

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUN 5 1985  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Union Central School

and or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number Route 3 (Union Central Road) N/A not for publication

city, town Milan X vicinity of

state Tennessee code 047 county Gibson code 053

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community center

**4. Owner of Property**

name Union Central Community Club Incorporated

street & number Route #3 (Union Central Road)

city, town Milan X vicinity of state Tennessee 38358

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number Gibson County Courthouse

city, town Trenton state Tennessee 38382

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date N/A N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Located on the Union Central Road approximately three miles north of Milan (pop. 8,135), Tennessee, the Union Central School is a two story double walled red sand brick building. Constructed in the Summer of 1914, the school is roughly square in shape, fifty feet wide and sixty feet long. Fenestration on the hipped roof school is comprised of multi-pane windows with segmental rowlock arch lintels. Three wood outbuildings are included on the nominated property. The interior and exterior of the Union Central School have remained relatively unchanged. The school has retained much of its architectural integrity.

The south (front) facade is four bays wide with a paneled double door located near the center of the first story. Four windows with segmental rowlock arch brick lintels and brick sills are located on the second story and three windows are found on the first story. Originally all windows were 6/6 double hung sash windows but some are now 1/6 double hung sash windows or have been boarded over. The main door is capped by a transom window and a brick lintel. Wood braces support the shed roof porch over the main door. A projecting brick stringcourse is located beneath the second story windows.

The east and west facades of the school are symmetrically designed with six bays of windows on each story. These windows are identical to those on the south facade although many are now 1/6 double hung sash windows or have been boarded over. The second story stringcourse is contiguous along these sides and the north side of the school. The north facade is delineated by four bays of the same multi-pane windows that are found on the other facades. The first story has only two windows but two entries are located at this level. The paneled wood doors are surmounted by segmental arch brick lintels.

Interior walls are plastered and have beaded wainscoting and wood chair rails. The inside doors are paneled and have plain surrounds. Three classrooms, a large entrance hall (once used as a cloakroom) and the original staircase are located on the first story. The second story is an open area with an elevated stage and dressing rooms. Few interior alterations have occurred. Only one wall was cut through and the first story floors were replaced.

The school is located on a flat lot and surrounded by large (mainly pine) trees with no shrubbery located near the building. A circular gravel drive leads to the school from the road. Two small wood privies and a wood coal shed are located on the nominated property as is a new concrete outbuilding. A horse shed, pump house, music building and teachers' house once stood on the property but are now non-extant.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input 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–	<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** 1914–1935 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Union Central School is being nominated under National Register criterion A for its significance in the educational history of the rural area north of Milan, Tennessee. Constructed in the summer of 1914, the school resulted from the consolidation of two small rural schools. By consolidating, the larger school could provide a more comprehensive education and improved facilities for students in the surrounding rural area. The Union Central School has undergone few alterations and has retained much of its historical and architectural integrity.

Like many other rural areas of Tennessee in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the area north of Milan, Tennessee had two small one room, one teacher schools. One was located in Oakwood, Tennessee and the other in Cades, Tennessee. Alvin Hassell, the Gibson County State Representative, and Curt Horton, a member of the Gibson County School Board, saw the need to consolidate the two schools. Under their impetus the County School Board purchased 7 4/5 acres of land and began construction of a new school. The name Union Central School originated from combining the names of the two small schools.

The Union Central School was constructed using local labor. Although no document has been found which records a building architect, it is probable that the design was a combined effort of the men of the community including two local brick masons, Raymond and Herman Creswell. Their father Jim Creswell owned and operated a brick yard in Milan. The sand for the mortor and plaster was hauled from a field off Gillion's lease, three miles away, by wagon and mule teams. Robert Seats was employed to do the plaster work. He boarded with one of the families of the community while he did the work. The bricks used to construct the school were hauled by local wagon and mule teams, a distance of three miles. The second story of the school was not completed until 1915.

The first classes were held at the school in November, 1914. The new school usually contained students in grades one through eight but at one time housed students from grades one through eleven. Students came to Union Central School from the nearby communities of Concord, Salem, Davidson Chapel, Gann, and Moore's Chapel. A large barn (non-extant) was constructed to hold the horses and buggies of the students. The largest total enrollment in the school was sixty-five students. Classes were held here until 1954 when improved roads and school busses brought students into Milan for classes.

In 1955, the school and land was purchased by the Union Central Community Club for use as a community center. Since then the club has sold off almost five acres of land and residences are now located on either side of the school. Still used as a community center, the Union Central School is an historically significant representation of a regional school in rural West Tennessee.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Gibson County Tennessee Sesquicentennial. 1973.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 3 acres

Quadrangle name Milan, Tennessee

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>339100</u>	<u>3981350</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is approximately three acres in size and rectangular in shape. It is bounded on the south by Union Central Road and on the north, west and east by adjacent property lines. The boundary includes enough land to protect the historical setting and architectural integrity of the Union Central School.

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>	county	<u>N/A</u>	code	<u>N/A</u>

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Mattie Ruth Mayo</u>		
organization	<u>Union Central Community Club</u>	date	<u>March 8, 1985</u>
street & number	<u>Route 3, Box 575 A</u>	telephone	<u>(901) 686-1997</u>
city or town	<u>Milan</u>	state	<u>Tennessee 38358</u>

# 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.

Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hoyer

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission date 5/20/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

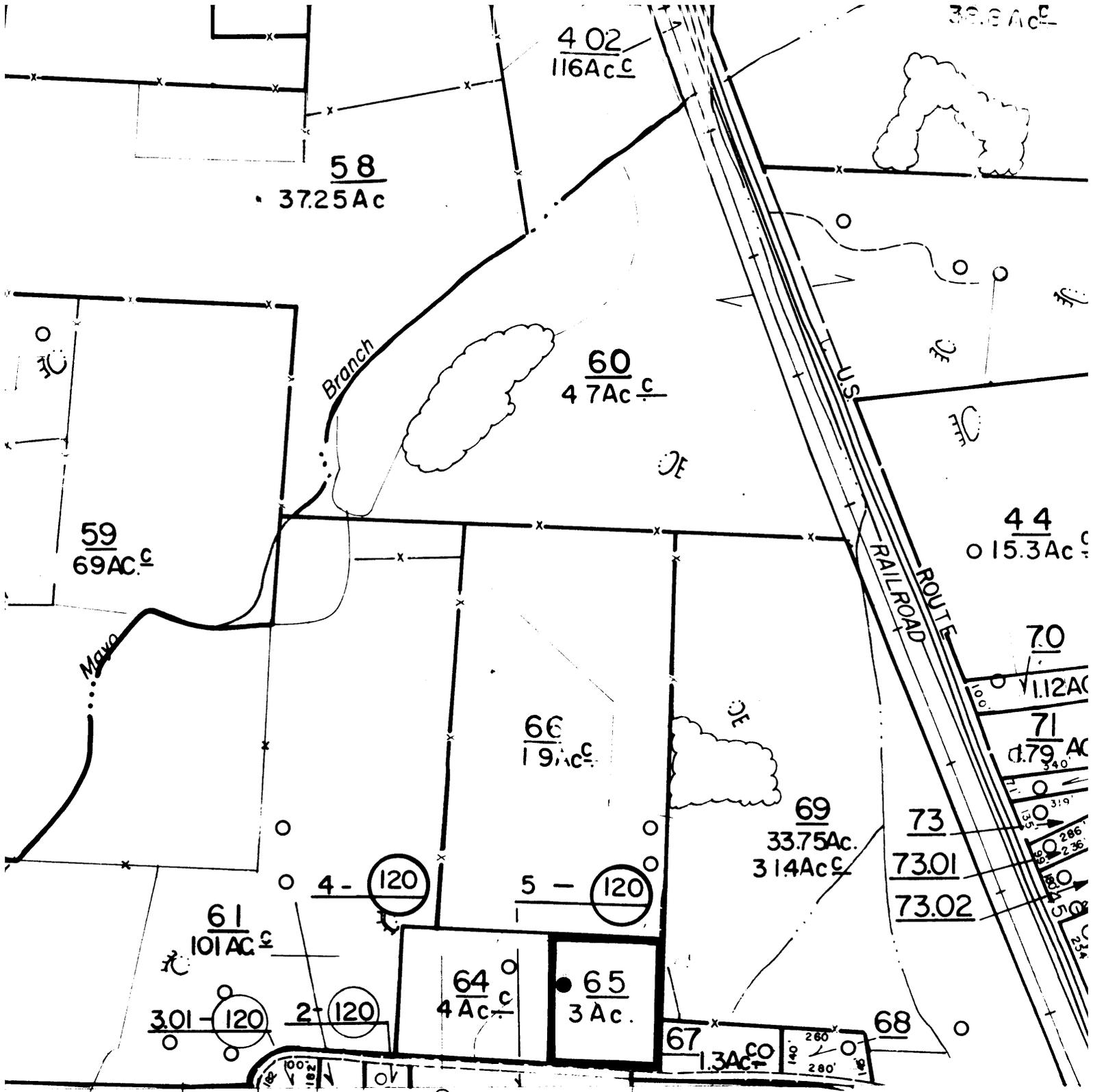
John A. Brown  
Keeper of the National Register

date 7-5-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



E 1,176,000

Union Central School  
 Route 3  
 Milan vicinity, Gibson County, Tennessee



PREPARED BY  
**L. ROBERT KIMBALL**  
*Consulting Engineers*

T  
 Tax Map 1" = 400'

EBENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA.