

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
 other names/site number District One State Tuberculosis Hospital, HKM-217  
 Related Multiple Property Kentucky State Tuberculosis Hospitals, 1946 – 1950

## 2. Location

street & number 625 Hospital Drive

NA
NA

 not for publication  
 city or town Madisonville vicinity  
 state Kentucky code KY county Hopkins code 107 zip code 42431

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
 I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

Signature of certifying official/Title Craig Potts/SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_

**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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Classification

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
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Hopkins County, KY  
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**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.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
0	0	structure
0	0	object
3	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**

Kentucky State Tuberculosis Hospitals, 1946 – 1950

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health Care –Hospital

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Government/Public – Government office

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Art Deco

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Continuous poured Concrete

walls: Brick, common bond

roof: Flat

other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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### Summary Paragraph

Located in Madisonville, Kentucky, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital, also known as the District One State Tuberculosis Hospital (HKM-217), consists of three contributing buildings: a 4-story main hospital building featuring brick in a running bond pattern and a flat roof covered in a composite material; a two-story brick staff residence; a combination boiler house and laundry. Constructed from 1946 – 1950, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital resulted from Kentucky’s statewide public health campaign against the spread of tuberculosis. Decommissioned as a state sanatorium in the 1970s, the main hospital building has been repurposed as government office space. The boiler house and laundry remains in active use as a maintenance facility while the staff residence sits vacant. The area proposed for listing is 14.6 acres, which includes three contributing buildings (hospital, boiler house/laundry, and staff residence), and one non-contributing building.



Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
Hopkins County, Kentucky  
Coordinates in Zone 16 S  
UTM Coordinates for Main Hospital Building:  
Easting: 456490.86    Northing: 4132600.96  
UTM Coordinates for Boiler House/Laundry:  
Easting: 456525.04    Northing: 4132691.94  
UTM Coordinates for Staff Residence:  
Easting: 456499.05    Northing: 4132435.70

1997 Imagery Date: 10/7/2013    16 S 456695.49 m E 4132583.95 m N elev 471 ft eye alt 2172 ft

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## History & Character of the Site

Documented in the 1945 *Report on Sites for the Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission of Kentucky*, a fifteen-acre plot of land in Madisonville, located on the extension of Kentucky Avenue, was considered for a new tuberculosis hospital to serve District One. At the time of the report, Kentucky Avenue was unpaved; however, it was noted that the road would be paved immediately upon selection for the District One State Tuberculosis Hospital. Described as “rolling and well drained with sandstone below the surface,” the Madisonville site scored high on foundation conditions, roads and grading, landscaping potential, distance from town – within corporate limits of town, and elevation – situated well above the surrounding area (Hartstern, 15). Black-topped roads and parking lots eventually connected the hospital’s buildings. Over the years, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital witnessed the expansion of its parking lots to accommodate its new use as a government office building. Despite this repurposing of the facility, the site maintains a strong association with healthcare as the Kentucky Cancer Program occupies a portion of the main hospital building’s second floor. The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital, located at 625 Hospital Drive, is adjacent to the city’s Trover Clinic and Regional Medical Center. Madisonville Community College’s Health Sciences campus resides on the southern portion of the former sanatorium grounds. Nursing and respiratory care programs offered at the campus echo the healthcare purpose of the sanatorium (Madisonville Community College).

On March 17, 1944, Governor Simeon Willis approved the passage of House Bill No. 147 that divided the state into six tuberculosis sanatoria districts, allowed for the construction of sanatoria, and created the Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission of Kentucky (Hartstern, 1). Government funding provided for the expansion of Louisville’s Hazelwood Sanatorium and the erection of five new 100-bed sanatoria throughout the Commonwealth (Schulman).

In the 1945 *Report on Sites for the Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission of Kentucky*, Architect Fred J. Hartstern recommended to the Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission that Paducah, in McCracken County, be the site of the new District One State Tuberculosis Hospital. While the Paducah site’s clay and gravel foundation and accessibility by bus scored high marks, the fact that the city’s sewer system emptied directly into the Ohio River presented a potential drawback (Hartstern, 19). Although Paducah ranked first in the recommendations, second choice—Madisonville—ultimately housed District One’s tuberculosis hospital that served twenty-two counties in the western part of the Commonwealth. According to the September 27, 1950 edition of the *Madisonville Messenger*, local resident Lawrence H. Ashmore, an original member of the state sanatoria commission, advocated for Madisonville’s selection (Claytor).

Construction on the four-story 100-bed facility commenced in 1946 with the cornerstone laid by Governor Simeon Willis on August 9, 1946. The \$1.5 million dollar project entailed a five-building complex on the Ramsey property in northeast Madisonville:

In addition to the hospital building itself, there are also three other buildings about 200 yards southward. These are the residences for the medical director in charge and for the business manager and the assistant doctor in charge, and the 23-room dormitory for nurses. About 50 yards to the northeast of the hospital proper is the combination power plant and laundry. All buildings are brick. (Claytor).

Over the next four years, contractors from both the local area and out-of-state, specifically Ohio, completed work on the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital. Whittenberg Construction Company of Louisville assumed responsibility for the general construction of the main hospital building and auxiliary buildings as well as all cabinetry and millwork. Other contractors were commissioned for an assortment of projects, including heating, plumbing, electrical, elevators, lighting fixtures, equipment, walkways, roads and drives, and outside

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utilities (Commonwealth of Kentucky). The result of this contract work was a sanatorium complex exemplifying both local and regional workmanship.

Dedicated on September 29, 1950, Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital joined the Paris and Glasgow hospitals as the third of five state sanatoria constructed in the late 1940s to treat Kentucky's tubercular patients. Although separated from the other state tuberculosis hospitals, Madisonville adhered to the same standard five-building layout – main hospital building, director's residence, staff residence, nurses' residence, and combination boiler house and laundry – designed by architects John T. Gillig and Fred J. Hartstern of Lexington and John F. Wilson of Louisville (Commonwealth of Kentucky).

The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital functioned as a public health educational center for its district. In a collaborative effort between the Hopkins County Tuberculosis Association and radio station WFMW, the hospital produced a twenty-six week series of fifteen-minute radio broadcasts on the role of the hospital in tuberculosis treatment and prevention. As part of the series, interviews were conducted with both patients and staff members at the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital. In addition to an educational purpose, these broadcasts helped foster awareness of the hospital's role in the community. The fiscal year of 1952 to 1953 also saw the Madisonville site hosting public health meetings for nurses to discuss hospital operation, cooperation with local health departments, and public health work (*1952-1953 Annual Report*, 14). Public health education and outreach, usually in the form of on-site forums and visits, remained a priority at the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital and its fellow state sanatoria throughout the 1950s. Student nurses from the local Jennie Stuart Memorial Hospital and Owensboro's Daviess County Hospital toured the Madisonville site to gain knowledge of tuberculosis treatment. The Medical Director and Superintendent also addressed tuberculosis control in lectures to medical societies and service clubs (*1953 – 1954 Annual Report*, 17).

Similar to its fellow sanatoria, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital experienced a high turnover rate for nursing personnel. The contagious nature of tuberculosis likely played a role in this high turnover as well as the low salary offered at the sanatoria. Within its first year of operation, Madisonville was having trouble retaining adequately trained nurses given its proximity to the more well-paying nursing positions at Fort Campbell and Camp Breckinridge (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1950 – 1951 Annual Report*, 23). This issue of maintaining a well-qualified staff continued to plague all of the tuberculosis hospitals. From approximately 1953 to 1956, the employee turnover rate remained at a high of forty-nine percent, “considered a direct result of low salaries and competition with business and industrial organizations for employees in the lower grades” (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1955 – 1956 Annual Report*, 20). The establishment of Workmen's Compensation coverage for employee of the Tuberculosis Hospital Commission on August 1, 1956 served as an incentive for both employee recruitment and retention (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1955 – 1956 Annual Report*, 3).

The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital may have been considered to be the product of modern medicine and construction methods, but it required some major maintenance within just a few years of opening. A request for additional storage space and garages to house state vehicles and staff automobiles appeared in the budget requests for the fiscal years 1952 -1953 and 1953 – 1954 (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1950 – 1951 Annual Report*, 24). In order to prevent outside wall water seepage, a waterproofing compound was applied to all the main hospital and auxiliary buildings at the Madisonville, Paris, Ashland, London, and Glasgow Tuberculosis Hospitals (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1952-1953 Annual Report*, 19; *Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1953-1954 Annual Report*, 24). Unfortunately, within a year of waterproofing treatment,

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the issue resurfaced at most locations and required the attention of the Division of Engineering. An expenditure of \$15,000 repaired leaking and deteriorated steam lines at Madisonville and two other sanatoria (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1953-1954 Annual Report*, 24). The state sanatoria also needed repair of moisture damaged walls, major roof replacements, emergency power generator installation, and water tank installation, resulting in some serious costs within the first decade of operation (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1955 – 1956 Annual Report*, 20; *Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1956 – 1957 Annual Report*, 25).

The interior of the buildings and grounds changed gradually in the 1950s with funds funneled into cosmetic improvements. These undertakings included:

the installation of shelves and counters in the third floor waiting room as a location of patients' library; the application of paint throughout the main hospital building and medical director's residence; the improvement of ground through clearing of underbrush, cultivation and seeding; increased parking facilities; and the filling of ditches adjacent to the entrance drive. (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1953-1954 Annual Report*, 24)

By the 1960s, the use of the triple therapy as a drug treatment had practically eradicated the long-term need for tuberculosis sanatoria. The Kentucky Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission, however, remained adamant that the sanatoria were needed to keep tuberculosis under control: "We are winning the fight against tuberculosis, but we cannot relax or lapse into a state of apathy. Despite modern medicine and scientific advancements, tuberculosis is just as infectious today, just as destructive, and just as deadly if undiscovered and untreated as it ever was" (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1966-1967 Annual Report*, 11). Yet, at the same time, the commission also recognized the need to expand the use of the tuberculosis hospital facilities. The decrease in hospitalized tuberculosis patients prompted the commission to recommend that the hospitals accept and treat patients suffering from chronic respiratory diseases not limited to just tuberculosis (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1967-1968 Annual Report*).

Despite the effort to expand the mission of the hospitals, the twenty-year anniversary of the tuberculosis state sanatoria saw the 112-bed capacity of Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital and its fellow sanatoria underutilized (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1969-1970 Annual Report*). Obsolete by the mid-1970s, the set of Kentucky Tuberculosis Hospitals were decommissioned as the medical community embraced drug therapy over regimented bedrest in a hospital setting. The Commonwealth's 1975 *Plans for General Renovation, New Boilers and Steam Distribution, renovation of T.B. Hospitals* successfully closed the sanatoria chapter in Kentucky.

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital transitioned from a sanatorium into a government office building. The spatial arrangements of the main hospital building served as an asset for this type of adaptive reuse and gave credence to architectural historian Annmarie Adams' observation that "hospitals of the 1950s and 1960s tended to look like office buildings" (Adams, 130). The continual presence of the Commonwealth has ensured maintenance at the Madisonville site over the years. In addition to the extant staff residence and boiler house/laundry, the main hospital building remains in good condition with its exterior relatively unchanged since its creation. The hospital exemplifies mid-century modern medical architecture with touches of pre-war Art Deco touches woven throughout its physical fabric. A product of the firm of Gillig-Hartstern and Wilson, well known for their design contributions to Kentucky's college campuses, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital echoes twentieth-century institutional architecture found throughout the Commonwealth. As *The Glasgow*

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*Times* chronicled of its sister site in Glasgow, “The area which was developed as the site for the sanatorium buildings resembles a college campus and few colleges have dormitories as nice as the new nurses home” (*The Glasgow Times*).

### **Main Hospital Building Exterior (Contributing building)**

The main hospital building at Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital consists of a modified cross/t-shaped plan, described as an “off-center T” (Claytor, 1). Composed primarily of brick in a running bond pattern, the main building is multi-story with the back cross-section the highest at four stories. The hospital’s flat roofs are trimmed with coping caps while scuppers filter rain into metal gutters. The combination windows on all elevations contain marble-stone sills. On the two-story front façade, the windows are articulated in bays flanking the main entrance. The metal gutters visually divide bays of window into sections on each elevation. The original solaria, one located on each of the four floors, highlight the use of windows to provide fresh air and a view of the landscaped grounds.



**Main Hospital Building**

The main entrance distinctly identifies it as a tuberculosis sanatorium. A large two-story stone-faced portico prominently displays the bronze seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky above the entranceway. The date that construction started on each building, under the administration of Governor Simeon Willis, is commemorated through a limestone cornerstone on the façade. A muted row of dentils adorn the lintel above the door. Although the metal words “SANATORIUM” have since been removed from the lintel, the double-barred cross remains etched into the stone flanking the front door as a symbol of the crusade against tuberculosis that was adopted by tuberculosis prevention associations. The two double-barred crosses on the façade mark the main hospital building as a tuberculosis sanatorium.

Art Deco influences can also be seen through the use of geometric design elements and steamship glass. The main portico is framed by a geometric cornice carved into the stone. Echoes of this design appear in the parapet brickwork of the front section’s roof, cornices of the secondary rear entrances, and the elaborate two-story steamship glass of the rear staircases. While the stone portico served as the original main entrance, six other entrances provided secondary access to the main building. These include four (two rear and two side) on the ground level of the main hospital and two side entrances in the front three-story section of the building. The two rear entrances feature graduated brick porticoes with cornices comprised of stone geometric elements. A two-story bay of steamship glass above each rear entrance illuminates the staircase at the ends of the building. One of the rear entrances is pushed into the interior by two bays to accommodate the south-facing solaria at that

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end. These large, airy solaria with interior glazed, tile walls represent a modern take on the sleeping porches and sunrooms found in early tuberculosis sanatoria.

### Main Hospital Building Interior

In anticipation of the dedication of the new tuberculosis hospitals opening, local newspapers published descriptions of the interior special arrangements and décor of the facilities. A 1950 account provides a glimpse inside the entrance to the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital:



Upon entering the main entrance, a patient or visitor emerges into the admittance room or the outpatient clinic where patients are registered. This room has yellow glazed tile walls, linoleum tile floor and noiseless celotex ceiling. A plaque on the wall of this room reveals the site selection date, as well as when construction started (Claytor, 1).

A side entrance on the front-entry portico now serves as the visitor entrance with original yellow glazed tile walls intact with the reception room area of the state office building. Interior uptakes, including dropped ceilings, new flooring, and wheelchair accessible doors in place of the original maple ones, have updated the facility to meet its current office space function.

A tour of the Glasgow Tuberculosis Hospital from *The Glasgow Times* offers the most thorough description of the interiors of the main hospital building and auxiliary buildings as they appeared upon opening in 1950. Since all five new tuberculosis sanatoria followed a standardized architectural and design scheme, this account illuminates how the Madisonville site's interiors originally looked and functioned to promote health and recovery.

In the original hospital design, yellow glazed tiles adorned the walls while dark brown/red tiles made of asphalt, ceramic, and quarry materials covered the floors. The first floor housed "offices, a reception room, a morgue, a room for physicians, an x-ray room complete with a dark room, a gymnasium-size kitchen, five cold storage rooms, and employees' dining room and a nurses' dining room" (*The Glasgow Times*). Examination rooms, operating rooms, dental clinic, and a beauty/barber shop enabled the hospital to maintain isolation of its patients from the healthy populace. Four stainless steel mop wagons and a large stock of cleaning supplies enabled the staff to keep the hospital disinfected and sanitized. In accord with strict tuberculosis sanatoria

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regulations, one of the five large cooling units in the ground-floor kitchen was used for garbage, because the health department stipulated that garbage could only leave state hospitals if frozen or cooked. In addition to the fully-equipped first-floor kitchen, each floor boasted a kitchen equipped with dishware and cutlery. Dishes prepared from the main kitchen were placed on food carts, carried on elevators to the various floors, served on steam tables, and eaten in dining rooms. The color scheme – cream, terra cotta, blue, green – of these dining rooms varied by floor.

The top three floors of the main hospital building contained wards with sterilization/warming stations, telephone booths in corridors, strategically placed fire extinguishers, and electric exit signs. Patient sleeping quarters was divided into wards of two to four bedrooms on the top three floors. Steel casement windows allowed for optimal light and air flow into these patient rooms. Solaria provided further exposure to fresh air and sunlight:

Ambulatory and wheel chair patients also have the privilege of new vistas from deep, glassed-in solariums found at the end of the three patient floors. Here a lounge atmosphere prevails, with chaise lounges, club chairs, tables, and adjacent lavatory and toilet. (*The Glasgow Times*).

### **Staff Residence (Contributing building)**

Built to house the families of the business manager and assistant director, the staff residence is a flat-roofed three-story brick building with a poured concrete foundation. As the ground level, the partially excavated basement sits on a half-height poured concrete foundation. The front elevation is five bays wide with a projecting front entrance capped with a classically inspired, gable front pediment. Metal columns support a decorative front portico. Above the portico, a central bay with a pair of four-pane casement windows and an ornamental fanlight illuminates the interior stairwell. At the rear of the house is a one-bay-wide, two-bay-deep wing. On the window bays, pairs of four-pane casement windows rest on stone sills. The rear of the wing elevation features a three-part variation (four-pane casement windows flanking a single, central-pane) of the windows seen throughout the other elevations. Window air conditioning units have been inserted into some of the lower panes. Although the building is vacant at the Madisonville site, it is used intermittently for fire safety training exercises. Fire escapes added onto the rear facilitate this current use of the space.



**Staff Residence**

### **Boiler House and Laundry (Contributing building)**

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The final original building to the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital is the two-level, brick combination boiler house and laundry, referred to as the steam power plant in some newspaper sources. This facility ensures the dual ability of the hospital to provide its own coal-fueled power source and prevent the spread of germs by doing all laundry on-site. Appearing from the front as a seven-bay, one-story structure with a flat roof, the boiler house and laundry contains most of its 20,000 square foot interior below ground through the innovative use of a steel framework and concrete foundation. The front elevation features twenty-pane windows, a large garage-door entrance, and wooden double doors with a five-light transom. Changes over the years to the façade include a brick-in window bay, bars over one window, a garage door in lieu of a window, metal door replacements for the original maple ones, and a set of awnings over two window bays. Despite these modifications, the façade retains a significant level of intactness with roof-top chimneys and a towering chimney stack displaying the original function of the building. Echoes of the main hospital building design can be seen in the consistent use of brick on the exterior and stone windows sills. The eight-bay rear addition features a combination of two-story, twenty-four pane windows, single-story sixteen-pane windows, one six-pane window, and a wooden door entrance. All of the original windows on the rear have been maintained, but the three twenty-four pane windows contain a film of brown paint over the panes and central vents. A towering brick chimney stack connects through a metal chute to the building's rear elevation. At the bottom of the chimney stack, a small cast-iron door bears the builder information: "Built by J.M. Cutshall & Sons. Brazil, Indiana." Poured concrete dominates the south-facing, side elevation. The north-facing side elevation boasts a five-bay façade articulated in a pair of twenty-pane windows, an eight-pane window, a sixteen-pane window, and double wooden doors with an eight-light transom. The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital site's former boiler house and laundry building is still in active use as a storage space.



**Boiler House and Laundry**

**Brick Shed (Non-contributing building)**

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A brick shed with two single doors and double doors all with four-pane windows, resides immediately northwest to the boiler house/laundry. A paved road connects this area to the main hospital building.



**Brick Shed**

### **Changes to the Complex since the Period of Significance**

The director's residence and nurses' dormitory are no longer extant to the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital site.

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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 important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Health/Medicine  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1946 – 1975  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1946 – 1950: Construction Period  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1950 – 1975: Sanatorium Period  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Architect: Hartstern, Fred J.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Architect: Wilson, John F.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Architect: Gillig, John T  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Builders: Whittenberg Construction Company of  
Louisville  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

Constructed from 1946 to 1950, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital operated as a tuberculosis sanatorium from 1950 until approximately 1975. Its period of significance dates from 1946 to 1975 to encompass the construction phase and active sanatorium phase of the Madisonville site.

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**Criteria Considerations NA**

**Statement of Significance**

**Summary Paragraph**

The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital, also known as the District One State Tuberculosis Hospital (HKM-217), individually meets National Register Criterion A. The former sanatorium is significant for its association with Kentucky's public health campaign to eradicate tuberculosis, as detailed in the MPS historic context, "The Anti-Tuberculosis Movement in Kentucky, 1907 – 1975." Although Kentucky formed a tuberculosis commission in 1912, sanatoria largely remained in the hands of local and county organizations for the next three decades. The state's construction of five 100-bed tuberculosis hospitals in the late 1940s marked a transition from smaller county-operated sanatoria to larger modern district hospitals. Plagued for decades by a large percentage of tuberculosis cases, Kentucky sprang into action after World War II health inspections exposed the poor health of its citizens. In 1945, Kentucky initiated a state-wide effort to curtail tuberculosis deaths in the Commonwealth. Aided by the 1940s discovery of the antibiotic streptomycin, the sanatoria offered a modern cure to thousands of TB patients. The effective triple therapy drug treatment of tuberculosis eventually led to the decommissioning of the tuberculosis hospitals in the mid-1970s. The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital illustrates Kentucky's mid-twentieth-century response to the tuberculosis epidemic and is a valuable piece of early modern hospital architecture in the Commonwealth.

**Evaluation of the Historic Significance of Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital within the Historic Context, The Anti-Tuberculosis Movement in Kentucky, 1907 – 1975**

The historic context is detailed on the Multiple Property Documentation Form, Kentucky State Tuberculosis Hospitals, 1946 – 1950. All five district hospitals, and a sixth in Louisville, performed a significant public health service to Kentuckians until the era of antibiotic treatments made hospital treatment obsolete. The MPDF has required these elements for an eligible property—a main hospital building with a modified cross/off-center T-shaped plan, stone-faced portico with double-barred crosses, and south-facing solarium; running bond brickwork; concrete foundations, and stonework—and the London Tuberculosis Hospital possesses all of those elements.

The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital bears significance in the area of healthcare, specifically Kentucky's public health campaign to cure tuberculosis. In the early-twentieth century, it was believed that the tubercle bacilli could survive in household dust and that sunlight offered a way to destroy the bacteria lingering in the built environment. Light and air ultimately became intrinsically linked to the Anti-Tuberculosis Movement. Margaret Campbell, in "What Tuberculosis did for Modernism: The Influence of a Curative Environment on Modernist Design and Architecture," contends that "light and air, and specifically sunlight, were influential in the interpretation of modernist hygienic ideas for the design of flat roofs, balconies, terraces and recliner chairs" (Campbell, 470). The modernism reflected in the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital and its fellow sanatoria combined hygienic and environmental knowledge. When the state hospitals were constructed in Kentucky, the medical community and public still directly connected architectural design and environment with the treatment of tuberculosis. That association proved short-lived, as the introduction of the triple therapy treatment diminished the need for sanatoria by the 1950s (Campbell, 487). Despite this poor timing in construction, the Commonwealth's decision to fund state sanatoria, rather than remain in local hands, demonstrated a pervasive view in the power of medical and scientific progress. Thanks to the state sanatoria and

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new medical knowledge, tuberculosis deaths fell almost seventy percent from 1073 in 1950 to only 335 in 1960 (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1960-1961 Annual Report*). As *The Glasgow Times* noted,

In viewing this link in the State's system of sanatoria for the treatment of Kentucky's worst plague, tuberculosis, one is bound to be impressed by the ability of government to do what private citizens would find impossible. A great deal of money has been spent, that is true, but great good can come of it in salvaged lives that previously have been doomed. This money has furthermore been wisely spent from the standpoint of permanency of construction..bricks and tile, steel and concrete, even the window sills will resist wear and rotting because they are marble. (*The Glasgow Times*).

In 1955, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital won first place for a small hospital (less than 100 employees) in the National Hospital Safety Contest with the Glasgow Tuberculosis Hospital taking honorable mention (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1955 – 1956 Annual Report*, 3). Despite an onslaught of maintenance issues at its sanatoria, the Kentucky Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission found the 1955 – 1956 fiscal year to be a significant milestone in the Commonwealth's Anti-Tuberculosis Movement.

This has been the greatest period in the history of care and treatment for the tuberculosis victims in Kentucky. The outlook for the future under present leadership is certainly one of accelerated, progressive action. One of the most important public relation efforts to be initiated has been the series of meetings at the district hospitals co-sponsored by the State Tuberculosis Hospital Commission and the Kentucky Academy of General Practice with the assistance of the Kentucky State Medical Association. These symposia concerning diseases of the chest have been well attended by representatives of the medical profession and all groups interested in the health and welfare of our people. (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1955-1956 Annual Report*, 1).

The arrival of bronchoscopic and surgical clinics at the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital ensured that patients could receive local consultations rather than journeying to the surgical center at Louisville's Hazelwood Sanatorium. With the development of local clinics at all sanatoria, the waiting list for surgery was eliminated and patients received surgery immediately upon arrival at Hazelwood (*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission 1955-1956 Annual Report*, 2).

### **Registration Requirements**

To be eligible for registration under Criterion A, a property must be associated with significant events or trends in history. The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital demonstrates state-wide significance in the area of healthcare to the Commonwealth. The seven qualities of integrity (location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association) authenticate the historical identity of the former sanatorium site. The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital retains the following characteristics:

The original **location** chosen by the Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission and documented by Architect Fred J. Hartstern in the 1945 *Report on Sites for the Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission of Kentucky* is still maintained. The main hospital building sits on its original construction site. The building's cornerstone, dated August 9, 1946, marks how long the building has remained intact.

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
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The **setting** reflects both the landscaping and site composition of the 1950s sanatorium complex. Expanded parking lots around the building do not affect the overall integrity of setting slightly. The property looks largely unchanged from its sanatorium days.

The **design** produced by the architectural firm of Gillig-Hartstern and Wilson is evident in the main hospital building that mirrors those at the other district sites. The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital underwent routine maintenance to address issues related to roofing, moisture, water pressure, landscaping, and storage. Annual maintenance did not compromise the character-defining elements of the original hospital design. These intact elements include the imposing facades with tuberculosis sanatorium symbols, the south-facing solarium, the steamship glass-lit stairwells, and the hallways.

The **materials** and **workmanship** of the original construction is displayed in the main hospital building. Notable features include decorative brickwork, stonework, and ceramic-tiled hallways. The physical fabric of the exterior main hospital building is of utmost importance, as this was the ornate focal point of the complex.

The **feeling** and **association** of the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital is illustrated through its unique sanatorium appearance and secluded landscape. The health-care function of the main hospital building ceased in the mid-1970s, but the layout and design easily identify it as a former tuberculosis sanatorium. Originally attributed to the Anti-Tuberculosis Movement, the double-barred crosses on the front entry portico now share similar meaning with the American Lung Association that has since adopted the symbol. The presence of a cornerstone and the seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky also help identify the continuing role of the state government at the site. Development surrounding the hospital has been kept to a minimum, reinforcing the sense of seclusion present during the sanatorium phase at the site. Currently open as a government office building, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital exudes a sense of daily activity and use reminiscent of its sanatorium past. The site maintains close ties to the healthcare industry. The Kentucky Cancer Program's offices are housed on the second floor of the main hospital building. Hospital Drive, the location of the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital, is home to the city's Trover Clinic and Regional Medical Center while the local community college's Health Sciences campus resides on the southern grounds of the site.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
Name of Property

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*Tuberculosis Sanatoria Commission Annual Reports.* 1950 – 1970. Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives. Frankfort, KY.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_ HKM-217 \_\_\_\_\_

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
Name of Property

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County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property** 14.6 acres

**UTM References**

NAD 83 Coordinates

1	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456487</u> Easting	<u>4132765</u> Northing	3	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456559</u> Easting	<u>4132744</u> Northing
2	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456511</u> Easting	<u>4132766</u> Northing	4	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456628</u> Easting	<u>4132610</u> Northing
5	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456648</u> Easting	<u>4132587</u> Northing	11	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456484</u> Easting	<u>4132431</u> Northing
6	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456567</u> Easting	<u>4132479</u> Northing	12	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456483</u> Easting	<u>4132450</u> Northing
7	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456527</u> Easting	<u>4132486</u> Northing	13	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456506</u> Easting	<u>4132486</u> Northing
8	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456507</u> Easting	<u>4132453</u> Northing	14	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456491</u> Easting	<u>4132538</u> Northing
9	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456513</u> Easting	<u>4132441.1</u> Northing	15	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456432</u> Easting	<u>4132593</u> Northing
10	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456506</u> Easting	<u>4132420</u> Northing	16	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456421</u> Easting	<u>4132639</u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital is located on Hospital Drive off of North Kentucky Avenue in Madisonville, Kentucky. Madisonville Community College's Health Services campus neighbors the hospital to the southwest. The nominated property includes the main hospital building, boiler house/laundry, staff residence, and surrounding 14.6 acres on the land parcel #M-32-9-2 owned by the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

**Boundary Justification**

Historically, the Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital encompassed a five-building sanatorium complex on a 15-acre plot of land. Over time, the property lost all its auxiliary buildings to razing. The 14.6-acre nominated property entails the main hospital building, boiler house/laundry, staff residence, and a non-contributing shed. Although there has been medical institutional development around the site, the nominated property retains its original acreage as well as three of its five sanatorium buildings.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title Jenna Stout / Graduate Research Assistant

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
Name of Property

Hopkins County, KY  
County and State

organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date 1/21/16  
street & number MTSU Box 80, 1301 East Main Street telephone 919-799-3816  
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132  
e-mail jennastout88@gmail.com

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**Photographs:**

**Name of Property:** Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
**City or Vicinity:** Madisonville  
**County:** Hopkins **State:** Kentucky  
**Photographer:** Jenna Stout  
**Date Photographed:** 10/8/15 & 1/27/16  
**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

- 1 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0001  
View of the Main Hospital Building's front entry portico façade
- 2 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0002  
View of the Main Hospital Building's front portico and front wing, facing northeast
- 3 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0003  
View of the Main Hospital Building's front wing and front elevation, facing north
- 4 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0004  
View of the Main Hospital Building's front elevation and side sun porches, facing northeast
- 5 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0005  
View of the Main Hospital Building's south wing side sun porches, facing northwest
- 6 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0006  
View of the Main Hospital Building's side sun porches and south rear elevation, facing northwest
- 7 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0007  
Detail view of the Main Hospital Building's south rear entrance
- 8 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0008  
View of the Main Hospital Building's rear elevation, facing northwest
- 9 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0009  
View of the Main Hospital Building's rear elevation, facing west
- 10 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0010  
View of the Main Hospital Building's rear and side elevations, facing south
- 11 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0011  
Detail view of the Main Hospital Building's north rear entrance
- 12 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0012  
View of the Main Hospital Building's side elevation, facing south
- 13 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0013

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital

Hopkins County, KY

Name of Property

County and State

View of the Main Hospital Building's side and front elevations, facing southeast

- 14 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0014  
Detail view of the Main Hospital Building's front elevation, wing, and entry portico, facing southeast
- 15 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0015  
Detail view of the Main Hospital Building's front wing and entry portico, facing southeast
- 16 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0016  
View of the Main Hospital Building's first-floor layout
- 17 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0017  
View of the Main Hospital Building's visitor entrance reception area
- 18 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0018  
View of the Main Hospital Building's ceramic yellow glazed tiles
- 19 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0019  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry, facing northeast
- 20 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0020  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's front elevation, facing east
- 21 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0021  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's side and front elevations, facing southeast
- 22 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0022  
Detail view of the Boiler House/Laundry's twenty-pane window with stone sill
- 23 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0023  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's rear elevation, facing southwest
- 24 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0024  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's rear elevation, facing northwest
- 25 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0025  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's rear elevation, facing west
- 26 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0026  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's sloping two-story rear elevation, facing northwest
- 27 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0027  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's two-story windows and chimney stack tower base, facing southwest
- 28 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0028  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's rear elevation and chimney stack tower, facing north
- 29 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0029  
Detail view of the chimney stack tower's cast-iron door
- 30 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0030  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's side elevation, facing northeast
- 31 of 42** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0031  
View of the Boiler House/Laundry's location in relation to the Main Hospital Building

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
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- 32 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0032  
View of the Staff Residence, facing southwest
- 33 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0033  
View of the Staff Residence's façade, facing south
- 34 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0034  
View of the Staff Residence's front and side elevations, facing southeast
- 35 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0035  
View of the Staff Residence's side elevation, facing east
- 36 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0036  
View of the Staff Residence's side and rear elevations, facing northeast
- 37 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0037  
View of the Staff Residence's rear elevation, facing north
- 38 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0038  
View of the Staff Residence's rear and side elevations, facing northwest
- 39 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0039  
View of the Staff Residence's side elevation, facing west
- 40 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0040  
View of the Brick Shed's front elevation, facing north
- 41 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0041  
View of the Brick Shed's front and side elevation, facing northeast
- 42 of \_42\_** KY\_HopkinsCounty\_KentuckyStateTBHospitalsMPS\_MadisonvilleTBHospital\_0042  
View of the Brick Shed's side elevation, facing west

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**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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name Commonwealth of Kentucky  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

Madisonville Tuberculosis Hospital  
Name of Property

Hopkins County, KY  
County and State

**UTM References**

**NAD 27 Coordinates**

1	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456485.9</u> Easting	<u>4132561</u> Northing	10	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456504.9</u> Easting	<u>4132216</u> Northing
2	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456509.9</u> Easting	<u>4132562</u> Northing	11	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456482.9</u> Easting	<u>4132227</u> Northing
3	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456558</u> Easting	<u>4132540</u> Northing	12	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456481.9</u> Easting	<u>4132245.9</u> Northing
4	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456626.9</u> Easting	<u>4132405.9</u> Northing	13	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456504.9</u> Easting	<u>4132282</u> Northing
5	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456646.9</u> Easting	<u>4132383</u> Northing	14	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456489.9</u> Easting	<u>4132334</u> Northing
6	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456565.9</u> Easting	<u>4132275</u> Northing	15	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456431</u> Easting	<u>4132389</u> Northing
7	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456525.9</u> Easting	<u>4132282</u> Northing	16	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456419.9</u> Easting	<u>4132435</u> Northing
8	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456506</u> Easting	<u>4132248.9</u> Northing				
9	<u>16 N</u> Zone	<u>456511.9</u> Easting	<u>4132237</u> Northing				