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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 item 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 Riverview School

other names/site number SP-26

#### 2. Location

street & number NE side St. HY. 31E, 1 2/10s mi. N of High Grove  not for publication

city or town High Grove  vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Spencer code 215 zip code 40013

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan, Executive

Director/SHPO

12-7-93

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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

Date of Action

Patty S. Chrisman

Feb. 1, 1994

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing and 5 rows: buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Resources of Spencer County, Kentucky 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: early-twentieth-century school

foundation STONE: limestone, walls WOOD: weatherboard, WOOD: shingle, roof METAL: tin, other

Narrative Description

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

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.)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
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.
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:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more 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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1917-1943

Significant Dates

1917

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Kentucky Heritage Council

Riverview School  
Name of Property

Spencer County, Kentucky  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,6	6,3,2,7,1,0	4,2,0,6,5,8,0
	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.)

**Boundary Justification**

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham, Architect

organization Cultural Resource Management Institute date June 23, 1993

street & number 3145 Yellow Sulphur Road telephone (703) 552-4730

city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

**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 Bill and Betty Calvert

street & number 9180 Louisville Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Coxes Creek state Kentucky zip code 40013

**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 (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

Section number 7 Page 1

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### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### Summary Description

The Riverview School is located on a small lot on the northeast side of Route 31E (the Louisville-Bardstown Road), one mile north of the village of Highgrove and 4.8 miles southeast of the town of Mount Washington. The substantial, frame, one-room building was built soon after purchase of the land in 1917. The principal facade faces southwest, towards the road. The school shares with the Riverview Church across the road a spectacular view from the top of a bluff overlooking the bottomland and meanders of the Salt River to the northeast. A later garage and a cistern are located on the property, which is used as a second home by the owners. The nominated boundary contains approximately a tenth of an acre and includes one contributing building (school), one contributing structure (cistern), and one noncontributing building (garage).

#### Description

The Riverview School is a rectangular, weatherboarded, frame building of one story. The entrance is centrally located in the southwest gable end, which is the principal facade. The gable of the southwest front is sheathed with ornamental shingles, separated from the weatherboard below by a frieze board. The frieze is linked at each end with the frieze of the cornices on the side walls and give the gable the effect of a pediment. The plain box cornice returns in the gable end. The side walls are pierced by four windows on each side, each equipped with a two-over-two sash. The rear window on the southeast side has been made into a door in the mid-twentieth century, after the building ceased to be used as a school. The rear gable, facing away from the road, has no windows.

The continuous foundation is built of coursed rubble masonry with iron crawl-space vents. The roof is of painted standing seam metal. A brick flue is located at the center

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

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of the roof ridge. A concrete porch floor extends almost across the southwest front, but the shed porch it once supported is gone, and a gabled hood over the entrance door was added in recent decades, when the building was used as an antique store. The stoop is supported on late-nineteenth-century sawn decorative brackets reused from another building.

The interior features reeded door and window trim with bulls' eye corner blocks and narrow tongue-and-groove wainscot with molded top, as well as modern panelling on the upper walls and ceiling. The flue is supported on the ceiling joists so that a stovepipe could rise to the ceiling and then engage the flue there. The area where there was a raised platform for the teacher, across the northeast end, has been enclosed with a modern partition.

A concrete cistern stands to the southeast side of the school. The cistern top has been covered in recent years with a lightweight wood ornamental cover structure, but the cistern seems to date from when the adjacent building was used as a school. A small, mid-twentieth-century, frame garage was built to the east soon after the building had ceased to be used as a school. In recent years a larger, concrete block garage has been built to the southeast of the school, but is located outside the boundary selected for the property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Riverview School is significant under Criterion A, as a good example of a rural one-room school representative of the form of rural schools and education in Spencer County during the early twentieth century. Spencer County appears to have resisted consolidation longer than many Bluegrass counties, and the body of its rural schools have survived better than those of many other counties. In addition, county school districts incorporated few of the design improvements suggested by the Kentucky Department of Education and other school design experts in publications beginning in the late nineteenth century and resulting in the 1914 publication of School Architecture: Kentucky by state authorities.

The traditional appearance of the Riverview School suggests that Spencer County school architecture was slow to change and closely rooted in traditional design practices. The well-preserved building at Riverview and its scenic location are among the few in the county that have not been substantially altered in the conversion to other uses most schools underwent after consolidation in the mid-twentieth century. The period of significance extends from its construction soon after the purchase of the site in 1917 to its closing as a school in the mid-1940s.

Historic Context

Public schooling in Spencer County gradually expanded during the nineteenth century. The most common educational institutions in early-nineteenth-century Kentucky were small private schools where families pooled their resources to hire a teacher, or in many cases, were associated with churches. By 1850, when the new state constitution required public schools in each county, 437 white pupils were already enrolled in fifteen one-teacher public schools, as opposed to 107 in four private schools. Many were one-room buildings built of log. The Common School Law, passed in 1884, regulated and uniformly defined public schools.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

During this period most log schools were replaced in the central Kentucky area. By 1892 there were 31 white school districts spread across the county and eight black districts.

In the early twentieth century consolidation of schools became widespread, but the practice had little effect in the majority of rural Spencer County districts until the 1930s, when two-room schools are said to have replaced the previously ungraded one-room buildings. No two-room schools were located in the survey. Publications by school design experts attempted to convey contemporary theories of educational design to localities, suggesting careful placement of windows to improve reading, better ventilation, and improved hygiene. School Architecture: Kentucky, a 1914 publication of the Kentucky Department of Education gave examples of the former practice and modern recommendations, but the survey data indicate that Spencer County continued to favor the traditional forms. The one concession to modern recommendations may be represented by the cistern at Riverview School, which resembles the approved water source recommended for rural schools by the department.<sup>1</sup>

By 1950 only four one-room schools remained in use and these were soon phased out. School consolidation ultimately meant that students were bused to new elementary and high schools in Taylorsville. The survey of historic resources performed in 1991-2 identified 11 rural schools, all of one-room form. All were built of framed lumber except the earliest building, which was built of notched logs. No consolidated or urban schools were located in the survey area, which encompassed the entire county outside Taylorsville. Of the eleven schools ten were built for white students and one for black students. One school dated from the second quarter of the nineteenth century, one from the third quarter of the nineteenth century, two from the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, seven from the first quarter of the twentieth century, and none from later periods.

The survey data suggest that school design in rural Spencer County remained relatively consistent from the mid-



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

nineteenth century until the early twentieth century. No rural schools survive which were built after about 1920. This might indicate that Spencer County educational authorities had reached a consensus in favor of consolidation, and so built no more one-room schools in anticipation of their eventual closing. Some, however, continued in use for four more decades.

Riverview is a typical early-twentieth-century, one-room school. It is one of the last constructed of the surviving rural schools. A small lot was acquired by School District #14 in March of 1917 from local landowner S. T. Lloyd and his wife Martha,<sup>2</sup> presumably to lessen the distance that children had to travel to study at a neighboring school. The Lloyds sold the 14/100 of an acre for a nominal sum, probably so their children or those of their neighbors would have easier access to education. Their home was very close to the school.<sup>3</sup> No mention was made of an existing school on the site at the time the deed was made.

The Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Counties indicates a school in the immediate vicinity of the Riverview School as early as 1882. Unlike most public schools in the atlas, the building is not given a school number, suggesting that it may have been a private school at that time. The school appears to be on the opposite side of the road from the present building, possibly on the present grounds of the Riverview Church, which is not indicated on the map. It is possible school was previously held on the church's land nearby and the school was only assimilated into the public school system after the passage of the Common Schools Law two years later. The school was apparently built on the present site soon after 1917, although school board records for this period have not been found which would detail the activities of this district.

The school accommodated both boys and girls in eight grades, taught by one teacher. A coal-burning stove stood in the center of the school, a coal house to the rear of the school, and separate privies for the boys and girls were

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

located nearby. A platform across the back of the room held the teacher's desk with a blackboard across the rear wall. The school was painted white, unlike the present red color scheme.<sup>4</sup>

Most information about the school was obtained from Alberta Hardin Heddon, who taught there between September, 1940 and December, 1942. The front entrance had pegs for coats and benches for lunch pails. Twenty-one children attended school from September to May, with two weeks off for Christmas. Although no time off was allowed in the school calendar for crop harvests, boys often took time off in the fall to help with the tobacco crop. "Ice cream suppers" were held to raise funds to improve the small collection of books at the school, or to purchase a set of swings for the playground, or a roll of fencing to keep the children away from the Bardstown Road (the fence was stolen before it could be erected). A photograph taken of Alberta Hedden and her students by Billy Lloyd, a neighbor, shows them standing in front of the then, white-painted school with a porch extending across the entire front facade.<sup>5</sup> The school was closed several years after this photograph was taken.

The Riverview School has been used as a residence and an antique store since it was sold by the school board. Unlike most other Spencer County school houses, it has been very little altered. Most interior and exterior details and finishes survive. As the best preserved of the one-room schools in a county with an unusually high survival rate it represents an important period of locally-based education and educational design in the county and in the central Kentucky region.

## NOTES

1 Chapman, James Virgil and J.E. Gilbert, School Architecture: Kentucky, (Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Department of Education, 1917).

2 Spencer County Deed Book 32, 454.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

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3 D.J. Lake and Co., An Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Counties, Kentucky, 1882 (Bardstown, Kentucky: Nelson County Historical Society, 1973).

4 Alberta Hardin Hedden, personal interview, Fairfield, Kentucky, 1992.

5 Spencer Magnet, 6 Feb. 1986, 5.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 8

Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Betts, George Herbert & Hall, Otis E. Better Rural Schools. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1914.

Brown, Mary Frances. The History of Spencer County, Kentucky. Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1990.

Carney, Mabel. Country Life and the Country School. New York: Row, Peterson & Co, 1912.

Chapman, James Virgil and Gilbert, J.E. School Architecture: Kentucky. Frankfort: Kentucky Department of Education, 1917.

Ellsworth, Clayton S. "The coming of rural consolidated schools in the Ohio Valley, 1892-1912". Agricultural History. 30.3 (1956) 119-128.

Hamlett, Barksdale. "History of Education in Kentucky." Bulletin of Kentucky Department of Education 7.4 (1914) Frankfort: Kentucky Dept. of Education.

Hedden, Alberta Hardin. Personal Interview, Fairfield, Kentucky, 1992.

Johonnot, James. School-Houses. New York: J. W. Schermerhorn & Co, 1871.

Lake, D. J. and Co. An Atlas of Nelson and Spencer Counties, Kentucky. 1882. Bardstown, Kentucky: Nelson County Historical Society, 1973.

Spencer Magnet. 6 Feb., 1986, 5.

U.S. Census Bureau. Census Schedules, 1830-1840, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Riverview School  
Spencer County, Kentucky

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### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the northeast side of State Route 31E, proceeding thence northeast 120 feet in a line parallel with the northwest side of the school and twenty feet northwest of it to point B, proceeding thence southeast 75 feet to point C, proceeding thence southwest 120 feet along a rock retaining wall to point D on the northeast side of State Route 31E, proceeding thence 75 feet northwest with the northeast side of State Route 31E to the point of origin.

#### Boundary Justification

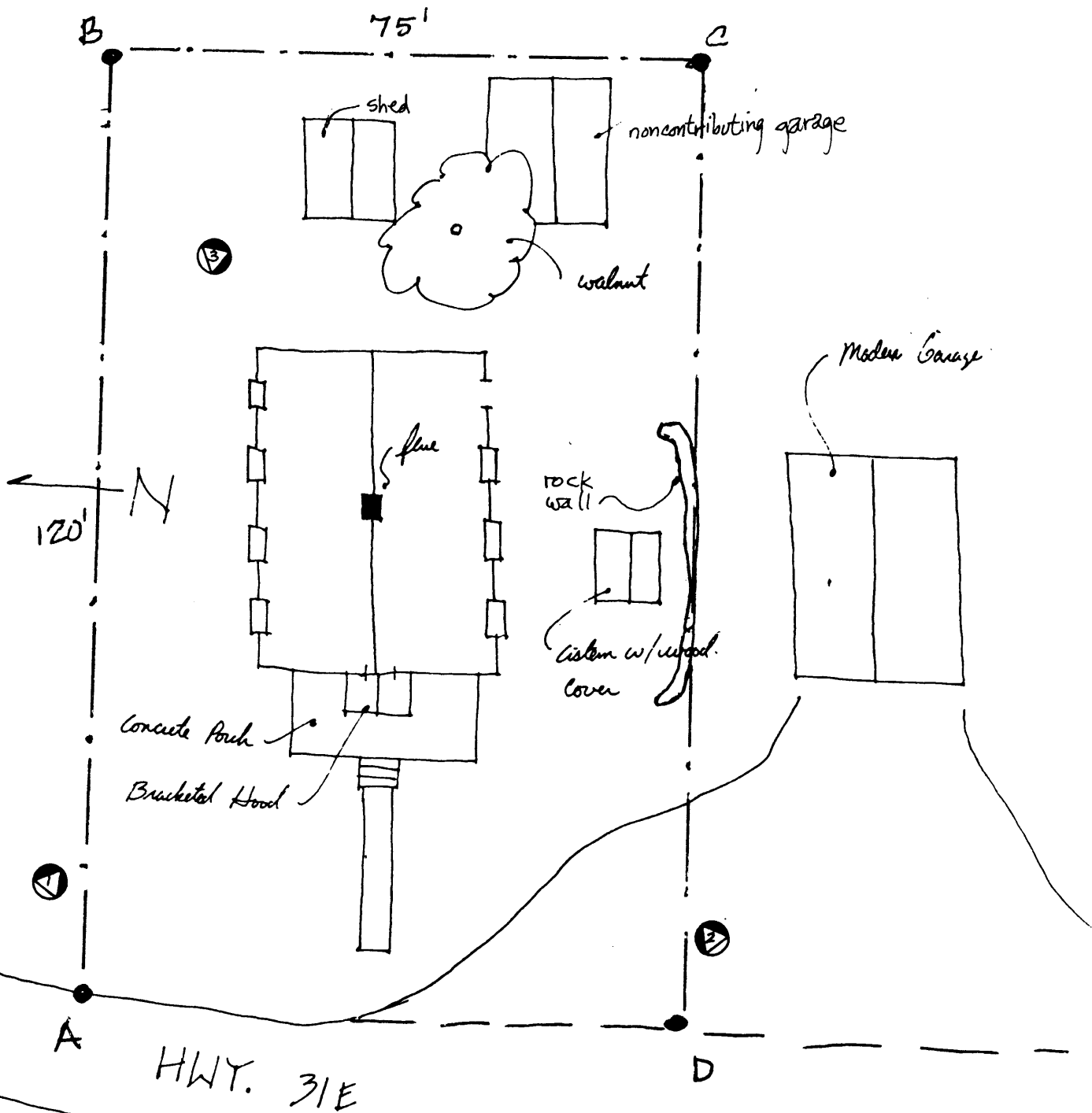
The boundaries have been selected to contain the nominated property and its immediate surroundings between the road and the bluff, and to exclude any modern buildings which would detract from the significance of the property.

# RIVERVIEW SCHOOL

## SP-26

NOT DRAWN TO SCALE

PHOTO KEY 



38611 SE  
(MOUNT  
WASHINGTON)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

85°30' 1640000 FEET (NORTH) 634000m.E.  
LOUISVILLE 25 MI. SMITHVILLE 1.8 MI.

RIVERVIEW SCHOOL  
Spencer Co, Ky

ZONE 16  
EASTING 632 710  
NORTHING 4206 580  
180 000 FEET  
(NORTH)

Fairfield Quad  
1953

