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OMB No. 10024-0018

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 Oglesby School

other names/site number Mary Lee Academy, Oglesby Community Center, Oglesby Community House

2. Location

Street & number 5724 Edmondson Pike	NA not for publication
city or town Nashville	NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Davidson code 037	_ zip code _ <u>37211</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
5. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that the nomination	berties in the R Part 60. In s property be ents.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	/
I hereby certify that the property is:	Date of Action
other,     (explain:)	

.

Oglesby School Name of Property

Davidson County, Tennessee County and State

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 count)				
⊠ private □ public-local	⊠ building(s) □ district	Contributing	Noncontributing			
public-State	☐ site	1	1	buildings		
public-Federal	structure			sites		
	🔲 object	1				
		2	1	objects Total		
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A		<b>-</b>	uting resources previ	-		
6. Function or Use			······			
				· · · · · ·		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)				
EDUCATION: school		SOCIAL: meeting hall				
SOCIAL: meeting hall		•	- <u></u>			
		·	·			
		<b></b>	·····			
				<u></u>		
		<b></b>				
7. Description		······				
Architectural Classificat		Materials				
(Enter categories from instructions) Queen Anne influence		(Enter categories from in foundation STON				
		walls weatherboa				
		roof METAL				
		other WOOD				

#### **Narrative Description**

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

Name of Property

### 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 who's 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 boxes that apply.)

Property is: NA

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- **B** removed from its original location.
- **C** moved from its original location.
- **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.

#### **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.)

<ul> <li>Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A</li> <li>preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested</li> <li>previously listed in the National Register</li> <li>Previously determined eligible by the National Register</li> <li>designated a National Historic Landmark</li> <li>recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey</li> </ul>	Primary locat State Histe Other State Federal A Local Gov University Other Name of repo
# recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Metropolitan H

### **Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance 1898-1952

**Significant Dates** 1898, 1921, 1931, 1935

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation** NA

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

ation of additional data: storic Preservation Office

- ate Agency
- Agency
- overnment

## ository:

Historical Commission

Davidson County, Tennessee **County and State** 

Oglesby School

Name of Property

#### 10. Geographical Data

#### Acreage of Property 1.47 acres

#### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	523169	3987947
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

#### **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

date September 2002
telephone615-862-7970
state TN zip code 37203

### Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 0r 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 Oglesby Community Club c/o Van Herbert

street & num	ber _7	704 Edmondson Pike			telephone	615-832-8946
city or town	Brent	wood	 state	TN	zip code	37027

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 listing. 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 20303.

Davidson County, Tennessee

County and State

Quad name: Antioch 311 SW

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4		<u></u>	
	See See	continuation sheet	

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

## **Architectural Description**

The circa 1898 Oglesby School, now known as the Oglesby Community Center, is a frame weatherboarded building embellished with sawn wood details. The interior of the school building is simply designed and, like the exterior, it retains a high degree of its architectural design, workmanship and materials. The building is located on Edmondson Pike, south of Old Hickory Boulevard in southern Davidson County, Tennessee. Immediately south of Oglesby School is the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ. North of Oglesby School and shielded by a tree line is a commercial property. On the west side of Edmondson Pike across from Oglesby School is a vacant field. This is a rapidly developing area on the edge of Nashville. The Oglesby School is one of the few historic structures remaining in this area of Davidson County.

Oglesby School is a one-story building with a gable front metal roof and a side gable roof addition extending from the north elevation. Built of frame construction, Oglesby School is covered with weatherboard siding. The building rests on stone piers, with stone filling most of the open areas between the piers. The west façade of the building is composed of the gable front and the ell. The entrance portion of the building is bay shaped with windows in the center panel and a door on each side of the bay. The three windows in the center of the facade are four over four double hung. The windows are original to the building, though some panes have needed replacement over time. Two wood doors flank either side of the set of windows. A set of concrete stairs with iron hand rails on either side of the stairs extends out from the doors. The doors are identical in size and shape, each contains a transom with two panes above a band of decorative trim.

The most elaborate elements of the school are seen on the west facade of the 1898 portion. Restrained Queen Anne detailing decorates the gable, with a raking cornice and small scalloped vergeboard trimming the gable. Paired brackets exist evenly spaced under the eaves in addition to sawn wood shingle trim. The gable is further trimmed with a horizontal decorative cornice that exists almost at the top of the gable. This ornamental detail also features paired brackets and scalloped vergeboard. Under the horizontal cornice is a round decoration with a flower shape in the center. The lower part of the gable features a return cornice that is accentuated by paired brackets under the eaves. The return cornice forms the horizontal line that exists on the top of each entry bay, acting as a decorative frieze. A rectangular wood sign with the painted words, "Oglesby Community" hangs between the return cornices, just above the horizontal line of the cornice. The wing addition (circa 1900) of the front elevation contains a wood door with a two paned transom above the door. Two double hung, four over four windows flank the door.

The south elevation contains four double hung four over four windows. The decorative paired brackets and scalloped vergeboard continues from the façade under the roof eave. A small brick chimney projects from the roof.

The rear or east elevation contains the same scalloped vergeboard on the gable, though the paired bracketing does not continue on the rear elevation. A single wood door exists in the center of the gabled section of the rear elevation. A small, rectangular window with one pane is present north of the door. The wing addition of

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

the east elevation contains two windows, each are four over four double hung. A single wood door is present north of the two windows. A small brick chimney projects from the roof of the addition.

The north elevation contains two double hung four over four windows on the wing addition. Trim also exists on this gable, with scalloped vergeboard trimming the outline of the gable and paired brackets under the eave of the roof. The gable front of the original building, which is also visible from the north elevation, contains two four over four double hung windows. Paired brackets are visible under the roof eave.

The interior of the Oglesby School is divided into two sections with the gable front forming the larger room and the addition providing a smaller space. The original pocket door still divides the two rooms. Original wood planks make up the floor and board and batten siding covers the interior walls and ceiling.

A platform stands at the eastern portion of the original room, and rises up about 2 feet from the floor. An antique heating stove exists in front of the platform bearing the label "Warm Morning, Model 520." The stove is still attached to the chimney. A contemporary gas-heating unit is found on the platform (circa 1960s).

The addition (circa 1900) contains a small kitchen in the north portion, installed circa 1940 to serve the community clubs that met there. This part of the room is divided by a wooden partition that rises from the ground about four feet and forms a countertop on the other side. A contemporary stove is placed on the west side of the building and metal cabinets hang on the north wall. Linoleum covers the hard wood floor in this room. Two corner cabinets were built in the southwest corner of the room in the 1940s, the smaller cabinet rests on the larger cabinet.

The Oglesby School property is 1.47 acres and is sited away from Edmondson Pike on the side of a hill. A stone wall (c 1940) runs along Edmondson Pike on Oglesby School property, beginning at the entrance of the parking lot and extending about half way up the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ property. A stonewall also stands immediately behind and to the north of Oglesby School (circa 1940). (C) A large asphalt parking lot covers the land in front of the Oglesby School property. Tall trees grow around Oglesby School in the rear and to the north side. Behind Oglesby School is a small playground surrounded by a chain link fence. The playground is not visible from the front of the school. A dense tree line forms the property boundary on the east side. In this wooded area, the original privy is located in the northeastern portion of the property . This privy was originally situated in the southeastern portion of the property also in the wooded area and was moved north in the last decade for the building of the playground. (NC due to move)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_8 Page \_\_\_3

Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

### **Statement of Significance**

Oglesby School in Davidson County, Tennessee is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. One of the few remaining schoolhouses of its type extant in Davidson County, the Oglesby School is significant for its role in the rural history of the county. Built as a country school in 1898, the Oglesby School served students in grades one through eight until a new school building opened in 1931. The Oglesby School building then served the rural community in another important function, as it became the primary meeting place for agricultural clubs and organizations such as 4-H, Home and Farm Demonstration groups and the Future Farmers and Homemakers of America. The Oglesby school building officially served in its capacity as a community meeting house from 1935 to present day. Earliest records indicate that the Home Demonstration Club has held meetings at Oglesby School since the 1920s. This group continues to meet there today.

The Oglesby School is also eligible under Criterion C, as an excellent example of the movement to standardize school building plans during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Especially after the Civil War, state governments, in addition to private groups, began publishing pattern books for schoolhouse architecture. Educational reformers developed and promoted these designs in an effort to improve learning for children. Information pertaining to schoolhouse size and form, window placement, and even the amount of land around a building was analyzed to provide the best environment for the education of children. Before the construction of the Oglesby School in 1898, a frame building with ample windows for light and ventilation, children in the Oglesby community attended school in a small log building. The Oglesby School reflects locally the national emergence of a standard school plan for rural schoolhouses.

## **Oglesby School**

The Oglesby School was built as the Mary Lee Academy in 1898, on land deeded to the "School Directors of the Eight Civil District of Davidson County."<sup>1</sup> Harris Benton Oglivie, a prominent cotton farmer and merchant in the area, formerly owned the land. The parcel of land located immediately south of the Oglesby School was also part of the 1894 transaction; Oglivie deeded that part of the property to the Christian Church. The congregation eventually evolved into the Woodson Chapel Church of Christ, whose modern facility is still located on the same property.

A public school, Oglesby School was first named Mary Lee Academy for Mary Lee Clark, a teacher that was instrumental in persuading school officials to build the new building.<sup>2</sup> Previously, Clark taught area students in a log building approximately one mile from the present site. A Metropolitan Historical Marker stands in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Oglesby School Deed Transcript, 1 March 1894, Margaret J. Phillips to School Directors of the Eighth Civil District of Davidson County Tennessee, Vance T. Little, "History of Oglesby School and Community Center," information Pamphlet, Metropolitan Historical Commission Files.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Julia McClung Green, Historical Sketches of the Davidson County Schools, 1952, n.p.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

front of the school on Edmondson Pike and explains the Mary Lee Academy portion of the Oglesby School history.

The Oglesby School represents the transformation that rural Davidson County schools made from strictly vernacular, often log buildings to frame buildings whose design was influenced by school architectural pattern books. This transformation began as early as the 1830s, when educators such as Horace Mann began to promote ideas about the importance of good schoolhouse architecture in improving the quality of education for students.<sup>3</sup> Early educators scrutinized school building specifications such as the placement of windows and the height of the ceilings to determine which conditions would create a fruitful learning environment. After the Civil War, the movement for progressive school design intensified through the publication of education journals and state publications.<sup>4</sup> Standard designs and patterns became evident in the school building form at the end of the nineteenth century. The standardization of schoolhouse design is evident upon comparison between Oglesby School and two other schoolhouses in the area built about this time. According to T. Vance Little, Brentwood area historian, the old Lipscomb Elementary School and Liberty School, both in nearby Williamson County resembled Oglesby School both in design and in the materials used<sup>5</sup> Oglesby School is the only remaining school of the three.

The basic form and materials used in the design of Oglesby School demonstrate a standard rural schoolhouse type. Oglesby School's gable ends and rooflines, in addition to the return eaves on each gable, resemble those suggested in several school plan manuals. By 1898 this gabled type had become evident on many new rural schoolhouses. In the widely distributed publication, the *Manual on School-Houses and Cottages for the People of the South*, Florida State Superintendent C. Thurston Chase offers many suggestions for school directors in the construction of new schoolhouses.<sup>6</sup> A stone pier foundation, gable roof and two entrances on the gable end facade represent some of the Oglesby School features that were also recommended by Chase's manual.<sup>7</sup>

Oglesby School's decorative gable trim, including the cornices, scalloped vergeboard, and shingles provide a unique twist to the typically simple rural schoolhouse design. Though the exact occurrence of Queen Anne influenced ornamental design features on Tennessee schoolhouses remains unmeasured, there are few known extant examples. It is notable that the details of the Oglesby School have remained on the building to this day.

Soon after the construction of Oglesby School, a room was added to the north elevation of the building. Though the exact date of the addition is unknown, oral history, and an examination of the building itself,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Margaret Slater, "The evolution of schoolhouse architecture in Tennessee." Master's Thesis, 1987, Middle Tennessee State University. 16.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Andrew Gulliford, "America's Country Schools," Washington D. C.: The Preservation Press, 1991, 193.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> T. Vance Little, Conversation with Jen Stoecker, 20 May 2002. Notes on file at the Metro Historical Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Slater, 36.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> C. Thurston Chase, *Manual on the School-House and Cottages For the People of the South*, Washington D.C. Government Printing Office, 1868, 29,30.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

suggests it was made well before 1926.<sup>8</sup> As the school's population grew, Oglesby teachers adapted the curriculum to fit the needs of their students. A graded system developed and even extended two years into high school coursework.<sup>9</sup> Calculus and a few other college preparatory classes were taught at Oglesby School during its first years of operation and some students even attended Vanderbilt University after their instruction at Oglesby School.<sup>10</sup> Though most of the students at Oglesby School were from neighboring farms in the Oglesby Community, some children came from nearby Williamson County to attend class.

In the 1906-07 school year, Oglesby School moved from civil district administration to county control. This was due to the County Board Law passed by the Tennessee State Legislature in 1907. By bringing the schools from local to county control, the law consolidated the number of school administrators from the previous civil district system that allowed three directors each for the 3,287 school districts.<sup>11</sup> School consolidation also represented an action encouraged by progressive reformers. According to historian, Mary S. Hoffschwelle, "consolidated school systems would be more amenable to state control and more open to progressive programs in agriculture and home economics."<sup>12</sup> Upon the switch to county control of the school, Mary Lee Academy became Oglesby School, named for Harris Benton Oglivie, the original donor of the land. The exact reason for the name change from Harris Benton's last name 'Oglivie' to 'Oglesby' remains unknown. Official governmental records such as maps and post office designation reflect the name Oglesby for this community as early as 1871.<sup>13</sup>

County administration also brought a clearly defined system of grading to Oglesby School, as it began to serve students in grades one through eight. According to Mary Herbert Pope, Oglesby School student from 1926-1931, the first four grades met in the addition or "small room," and the older grades met in the original room or "big room," as it was known.<sup>14</sup> One teacher administered lessons in each room, with a total of two teachers for the school. Teachers used a hand bell to call class to order and wrote lessons on slate blackboards near the front of the room. Two stoves warmed the building, one for each room.

Though most of the families in the Oglesby community owned farms and dairies, the farming seasons and work did not determine the school calendar. Students attended school from September to the beginning of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Mary Herbert Pope, Conversation with Jen Stoecker 18 May 2002. Notes on file at the Metro Historical Commission. Pope was a student at Oglesby School from 1926-1931 and remembers attending class in the addition, known as the "little room."
<sup>9</sup> Julia McClung Green. Historical Sketches of Davidson County Schools, n.p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Julia McClung Green. Historical Sketches of Davidson County Schools, n.p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> John W. Blackman Jr. Conversation with Jen Stoecker, 28 May 2002. Notes on file at the Metro Historical Commission. Blackman's father and uncle took high school courses at Oglesby and also attended Vanderbilt University.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Margaret Slater, Elizabeth A. Straw and Steve Rogers. Education: Rural Public Schools 1790-1930, Study Unit #7, February 1988, 133. Previous to the 1907 County Board Law, there were over 10,000 people attempting the administration of a statewide school system.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Mary S. Hoffschwelle, Rebuilding the Rural Southern Community: reformers, schools, and homes in Tennessee, 1900-1930 (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1998) 34.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> T. Vance Little, "History of Oglesby School and Community Center," information pamphlet, Metropolitan Historical Commission Files, 3. Local history maintains that because there was another town in Tennessee named Oglivie, Oglesby became the name of the community. However, records are not available to substantiate this idea.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Mary Herbert Pope, conversation with Jen Stoecker, 18 May 2002.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

June, with three months off in the summer. Parents were responsible for buying all the supplies for their children.<sup>15</sup> "That was the big thing in September, you had to pay cash money for books and they weren't cheap," Mary Herbert Pope said.<sup>16</sup> Pope also remembered learning arithmetic by playing "Jack Straws," a game with wooden sticks of all different colors. Class size in the 1920s averaged about five children per grade or forty students in the entire school.

The closest school to the Oglesby School was located in the Mt. Pisgah community. This area was historically an African-American community located up the hill, south of the Oglesby School. Mary Herbert Pope remembers walking home from school and passing the African-American children and their teacher on their way home from school.

During its use as a school, the Oglesby School building also served as a meeting place for youth clubs, a women's Home Demonstration Club and other community clubs that met at the schoolhouse in the evenings.<sup>17</sup> The first documentation of Oglesby's community clubs appears in the 1921 Agricultural Extension records. These records indicate a "program of work" that addressed the needs of the community and articulated the importance of community organizations.<sup>18</sup> The Oglesby extension records clearly outline their purpose, "Community organizations are helpful to farmers and their families because they furnish a community center and a social center, they develop leadership and furnish a medium by which communities can improve its means of transportation, churches, schools, homes, and citizenship."<sup>19</sup> Also in 1921, the Oglesby Community Club pledged to promote the following: "the County's Organization of Dairymen, more community and county council work, and the standardization of poultry in the community." This charge reflected the growing importance of dairy farming in rural Davidson County and across the United States. The majority of children enrolled at Oglesby School helped out on their family's farm, and dairy products represented a large share of the work.

As the center of community activity, the Oglesby School building housed students during the day and large numbers of community club members at night. 1921 Home Demonstration Club records indicate that up to 36 members attended their meetings and in 1922, the Community Club, which appeared to include both male and female members, averaged 96 members at their bimonthly meetings. <sup>20</sup> About 450 people attended the Oglesby Community Fair during that same year.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Mary Herbert Pope, Conversation with Jen Stoecker, 18 May 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> 1bid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Green, n.p.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Department of Agriculture, "Extension Service Annual Reports, Davidson County, 1921-22" (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives).

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Department of Agriculture, "Extension Service Annual Reports, Davidson County, 1922" (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives).

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

In 1927, due to federal legislation, millions of dollars were pumped into state educational systems for the replacement or renovation of inadequate rural elementary school buildings.<sup>21</sup> Following this mandate, a new bulletin for rural school architecture was published by the State Department of Education, State of Tennessee. The plans in this 1928 bulletin called for larger, multi-room buildings built primarily of brick and concrete, where these materials were available. In the climate of educational reform and funding, the Oglesby community built a new school north of the Oglesby School also on Edmondson Pike.

## **Community House**

The Oglesby School building smoothly made the transition from school to community house, as education remained an important use of the building. The Community House served as a place where members of the Oglesby community could learn to become better farmers, mothers, and wives. With fulltime use as a community house, area clubs could meet at Oglesby School during the day as well as in the evening. On May 31, 1935, the Oglesby Home Demonstration Club in cooperation with the Department of Vocational Agriculture at Central High School drew up a Charter of Incorporation. Its stated purpose is as follows:

"1. Promote and conduct free night schools for adult farmers.

2. Promote and conduct free schools for young men and women living in the community who are out of school.

3. Promote and conduct free home making classes in home conveniences, canning and processing. Sewing, home nursing, etc. for the housewifes [*sic*] of the Oglesby Community.

4. Promote and conduct social, civic, and recreational meetings for the welfare of all the people of the community."<sup>22</sup>

The activities of the home demonstration club reflected these goals. In 1932, Oglesby women reported to the Tennessee Agricultural Extension Office that they developed methods to increase the number of vegetables grown in the garden, "remodeled clothes" in an effort to save money and held four community gatherings that year. The records also indicate that they cleaned up 36 houses, 16 yards and gave work to 47 unemployed persons.<sup>23</sup> In 1937, the Davidson County Home Demonstration Clubs held a "Rally Day" in celebration of National Better Homes Day. The Oglesby School was the only Home Demonstration meeting place featured for a tour.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Slater, 63.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Charter of Incorporation of the Oglesby Community House, Recorded 4 June 1935, Number 56749, on file with the Metro Historical Commission.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Department of Agriculture, "Extension Service Annual Reports, Davidson County, 1932" (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Department of Agriculture, "Extension Service Annual Reports, Davidson County, 1937" (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives).

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

In addition to the Home Demonstration club, other community clubs met at Oglesby School worked together to feature exhibits at the Tennessee State fair. The 1920s agricultural extension records indicate that these exhibits often captured first place in the state. <sup>25</sup> The Community Club also demonstrated farming techniques such as terracing, treating sheep for stomach worm, and installing water systems, among other activities.<sup>26</sup> Maintenance of the school building also became a primary objective of the community club, as they "repaired the building in and out" and installed "sanitary toilets."<sup>27</sup>

During the first part of the 1940s, the Oglesby Home Demonstration and Community Clubs shifted their activities to a program of "War Work," as organized by the Agricultural Extension offices to support the United States military in World War II.<sup>28</sup> Oglesby community members collected scrap paper, metal, rubber, among other materials and donated them to the war effort. They planted "Victory gardens" to lessen their demand on the nation's food supply and changed their farming operations to meet the needs of the U.S. military. Community Club members were also encouraged to cooperate with each other in the harvesting of crops, as the number of available truck tires was lessened due to the Davidson County Truck Tire Rationing Board.<sup>29</sup> These efforts and others were organized by the "Victory Committee," which was made up of Oglesby men and women community leaders.

The Oglesby community clubs returned to their previous activities as the need for war production ended. Much of their post war goals shifted back to improving the lives and homes of the individual member, while providing leadership for the community. These aims continue to be maintained by the Home Demonstration and Community Clubs even today.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Department of Agriculture, "Extension Service Annual Reports, Davidson County, 1921-29" (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Department of Agriculture, 1922.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Department of Agriculture, "Extension Service Annual Reports, Davidson County, 1940-1945" (Nashville: Tennessee State Library and Archives).

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

## **Bibliography**

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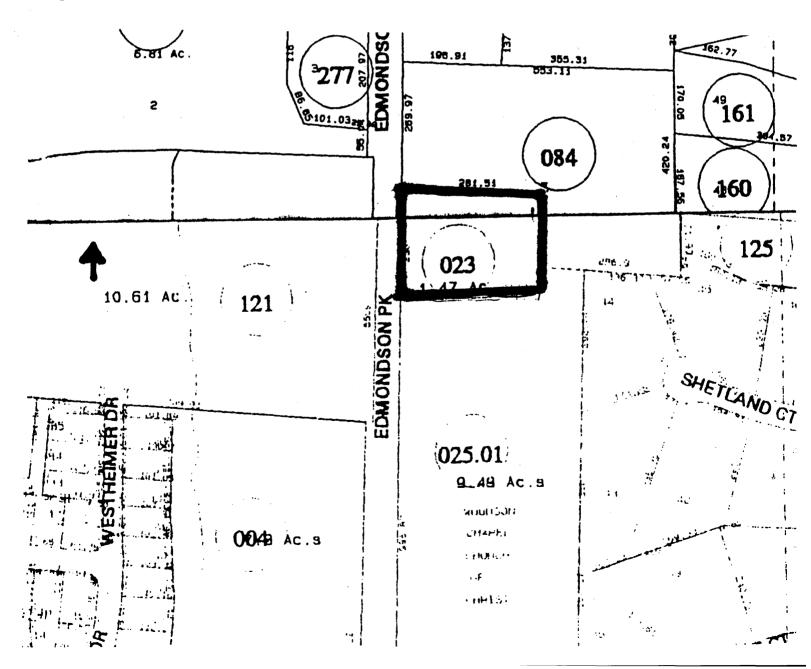
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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

## Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

Oglesby School occupies lot 023 on the attached Davidson County Tax Maps 161 and 172. The nominated boundaries represent all of the historic property associated with the building during its period of significance.

Map scale 1" = 200'



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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

Photos by:Jen Stoecker<br/>Metro Historical CommissionDate:May 2002Negatives:Tennessee Historical Commission<br/>Nashville, TN

West facade, facing east 1 of 15

Southwest facade, facing northeast 2 of 15

Gable detail, west facade 3 of 15

West facade, addition 4 of 15

South elevation, facing north 5 of 15

East elevation, facing west 6 of 15

North elevation, addition, facing south 7 of 15

North elevation, facing south 8 of 15

Interior, original room, facing east 9 of 15

Interior, pocket door, facing northeast 10 of 15

Interior, addition, kitchen partition, facing northwest 11 of 15

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Oglesby School Davidson County, Tennessee

Stone wall, behind school, facing east 12 of 15

Playground, northeast of school, facing north 13 of 15

Privy, northeast of school, facing northeast 14 of 15

Stone wall and historical marker, west in front of school, facing northeast 15 of 15