

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Campbell County High School

Other names/site number: Campbell County Middle School, CP 489

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Public Schools of Kentucky

2. Location

Street & number: 8000 Alexandria Pike

City or town: Alexandria State: Kentucky County: Campbell

Not For Publication:

NA

Vicinity:

NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following

level(s) of significance: national

 statewide

X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A

 B

 C

 D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Craig Potts/SHPO**

Date

 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

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

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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

Ownership of Property

- Private: ☐
Public – Local ☒
Public – State ☐
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

- Building(s) ☒
District ☐
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

EDUCATION/School

EDUCATION/Education Related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival/Georgian Revival

Materials:

Foundation: CONCRETE

Exterior Walls: BRICK

Roof: ASPHALT

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Campbell County High School (CP 489) complex is a sprawling, consolidated school campus originally constructed in 1939 in Alexandria, Campbell County, Kentucky, in the northernmost region of the state near the Ohio River. Located along Alexandria Pike (US 27), the complex occupies a large parcel historically associated with the development and operation of Campbell County High School and its educational, vocational, recreational, and athletic activities. The campus developed over several decades as the school expanded to accommodate a growing student population and evolving educational programs. The earliest portions of the school, including the north wing and original gymnasium, were constructed in 1939 with assistance from the Public Works Administration (PWA). Although the main school building now operates as Campbell County Middle School, the property continues to function as part of the Campbell County public school system. The Period of Significance extends from 1939, when Campbell County High School was constructed, through 1975, the final year encompassed by the Multiple Property Listing *Historic Public Schools in Kentucky*. The complex is in good condition and retains sufficient historic integrity to convey its significance as a consolidated public school campus and qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The nominated property includes 30 acres, six contributing resources (the main school building, the adjacent Charles E. McCormick vocational building, the Central Receiving Building, Bob Miller Football Stadium, the stadium seating, and the memorial gate and associated landscape features, including a grouping of seven trees associated with the 1948 memorial entrance and planted in commemoration of local graduates who died during World War II) and a Non-contributing site, the tennis courts. Several ancillary structures intended to be temporary, including prefabricated sheds, are also located on the property but are not included in the resource count.

School Naming

This school has had many names over the years, each connected with a distinctive era in Campbell County's educational history. This document frequently refers to the building as Campbell County High School, as this was the name attributed to it when it was combined into the single school it is today. It will be called one of the other names that it was designated under, whichever name it had during that point in the building's history.

Character of Site

The Campbell County High School campus is located in the northern portion of Alexandria, Campbell County, Kentucky, just north of the city's historic center. Alexandria developed within the generally forested and rolling terrain of northern Campbell County. The school fronts Alexandria Pike (U.S. 27), the primary north-south thoroughfare through the city and an important transportation corridor through the surrounding county. The area surrounding the school remained predominantly agricultural through the first half of the twentieth century before gradually developing with residential neighborhoods and scattered commercial properties during the mid- and late twentieth century.

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Figure 1. Boundaries of Campbell County High School, as shown on an aerial map (Google Earth). Location relative to the surrounding area in the insert corner callout.

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The school occupies a large parcel bounded generally by Alexandria Pike and Washington Street to the west, Orchard Lane to the south, and wooded areas and commercial development to the east and north. Residential development is concentrated west of the property, across Alexandria Pike and Washington Street. The school grounds generally slope downward from west to east, with the main school complex occupying the higher western portion of the property and the athletic facilities extending across the lower eastern portion. Bob Miller Football Stadium, including the field, track, and associated seating, occupies a relatively level area at the rear of the school property. The memorial gate and associated landscape features are situated on the sloping eastern grounds between the main school building and the football stadium. Further east is the Central Receiving Building, while the Charles E. McCormick Building occupies the southern portion of the property on terrain that gradually slopes upward toward the south. The tennis courts are situated on a lower, relatively level area northeast of the main school building. Parking is primarily concentrated along the southern and western portions of the parcel, with additional parking areas located to the rear and north of the school. Beyond the eastern portion of the school grounds is a wooded area containing Four Mile Creek.

Information on the evolution of the Campbell County High School and its development over the years was gathered using a multitude of sources which add to the validity of the information throughout this nomination. In addition to the site visit and tour of the school, the following resources were consulted at length to develop the construction narrative and physical description of the school: the most updated Campbell County School District Facility Plan, historic aerials, school floor plans and as-builts throughout the years, in-person discussions with school administrative and county maintenance staff, plaques installed on the school itself, discussions and comments from longtime Campbell County residents, former teachers, former students, and historians etc.

Description of Resources

School (Contributing Building)

Exterior: West facade

The west facade consists of north and south wings organized around a central entrance, all veneered in a modified Common bond. A sidewalk extends the length of the west facade, with a flagpole area and lawn extending westward to the street. The central entrance is recessed beneath a flat-roofed, two-story portico supported by eight square columns on molded bases. A two-story curtain wall encloses the central entrance and extends to the roofline. The portico is capped by an entablature bearing the school name. The central entrance is flanked by brick transitions on either side that connect to a north and south wing.

North of the central entrance is the original 1939 school building, a two-level, red brick, flat-roofed structure with a basement. The 11-bay façade is symmetrically arranged with regularly-spaced multi-light window openings on masonry sills. A rectangular stone surround frames the entrance in the center and is surmounted by a rounded-arch multi-light window and a brick gabled pediment with a dentiled cornice. Within the gable is a decorative stone seal. Limestone cornices and coping define the roofline. The edges of the core north wing façade are articulated by projected brick quoining.

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The 1939 gymnasium is connected to the north wing. It is a symmetrical brick structure, also articulated by a limestone cornice and coping at the roofline, and by brick pilasters. A rectangular limestone door surround beneath a rounded-arch window frames its central entrance. Keystones and decorative brickwork accent the tops of the windows, which rest on masonry sills. A carved cornerstone near its entrance bears the year 1939. Above the cornice is a decorative stone seal and a shallow roof parapet. On either side of the gymnasium façade are rectangular limestone bas-relief panels portraying children playing sports. The edges of the gymnasium façade and its shallow projecting entrance bay are articulated by projecting brick quoining. The cornice of the entrance bay also contains dentil detailing,

South of the entrance portico, the south classroom wing continues the use of red brick and a flat roof while maintaining the horizontal emphasis of the original building. The two-level elevation with a basement is composed of 17 bays of multi-light windows set on masonry sills. A central entrance, matching the treatment of the north wing, is framed by a rectangular limestone surround and topped by an arched multi-light window and gabled pediment with dentils. Within the gable is a decorative stone seal. A carved cornerstone on the south wing bears the year 1961. A limestone cornice and coping continue across the facade, visually tying the entire principal facade together.



West Façade-Central Entryway



West Façade-1939 Building



West Façade-PWA Gym



West Façade-1948 Building

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North facade

Three distinct periods of construction are evident on this facade. The modified Common bond continues along this facade. The north facade of the 1939 gymnasium contains regularly spaced, multi-light, round-arched windows, each accented by a central keystone. This portion is also accented by projecting brick quoins. At the rear of the north wing is a 1960s brick addition with rectangular, contemporary windows arranged in vertical bays, separated by solid spandrel panels at each building level. This portion of the building is capped by a thick concrete band. A 1950s brick addition provides a transition between the earlier building and the 1960s addition. A parking lot extends along the north facade, with six tennis courts located farther to the southeast. Aerial imagery shows that a 1950s brick addition lies between these two portions.

East Facade

At the rear of the school, the north and south wings form the outer legs of the "E" type plan, with the 1960s gymnasium projecting from the center. The modified Common bond continues along this facade. The north wing is a three-level brick-and-concrete structure with rectangular, contemporary windows arranged in vertical bays, separated by solid spandrel panels between each building level. The concrete band that caps the north facade continues along a portion of the rear facade. Elsewhere, particularly on the south-facing walls, the north wing contains rectangular, contemporary windows set on masonry sills. The north wing is connected to the remainder of the school by a brick section. The centrally located 1960s gymnasium is the central leg of the "E" and is a largely windowless, rectangular brick mass with a shallow gabled roof. Its exposed concrete basement level houses the school cafeteria and student locker rooms; the cafeteria is distinguished by square, multi-pane windows. The 1961 south wing forms the opposite leg of the "E" and is an L-shaped brick structure with rectangular, contemporary windows set on masonry sills.

South Facade

The south facade is defined by the south wing, constructed in 1961, with the school's largest parking lot extending alongside it. Along the south facade is the south wing, built in 1961. There is also a parking lot along this facade. The building has evenly spaced, multi-light windows, primarily eight-over-eight units, set on stone sills. The modified Common bond continues along this facade. A projecting stone cornice and stone coping extend along the top of the building.



North Facade



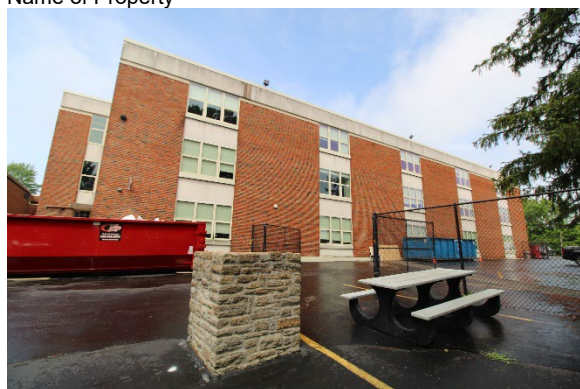
South End of the East Facade

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North End of the East Facade



South Facade

Interior

Campbell County High School is made up of several building campaigns, as evidenced by the interior. The central entrance on the west facade was constructed last in --. Aluminum-framed multi-light doors lead into a carpeted foyer where administrative offices are visible through curtain walls. The ceiling is finished in dark beige suspended acoustic tiles throughout the entrance foyer. A second set of aluminum-framed doors leads into the lobby where the acoustic tiles continue. The floors are finished in beige, purple, and blue vinyl composition tile (VCT). The remaining ceiling and walls of the lobby are finished in white- and purple-painted gypsum board.

Both the north and the south wings have their own original entrances. They are double entrances with aluminum-framed doors. Above the interior paired entrance doors in both the north and south wing is a transom window with decorative deep purple metal muntins arranged in an intersecting spider-web-like pattern.

The north wing, the oldest portion of the structure, is built of structural brick on a poured-concrete base. The corridors on the first and second floors are lined with tall buff-colored glazed-brick wainscoting topped with a white gypsum-board finish. Many classroom entrances are recessed, and teal lockers line the corridors. The lower level of the north wing is constructed of concrete masonry units (CMUs) finished with white gypsum board or painted white or purple. The north wing rests on a poured concrete base. Some of the stairwells are finished with dark reddish-brown glazed CMUs with contrasting light mortar joints. The stairwells in the north wing have painted metal railings composed of square newel posts and metal balusters, capped by wood handrails. Wall-mounted wood handrails extend along the adjacent brick walls. The ceiling is finished with white suspended acoustic tiles.

The north wing contains the 1939 PWA-funded gymnasium. The gymnasium has a concrete floor with painted court markings and painted masonry walls. The lower portions of the walls are clad with vertical wood paneling painted deep violet, while the upper portions are painted. The space has a high, smooth-finished ceiling with suspended pendant light fixtures. A bank of large round-arched multi-light windows along the north wall provides natural light.

The south wing of the school, the original elementary school, has distinct interior finishes from the north wing. This wing is constructed primarily of CMUs. In the corridors, stairwells, and some

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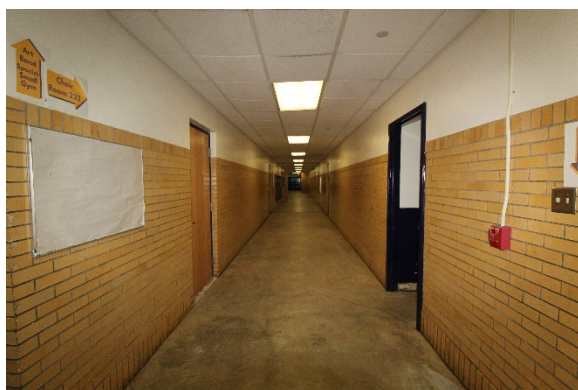
of the offices, a buff-colored glazed CMU serves as wainscoting, while the upper portions are white-painted CMUs. This mimics the buff-colored, glazed brick of the north wing. Teal lockers also line many of the corridors. In many classrooms, aqua-colored, glazed CMUs form the lower wainscoting, while the upper portion is white-painted CMUs. The stairwell features are distinct from those of the north wing. The south wing stairwells have a solid, painted metal guardrail with no individual balusters. Additional handrails are mounted to the adjacent CMU walls. The ceiling is finished with white suspended acoustic tiles.

The central wing of the structure houses the cafeteria on the ground floor, the central lobby and 1969 gymnasium on the first floor, and the library on the second floor. The lobby of the basement, located right outside the cafeteria, has VCT-finished floors and concrete walls finished with painted gypsum board. A concessions area is directly across from the cafeteria entrance, with a counter faced with white glazed clay tile. Cylindrical concrete support columns are evenly spaced and line the front of the concessions counter. The ceiling is finished in suspended acoustical tile.

The cafeteria has patterned VCT flooring and painted masonry walls with masonry wainscoting. Cylindrical, concrete columns are regularly spaced throughout the room. The suspended acoustical tile ceiling is intersected by boxed soffits arranged in a grid, creating a coffered appearance. Banks of multi-light grid-like windows offer natural light from the east wall. The cafeteria kitchen walls are clad in white clay tile with dark mortar joints, while the poured concrete floor is finished with reddish-brown square quarry tiles with dark grout joints.

Above the cafeteria is the 1969 gymnasium. The gymnasium has a finished wood court and retractable spectator bleachers along the perimeter walls. The painted masonry walls contain applied acoustic panels. Overhead, the gym is covered by a low-pitched gable roof supported by steel framing and corrugated metal roof decking. The roof features regularly spaced skylights that provide natural light. Exposed ductwork, suspended lighting, and basketball equipment extend across the ceiling.

Above the central lobby on the second floor is the school media center. The media center has both VCT and brown carpet flooring. Wooden bookshelves line the east wall, while multi-light windows line the west end. The ceiling is finished in suspended acoustical tiles with recessed lighting.



Representative Corridor



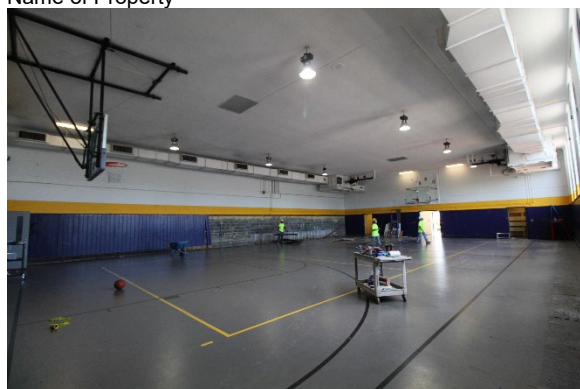
Library

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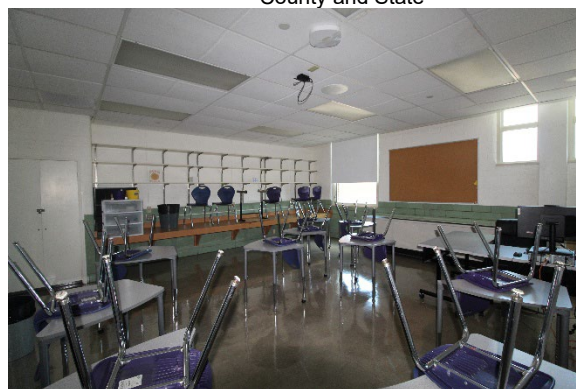
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PWA Gymnasium



Representative Classroom

Contributing Resources

There are five Contributing resources associated with Campbell County High School: the Bob Miller Football Stadium, the associated seating, the Memorial Gate and associated landscape features, the Charles E. McCormick Building, and the Central Receiving Building.

Memorial Gate and Associated Landscape Features (Contributing Object)

There is a commemorative entrance, the Memorial Gate, to the football stadium extending from the rear parking lot along a sloping walkway. Two mortared stone pillars flank either side of the walkway. The north pillar has a commemorative plaque that states,

“THESE SEVEN TREES WERE PLANTED IN MEMORY OF THE GRADUATES OF THIS
HIGH SCHOOL WHO MADE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN WORLD WAR II.”

(List of names.)

“VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
CAMPBELL COUNTY POST 3205.”

The plaque refers to the seven mature deciduous and evergreen trees clustered along the sloping eastern grounds between the parking lot and the track surrounding the football field. The south mortared stone pillar contains a larger commemorative plaque that states,
The south pillar has a plaque that reads,

“IN MEMORY OF THOSE FROM THE AREA SERVED BY THIS SCHOOL WHO MADE
THE SUPREME SACRIFICE IN WORLD WAR II

1941 – 1945”

(List of names.)

“THIS MEMORIAL GATE AND ATHLETIC FIELD WAS ERECTED BY THE STUDENTS
OF CAMPBELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL 1948”

Bob Miller Stadium (Contributing Site) and Stadium Seating (Contributing Structure)

The memorial entrance has an asphalt walkway that leads to Bob Miller Stadium’s track, which surrounds the football field. Aluminum spectator bleachers are located along the western edge of the stadium and are fixed to poured-concrete steps. A thin metal railing at the south end of the bleachers incorporates the initials “CC,” representing Campbell County. The football field and

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bleachers were constructed during the period of significance and represent an important component of the Campbell County High School complex, illustrating the emphasis on athletics and recreation associated with the school consolidation movement.

The Charles E. McCormick Building (Contributing building)

This building is located in the southeastern portion of the Campbell County Middle School lot. The two-level, flat-roofed structure is constructed of brick and concrete. The principal façade and the southeast facade are clad in variegated red-brown brick, while the northern facades are clad in vertically ribbed concrete. Fenestration is limited to a few windows on the northeast facade and north corner.

The structure's concrete is distinguished by a ribbed surface texture. The principal entrance at the west corner of the southwest facade is accessed via a stairwell bordered by a vertically ribbed concrete screen wall extending above the roofline. Similar vertically ribbed concrete elements accent the other corners of the building. A monumental rectangular column marks the south corner and extends above the roofline, while a concrete wall at the east corner punctuates a second recessed entrance.

The Campbell County Schools Central Receiving Office (Contributing Building)

The Central Receiving Office is located on the western portion of the parcel. It is a one-story concrete structure with a flat roof finished in gray-beige paint, surrounded by extensive parking for cars and school buses. Its principal facade (south) has garage doors and, at the west end, an office area with windows and an entrance door.



Memorial Gate and Trees



Bob Miller Stadium and Seating



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Charles E. McCormick Building

Central Receiving Building

Tennis Courts (Non-Contributing Site)

There is one Non-Contributing resource, the modern tennis courts north of the school.

Changes to the Property Since the Period of Significance

The first portion of the Campbell County High School complex was the 1939 classroom portion and Public Works Administration (PWA)-funded gymnasium. Since then, the school has undergone many changes to accommodate more students, improve the quality of learning, strengthen its association with the community, and make the school ADA-compliant. Interior changes include electrical and plumbing updates, as well as HVAC repairs and improvements. Some ceiling and floor finishes have been replaced, considering much of it contained asbestos, which is not conducive to healthy learning environments.¹ The west facade windows have been replaced. While this could be cause for concern of a loss of integrity, the original window openings of both the north and south wings remain. Replacement windows, like HVAC, electrical, and plumbing updates, are necessary for comfortable learning spaces and contribute to the consistent use of the educational facility.

The 2024 central entrance and administration addition is the most substantial change outside of the period of significance. This addition was intended for administration use, not educating students. The original floor plan of the building campaigns, and therefore, the way students and faculty move through the school and how educational spaces are utilized, is unchanged since 1975. Both gymnasiums, the cafeteria, the library and virtually all of the classrooms have intact materials, form, and consistent use over time.

Additions Completed During the Period of Significance

The first additions to Campbell County High School were constructed in 1943. These additions came off of the rear (east) portions of the structure, giving the school a U-shape, which was a common floorplan in the first half of the 20th century. The extra space provided the school with a music room and more classrooms at the rear. Plans like these provided builders with a replicable floor plan that fit with the ideals of school consolidation and education reform providing school children with larger schools with room for specialized spaces. The portions built in 1943 are built of the same red brick and the same brick bond as the PWA gymnasium and the classroom wing of the original high school building, however, the window shapes and surrounds are much more contemporary than their 1939 counterparts and are often in groups of two or three. This is somewhat surprising considering it was not built long after the original structure, however, it shows another example of education reform slowly being introduced Kentucky, like constructing schools with ample natural light in classrooms to enhance learning and create healthier learning environments.² Being at the rear of the building and of the same material, these additions are subordinate to the structure, especially because education reform was pushing for education

¹ Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Finance and Operations, Division of District Support, District Facilities Branch, *Campbell County Schools District Facility Plan* (May 2025), 2.

²Rachel Kennedy and Cynthia Johnson, *Kentucky Historic Schools Survey: An Examination of the History and Condition of Kentucky's Older School Buildings*, Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY. 2002, 41.

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facilities that could be expanded, due to construction of non bearing walls on expandable ends, and ample site space for additions.

Further, the second most substantial “addition” to the structure consists of the now, south wing of the building. This portion was built following World War II, in 1948, to be used as an elementary school for the county. Though this structure was not a part of the original high school, it was built with the high school and the same education reform ideologies in mind. It utilizes ample natural light, central corridors, and a raised basement for even more access to light. The 1948 portion, almost entirely mirrors the 1939 portion on its facade by it being built of red brick with an identical variation of Flemish brick bond, same size window openings often in groups of 4 with multi-light windows, the gable front entrance and classical ornamentation. Even the south facade of the elementary school continues with that of the classical influence. The distinction lies primarily on the east facade of the 1948 structure where window types are not multi-pane.

The next decade brought further changes to these school structures, when a new elementary school was built. In 1961, the 1939 and 1948 structures were combined through a central addition to make up one larger Campbell County High School. The addition is also built of red brick with an identical brick bond and utilizes classical detailing and large window openings to match both wings. Though this connector addition did not provide more classroom space (it contains offices), it occurred because the larger elementary school was built elsewhere, which offered more classroom spaces to the high school students who took up space in the former elementary school.

The final substantial additions to Campbell County High School during its Period of Significance were the 1967 north wing rear addition and the 1969 gymnasium rear addition. The U-form of the original high school, now the north wing, was essentially closed off in 1967 with another brick and concrete section. This rear addition further illustrates the expanding nature of post WWII, consolidated schools. The 1969 gymnasium was much larger than the PWA-funded gymnasium, and provided another specialized space for students and community members, still showing ideologies of the late school consolidation movement.

2015 Addition

A small portion was added to the rear of the north wing transition to the central wing, that contains an elevator, which was essential for ADA compliance of the school. This addition is not visible from any facade of the building and it is virtually out of the way of interior corridors as well.

2024 Addition

The grand classical facade and the central entrance of Campbell County High School was constructed in 2024. This portion was designed thoughtfully to match the stately nature and classical ornamentation of both the north wing original high school and the south wing former elementary school. Though this defining feature of the building was not present during the Period of Significance, this addition provides administration offices to the central wing of the school. Both the north and the south wing of the school were constructed with their own stately facades, which by themselves, link the school to its Period of Significance. The 2024 addition does not

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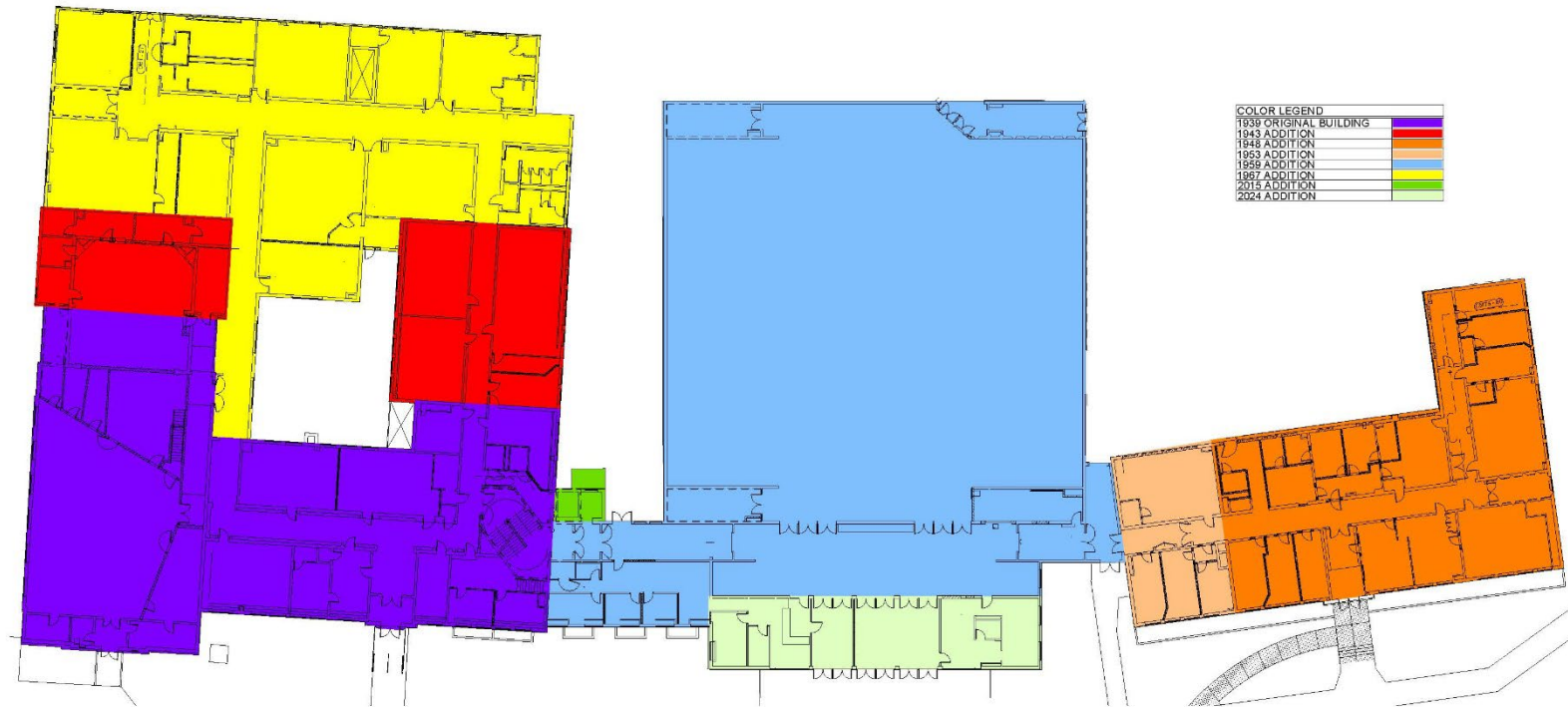
obscure the north or south wing facades in anyway, but harmonizes the two portions and added much-needed administrative space.

The additions and alterations to the Campbell County High School complex illustrate the continued evolution of public education in Kentucky from the New Deal era through the post-World War II period of school consolidation and education reform. Beginning with the 1939 high school and PWA-funded gymnasium, the complex expanded repeatedly to accommodate increasing enrollment, specialized educational programs, recreational facilities, and changing approaches to public education. The 1943 classroom additions, 1948 elementary school, 1961 central connector, 1967 classroom addition, and 1969 gymnasium demonstrate the ability of the campus to adapt to changing educational needs throughout the Period of Significance. This pattern of continued growth was an important characteristic of consolidated schools, which were increasingly planned with sufficient space and flexibility to accommodate future expansion. Rather than diminishing the historic character of the complex, these successive building campaigns illustrate how Campbell County adapted its existing educational facilities as enrollment increased and educational opportunities broadened. The continued development of the complex also demonstrates the growing emphasis placed on providing a comprehensive educational environment during the postwar period. Classroom expansion was accompanied by specialized spaces for music, physical education, athletics, administration, and other activities, allowing the campus to serve a broader range of academic and recreational needs.

Alterations completed after the Period of Significance have allowed the complex to remain in continuous educational use without substantially obscuring its historic development. The 2015 elevator addition improved accessibility while remaining largely removed from prominent exterior facades, and the 2024 administrative addition introduced necessary office space without obscuring the historic principal façades of the north and south wings. Although some materials and finishes have been replaced, including windows, flooring, and ceilings, the historic window openings, major circulation patterns, classroom wings, gymnasiums, cafeteria, library, and other educational spaces remain readily legible. The relationships among the building's major historic campaigns therefore continue to communicate how the school grew and changed in response to evolving educational needs. Its successive expansions are integral to understanding the history of the complex, demonstrating how consolidated schools were expected to accommodate growth in enrollment, educational offerings, and physical facilities over time. The continued use of the property for educational purposes, survival of its major historic spaces and circulation patterns, and legibility of its historic building campaigns reinforce its identity.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- ☒ 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

- ☐ 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

EDUCATION

Significant Person

NA

Period of Significance

1939-1975

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Dates

1939, 1948, 1962, 1969

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Campbell County High School (CP 489) is locally significant within the historic context, Public Schools in Kentucky 1800-1975, as outlined in the *Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS*. The building exhibits two different property types from that framework—it is a Late 19th and Early - 20th Century School Building and also has components of Post-War School Buildings. The building is significant for the role it has played in the growth and evolution of local education. The school is a significant response within the larger pattern of actions of Campbell County to retain its identity that balances urban and rural identities. Campbell and Kenton Counties lie across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, with two large cities that emerged, Newport and Covington, respectively, as a result. These larger towns exerted an outsized interest politically and economically upon their counties' affairs. To remedy the conflicts inherent in that situation, the counties adopted a solution that is unique among the state's 120 counties: each county has two county seat towns—one rural and one urban. Covington and Independence serve Kenton County and Newport and Alexandria serve Campbell County. Citizens chose this arrangement to balance the interests of their diverse constituencies. Education in Campbell and Kenton Counties are affected by this urban vs. rural dichotomy, with the Campbell County School System standing separate from five Independent School Districts in the county—Newport, Bellevue, Dayton, Fort Thomas, and Southgate—and Kenton County having four independent districts apart from Kenton County School Board. No other Kentucky county has nearly as many independent systems. If this fragmentation in politics and education defines these two counties, that challenge would impact the efforts to consolidate the County's school system. Campbell County High School's story is significant because the building's numerous identities during the Period of Significance give a powerful physical presence to this important story of how the Campbell County School Board navigated competing local interests to maintain a unified school system. The building has sufficient intactness to meet the Registration Requirements of the MPS.

School Consolidation in Kentucky and in Campbell County

The first phase of the school's construction, the 1939 high school building from the pre-war consolidation era, included a PWA gymnasium and auditorium off the north end. This, in and of itself, lends some historic significance to the property as a whole as a New Deal era project, especially one that took place in what is commonly thought of as the last year of the New Deal era. The school also derives further significance as an excellent example of the pre-war school consolidation movement in the interwar years. This, the early era of the consolidation movement, not to be confused with the initial consolidation movement of the late 19th century or the later phase of the consolidation movement that was much more widespread during the Kentucky's post-war suburbanization era when more modern architectural ideologies were implemented in lieu of the earlier prominent styles of the pre-war years, was an immediate and direct result of the Kentucky School Code of 1934. However, while the building derives many of its design qualities from the early consolidation movement, its construction was not specifically intended to consolidate other schools into a single location. Prior to its construction, Campbell County only had one high school, one that traces its history back to 1908, just two years before the passing of Sullivan Law which required that every county district make a public high school available, and

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after it was built in 1939, there remained only one high school.³ As such, it is necessary to explain that the consolidation movement principally refers to the consolidation of smaller county schools into a central location that is more equipped to handle the added enrollment and expected growth. However, there were design features that were key to this ideology and inseparable from the overall movement. Key characteristics, such as the architectural design, the creation of a central educational complex, and the decision to construct the building on a sprawling site along a major corridor with room to grow were instrumental to the movement and the educational ideologies that were prevalent in the early-to-mid-20th century.

The 1934 legislation sought to remedy the shortcomings of Kentucky public schools. One of the ways it sought to accomplish this was by alleviating the discrepancies in districts' financing that heretofore had been purely localized. Before the passing of the school code, there were three types of districts in Kentucky: county districts covering the more rural parts of the state, while the city and independent districts serving the metropolitan areas and towns, respectively. In this earlier system, the disproportionate wealth, population, and subsequent taxes generated in the more densely populated areas of Kentucky led to their ability to maintain superior schools. The 1934 legislation resulted in many of the city and independent districts being forced to merge with the county districts, as they could not meet the requirements set forth by the legislation. The legislation sought to remedy financial disparities between the county and independent districts, to raise the quality of education provided in the rural parts of counties. Many rural schools lacked teachers of specialized courses and lacked financial support for suitable buildings. Consolidating districts into a centralized location pooled more taxpayers into a stronger economic block. While this new model initially increased local costs because it called for construction of new school facilities, it ultimately led to more efficient delivery of the educational service for Kentucky's school-aged children.⁴

The 1948 portion of the nominated building should be associated with the consolidation ideologies that extended from the 1934 legislation, thus making a part of the early era of the state's second consolidation movement. The county likely recognized an ongoing need for a more centralized, consolidated elementary school years before but wartime shortages in materials and skilled labor necessitated the delay in the plan. As such, in 1948, the Campbell County School District constructed Alexandria Elementary, the third iteration using that name, directly south of the high school.⁵ In an effort to keep a unified stylistic educational complex, the building was built to mirror the key architectural characteristics of the high school. This portion of this building marks the widespread consolidation efforts in Campbell County, something that came to define the growth and expansion of the school district over the next several decades. The construction of the elementary school building adjacent to the existing high school and the subsequent expansions and

³ Kentucky Historical Society, "Education Reform." In Moments in Kentucky Legislative History. Electronic Document, https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/LegislativeMoments/moments04RS/41_web_leg_history.html, accessed August 2026.

⁴ Kennedy, Rachel and Cynthia Johnson. *Kentucky Historic Schools Survey: An Examination of the History and Condition of Kentucky's Older School Buildings*. Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY. 2002.

⁵ Reis, Ken. "List of Campbell County Schools." compiled for the Campbell County Historical Society, hosted at RootsWeb, Electronic document, <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kycampbe/schoolslist.htm>, accessed July 2026. Reis, a retired Campbell County teacher, served as president of the county historical society.

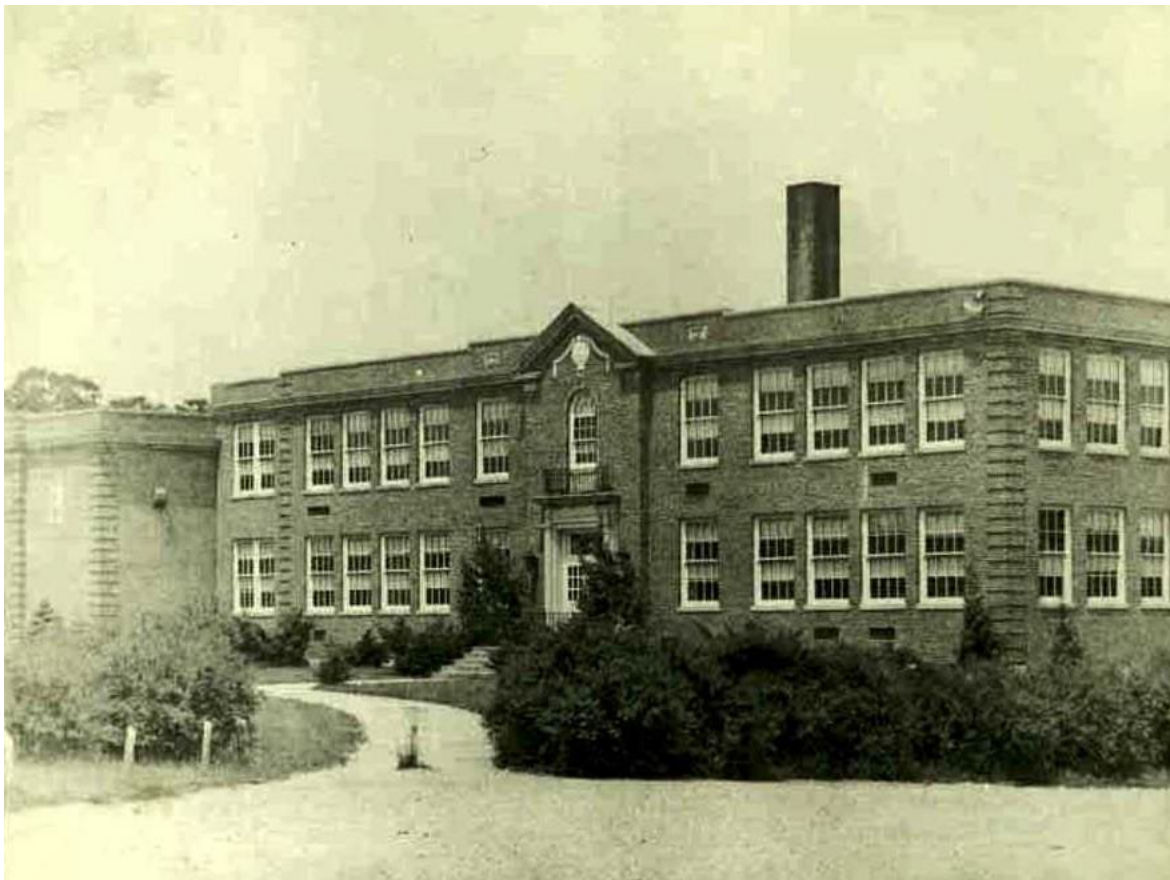
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joining with other educational facilities is illustrative of the broader consolidation movement in Kentucky that sought to cater to a wider geographic region and provide better educational accommodations for the school children and positively impact rural and urban communities alike.



Campbell County High School ca. 1950

The Alexandria Elementary building was only utilized as such for 12 years before the district built a new, somewhat unique, new elementary complex across Orchard Lane to the south. This new elementary school, which replaced the 1948 building, is separated into several smaller buildings that are connected via walkways, a distinctive take on the prominent school architectural ideologies that were prevalent elsewhere in the Commonwealth. Regardless, after the elementary school moved, the 1948 building was formally absorbed into the neighboring high school. As such, in the years immediately following the construction of the new elementary school, two new construction campaigns took place at the high school to properly merge the two neighboring buildings. The first project included the construction of additional classrooms in 1962 that joined the buildings, followed shortly by the construction of a new gymnasium and cafeteria in 1969 to the rear of the 1962 addition.⁶ Around the same time as the 1969 addition, a rear addition was built off the original 1939 high school building, creating more classrooms space. The 1962 addition arrived in the middle of the postwar expansion of northern Campbell County, as Cincinnati's

⁶ Ibid.

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suburbs pushed south along U.S. 27 through Cold Spring and Highland Heights. The 1969 gymnasium/cafeteria and the classroom addition that occurred around the same time was the last significant construction on the building for fifty-four years. District officials have repeatedly used 1969 as the benchmark for the building's age, until 2023.⁷

This building served as the Campbell County High School building until 1995 when, following the construction of a brand new high school building the year before, the building reopened as the Campbell County Junior High School, later changing its name to Campbell County Middle School. Due to ongoing suburbanization of Campbell County, largely due to its proximity to Cincinnati and the outward movement of people in the second half of the 20th century, the large, consolidated, and conjoined building was perfect to serve as the only junior high/middle school in the county. The size of the building was brought into question when, in 2019, the Silver Grove Independent School District dissolved into Campbell County, causing an influx of students.⁸ This resulted in Campbell County Middle School being the third-largest middle school in Kentucky by 2021.⁹ This constant and later sudden increase in enrollment led the district to consider building a new middle school building to serve the northern half of the county. The site that was initially slated for this new construction was abandoned, despite growing population in the county, and the district instead set out to rehabilitate the historic building on Alexandria Pike.¹⁰

One of the key features of this renovation, which distinguishes the connection of two historic buildings today, was the construction of a new entrance and administration area and vestibule which occurred ca. 2024. This feature provides an ideal chance to describe and document this phenomenon that was occurring across the Commonwealth on historic school buildings. Modern administrative suites and entrance vestibules appended to older Kentucky schools during the late twentieth century grew directly out of the Commonwealth's reordering of school finance and facility planning. In the 1989 decision, *Rose v. Council for Better Education*, the Kentucky Supreme Court declared the entire common school system unconstitutional in a ruling that reached school construction and maintenance along with every other component of that system.¹¹ The General Assembly's response, the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, restructured facility funding through a three-pronged approach keyed to district size, wealth, and need.¹² Beginning in

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ "Campbell County Schools votes to finalize merger with Silver Grove," WCPO 9 Cincinnati, February 19, 2019, <https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/campbell-county/campbell-county-schools-votes-to-finalize-merger-with-silver-grove>, accessed August 2026; "The aftermath of Silver Grove Schools consolidation into Campbell County Schools," LINK nky, July 2, 2022, <https://linknky.com/news/print/2022/07/02/the-aftermath-of-silver-grove-schools-consolidation-into-campbell-county-schools/>, accessed August 2026.

⁹ "Campbell County Schools obtain old DAV building for new school," WCPO 9 Cincinnati, November 30, 2021, <https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/campbell-county/campbell-county-schools-obtain-old-dav-building-for-new-school>, quoting a district press release, accessed August 2026.

¹⁰ Haley Parnell, "Campbell County school board votes to settle on DAV property, ending years-long dispute," WCPO 9 Cincinnati / LINK nky, July 11, 2023, <https://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/campbell-county/campbell-county-school-board-votes-to-settle-on-dav-property-ending-years-long-dispute>. Accessed August 2026.

¹¹ *Rose v. Council for Better Education, Inc.*, 790 S.W.2d 186 (Ky. 1989).

¹² Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990, 1990 Ky. Acts ch. 476; Kentucky School Facilities Construction Commission, "School Facilities Funding in Kentucky."

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1991, administrative regulation obliged each district to adopt a District Facilities Plan ranking construction and renovation priorities before state money could be committed, a process that catalogued deficiencies in aging buildings and scheduled them for phased improvement rather than wholesale replacement.¹³ Concurrently, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 required an accessible route and accessible entrance at existing public facilities.¹⁴ Kentucky's older schools were ill-suited to that mandate, having been designed with raised basements and stair approaches; compliance therefore often meant constructing a new grade-level entry rather than altering the historic one. The MPD for public schools discusses such code-driven work as an expected condition of buildings kept in continuous educational service.¹⁵

A second impulse was security. *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design*, by Timothy Crowe in 1991, gained traction among school planners through the 1990s and suggested funneling visitors through a single controlled point of entry with a vestibule where they could be identified, while also improving views of the approach, parking, and drop-off zones from the new administration areas.¹⁶ The pivotal local event was the shooting at Heath High School in West Paducah on December 1, 1997, which occurred in the school's lobby, the threshold of protection these projects were meant to provide. The shooting prompted the 1998 General Assembly to pass House Bill 330, establishing the Kentucky Center for School Safety.¹⁷ Older schools, whose offices typically sat on an upper floor or deep within the plan and whose numerous street-facing doors were original design features, could satisfy this model only by physically relocating administration to the front of the building. The typical result is a more modern entryway containing a multi-door vestibule, reception counter, principal's and secretary's offices, and often a conference room and clinic. Such additions are among the most common late-twentieth-early-twenty-first-century alterations to Kentucky's historic schools. While in some cases, such additions, specifically unsympathetic additions to a primary façade, preclude listing on the basis of a loss of visual identity, the modern, two-story entryway that was positioned on Campbell County High School was placed on the newer, 1962 addition, leaving the historic facades of the two oldest buildings/portions untouched. Thus, this addition has much lower impact on the building's significance. This entryway illustrates the continuous use of the site and its growth to accommodate and meet changing regulations.

Additional Resources

This nomination of the Campbell County High School also includes several other resources that are situated on the same parcel, five of which are Contributing and one of which is Non-Contributing. Two of the earliest Contributing features are the football field (site) and bleachers (structure). The football field is believed to have been in its current location since as early as 1943-

¹³702 KAR 4:180, "Implementation Guidelines—Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual," effective October 6, 1991; see also 702 KAR 4:160, "Capital Construction Process."

¹⁴Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Pub. L. No. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327.

¹⁵Wes Cunningham, "Historic Public Schools of Kentucky," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, 2024.

¹⁶Timothy D. Crowe, *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design: Applications of Architectural Design and Space Management Concepts* (Boston: Butterworth-Heinemann, 1991).

¹⁷National Research Council, *Deadly Lessons: Understanding Lethal School Violence* (Washington, DC: National Academies Press, 2003), chap. 5; House Bill 330, 1998 Ky. Acts, codified at KRS 158.441.

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1944 with the bleachers, which feature poured concrete tiered seating with modern metal bleachers installed atop, being constructed around the same time. In 1948, a memorial gate was constructed and “seven trees were planted in memory of the graduates of this high school who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II.”¹⁸ All seven trees are still prominently situated in between the school, paved drive, and the gate and the football field and the stone bases of the gate are still prominently displayed with informational plaques. The Charles E. McCormich Vocational School, constructed 1972-1974 and named for a county superintendent, opened as a vocational/technical/trades school. Despite no longer serving that purpose, it remains as a mid-century testament to the ongoing educational and progressive ideologies occurring at this site, specifically for high schoolers. Lastly, the complex features a ca. 1960 building that once served as the district’s maintenance building and associated bus lot but has been converted to the Central Receiving for the school district. This too is considered Contributing because it has served the educational needs of the district since the Period of Significance. The one Non-Contributing resource is the modern tennis courts. Additionally, there are several temporary structures throughout the site whose physical presence is minimal, which do not prevent the entire property’s significance from being perceived.

Brief History of Campbell County Schools:

The 1939 building is best understood as the culmination of decades of school consolidation in Campbell County. Public schooling in the county began in the late 18th century and by 1829, the entire county as a whole, not just what would eventually make up the Campbell County School District, had 17 schools serving 2,600 school-age children, of whom only approximately 450 attended school.¹⁹ In 1838, the county was surveyed into school districts on the principle that children should not have to walk more than three miles to their local school. Thus, over 40 one-and-two-room rural schools were constructed and scattered across Campbell County.²⁰ In 1906, a high school was established, two years before that was made obligatory by state mandate, but it was not until 1922 that the Campbell County High School had a building of its own, as it was previously operating out of a rented floor of the former Meister Brewery and later the Knights of Pythais Hall. The 1922 building was constructed on land purchased from the Knights of Pythias and the school met there until the current building was built in 1939.²¹ The 1922 school, named Alexandria High School, later became St. Mary High School and then Bishop Brossart High School. It remained operational until 1995, when the building was torn down as part of an addition to the current Bishop Brossart High School. When school consolidation was mandated by the Kentucky common school code and buses replaced walking for many students, dozens of one-and-two-room schools closed. What emerged was a county system of six elementary schools and one high school by the early 1940s.

¹⁸ Information from two historic plaques that adorn the stone bases of the historic memorial gate. One states that the “memorial gate and athletic field” were “erected by the students of Campbell County High School” in 1948 while the other describes the trees and clarifies that their planting was courtesy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Campbell County Post 3205.

¹⁹ Reis, “History of Schools in Campbell County” compiled for the Campbell County Historical Society, hosted at RootsWeb, Electronic document, <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kycampbe/schoolshistory.htm>, accessed July 2026.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Reis, Ken. “List of Campbell County Schools.”

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In the years following World War II, suburbanization pushed enrollment growth outward from the river cities in Northern Kentucky, many of which had their own independent school districts. The county was split into three distinct zones, a dense urban and suburban area dominated by incorporated cities with their own independent school districts, and the historically more rural southern and central portion that was primarily served by the county school district. To add to the ongoing suburban movement and influx of families in Campbell County, Northern Kentucky University was founded in 1968 which accelerated the growth in that corridor and necessitated the consistent growth of the area's schools, like Cold Springs Elementary.²²

In the 1970s, two national education trends reached Campbell County. First was the career/vocational education movement that was fueled by expanded federal funding for technical education. This led to the opening of the McCormick Vocational School, situated within the boundaries of the Campbell County High School nomination.²³ The second was the shift from the junior high school model to the middle school model that precipitated the opening of the South Campbell County Middle School, and the Donald E. Cline Middle School as well as the reorganization of many of the county's school buildings.²⁴

In the 1990s, the suburban growth in the southern part of the county triggered the need for a new, comprehensive Campbell County High School that could meet all the new technological and space requirements of the late 20th century. It was at this time that the former Campbell County High School became the Campbell County Junior High School only to later be transitioned into the middle school. Today, the Campbell County School District has five elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school, along with an Area Technology Center.

History of Nominated Property

The history of Campbell County High School is an interesting one and is the embodiment of the ongoing consolidation movement in Kentucky throughout the mid-20th century. The history of education at this site began in 1939 when, in response to the Kentucky School Code of 1934, the Campbell County School District consolidated its upper education offerings into a single high school. This was coupled with the construction of the gymnasium/auditorium, which was paid and constructed in part by federal grants by the PWA. The county applied for the federal assistance as early as a year before the funds were appropriated and it is likely that if the funds were not awarded, the school would have been built without the accompanying gymnasium and auditorium.

It is a common misconception that the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was the only New Deal agency constructing schools during the 1930s and 1940s. In fact, in addition to the PWA and WPA, other agencies, such as the Federal emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Civil Works Administration (CWA), and the National Youth Administration (NYA) all constructed educational facilities including schools, gymnasiums, athletic fields, and playgrounds, to name a few. Examples of New Deal era educational construction efforts can be found in almost every

²² Ibid.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Ibid.

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county in every state in the nation.²⁵ The PWA in particular, who is mostly known for their large-scale infrastructure projects aimed at boosting the flailing transportation and construction industries, was very involved in constructing schools across America, especially in rural areas. Between 1933 and 1935, the PWA “allotted approximately \$137,604,560 for school construction all over the country, including erection of new buildings, extensions on older schools, and repairs.”²⁶ In 1939 alone, the PWA allocated \$1,718,626 worth of construction work on 13 projects in Northern Kentucky alone, of which 8 were for educational facilities.²⁷ Moreover, Harold Ickes, the influential director of the PWA, advocated for the contemporary movement, especially as it pertained to rural schools and facilities in small towns, stating that “the new rural schools, made possible by good roads, are quite as modern as the best city schools. Where it was necessary to have eight one-room schools in the past, there is now a single eight-room school” and that “the larger and modern building has a marked effect upon the health and attendance and in it is housed far superior equipment, both for education and recreation. Moreover, the consolidated schools serve importantly as a community center for the adult life of the area” where “the same rooms in which the children are taught...can be used to give people of the farms an opportunity for recreational, educational, and cultural activities hitherto denied to them.”²⁸ This view was exemplified in the construction of the gymnasium in Campbell County and schools elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

The school underwent somewhat regular expansion and consolidation from 1939 through 1969, during which the high school building physically merged with the previous elementary building, and proceeded to evolve in order to provide an ever-increasing enrollment of students with a contemporary educational experience. The Campbell County School District, inundated with a rapidly expanding suburban population, embodied the philosophy of school consolidation, both in the early centralized consolidated locations of the early 20th century buildings, but also in the further consolidation of grades and buildings at the Alexandria Pike site. In an effort to accentuate utility and efficiency, the ongoing construction of the Campbell County High School incorporated the site’s existing buildings which were then utilized and incorporated into the new school’s function and design. Moreover, in all expansions of the building, emphasis was placed on the historic facades of the two portions that were constructed in the first half of the 20th century.

The educational complex continued to expand after 1969. The expansions include other important district resources: the athletic fields, memorial gates and associated landscaping, McCormick building, and maintenance building. These expansions are part of the broader consolidation movement that centralized educational activities. This movement sought to place associated buildings nearby to increase efficiency, utility, and access. Thus, when a new elementary school was built to replace the 1948 building, it was constructed across the street.

Despite representing different eras of construction, including a pre-war building, a post-war building, a 1960s merging of the two, and later additions to both the school and the site, the

²⁵ Kennedy, Rachel and Cynthia Johnson. *The New Deal Builds: A Historic Context of the New Deal in East Kentucky, 1933 to 1943*. Frankfort, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, 2005.

²⁶ Ickes, Harold L. *Back to Work: The Story of PWA*. New York: MacMillan Company, 1935:91.

²⁷ “PWA Report Made by Smith L. Rose on Three Counties.” In *The Kentucky Post*. October 14, 1939.

²⁸ Ibid:90.

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complex as a whole has a cohesive feel and rhythm. The expansion of the school building is a testament to more modern architectural styles being employed in the post-war years and the modern entryway is illustrative of larger trends in school safety and efficacy in Kentucky. The school building's evolution served to greatly enhance the school's ability to offer an education to the area's children, but it also did so without eradicating the character-defining and stylistic features of the earlier buildings. Moreover, in addition to increasing the square footage to increase classrooms and the total allowable enrollment, Campbell County Middle School has also expanded their educational and recreational offerings to remain relevant into the 21st century.

Since its construction, the Campbell County High School has hosted events for the local community and surrounding region. Some of these activities include regional athletic competitions as well as clinics for young athletes, the Alexandria Fair parade staging, public-safety events, and other events of community interest. The site has been a repeated location for election-day polling, and local groups and churches have used the gymnasium for meetings. All of this is in addition to events and activities that are directly related to school functions, such as sporting events, dances, PTA functions, etc. Such activities were consistent with the school's mission, as it was built to serve the local community both as a place for education and as a community center, especially in the years before alternative locations became available.

Evaluation of the Significance of the Property within the Historic Context

The site on which the Campbell County High School sits symbolizes the growth and evolution of public schooling in Kentucky throughout the entirety of the twentieth century, but even more so in a speedily growing and suburbanizing area like Campbell County that owed a large part of its growth to the suburbanization of the greater Cincinnati area and the onset of the post-war automobile boom that allowed families to move further away and still commute to the city. Originally constructed in 1939 as a new, partially PWA-funded, high school to replace an outdated and outgrown location, the property grew to a site of multiple educational offerings, to an expanded high school to address the rapid enrollment increases, back to a complex with multiple education-related facilities, and finally to the current middle school. This growth embodies the philosophies of the post-war consolidation era in that the available school buildings were able to accommodate growth and evolution easily to meet the growing demands of enrollment, technological advances, increased curricular offerings, and the elevated security needs. The property as a whole is not only a product of distinct eras in the educational history of Campbell County, with resources such as the New Deal gymnasium, the interwar construction of the Campbell County High School, the post-war consolidation era construction of the elementary school, and the ongoing implementation of consolidation era principles from the creation of a singular, central educational complex with multiple buildings to the linking of educational facilities, but it tells the story of educational architecture, its evolution, and the expansion of a single educational site over a period of almost ninety years.

Campbell County High School is an excellent example of a late-19th early-20th century high school, a New Deal-era gymnasium, and an early post-war consolidated school. As such, the building fits within two property types identified in the MPD. Moreover, while the building was constructed during different eras and has different portions that once served varying purposes, the complex as

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a whole is entirely expressive of the consolidation movement that defined Kentucky public school education for much of the 20th century. The site was chosen to satisfy the goals of the consolidation movement, which chose large undeveloped lots along major transportation corridors to improve ease of access for students and to accommodate future growth and recreational activities. The schools expanded and were connected, creating a larger consolidated school to meet the need for more space and to improve the educational offerings and standards for their students.

Campbell County High School is unique and significant in that it is illustrative of three very important eras of school development in Kentucky, and they are all seen in a single consolidated building, which also echoes the long consolidation efforts of the Campbell County School District. It has a PWA gymnasium, a single pre-war high school, and an early post-war consolidated elementary school. All three of these eras of construction are significant alone, as they are integral to understanding the growth and evolution of public education in Campbell County. But when combined into a single building, one that exemplifies the consolidation movement as a whole, they offer an even better understanding of how public schools adapted to changing requirements and continued to serve the needs of their school children. The consolidation movement sought to improve the facilities, educational offerings, and basic amenities by constructing larger facilities that not only offered the space for the needs of the children, but that allowed for future growth. A major tenet of the consolidation movement was the recognition that one of the largest shortcomings of the earlier eras of educational construction was the lack of adaptability. So, the movement emphasized remedies for that inadequacy by designing buildings in a way that made future growth and expansion easily achievable. The use of large educational complexes, or clusters of educational buildings serving different ages and purposes, also fit the consolidation model in that it provided a central location for ease of travel for students and a central area of focus for the school district. In the case for the Campbell County High School, it also allowed for a practical consolidation of two neighboring schools.

Evaluation of the Integrity Between the Significance and the Property's Physical Condition

The Registration Requirements defined in the *Historic Public schools of Kentucky MPS* provide the basis for eligibility of all schools in Kentucky. Campbell County High School firmly falls within two of the property types identified in that document; **Late 19th and Early 20th Century School Buildings**, and **Post-War School Buildings**. The Registration Requirements of the MPD serve as the definition for Integrity standards for the particular Property Type. The following is an excerpt from the Registration Requirements for Late 19th and Early 20th Century School Buildings:

it is somewhat common for these resources to undergo large-scale additions as enrollment surpassed capacity and these sympathetic additions will meet these registration requirements. Only large-scale unsympathetic alterations and additions to the buildings, or other substantial modifications that result in the considerable loss of integrity and undeniable changes to the resource's form and massing, will nullify the eligibility of these resources under this Multiple Property Nomination. Such disqualifying changes must result in the resource's inability to convey its significance under this Property Type under Criterion C, such as removing all or most of the building's character defining features, large-scale unsympathetic additions that detract from the original building's significance or appearance, or the relocation of a resource.

The following is an excerpt from the Registration Requirements for Post-War School Buildings:

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Frequent additions, including those that were built after the Period of Significance, do not detract from the overall significance or integrity of the resource, but have the potential to add to it. When the additions were added to expand on and continue in the overall purpose of the continued education and engagement of a community, it is continuing the original mission of these institutions to modernize, advance, and improve their ability to more efficiently educate and add to the community. Moreover, in most cases, these additions were seen as expected, as the shortcomings of earlier eras and their inability to evolve led to many of the lasting problems... one of the tenets of the consolidated era and the modern philosophies employed during this era of school construction was the ability for these buildings to evolve and continue to meet the districts' needs. In many cases, this requires a physical growth, oftentimes one that corresponds with the rapid development and population increase of an area. The fact that the sites on which these buildings were constructed were large enough to accommodate such an evolution is indicative to the forethought of the original designers... Additions or alterations that negate the original design can be seen as a negative affect that prevents eligibility.

In order to evaluate integrity, one must first make a judgement on the historic significance outlined in the context and evaluation above, and then one must recognize how the physical resource conveys significance. As such, significance is the focus of this evaluation, not an observation of intactness.

In the Registration Requirements for these two property types, the earlier of which also includes New Deal-era buildings, there is a commonality in how to address additions. In the Late 19th and Early 20th Century portion of the building, the original façade of the building remains entirely intact, with all subsequent additions occurring on the side or rear of the building. Similarly, the 1948 portion, or the Post-War building, still has a completely intact façade. Moreover, despite the connection of these two once-separate buildings, their close relationship and similarity in architectural style is still readily apparent from the front of the building. The purpose of schools built during the consolidation era, to satisfy educational ideologies, was to absorb students from a larger geographic area into a more efficient school building. These buildings were meant to expand. In the case of the Campbell County High School, the similarity between the 1939 building design and the expansion, which finally was joined, the resulting larger building became a fitting product of consolidation. The one aspect of the physical appearance of the Campbell County High School as it appears today that stands out is the ca. 2024 administrative addition in the center of the building. This entrance does not detract from the basic integrity of the larger building for three reasons. First, it is because this is seen as a necessary addition, one that has occurred frequently throughout the Commonwealth, to add security and efficiency to a public school, something that is highlighted in the Registration Requirements as being a necessary part of the ongoing evolution of these buildings. Second is that it does not detract from the primary façades of any of the historic buildings; the gym, the 1939 school, or the 1948 school. And third, which is related to the second, is that this addition was constructed off the 1960s addition that connected the two schools initially. Ultimately, Campbell County High School retains excellent integrity because its design and materials are still able to convey the significance of buildings of each property type.

Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Campbell County, Kentucky
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Information from two historic plaques that adorn the stone bases of the historic memorial gate. One states that the "memorial gate and athletic field" were "erected by the students of Campbell County High School" in 1948 while the other describes the trees and clarifies that their planting was courtesy of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Campbell County Post 3205.

Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Campbell County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

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Rose v. Council for Better Education, Inc., 790 S.W.2d 186 (Ky. 1989).

Reis, "History of Schools in Campbell County" compiled for the Campbell County Historical Society, hosted at RootsWeb, Electronic document,
<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~kycampbe/schoolshistory.htm>, accessed July 2026.

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

Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Campbell County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

_____ 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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 30 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 38.965917

Longitude: -84.391672

Verbal Boundary Description

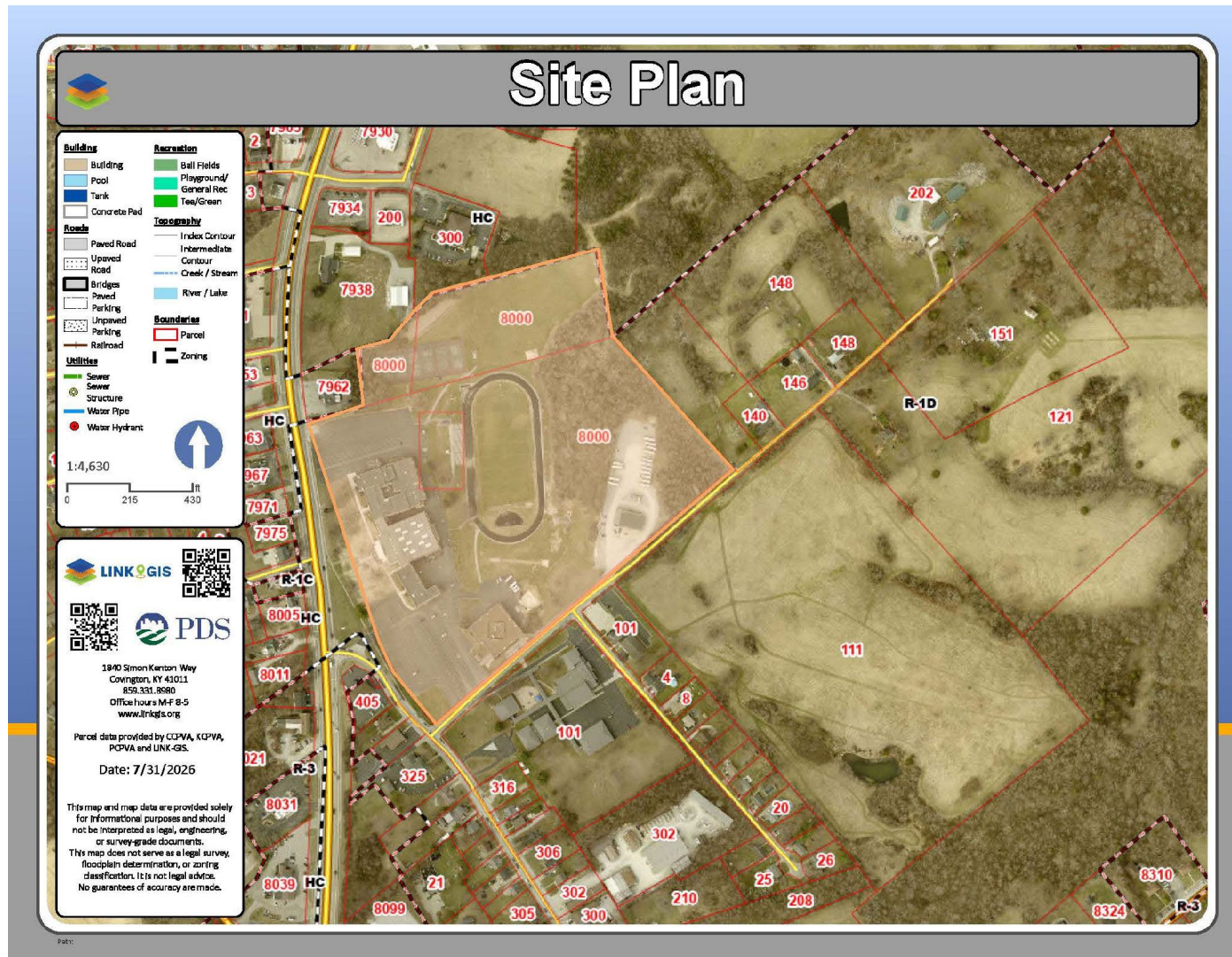
The boundary of Campbell County High School includes the four parcels that have historically made up the property associated with Campbell County High School and later Campbell County High School. The property is roughly bounded by Orchard Lane to the southeast, Washington St. and Alexandria Pike (US 27) to the southwest and west, and adjacent properties to the north and east.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the entirety of the property historically and currently associated with Campbell County High School.

Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Campbell County, Kentucky
County and State



Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Campbell County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Property Owner:

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

name Campbell County School District Finance Corporation
street & number 101 Orchard Ln
city or town Alexandria state KY zip code 41001
telephone _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Wes Cunningham, MA, Sr. Principal Investigator History/Architecture, Director of National Register Nominations & Research

organization: Pinion Advisors

street & number: 1541 Frankfort Ave

city or town: Louisville state: Kentucky zip code: 40206

e-mail: wcunningham@pinionadvisors.com

telephone: 502-807-0575

date: August 2026

name/title: Emily Giurgevich, MHP

organization: Pinion Advisors

street & number: 541 Frankfort Ave

city or town: Louisville state: Kentucky zip code: 40206

e-mail: egiurgevich@pinionadvisors.com

date: August 2026

Photographs**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Campbell County High School

City or Vicinity: Alexandria

County: Campbell County

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Emily Giurgevich

Date Photographed: June 2026

- 1 of 47: View of west facade central entrance; facing east
2 of 47: View of west facade central entrance; detail view; facing east
3 of 47: View of west facade; entrance cornice; detail view; facing east
4 of 47: View of west facade; detail view; north wing transition; facing northeast
5 of 47: View of west facade north wing; facing east
6 of 47: View of west facade; north wing entrance; 1939 cornerstone; facing east

Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Campbell County, Kentucky

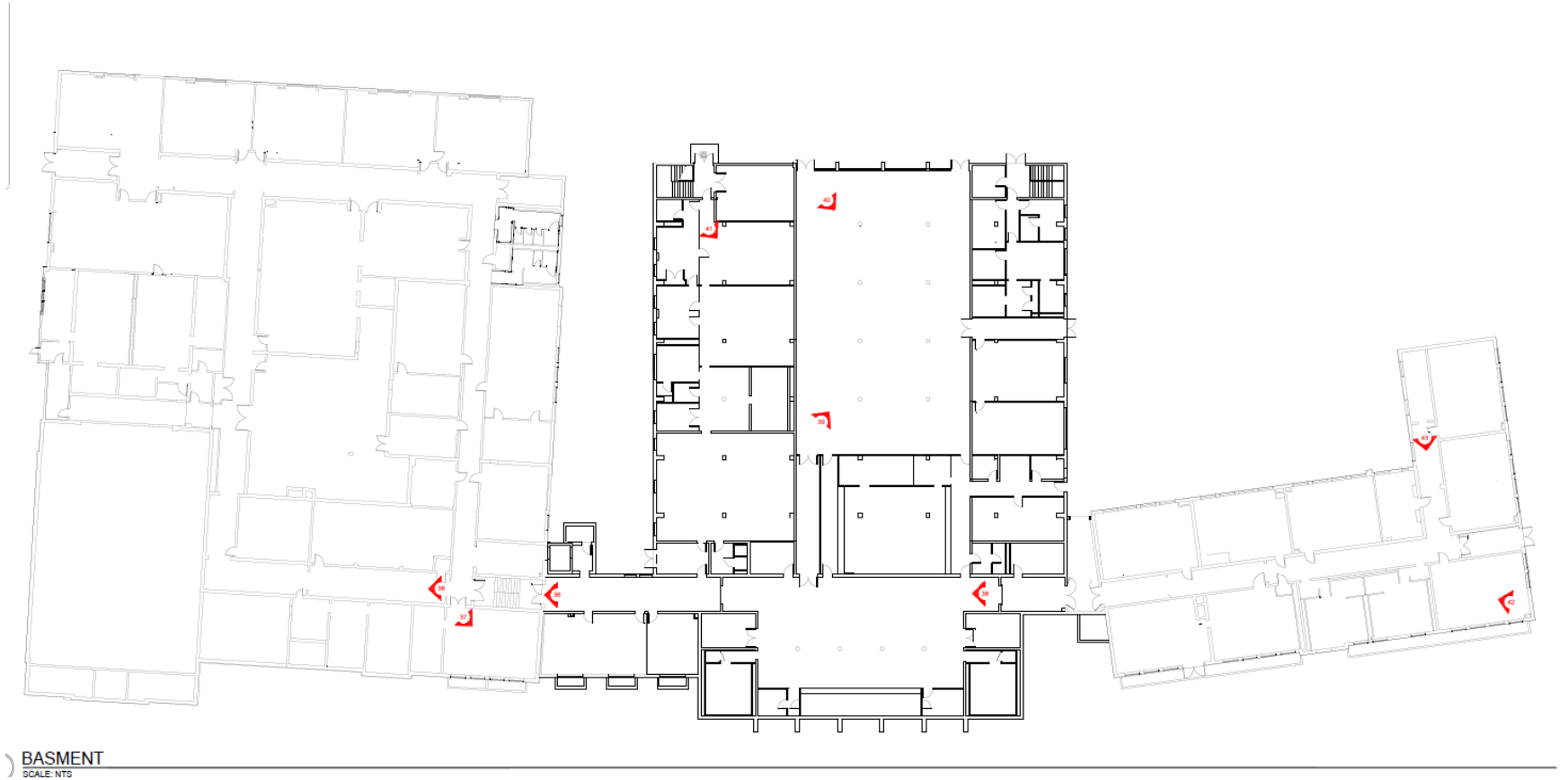
Name of Property

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- 7 of 47: View of west facade; PWA gymnasium detail view; facing east
- 8 of 47: View of west facade; PWA gymnasium; north stone emblem; facing east
- 9 of 47: View of west facade; PWA gymnasium; south stone emblem; facing east
- 10 of 47: View of northwest corner; facing southeast
- 11 of 47: View of north facade; facing south
- 12 of 47: View of northeast corner; facing southwest
- 13 of 47: View of east facade; north wing; facing northwest
- 14 of 47: View of east facade; north wing; facing northwest
- 15 of 47: View of east facade; facing west
- 16 of 47: View of east facade; gymnasium; facing southwest
- 17 of 47: View of east facade; south wing; facing west
- 18 of 47: View of east facade; facing northwest
- 19 of 47: View of southwest corner; facing northeast
- 20 of 47: View of south facade; facing north
- 21 of 47: View of west facade; south wing; detail view; facing east
- 22 of 47: View of west facade; south wing; facing southeast
- 23 of 47: View of west facade; central wing transition to south wing with 1961 cornerstone; facing east
- 24 of 47: View of west facade; central wing; 1961 cornerstone; facing east
- 25 of 47: View of central entrance foyer; first floor; facing north
- 26 of 47: View of central entrance lobby; first floor; facing north
- 27 of 47: View of 1969 gymnasium; facing southwest
- 28 of 47: View of north wing stairwell; facing north
- 29 of 47: View of north wing classroom; first floor; facing northeast
- 29 of 47: View of north wing corridor; first floor; facing east
- 30 of 47: View of 1939 gymnasium; facing southwest
- 31 of 47: View of band room; north wing; first floor; facing north
- 32 of 47: View of south wing entrance foyer; first floor; facing west
- 33 of 47: View of south wing classroom; first floor; facing northwest
- 34 of 47: View of south wing classroom; second floor; facing east
- 35 of 47: View of stairwell; first floor; south wing; facing south
- 36 of 47: View of north wing stairwell; lower level; facing north
- 37 of 47: View of north wing classroom; lower level; facing southwest
- 38 of 47: View of central wing; lower level; facing northwest
- 38 of 47: View of north wing corridor; lower level; facing north
- 39 of 47: View of cafeteria; lower level; facing east
- 40 of 47: View of cafeteria; lower level; facing southwest
- 41 of 47: View of locker rooms; lower level; facing southwest
- 42 of 47: View of south wing classroom; lower level; facing north
- 43 of 47: View of south wing corridor; lower level; facing west
- 44 of 47: View of north wing corridor; second floor; facing south
- 45 of 47: View of library; second floor; facing northwest
- 46 of 47: View of south wing classroom; second floor; facing northwest
- 47 of 47: View of south wing classroom; second floor; facing southwest

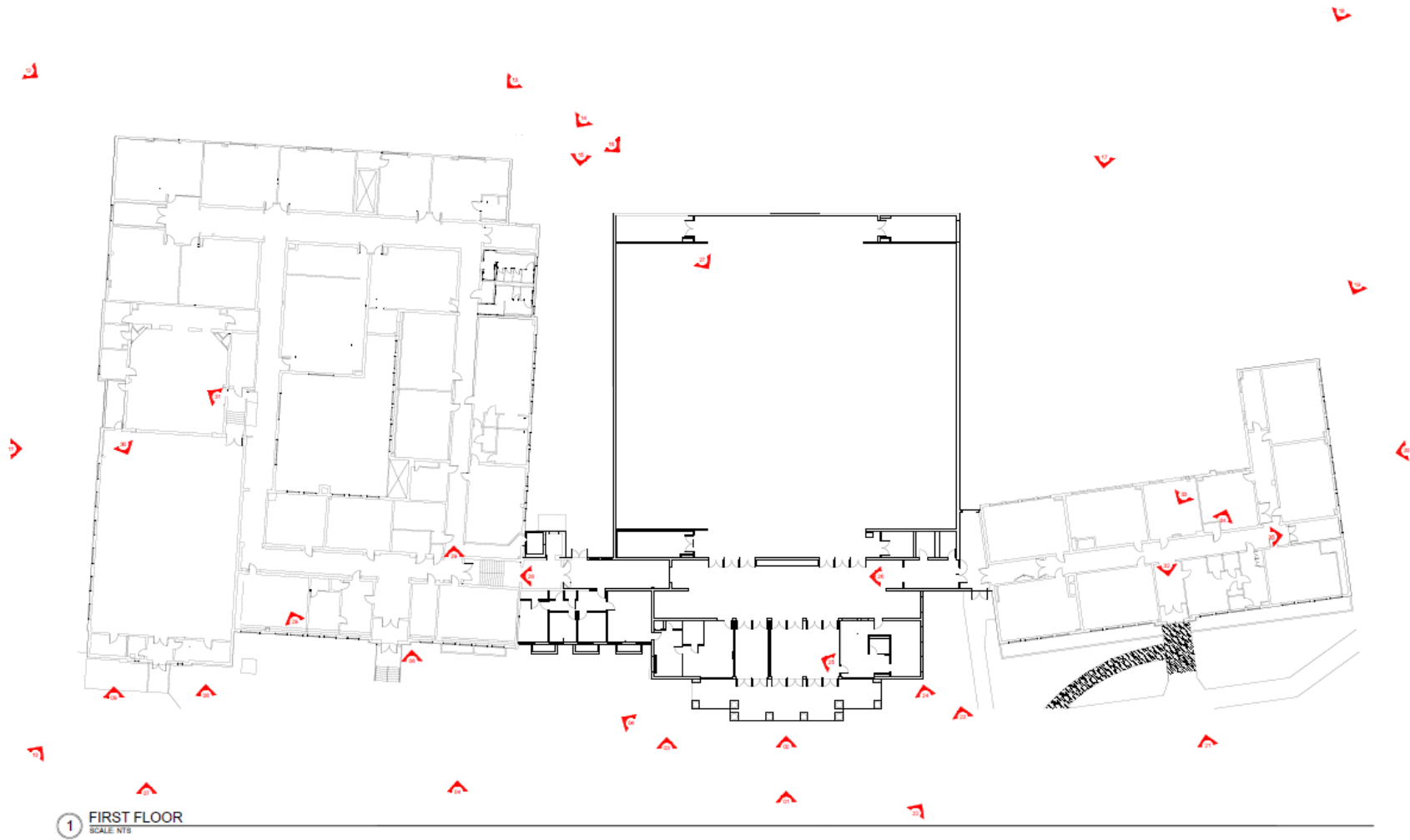
Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
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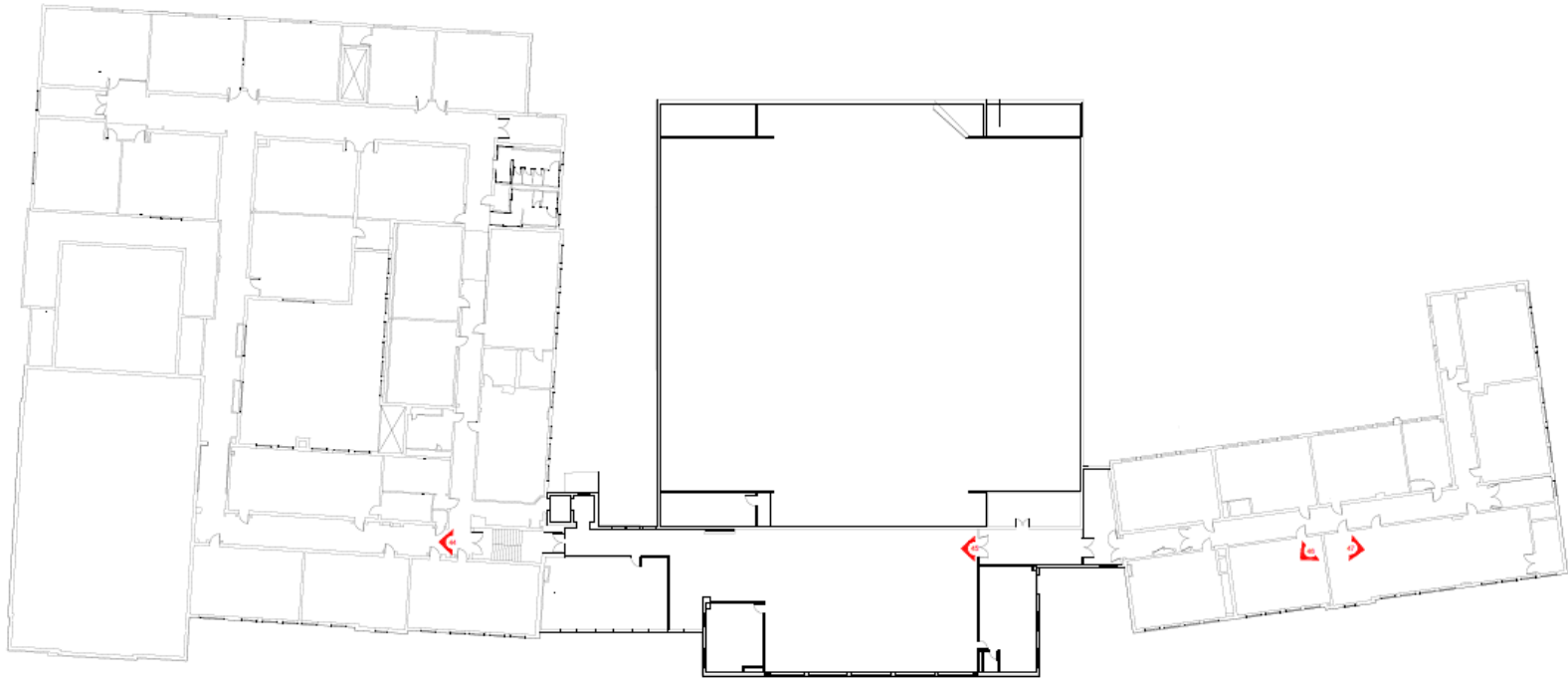
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Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
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1 SECOND FLOOR
SCALE: NTS

Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Campbell County, Kentucky

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County and State

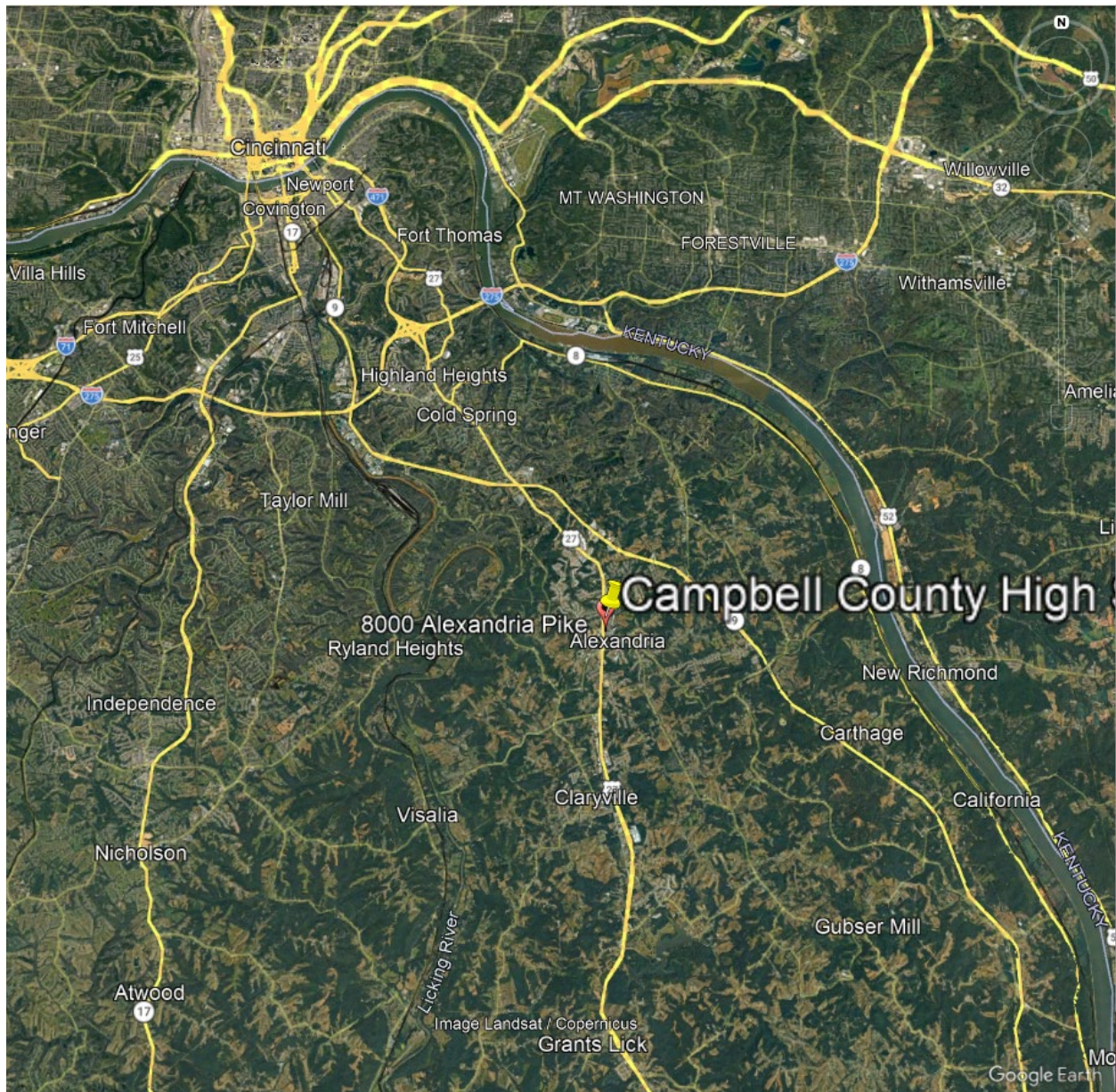


Campbell County High School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

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Wide Area Map showing location of Campbell County High School