United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property		
historic name Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Inc.	rease)
other names/site numberRW	M-5	
Related Multiple Property NA		
2. Location		
street & number 205 East Main Street		NA not for publication
city or town Morehead		NA vicinity
A STATE OF THE STATE OF THE STATE OF	unty Rowan code 205	zip code 40351
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
for registering properties in the National Register requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does be considered significant at the following level(s) anational statewide X local Applicable National Register Criteria: XA B C Signature of certifying official/Tilye Craig Potts/SHPO Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Presidence of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	es not meet the National Register Criteria) of significance: al D /-/3-17 Date reservation Office	
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the	ne National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official	Date	
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
4. National Park Service Certification		
I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register determined not eligible for the National Register volter (explain)	determined eligible for the National	
In fully	3-13-2017	
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action	

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase) Rowan County, Kentucky County and State Name of Property 5. Classification **Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.) (Check only one box.) (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) Contributing Noncontributing private building(s) buildings public - Local district district public - State site 1 site public - Federal structure structure object object 2 1 **Total** Name of related multiple property listing Number of contributing resources previously (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing) listed in the National Register 1 (courthouse) NA 6. Function or Use **Historic Functions Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.) (Enter categories from instructions.) **RECREATIONAL AND CULTURE - Rowan GOVERNMENT - County Courthouse** County Arts Center **GOVERNMENT - County Jail** RECREATIONAL AND CULTURE - Rowan **EDUCATION - County School** Superintendent Office County Veteran Museum 7. Description **Architectural Classification Materials** (Enter categories from instructions.) 19^{TH/} EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS – Commercial Style foundation: walls: Brick, Limestone, Granite roof: other:

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

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Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Rowan County Courthouse (RWM-5) was placed on the National Register in 1983 on a parcel measuring 200' x 200' (NRIS 83002862). It is located in the center of the commercial district of the small Kentucky town of Morehead (1980 pop. 7,789) in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains. The building is situated on a downtown square which is the prominent site of the commercial district. The listing placed an acreage on the National Register which is less than the entire square. The square measures 220' along East Main and Second Streets, and 265' along Battson-Oates Drive and Normal Avenue. On a strip of the courthouse square, west of the courthouse, are two buildings, for which this documentation is being prepared. They are the former county jail and the former school superintendent's building. Both buildings were built in the 1930s by financial support by New Deal programs, making them slightly less than 50 years of age when the courthouse was placed on the National Register. The listing of the courthouse excluded the small strip of land on which these two buildings stand. This documentation seeks to add that land to the listing, so that the entire square will be on the National Register, and these two buildings will contribute to the property. A freedom memorial was recently completed in the southern corner of the square, honoring those fallen in war; this is counted as the non-contributing site.

This documentation will not describe the courthouse or the square; they are described in the 1983 nomination. The courthouse was renovated in 2005 and renamed the Rowan County Arts Center, which community members are determined to preserve. The building functions as a regional performing arts center, offers spaces for rent to artists who create and display various forms of art, and provides tourist information.



Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

The courthouse square is not oriented to the cardinal directions, but is rotated nearly 45° off of north. East Second Street runs from southwest to northeast, and Normal Avenue runs northwest to southeast. The four sides of the former jail building are parallel to these roads.

The former jail building is the larger of the two buildings in this nomination. It is situated on the old courthouse square near the corner of Normal Avenue and East Second Street. It is located on the proposed boundary increase behind the old Rowan County Courthouse, now named the Rowan County Arts Center. The two-story structure replaced a wooden building which could not properly secure the inmates. The structure had seven holding cells for housing twenty or so inmates. Older citizens of the community spoke of the ease of escaping the earlier jail. Living quarters were provided in that building for the jailer and his family within the jail building. The meals were prepared by the jailer or his wife.

The 1930s jail is constructed of rusticated limestone, which was supplied by the local quarry, located at Rockville, a small community near Farmers in Rowan County. The outside dimensions are 46 feet by 36 feet. The foundation is a solid concrete slab and footer. The roof is a flat roof composed of layers of bituminous coating, with a crenelated cornice. The windows of the original structure were 1-over-1-light double-hung sash windows with stone lintels at the top and bottom. Sometime after the construction, all of the first floor windows and two doors were closed with the same stone. Left open were four windows on the southeast façade (front) second floor next to the courthouse and one second floor window on the opposite side (northwest facade). One could only think they were closed when the facility operated as a jail.



Southeast face



Southwest face



Northwest face



Northeast face

The jail is being made ready for use by the Rowan County Arts Center for artists working in the "dirty arts" such as pottery, wood working and metal sculpture. These arts require processes which would not be possible in the

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

old courthouse building due to fire hazard. Pottery requires a kiln, wood working creates sawdust and metal sculpture requires gas torches and grinding all which are great fire hazards to a wooden building such as our old courthouse. The old jail has very little wood in its structure and will work very well for these "dirty arts". There will also be more instructional and teaching rooms for classes Non-historic ramps and stairs have been added to the building to enable safer entry and exit from the structure.



Historic image of jail

Description of the former school superintendent's building

The former school superintendent's building is situated on the old courthouse square near the corner of Battson Oates Drive and East Second Street. It is located on the requested boundary increase behind the old Rowan County Courthouse, now named the Rowan County Arts Center. The Rowan County School Board superintendent and the supporting personnel occupied the building from 1935 until 2005 when it was abandoned and returned to the Rowan County Fiscal Court for their use as provided in the original deed. The Veteran's Foundation erected and maintain Freedom Park which is a memorial built in remembrance of all Rowan County veterans who served from the Spanish American War in 1898 to the most recent war in Afghanistan.

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

The superintendent's building is a single floor with a full basement. It is constructed of rusticated limestone which was supplied by the local quarry located at Rockville, a small community near Farmers in Rowan County. The outside dimensions are 42 foot by 38 foot. The roof is a full hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. A new metal roof was installed in the spring of 2016. The windows are the original 9-over-9-light double-hung sash windows, 2.5'x 4.5' in size. The first floor was divided into a reception area and five offices. The basement was used as a break area and for record storage.





Southwest façade



Northwest facade



Northeast façade

Southeast facade

Changes to the listing since the Period of Significance

The latest addition to the Old Courthouse Square is the Freedom Park Veterans Memorial. Built in 2005, the memorial lists the names of all Rowan County military enlistees and their years of service beginning with the Spanish American War. The Veterans Memorial Committee has added two more wings since the original construction.

In the project of rehabilitating the former courthouse, the building retained its original exterior with improvements to conform to energy efficiency. Windows were replaced with double glazed units and the heating and cooling system were replaced energy efficient systems. Interior stairs both front and rear were installed to allow better access to all three floors. The building was made handicapped accessible by installing an elevator which serviced all three floors. A handicapped access entrance was installed at the rear entrance to the building by adding an access ramp and an automatic door opener.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

The renovation also re-installed the bell tower which was removed in the 1950's. The new bell tower is not as tall as the original but it brings back the appearance and appeal of the original structure. The original bell had been relegated to a pedestal on the square, has been returned to its rightful place in the new bell tower and is functional.

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

8. Sta	tement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)
XA	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Government
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
С	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	artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance 1856-1943
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates 1899, 1937, 1938
	ria Considerations x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person
Prope	rty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	NA
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
c	a birthplace or grave.	NA
D	a cemetery.	·
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder
F	a commemorative property.	Unknown
	less than 50 years old or achieving significance	

Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

The Period of Significance is 1899-1991, which begins with the time the buildings were erected and ends at the close of the governmental use of the buildings.

Criteria Considerations NA

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

Statement of Significance

The Rowan County Courthouse (RWM-5) located on the old courthouse square meets criterion A and is significant in the area of Politics and Government. The Rowan County Fiscal Court moved from this structure about 1981 thus ending the term of governmental use. In 2005, the old courthouse was remodeled and renamed the Rowan County Arts Center. This additional documentation project provides a basis for the significance of two buildings on the courthouse square, the former jail and the former superintendent of school's office. The text below provides an argument for their significance beyond the simple view that they were significant for their function and service to the county. The historic context, New Deal-era Relief Programs in Rowan County, Kentucky, 1933-1942, provides a focus through which to gauge the importance of these two buildings which led to their construction. The economic relief projects funded by the New Deal-era federal agencies supported an unprecedented amount of construction in the public sector. Due to the nature of the economic disaster that plagued the nation, it is unlikely that the majority of the construction projects would have been undertaken, especially in the rural areas, without this influx of federal money (Smith and David, Stone Voting Houses nomination).

Historic Context: New Deal-era Relief Programs in Rowan County, Kentucky, 1933-1942

Research Design

The source of the information below were two National Register of Historic Places nomination. One, the Rowan County, Kentucky WPA Stone Voting Houses, was completed by Christa Smith and Lynn David, then employees of Morehead State University, 1997. The other is *The New Deal Builds: A Historic Context of the New Deal in East Kentucky*, 1933 to 1943, a publication by the Kentucky Heritage Council, June 2005.

Findings

The work accomplished by the WPA in Kentucky was extensive and meaningful. For example, from July 1935 to January 1938, the WPA was responsible for 90 new athletic fields, 320 new bridges, 310 new schools, 173 new libraries, nearly 60,000 miles of new roadway, and 116 miles of new sidewalk, 20 swimming pools, and 46,528 hours of study each month for city traffic surveys statewide (Kentucky City April 1938, 7). While there were WPA sewing projects, art projects, and writing projects, the majority of work in Kentucky concentrated on public construction projects, as was the case across the country. At least 75 percent of the WPA money spent was for the construction of roads, public buildings, parks, and infrastructure. By 1938, over \$56 million had been expended in federal funds with an additional \$13,807,414 approved, but not yet spent (Kentucky City April 1938, 7).

The General idea behind the WPA was to put as many people to work as possible. The program funded useful projects which were designed to assure maximum employment opportunities in all localities. The enterprises the agency undertook were very labor-intensive. With the great availability and affordability of manpower, projects were planned so as to cut material costs. As a result, public buildings, schools, municipal or other government structures were often constructed using locally-quarried native stone (Brent, 1991). Additionally, all construction projects had to be publicly owned and had to contribute to the overall public good (Smith and David).

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

On September 5, 1935 Rowan County Judge Charles E. Jennings requested over \$400,000 for WPA work. Projects included the construction of five farm-to-market roads, three public schools, the jail, the school superintendent's office, and seventeen voting houses. The funded road projects required 650 men, the public schools approximately 200 men, the voting houses 18 men and an estimated 40 to 50 men for the jail and the superintendent's office. These laborers all came off the relief rolls (The Morehead News, 1980).

By late 1939, the WPA had spent \$570,000 in Rowan County, nearly 38% of the total for New Deal agencies in the county. The Morehead Independent put it in human terms by stating that nearly three quarters of all Rowan County men "received subsistence employment under the WPA. Without such aid there would have been starvation" (The Morehead Independent, 1941).

Evaluation of the Significance of the Jail and the Superintendent's Office within the context of New Deal Era Relief Programs in Rowan County, Kentucky, 1933-1942

In this historical context, these publicly-owned structures were built to fill a need or function in a given community. The jail was needed to replace a dysfunctional structure that could not properly secure its prisoners. The school board superintendent's office was needed to provide a central location of administration and supervision for the many schools which served the county in the 1920s and 1930s. The people of our community deemed these projects worthy and essential to the operation of county government and education.

The architecture of both buildings is functional or institutional with little ornamentation. The materials used in the construction were deliberately chosen and were an integral part of the projects. They were constructed of native quarried stone and were built as a rectangular pen. Their plainness demonstrates the economic conditions during the era they were built, and suggests that the community accepted these buildings despite their lack of applied decoration. Such straight-forward design became a hallmark of much construction during the New Deal era.

The centralized location of these structures afforded the citizens equal access to the services necessary for their need or function. The jail was used until 1991 and the school superintendent's office was returned to the ownership of the Rowan County Fiscal Court in 2005.

Evaluation of the Integrity between the significance of the Jail and the Superintendent's Office and the current physical condition of the buildings today.

The historic Jail and Superintendent's Office were evaluated for their ability to be able to convey the significance of the larger courthouse site. That property gives messages about the importance of county government in the lives of people in the area. The construction of these two buildings in the 1930s announced that the county's roles of justice and keeping the peace, as well as the role in education, were important activities, and worthy of being located on the grounds of the building. The integrity between these two buildings' significance, and their physical condition today, is strong. These buildings must have integrity of location, setting, design, materials to be able to support the integrity of association which will make them eligible for the National Register. Those integrity factors are evaluated below.

The historic Jail and Superintendent's Office have integrity of **location**. They have been on the courthouse site since their construction in the 1930s, and remain there today. The jail had been located on this site prior to the current building's construction. With the county placing its jail function on the courthouse lawn, the location

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

became identified with the power and justice of county government. Likewise, the Superintendent's Office coming to take residence on the courthouse lawn recognizes the rising power of the local education system, which often was the largest employer in a rural Kentucky county.

The historic Jail and Superintendent's Office have integrity of **setting**. The courthouse setting has remained the same since the 1930s, when these two buildings began to inhabit the space. The buildings within the site's sertting, and not landscaping, gives the primary message of the site: about the seriousness of county government.

The historic Jail and Superintendent's Office have integrity of **materials**. Both buildings have most of their historic materials. Their stone walls give evidence of their construction during the New Deal era, as that local building material was used on many institutional buildings built with federal assistance. The materials are important for transmitting the message of local government's strength.

The historic Jail and Superintendent's Office have integrity of **design**. These buildings also retain much of their historic design. The main changes have been at their entry points, where new stairways and wheelchair access has been added. These changes have been compatible with the design of the building. The new construction added to the building has been functional, not calling attention to itself. The buildings, as well, have a rather subdued design, conveying the message of practicality which was a high value for a government depending upon tax dollars during the Great Depression. Citizens in rural counties rarely wished for their governments to engage in showy displays of architectural finery when building with New Deal programs. This design sobriety was called for, as government construction was funded by the tax payers themselves, whether through local or federal taxes. With so many people experiencing economic hardship, local officials were constrained from choosing more elaborate designs. The simplicity of the Jail and the Superintendent's Office continues to be well evident.

Because the historic Jail and Superintendent's Office have integrity of location, setting, design, and materials, they can be said to have integrity of **association**. With integrity of association, it becomes eligible for National Register listing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

The Big Sandy Valley, William Ely, 1887

Morehead Independent, 1941

Rowan County News, Centennial Edition, May 10, 1956

The Kentucky Encyclopedia, John E. Kleber, 1992

Morehead Memories, Jack D. Ellis, 2001

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase) Name of Property		Rowan County, Kentucky County and State
Days of Anger, Days of Tears, Fred Brown and Juanita I	Blair, 1980	
Smith, Christa and Lynn David1997 Rowan County Stone Voting Houses MPS, Nation Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort Kentucky.	_	nation form. Copy available at the
The Tolliver – Martin Feud, William T. Tolliver and Em	nma L. Tolliver, 200	06
Sanborn Maps, 1908 and 1914, University of Kentucky	Digital Library	
The New Deal Builds: A Historic Context of the New D Council, June 2005	eal in East Kentuck	y, 1933 to 1943, Kentucky Heritage
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location o	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	Other State ag	
 X previously listed in the National Register X previously determined eligible by the National Register 	X Federal agency Local governm	
designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	University Other	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	:
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):	RWM-	5
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property 1.25 acres more or less		
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)		
Latitude/Longitude: 38.184551/-83.433683		
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)		
1 17 3		N. d.:
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
2 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting	 Northing
g		

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

Name of Property

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

This description includes the whole area dimensions of the original Rowan County Courthouse Square with the requested boundary increase:

Beginning at the intersection of Main Street and Norma Avenue proceed 220 feet in a southwestward direction to the intersection of Main and Battson Oates Drive; thence 265 feet in a northwestward direction to the intersection of Battson Oates Drive and East Second Streets; thence 220 feet in a northeastward direction to the intersection of East Second Street and Normal Avenue; thence 270 feet in a southeastern direction to the point of origin at the intersection of Main Street and Norma Avenue.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries were established when the county was created on May 1, 1856. This courthouse square has been under the ownership of the Rowan County Fiscal Court since the county was formed.

11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Gary D. Lewis, President		
organization Rowan County Historical Society Inc	date October 1, 2016	
street & number 302 E 2 nd St	telephone 606-356-2209	
city or town Morehead,	state KY zip code 40351	
e-mail <u>Glewis51@windstream.net</u>		

Photographs:

Name of Property: Rowan County Courthouse Square

City or Vicinity: Morehead County: Rowan Kentucky

Photographer: Gary Lewis, Rowan County Historical Society, Inc.

Vintage File Photographs: Rowan County Historical Society Archives

Current Building Pictures: Rowan County Historical Society Archives (same for

all photos)

Date Photographed: 1950 to 2016 (same for all photos)

Description of Photograph(s) and number: KY Rowan County Courthouse Boundary Increase

1 of 13: Rowan County Courthouse camera shooting from south to north

2 of 13: Rowan County Courthouse camera shooting from west to east

3 of 13: Rowan County Courthouse camera shooting from north to south

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State

4 of 13: Rowan County Courthouse camera shooting from east to west

5 of 13: Rowan County Jail camera shooting from south to north

6 of 13: Rowan County Jail camera shooting from west to east

7 of 13: Rowan County Jail camera shooting from north to south

8 of 13: Rowan County Jail camera shooting from east to west

9 of 13: Rowan County Jail historic photo ca 1950 looking southwest to northeast

10 of 13: Rowan County Superintendent's Office camera shooting from west to east

11 of 13: Rowan County Superintendent's Office camera shooting from north to south

12 of 13: Rowan County Superintendent's Office camera shooting from east to west

13 of 13: Rowan County Superintendent's Office camera shooting from south to north

Property Owner:	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)	
name Rowan County Fiscal Court	
street & number 605 West Main Street	telephone 606-784-5151
city or town Morehead	state KY zip code 40351

Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)
Name of Property

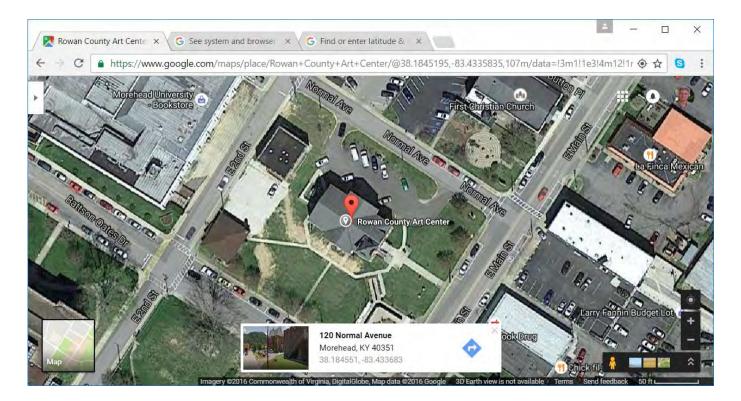
Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State



Rowan County Courthouse (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

Rowan County, Kentucky
County and State



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Boundary Update		
Property Name:	Rowan County Courthouse (Boundary Increase)		
Multiple Name:			
State & County:	KENTUCKY, Rowan		
Date Rece 1/27/20	The state of the s		
Reference number:	BC100000743		
Nominator:	State		
Reason For Review			
X _ Accept	Return Reject3/13/2017 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:	The boundary no encompasses the entire courthouse square lot, and brings two governmental buildings into the boundary - the jail and the school administration building, both constructed by the WPA.		
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept / A & C		
Reviewer Jim Ga	bbert Discipline Historian		
Telephone (202)3	54-2275 Date		
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No		
If a nomination is re National Park Service	turned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the		



MATTHEW G. BEVIN GOVERNOR

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL

DON PARKINSON SECRETARY

THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

300 WASHINGTON STREET FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601 PHONE (502) 564-7005 FAX (502) 564-5820 www.heritage.ky.gov January 13, 2017

CRAIG A. POTTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief National Register of Historic Places 1201 Eye St. NW 8th Floor Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed are the nominations approved by the Review Board at their December 12, 2016 meeting. We submit these forms so the properties can be listed in the National Register:

Columbia Commercial District, Adair County, Kentucky
Bold House, Bracken County, Kentucky
Doyle Country Club, Campbell County, Kentucky
Bush Warehouse, Clark County, Kentucky
Haury Motor Company and Garage, Jefferson County, Kentucky
Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jefferson County, Kentucky
Paducah City Hall, McCracken County, Kentucky
Scearce-Roush House, Shelby County, Kentucky
Dodson House, Warren County, Kentucky (James Ingram Houses MPS)
Old Taylor Distillery, Woodford County, Kentucky

We enclose documentation for three previously listed properties:

- new information for the Downtowner, one property within the Whiskey Row Historic District, Jefferson County KY (NRIS 89000305). The form documents the Downtowner's role in Louisville's LGBTQ past.
- Waveland (Boundary Increase and Name Change), Jessamine County. This property was listed under the name Craig Ashurst House (NRIS 84001587). The new area recognizes a resource called a Woodland Pasture.
- Rowan County Courthouse (Boundary Increase), Rowan County, Kentucky. This new nomination adds historic context and acreage on the courthouse square omitted from the first listing (NRIS 83002862).

Finally, we enclose revised versions of two returned nominations: **Maysville Downtown Historic District**, Mason County KY (16000502) and **Peaselburg Historic District**, Kenton County, KY (16000501).

We thank you for your assistance in listing these properties.

Sincerely.

Craig A. Potts

Executive Director and

State Historic Preservation Officer

