

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NCRS use only  
received MAR 29 1982  
date entered APR 27 1982

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

**1. Name**

historic Mays Lick Consolidated School

and/or common Same

**2. Location**

street & number Intersection U.S. 68 and Hwy. 324 <sup>KY</sup> NA not for publication

city, town Mays Lick NA vicinity of congressional district 7

state Kentucky code 021 county Mason code 161

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name See continuation sheet

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mason County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Maysville state Kentucky

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Heritage Division--Department of the Arts

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Mays Lick Consolidated School is located in the small rural community of Mays Lick (1972 population: 400), which is within ten miles of the Ohio River and Maysville, county seat of Mason County.

The school occupies a prominent location at the intersection of old U.S. 68<sup>1</sup> and Hwy. 324. The commercial section of town is approximately one-half of a mile south on U.S. 68 and consists of three to four commercial structures intermingled with residences.

Constructed in 1909-1910, the school is a two-story brick building on a raised stone foundation. Exterior dimensions are 88' by 63'. The main (northwest) facade is distinguished by a projecting central unit with side sections, each four bays wide. The surface is enlivened by the use of cut limestone sills and lintels in the windows and the brick banding pattern in the center section and quoins at the end walls. The focal element is the large arched entrance with keystone, containing a double door with a semi-elliptical light above. There is also an entry on the southwest wall which consists of a double-door in the transom and sidelights, with a similar exit on the northeast wall.

The present owners are in the process of converting the building into apartments. The central hall will be retained. No alteration of the exterior character of the building will be made.

The building sits about 130' from old U.S. 68, with the frontage area in grass. Surrounding the school on the other three sides is an asphalt driveway. Within 30' of the northwest wall is a 1950s gymnasium to which it is presently connected by a covered walkway.

<sup>1</sup>The highway was later re-routed around the town.

## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education   | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

|                       |           |                          |  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--|
| <b>Specific dates</b> | 1909-1910 | <b>Builder/Architect</b> | Architect: Weber Brothers<br>Builder: Douglas McCowell |
|-----------------------|-----------|--------------------------|--|

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1909-1910, the Mays Lick Consolidated School was the first high school built in Mason County and was, for the following fifty years (1910-1960), the only public high school to serve the Mays Lick District, an administrative unit within the school system composed of approximately one-quarter of the county.<sup>1</sup> The school also has the distinction in being the first consolidated school in the county and the first consolidated school in the state with publicly financed transportation. As a result of a local suit challenging the use of tax dollars for the transportation of students to Mays Lick School, legislation was passed legalizing the levying of taxes for school transportation of students to consolidated schools.

The Mays Lick School is a product of an era of tremendous change and growth in public education at both the state and national levels. In the latter part of the 19th century, the one-room school was the most common educational facility in rural areas. As time progressed, there was a growing awareness that such schools supplied an inferior education due largely to the limited curriculum offered and the frequent turn-over in teachers. There was, as a result, a concerted effort in many parts of the country to consolidate schools. A vital element in plans for consolidation were provisions for student transportation. By the late 19th century consolidation with transportation was initiated with notable success in the Northeast. By the end of the first decade of the 20th century, several communities in the Ohio Valley had adopted the practice.<sup>2</sup>

As part of this progressive movement, the Kentucky legislature passed the Sullivan School Law in 1908 which called for the establishment of one or more high schools with free tuition for rural children in each county.<sup>3</sup> Because of local support in Mays Lick toward the financing of the school, the Mason County Board of Education voted unanimously to locate the first high school there.<sup>4</sup>

The building was completed in 1910 at a cost of \$32,000,<sup>5</sup> and was over-large for the anticipated initial spacial needs. It had so many unused rooms that the principal and his wife lived in some of them. Apparently consolidation was in the back of the minds of some of the school fathers when the school was first planned.

<sup>1</sup>Felici Felice, Superintendent of Schools, Mason County, 1981.

<sup>2</sup>Ellsworth, pp. 120-123.

<sup>3</sup>The law also established the county as the administrative unit to be directed by a board of education. The boards were empowered to consolidate schools where they felt it advantageous and necessary (Yancey, p. 6; McVey, p. 239).

<sup>4</sup>Two other high schools were soon built as a result of the passage of the Sullivan Law: one in Maysville and the other in western Mason County at Minerva (Yancey, p. 7).

<sup>5</sup>William E. Pyles, Mays Lick's representative on the school board, who was largely responsible for having the high school located in Mays Lick, devised a unique way to finance the construction costs. The Mays Lick Improvement Company, a holding company, was created. Shares were offered for sale and these funds, combined with the annual taxes for the school, were able to cover initial construction costs (Ellsworth, p. 125).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property .64

Quadrangle name Mays Lick

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

|      |   |         |   |   |   |          |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1    | 7 | 2       | 5 | 2 | 6 | 8        | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 0 |
| Zone |   | Easting |   |   |   | Northing |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |

B 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

C 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

D 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

E 

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| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

F 

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|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

G 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated area consists of the school building, frontage to the south right-of-way of old U.S. 68- which is important to the visual setting of the building- and an area 15' from the rear and side walls.

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

| state | NA | code | county | code |
|-------|----|------|--------|------|
|       |    |      |        |      |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gloria Mills

organization Kentucky Heritage Commission date June 24, 1981

street & number 104 Bridge Street telephone (502) 564-3741

city or town Frankfort state Kentucky

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Mary Cronan Appel

title SHPO date 3/11/82

**For NHPA use only**

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

*[Signature]*

Entered in the National Register

*[Signature]*

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 2

Dr. & Mrs. Robert M. Blake  
Route 5, Buffalo Trace  
Maysville, Kentucky 41056

Mr. & Mrs. James Wilson  
Route 5, Box 156  
Maysville, Kentucky 41056

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

|                         |
|-------------------------|
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| DATE ENTERED            |

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Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

The opportunity for consolidation soon presented itself in the form of a natural disaster. In the summer of 1910, a flood washed away a sub-district one-room school in nearby Arthuranna. The following year, in June 1911, the Board of Education voted unanimously to consolidate the Mays Lick School and to offer transportation to the children in Arthuranna. In the fall of 1911, school began at Mays Lick with 206 pupils in attendance.<sup>6</sup>

However, some members of the community questioned the tax levied for the support of publicly funded school transportation and brought suit against the county board of education. Such expenditures were found by the court to be illegal under the present statute and transportation to Mays Lick School ceased.<sup>7</sup> Concerned locals of Mays Lick quickly organized and lobbied the legislature to make the needed changes in the law. In March 1912, House Bill 215 was enacted empowering county boards of education "to fix the boundaries of a consolidated school district and to levy a tax with the consent of the taxpayers to establish, operate, and transport pupils to a consolidated school."<sup>8</sup> Therefore, it can be said that the situation surrounding the Mays Lick School brought the issue of using funds for transportation before the legislature, and resulted in the passage of the 1912 statute that permitted the feasible consolidation of schools to continue.

In 1960, the high school was discontinued, with only grades one through eight offered. It ceased functioning as a school in 1981 when it was purchased for private development.

<sup>6</sup> Ellsworth, p. 126.

<sup>7</sup> Ellsworth, p. 127.

<sup>8</sup> Ellsworth, p. 127.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Felice, Felici. Private interview with Vanessa Patrick, Maysville, Kentucky, June 1981.

Gaither, R. F. "The May's Lick Consolidated School." Atlantic Educational Journal, IX (February 1914), 17-18.

Letter, Emory G. Rogers to O. A. Adams, July 26, 1943.

"May's Lick High School Directory of Graduates & Former Students." May's Lick, Kentucky, 1952.

Monahan, A. C. "The Consolidation of Rural Schools." Atlantic Educational Journal, IX (February 1914), 15-17.

Wells, Marsha Elizabeth. "Biography of Charles Dixon Wells." Unpublished report, 1950.

Yancey, Mary L. "Arthuranna and the Kentucky Legislature." Unpublished research paper, 1971.

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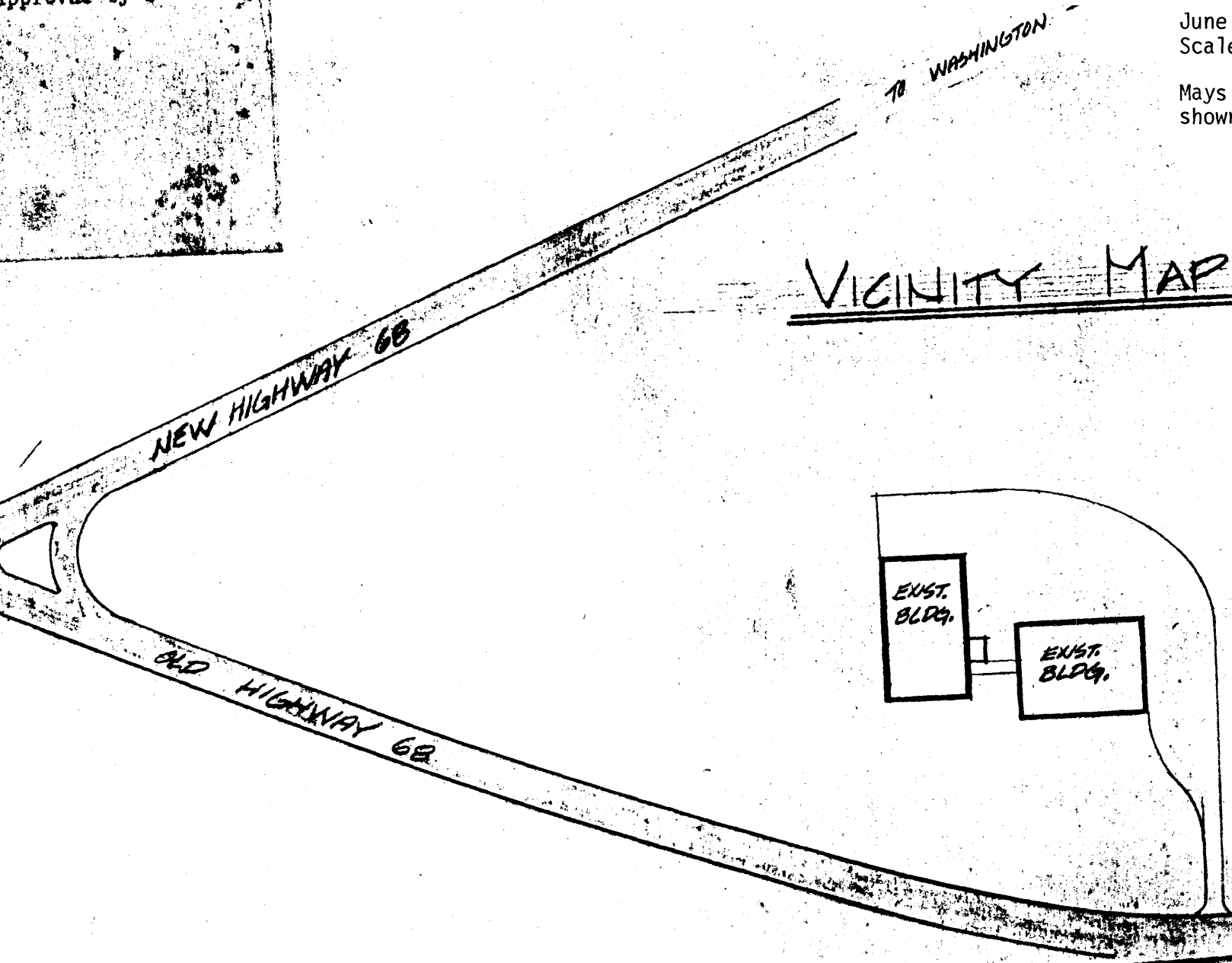
to owner and  
approval by a

Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky

Vicinity Map  
Noe & Associates  
346 Lafayette  
P. O. Box 22348  
Lexington, Kentucky 40522

June 30, 1981  
Scale: Unknown

Mays Lick Consolidated School  
shown in yellow. Map # 2



VICINITY MAP

MAYSLICK, KY



Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky

Noe and Associates  
346 Lafayette  
P. O. Box 22348  
Lexington, Kentucky 40522  
June 30, 1987

Scale: 1"=20'

Nominated area shown in red.

Map #1

REPAIR & RESURFACE  
EXISTING ASPHALT DRIVE  
AS RESP.

REMOVE EXISTING GREASE  
TRAP & RELOCATE PIPING

EXTERIOR CLEAN OUT/  
TRAP AS

EXISTING  
(GYMNASIUM)

EXISTING  
HANDRAILS

EXISTING BUILDING  
(TO BE REMODELED)

TRANSFORMER

6 CONDENSER  
UNITS ON CONC.  
TRAP

3 CONDENSER UNITS

4 CONDENSER UNITS

INSTALL NEW HANDRAILS

GET 12" BELOW  
EXISTING GRADE. SHIELD  
UNITS FROM VIEW w/ EVERGREEN  
SHRUBS



E PLAN

20'-0"