

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 4 1980

DATE ENTERED

FEB 20 1980

**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 **Augusta College Historic Buildings**

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER **205 Frankfort Street, <sup>and</sup> 204 Bracken Street**

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

**Augusta**

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**7**

— VICINITY OF

STATE

**Kentucky**

CODE

**021**

COUNTY

**Bracken**

CODE

**023**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **Harold Bradford**  
**Mac Wallace**

STREET & NUMBER **503 E. 5th Street**  
**307 Bracken Street**

CITY, TOWN

**Augusta**

— VICINITY OF

STATE  
**Kentucky**

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Bracken County Courthouse**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

**Brooksville**

STATE  
**Kentucky**

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Augusta Kentucky is located on the Ohio River in Bracken County, in the northeastern part of the state. Augusta College was situated on Frankfort and Bracken Streets between Second and Third Streets, near the river. Echo Hall and West Hall, two of the college dormitories built around 1825, are the only remaining buildings directly associated with the school.

Echo Hall, on Frankfort Street, is a brick structure with a stone foundation. It is composed of a gabled, two-story, three-bay, central block and two, one-story, three-bay side wings.<sup>1</sup> The exterior trim is simple with Flemish bond brickwork and jack arches over the openings. The main entrance has a transom but no sidelights. A fan-shaped opening decorates the tympanum of the gable. A box cornice with returns beneath decorates the side wings.

West Hall, which faces Bracken Street, is also of brick construction. It is a two-story, five-bay structure with a rough cut stone foundation and a twentieth century portico. The brickwork is Flemish bond on the facade and Common bond on the sides. Jack arches top the window openings and a transom covers the main door. The north end of the central-hall, double-pile structure is divided into two separate rooms with two separate chimneys. The south end of the house is one room deep and served by one chimney at the roof cresting. A recent one-story frame shed addition was built on the rear.

No original interior woodwork remains in either of these structures.

The nominated properties consists of the building and lot on which they sit.

<sup>1</sup>The rear, end chimney in the main block was truncated; and a two-story, shed-style brick addition put on the back. A one-story frame shed addition was attached to the north wing of the structure.

# 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 checked="" 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 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 1820s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in the 1820s, the Augusta College Buildings at Augusta, Kentucky, are significant in being associated with one of the first Methodist colleges in the United States. Because two previously organized Methodist schools were in operation less than ten years, Augusta is considered to be the first established Methodist college in the United States. Augusta College also functioned as the only formal academic institution for the residents of Bracken and the surrounding counties for the first half of the nineteenth century. It was the only institution of higher learning in this part of the state.<sup>1</sup>

The establishment of an educational system in Kentucky can be said to have had its beginnings with an act passed in 1798. This act granted 6,000 acres of land for the founding of "seminaries." This system of funding lasted until about 1821. Of the 100 counties organized before 1850, 81 had one or more academies. The state constitutions of 1792 and 1799 made no provisions for public education. Although the first legislative act for true public education passed in 1870, taxes were not levied for the establishment of schools until 1904.

No study of education and methodism can be initiated without mention of John Wesley, an outstanding 18th century English educator. His greatest achievement was to arouse interest throughout England in making educational opportunities available to all people. Most of the early Methodists who came to America brought Wesley's convictions about education with them. Cokesbury College, established in Maryland in 1787, was destroyed by fire in 1795, and Bethel Academy, the first Methodist institution in Kentucky, established in 1792, closed for lack of funds in 1803.

In 1820 the Kentucky Conference of Methodists came into being with a total of 16,000 active church members throughout the state. The establishment of schools was a priority for the new conference. A committee was sent to Augusta to affect an agreement with the trustees of Bracken Academy (established in 1798). A merger took place and on December 7, 1822, Augusta College was chartered by the Kentucky Legislature. Martin Ruter of Massachusetts was known as "the forerunner of the modern Methodist educational program" and its acknowledged leader during the first third of the nineteenth century. He became Augusta's president in 1828, following the death of Reverend John P. Findley.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arnold, W. E. A History of Methodism in Kentucky. Vol. II. Louisville: Herald Press, 1936.
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- McVey, Frank L. The Gates Open Slowly. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1949.
- Rankins, Walter. Historic Augusta and Augusta College. No publisher given, 1949

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED** **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1/4 acre each

QUADRANGLE NAME Felicity Ohio- Kentucky

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>7,6,0</u>	<u>2,6,0</u>	<u>4,2,9,5</u>	<u>7,4,0</u>	B	<u>1,6</u>	<u>7,6,0</u>	<u>4,2,0</u>	<u>4,2,9,5</u>	<u>7,6,0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C						D					
E						F					
G						H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangular lot approximately 115 feet by 90 feet bounded on the north by Second St., and on the east by Bracken St. B- A rectangular lot approximately 125 feet by 95 feet bounded on the west by Frankfort St. and on the north and south by fences.

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

Jayne C. Henderson/Historian

July 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Kentucky Heritage Commission

502/564-3741

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

104 Bridge Street

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

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

*Cedric W. Tutton*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-20-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Ray Luce*

DATE

2/20/80

ATTEST:

*Justin O'Connell*

DATE

2/28/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Augusta College Historic Buildings

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

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The college's greatest source of investment income came from the Augusta Herald, a newspaper established by the school in 1825, and from the ferry rights in Augusta. Although all the revenue from the paper and the ferry went directly to the support of the college, it was not sufficient. Augusta was in dire financial straits from its inception. The panic of 1837 saw the wreck of many fortunes and institutions. Never adequately endowed, the school nevertheless set their fees at their lowest level to enable the poorer students to attend. Consequently, the college's resources were strained and salaries were reduced.<sup>2</sup>

By 1841 two crises culminated in a situation that would eventually result in the closing of the college. The problems involved the severe lack of funds and the controversy over slavery. With the Ohio River serving as somewhat the line between opposing factions, Augusta's location placed the school in the middle of the conflict. So acute was the problem that patronage to the school was affected and many professors went unpaid.

In 1842 the Kentucky Conference of Methodists withdrew their support of Augusta College in favor of controlling influence in Transylvania College in Lexington. Augusta was officially open under the control of the Ohio Conference until around 1849. At that time the ferry rights were sold and the Legislature repealed the school's charter.

<sup>1</sup>In the 18th and early 19th centuries, there was no formal division between secondary schools and higher educational institutions. Augusta College, therefore, functioned partially as what we term an "academy"

<sup>2</sup>During the ten years that Bascom served the college he was promised an annual salary ranging from \$700 to \$1,000. In actuality he never received one half that amount in cash. In 1839, the Kentucky Conference appointed a committee of seven to consider the problem.

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) 2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
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<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
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			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
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			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

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— VICINITY OF

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DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
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SPECIFIC DATES 1820s

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Kentucky

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DATE

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ATTEST:

*Justin O'Connell*

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