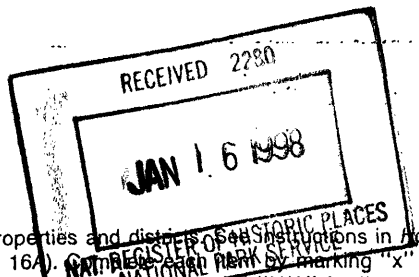


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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 part by marking "x" in 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 Forkland School and Gymnasium
other names/site number Forkland Community Center (B0-62)

2. Location

street & number North side of State Route 37, across from Curtis Road NA not for publication
city or town Gravel Switch X vicinity
state Kentucky code KY county Boyle code 021 zip code 40328

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director, KHC 1-13-98
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Officer
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 commenting official/Title Date
State of Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- X 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):

Signature of the Keeper: Elson H. Beall
Date of Action: 2/12/98

Name of Property

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Sports Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK AND STONE

roof METAL AND ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation 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)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1926 - 1940

Significant Dates

1926

1938

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See 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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Parksville Quadrangle

1	116	678000	4157780
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amanda Bradley, Historian and Christine Amos, Historian

organization Burry & Amos, Inc. (Heart of Danville, Inc.) date November 21, 1996

street & number 926 Main Street telephone (502) 633-5530

city or town Shelbyville state Kentucky zip code 40065

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 Forkland Community Center, Inc.

street & number Route 1 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Gravel Switch state Kentucky zip code 40328

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 Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0019), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)  
Boyle County, KY**7. Description**

The Forkland School and gymnasium are located on the north side of State Route 37 near the North Rolling Fork River. Although the school property contains six acres, only the two buildings are being nominated to the National Register as the remaining acreage no longer retains its historic integrity. Constructed between 1926-1928, the school held grades one through twelve, consolidating nine smaller, one-room schools previously attended by students throughout the community (Russell, 1931: 198). The stone gymnasium was built in 1938 by local labor and funded by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The school and gymnasium operated until the Forkland school system was absorbed through consolidation into the Boyle County system in 1971. The school and grounds were then purchased by the Forkland Community Association, Inc. for use as a community center. The two buildings meet National Register of Historic Places Criterion A and are significant as a remaining example of an early twentieth century community school and Works Progress Administration gymnasium in Boyle County. Buildings described below are denoted (C) for contributing elements to the nomination and (NC) for non-contributing.

**Forkland School (C)**

Construction of the Forkland School took place between 1926-1928, largely by local labor. The school remains much as it did when completed in 1928, a one-story, brick building with five classrooms and a full basement with additional classroom space and a lunch room. The clipped gable roof has an asphalt shingle covering. The front (south) facade is divided into seven bays with a central recessed entry fronted by a small portico with gabled pediment and square brick piers, flanked on either side by three sets of paired windows. The wood and glass paired entry doors are surrounded by a six section, multi-pane transom and sidelights. The rear (north) facade is fenestrated by paired 8/8 sash windows, symmetrical in placement with those on the front facade. First story windows are typically 6/6 sash and paired with concrete lintels while those in the basement are single, 1/1 sash, also with concrete lintels.

The school's plan features a center hall with five classrooms on either side, rest rooms, offices, two staircases, and storage and maintenance closets. Classroom details include beaded board wainscoting, plaster walls, chalkboards, paneled entry doors with single pane transoms,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)  
Boyle County, KY

and original hardwood flooring beneath carpet added in the 1970s. Since the early 1970s, most interior walls have been painted and/or wallpapered with some featuring murals of local scenes by area artist, Marjorie Ellis.

**Gymnasium (C)**

In 1938, the Boyle County School Board approved the construction of a gymnasium to be built east of the school. Constructed entirely of local limestone quarried from the top of nearby Mitchellsburg Knob, the gymnasium was a project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). **Figure 1**, shows the completed Forkland Gymnasium in 1941. The building's original flat roof has been changed to a low-pitched hip covered with asphalt shingles, an alteration to prevent continued roof leakage (Interview with Shirley Sheperson, September, 1996). The rectangular-shaped gymnasium is east of the school. The gym's proportionately symmetrical front (south) facade is similar to the school's, with seven bays and a central entry fronted by a gabled portico. The paired wood and glass entry doors are topped by a multi-pane transom. Supports for the portico and pediment are full-length stone piers. Windows on each wall of the gymnasium are typically single, 8/8 sash with plain wood surrounds and sills. The rear (north) wall features a full-length, stone shed. The school and gymnasium were joined when the gym was built by a one-story stone connector with glass and wood door, and 6/6 sash windows.

Interior features of the WPA gymnasium include an open room with high ceilings; folding bleachers along the south wall; a raised, wooden stage on the north wall; the original hardwood gymnasium floor with basketball court striping outline; additional classroom and maintenance space; and dressing rooms and a coal bin room in the shed addition to the rear. These rear rooms have stone walls and concrete floors. The gymnasium retains its historic interior plan and features and is used for community recreation and social events.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

---

Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)  
Boyle County, KY



Figure 1. Reproduction of Works Progress Administration Photograph showing the completed gymnasium in 1941 (Works Progress Administration Photograph Collection - Boyle County, KY).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

---

Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)  
Boyle County, KY

## 8. Statement of Significance

The Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62), presently known as the Forkland Community Center, meet the National Register of Historic Places Criterion A, and are significant examples of an early twentieth century, consolidated school and gymnasium in rural Boyle County. The school complex is the material evidence of change in policy and practice in public education in rural Boyle County during the early twentieth century and is locally significant within the context of "Education-Related Resources in Boyle County, 1926-1940." Prior to consolidation of the county's schools beginning in 1926, poorly constructed one- and two-room schools were scattered throughout Boyle County, serving various small rural areas. Following World War I, the consolidation of county schools throughout the Commonwealth enabled the beginnings of educational standardization, granted more children equal access to quality education, and gave many communities access to recreational facilities. The construction of larger, modern school buildings provided students and teachers with spacious, light-filled classrooms and areas for indoor recreation. The Forkland School and Gymnasium remain as one of the earliest consolidated schools in rural Boyle County. They are an important indicator of when the county fully embraced the views that consolidated schools were a better way to organize education than in earlier, less organized approaches.

### Education-Related Resources in Boyle County, 1926-1940

Public education for the majority of school-aged children in Kentucky before the Civil War ranked extremely low, if at all, on the list of state priorities. Until the close of the antebellum years, state education funds were continually appropriated for other necessities like road improvement, and until 1849, counties were not required to establish public schools. Early schools were private, established by subscription or sponsored by religious denominations. In the agriculturally dominated Bluegrass, the benefits of a formal education were lost to the children of a great number of middling and poor farmers who believed the best lessons were learned in the field (Clark, 1977 and Amos, 1992).

Throughout the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, the social life among Boyle County residents often centered on church and school activities. In the larger towns of Danville and Perryville, private schools offered students social activities, such as sports, theatre, clubs, etc.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

---

**Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)**  
**Boyle County, Kentucky**

These schools operated in buildings that were for the most part, fairly substantial thanks to private tuition funding.

Rural areas of Boyle County, like other outlying areas of the Bluegrass, did not offer the same level of educational opportunity. Although churches and schools also served as social centers for rural residents, those buildings were often less well constructed than their urban and private equivalents. And, because no standards existed for teaching qualifications, the abilities of teachers were often limited. The reason for inferior facilities and inconsistency in education was a lack of funding provided by the community, county and state.

By the early twentieth century, Boyle County educators and officials began to recognize the need for better rural education facilities. Prior to this time, schools consisted largely of one and two room buildings, usually of frame construction. In 1931, William Fulton Russell identified and described a number of school buildings constructed in Boyle County prior to 1916 as part of his Master's Thesis:

Buildings during this period were of a very ordinary type. The one room school building with its ante-room used for a cloakroom characterizes most of them. Most of them were frame buildings and an occasional log structure was found as late as 1890. As long as the funds were so inadequate it was hardly possible to erect anything better (ibid: 166).

By the turn of the twentieth century, changes in education in Boyle County and Kentucky manifested in large part due to three factors: the increased population in small towns/rural villages; the gentry or wealthiest of the agricultural class who provided private funding for education; and the new and growing urban middle class that championed reform in the state common school system (Channing, 1977: 155-6). The activities of this last group eventually led to beneficial changes in public education at the beginning of the century.

In a 1916 report, Oscar B. Fallis, Boyle County School Superintendent, noted the construction of some schools in the "southern section of the county", including the Forkland Region (Russell, 1931: 195). The exact location of the schools in the Forkland Region is not certain,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

---

**Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)**  
**Boyle County, Kentucky**

although county histories record the existence of two one-room schools in the Forkland region prior to 1926. The new schools constructed in early twentieth century Boyle County illustrated advances in building technology and construction, demonstrated by the following 1916 description of the construction of county schools:

(F)rom the old boxed shed we have advanced to sheathed, papered and weatherboarded, properly lighted and heated buildings on solid concrete foundations with besides the main room, 26X28 feet, two smaller rooms, one for girls' domestic economy work and the other for boys' manual training (ibid).

At the same time as Fallis oversaw the building of new Boyle County schools, Kentucky's local school boards consolidated scores of rural, one- and two-room schools throughout the Commonwealth. This event was largely the product of the passing of the Common School Law in 1884 which opened the door for consolidation as it affected new public school buildings, provided for the condemnation of old facilities, established curricula, texts, term length, teacher training and governed the state and local boards of education (Amos, 1988: NP). Consolidation had two major effects on public education in rural Kentucky: the construction of better school buildings, and an outpouring of better-trained and better-paid instructors. Although the first consolidated school in Kentucky was established in 1910 (May's Lick, Mason County), the majority of the Commonwealth's rural schools were not joined until after World War I (ibid).

In Boyle County, the consolidation of schools did not begin to take place until 1926 when various one- and two-room schools were joined into larger school buildings, built in accessible communities throughout the county. New schools were often constructed using plans popularized through nation-wide publications that endorsed the facilities as uniform and functional. Boyle County consolidated schools demonstrated building design and materials not used before in rural county schools. For instance, consolidated schools were often two stories tall and of brick construction whereas earlier rural schools were commonly one-story, one-room and of frame construction. Two factors led to the improved construction within the county. First, an education tax was imposed upon county residents, a percentage of which went to the construction costs of new schools. Second, the county had even greater access to a greater quality and quantity of building supplies as a result of the influx of two major railroads (the L&N and the Cincinnati-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

---

**Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)**  
**Boyle County, Kentucky**

Southern) through the county. With increased funding for construction, the county was able to purchase more durable building materials from large production centers.

### The Forkland School and Gymnasium

In Boyle County, transportation and accessibility deterred the consolidation of rural schools. The Forkland community was chosen for a new school site in southwest Boyle County, mainly because of its accessible central, southwest location. Located in the southwestern portion of Boyle County, the Forkland community is situated along the North Rolling Fork River, in the Knobs region. The first Anglo settlers into the region arrived in 1780, yet settlement in the area remained relatively sparse in comparison to other areas within the rich Bluegrass region of Boyle County. The extended community of Forkland supported churches, schools, stores and a post office (Forkland Community History Committee, 1988: 4). Transportation routes into the area included rough trails leading across the knobs, and the Richmond line of the L&N Railroad with a station house west of Forkland on the Rolling Fork.

The Forkland School was built on property purchased by the Boyle County School Board in 1926, containing approximately three acres on the north side of the North Rolling Fork River (Boyle County Deed Book 55: 282). The Forkland community imposed a special local tax to pay for construction costs, raising approximately \$4,000.00 of the needed \$16,000.00 (Forkland Community History Committee: 24). Area farmers dug the basement for the building by using horse-drawn scrapers, while residents raised approximately twenty-five percent of the funding needed for construction. The school was opened in 1928 to first through twelfth grade students. The Forkland School is the only remaining early twentieth century consolidated school in Boyle County (Worshem, 1991 Boyle County Historic Resources Survey).

In 1938, the school facility was expanded to include a separate gymnasium. Connected to the east wall of the school, the limestone used to construct the gymnasium was quarried from the top of nearby Mitchellsburg Knob. The gymnasium stands as a joint effort by local builders and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), a federal program enacted by the New Deal providing local work for skilled laborers in the decade following the Great Depression. The WPA aided in the construction of numerous school-related buildings throughout Kentucky. In addition to the Forkland gymnasium, the WPA constructed roadbeds, bridges, schools and a water plant

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 8

---

**Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)  
Boyle County, Kentucky**

in Boyle County (WPA Photographs, King Library Special Collections). The gymnasium provided students with a place for athletic activities along with an auditorium, used for events benefitting the entire community, such as plays, parent-teacher meetings, community meetings, pie suppers, etc. (ibid).

The Forkland School remained as a K-12 school until 1963 when high school students were required to attend the Boyle County High School in Danville (Fackler, 1959). In 34 high school classes, Forkland graduated 241 students with a greater percentage of Forkland graduates attending college than from any other school within the county (ibid). The Forkland Grade School remained in operation until 1971 when consolidation transferred students to the newly constructed Boyle County Elementary School in Danville (ibid). With the closing of the school, members of the community formed a committee to purchase the school buildings for a community activity center. The Forkland Community Center, Inc. purchased the campus (approximately six acres) in 1971 (Boyle County Deed Book 179, page 134). The Forkland School and Gymnasium have remained the center of community activities since school closure in 1971.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

---

Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)  
Boyle County, KY

## 9. Bibliography

Amos, Christine. Bluegrass Cultural Landscape. Unpublished manuscript on file at The Kentucky Heritage Council, 1988.

Boyle County Clerk's Office. Deed Book 55.

Channing, Stephen A. Kentucky. Nashville: The Association for American State and Local History, 1977.

Clark, Thomas D. Agrarian Kentucky. Lexington: The University of Kentucky Press, 1977.

Fackler, Calvin Morgan. Historic Homes of Boyle County and the Three Courthouses. Danville: Danville and Boyle County Historical Society, 1959.

Forkland Community History Committee, Brenda S. Edwards, chairman. Forkland Heritage, Its People Past and Present, 1793-1988. Volume One. Marcelline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1988.

Russell, William Fulton. "The History of Education of Boyle County", Thesis for the degree of Master of Arts at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, 1931.

Sheperson, Shirley. Personal Interview with Amanda Bradley, Burry & Amos, Inc., September, 1996.

Works Progress Administration Photograph Collection (Kentucky-Boyle County). At The University of Kentucky Margaret I. King Library Special Collections, Lexington, Kentucky.

Worshem, Gibson. 1991 Boyle County Historic Resources Survey. On file at The Kentucky Heritage Council.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

---

**Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)**  
Boyle County, KY

## 10. Verbal Boundary Description

The Forkland School and Gymnasium are located on the north side of State Route 37, in the Forkland community. The nominated property includes the 1928 school building and the 1938 Works Progress Administration, stone gymnasium on the lot shown as Map 13, Parcel 23 on the Boyle County Property Identification Maps in the County Property Value Administration Office.

## Boundary Justification

Historically, the Forkland School and Gymnasium were associated with three acres bought by the Boyle County Board of Education in 1926. Over time, the Board of Education purchased three additional acres and the property is currently divided into three tracts equalling six acres, more or less. The school building and gymnasium are located on the south central portion of the property, along the northern edge of State Route 37, separated from non-contributing acreage by a gravel driveway.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number PHOTOS Page 11

---

Forkland School and Gymnasium (BO-62)  
Boyle County, KY

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Forkland School and Gymnasium, Boyle County, KY  
Photographs by: C. Amanda Bradley  
Burry & Amos, Inc.  
926 Main Street  
Shelbyville, KY 40065

Date: November, 1996

Forkland School and Gymnasium, facing north  
1 of 4

Forkland School, facing north  
2 of 4

Forkland Gymnasium, facing northeast  
3 of 4

Forkland Gymnasium, facing northwest  
4 of 4

Tax Map 13  
Parcel 23  
Forkland School &  
Gymnasium  
30-62  
Boyle Co., KY