

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUN 26 1984  
date entered AUG 1 1984

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

1. Name

historic SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MEMORIAL GYMNASIUM

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Union College Campus \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Barbourville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Kentucky code county Knox code

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> na in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Union College

street & number

city, town Barbourville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Knox County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Barbourville \_\_\_\_\_ state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1984 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

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

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Gymnasium Building is a three-story brick building located at the center of the Union College Campus in Barbourville, Kentucky. It is located approximately 150 feet behind the Old Classroom Building (listed in the National Register, May 30, 1975) which is the focal building of the campus. Another Union College building, Speed Hall was listed in the National Register on April 29, 1982.

Separated by a parking lot from the Old Classroom Building, the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building is built into an embankment. The main entrance provides direct access to the second, gymnasium floor level. Below the gymnasium is a building level containing a swimming pool and locker rooms.

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Gymnasium is an early twentieth century Classical Revival style building. It is distinguished by wide pilasters which divide the main facade into seven bays and the massive piers which support a stylized portico. The image of strength imparted by the pilasters and piers is reinforced by the plain entablature of Bedford limestone. A parapet of brick capped with stone rises above the cornice on all four sides of the building and is also found in the small offices of one-story built into the bays to either side of the entrance pavillion.

Except for the small offices all windows in the building are tri-part casement windows. The windows on the main floor are headed by jackarches, while the second floor and basement window openings exhibit no decorative features. The low hipped roof is topped with a narrow deck. The only changes made to the exterior over the years have been the addition of two steel deck and stair fire escapes which are accessed through modern steel doors set in two of the original bays.

The interior of the gymnasium is a two-story open space measuring 90 feet X 120 feet. A narrow steel balcony at the second level provides very limited space for spectators.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ 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** 1919-1920

**Builder/Architect** —

### Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Gymnasium of Union College is significant as an outstanding example of Colonial Revival architecture in Southeast Kentucky and in the history of higher education in southeast, Kentucky. It is also significant because of its association with efforts in Knox County and within the Methodist Episcopal Church of Kentucky to create a fitting memorial for the Knox County and Methodist men of Kentucky who died in World War I.

Active planning for a gymnasium at Union College began in 1916 when President Ezra T. Franklin, in his first annual report, "named the gymnasium as Union's first need," estimating its cost at \$20,000. Three years were to pass before student body petitions and protests led to a commitment to build the gymnasium which was approved in the Spring of 1919. Ground was broken on May 28, 1919, in a public ceremony to which the public officials and citizenry of Barbourville were invited. The entire community was asked to contribute to the gymnasium project which would serve as the county's World War I Memorial.

Completed in the Fall of 1920, the Gymnasium provided an excellent facility for basketball and other in-door sports and for swimming. In 1964, a new Gymnasium was completed and the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial was turned over to the Drama Department and renamed the Dramatic Arts Center. In 1982, the last drama was produced in the building.

Currently, various new uses are being considered for the building which will require substantial rehabilitation first. Recognition of its historic significance should enhance efforts to secure funding for the rehabilitation.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bradley, Erwin S. & Marigold, W. Gordon. Union College 1879-1979. Union College, Barbourville, Kentucky. 1979.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property @ 1 acre

Quadrangle name Barbourville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	7
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2	4	2	6	1	0
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4	0	8	4	2	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning as a point 15' west of the western corner of the building, thence NE 140', thence SE 140', thence SW 140', thence NW 140' to the point of origin. The boundary has been drawn to enclose a small buffer area on all sides while omitting the parking lot in front of & the track to the rear of the Memorial Building.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert M. Polsgrove, Historic Sites Program Manager

organization Kentucky Heritage Council date May 1984

street & number 12th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower telephone 502/564-7005

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Mary Curran Appel*

title *State Historic Preservation Officer* date *May 24, 1984*

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
*J. Nelson Bryan*  
Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

Entered in the National Register date *5-1-84*