

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received MAR 20 1982  
date entered APR 27 1982

## 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 NA not for publication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 progress	<input 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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<b>Specific dates</b>	1909-1910	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Architect: Weber Brothers 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

Acreeage 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 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

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 Opper

title SHPO date 3/11/82

**For HCRS use only**

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

for Allover Byers Entered in the National Register date 4/29/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ellensworth, Clayton. "The Coming of Rural Consolidated Schools in the Ohio Valley, 1892-1912." Agricultural History, XXX (July 1956), 119-128.

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.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

82002733

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Mays Lick Consolidated School  
State, County: Kentucky, Mason  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Working No. 3-29-82-929  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-83  
Date Due: 4/21/82 - 5/13/82  
Action:  ACCEPT 4/29/82

Entered in the  RETURN \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register  REJECT \_\_\_\_\_  
photos   
maps

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category      Ownership      Status      Present Use  
                 Public Acquisition      Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition      Check one      Check one  
 excellent       deteriorated       unaltered       original site  
 good       ruins       altered       moved      date \_\_\_\_\_  
 fair       unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

for NPS use only



## 8. Significance

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Area of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 13. Other

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet





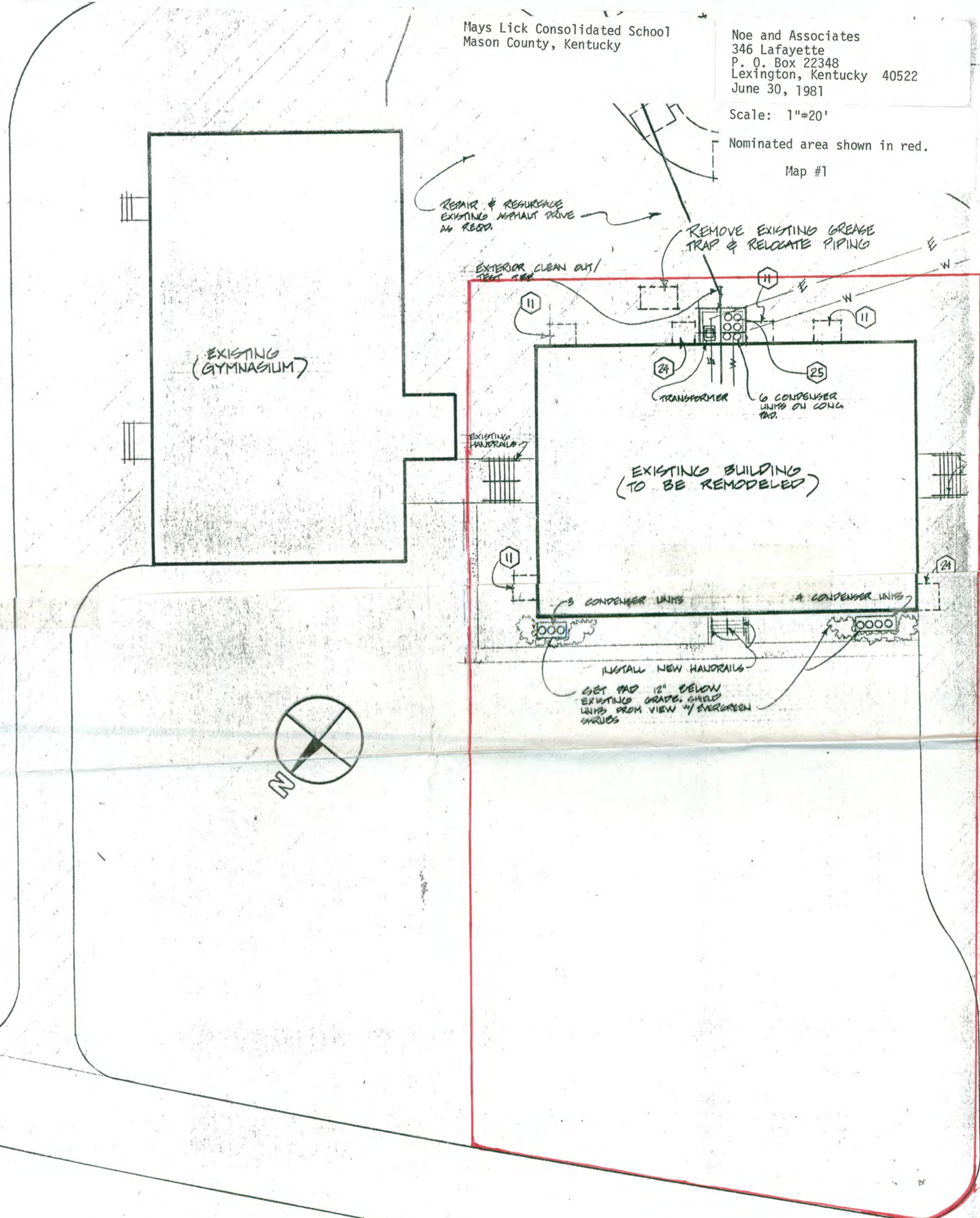




Scale: 1"=20'

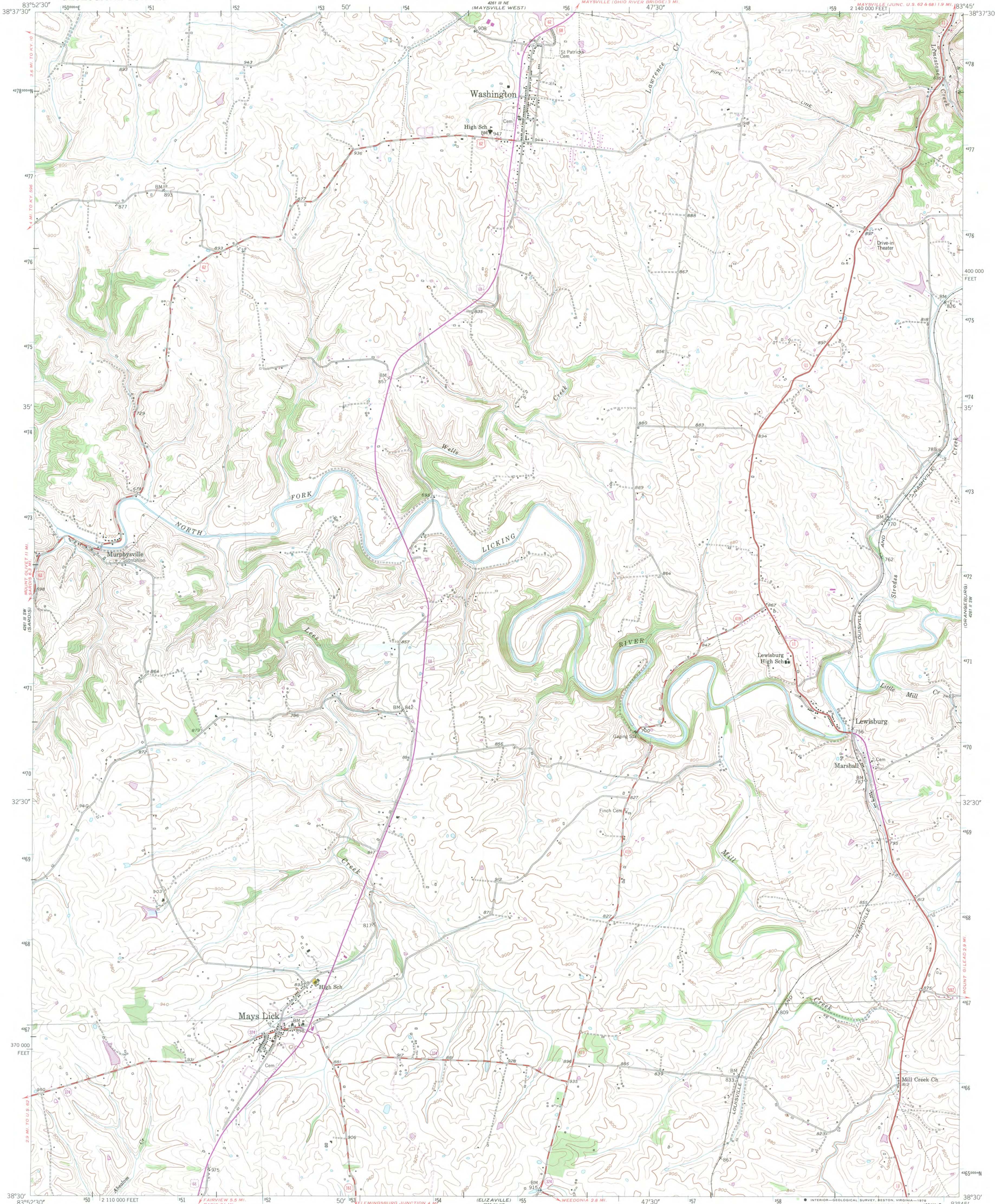
Nominated area shown in red.

Map #1



# SITE PLAN

SCALE 1"=20'-0"

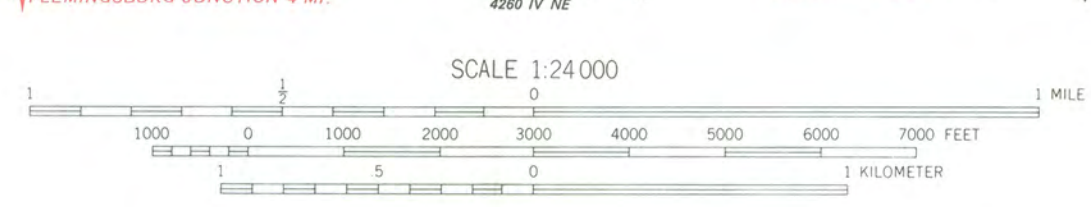


Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky  
Mays Lick Consolidated School shown  
in yellow.  
Map #3

UTM REFERENCE:  
A) 17/252685 4267420

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1950. Field check 1952  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Kentucky coordinate system,  
north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 17, shown in blue  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial  
photographs taken 1975 and other source data  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1978

UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	4 LANE 6 LANE	Light-duty
Medium-duty	2 LANE 6 LANE	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route		Slate Route



MAYS LICK, KY.  
SE/4 MAYSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3830-W8345/7.5

1952  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
AMS 4261 III SE—SERIES V853

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
KENTUCKY GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40506,  
AND KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

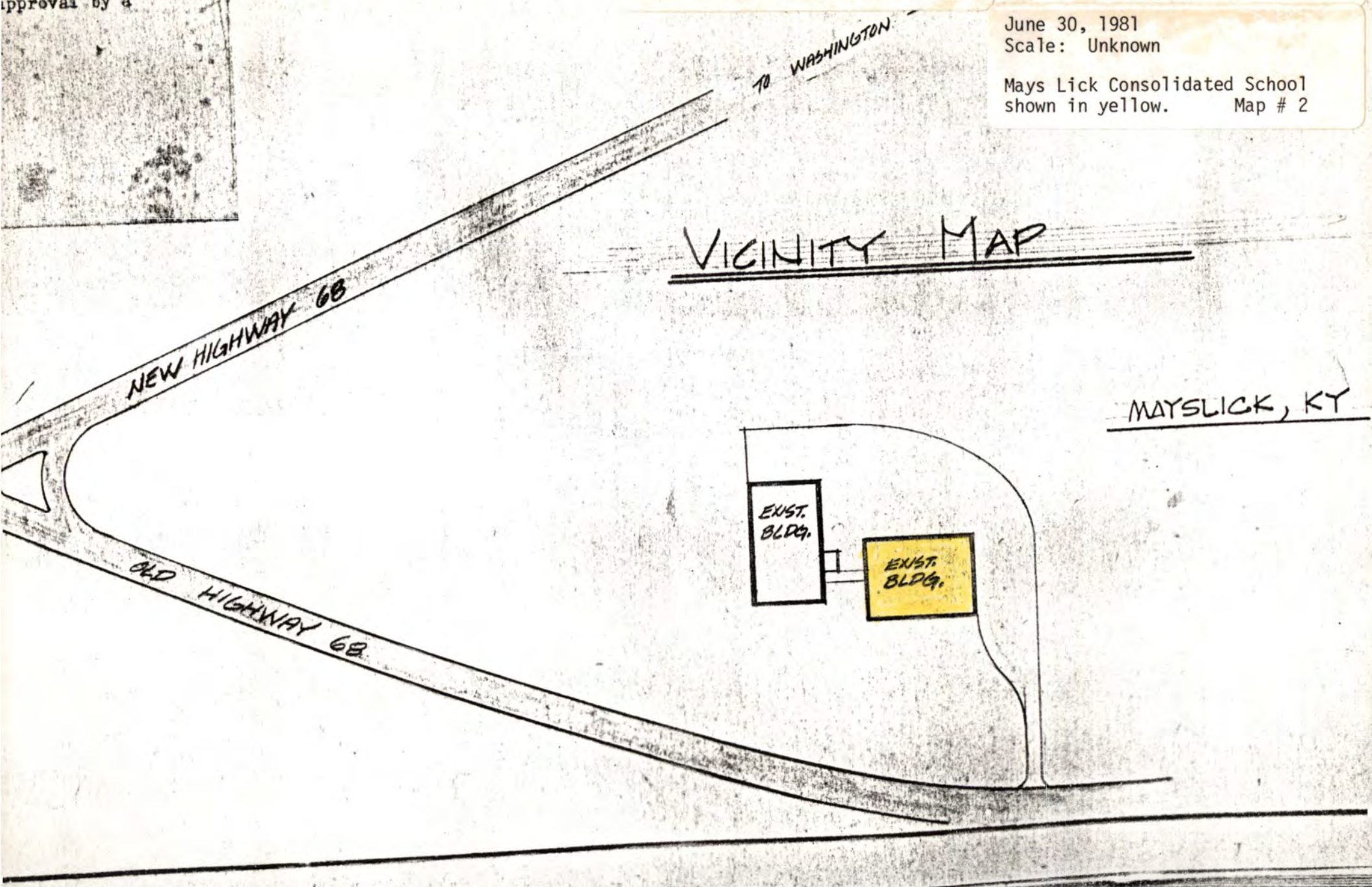
power co. to  
breaker panels  
to owner and  
approval by a

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







## HERITAGE

March 11, 1982



Mrs. Carol Shull, Acting Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mrs. Shull:

The following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places were approved at the state level by the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board on the dates indicated. As State Historic Preservation Officer, I recommend they be entered in the National Register.

<u>Name and Location of Sites</u>	<u>Date Approved at State Level</u>
Multiple Resources of Clark County, Addition (Major John Martin House)	Feb. 23, 1982
Adath Israel Cemetery, Jefferson Co.	Feb. 23, 1982
Lewis Payne House, Woodford County	Feb. 23, 1982
Mays Lick Consolidated School Mason County	Feb. 23, 1982
Richard Olive House, Livingston Co.	Feb. 23, 1982

Your early consideration of these nominations will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Cronan Oppel, Director  
Heritage Division, and  
State Historic Preservation  
Officer

MCO:GM:bsc

Enclosures (see List of Attachments)

Mrs. Carol Shull  
Page Two

Mays Lick Consolidated School  
Mason County, Kentucky

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

<u>1</u>	National Register Form
<u>3</u>	Continuation Sheets
<u>4</u>	Photographs
<u>3</u>	Maps
<u>      </u>	Letters of Support
<u>      </u>	Correspondence