

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

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



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

1. Name

historic Richard Hardy Memorial School

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 1620 Hamilton Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town South Pittsburg N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Tennessee code 047 county Marion code 115

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Dixie Cement Company

street & number P.O. Box 119

city, town Kingsport N/A vicinity of state Tennessee

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Marion County Courthouse

city, town Jasper state Tennessee 37347

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal N/A state N/A county N/A local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <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

Completed in 1926, the Richard Hardy Memorial School is constructed on a "T" shaped plan and is Neo-Classical in design. Constructed of hollow concrete tile with limestone decorative elements, the structure rises to a height of three stories, except for two wings on either side of the main block which are only two stories high. The school is a monumental building in the community, a characteristic which is accentuated visually by its location in the heart of a residential area. Despite the need for some exterior maintenance, the building is in a very good state of preservation with its interior in near original condition.

Richard Hardy Memorial School is located at the corner of Hamilton Avenue and Marion Avenue on a spacious lot of approximately five acres. The building faces east and the grounds are encompassed by a three-foot high wire fence. Those portions of the lot fronting on streets are surrounded by concrete sidewalks. Hardy Memorial is located in one of South Pittsburg's older residential areas and is the focal point of the neighborhood which surrounds it.

Designed by former Chattanooga architect Charles E. Bearden, the structure is purely Neo-Classical in style and was intended to be a structure of beauty and utility for the enjoyment of the community at large as well as by the children who would attend school there. This school was built on a "T" shaped plan with the top of the "T" consisting of a main block of three stories and two adjacent wings of two stories in height. The main block houses classrooms, offices, assembly rooms, the library, and a spacious lobby on the first floor. A three-story section containing the auditorium and stage form the shank of the "T" plan while the gymnasium forms the base of the "T". Concrete, structural steel, limestone, and terrazo were employed to a great extent in the construction of the school in an effort to make it one of the most advanced examples of fireproof construction of its day. The only structural use of wood is in the construction of the gymnasium floor.

Elements of the Neo-Classical style are readily apparent in the structure's symmetrical design and in the application of its exterior decorative elements. Its most distinguishing exterior feature is the two-story monumental portico executed in cut limestone which has six Doric columns crowned by an elaborate crenelated entablature. The entablature has an ornate frieze with triglyphs and alternating diamond and bulls eye motifs. Cut limestone pilasters flank door and window openings on the front of the main block under the portico, and elaborate stone door surrounds which repeat the elements of the entablature flank the two pairs of front doors. The portico floor is terrazo and the original globe lanterns are still in place and are functional. Windows are symmetrically placed throughout the building. Six and eight light double hung sash are used alternately on the front, side, and rear elevations. On the facade, second floor windows have twelve-light casement sash. The wings adjacent to the main block as well as the section housing the gymnasium, are ornamented with cut limestone pilasters and topped with crenelated entablatures which carry the same motif as the portico. Pedimented parapets rise above the flat roofs of the main block and gymnasium sections, and the original chimney rises above the line of the parapets over the gymnasium. A simple frieze carrying the bulls eye motif encompasses the three story sections of the building at the line of the top of the third floor ceiling. With the minor exception of the sheet metal ventilators on the roof, this structure retains its exact original appearance.

The interior of the school is reminiscent of that of a fine hotel or theatre, complete with terrazo floors, decorative plaster walls, cast iron stair rails, marble bases, oak and walnut woodwork, and original wall sconces. Despite over fifty years of continuous use as a public school, the building retains its original interior finishes with the minor exception of periodic repainting; however, original paint schemes are still employed.

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The two most significant interior spaces are the library and the auditorium. Doors into the library have elaborate walnut door surrounds of pilasters crowned with entablatures. Library ceilings are vaulted and plastered, and windows are complete with walnut window seats. The original shelves, library tables and chairs, and most of the original books are still in use. An elaborately ornamented and equipped auditorium remains today just as it was when constructed. Ornamental plaster was used to decorate the walls, ceilings, and proscenium arch of the stage. Plaster arches with keystones reflecting the Roman arched auditorium windows are employed along the back of the auditorium and on each side of the stage and thus visually balance the interior. The original opera seats, theatrical lighting system, and stage backdrops are still in place. Though it has been painted in recent years, the auditorium retains its original color scheme of soft yellow and blue.

Most of the school's interior spaces retain their original equipment and use; however, some minor changes have been made. Only the manual arts and home economics rooms have lost their original use and thus the equipment formerly occupying those spaces has been removed. These rooms do, however, retain their original configuration and building fabric. In most of the classrooms the original desks and chairs are still in use.

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/ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1926 | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | |

Specific dates 1925-1926

Builder/Architect C.E. Bearden-Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria B, C

The Richard Hardy Memorial School is significant locally because it represents the humanitarian efforts of Richard Hardy, who through the Dixie Portland Cement Company, provided a facility which could serve all the people of Richard City, Tennessee as both a school and as a center for community activities. In addition the structure is significant architecturally as the best example of Neo-Classical architecture in South Pittsburg which now includes the community which was formerly known as Richard City. The school building is also significant as an early example of modern fireproof construction techniques.

In 1925, the Dixie Portland Cement Company, of which Richard Hardy was president, made funds available for the construction of a school for Richard City, Tennessee which was to serve as a memorial to employees of the Dixie Portland Cement Company who served in World War I. Mr. Hardy had been an educator prior to becoming a prominent industrialist, and many of his ideas of what a "model" school should be are incorporated into the design and construction of the school which now bears his name. It was his intention that this school, which would primarily serve families of those employed by the Dixie Cement Company, should serve as a community center as well as an educational institution. Toward that end, Mr. Hardy provided for an excellent library which was to serve as the Community's first circulating library, as well as a resource for school students. The commodious auditorium provided a facility for community attendance of movies, orchestra concerts, plays, exhibitions, and lyceum courses. Mr. Hardy was well known for his interest in community education, and as a mayor of the City of Chattanooga for three years, he did much to forward public education in that city. The school was originally named the Dixie Portland Memorial School; however, the name was changed in 1927 after the death of Richard Hardy in honor of the man who was responsible for making it available to the community. Today school children are still reminded of the concern of the man who cared so much for the education of children, and through the years they have treated his gift with great respect as is evidenced by the remarkable condition of the structure which has served for more than fifty years without any significant remodeling. Richard City is now a part of the city of South Pittsburg, and the school is operated in cooperation with the Marion County School System.

As an example of Neo-Classical architectural design, this structure is unparalleled in South Pittsburgh. All of its original exterior fabric is intact, and no additions to the original structure have been made. Designed by Mr. C.E. Bearden, an architect from Chattanooga, Tennessee, the structure was to have been a "model" school which, in concert with the tenets of Neo-Classical design, incorporated simple beauty with functionality. In addition, the structure was designed so as to represent the latest techniques in fireproof construction and was considered to be exemplary in that regard. No publically constructed school in Marion County can compare with the beauty, utility or service provided by the Hardy Memorial School.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chenault, Robert N. "How a Dream Transformed Education in This Tennessee Town",
The Nation's Schools, November, 1931, Vol. III, No. 5.
 George Peabody College. "A George Peabody Friend and Philanthropist Passes",
 Peabody Alumni News, October 1, 1927.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 4.04 acres

Quadrangle name Bridgeport, ALA-TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u> | <u>3</u> <u>18</u> <u>7</u> <u>13</u> <u>0</u> <u>18</u> <u>10</u> | B | | | |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | H | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification Boundary as shown on Maxson County tax map number 156 Group B Parcel Number 24. The area nominated includes only the lot on which the nominated property stands and associated land used for school recreational purposes.

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

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|------|-----|--------|-----|------|-----|
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |
| state | N/A | code | N/A | county | N/A | code | N/A |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Paul Cross

organization R. Paul Cross Restoration Associates date June 1, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 884 telephone (615) 684-7227

city or town Shelbyville state Tennessee 37160

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.

Deputy
 State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Byer
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 7/23/82

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| For HCRS use only | |
| I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register | Entered in the National Register |
| <u>Herbert L. Byer</u> Keeper of the National Register | date <u>9/30/82</u> |
| Attest: | date |
| Chief of Registration | |

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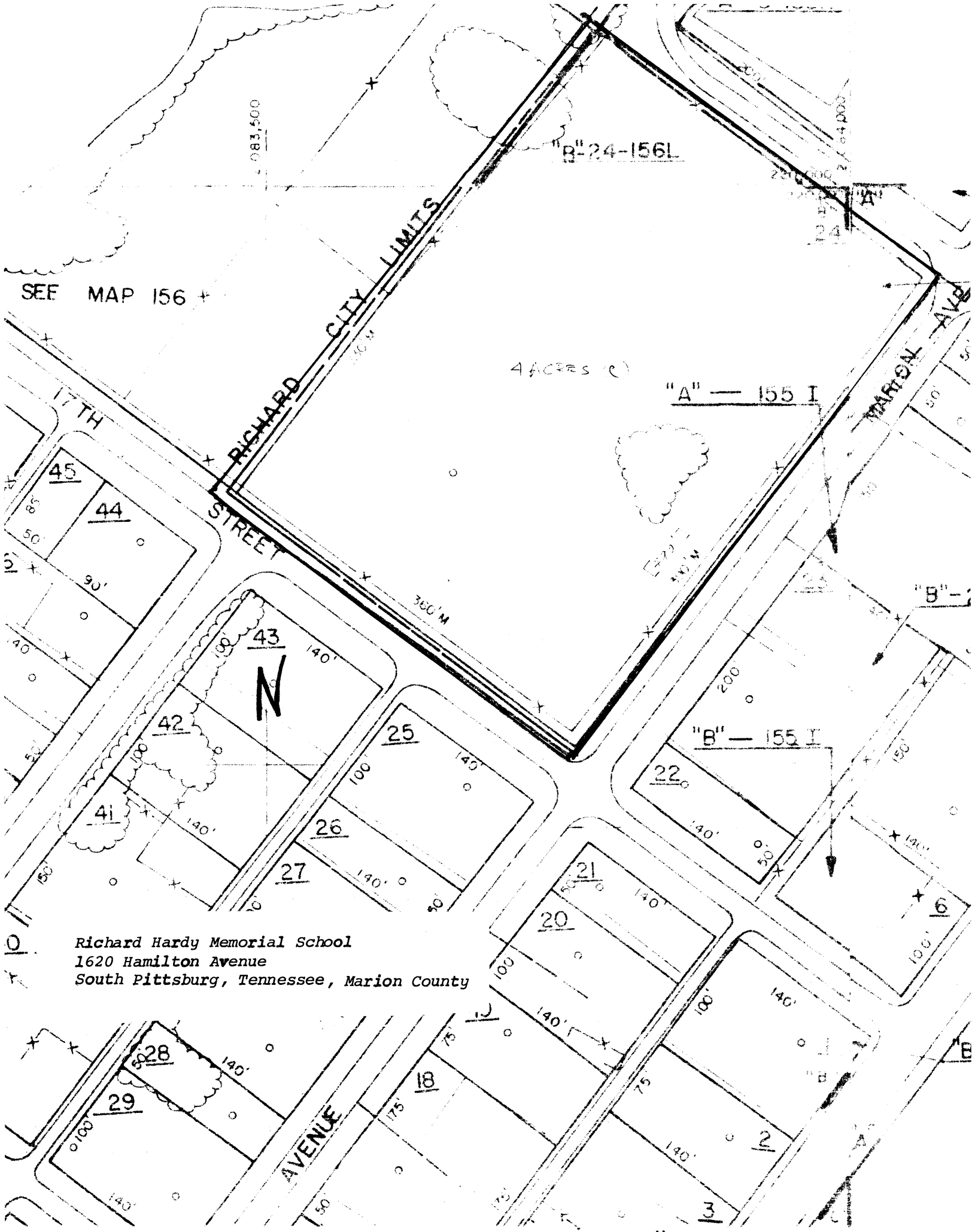
received

date entered

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Considering the normal abuse given school buildings, it is remarkable that this structure survives with almost all of its original fabric intact and still in full service. Its preservation may be attributed to the appreciation instilled in its students through the years for its significance as a gift from one who cared about his community. The exterior of the structure is now in need of some major restoration work due to the inevitable failure of some structural concrete; however, a determined community continues to maintain and use the structure in the same manner as intended by the benefactor who donated it.



SEE MAP 156 +

"B" 24-156L

4 ACRES (C)

"A" — 155 I

"B" — 155 I

Richard Hardy Memorial School
 1620 Hamilton Avenue
 South Pittsburg, Tennessee, Marion County

SCALE: 1" = 100'