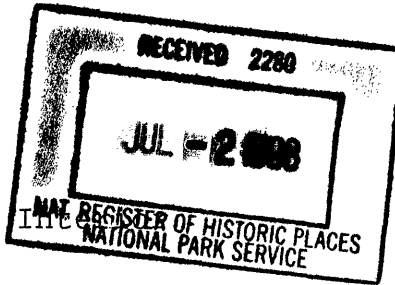


NPS Form 10-900
1024-0018
(Rev. 10-90)



OMB No.
932

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 any 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: Douglass School

other names/site number FAW-39

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 465 Price Road

not for publication

city or town Lexington

vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Fayette code 067

zip code 40508

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this

X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, SHPO and
Executive Director

David L. Morgan Signature of certifying official 6-3-98 Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
4. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper/Date:

✓ entered in the National Register

Patrick Andrews 8/12/98

 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):

=====
=====
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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

=====
=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic Functions
 EDUCATION/School

Current Function
 WORK IN PROGRESS

=====
=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
 Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
foundation STONE/ Limestone

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

=====
=====
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 (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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

Period of Significance

EDUCATION

1947

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

Significant Dates 1947

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Gillig, John T. (architect)

Meriwether, Hugh (associate)

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

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

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

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Local government

Other State agency

University

Federal agency

Other

Name of repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>718760</u>	<u>4216320</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) **SEE BASE MAP**

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Karen E. Hudson

organization KEH Preservation Services

street & number 876 Lynn Drive telephone (606) 278-3919

city or town Lexington state KY zip code 40504

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

name First African Baptist Church

street & number 465 Price Road telephone (606) 252-7191

city or town Lexington state KY zip code 40508

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Douglass School (FAW-39) is a two-story brick structure with limestone foundation and multilevel hip roof located in the heart of Lexington's "West End," a traditional African American neighborhood. To the east, a broad yard with large trees separate the school from Price Road. The school's immediate neighbors include the First African Baptist Church, a contemporary school, and private housing. Constructed in 1947, to educate Fayette County's African American students, the Douglass School physically embodies Kentucky's "separate but equal" educational policy.

Abandoned for nearly three decades, the school has received little maintenance, while this has resulted in some deterioration, there has been little alteration to the original fabric. Thanks to a joint venture between the current owner, First African Baptist Church, and REACH, Inc., there are plans to convert the abandoned school into low income senior citizen housing. The venture is being planned as a rehabilitation tax credit project. The owners and architects are carefully coordinating all rehabilitation work with the Kentucky Heritage Council to insure the preservation of those features which are necessary for the building to continue to convey its significance.

Though not a Works Progress Administration project, the two-story brick structure with limestone foundation and hip roof exemplifies the blend of stripped classicism and Art Deco favored for many WPA projects. The main entrance is accentuated by a projecting unit with hipped roof and large double doors capped by the original sign, "Douglass School." The structure consists of four primary units--the auditorium; the classroom wing; the agricultural and library unit; and the cafeteria, and home economics unit. Each unit is generously illuminated by numerous, large, multi-paned windows. When architect John T. Gillig originally designed the school in 1941, he planned to construct the building in stone but by the time

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

**DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY**

DESCRIPTION (continued)

the structure was actually built in 1947, the plans had been changed and brick was used instead. This appears to be the only change to Gillig's original plans.

When the Douglass School was constructed in 1947, large consolidated schools were becoming multiuse complexes, with gymnasiums, auditoriums, and other spaces that made them important community facilities. Schools were viewed as community resources and architects were instructed to design them with this multiuse function in mind. This philosophy is physically embodied in Gillig's design. The central focus of the Douglass School is the large auditorium/gymnasium. The front doors empty onto the corridor located immediately in front of the multiuse public space. The doors are flanked by trophy cases which prominently exhibit the schools pride to all visitors. In addition, separate entrances located to each side of the stage and dressing rooms, allow public access to the auditorium/gymnasium without direct entrance to the rest of the school.

The main instructional unit of the school is sited at an angle to the auditorium, further delineating their special functions. On the two levels, the instructional unit consists of eight general classrooms, an agricultural classroom, shop, library, separate restrooms for girls, boys and teachers, and the principal's office. The office is strategically located at the apex of the instructional unit and auditorium which, like the auditorium, allows public access without allowing direct entrance to the rest of the school. Finally, the two-story cafeteria/ home economics unit is located in a wing opposite the instructional unit.

The interior finish is very simple. Except for the wooden stage, the floors are concrete throughout the entire school. There are no baseboards and the only wainscot is located in the corridor. The

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY

DESCRIPTION (continued)

corridor walls are plastered above the double brick wainscot. The remaining walls are concrete blocks.

Though the school has received little maintenance during its nearly three decades of abandonment, there have been no major alterations to the original fabric. Those features which enable the school to convey its significance, the form, the siting, the majority of the windows, and the original sign, have all been preserved. The Douglass School continues to be located at the center of the West End neighborhood and although abandoned for nearly three decades it still reflects the central role it played in the community.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Douglass School (FAW-39), built in 1947, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as a significant example of a resource which physically embodies the history of the state's "separate but equal" educational policy. At the time of its completion, there were only 62 public High Schools for black students in the state and only 13 of these were, like the Douglass School, county facilities.

Abandoned for nearly three decades, the school has fallen into disrepair. Thanks to a joint venture between the current owner, First African Baptist Church, and REACH, Inc., there are plans to convert the abandoned school into low income senior citizen housing. The venture is being planned as a rehabilitation tax credit project. The owners and architects are carefully coordinating all rehabilitation work with the Kentucky Heritage Council to insure the preservation of those features which are necessary for the building to continue to convey its significance.

Historical Background

Following the Civil War, Kentucky faced the challenge of providing public schools for thousands of freedmen. African Americans held statewide conventions in Lexington (1867) and Louisville (1869) to petition for public schools. Rather than admit blacks to existing schools, the General Assembly created a separate system of common schools for blacks in 1874. In 1891 the revised Kentucky constitution legalized segregated public education. According to all reports, black schools were even more inadequate than those for whites.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The eight-room building on Price Road, near the city limits, served 12 grades. A 1935 Bureau of School Service report, A School Building Program for Lexington and Fayette County, concluded that the single most important problem discovered during the study was the overcrowding conditions at the Douglass School. From its construction in 1929 until 1934, the enrollment increased from 208 to 335, and in spite of additions, the report concluded, "the program is yet hampered by restricted building facilities." In anticipation of the time when a new black high school might be needed, the county Board of Education had purchased a school building site bordering Georgetown Pike just beyond the city limits a few years prior to the completion of the 1935 study. According to the report, this site was available for use if a new black high school were to be constructed. An architect was hired and architectural plans for a new Douglass School were completed by January 1941. The construction of the school was delayed, however, by World War II. Meantime, the crowded conditions were eased by transferring the Junior and Senior classes to Dunbar High School in Lexington.

In 1947, a new Douglass School was constructed for junior and senior high students at another location on Price Road and the original Rosenwald building was moved to the same property to serve elementary students. Though the extant Douglass School did not benefit directly from the Rosenwald Fund, it physically embodies Rosenwald's intent to gradually reduce his contributions and increase public support, with the hope that eventually the entire process of funding black education would be undertaken using public dollars.

The two-story brick multiuse school built in 1947 was designed by

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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**DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY**

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

John T. Gillig. Born in Indiana in 1883, Gillig graduated from the College of Architecture at Ohio State University in 1909. After working with a New York City firm for one year, Gillig was hired by the federal government in Washington, D.C. His duties included designing courthouses and post offices throughout the country. It was one of these assignments that brought him to Kentucky in the 1920s where he met his wife Elizabeth Poindexter of Cynthiana. The couple moved to Lexington in the 1920s where they remained until they moved to Bourbon County upon his retirement in 1971. Gillig died in Paris in 1978 at the age of 95. In addition to the Douglass School, Gillig designed numerous buildings throughout Lexington, including, the combined post office and federal building at Barr and Limestone Streets, the University of Kentucky's Memorial Coliseum, Shriners Children's Hospital, and at Transylvania University, the Mitchell Fine Arts Center, and the Forrer Hall girls' dormitory.

The Rosenwald building burned in 1955, and after 1963, Douglass School was used as an elementary and junior high school only. High School students went to Dunbar in Lexington. The Douglass School was finally closed by desegregation in 1971.

The Douglass School is historically significant for its association with the education of Fayette County's African American citizens. It physically embodies the history of the state's "separate but equal" educational policy.

Abandoned for nearly three decades, the school has received little maintenance, while this has resulted in some deterioration, the structure has undergone very few changes. As a result, those features which enable the school to convey its historical significance have been preserved. Therefore, the Douglass School is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY

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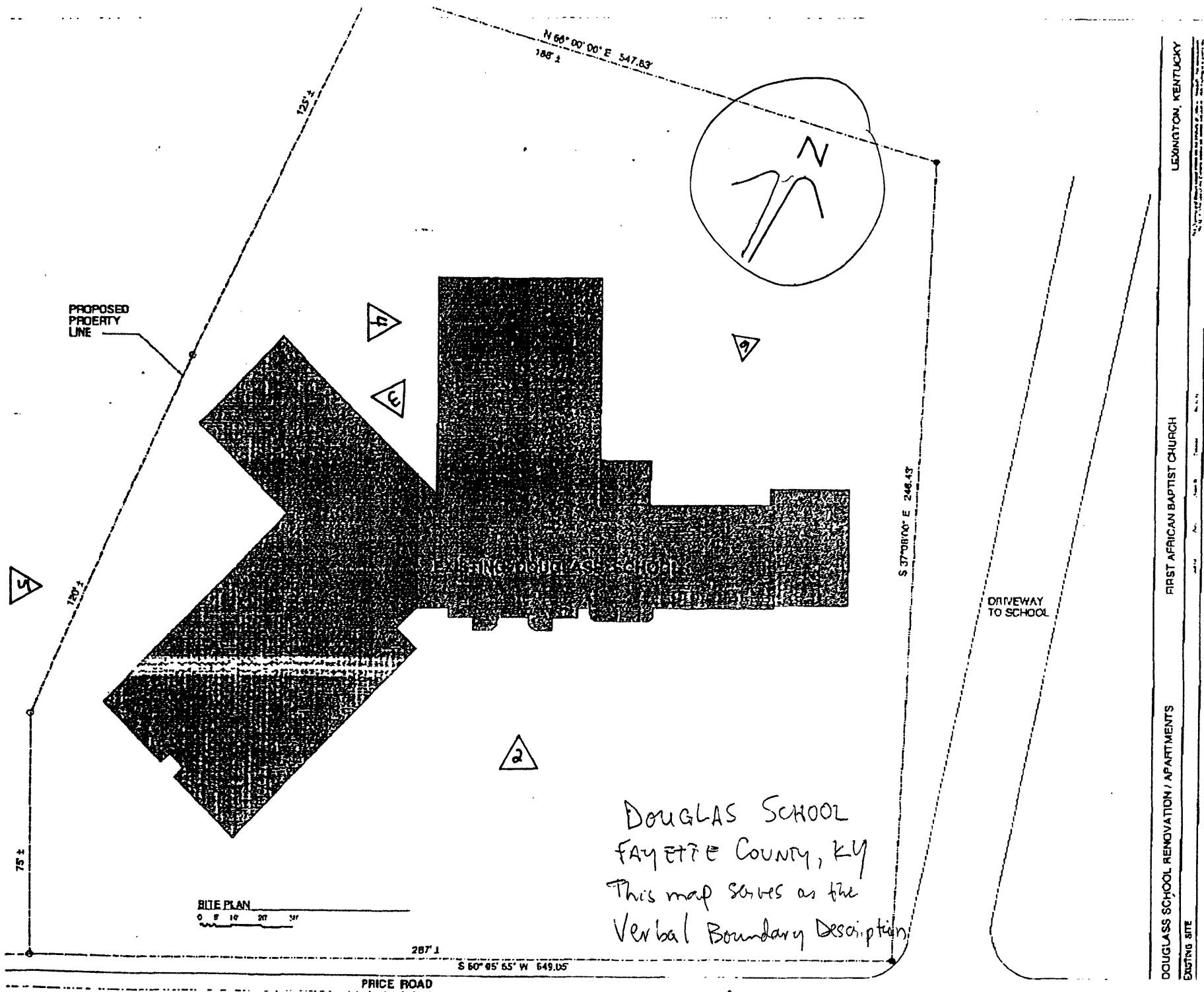
DOUGLASS SCHOOL
FAYETTE COUNTY, KY

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

see base map

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the school and the surrounding grounds that have historically been part of the complex and that continue to maintain historic integrity.



LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

FIRST AFRICAN BAPTIST CHURCH

DOUGLASS SCHOOL RENOVATION / APARTMENTS

EXISTING SITE



