

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 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 Cumberland Mountain School

other names/site number Cumberland Camp Ground

2. Location

street & number Old U. S. Highway 127 North N/A not for publication

city or town Crossville N/A vicinity

state Tennessee code TN county Cumberland code 035 zip code 38555

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.)
Herbert E. Hays 6/29/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
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

Alonzo Lyman

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action

8/5/93

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	
4	4	_____ buildings
		_____ sites
1	1	_____ structures
		_____ objects
5	5	_____ 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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education: School

Education: Related Housing

Education: Library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation: Outdoor Recreation

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival, Bungalow

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, Sandstone

walls Sandstone, Clapboard

Brick

roof Asphalt

other WOOD

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.)

- 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

1924-1939

Significant Dates

1924-25, 1926-27, 1928-29

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Hibbs, Henry Clossen

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): N/A

- 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:

Cumberland Mountain School
Name of Property

Cumberland Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25.23 acres

Crossville TN 109 NE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6	7	6	7	7	0	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing				

3

1	6	6	7	7	1	8	0	3	9	8	2	8	2	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

2

1	6	6	7	7	2	8	0	3	9	8	3	5	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

4

1	6	6	7	7	0	5	0	3	9	8	2	9	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

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 E. A. Straw

organization Tennessee Historical Commission

date April 1993

street & number 701 Broadway - Room B-30

telephone (615) 532-1550

city or town Nashville

state TN

zip code 37243-0442

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 First United Methodist Church

street & number P. O. Box 752

telephone _____

city or town Crossville

state TN

zip code 38555

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.

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Cumberland Mountain School
Cumberland County, TN

Narrative Description

Cumberland Mountain School is located on the northern edge of the town of Crossville, Cumberland County, Tennessee. The original school property consisted of 470 acres of land with the majority of the school buildings grouped on approximately a fifteen acre parcel, the remainder was used for agricultural purposes. The present property of the Cumberland Mountain School consists of 25.23 acres and is operated as a church camp. The camp now consists of four of the original school buildings and three buildings constructed after 1940 when the school campus and land was leased and later became part of the church camp. The campus area of the Cumberland Mountain School retains the majority of its historic buildings and reflects the original appearance of the school.

Cumberland Mountain School opened in 1921 with one building, Dorton Hall. Dorton Hall, designed by Nashville architect Henry Hibbs, was a three story frame building constructed as a dormitory for sixty-five students. The dormitory was built to house male students, but during the first two years housed both male and female students (on separate floors) and was also used as a classroom building. Student labor was used to build additional buildings in the succeeding years. The following year (1922-23) a chapel and classroom building were constructed (non-extant).

In 1924-25 **Susie Gray Hall (C)**, a dormitory for female students, was completed. Occupancy of the new dormitory occurred at Christmas time although the kitchen and dining room had been in use since the opening of the school year. Susie Gray Hall is a three story brick building with three dormers on the front of the hip roof. This dormitory building is now the focal point of the historic school grounds. The roof has a twenty-four inch eave overhang and boxed cornice. The front facade of the dormitory has a center forty foot classical portico flanked by three sets of paired six-over-six double-hung windows with six-inch concrete sills and metal lintels.

The center portico is two stories high, has a flat roof, and is supported by four pairs of square posts. The ceiling of the portico is tongue and groove siding. The floor is of concrete and the two steps approaching the entry are concrete in semi-circular form. The entry door (7' X 36") is wood and glass, with fifteen lights. The door is flanked by sidelights which have ten lights each. Eight inch letters in concrete panel over the door is inscribe "Susie Gray Hall." A brick surround of stretcher and header rows accent the entry. A single bay on each side of the door has a pair of six-over-six double-hung windows above a 4' X 6'8" concrete panel, and a pair of six light

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hinged windows below the panel.

The south end of Susie Gray Hall is composed of three bays. A double door (each door is 2' X 7') with ten lights in each door is positioned on the ground level. Through this door one enters the dining room. On each side of the door is a pair of double-hung six-over-six windows on the first story and three single double-hung six-over-six on the second and third stories.

The window placement on the rear, or west side, of the building is irregular. The south end of the west side has three pairs of six-over-six windows on the second and third levels. The north end has four bays on the second and third levels with windows identical to those on the south end. On ground level there is a door in the north end of the west side leading to the laundry room and a door leading into the kitchen. A stairwell allows an approach to these doors, which are below ground level. A forty-four inch metal stairway fire escape in the middle of the back wall leads to a door with six lights and two panels on the second story and a window on the third. Underneath the stairway are two double-hung six-over-six windows.

The north side of Susie Gray Hall has an eight-step stone with stone railing wall and a double door in the center of the wall. The doors are ten light wooden pieces 2' X 7' each. This elevation had three bays with three levels of double-hung six-over-six windows on either side of the door. Two levels of windows are located over the door.

The interior has an open wooden central staircase from the first floor to the attic. The dogleg staircase alternates between single and double flights. A wooden handrail decorates the stair. A hall (60 inches wide) runs north to south on the upper levels, connecting to the exterior door on the north side. Floors are hardwood and the plaster walls are covered by plywood paneling that was added in 1978. On the two dormitory levels there are thirty-two rooms, opening to the north-south hallway from either side, using five-panel doors. Most of the rooms are 12'6" X 36". There is a 34" brick fireplace with brick mantle and hearth in a common room on the first floor. Two rest rooms are located in the center of the building on each floor.

The kitchen, the pantry, and the dining room are on the south end of the first level. The dimensions of the dining room are 48' X 30' with one corner enclosed and the kitchen in 34' X 14'4" with one corner used as a hall. The walls are painted plaster the floors are concrete and wood and the ceiling are paneled in metal frames of gypsum board added in 1978. Steam pipes are exposed below the ceilings of these rooms and three boxed beams are in evidence in the

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dining room. (C)

The **Principal's Residence (C)** is located (approximately 150') southwest of Susie Gray Hall. The house is a simplified bungalow structure that faces east, as do all the contributing buildings on the school grounds. The house was constructed for the school's principal in 1924. The house has a moderate pitch gable roof with a front gable roof porch. The overhanging eaves are approximately 12 inches. The ends of the rafters are exposed and painted. The foundation is stone and the exterior walls are 1' by 10' pine clapboard. The corners are mitered with alternating lap. The east facade of the house had an off-center porch with front facing gable roof. The door has eight lights in the top and three vertical panels in the bottom. There is a fourteen inch transom above the door. There is a nine light hinged window to the south of the door under the porch, and a double-hung nine-over-one to the north. To the south of the porch are a pair of nine-over-one double-hung windows.

On the south side of the house a stone chimney with shoulders is set in front of the roof ridge about halfway down the roof slope. Six light wood double casement windows flank the chimney on each side. The dining room extends the gable roof on the back side by 3'6". This section has a pair of nine-over-one double-hung windows beneath the roof ridge in the center of the wall.

The west side (or rear) of the house has a gable roofed wing. There are nine-over-one windows on the south and west side of the wing and a two-over-two window on the north side. An exterior door is in the west gable end. The gable roof changes pitch on the north side to extend over what was originally a rear screened porch. The porch was enclosed in 1978 with grooved hardboard panels. The north side of the house has two nine-over-nine double-hung windows spaced evenly in the side. An attic window of nine lights is located below the roof ridge.

The interior consists of a living room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, a bathroom and utility room. There is a small cellar with a gas furnace. The floors are hardwood and the walls and ceiling are gypsum wallboard. The rooms have six inch baseboards and simple crown molding. The living room has a chair rail and a simple painted stone fireplace with a high stone mantel on the north wall. Bookcases are built against the wall on either side of the fireplace. At this time the residence is undergoing restoration and is being repainted white, its original color.

Located northwest of the Principal's Residence is a simple stone **Storage House (C)** constructed in 1928-29. The structure is 24'6" X

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37" and has a asphalt shingle gable roof. The pediment of the roof is covered with rough stucco. A flue extend from the middle of the roof at the peak. The stone veneer is local sandstone cut into large blocks (12" - 14") and laid in horizontal rows with beaded mortar joints. The framing of the building 2' X 6' studs boxed with 12 inch rough lumber. The space between the studs was filled with sawdust for insulation. The foundation is concrete.

The door are in the east and west gable ends and there are small windows and vents on the north and south elevations. The east elevation contains a door to the second level of the building. It is approached by five stone steps. The door is in the middle of this elevation. The 2'10" X 6'2" door is composed of two panels nailed together. The top panel is plywood and the bottom is flooring set a forty-five degree angle. Above the door is a large louvered vent.

The south side has three twenty inch square vents on the lower level and two 8" x 20" vents on the lower level of the building. The west (rear) side of the building has a wooden door in the center opening into the lower level of the building. The door is make in two panels, the upper portion is pine flooring set vertically, and the lower is flooring set on a forty-five degree angle. The door approached on a down ramp flanked by five inch flared concrete retaining walls. Above the door is a double-hung four-over-four window. Above that window is an identical window at the attic level (this window is currently covered with plywood but is intact). A twenty inch square vent is in the middle of the section south of the door.

The north side is identical to the south with three twenty inch square vents in the lower level and two 8" x 20" vents in the upper level.

The interior of the storage building is divided into two levels, upper and lower. Each level consists of one room. The floor on the upper level is 2.5" pine and the floor on the lower level is concrete. The interior walls and ceiling are gypsum board with batten.

The **Library (C)** is a T-plan building constructed in 1926-27 with a simple gable roof, sandstone veneer with beaded joints, laid in a random pattern of vertical and horizontal stone. The sandstone was quarried on the property south of the library. The beaded joints are an early use of this type of mortar technique in the area. The building was framed with 2" X 4" and was sheathed with rough lumber. The library has an entry portico which exhibits Colonial Revival characteristics.

The dimensions of the structure ar 52' X 27' The facade has a

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matching pair of metal casement windows on either side of the entrance. Each half of the casement window has thirty lights.

The portico is supported by two stone piers forty-six inches high, each with paired wooden square battered piers spanning the distance between the stone piers and the capitals supporting the gable portico. An arched pediment decorates the gable, and the ceiling of the portico is barrel vaulted. The door is wooden with fifteen lights. A three light transom is located over the door and a stone arch acts as a lintel.

The south side has three metal casement windows with eighteen lights in each window. Two outside panels on each window open, the middle panel is stationary.

The west side or rear of the library has two casement windows identical to the front. A room extend out from the center of the rear. In 1984 a portico similar to the one on the front was added to the back of the library to provide a rear entrance. This portico is set on a raised porch of sandstone. The rear entrance also provides an entrance to a small basement under the chapel through a trap door in the floor.

The north elevation has an exterior chimney with sloping shoulders in the peak of the gable. The north elevation also has casement window on either side of the chimney.

The interior of the Library building is composed of two rooms. The floors are beech tongue and groove and the walls are gypsum wallboard. The wallboard panels follow the rafters eight feet up to the collar beam on either side of the room. Then panels nailed to the collar beam, span the distance horizontally from one side of the room to the other. A stone fireplace dominates the north end of the room.

The second room is a small chapel, added in 1984, at the rear of the library and is about 14' x 15'. The floor is carpeted and the walls are dark oak panels. A small window is in each of south and north walls and stained glass is installed on the interior side of the south window. This room was previously used for storage.

Around 1924 four stone posts were constructed to provide an **entry gate (C)** to the school grounds. The two largest posts were removed in 1978. The two remaining posts are 52" high to the lower cap and 24" square. The cap rock is 15" square and 4" thick. Three stones form a 28" square beneath the cap, as with many of the buildings, the mortar joints are beaded.

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Non-contributing buildings located on the grounds include a Grade A Dairy Barn built circa 1950. The concrete block barn has a gable asphalt roof. (NC)

Constructed on the property in circa 1987 is a bunkhouse. The building is a plywood board and batten building with a porch on its front facade. The gable roof is asphalt singles and the porch roof is galvanized metal. (NC)

The Picnic Shelter, built in 1978 is a gabled roof open structure with a brick fireplace located in the center of the north side. At each end of the shelter has a 10' X 25" area that serves as restrooms and storage space. Exterior walls of the restrooms is a rough board and batten plywood over 2 X 4 furring and insulation with concrete block interior in the bath rooms. The floor is concrete. (NC)

The Paty Lodge is a thirty-two bed group lodge built in 1978. The exterior is a rough plywood board and batten construction attached to Concrete blocks. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. (NC)

The swimming pool was constructed in 1967 of concrete and is in poor condition. (NC) The swimming pool bath house was constructed in 1967 of concrete block. The one story building has a hip roof with asphalt singles. (NC) Plans are to demolish both the pool and bath house.

Now located on the remaining 25.23 acres, the Cumberland Mountain School originally set on 470 acres. Located throughout the campus were buildings that have been lost to fire or demolished for a re-routed highway. The buildings no longer extant included, a Shop Building constructed in 1922-23 and burned in the 1940s. Several farm buildings were scattered on the property and once consisted of a gambrel roof two story barn built ca 1922-23, a wood stave silo was moved from Manchester Tennessee around 1924, and a one story gable roof building, circa 1924 for sheep, hogs, etc., and a small granary. The buildings were destroyed by fire in the 1940s. Still visible from Susie Gray Hall is a portion of the original barn road.

Other buildings that once stood on the campus grounds include a circa 1922 wood frame chapel building which also served as the book store and a small classroom building. The building consisted of four classrooms and a hallway. The classroom building was torn down in the 1960s. The chapel and the classroom buildings were connected with a slag walkway edged with red brick. A portion of this walkway is still visible. The Chapel building was removed in 1970.

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In 1927, the last construction project of the Cumberland Mountain School, was the construction of a dam on the Little Obed River. The 225' long earthen dam had a concrete core, the dam no longer exists. Most of the lost buildings were located on the portion of Cumberland School land which no longer is a part of the camp.

While the Cumberland Mountain School has lost outbuildings throughout the original 470 acre campus, the original campus portion of the building has retained integrity. Susie Gray Hall, the Library, Principal's Residence, and Storage House still reflect the Cumberland Mountain School's legacy to education in Cumberland County.

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Statement of Significance

The Cumberland Mountain School, located in Crossville, Cumberland County, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its significance to The Cumberland Mountain region in education. Criterion Consideration A also applies as the property is owned by the First United Methodist Church. The remaining 25.23 acres of the school represent an important philosophy about education for isolated mountain youth.

Cumberland Mountain School grew out of an effort began by Robert Hershey Hall. Around 1916 Brother Robert Hall was assigned by the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South to serve the Crossville Circuit, which was composed of six churches. During his travels around the circuit of his six churches he found the young people of the Cumberland Mountains had little or no opportunity for formal education. Many of the grade schools throughout the county were only open three or four months a year and went only to the eighth grade. The majority of teachers in the small schools had only an eighth grade education. The vast majority of rural young people had no opportunity to attend school in town because of lack of transportation and financing. The county high school was located in Crossville but there were no paved roads in the county and distance to the high school was too great for the majority of students who wanted more than an eighth grade education.

Hall envisioned a boarding school that would supply agriculture, mechanical arts, and domestic science along with a high school curriculum. The school would offer students the opportunity to pay off their tuition by working on the school farm or domestic duties. Hall first acquired local support and then went to the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to enlist their aid. Early on Hall gained the support of S. C. Bishop, publisher of the local newspaper (Crossville Chronicle) and J. W. Dorton, the president of the First National Bank. In October 1919 a committee from the Tennessee Conference went to Crossville to look at land Hall had been offered for his project. On February 4, 1920 the Crossville Chronicle reported that a public meeting was held to explain the Methodist Episcopal Church, South planed to build a school in the Cumberland Mountain area. On July 12 1920, the county court passed a resolution to appropriate \$2,500 to be used toward the purchase of land for the school. In addition local people pledged money at mass meetings held in Crossville. In September 1920, ten business men deeded 340 acres to Cumberland Mountain School and in 1921 more land was added to make 470 acres. The Tennessee Conference voted to give \$150,000 towards the school on October 8, 1920 at their session meeting in Shelbyville,

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Tennessee.

The land for the school had the Little Obed and Obed rivers flowing through it. Part of the land along these streams was moderately rolling. The property was bounded on the south by farm land; the west by railroad, Obed River, and woodland; and the north by farm land and woodland. There was 1.3 miles of frontage on the newly graded Dixie Highway (short route and later State Highway 28 and U. S. Highway 127, currently known as Old U.S. 127). Approximately forty acres of woodland lay on the east side of the highway. Most of this land was cut over timber land. However, two small farms with two small houses were included. Approximately twenty-five acres were in cultivation on the south end of the property and approximately twenty-five acres were in cultivation near the north end of the property.

In June 1921 Nashville architect Henry Hibbs and several others visited the area and chose 15 acres for the campus site. The chosen area was about the middle of the road frontage with trees six to twelve inches in diameter with small bushes and a number of large stumps. This was a high point of the acreage. Hibbs drew plans for the first building, a frame dormitory. Sumer Construction Co. of Nashville was employed to build a three story wood structure approximately 34' X 110'. Wood was chosen so the school could open in October.

The building was located some 350' from the road with the south end of the building north of a circular driveway and was named Dorton Hall. It was so named because J. W. Dorton gave a substantial gift of money as well as other early support. Students for the school were recruited in Cumberland County by Robert Hall and in surrounding counties by Raymond Ross Paty, who had been hired to serve as the first principal of Cumberland Mountain School.

School opened on October 26, 1921 with forty-eight students and with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond R. Paty as teachers. Classes ranged from kindergarten to 12th grade and were taught in the classrooms in Dorton Hall. In the following years the number of students increased as more dormitory and classroom space became available. Dorton Hall served as both the girls and boys dormitory and classrooms for the first two and one-half. Dorton Hall was used in this fashion until the Susie Gray Hall was completed and the girls moved into the new dormitory three and one-half year later. The school operated as a six day school for thirty-two weeks of the year.

Teachers chosen for Cumberland Mountain School came from some of the better schools in the country. An attempt was made to provide a home-

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like atmosphere for the students as they were taught to work, to play, and how to live. Many students were older than the average age for their grade when they first arrived at the school because no school had been available for them near their homes. A number of students were twenty-five years of age or more when they graduated from high school.

Few students were able to pay their board and scholarships were obtained for most of the students. Scholarships were paid off through work at the school. Clearing the land and constructing the farm and school buildings was the priority during the early years. Two hours of free labor each day was required by all boarding students. Boys worked in the construction of the facilities and firing furnaces, pot belly stoves, and the farm work. Girls did the canning, cooking, cleaning, and laundry. Uniforms were required for school attendance and for girls on Sunday. Suits were the Sunday uniforms for the boys. Although the school was owned and operated by the Methodist Episcopal Church South and church attendance was required on Sunday, students could and did attend the church of their choice in Crossville.

In September 1922 Cumberland Mountain School opened for its second year. Enrollment was eighty students, with approximately eighty students turned away for lack of space. Two additional staff members were added, one of whom was Professor Howard Elam, a graduate of the University of Tennessee, was formerly a member of the Berea College staff.

While the main objective of the school was to provide students who lived to far away from a school the opportunity to board and attend school, the opening of Cumberland Mountain School attracted a number of new families to the area. The families moved so their children could attend school as day students. The day students began in 1922 and continued through the life of the school. For the first eight years high school students attended school in the morning and worked in the afternoon and grade school students worked in the morning and attended school in the afternoon.

Standard high school academic course were taught using text books adopted by the state and diplomas were provided to graduates from the state. Cumberland Mountain School offered coursed in manual training, domestic science, and agriculture. High school students who planned to be teachers taught grade schools students. One third to one half of the students were on grade school level.

All graduates of the first two years of school become teachers and the trend continued throughout the life of the school. Some became

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principals, county superintendents, and college professors. A president of Duke University was a member of the first graduation class.

In addition to the graduates that choose education, three students who learned stone work at the school founded and operated a stone business in Cumberland County for more than 35 years with a peak employment of 127 men. Probably the greatest number of male graduates went into the field of agriculture although many vocations have been represented by students from CMS.

By 1928 the neighborhood around Cumberland Mountain School had grown enough to support a county grade school. The education classes of CMS planned a grade school building that was built by the county on land owned by Cumberland Mountain School. With the opening of this school only a few grade school students were accepted at CMS. Two graduates of CMS who had completed two years of college were chosen to teach at the new grade school called Woodlawn. A close relationship continued between the two schools.

In 1928 about 300 people from the Crossville area attended a picnic on the grounds of the school to honor Robert Hall for his role in the founding of the Cumberland Mountain School. Hall was presented with a Ford automobile.

Cumberland Mountain School continued to grow and expand with the number of boarding students reaching 120 in 1925 - 1926. In 1936 a major fire destroyed Dorton Hall. School enrollment had been steady with approximately 105 students each year. In the 1937 - 1938 school year enrollment had dropped to 63 boarding students and 13 day students. On December 24, 1938 Cumberland Mountain School closed. The loss of Dorton Hall, the economic conditions of the depression, and better transportation to county schools led to the demise of CMS. Juniors and seniors were given the option to go to Martin College in Pulaski, Tennessee for the balance the school year at no cost. Eleven juniors and fifteen seniors accepted the transfer. Freshmen and sophomores who could not otherwise go to high school were given the opportunity to transfer to Baxter Seminary, Baxter, Tennessee. The number of students who accepted this offer was not entered in the school records. One teacher transferred to Martin with the students.

After the closing of Cumberland Mountain School the land was used by Martin College to raise vegetables for approximately two years. Scarritt College operated a Rural Center from 1942 to 1950. Land was also leased to a dairy farmer for a period of time.

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In 1952 the grounds were converted into a Methodist church camp. The camp closed in 1987 as the result of a road project that relocated U. S. Highway 127. The new path of the road split the campgrounds half and hindered camp operations. In 1987 the decision to sell off the land was made in addition to giving the twenty-five acres containing the historic buildings to the First United Methodist Church of Crossville. The grounds are currently used for conferences and meetings.

Cumberland Mountain School graduated 260 students during its 17 years of operation and is responsible for the education of an addition 400 students. Staffed by dedicated teachers from excellent colleges and universities this boarding school for young mountain men and women combined academic learning with learning work habits, skills, social responsibility, and "Christian ideals towards general personal excellence." This school made inestimable contributions to the total life of the upper Cumberland region. The school played an important role in the education not only in Cumberland County, but also in Overton, Putnam, Jackson, White, Fentress, and Morgan. Students came from as far as Memphis in west Tennessee and Morristown are in the east.

Cumberland Mountain School is significant for its role in the educational movement of settlement schools for rural, mountain youth. While it was not a part of the early movement of settlement schools in the South which taught "native crafts" along with education and work skills, it was part of the movement to provide educational skills and a work ethic to youth in the rural regions of the Appalachian Mountains. In 1922 the school hired Professor Howard Elam, a former member of the Berea (Kentucky) College staff, a school that was one of the major leaders in the settlement school movement. Cumberland Mountain School was one of two schools in Cumberland County dedicated to the education of children from the mountains. The other school, Pleasant Hill Academy was founded in 1875 and in 1887 was staffed by the American Missionary Association. Pioneer Hall, a dormitory/administrative building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 27, 1978.

The main buildings at Cumberland Mountain School appear to have been designed by Henry Clossen Hibbs. Hibbs was born in 1882 in Camden, New Jersey. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1904 and began working and worked in various architectural firms in Philadelphia and New York. In 1913 he worked with Ludlow and Peabody. In 1914 Hibbs arrived in Nashville to supervise the building of several buildings on the new George Peabody College for Teachers (NHL 12/21/1965). Hibbs remained in Nashville after the Peabody College

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job was completed and remain with the Ludlow and Peabody firm until 1916. Hibbs is responsible for the design of several buildings in Nashville. In 1929 he was awarded an AIA gold medal for the planning and design of Scarritt College in Nashville.

A copy of his notebook shows that he designed a "Crossville Dormitory" in 1921. The building had 98,800 cubic feet and cost \$23,206. Although no records have been found to show that Hibbs was involved in the design of the other buildings, there is a strong indication that he was involved. The library building and the storage house, while built with student labor, were constructed of Crab Orchard stone and show simple design features. Hibbs work at Scarritt College was done with Crab Orchard stone, a native Tennessee material, he became aware of while working on the Cumberland Mountain School. The library and storage buildings are probably Hibbs earliest work with Crab Orchard stone.

Cumberland Mountain School stands out as an important part of the late settlement movement. The school stressed education and work skills that lead many of their graduates into education as teachers and provided others with skills that would have not been realized if the Cumberland Mountain School and the Methodist Episcopal Church had not provided students with scholarships and opportunities to work their way through a high school education. Rural schools in Tennessee were often small one-room schools that provided only an elementary level education, often taught by teachers with only an eighth grade education. Although counties were required to have at least one four year high school at the time Cumberland Mountain School was started, most were inaccessible to the majority of mountain youth. Cumberland Mountain School filled an important gap in education both with providing a boarding school and staffing it with teachers who had a college education.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The east boundary of Cumberland Mountain School is Old U. S. Highway 127. The south boundary of the property adjoins the property of the First Methodist Church, Crossville. The west boundary of the property adjoins undeveloped commercial property which faces U. S. Highway 127 North. The north boundary of the property adjoins vacant commercial property. See Map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries for the Cumberland Mountain School include a twenty-five acre tract that is historically associated with the school. It includes the undefined fifteen acres of the campus and additional land that served as recreational and farm land.

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Cumberland Mountain School
Crossville, Cumberland County, Tennessee
Photos by: Draper Keisling
Date: 1992
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, Tennessee

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Susie Gray Hall, looking northwest

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Susie Gray Hall, detail, looking northwest

3 of 18

Susie Gray Hall, looking north

4 of 18

Susie Gray Hall, looking southeast

5 of 18

Library, looking northwest

6 of 18

Library, looking southeast

7 of 18

Library, looking southwest

8 of 18

Library, looking north

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Principal's Residence, looking southwest

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Principal's Residence, looking southwest

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Principal's Residence, looking northeast

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Storage House, looking northwest

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Storage House, looking southeast

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Pool House and Pool, looking south

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Bunk House, looking northwest

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Picnic Shelter, looking northwest

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Dairy Barn, looking northwest

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Paty Lodge, looking southwest