

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received MAR 29 1982  
date entered APR 27 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic FOHS HALL

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number 143 North Walker St. NA not for publication

city, town Marion NA vicinity of congressional district 1

state Kentucky 42064 code 021 county Crittenden code 055

**3. Classification**

|   |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Category</b>                                 | <b>Ownership</b>                           | <b>Status</b>   | <b>Present Use</b>                     |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied                     | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>NA</u> in process                       | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Community Center |

**4. Owner of Property**

name FOHS HALL, INCORPORATED

street & number 143 N. Walker

city, town Marion NA vicinity of state Kentucky 42064

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. CRITTENDEN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

street & number Main Street

city, town Marion state Kentucky 42064

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Survey of Historical Sites in Ky. has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Commission

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

# 7. Description

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered              | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Fohs Hall is located in the heart of the commercial district of Marion (Pop. 3,500), a small community situated in the western part of the state. The structure is on a 1½-acre grassed lot, facing North Walker Street, with grounds extending to the rear to North College Street. Its prominent location combined with the large scale of the building and its attractive neo-classical style make the structure the most recognized architectural landmark in Marion.

The two-story brick building is constructed on a limestone foundation. The major stylistic feature of the front (north) facade is the recessed center bay, capped by a projected stone pediment supported by four fluted Corinthian columns. There is a window at each level to the side of the recessed entrance. The first floor windows are hooded and separated from the upper bays by a panel composed of brick in a herringbone pattern with a stone disc in the middle. The windows on the end walls of the main block have jack arches with keystones. Other classical elements characterizing the building include stone quoins, stone cornice and parapet end walls.

The rear addition (original to the main block) has four arched windows on the east and west walls separated by pilasters. These walls are further adorned by a stone cornice with brick corbeling directly underneath.

The interior of the building includes a large central hall with double doors leading to a room on each side. There are stairwells on both the north and south sides. Directly at the end of the central hall are two sets of double doors leading into an auditorium which, including the balcony, has a five hundred seat capacity. No significant alterations have been made to the original exterior or interior appearance of the building.

# 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)                    |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |   |

**Specific dates** 1926      **Builder/Architect** Builder: J. N. Boston & Sons, Marion, Ky.  
Architect: Frankel & Curtis, Lexington, Ky.

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Fohs Hall, located in the rural community of Marion in western Kentucky, is a local landmark both in terms of its historic function and architecture. It has been dedicated to the educational and cultural advancement of area residents since its construction in 1926. The structure also represents the most important architectural example dating to the first quarter of the twentieth century and can be said to be among the best representatives of the neo-classical style in Crittenden County.

The building was donated to the community by Ferdinand Julius Fohs, an internationally known petroleum geologist who was raised in Marion.<sup>1</sup> He hired the architectural firm of Frankel and Curtis of Lexington to design the building, which was to be used as a community center. It was built by the contracting firm of J. N. Boston and Son of Marion at a cost of \$73,081. The location of the building was on the site of a small frame house where Fohs once lived.

Upon its completion in 1926, the building was donated by Fohs to the Marion Board of Education. It was used as a community center and as an auxiliary building for Marion High School, located across the street. Originally Fohs Hall contained a music room and a lounge on its first floor and a study hall and small library on the second. The basement contained classes for home economics and agriculture. The auditorium provided space for both community and school activities.

This large, two-story brick building serves as a focal building for the Marion community. Its large scale and impressive styling in addition to the prominent location in the heart of town make it the most important historic property in Marion and one of the most significant in the county.<sup>2</sup> After serving as a public education building for many years, Fohs Hall is now being considered for renovation as a community center and civic auditorium for Marion and Crittenden County.

<sup>1</sup>Julius Fohs, born in New York City in 1884, was the son of Mark E. and Fredericka Baum Fohs. In 1890 his family moved to Marion where his father established a variety store. Upon graduation from Marion High School in 1900, Fohs began working in mining operations. In 1905 he became the assistant state geologist for Kentucky. In 1912 he and Dr. James Gardner formed the consulting geology firm of Fohs and Gardner, based in Lexington, Kentucky. In 1913, Fohs moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he became successful as a consulting petroleum geologist. He opened an office in New York City in 1916, establishing an international consulting business. (Information provided by Judy Winn, Marion, Kentucky, 1981.)

<sup>2</sup>Crittenden County was formed in 1842 with Marion, its county seat, incorporated in 1844. Most of the surviving historic buildings of any significance in the area are residential, and date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century period.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Information provided by Ted Boston, son of J. W. Boston, builder; Marion, Kentucky; Helen Moore, Marion, Kentucky; Crittenden Press, October 1926. "Fohs Hall". Dedication program, October 1926.

# 10. Geographical Data **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 1.1 acres

Quadrangle name Marion, Ky.

Quadrangle scale 1:2400

UMT References Latitude: 37° 20' 2.5"

Longitude: 88° 04' 44"

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## Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary extends 50' east (to the west side of Walker Street); 50' to the south, west and north of exterior walls.

## List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. George Winn; Dick Holland; Gloria Mills, Historian; (see continuation sheet)

organization date

street & number telephone

city or town state

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Cecelia Appel

title SHPO date 3/11/82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

J. Nelson Byrum Keoper of the National Register

Entered to the National Register date 4/29/82

Attest: Chief of Registration date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOHS Hall  
143 North Walker  
Marion, Kentucky 42064  
Crittenden County  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 2

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Mrs. George Winn  
Fohs Hall, Inc.  
Route 10  
Winnwood  
Marion, Kentucky (telephone (502) 965-3345)

Dick Holland  
Growth, Inc.  
Paducah, Kentucky

Gloria Mills  
Heritage Division  
2200 Capital Plaza Tower  
Frankfort, Kentucky