



## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Situated fifty miles southwest of Lexington and fifty-three miles southeast of Louisville near the edge of the outer Bluegrass is Springfield, the county seat and commercial center of Washington County, Kentucky. While ranked among the smallest county seats in the central Kentucky region (population 1980: 3,170), Springfield does possess a significant collection of early and late nineteenth century historic resources. The spatial distribution of these historic resources will be known when a comprehensive survey currently being conducted in the county is completed. At present eight individual properties and one district in Washington County are listed in the National Register.

The Covington Institute Teacher's Residence is located in a residential setting approximately three blocks east of the town's historic commercial district. Dwellings immediately adjacent to this property do not meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, consequently, the potential for designating a historic district does not exist. This nomination is being submitted in accordance with the provisions of the Federal tax incentives for the rehabilitation of certified historic structures.

Built in 1884, the Covington Institute Teacher's Residence is a two story rectangular plan frame dwelling with attached 1 1/2 story wing. Stylistically the house is an unpretentious albeit representative embodiment of the Italianate style. Its principal distinguishing features include scrolled wooden brackets, low hip roof, and two-over-two double hung windows. The front or south elevation exhibits three unevenly spaced bays that are ornamented by shelf lintels above the windows. A narrow, single pane transom surmounts the front doorway.

With the exception of the shelf lintels, the side elevations exhibit the same fenestration and design features employed on the front facade. However, the appearance of the east elevation is enhanced by a single story, five sided bay that projects from the dining room. Attached to the rear of the front block is a 1 1/2 story frame kitchen wing. An 1884 date painted on an interior partition wall in the attic indicates this wing is a contemporary feature. Relatively unornamented, this wing is characterized by its interior end chimney, four-over-four double hung windows, and clapboard wall treatment. The entire building rests on a rubble limestone foundation while the front block features a low hip roof and tall corbeled chimneys.

Although the interior spaces are relatively unchanged, only the front hallway can be considered exemplary of the high style. Perhaps this is a reflection of the school's desire to use this space as a focal point when receiving guests and visitors. The hall is unusually spacious (which accounts for the asymmetrical fenestration) and consists of a curved staircase with heavy wooden balustrade and newel post. Despite many layers of paint the original Lincrusta-Walton has survived. The embossed pattern of volutes, patera, and fleur-de-lis is still distinguishable. At the rear of the hallway is an arched, somewhat Palladian like doorway that leads into the formal dining room chamber. The dining room with its projecting bay is itself an important space.

Structurally and cosmetically the house has sustained remarkably few alternations. A faded photograph taken around 1950 indicates a simple one-bay Victorian entrance porch preceded the existing wooden porch. A small frame room is attached to the rear of the service wing and appears to be a historic feature. The property itself is elevated above street grade and bordered on the south by an ashlar limestone wall. Cresting the wall is a low cast iron fence with palmette spikes.

## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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** 1884 **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1884, the Covington Institute Teacher's Residence is significant as a locally important embodiment of Italianate architecture and for its historical context within the development of private education in Springfield and Washington County, Kentucky. For almost a fifty-year period, the Covington Collegiate Institute held the important distinction of being Springfield's only secondary school and one of only two graded schools in Washington County. The two story frame Teacher's Residence was built by the Institute for the express purpose of housing its faculty members; today it stands as the only structure remaining from the modest two building campus.<sup>1</sup>

The Covington Collegiate Institute was incorporated in 1854 by the Kentucky state legislature as the first private school in Springfield. During the first half of the nineteenth century public schools and academies had largely failed to meet the needs of educating children at the secondary level.<sup>2</sup> Curriculum was extremely limited while attendance seldom exceeded three or four months throughout each calendar year. Disturbed by these conditions, the Kentucky state legislature ushered in a series of reforms toward improving the level of education. Legislation passed in 1825 made it legal for the state to authorize individuals in a community to organize and operate private schools. The response was dramatic; 35 schools were authorized by 1840 and by 1870 over 150 private schools had been established in Kentucky.

The Covington Collegiate Institute was a product of this reform movement. Its founder and first Headmaster, Alva Covington, had come to Springfield from Massachusetts in the 1850s. Little is known about the Institute until the late 1870s, when financial indebtedness forced the stockholders of the floundering school to dispose of their holdings and transfer ownership to the Washington County High and Normal School Company. Apparently the new owner agreed to maintain the name of the Covington Institute and also resolved, in 1884, to "construct a comfortable dwelling on said lot [corner of Main and Covington Streets] for a residence of a teacher of said school . . ."<sup>3</sup> This "Schoolhouse Residence" was eventually sold and occupied by the Robertson family from 1919 until 1967.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, support for state chartered private institutions had waned. Legislation passed in 1888 authorized citizens to establish public, non-tuition graded schools. After 1891 no private schools were authorized. Although the long tenure of the private academy had been important to communities across the state, it also tended to retard the development of Kentucky's secondary schools.<sup>4</sup> Washington County was certainly no exception. It wasn't until 1902 that a school bond issue was finally passed in Springfield and 1914 when the first high school was established. The early success of the Covington Institute had obviated any need for additional schools and delayed the formation of public high schools. Its presence in the community is important in understanding the historical development of education in Springfield and Washington County, Kentucky. Today only the Teacher's Residence remains.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Annual Reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kentucky.  
 Case, William Loren. A History of Education in Washington County, Kentucky. M.A. Thesis  
 University of Kentucky. 1929.  
 Ligon, Mores Edward. "A History of Public Education in Kentucky." Bulletin of the Bureau  
 School Service, College of Education, Univ. of Ky. 14 (June 1942): 39-51.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .29 acre

Quadrangle name Springfield

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

1	6	6	5	7	3	4	0	4	1	7	1	9	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** This parcel is situated at the northwest corner of Main and Covington Streets. Beginning at the northwest corner of Covington and Main Street proceed northwest 92' along the north side of Main Street, thence northeastwardly 137 1/2'; thence proceed southeastwardly 92'; thence proceed in a southwest direction along the

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen C. Gordon, Senior Historian

organization Kentucky Heritage Council

street & number 9th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower date September 1982

city or town Frankfort telephone 564-7005

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Corman Appel

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date December 17, 1982

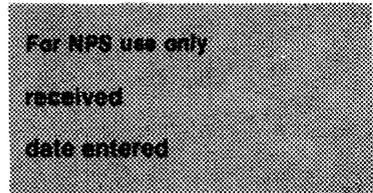
For NHP only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
 Entered in the  
 National Register

*[Signature]*

Director of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Covington Institute Teacher's Residence  
Continuation sheet

Washington County, Kentucky  
Item number 8, 9 & 10 Page 2

8. <sup>1</sup>Covington Institute consisted of two buildings; a brick school house built c.1857 and the Teacher's Residence built in 1884. The school house was located on the east side of Covington Street.

<sup>2</sup>Moses Edward Ligon, "A History of Public Education in Kentucky," Bulletin of the Bureau of School Service 14 (June 1942):30.

<sup>3</sup>Washington County Circuit Court, Petition, September 19, 1889.

<sup>4</sup>Ligon, "History of Public Education in Kentucky," p.51.

9. Washington County Courthouse: Deed Bood U, p.492; Deed Book 2, p.192; Deed Book 51, p.567.

Proceedings of the Washington County Circuit Court.

O'Daniel, Mr. H. Edward, Jr.

10. west side of Covington Street 137 1/2' until reaching the point of beginning.