

### Historic Resources of Hardin County

Historic Name: Richardson Hotel (HD-172)      Classification: Building  
Common Name: Richardson Hotel

Owner: White Mills Christian Assembly, Box 12, White Mills, KY 42788.

Location: Dead Man's Cave Road, White Mills, KY.

<u>Contributing:</u>		<u>Non-Contributing:</u>	
Buildings	1	Buildings	0
Structures	0	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
<u>Total:</u>	1	<u>Total:</u>	0

Description:

The Richardson Hotel is a two-story frame central passage plan commercial building constructed in 1907. The building was constructed in an ell plan with the main block containing the lobby and hotel rooms and the two-story ell containing rooms and the dining hall. On the main facade of the building is an original two-story porch with square posts and simple square balusters in the railing. The main entrance contains original double doors and two-light transom. Windows are two-over-two sash with simple frame cornices. The building has a gable roof of composition shingles. The exterior weatherboard has recently been covered with metal siding. At the rear of the building are several mid-20th century one-story additions. The interior of the hotel retains its original lobby and dining room, a staircase with square newel posts and balusters, tongue and groove ceilings and two paneled doors. There are no significant outbuildings.

Period of Significance: 1907-ca. 1940

Area of Significance: Commerce

Criterion: A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Richardson Hotel is notable for its role in the early 20th century resort era of Whites Mill. White Mills was a small community built around the mill on the Nolin River until the early 1900s. Dr. Hayward Richardson saw the possibilities of the site as a resort area and he had this two-story frame hotel built in 1907. The hotel was designed in a central passage plan with a large two-story porch typical of frame rural hotel architecture of the period. The hotel was the center of the community in the village's heyday from 1907 until the late 1930s. Tourists and vacationers came here in the summer to enjoy swimming in the river, exploring caves, boating and other activities. The hotel was well known for its food and had an elaborate electric light system with light generated by Whites Mill. Since its construction the only major alteration on the main facade has been the application of metal siding. Rear additions are not readily visible from the main facade. In 1947 the decline in visitation caused the sale of the

building and in 1949 it was purchased by the Christian Assembly as the site for a summer camp which is still its use. The building is an important reminder of the resort era of White Mills.

Acreage: 2.5 acres

UTM References: Summit Quad 16/585590/4156656

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary for the Richardson Hotel is illustrated in the accompanying Hardin County property tax map 108, lot 37, and is defined by the legal property boundary. The boundary includes the hotel and property sufficient to protect the historical setting of the site.

SEE MAP 107

DEA

SEE MAP 90

PARCEL 32

HD -172, Richardson Hotel  
Property Location  
Tax Map 108  
Lot 37  
1" = 400'

