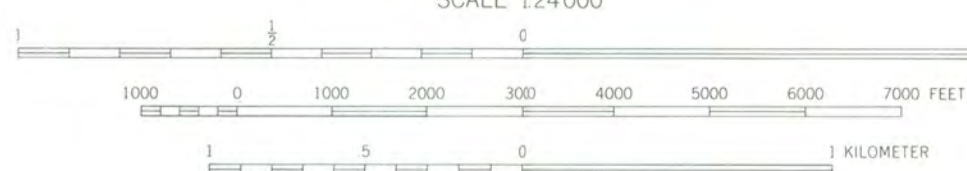
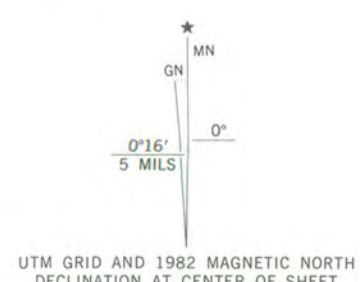
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1949. Topography by planetable surveys 1950. Revised 1956

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Kentucky coordinate system, south zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 5 meters south and 2 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

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

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Kentucky agencies from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. Contours adjusted adjacent to certain photorevised hydrographic features. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



HOPKINSVILLE, KY.
SW/4 CASKY 15' QUADRANGLE
N3645—W8722.5/7.5

1956
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 3557 IV SW—SERIES V853



STEVEN L. BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

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

MARCHETA SPARROW
SECRETARY



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

LINDY CASEBIER
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

November 30, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are nominations approved at the September 26, 2012 Review Board meeting. We are submitting them for listing in the National Register:

- St. James AME Church**, Boyle County, Kentucky
- Second Street Christian Church**, Boyle County, Kentucky
- Attucks High School**, Christian County, Kentucky
- Amburgey Log Home**, Knott County, Kentucky

We submit the following Multiple Property Documentation Form, and associated district nominations for listing:

- Crossroad Communities in Kentucky's Bluegrass Cultural Landscape Region MPS**
- Mackville Historic District**, Washington County, Kentucky
- Willisburg Historic District**, Washington County, Kentucky
- Gravel Switch Historic District**, Marion County, Kentucky

We submit an additional district nomination for a *Determination of Eligibility*, due to a majority of owners objecting. This district is also associated with the Crossroad Communities in Kentucky's Bluegrass Cultural Landscape Region MPS:

- Loretto Historic District**, Marion County, Kentucky

We appreciate your consideration of these nominations.

Sincerely,

Lindy Casebier, Acting SHPO and
Executive Director
Kentucky Heritage Council