

56-2160

(Expires 5/31/2012)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mays Lick Negro School  
other names/site number May's Lick Rosenwald School; May's Lick Consolidated Colored School; MSML-80, May's Lick Elementary School  
Related Multiple Property NA

### 2. Location

street & number 5003 Raymond Road

NA	not for publication
NA	Vicinity

  
city or town May's Lick  
state Kentucky code KY county Mason code 161 zip code 41055

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:  
    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  
X A     B     C     D

Signature of certifying official/title  Craig Potts/SHPO Date 1-17-18  
**Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office**  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register     determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register     removed from the National Register  
other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
 3-5-2018  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Mays Lick Negro School  
Name of Property

Mason County, Kentucky  
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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education-Negro School

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup>-early 20<sup>th</sup> century American

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Concrete, Brick

roof: Metal

other:

Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

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**Narrative Description**


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Mays Lick Negro School (MSML-80) is a historic consolidated school built in 1920 for the African American population during the era of racially segregated schooling. The property proposed for listing is located near the center of May's Lick, a community in Mason County, Kentucky, linked by U.S. Highway 68 to Maysville. May's Lick is a crossroad community, with State Route 324 crossing U.S. 68, and the county seat, Maysville, sitting about 8 miles north. The May's Lick school is an early instance of the consolidation of smaller and widely dispersed one-room schools in the May's Lick, Helena, Wedonia, and Lewisburg districts of the Mason County School system. Four teachers taught in the school, and a portion of the school construction was funded by a grant from the Rosenwald School fund. The school was closed in 1960-1961 when the Mason County School system integrated racially. The area proposed for listing is 2.0 acres, and includes the contributing building, as well as a non-contributing building.



**May's Lick Negro School**

**Latitude: 38.518160°**

**Longitude: -83.838468°**

**Name of Property**

As with many communities in Kentucky, the name of this location is a possessive, referencing an early pioneer or owner (William May): May's Lick. The name proposed for this listing lacks the apostrophe in the town name, "Mays Lick Negro School," taking it directly from the spelling in the date block above the school's front door. This name was chosen for this listing by several former students of the school, as well as by the only living member of its former teaching staff.



Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

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### Property Ownership and Historical Development

The first school for African Americans in May's Lick was built shortly after the end of the Civil War. On August 27, 1868, Andrew January of Maysville, a title holder for the Maysville & Lexington Turnpike Company, conveyed a parcel of that land to John Middleton, Henry Jackson, and Steven Breckinridge, Trustees of the Colored Baptist Church of May's Lick for building a church and school. A two-room frame building located behind (north of) the present Second Baptist Church on Raymond Road. That building no longer stands. The nominated school building was erected on the lot to the right of (east of) the Second Baptist Church.



May's Lick School, 1907



May's Lick Colored School in use as Auction House

In Mason County, in 1904 there were 13 small schools for black children. In early 1916, the Mason County Board of Education proposed construction of a consolidated school in May's Lick. Citizens there decided they wanted a better building than what the Board of Education was proposing. In November 1916, those citizens organized a corporation known as the May's Lick Health and Welfare Company, with an authorized capital stock of \$4,000.00. A lot east of Second Baptist Church was purchased on June 16, 1919 from William H. Worthington for the sum of fourteen Hundred Dollars.

The Board of Education agreed to pay \$2500.00 toward the erection of the school, and the State Trust Company and the State National Bank of Maysville agreed to bond the property. On October 10, 1920, members of the Masonic Lodge of Maysville laid the cornerstone to Mays Lick Negro School. Dedication services were held July 17, 1921 and the first classes began in September. It served children in the May's Lick, Helena, Wedonia, and Lewisburg Districts. The school cost \$17,650.00 to build--\$10,800.00 from citizens, \$5,650.00 from public funds and \$1200.00 from the Rosenwald Foundation.

After the school closed the property was sold by the Mason County Board of Education to William Kachler on March 24, 1962 for \$3,900.00. Mr. Kachler used the property for his Real-estate, auction, and storage businesses. He added rooms, buildings, sheds and storage units to the school as his business ventures expanded. These additions are shown in the study "Retracement Survey for Mason County Fiscal Court" and Picture #9. Kachler knocked out windows, doors and walls to make room and access for his operation. The one benefit of his additions was that they protected the building from exposure to the elements. Kachler sold the property to an auction company that quickly went bankrupt and defaulted on their loan. The bank holding the loan, Oak Hills Bank of Ripley Ohio, conveyed the property to May's Lick Community Development on June 18, 2007.

Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

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May's Lick Community Development and the Fiscal Court have constructed the May's Lick Volunteer Fire Department – Community Center (non-contributing Building) behind the school building and have undertaken major restoration of the school building since 2007.

### Description of the Site

The school building is located on a two-acre tract of land that lies between the May's Lick Second Baptist Church and highway US 68. The Baptist Church property stands west of the school. The school is surrounded by what is now called Salt Lick Circle. Two structures are located on the site; the brick school and behind it, the May's Lick Volunteer Fire Department / Community Center building. About half of the property is grass and the rest is buildings, black top parking, and roadway. The original lot consisted of two acres which was purchased from Mr. William H Worthington by the local citizens in 1919.



**May's Lick Negro School, to north**

**School and Fire Department/Community Building, to NNW**

### Description of the School exterior

Mays Lick Negro School is a two-story structure facing south toward Raymond Road (KY 324). The lower level is poured concrete and the upper level is brick. The front entrance is elevated with a concrete stairway going up to a double doorway. The plan is nearly square. It is unknown who designed the building, but it follows the designs for Rosenwald schools.

Three of the sides (east-west-south) of the building are covered with wooden double-hung sash windows in a 6-over-1-light configuration. Most Rosenwald schools utilized tall windows to take advantage of natural light and breezes. The classroom level of the Mays Lick Negro School is lit by 6-over-1 double-hung windows. Shorter versions of those window types light the basement.

The front (south) of the building has a double-door entry capped by a semi-circular eight-light transom, over which a small stoop roof projects, held up by brackets. The date stone is placed above the front door and is inscribed "MAYS LICK NEGRO SCHOOL" surrounding the year 1920. Three windows flank each side of the door. A basement entry door is found on the front entrance. The basement level originally had two openings on each side of the entry stair. The two openings east of those stairs have been closed up with concrete block. The exterior surface of the basement level is a stucco that is now falling away from the building, revealing the rough poured concrete below.



Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

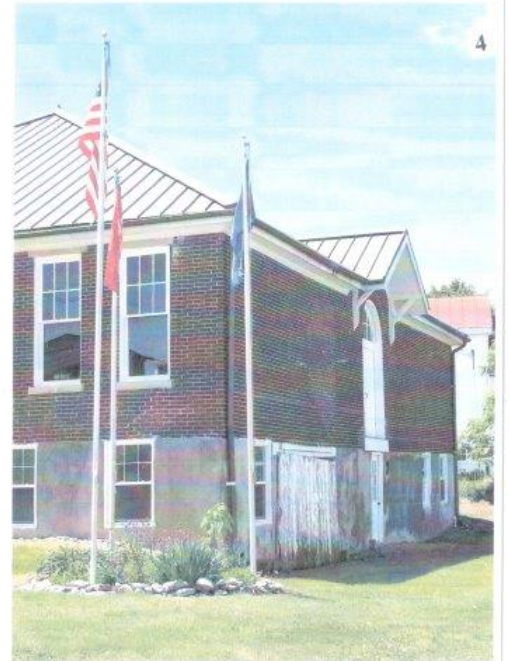
Name of Property

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The east and west sides of the building each have eight windows on the upper level and six windows on the lower level. On the east side at ground level is a pedestrian door, between the two middle windows of that level.



West side of School



East and south sides of School

The back wall, facing the community Center, is now solid brick as built in 1920, except for a lower-level opening about the size of a barn door. It is planned that a handicapped entrance will be located here and along with an elevator to make the school accessible to those who might need it. Also in the lower level is a pedestrian door centered in the ground level. Above that door, on the upper level, is a double door with an eight-light semi-circular opening, matching the transom of the front door.

### Description of the School interior

The brick school building is sixty feet across the front and fifty feet front to rear. Originally, the upstairs floor consisted of four schoolrooms, two on each side of a ten-foot-wide hallway. About halfway down the hall is a four-foot-wide wooden stairway to the lower level. Windows on three sides of the building provided light and ventilation to the classrooms according to the guidance of the Rosenwald program.

The two classrooms left (west) of the interior hall measure 22.5 feet by 24 feet. These rooms had a four-foot-wide cloak room between the two rooms, with an open entry into each room. The rooms shared a chimney that vented coal heaters during the winter months.

The two classrooms right (east) of the interior hall had a folding door between that could be opened for school-wide functions. The total length of that large room is about forty-eight feet when the divider is open. Each classroom also had a coal stove for warmth. With the rear wall of the building lacking windows, blackboards were located on that wall.

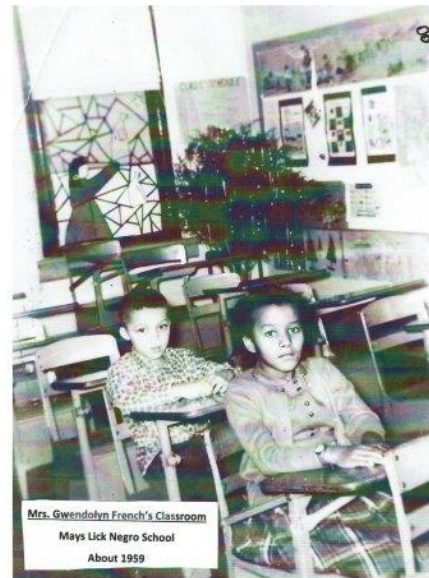
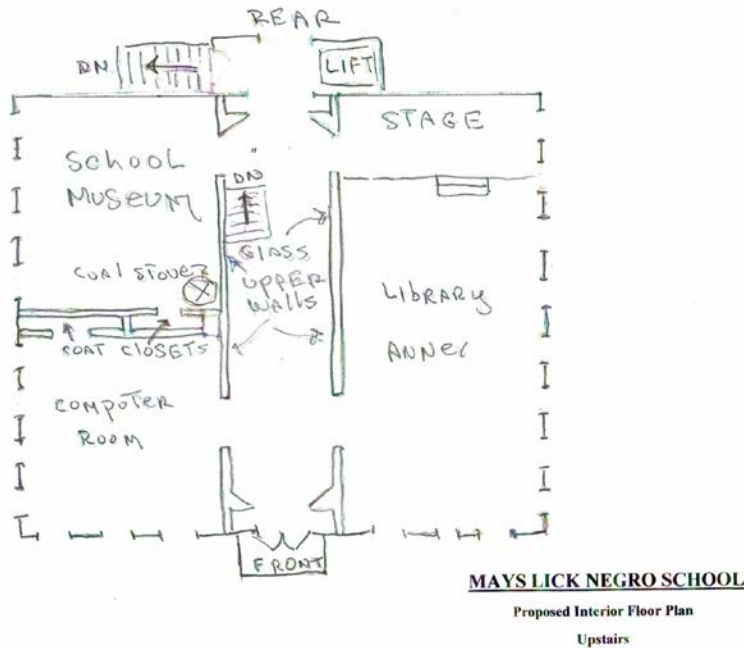
Mays Lick Negro School

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The downstairs level a workroom. Indoor bathrooms and a cafeteria were installed in 1953. Prior to that, the students used outhouses and brought water in from a cistern out back. Most kids brought their water and lunch prior to 1953.



**Floor Plan**

**Interior of School, ca. 1909**

**Volunteer Fire Department / Community Center (non-contributing building)**

The May's Lick Volunteer Fire Department/Community Center is a substantial building located closely behind the School. The Fire Department/Community Center was dedicated May 4, 2009. It is a steel framed, and sheet-metal sided and roofed building, fabricated by Kentucky Steel Buildings of Winchester, Kentucky and erected by J. R. Construction of Ewing, Kentucky. The building plan is composed of two parts: a community center area and the fire truck area.



**May's Lick Negro School**

**Fire Department/Community Center**

Mays Lick Negro School

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The community center area is on the building's south, covered by a gable roof whose ridge runs north-south. It has one-over-one double-hung metal-framed windows. A double door entry is on the south side, and another double door entry is on the east wall and a pedestrian door in the back west wall. A small gable overhang covers the south door, and a shed-roof covering, supported by 4 round columns, shields the east door from the elements. Brick wainscot along the east (front) side adds some visual relief from the steel siding.

The fire truck portion of the building is three bays wide north-south, and is covered by a gable roof whose ridge runs east-west.

The community Center includes a large kitchen and two bathrooms with showers. Photograph #3 shows a front view of the building.



### Changes to the School Building since the Period of Significance

After the school closed in 1960, it was converted into use as a real-estate office and an auction house. A multi-room lean-to building was added to the structure. Windows and walls were knocked out to ease access to the addition. A fire-escape was added to the former school, to serve main auction room. That change exposed a portion of the building's east side. The steel fire escape came through what was a window on the upper floor.

Beginning in 2007, efforts began to restore the building to its appearance during its use as an all-black school. The first stage of that work called for the removal of non-historic additions to the building. This included removal of the concrete in the rear of the building. Demolition of the additions, original landscape grades and drainage was restored by the Mason County Road Department at an estimated in-kind cost of \$48,000. What materials could not be used immediately were stored for future use. May's Lick Community Development received a Lowes Charitable and Educational Foundation Fund matching grant for \$48,300.00 February 12, 2008 that helped with the project.

A local contractor repaired and replaced the roof, roof trusses, and dormers. The interior of the building was completely stripped to the studs or concrete walls. Windows were rebuilt or remanufactured. Wood windows and the soffit were made by Harold White millworks in Morehead Kentucky.



Mays Lick Negro School

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The bricks for the school were manufactured by a local Maysville brick yard that had ceased operations forty to fifty years ago. A small abandoned telephone exchange building in Mays Lick that had the same bricks was donated to the restoration project. Exterior painting and brick repair brought the building back to its original appearance and protected it from the weather.

The lower level had quite a bit of moisture. The B-DRY company installed a system to correct the dampness problem.

Mays Lick Negro School  
Name of Property

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**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 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1921-1960  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1921  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

Mays Lick Negro School operated as a consolidated school for African Americans in Mason County Kentucky from the year it was built, 1920-1921, until Mason County ceased to segregate education racially, in 1960. It is significant all the years from 1920-1960 in the history of local education for showing the interest of the county's white citizens in keeping children in school from interacting racially.

**Criteria Considerations: NA**

Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

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## Statement of Significance

### Summary Paragraph

Mays Lick Negro School (MSML-80) meets the National Register Criterion A for its importance in local education. The significance of the school is evaluated within the historic context “African American Education in Mason County, Kentucky, 1900-1960.” The school is one of two known schools for African Americans in Mason County which received funds from the Rosenwald Foundation. The other school was a one-room frame school located in Washington (Picture # 10) and it is no longer standing. The Mays Lick Negro School is a significant signpost of the status of education for African Americans in Mason County in the era around the First World War. It shows that the Mason County School Board was interested in improving the quality of education for black children, as this school replaced numerous other one- and two-room schools in the area that were considered less-than-standard. Educators made the case for school consolidation by emphasizing that it provided stronger instruction in individual subjects, as a multi-teacher school allowed for the hiring of teachers with specialized knowledge in one academic subject, rather than the one-room-schoolhouse approach, which required each teacher to be a generalist. Typically, the physical plant of a consolidated school had much higher quality and durability than the smaller schools. Mays Lick Negro School exhibited most of these aspects, and endures today to help us understand an important local response to this need. The school was the only African American consolidated school in Mason County.

### Historic Context: African American Education in Mason County, Kentucky, 1900-1960.

Prior to the Civil War most Black education was either through Church or a Church sponsored school. Mason County made little progress about organizing any public education until after the Civil War. For many years of the nineteenth century in any Kentucky county, free schools were considered as little better than institutions for the common people. Well-to-do families thus sent their children to and supported private schools.

According to Marion B. Lucas, freemen in Maysville, Kentucky opened a school prior to the end of the Civil War. At the close of the War Between the States, the general Assembly of Kentucky made a provision for education of freed slaves. A property tax and a poll tax placed upon them were intended to provide a fund to finance these schools. But since African Americans collectively owned little or no property in the decades following the Civil War, very little money was raised by taxing the group's property value.

From 1866 to 1870, four school schools in Mason County were supported by the U.S. Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands. One of those was the school located behind the second Baptist Church in Mayslick. In 1880, nine African American schools in Mason County and twelve in 1881 were in operation. A year later, one of the schools offered high school classes—a step forward, as many whites did not believe any advantage came from offering education beyond the 8<sup>th</sup> grade for blacks. In 1891, the number of African American schools in Mason County expanded to fifteen. The 1891 superintendent's report stated that most of the teachers came from Ohio. Mason County in 1904 had forty-eight district schools for white students and thirteen for black children. Most all of the latter were one room one-teacher schools.

In his annual report to the general assembly in January 1898, Governor William O. Bradley deplored the quality of public schools for the state's Afro-American citizens. Schools provided for Afro-Americans were vastly inferior to those of whites in a state where white schools were grossly underfinanced. Prior to the 1930s a high school education in most cases consisted of completing one or at most two years beyond eighth grade.



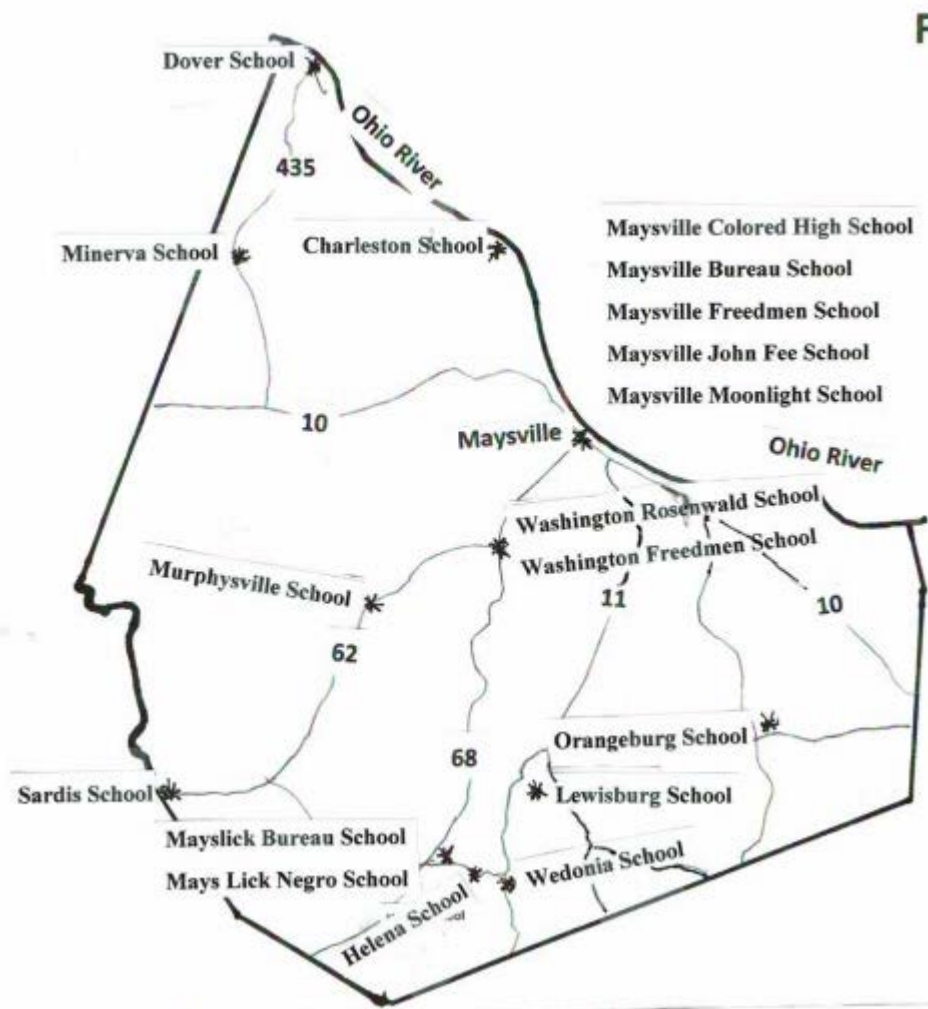
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Without Question, the decades after the Civil War were a time when influential whites advocated a different form of education for blacks, training to make them “useful” to white society.



**Map of African American Schools in Maysville, 1865-1960**

In 1910, two years after passage of the County High School law, the Mason County School Board began construction of a modern school building for white students in May’s Lick, (May’s Lick Consolidated School-National Historic Register #82002733 4/29/1982). Miss Jessie O. Yancey, Mason County Superintendent in her report to the State Superintendent of Public Education, proudly stated, “This year with one new \$32,000 building in May’s Lick we have consolidated six school districts. We have six large wagons [School Buses of the day]. We are said to have one of the best school plants in the country.”

The investment in the education of black students did not match what was available for white students. Two men who transcended this difference, point out frankly the existence of this inequality. Twin brothers, Dr. Herman and Dr. Herbert Franklin, recalled the norms that defined African American education in Mason County up to the era of Civil Rights. During a school reunion in 2010, the Franklins told their story to a local reporter amid abandoned desks in the old school. They began their formal education in 1941 when they enrolled in the

Mays Lick Negro School

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Mays Lick Negro School. The old school reinforced the larger Mason County social system, as both the school and society were segregated by race. “Racism was relaxed in this rural community, inbred through obedience, discipline, and being careful not to disrupt the social order. We were taught to function within the system. It was peculiar that white kids and black kids could willingly play in frivolity during the summer and at evenings, but when it was time for school they went to their respective institutions, one superior to the other. Most parents, victims of the era, had little formal education. They could help with some reading, but were not able to offer a lot of help with math or the sciences. But an education was valued: without it you were relegated to life as a tenant farmer” (*Ledger Independent*, October 4, 2010).

The new white school might have emboldened the African American community within May’s Lick. Before 1920, May’s Lick’s black students attended classes in a one-room wooden building located behind May’s Lick Baptist Church, show above on page 4 of this nomination. The historic picture of the school shows fifty students and staff in front of the small school building. This building is typical of the type of facilities available to African American students throughout Mason County.



**African American School in Minerva**

The African Americans in May’s Lick lobbied the Mason County Board of Education to construct a new building. The Board offered plans for a modest building, one typical of black schools found elsewhere in the county. With the new building for white children in the community, the promise of a shoddy school for blacks did not satisfy these citizens. They asked for a better building than the Board proposed. In November of 1916, citizens formed an organization called the Health and Welfare League. This group sold shares to African American citizens of the community to finance the construction of the type of building they desired. By 1920, these efforts had raised \$10,800. A grant request to the Rosenwald Fund provided another \$1,200. In 1921, a four-teacher consolidated brick school building was completed at a total cost of \$17,650.00. The school served students from the communities of May’s Lick, Helena, Wedonia, and Lewisburg.

An indication of the lack of importance toward African American Education comes from Superintendent of Mason County Schools George H. Turnipseed’s 1935 article on Mason County Schools titled “Models of Rural School Organization and Instruction; Teaching Standards and Equipment on Level With Those Found Anywhere in the Country”. Mr. Turnipseed uses 99% of his article touting that “The consolidated schools of

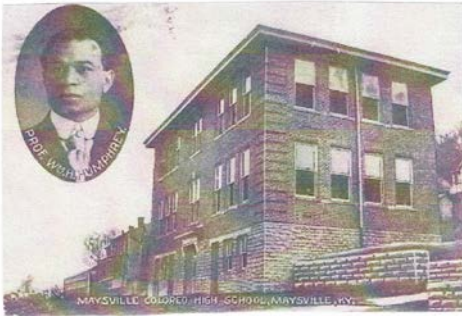
Mays Lick Negro School

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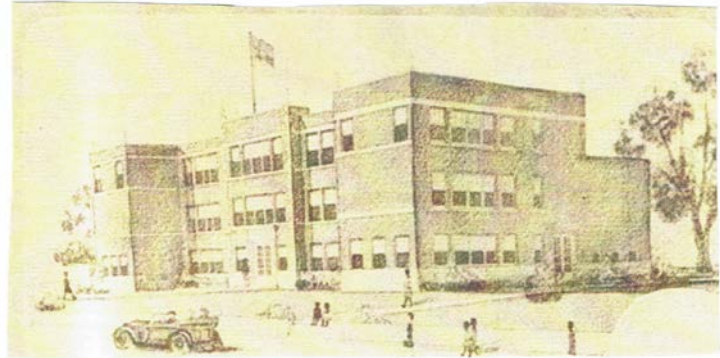
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Mason County are on a plane that is excelled scarcely anywhere in America. The consolidated school system had its beginning in May's Lick more than thirty years ago. The present (1935) county (white) consolidated schools with their enrollments are as follows: Mayslick, 335; Washington, 258; Minerva, 244; Orangeburg, 213; Lewisburg, 253; Sardis, 201; Dover, 117; Rectorville, 109; Eastland, 382; Moransburg, 88 and one one-room school at Hilldale with 38 students that was planned to be put into the system." A small paragraph at the end of the article addresses African American education: "Mason County has also six colored schools (1935) with a total enrollment of 225. Colored high school students are sent to Maysville with tuition paid by the County Board of education".



**Maysville Colored High School, 1907-1928**



**John Gregg Fee High School, Maysville, 1928-1960**

During the period of significance, if an African American student wanted an education beyond 8<sup>th</sup> grade they went to Maysville. Two Maysville high schools existed with in that time period; Maysville Colored High School was built in 1907 on 5<sup>th</sup> Street just East of Market and in 1928 the John Gregg Fee School was built at the intersection of Routes 68 & 11 (Picture #12). Fee School closed in 1960 with the advent of integration. Professor William Huston Humphries was the principle of Maysville Colored High School during its operation from 1907 to 1928 and he then went to Fee as principle from 1928 until 1949. Both of these schools no longer exist.

By 1960 only three African American Schools remained in the County outside of Maysville; May's Lick, Minerva, and Washington. The former two school buildings remain. None of the older one room schools are known to survive. See (F) in Additional Documentation that shows the location of all African American Schools in Mason County of which only two are known to survive. None of the Maysville school buildings still exist.

It might be noted that there is only one other African American school still standing in Mason County. That school is the Minerva Elementary School (Picture # 11), a one room school, located next to Minerva Methodist Church and is presently being utilized and maintained by that congregation. The building is the result of Mrs. Ida May Ross's efforts to improve the education if students in Minerva. She began her teaching career in 1912 in a one room log cabin with eight grades in Minerva when her husband who became ill and was forced to resign. In the fall of 1929 the new school building she planned and designed was built. Mrs. Ross taught there until Mason County schools were integrated in 1960 and the Minerva school was closed and sold at auction

## History of Mays Lick Negro School



Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

The following history of Mays Lick Negro School was written in 1960 by the only surviving teacher of the school, Mrs. Gwendolyn French, for *The History of the Schools in Mason County*:

The present May's Lick Elementary School evolved from the old two room frame building located behind the Second Baptist Church on highway 24. The brick building with four rooms and a full basement is located east of the Church.

The school is on a two acre lot which was purchased from the late Mr. William Worthington. The purchase of the land and the construction of the building was made possible when the Negro citizens decided they wanted a better building than the Board of Education could afford to build for them at that time.

In November, 1916, an organization called the Health and Welfare League was formed. This group of citizens sold shares to the citizens of the community to finance the construction of the type of building they desired.

On October 10, 1920, the cornerstone was laid by the masonic lodge of Maysville. (The cornerstone was actually placed above the front door and is inscribed "MAYS LICK NEGRO SCHOOL" surrounding the year 1920.) The school was completed and was dedicated on July 17, 1921. That following September the new school was opened to students as the first consolidated elementary school in the county for Negroes. At various times grades 9 and 10 were offered as the need arose. Later the students had the opportunity to attend the John G. Fee High School in Maysville, because of inadequate facilities the ninth and tenth grades were discontinued in 1929. The school served children living in May's Lick, Helena, Wedonia, and later Lewisburg Districts.

This school has had only three principals since the first who was Mr. Carrington Evans from Paris, Kentucky. The second was Mrs. L.F. Bowen from Springfield, Ohio: and the present head teacher is Mr. C.M. Fields from Maysville. The teaching staff seems to have a record of serving long and well, for there have been only nine other teachers. They were, Mrs. Otie T. Johnson, Mrs. L.S. Henderson, Mr. Harry D. Taylor, Mr. Robert Hawkins, Miss Hazel Clemens, and Mrs. Lorene Johnson. The present (1960) staff include Mrs. Virginia F. Porter, Mrs. Gwendolyn B. French, Miss. Bettie M Jordon, and head teacher, Mr. C.M. Fields. All of the members of the faculty received their elementary training in this school, except Mr. Fields.

Washington and Minerva have one teacher elementary schools for Negro children. But beginning in the fall of 1960, the Mason County Board of Education ruled that all Negro children would attend white schools. The May's Lick elementary school petitioned against this, and the white schools do not want it, but the Supreme Court does."

The school closed in 1960. Six years after integration of black schools with white schools was mandated by the Supreme Court decision: "Brown vs. the Board of Education of Topeka Kansas."

### **Significance of Mays Lick Negro School within the context African American Education in Mason County, Kentucky, 1900-1960**

The Mays Lick Negro School tells a significant story of African American citizen action. Were the black community to have accepted what the decision makers in the Mason County Board of Education wished to provide the children, the replacement school would have been consistent with the structures of second-rate quality which existed elsewhere. Instead, the African American community devised and executed a plan to raise

Mays Lick Negro School

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County and State

funds which subsidized the construction of a much more enduring building. Through those efforts, the citizens of May's Lick provided a better education for their children than was typical for black children elsewhere in the county. The school's strong physical presence on the landscape testifies to a community who would not allow their economic impoverishment to limit their vision of what they could accomplish.

The school is also significant as one of the population of Kentucky's schools built with Rosenwald Funds. The Rosenwald School Fund was a significant part of America's educational and social history. Mays Lick Negro School is also significant for its association with that fund. By providing supplemental support for the construction of schools in the South, the fund benefitted African American children when local school boards were underfunding their education. Research has found that the Rosenwald program accounts for a significant portion of the educational gains of the rural southern Black population during its operating years, 1917 to 1932. The fund spent more than four million dollars to build 4,977 schools plus teachers' homes and shop buildings throughout the south. The fund provided support for 158 projects in Kentucky, two being in Mason County, the nominated building in May's Lick and a one-room school in Washington. The Rosenwald fund was based on a system of matching grants, requiring white school boards to commit to maintenance and black communities to provide funds. By 1932, Rosenwald Schools had benefitted one-third of all African American children in southern states.

### **Evaluation of the Integrity between the Significance of Mays Lick Negro School and the Intactness of its Physical Plant**

If a historic African American School in Mason County Kentucky said to meet National Register Criterion A, retains integrity between its historic significance and its physical plant, then it retains sufficient integrity of **associations** needed for eligibility. Integrity of associations becomes the primary factor in eligibility determination, following from Criterion A: it is a property that "is **associated** with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The Mays Lick Negro School retains its integrity of **association** on the basis that it remains as a physical reminder of the importance of African American education in Mason County, while also conveying the broader notions and importance of public education in Kentucky.

The Mays Lick Negro School possesses integrity of **location** and **setting** in that it still occupies its original two acre site. The school building is located along Raymond Road (324) next to May's Lick Second Baptist church, a place of worship for some of the former students. The location is important because it documents the existence of an African American community, whose sense of belonging was fostered by the school and the church sitting next door. As a Rosenwald School, built in 1920, the black citizens raised \$10,800.00, a substantial sum at that time, to support construction of a better school to educate their children. Many of its former students are now involved with restoring the building to its former appearance, still engaged in their community.

The building possesses a high integrity of **materials**. Beginning in 2007, the exterior of the school has essentially been returned to its original appearance during the Period of Significance. The brick building sits on its original poured concrete foundation and basement walls and the interior has been gutted to the studs & rafters awaiting restoration. Former students can now recognize the building as the school where they received their early education. Many of those students are now involved with completing the restoration. It is planned that the interior be returned to approximately its original design. One of the school rooms will be an African American School Room and History Museum. The remaining upper level rooms are planned to include a library annex with computers and local study and meeting rooms. From about 1960, when the school closed when

Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

Name of Property

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racially integrated education began, until ten years ago, the school building was utilized as a real estate office and three ring auction facility. It underwent several physical changes after 1960 to facilitate that function. Original interior and exterior walls and historic windows were altered and removed. The exterior of the building was covered with metal sided rooms with shed roofs, such that only some of the brick on the east side of the school was exposed (Picture #9).

Mays Lick Negro School now has the integrity of **design** and **workmanship** as its present day appearance resembles its original design. The building is known to have been **associated** with the Rosenwald fund. The May's Lick Rosenwald School has been located on its original foundation for almost a century. The design of the building appears to be influenced by the Rosenwald plans with its large windows for light and fresh air circulation. The brick building was constructed as a consolidated four-teacher school that allowed rural African American children from one room schools in the surrounding rural communities of May's Lick, Lewisburg, Helena, and Wedonia in Mason County to obtain a much improved education. Thus, the buildings architectural style and its educational mission are identifiable as associated with the Rosenwald Foundation and the local citizens of the community desire for more instruction for their families than the local school board cared to provide.

Despite past changes to the building, Mays Lick Negro School is a good candidate for expressing the community's story of how it valued education. Its exterior design provides us the ability to know its identity and how it functioned as a valuable place of local education. The historic Mays Lick Negro School clearly exhibits its identity as a school, giving the viewer an ability to conceive the way it supported the education of local children during the Period of Significance.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ascoli, Peter

2006 *Julius Rosenwald: the Man who Built Sears Roebuck and Advanced the Cause of Black Education in the American South*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press

Dabney, Elizabeth Jefferson

1930 History of Education in Mason County, Kentucky. Master's Thesis. University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Deed Book 122, page 87, Mason County Deeds, County Clerk Office, 6-16-1919

Deed Book 164, page 461, Mason County Deeds, County Clerk Office, 3-24-1962

Edwards, Mildred Josephine, editor

1960 *Notes on the "History of the Schools in Mason County Kentucky"*, Mason County Education association, Richmond, Kentucky

Lucas, Marion Brunson

2003 *A history of Blacks in Kentucky: From Slavery to Segregation, 1760-1891*, University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

May's Lick Community Development

2009 *Mays Lick Negro School Rehabilitation Project 2009*, May's Lick Kentucky





Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Thence S 64-1/2<sup>0</sup> W 3.5 chains to an end fence post, corner to the old schoolhouse lot;  
 Thence with a line of same and Colored Baptist Church lot S 23<sup>0</sup> E 5.26 chains to the beginning.  
 Subject to existing Roads and Highways.

This land survey calls were taken from the Deed of Conveyance, dated June 16, 1919, between William H. Worthington and Jennie Bell Worthington, parties of the first part, and W.A. Tayler, J.H. Hicks, V.B. Holtz, G.L. Anderson, W.H. Paynter and Eli Bolden, Trustees of the Mayslick Colored Public School.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property that today retains integrity of associations. The property, which is two acres, is the exact same piece of land that the school was first built upon during the period of significance.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert F DeVoe P.E.organization Mason County Community Developmentdate 5-15-2017street & number 5014 Raymond Roadtelephone 606-763-6267city or town May's Lickstate Kentucky zip code 41055e-mail [robertdevoe@maysvilleky.net](mailto:robertdevoe@maysvilleky.net)

### Additional Documentation

- A) **USGS map indicating the property's location**
- B) **Google map showing Mays Lick Negro School**
- C) **Retracement Survey showing School as auction House**
- D) **Proposed Interior floor plan upstairs**
- E) **National Trust for Historic Preservation letter 2-12-2008 –Lowes Grant \$48,300**
- F) **Location Map of Mason County African American Schools in Mason County**

### Photograph Log

#### Same information for all photographs:

Name of Property	Mays Lick Negro School
City or vicinity	May's Lick
County	Mason
State	Kentucky
Location of Original Digital Files	5014 Raymond Road, May's Lick, KY 41055
Number of Photographs	12

#### Photograph specific information:

Photographer: Robert DeVore (unless stated otherwise)

Mays Lick Negro School

Mason County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Date of Photograph

May 2017 (unless indicated otherwise)

**Official Images:**

- **1: Front View of School, Camera facing north**
- **2: East View of School and Fire House, Camera facing northeast;**
- **3: West View Mays Lick Negro School & Second Baptist Church, Camera facing east**
- **4: Rear View of School , Camera facing Southeast; Photographer Unknown; October 31, 1957**

**Supplmental Images**

- **5: Students in front of School, Camera facing north; Photographer Unknown; October 31, 1957**
- **6: Mays Lick Negro School & Second Baptist Church manse, Camera facing west; Photographer: Unknown; Date of Photograph: 1930s**
- **7: Original One Room School behind church, Camera facing North; Photographer: Unknown; 1907**
- **8: Gwendolyn French's class; Photographer: Unknown; 1959**
- **9: Mays Lick Negro School as Kachler Auction House, Camera facing north; Photographer: Unknown; 1995**
- **10: Washington Kentucky Rosenwald School and original one room school; Photographer: Unknown; about 1932**
- **11: Minerva Elementary School, Camera facing east;**
- **12: Maysville colored High & J.G. Fee High School in Maysville KY; Photographer: Unknown; Date of Photographs: Unknown**

**Property Owner:**name Mason County Fiscal Courtstreet & number 221 Stanley Reed Courttelephone 606-564- 6706city or town Maysvillestate Kentucky zip code 41056











SECOND BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
MAYSLICK, KY.

5003

WIFE OF  
LUTHER BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
MAYSLICK, KY.  
A BAPTIST  
AND HIS WIFE  
DIED IN 1880

WIFE OF  
LUTHER BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
MAYSLICK, KY.  
A BAPTIST  
AND HIS WIFE  
DIED IN 1880











Mays Lick Negro School



Mays Lick Negro School





Photo submitted

**MAY'S LICK SCHOOL** Pictured above in a 1907 photo supplied by Quinton Paige are students at the May's Lick Colored School.



28



Mrs. Gwendolyn French's Classroom

Mays Lick Negro School



# 9



## Kachler Auction House

Front view of the School – Note the door peeking through the additions





**Minerva Elementary 2017**

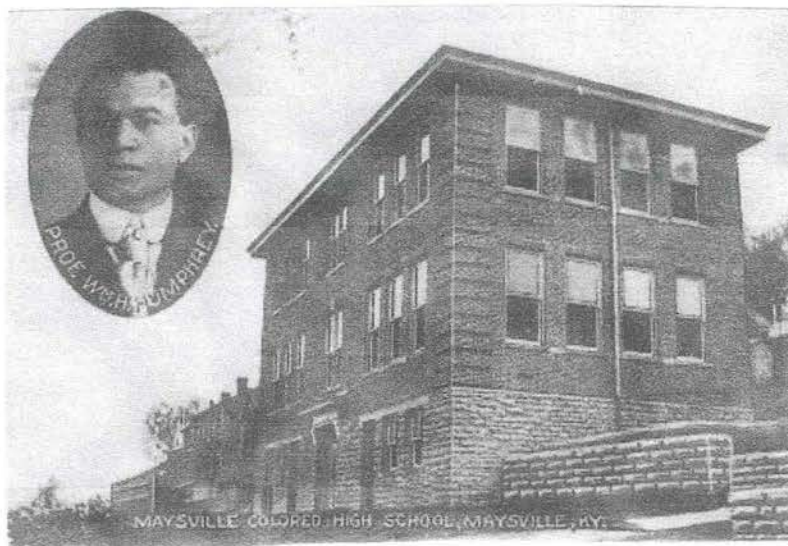




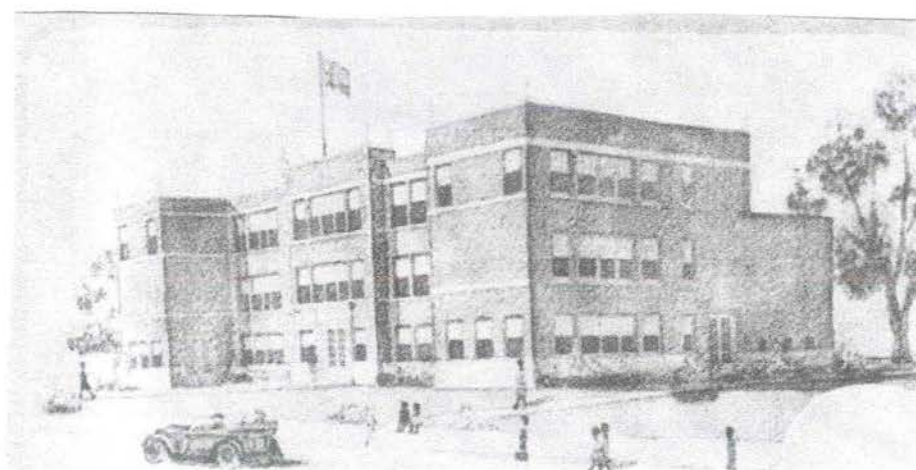
The old colored school, Superintendent Turnipseed calling.



The new Washington Kentucky Rosenwald School 1932



**Maysville Colored High School 1907 – 1928**



**John Gregg Fee High School 1928 - 1960**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 1/19/2018      Date of Pending List: 2/21/2018      Date of 16th Day: 3/8/2018      Date of 45th Day: 3/5/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      3/5/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.





**MATTHEW G. BEVIN**  
GOVERNOR

**TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET  
KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL**

**DON PARKINSON**  
SECRETARY

**Regina Stivers**  
Deputy Secretary

**THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
PHONE (502) 564-7005  
FAX (502) 564-5820  
[www.heritage.ky.gov](http://www.heritage.ky.gov)

**CRAIG A. POTTS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

January 10, 2018

J. Paul Loether, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Mr. Loether:

We enclose the following nominations, approved by the Review Board at their December 19, 2017 meeting, and asking that these Kentucky properties be listed in the National Register:

- Dr. Francis Joseph (F.J.) Halcomb House, Allen County, Kentucky**
- Bonnie Leslie Historic District, Campbell County, Kentucky**
- Chalybeate Springs Hotel Springhouse, Edmonson County, Kentucky**
- LeCompte Saloon, Jefferson County, Kentucky**
- Queen Products Company, Inc. Complex, Jefferson County, Kentucky**
- May's Lick Negro School, Mason County, Kentucky**
- Richard Durrett House, Mason County, Kentucky**
- GAR Union Monument, Mason County, Kentucky**

We enclose the **Kentucky State Parks MPS**. The Review Board approved nomination of a related property: **Lake Cumberland State Resort Park**, Russell County, Kentucky. I have forwarded the nomination form for that property to its owners, the Army Corps of Engineers, for their consideration and submission for listing.

Finally, we submit a property for a Determination of Eligibility, due to owner objection: the **Louisville Railway Company High Street Power Station**, Jefferson County, Kentucky.

We thank you for your assistance in listing these properties.

Sincerely,

Craig A. Potts  
Executive Director and  
State Historic Preservation Officer