

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only  
received JUL 2 1987  
date entered AUG 3 1987

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

1. Name

historic Margaret Hall

and or common Margaret Hall School

2. Location

street & number 117 Elm Street \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Versailles \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state Kentucky code 021 county Woodford code 239

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>na</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>na</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Margaret Hall Manor Apartments Limited

street & number 2509 Plantside Drive

city, town Louisville \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Kentucky 40299

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Woodford County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Versailles \_\_\_\_\_ state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources of Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date December 1981 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort \_\_\_\_\_ state Kentucky

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

Margaret Hall is located in Versailles, part of the Bluegrass region of central Kentucky. The town is a typical central Kentucky county seat which consists of a courthouse in a central square surrounded by mid-nineteenth through twentieth-century commercial buildings (Downtown Versailles Historic District, National Register, 2 September 1975). A number of residential districts of nineteenth and twentieth-century architecture encircle this central core, including the Morgan Street District (National Register, 8 May 1980) and the Rose Hill Historic District (National Register, 17 December 1982). Margaret Hall is located just north of the center of town and the residential districts on the corner of Main and Elm Streets. Elm Street consists of a mix of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century residences and Margaret Hall serves as a buffer between this area and the main traffic arterial of Main Street (photos 1, 3, 6, 21, and 22).

The main building of Margaret Hall faces Elm Street. It is a large, three-story brick building in the Classical Revival style. The main block of this structure (94' x 60') was completed in 1903. The rear portion of the building was added in 1916. A frame, one-story residence, which is approximately the age of the main school building, served as the headmaster's house. This house faces Elm Street and is to the west of the school building and closer to Elm. A prefabricated, 1960s classroom building is behind the headmaster's house. The main school building is centered on the Elm Street frontage and is reached by a brick walk. Concrete walks, 1985, connect the main building with the two other structures. A patio area to the west of the main building was added in 1985, as were an east and west parking area and entry drive. The rear portion of the grounds remains as open space. The entire site is just over five acres and is protected from any future development by deed restrictions.

The main facade of the school building consists of a three-bay central block flanked by two, slightly recessed bays (photo 1). A one-story porch with wood Tuscan columns, a simple Ionic entablature and a balustrade shelters a double-door entry. The wood and glass doors are flanked by delicately detailed side and transom lights set within a classical surround. The brick flooring of the porch is continued in the front walk (photo 2). Two six-over-six light windows with brick relieving arches and stone keystones flank the entry. The second floor of the central block continues the same fenestration style with three windows above the entry flanked by a single window. The third story is articulated by a bandcourse which serves as the sill for the windows of this floor. The fenestration consists of seven, round-arched windows with another bandcourse located at the springing of the window arch. The brick arch and keystone are repeated over each window. The corners of the block are quoined in brick and the building rests on a raised basement of ashlar limestone with large six-over-six windows with stone lintels. The recessed bays continue the same fenestration treatment as the central block on the first and second floors with two windows per bay. The windows on the third floor are not arched and accommodate the slightly shorter height of these bays. The entire structure is capped by a hipped roof (originally slate, now asbestos shingles) with deep overhanging eaves (photos 1, 3 and 4).

The same architectural treatment of the front recessed bays continues on the west side of the main block with five windows on the first and third floors and three windows on the second (photos 3 - 8). The east side has a pair of wood and glass doors with a divided transom light in lieu of one window and only three windows are on the third floor (photo 9).

The rear block of the building was constructed in 1916 as part of an expansion of the school complex. This portion is two-stories in height and is constructed of the same Louisville Pressed Brick and limestone as the original portion. The windows are segmentally arched, six-over-six lights with

## 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 checked="" 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** 1902-3, 1916 **Builder/Architect** H. L. Rowe and Copland & Dole

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Margaret Hall is significant as a fine, institutional example of the interest in classical revival styles of the early twentieth century. Historically, the school is significant as one of the primary educational institutions of the early twentieth century in central Kentucky which had an advanced curriculum for women.

Margaret Hall offered a complete curriculum which consisted of a grammar school with primary and intermediate departments (boys were allowed to attend the day school) and an upper school where a female student could earn a regular high school diploma or enter the rigorous college preparatory program. Girls who completed this program were assured of a place in any college in the country.<sup>1</sup> Margaret Hall was both a boarding and a day school drawing students from the best families in the region and boarding students from a broad area of the state and even from foreign countries. The school, along with Science Hill Academy in Shelbyville, was one of the finest educational institutions for women in the state, especially under the tenure of the Order of St. Helena. The school is also typical of a pattern in education prevalent from the nineteenth through early twentieth century which fostered a higher level of educational opportunity at a private institution rather than at a public school which was often under funded. This trend was national and known as the Academy Movement beginning in 1850. The stress on a college preparatory curriculum as part of an overall and above average educational program for young women as found at Margaret Hall was rare in most of Kentucky until the 1960s. This reflects both the traditional rural role of women in the state and the lack of educational opportunity outside the major urban areas. Margaret Hall was one of the main avenues for women to be both encouraged and to receive a secondary education which would enable them to be admitted to the better colleges in the country. The result of the Academy Movement, not only at Margaret Hall but throughout the country, perpetuated an elitist movement which generally gave the best education to those who could afford to pay for it.

Margaret Hall was founded in 1898 as a church school for girls and young women under the name of the Ashland Seminary. The original building burned and it was replaced with a new structure erected between 1902 and 1903. The school was renamed Margaret Hall for its major benefactor, Margaret Haggin (the school is also frequently referred to as Margaret Hall School; the name Ashland Seminary was dropped completely by about 1904). The school was originally operated by the Episcopal Church, Diocese of Lexington, as a prestigious boarding and day school for girls. The school operated until the onset of the Depression in 1929, when it closed due to lack of funds. The school reopened in 1931, under the direction of the Episcopalian St. Ame's Sisters, known as the Order of St. Helena. During the 1970s, the ownership of the school passed to St. Leo's Catholic Church. The school was closed in 1976. The structure remained vacant and was threatened with demolition under a church proposal to build a new church complex on the site. The structure was sold in 1983, when the St. Leo congregation decided to relocate to a suburban location in Versailles. The school was renovated in 1984-5 for housing for the elderly.

<sup>1</sup>Dabney, Munsen, Interview 14 May 1987. Ms. Munsen is a former student and teacher of Margaret Hall and is working on a history of the school.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Happy Landings," Woodford (KY) Sun. 12 May 1984.

Margaret Hall School Catalog. Boston: Curtis Press, n.d.

Munsen, Dabney. Former Margaret Hall student & Teacher. Interview 14 May 1987, Versailles, KY.  
(Continued)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5.52 acres (by survey)

Quadrangle name Versailles

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	9	9	0	0	0	4	2	1	4	3	8	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting					Northing						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

state code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marty Poynter Hedgepeth, Architectural Historian

organization same as above date June 13, 1987

street & number 2319 Village Drive telephone 502/451-2481

city or town Louisville state Kentucky 40205

## 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 David L. Meyer

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date June 30, 1987

### For NPS use only

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

entered in the  
National Register

date 8-3-87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Margaret Hall, Versailles, Woodford County, Kentucky

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brick voussoirs. The foundation and roofline repeat the original structure (photos 5 - 8 & 10 - 12). There is less detail in this section, stone keystones and bandcourses and brick quoins are lacking. This section was originally connected by a one-story passage (photos 5 & 6) to which a second story has been added (1985) in a contemporary glass treatment to serve as a community room for current residents (photos 5, 17). The rear portion of the 1916 section was raised one story after a fire gutted that portion of the building (1985). This addition is clad in vertical wood siding to distinguish it from the original design. The hip roofline is continued (photos 7, 8, 10 - 12).

The other major alteration to the exterior of the building consists of a ramp for handicapped access which has been placed at the west facade. The ramp is integrated into both the building and the drive areas with a brick wall and piers with stone copings (photos 6 - 8 & 10 - 12).

The recent adaptive reuse of the building for housing for the elderly left intact some of the salient interior features including: simply detailed door and window surrounds, wide baseboards, paneled wood doors, wide-planked hardwood floors and a simple staircase with lathe-turned rails. These features are found in the entry, stairhall and corridors. A fire devastated much of the interior of the building in 1983 and what remained of the decorative interior features were salvaged and concentrated in the public areas. The original floorplan had consisted of a series of small dormitory and classrooms with an interior hall system. The same hall configuration remains and the rooms have been connected into three-room apartments. No original interior decoration remains in the apartment areas (photos 13 - 16).

The one-story, frame headmaster's house is sheathed in lap siding and has a limestone foundation. The building reflects the simple vernacular style of the early twentieth century in its irregular, cross-gabled roof composition and the simplicity of the trim and detailing. Despite the removal of an elaborate wood porch (prior to 1940) and the conversion to three units with three entries, the house continues to evoke a historical sense of time and place through such identifying features as the tall, narrow, one-over-one windows, the gables, the asymmetrical plan and the few segmentally-arched lintels (photos 18 & 19).

The school complex consists of two contributing buildings, Margaret Hall itself and the adjacent headmaster's house, and one non-contributing building added in the 1960s; all occupy the single parcel traditionally associated with the school.

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### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(Continued)

Vertical File on Margaret Hall. Woodford Historical Society, Versailles, Kentucky.

Withey, Henry and Elsie. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects: Deceased. Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, 1970.

Woodford County (KY) Deed Book 14, page 173.

Woodford (KY) Sun. 16 October 1902.

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A renewed interest in classical architectural motifs became a major architectural movement in this country after the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The exotic ornament and asymmetrical plans of the majority of the Victorian styles were rapidly supplanted with a variety of classical revival styles: Second Renaissance Revival, Beaux-Arts, Colonial or Georgian Revival and Greek forms. Often a combination of motifs was used producing eclectic classical revival styles. The renewed interest in classicism produced clearly articulated and symmetrical structures. Designed to meet the needs of a growing society, these buildings often were larger in scale than their predecessors.

Margaret Hall's main building is very typical of this classical revival development. The brick walls, stone trim and overall restraint place the strongest influence on the building from the Georgian Revival. This style would become a very academic and popular expression after the restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, in the late 1920s. Other typically classical features of the building include the strong articulation by bandcourses and quoins which help organize and make the large mass of the building both interesting and highly unified. The use of the more massive Tuscan Order for the porch balances this feature in scale with the rest of the facade.

The building also reflects the continued interest found throughout the Bluegrass region in classical revival styles. Many of the early homes in the region were built in the Federal, Greek Revival or Italianate styles. Margaret Hall is one of the finest early-twentieth century structures in Versailles utilizing classical motifs.

The original design for the school was done by H. L. Rowe (d.1915), who was one of the leading architects in nearby Lexington, Kentucky. His works include the Lexington Public Library, St. Joseph's Hospital and a number of structures on the campus of the University of Kentucky. Final plans for the structure were made by the architectural firm of Copland & Dole. Nothing is known of the firm or the amount of their participation.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**Verbal Boundary Description & Justification**

The nomination includes the entire 5.52 acre tract which contains the main school building, the old headmaster's house, the small prefabricated classroom building added in the 1960s, and grounds. This constitutes the original site of the school complex. The grounds are protected from further development by deed covenants and will insure the continued integrity of the setting.

Beginning at a point of the intersection of the north right-of-way line of Elm Street and the west right-of-way line of the Southern Railroad; thence east following the north right-of-way line of Elm Street 555 feet+/- to a point; thence north 495 feet+/-; thence west 210 feet+/- to a point in the east right-of-way line of Main Street; thence southwestwardly following said right-of-way line 705 feet+/- to a point at the intersection of the said right-of-way line and the west right-of-way line of the Southern Railroad; thence eastwardly following said right-of-way line 165 feet+/- to the point of beginning.

Margaret Hall  
117 Elm Street  
Versailles, Kentucky  
Site plan  
Not to scale  
Map 2

