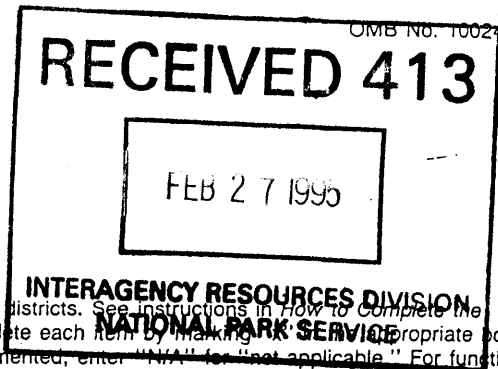


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Tilghman, Augusta, High School

other names/site number Walter C. Jetton Middle School/MCNP-121

2. Location

street & number 401 Walter Jetton Boulevard NA not for publication

city or town Paducah NA vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county McCracken code 145 zip code 42001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan
Signature of certifying official/Title Executive Director And State Historic Preservation Officer Date 2/16/95

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
State of 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 certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. 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): _____

for Signature of the Keeper Autumn Lee Date of Action 4/3/95

Augusta Tilghman High School

Name of Property

McCracken, Kentucky

County and State

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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
2	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: Secondary School

Recreation and Culture: Auditorium,
 Music Facility
 Sports Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Government Office

Recreation and Culture: Auditorium,
 Music Facility
 Sports Facility
 Concert Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement: Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Poured Concrete

walls Brick
 Sandstone

roof Wood, pitched roof with built up gravel

other

Narrative Description

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

Please see attached sheets

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

Property is:

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Ethnic Heritage--Black

Ethnic Heritage-Black

Period of Significance

1920-1956

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
NA

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wischmeyer, Nevin Henry (Architect)
Katterjohn, George (Builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Paducah Public Schools-School Board Offices

Augusta Tilghman High School

Name of Property

McCracken, Kentucky

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.97 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

UTM grid boxes for Zone, Easting, Northing (1, 2)

UTM grid boxes for Zone, Easting, Northing (3, 4)

See continuation sheet

Paducah East Quad

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca M. Goforth Intern

organization City of Paducah, Parks and Leisure Services date 8/25/94

street & number P.O. Box 7265, 1400 H.C. Mathis Drive telephone (502) 444-8536

city or town Paducah state KY zip code 42002-7265

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name

street & number telephone

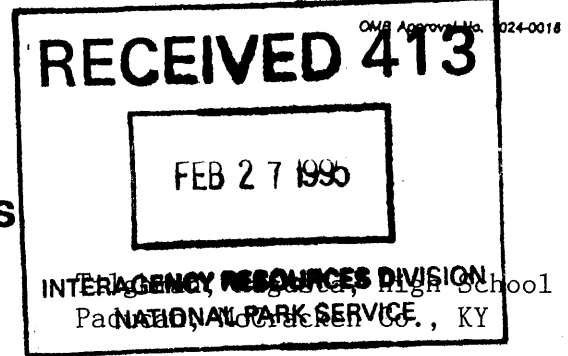
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



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Augusta Tilghman High School Paducah, Kentucky

Description

Augusta Tilghman High School, also referred to as Walter C. Jetton Middle School is a large, elongated two story structure located at 401 Walter Jetton Boulevard in Paducah, Kentucky. From the time of its construction in 1920, until 1980, it served as an educational facility for high school and middle school children. In mid-1980, educational instruction at the facility ceased and Walter C. Jetton School became host to a plethora of community activities and cultural events. Currently occupied by the Paducah Symphony, the Paducah Parks and Leisure Services Department, and the Paducah Board of Education, Jetton School remains closely tied to art and culture, recreation and the education of Paducah's children.

The structure of the building is faced with dark red textured brick. It is beautifully trimmed with carved sandstone. Details on the building are derived from classical motifs. This is especially notable in the main entrance, where onlookers are able to clearly observe a reference to the classical period. One can also observe reference to the field of education, as each side of the nameplate is accentuated with a lamp of knowledge. An overall design of the school, however, reveals a severe geometric Art Deco appearance, indicating a modern style.

Located on the first floor are numerous classrooms, including an old laboratory and a suite of offices. Today, the downstairs area is used for storage of old records and school supplies. The basement houses a storage area and laundry facilities. In addition, the basement includes a locker room and shower facilities which connect the main building to the gymnasium. An interesting point to note is that the basement was used as a fallout shelter during the period that the building was used as a high school. In the late 1980's two sections of the basement were sealed off from the gymnasium lobby area. The reason for the action was for safety purposes--to keep the public from roaming into the remainder of the building. Upstairs, viewers can observe many other classrooms, a library, and a large meeting room. The library is separated from the classroom area and connected by a hallway. Complementing the hallway are a series of small, rounded windows. The library has an impressive display of modern architecture. Elegant columns line the walls and magnificently carved bookshelves fill the room.

An auditorium and a gymnasium compliment the building. The auditorium, currently serving as the symphony hall, seats eleven-hundred people. It includes a balcony and a ground floor. Beneath the stage area there are seven practice rooms which range from solo to ensemble size. The practice rooms adjoin a rehearsal room which has a traditional "layered" design to allow for a balanced sound. Within the auditorium each chair and column are brilliantly carved to match the style of the entire structure. Today, the auditorium is home to not only the Paducah Symphony Orchestra but also to a number of community activities such as drama events and dance recitals.

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Tilghman, Augusta, High School
Paducah, McCracken Co., KY

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The gymnasium seats approximately sixteen-hundred people. The design of the structure is an excellent example of a finely constructed gymnasium of the 1920's. Spectators are seated above the floor around three sides for a better view. The floor itself is hardwood and was repainted in 1989 for the filming of the movie, "In Country." Under the floor are storage facilities and a hallway which connect the gymnasium to the school building through a locker room. Today, the gymnasium is used by nearly 80,000 people a year. It is home to a number of programs sponsored by the Paducah Parks and Leisure Services Department. Children and adults alike are still able to enjoy the athletic splendor of this building year round.

When Walter C. Jetton Middle closed its doors in 1981, the Paducah School Board decided to sustain occupation of the building by locating its administrative offices in the school. An annex was attached to the rear of the building adjacent to the auditorium. The annex is constructed of brick which bears a close resemblance to that of the main building. Because the annex is located in the rear of the building and is similar in construction, it does not alter the appearance of Jetton School in any significant way. In addition to the annex, a small detached structure housing a teacher resource center and vehicle maintenance facilities lies adjacent to the building. The small building also matches the school in brick color and form and does not detract from the appearance of Walter C. Jetton Middle School.

Two years after the completion of the original structure, an athletic stadium was erected behind the school. It was named after Paducah native John W. Keiler in appreciation of his monetary contribution toward its completion. Today, the field and stadium are used by the Paducah Parks and Leisure Services Department for youth sports activities and by the Paducah Tilghman High School for year round soccer play. In addition, community members frequently use the facility for individual sports activities.

INTEGRITY CONSIDERATIONS

Deterioration of the athletic field is minimal as the field has been operational since the time of its completion. The auditorium has suffered a bit more damage. It has a fair amount of deterioration to its roof due to hard winters and rainfall. The gymnasium has an extensive amount of roof damage also due to the weather. Vandalism has plagued the gymnasium from time to time also. However, the extent of the damage does not appear to have gone beyond broken window panes and the like.

The deterioration of the main building is the most extensive of all the areas. A roof plagued by rough weather conditions has contributed to buckled floors and badly damaged ceilings. Although the building is intact and presents no danger to visitors, neglect has caused the structure to deteriorate to a certain extent. The deterioration of the structure does not take away from its historical significance. Onlookers can still view the structure as it existed so many years ago.

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Tilghman, Augusta, High School
Paducah, McCracken Co., KY

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The setting of Jetton remains historically similar to that of 1920. The school is located within the city and is surrounded by numerous residences. It is just a few blocks from the hub of city government as it lies just a short distance from city hall, the courthouse and the chamber of commerce. The building is visible from the road and is accessible from both sides. With the exception of obvious instances of increased population and completion of a retirement center adjacent to the school, the setting remains comparable to the time of Jetton's construction.

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Continuation SheetTilghman, Augusta, High School
Paducah, McCracken Co., KYSection number 8 Page 1

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Augusta Tilghman High School meets National Register Criterion A and Criteria Consideration G. The building is significant within contexts of Women's and Black history. The Augusta Tilghman High School, also referred to as Walter C. Jetton Middle School is historically significant. Its construction represents a successful effort on the part of woman suffragists to organize the women's vote in support of building an educational facility in the first election since the ratification of the nineteenth amendment in 1920. It also symbolizes a period in American History in which segregation played a haunting role within our school systems. Both Augusta Tilghman High and Walter C. Jetton Middle School educated only white students prior to 1954, the year the court handed down the landmark case of **Brown v. Board of Education**. Augusta Tilghman High School serves to remind us of the mistakes people made in the past--the court ruled that segregation in the school system was wrong. It also stressed that the idea of "separate but equal" was unacceptable in America's school systems. Augusta Tilghman is the only remaining school in Paducah which, for the entire term of its operation, still educated a segregated population of students until forced by law to change. History is preserved and learned only by protecting those things which epitomize symbolic events, times and movements. The woman's suffrage movement and the black struggle for integrated school systems are two of the most important movements in the history of modern America. It is with this thought in mind that this author moves to designate Augusta Tilghman High School a historical landmark in recognition of its representation of two pivotal times in United States History.

HISTORIC CONTEXT: Political Activity of Women in Paducah During the 1920s

In 1852, General Lloyd Tilghman traveled to Paducah, Kentucky to supervise the construction of New Orleans and Ohio Railroads. Tilghman and his wife, Augusta Murray Boyd Tilghman, raised their two sons, Sidell and Frederick in this small Western Kentucky town. Tilghman and family moved south in the early 1860's but their hometown in Kentucky was certainly not forgotten by any member of this distinguished family. In 1862, General Lloyd Tilghman became the first United States General to surrender to U.S. Grant at Fort Henry. He was killed soon after at Champions Hill near Vicksburg. In 1919, General Lloyd Tilghman was honored by the city of Paducah for the contributions of his family at a dedication of a statue located on Fountain Avenue in downtown Paducah. The Tilghman children took this occasion to announce that they would purchase and donate land in the city if the city would build a high school named for their mother Augusta, hence the name Augusta Tilghman High School.

Members of the Paducah School Board had an important agenda on the night of October 8, 1919. A new school was needed for white children. In addition, improvements were needed in several of the existing facilities including the three colored schools; Franklin, Garfield, and Lincoln. Franklin Elementary School was located on Sixth Street in Paducah. Garfield Elementary School, built in 1894, was located at the corner of Ninth and Harris Streets in Paducah. Lincoln Middle and High School, built in 1894 was also located in downtown Paducah. Board members voted to construct two new high schools, one for white children and also one for colored children. With news of the land gift from Sidell and Frederick Tilghman, the Board moved expeditiously to start both projects.

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However, there was one condition for receiving the Tilghman gift--the gift was contingent upon the passing and ratification of the School Bond Issue. The School Bond issue allowed for the implementation of a "better schools" program. It included the acquisition of funds to be used, among other things, to erect a building such as a new high school. The issue passed on November 4, 1919 and only lacked ratification by the vote of each city.

The 1919 School Bond Issue was controversial topic among the citizens of Paducah, Kentucky. Many voters did not understand the specifications of the program. In addition, a great deal of the citizens did not grasp the implications of the bill's passage. Ultimately, these citizens of varying opinions were united by an unexpected group of political activists--the woman of Paducah.

Congress gave women the vote on August 16, 1920 with the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. But even before the passage of this monumental law, women had become a major political force in this small town. Since the passage of the school bond issue in the Fall of 1919, women had seen the opportunity for their united voices to be heard. They felt strongly about the education of their children and used their newly granted civil liberties to ensure that the bond issue would be understood and adopted. Women in Paducah played a significant role in the ratification of the school bond issue in Paducah, Kentucky in 1920. Although it was only their first election, they constituted forty-six percent of the vote.

The election was a tremendous success. It demonstrated that this newly formed constituency had the potential to be extremely effective in organizing voters in major issues that were often surrounded by a great deal of controversy. This was a great display courage, integrity and power on the part of the women of Paducah, Kentucky and also on behalf of the women of the United States of America.

The School Bond Issue allowed interested persons to sell bonds to fund the construction of Augusta Tilghman High School. Through the efforts of one courageous women named Mrs. Elbridge Palmer, approximately \$150,000 was donated to erect the new high school. In addition a field and stadium were erected through the careful planning and fearless efforts of Paducah's women. Augusta Tilghman High School was completed in 1921 and joined the new Lincoln High School which had been finished a short time earlier. This effort on the part of women once again displayed the power of women as political motivators. During a time of political uncertainty on the part of women as political motivators, women in Paducah, Kentucky displayed a vigor and aggressiveness toward political activism and political participation. Their efforts on behalf of the School Bond Issue and the raising of funds for the construction of Augusta Tilghman High School were not only memorable, they serve as a tribute to the countless fighters for woman's suffrage--women such as Alice Paul, Carrie Catt and Susan B. Anthony. Augusta Tilghman High School represents their accomplishments, it exemplifies an incomparable moment in American History.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT: Black Education in Paducah, 1920-1956

Another group of people who identify with Augusta Tilghman High School is the African American population in Paducah. From its construction in 1921 until 1956, the first year of integration in Paducah Public Schools, Augusta Tilghman still enrolled only white students.

Prior to 1956, the first year of integration in Paducah, schools were still completely segregated. White students attended Augusta Tilghman High School, Washington Junior High School, or one of eight elementary schools. Black students attended Lincoln High/Middle School, Lincoln Elementary School (the old Lincoln High), Garfield Elementary, Sanders Elementary or Dunbar Elementary. Sanders and Dunbar existed in the years between 1921 and 1956. Voluntary integration began in 1956.

In 1956, Paducah Tilghman High School was completed. Augusta Tilghman High School was renamed Walter C. Jetton Middle School. Jetton was named after long time educator and civic leader, Walter C. Jetton. Jetton served as principal of Augusta Tilghman High School from 1922-55,

The thirty-five year era of segregation in Paducah ended in 1956. A chapter in history had closed. People could no longer be treated in a "separate but equal" manner. Hundreds of years of oppression and violence climaxed with a proclamation that everyone has the right to be treated equally in the school system no matter what the color, race or sex. Augusta Tilghman High School lies in the crossfire of the black struggle for equal treatment in education, as it is the only school standing in Paducah that still educated only white students for the entire term of its existence. Augusta Tilghman High School reminds us of that unequal treatment merely by its existence--no black school remains standing in decent condition while this single remaining all white school has been kept in good condition. Ironically, the only black school that is physically standing, though it has long been condemned, is Lincoln High School built at the same time as Augusta Tilghman High School.

For blacks, Augusta Tilghman is a reminder of the conditions that they fought against for so many years. For whites, Augusta Tilghman is a reminder of the mistakes of the past. To allow this building to deteriorate or go unrecognized would be tragic. Just as we need to remember the past, we must also learn from the past by protecting and recognizing those things that symbolize important times and events within the rich history of our great nation.

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Continuation Sheet**

Tilghman, Augusta, High School
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Section number 9/10 Page 1

Bibliography

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Fairhurst, Richard E. "Paducah Public Schools."

Fairhurst, Richard E. "Walter C. Jetton." Robertson, John E.L. Paducah: A Pictorial History.
G. Bradley Publishing, Inc. St. Louis, Missouri, 1988.

Paducah Public Schools, minutes of school board meetings--October 8, 1919.

Newman, Fred G. Story of Paducah. Young Printing Company, Paducah, Kentucky, 1920.

Wells, Camille. Architecture of Paducah and McCracken County. Society for the Preservation
of Paducah, Kentucky, 1981.

Whiteside, E.B. "History of Lincoln High School" Paducah, Kentucky.

Whiteside, E.B. "Origin of the Public Schools for Negroes in Paducah, Kentucky."

Verbal boundary description

Book 2, Page 18, Parcel 9, City of Paducah Property Records.

Verbal boundary justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the community hall.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000300 Date Listed:

Augusta Tilghman High School
Property Name

McCracken County KY State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for *Robert A. Allen*
Signature of the Keeper

4/3/95
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Description: The Architectural Classification is amended to read: Late Gothic Revival: Collegiate Gothic. "Modern Movement: Art Deco" is removed.

This information was confirmed with Marty Perry of the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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National Park Service

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Tilghman, Augusta, High School
Paducah, McCracken Co., KY

Section number Photos Page 1

Photograph Identification Sheet

Same information for all photographs:

Property: Augusta Tilghman High School
Location: 401 Walter Jetton Blvd., Paducah, McCracken Co., KY
Photographer: Rebecca M. Goforth
Date of Photograph: 1994
Location of Neg.: City of Paducah, Parks and Leisure Services Department

Specific information per photograph:

Photo 1 view to South, northeast (main) facade
Photo 2 view to South, secondary entrance on northeast facade
Photo 3 view to West, northeast (main) entrance
Photo 4 view to Southwest, northwest (side) facade