

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JAN 22 1980
DATE ENTERED APR 2 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Daughters' College

AND/OR COMMON

Beaumont Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

638 Beaumont Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

VICINITY OF

6

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Mercer

CODE

167

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. T.C. Dedman Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

618 Beaumont Drive

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mercer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Harrodsburg

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Daughters' College is located at 638 Beaumont Drive adjacent to a residential section of south Harrodsburg, Kentucky. About one-quarter of a mile to the west is U.S. 127, a major north-south transportation artery through town. Harrodsburg has a population of 6,741 (1970 census) and is the seat of government for agricultural Mercer County, situated in the central Bluegrass region.

Constructed ca. 1851, Daughters' College is a five-bay, three-story, brick Greek Revival structure. A two-story portico consisting of six Ionic columns supporting a plain entablature softens the severity of the massive, rectangular block. Brickwork is common bond and jack arches are employed above the 6/6 window openings. Numerous chimneys rise above the low hipped roof. A long one-story brick ell on the rear of the main block adjoins a two-story structure now serving as the kitchen. The gift shop and dining rooms are currently located in the ell. A two-story brick and frame wing extends westward from the ell. All portions of the complex are now used in connection with the operation of the inn and are contemporary with the main building.

Interior woodwork consists of plain and shouldered architrave door and window trim, simple Greek mantles, and a deep baseboard with elaborate profile. The central hall gives access to double parlors on the south side and the office and registration area on the north. A wide transverse hall runs the width of the building and two flights of stairs are located in this hall where it intersects the central hall. The central hall leads to a porch on the rear of the structure. The building contains seventeen guest rooms; eight on the second and third floors and one on the first floor.

The nominated property, approximately two acres upon which the building is centered, has been established so as to encompass the semi-rural environment of the site.

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/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 ca. 1851

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The late Greek Revival structure which has functioned for the past sixty years as Beaumont Inn, a popular hotel and restaurant, achieved its greatest distinction in the second half of the nineteenth century as Daughters' College, one of the leading female colleges of the South. The school gained a reputation for academic excellence at a time when the majority of Kentucky's numerous female "colleges" only offered their pupils at best secondary level courses of instruction. Students from throughout the South were attracted to the institution, and approximately one-third of the graduates later entered the teaching profession. Thus, Daughters' College was one of Kentucky's few nineteenth century schools of higher education that gained regional renown by providing women with a college education equivalent to that offered in contemporary men's schools.

Dr. C.E. Williams and his son, John Augustus Williams, purchased the grounds of the former Greenville Springs, later Greenville Institute, near Harrodsburg in 1856. In that same year, the younger Williams established Daughters' College and served as its president until 1892 when his retirement brought about the closing of the school. The distinction Daughters' College attained has been attributed solely to John Augustus Williams' dedication to education and the teaching profession. Williams graduated from Bacon College in Harrodsburg in 1843 at the age of nineteen. Bacon College functioned under the auspices of the Christian church, and Williams served as a minister in the church before turning to the teaching profession. He helped establish Christian College for women in Columbia, Missouri, in 1851 and served as its first president until he decided to return to Kentucky in 1856. His popularity as a teacher was attested to by the fact that about fifty of his former students followed him from Missouri to Kentucky.¹

During most of the nineteenth century, Kentucky had no organized system of higher education or state supported schools, although such a program had been conceived in the early years of the state's history.² As a result, a proliferation of denominational schools were formed by 1850, and as the second half of the century progressed, these various schools were forced to compete with each other for patronage which led to a general decline in the overall quality of education in the state. In addition, the period from 1850 to 1870 witnessed the establishment of an overwhelming number of female colleges; however, most of these did not offer the college level courses found in the men's schools of the day.³

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davies, Maria T. History of Mercer and Boyle Counties. Vol.I. Harrodsburg:
The Harrodsburg Herald, 1924.

UTM NOT VERIFIED (see continuation sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 2 acres.

QUADRANGLE NAME Harrodsburg, Kentucky

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 690040 4180340

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A rectangle measuring approximately 200'x 400' with the building in its center. Beaumont Drive forms the east boundary.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Charlotte Schneider/Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

November 1979

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

502/564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

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

Donna C. Hopkins

TITLE

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1-4-80

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce

DATE

4/2/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Kristin J. O'Connell

DATE

3/6/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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Daughters' College
Mercer County, Kentucky

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Thus, Daughters' College was unusual for the time in that it offered women an academically-oriented curriculum consisting of courses in philosophy, English language and literature, mathematics, natural science, history, ancient and modern languages, a school of Bible study, and a school of fine arts. Furthermore, shortly after its founding a normal school was added to the established courses, and Daughters' College became noted for the substantial number of successful teachers it produced. The school attracted a qualified faculty and prospered almost without interruption throughout its existence.⁴

After John Augustus Williams' retirement, the school reopened in 1894 as Beaumont College under the direction of Colonel Thomas Smith, a graduate of the University of Virginia and a former professor at Georgetown College of Kentucky. Smith's goal was to maintain the high academic standards of Daughters' College by expanding the curriculum, continuing to employ a strong faculty, and establishing a department of music. However, like Daughters' College, Beaumont College was a small, individual enterprise lacking the endowment needed for significant expansion, and the school eventually ceased in 1916.⁵ The following year, two graduates of Daughters' College purchased the property. By 1919, Mrs. Annie Goddard had bought out her partner, and Mrs. Goddard and her husband opened the Beaumont Inn. The inn is still owned and operated by descendants of Mrs. Goddard.

¹ Alvin Fayette Lewis. History of Higher Education. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1899), p. 243.

²Ibid., p.12.

³Ibid., p.19.

⁴Ibid., p.244.

⁵Ibid., p.244.

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Lewis, Alvin Fayette. History of Higher Education. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1899.

Lexington Herald-Leader, 28 August 1960.

"Most Visited Kentucky Landmark in Mercer." Harrodsburg Herald, June 1974. Bicentennial Edition.

Stinson, Claude E. The First One Hundred and Fifty Years of the Harrodsburg Christian Church. Harrodsburg: n.p., 1953.