

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dunham High School

Other names/site number: LR 341

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: #4 Hollow off Hwy 805

City or town: Jenkins State: Kentucky County: Letcher

Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA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 Xlocal
Applicable National Register Criteria: XA ___B ___C ___D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: Craig Potts/SHPO Date _____</p> <p>Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office _____</p> <p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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	

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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>1</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	<u>1</u>	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

NO STYLE

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The historic Dunham High School (LR 341) is located in the No. 4 Hollow on a hill, above a creek, and behind the St. George Catholic Church in Jenkins, Kentucky. Jenkins was a town owned and constructed by Consolidation Coal starting in 1912. The town lies 11 miles northeast of the county seat town Whitesburg. The main school building known as Dunham High School was a wood frame building had a fire in 1969, and stood unrepaired and unused until at least 1981. At some point the building was removed, leaving behind the concrete addition which was erected around 1950 and still stands. The building can be accessed by the stone stairs leading from the paved lot behind the Church. The entire property on which the property sits is approximately 1.55 acres. The area proposed for National Register listing is the entire parcel, includes one contributing building, 3 non-contributing buildings, and a non-contributing structure.



Dunham High School, Jenkins, Letcher County KY Lat: 37.173676° Lon: -82.633612°

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Physical Nature of the Site

The site of the historic Dunham High School is located in the No. 4 Hollow on a hill, above a creek, and behind the St. George Catholic Church. The site can be accessed by the stone stairs leading from the paved lot behind the Church. The site is roughly rectangular in shape (parcel 27, below) and is approximately 1.55 acres. On one side is a narrow paved road, No. 4 Hill Road, that continues upward as it runs northwest into the hollow; one-story houses and trailer homes are on each side of the road. A wooded hillside is above the property, beyond its northwestern edge, with homes overlooking the property. Those two-story wood-framed houses sit on parcels 28-31, 41-42, 57, and 44 on the map below.

The buildings of the church are included in the area proposed for listing because there may be an important relationship between the Catholic Church and the decision to allow the African American school to be sited at the rear of its lot. Documentation of that relationship has not been found. This nomination interprets the significance of the school within a context of African American Education in Letcher County, which renders the 3 religious buildings of the site non-contributing. If new information is found to establish those buildings' relationship to African American education, or another context is developed to show their significance, then their contribution can be re-evaluated.



The site proposed for listing is parcel 27, Letcher County Property Valuation Administrator map.

According to the deed acquired from the Letcher County Clerk's office, this property was deeded to the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky on October 12, 1914 by Consolidation Coal Company [Deed Book 47, pg. 475]. School Board minutes consulted, and they also regard the Catholic Church as the owner of the land on which Dunham School was built [e.g., minutes of November 23, 1938].

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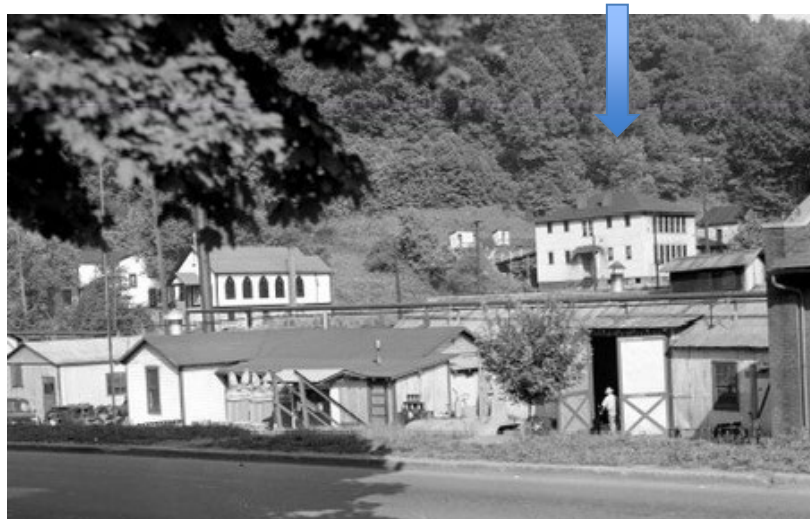
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The primary use of the parcel, from the time of Consolidation's development of the town, was as a Catholic Church complex, which at one time included an active parochial school. The Dunham High School was built toward the rear of the lot, and deeds do not indicate that the Catholic Church has relinquished ownership of the parcel up to the writing of this form.

A brick chimney lies broken on the edge of the site near the road. The ground of the site is not level and debris from trees is scattered across the property.

Description of Dunham High School

This site was originally home to the Jenkins Colored Grade School, which is believed to have been established in 1916 by the Consolidation Coal Company. In 1939, the Jenkins school board asked the company to construct additional rooms at the Grade School building, to make space for high school classes. The school housed grades 1-12 until Fall 1964, when the Jenkins school district integrated its schools and African American high school children were consolidated into the local white schools. In July 1966, the school board agreed to repurpose the building into an integrated middle school for seventh and eighth graders from Jenkins, Dunham, Burdine, and McRoberts. The building suffered a fire in 1969 [*Jenkins Centennial 1912-2012*, p. 7] and fell into disuse for many years until it was finally removed from the site.



St. George's church at left, Dunham High School at right



Dunham High School (pre-1939)

The school began as a two-story wood-frame construction with a hipped roof and partially raised basement erected around 1916 on the back of the property that had been given to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Covington for erection of a church. There is no indication in records or memory that the school ever functioned as a Catholic parochial school. The school appears to have been an 8-room structure, with 4 rooms per floor separated by a central hall. Smaller six-over-six double-hung windows lit the south (front rooms) and banks for lengthier windows lit the east side. Photos of the west and north sides are not available. A small pent roof covered the south entrance. On the west side of the building appears to be a ramp linking the steeply rising

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ground on that side to a second-floor entry. Two small outhouses stand on the hillside on that west side, so the ramp possibly was installed to make reaching them easier.

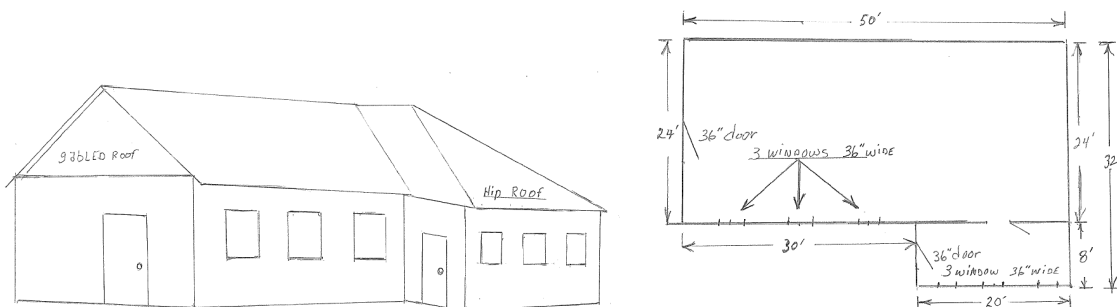
The concrete block building being proposed for National Register listing was a two-room addition built around 1950 onto Dunham High School. It was to provide space for teaching Home Economics (larger room) and typing (smaller room). When built, this addition was originally accessed through a breezeway that connected it to the main building through the main building's gym/auditorium. This structure is one story, made of concrete block, and covered by an asphalt shingle roof. The building is in an L-shape. Its widest dimensions are 50' x 32'. The walls of the building are 8 feet in height. Today it is the only above-ground remnant of the high school.



**Dunham High School's 1950 addition. Letcher County PVA, photo date unknown
Photo from Letcher County PVA's property card. Building in back is Mt. Olive Baptist Church**

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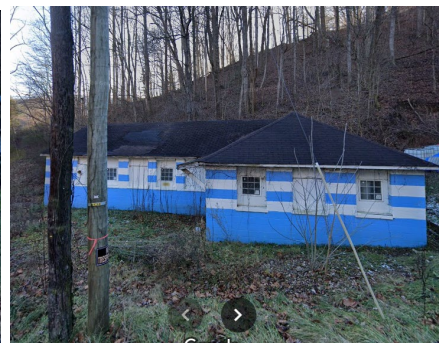


Drawing and measurements by Ked Sanders. Building contains 1360 square feet.

The building does not align with cardinal directions. Two doors are on a side facing south southeast. For simplicity's sake, that side of the building will be called the south side, and the other sides will be called by respective cardinal directions. Each entry door gave access to one of the two interior rooms that make up the building. The building has also been painted with blue and white stripes on its south and east sides, along with a painted message on the front that says "Mother Teresa Pray For Us." The building is no longer in use and "No Trespassing" signs have been posted to discourage interior access. Its façade is crumbling in areas and the upper section of the building has grown vines.



South and East sides of building



East Side of Building

The wider wall of the south side is topped by a clapboard-covering and a vent below the gable roof and has a door at ground level. There are no windows on the south side. A second entry door is in the small bump-out room toward the back of the building. That door has a small pent-roof overhang held in place with simple wooden brackets.

The east side of the building has windows to light the interior's two rooms. The larger space once had 6 windows that lit the room; those windows were reduced in size at some date after the Period of Significance. The result was that 3 of the windows have been covered over and three replacement windows, smaller than the original windows, were put in their place. The non-historic windows are made of a 9-light fixed sash. Similarly, the smaller room that makes the ell had 3 windows on its east side historically; one of those windows has been covered up, and the remaining two windows have been reduced in size with the 9-light fixed sash.

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Changes to the building since the Period of Significance

Of course, the internal fire of the historic wooden school building in 1969, and its subsequent removal from the site, is the biggest change to the property. Beyond that, the most visible change on the exterior is the painting of the walls, the closure of windows, and the replacement of some windows with non-opening sashes.

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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

ETHNIC HERITAGE—BLACK

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1950-1964

Significant Dates

1950

1964

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Significant Person

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

Dunham High School (LR 341) meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the historic context “African American Education in Letcher County, Kentucky, from 1912-1965.” Dunham High School was one of many segregated Black schools across the country’s twentieth-century landscape, as well as one of many segregated Black schools in the state of Kentucky. The building that stands today tells an important story of education and the role that women were seen to play in society. The concrete block addition was put onto the older school building around 1950 to provide space for teaching young women about two possible career paths. The building had room for Home Economics instruction for those whose futures resided in the home, and a typing room for those who aspired to clerical work outside the home. The significance of this addition to the high school can be seen as one of many local efforts that eventually gave African Americans access to benefits of modern life. Until the 1950s, African Americans in Letcher County would have had less access to modern home making instruction and skills that would enable young women to work in office environments. From about 1950-1964, these two rooms provided a basis for hope for Black teens that they might one day integrate into larger American society. Dunham High School burned in 1969 and was subsequently removed after 1981. The 1950 addition has since fallen into disrepair. This loss on the built landscape, as well as limited archival evidence, has served to erase important stories of local history in which African Americans played a notable part. The historical out-migration of Blacks from Appalachia, and the virtual removal of the built environment associated with them, has skewed the view of their true relationship to local history. In place of that truth, mythologies have arisen, questioning their presence in Appalachia at all, and obscuring the unique steps taken toward civil rights by African Americans in Letcher County. Places such as this Home Economics and Typing addition provided a psychological support for youths and adults in the 1960s to campaign for greater civil rights than they had been accorded. Preserving the site of Dunham High School and the 1950 addition in the National Register will help to reconnect the region to the historic Black struggle for civil rights (particularly as supported by educational facilities) at both the state and national level.

Historic Context: African American Education in Letcher County, Kentucky, 1912-1965

Letcher County was created by an act of the Kentucky Legislature in 1842. While a relative outmigration of Blacks in the last 50 years have skewed perceptions to minimize that presence, African Americans have had a presence in the county from its creation.

The story of African Americans in Letcher County is deeply tied to the history of labor. Eastern Kentucky’s terrain and soils are thought not to be conducive to the farming economy which depended upon an enslaved workforce, yet the first national census that Letcher County participated in, 1850, recorded 21 owners of enslaved workers and 62 people counted as slaves. It is likely that the owners and workers were involved with the timber industry more than with farming. The 1860 census records an even higher number of owners (29) as well as owned workers (108). Interestingly, the number of freed people of color enumerated in Letcher County in 1870—123 citizens—suggests the possibility of an African American population which had developed a sense of belonging to the area. Obviously, those African Americans who chose to

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remain in the area upon receiving citizen status would have found ways to support themselves with various forms of subsistence or wage labor (Notable Kentucky African Americans Database: <https://nkaa.uky.edu/nkaa/items/show/2424>).

There had been occasional spikes in population, as when that tally rose from 4,608 in 1870 to 6,601 in 1880 (43% increase), but nothing like the increase experienced as a result of the arrival of the L&N Railroad to the county in 1911-1912. The county's population stood at 10,623 in 1910. With the entry of the railroad into Letcher, coal companies could construct coal towns, so that by 1920 Letcher's population had increased by 130%, to 24,467. Many African Americans, as well as European immigrants, came into the county to support coal mining.

Industries in the United States depended entirely upon the availability of a reliable workforce. Labor was readily available in cities, and working class neighborhoods would arise very near to the factory that employed those workers (see, for instance, Jefferson County, Kentucky nominations of Irish Hill Historic District [NRIS: SG100010253] and Shelby Park Historic District [NRIS: SG100010247]). Mining operations were determined by the locations of the mine, which often was a rural location. Obtaining a stable workforce often meant that the company would establish a town that they owned, in which miners and other employees were provided housing.

Many African Americans came from the rural South to the region, seeking work in the coal mines. These coal mines provided for their black workforce in a manner that was consistent with prevailing Jim Crow laws in the nation. That is, Black residential areas were established to separate workers by race. These coal towns had mines which Consolidation Coal Company numbered consecutively, with 201 at Burdine and running up to 215 at McRoberts.

Coal companies also had to provide the minimal amenities necessary for life in their towns. Some company-owned towns would consist of simply miners' housing, depending upon entrepreneurial sorts to set up an independent store to provide for residents' needs. A few towns, so-called "model towns," would provide many of the features found in independent cities, such as stores run by the company, as well as company-run hospitals, cinemas, ballpark, school, post office, and more (Perry: 28-29).

Because the Jenkins area was underlain by so much coal, Consolidation chose to develop the area as a model installation centered around Jenkins. The actuality of residential segregation could look different in Consolidation's towns, depending on the labor needs and how those evolved over time. In Consolidation's towns that quickly grew after 1912, all residents were new to their communities. The Black section of the coal camp was customarily referred to as "colored town." Some of these areas were entirely Black, such as the Tom Biggs section of McRoberts. In other cases, Black and White families lived in the same hollow in separated sectors. When the Black population began to decline in the 1930s, as job opportunities began to open in the north, racial tensions may have eased some.

Consolidation avoided the strong oversight of their African American schools by establishing Jenkins Independent School District, which oversaw the white and African American schools in Jenkins and its satellite towns. The Company-owned School Board was required to follow

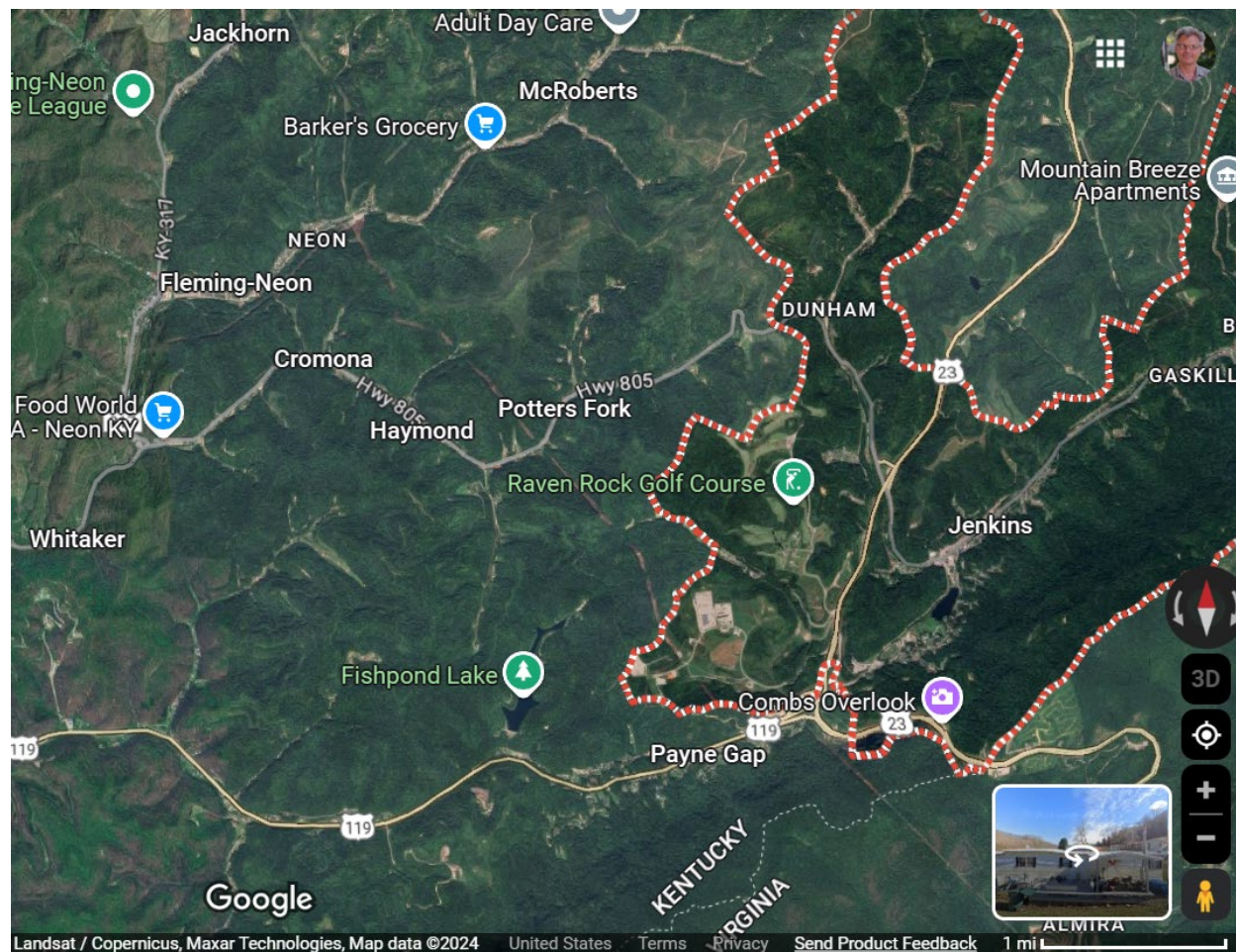
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Kentucky law, but as an independent district could do so with lesser interference from a locally-elected Board or by state monitors. In the few instances when coal companies provided schools, as the Consolidation Coal Company in Letcher County did, a company would build separate Black schools. Consolidation did that in its satellite towns of Burdine, Jenkins, Dunham and McRoberts, which they owned and developed along with Jenkins.



Coal Towns Owned and Developed by Consolidation Coal Company Referenced Above

Black and white children who grew up in the 1940s in Consolidation Company towns report a somewhat higher degree of interracial exposure in Jenkins than in non-coal-owned towns, and attribute some easing of racial tensions to an attitude that gave respect to a worker, and to his family, based on his performance underground more than upon their racial identity above ground. While Black and white children commonly played together, custom and law separated their education by race. Black elementary schools were established in Jenkins, Burdine, McRoberts and Dunham. Consolidation saw no interest in educating Black children beyond seventh grade, and thus their schools had only grades one through seven until the 1930s.

No record has been found of high school education being provided to Jenkins County's Black students prior to 1931. In 1933, The Kentucky Educational Commission declared that a county

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school system could partner with an independent school district to satisfy their responsibility to educate the county's Black students in counties which had small Black populations. Letcher County Schools entered into such an agreement with Consolidation's Jenkins Independent School District (JISD). The agreement allowed Letcher County to relinquish its responsibility to educate Black students at the high school level to JISD. The agreement extended JISD's role of educating Black students to the Letcher County towns of Fleming and Haymond. In 1936, Kentucky passed a law requiring school districts to provide twelve grades of education for Black students. The JISD thus established Dunham High School, and it became the sole high school for Letcher County's African Americans.

African American School Buildings in Letcher County

The presence of buildings left standing on the landscape, to witness the Consolidation Coal Company's efforts to provide African American education, has been eroded by time and the buildings' quality of construction. Consolidation did not construct the schools to last more than two or three generations. Consequently, only two remain standing, including the remnant of Dunham High School proposed for listing. Below are historic photos of the buildings which once stood to satisfy this educational mandate. The precise locations of these schools are not known or have not been found. The buildings no longer exist, except for the building in Fleming-Neon.



"Colored School Building: Jenkins, 1921"



Tipple in Dunham (roof of #207 school pictured in bottom right)



"#207 Colored School Building" Dunham (demo. 1940s)



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"#2121 [sic] Colored School (Tom Biggs) McRoberts. 10-7/21"



"Colored School, Shea Fork. 12-3-23"



One teacher school, McRoberts



"2114 Colored School at Burdine. 10-7-21"



The concrete block building, which looks like a garage, is the extant former African American School, 1341 Highway 343, Fleming-Neon Kentucky

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History of Dunham High School

The local history of Dunham High School is distinct in that its origins were not in Rosenwald Schools—which were common throughout Kentucky in the early twentieth century—nor was it sponsored by a government or church.

The current site of Dunham High School had its origins in the Jenkins Colored School, which was established in 1916 in the town's No. 4 hollow. One local publication suggests that a high school education was established for Black students in 1931 at the existing Jenkins Colored School, while another source notes that a Black high school opened in 1934 in the No. 7 hollow/Dunham (Jenkins Centennial Book p. 66; Rolston, "History of Education in Letcher County, Kentucky"). However, based on school board meeting minutes, it is likely that a high school education was established in 1931 *in* the No. 7 hollow of Dunham. School board meeting minutes from 1938 indicate that JISD investigated the site near the Jenkins Colored School as a possible site for a new Black high school. Additional minutes suggest that the school board decided it was not feasible to build a brand new school; instead, the minutes indicate that the board asked Consol to construct at least four rooms as an addition to the Jenkins Colored School in the No. 4 hollow, at the site proposed for National Register listing. It is believed by the author of this nomination that this new Dunham High School was completed by 1939.

Students met for home economics in one of the houses up in the hollow, in the town Dunham. There was a report of a male student being badly burned in that makeshift classroom of the Home Economics class, after trying to start a fire in a coal stove. That episode is given credit for motivating the school system in ca. 1950 to build the two-room addition to Dunham High School for a safer school condition and in a space with more room. With the addition of a room for Home Economics instruction, a second room, for typing instruction, was also added.

As the Black student population continued to decrease after 1950, the building was repurposed for students from grades 1 through 6. Dunham High School remained in operation until the close of the 1964 academic year, when the JISD was forced to finally desegregate its schools—a decade after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The JISD had resisted that imperative until it remained one of the last districts in the state to desegregate.

The structure would be used by the JISD until all grades were fully integrated into the white schools of Jenkins in the 1965 school year. The former school building continued to provide school spaces during the 1965-1969 school years, which students of both races attended. Once the school was destroyed by fire, the school district relocated the students to other schools in the district.

According to Mayor Todd Depreist, the concrete block addition was used by some students to prepare for a mission trip. For that trip, the students undertook renovations of the building. Their work changed the original windows and painted the building blue and white. The sign "Mother Teresa Pray for Us" and the painting of the building was done to honor Mother Teresa, who visited Jenkins on June 24, 1982 (Personal communication by author with Fr. Adams). The local newspaper, *The Mountain Eagle*, an established Catholic church parish, rather than the

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local St. George parish, brought Mother Teresa to Jenkins. She came to establish a Missionaries of Charity mission in Letcher County—the order’s first in rural America. Many Jenkins residents turned out for the event, as did other folks from the region and as far away as Alabama and Ohio (*The Mountain Eagle*, July 4, 2012). While the Mother Teresa story on the larger St. George property overshadows the historic associations between the nominated building and the African American population, the two associations have a consistent theme of using the property in flexible and creative ways to provide for local needs.

Evaluation of Significance of Dunham High School within the Historic Context African American Education in Letcher County, Kentucky, 1912-1965

Despite separate and unequal facilities and resources, Dunham High School represented an important cultural institution to Letcher County’s Black community. Any school served as the educational and social backbone of its community. Its teachers and administrators imparted values of self-respect, a passion for learning, and a determination that students would become productive citizens. The foundational principles and lessons instilled by Dunham High played a pivotal role in the success of its graduates who went on to serve their country, the Commonwealth of Kentucky, and their respective communities within and beyond the eastern Kentucky coalfields. Dunham High School remained in operation until the close of the 1964 academic year, when the JISD was forced to finally desegregate its schools—a decade after the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. The JISD resisted until it remained one of the last districts in the state to desegregate.

Dunham High School provides both positive and negative associations with our nation’s past. Its construction in the 1930s was seen by the community it served as one of many positive actions by the larger community to acknowledge and appreciate the African American miner population. Members of the African American community in Jenkins report experiencing a sense of respect from the community at large, a respect which came from their participation in the hard work of coal mining. While Letcher County schooling and residential areas were segregated as they were in normal Kentucky communities, stories about the social system in this working town point to a greater level of social parity between Blacks and whites, with perhaps fewer frictions than existed within conventional towns. Dunham High School certainly was a lesser construction than the Jenkins School for white children (NRIS 11000004) but living African American citizens who grew up in Jenkins saw the school as sufficient for their advancement. Many went onward to successful careers and lives either locally or elsewhere, helped greatly by the education they received within the school.

The realities of American assimilation had an impact in Jenkins as in many other places. That is, the relative equality African Americans reported experiencing prior to WWII in Jenkins gave way to racial prejudices that had grown within the white population by the 1950s. By the 1960s, African Americans in Jenkins had to exert greater force to combat the unequal treatments that Jenkins’ white community had adopted, making Jenkins much like many other Kentucky communities. Resistance to integrated schooling and segregated restaurant service are but two arenas where local Blacks had to challenge the social system that had emerged after WWII to relegate them to a second-class status. While the Black population received accommodation in the form of integrated schooling, the burning of the historic Dunham High School hangs as a

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pointed question: did the frictions that came with the community attempting to establish a new social order lead to the destruction of this community resource?

The burning of Dunham High School raises questions of how fragile was the struggle for Blacks to obtain civil rights and freedoms within eastern Kentucky coalfield. Whether the fire was an accident or intentional is not known. Many parts of this community's history are incomplete due to the erosion of the physical landscape as well as the scarcity of records in the local archives. The prominence that this community once enjoyed is at risk of being lost. It is vital that the site where the high school once stood—which includes the concrete addition that remains on site—is preserved in the National Register. Doing so enables a fuller history of the civil rights movement to be taught and recognizes the enduring significance of this chapter in the nation's history.

The 1950 addition to the Dunham High School has continued to be made useful over time. It has served as a place for storage for the parish who owns it. But the relative demise of the African American community in Letcher County has left the building with few champions in recent years. The crumbling façade and disrepair parallel the lack of knowledge of the presence of the African American community altogether, a community which has been a part of Letcher County from its creation. This nomination is an effort to preserve this structure and the memory of an important episode in the local history, so that both the building and its story are not lost to future generations.

Evaluating the Integrity between Dunham High School's Significance and its Physical Plant Today

The judgment of the integrity, between the significance of Dunham High School and whether the physical presence of the 1950 addition to the school reinforces that significance, is being evaluated for National Register eligibility. That will call for “. . . sometimes a subjective judgment, . . . it must always be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance.”¹

The Dunham High School no longer exists to tell that important story the way it could tell it prior to its removal. The question becomes what the remnant of the structure, this 1950 addition, can tell us about the values embedded in the historic context. This building will be said to meet the NRHP Criteria if it possesses integrity of **Location, Materials, Design, Setting, and Association** will be eligible for listing in the NRHP.

The property possesses integrity of **location**. This building has not been moved from its original site. The location is a key aspect to its significance, as it was built in the primary community, the model coal town, Jenkins. While Jenkins had ceased to be a coal town under Consolidation Coal's ownership by the 1950s, the 1950 addition became part of the school that had stood since Consolidation's ownership of the town. With the addition being part of the site for almost 20 years with the 2-story school, students using the building came to see the addition and the historic school as one. Because the entire understanding of the African American community's high school experience was invested in the building, and that experience became a hope for living a full life

¹ United States Department of the Interior. *National Register Bulletin #15: Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*. (Washington D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, 2002.)

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based on education, the location itself is meaningful and important. The 2-room addition gave particular hope to students who used it for its intended purpose: originally for Home Economics and Typing, and later for general grade school education, the location of the 1950 addition is served well by this location.

The building also possesses integrity of **setting**. Its intra-site setting remains as it has been since the earliest days of Consolidation's ownership. The site was owned by the Catholic Church, and remains under that ownership. This sharing of the site is an interesting pairing and may provide additional significance if more facts about that relationship are learned. Neither group with their particular interest, African Americans seeking education nor Catholics seeking to practice their religion, held an interest that the Consolidation Coal Company shared. This setting has continued to survive despite economic and demographic challenges for both groups. The possibility of mutual interests between the two groups may have led to their collocation at the site. The painting of the school building, signage affixed to the building, and storage use of the structure testifies to the building's "adoption" by its Catholic hosts. This intra-site setting remains and helps explain how a challenged Jenkins Independent School District economically provided the minimal resources to meet its educational responsibilities. The setting outside the site remains intact sufficiently to signal the identity of the coal town that Jenkins once was, and helps provide an environment that announces the challenges of providing education, first in a company town, and later in a town whose economic support is declining.

The ability of the **materials** and **design** of the property to tell its full story, as it relates to the larger story of African American education in the County, was admittedly challenged by the burning of the historic school. What the materials and design of the 1950 addition speak to are aspects of the story that are still significant within the evolving place of African Americans in local education and in society at large. The decision by the Jenkins Independent School Board to provide professional Home Economics instruction and education for professional office work in the form of Typing classes suggested that African Americans were on the rise in comparison to their place prior to World War II. In fact, no high school education was provided for any African Americans in the county before the Great Depression. The 1950 addition provides direct evidence that the school board, perhaps at the urging of its African American citizens, saw a need to expand their facility to enable Blacks to enter society in ways that were previously closed before 1950. The construction of the building in a concrete block may have been an effort to economize, but while cost effective, it was also a choice that saved the building from burning. While the building's materials and design do not provide information on educational values prior to 1950, they speak clearly about educational values from 1950 onward.

The use of concrete block to erect the 1950 addition is mirrored in the only other standing building, a school in Fleming-Neon, the only other building remaining on the landscape with any intactness to evidence the effort to provide African American education in the County. Both structures are of masonry construction, a departure from the wood frame and clapboard which dominated the construction of Consolidation's African American schools of the 1920s. The date of the Fleming-Neon school is not known, but both buildings have a **feeling** of construction after WWII, not just in their concrete block material but also in their smaller window sizes and relatively low profiles. If both were constructions of the 1950s, then their sizes and basic appearances have a feeling of a

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latter era of construction, during the time consistent with the out-migration of Blacks from the County, and the effort to maintain two separate-but-equal educational systems.

Because the 1950 addition to Dunham High School still exhibits an integrity of location, setting, and modest amounts of integrity of materials and design, along with a moderate integrity of feeling, it can be said to convey the sufficient integrity of **association** with African American education in Letcher County during the latter era of the contextual period. This nomination has been produced by an alumna of the school, and confirms her personal associations between the building and her memories, associations which are shared by the living members who went to school there and who grew up in the communities created by Consolidation Coal Company over a century ago. With much of their communities' people and historic cultural landscape disappearing, the survival of this building is treasured by those who remain. They wish for this important part of the local past to be celebrated, so its place in the area's heritage can be learned and not forgotten.

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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): LR 341

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.55 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

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Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.173676° | Longitude: -82.633612° |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description

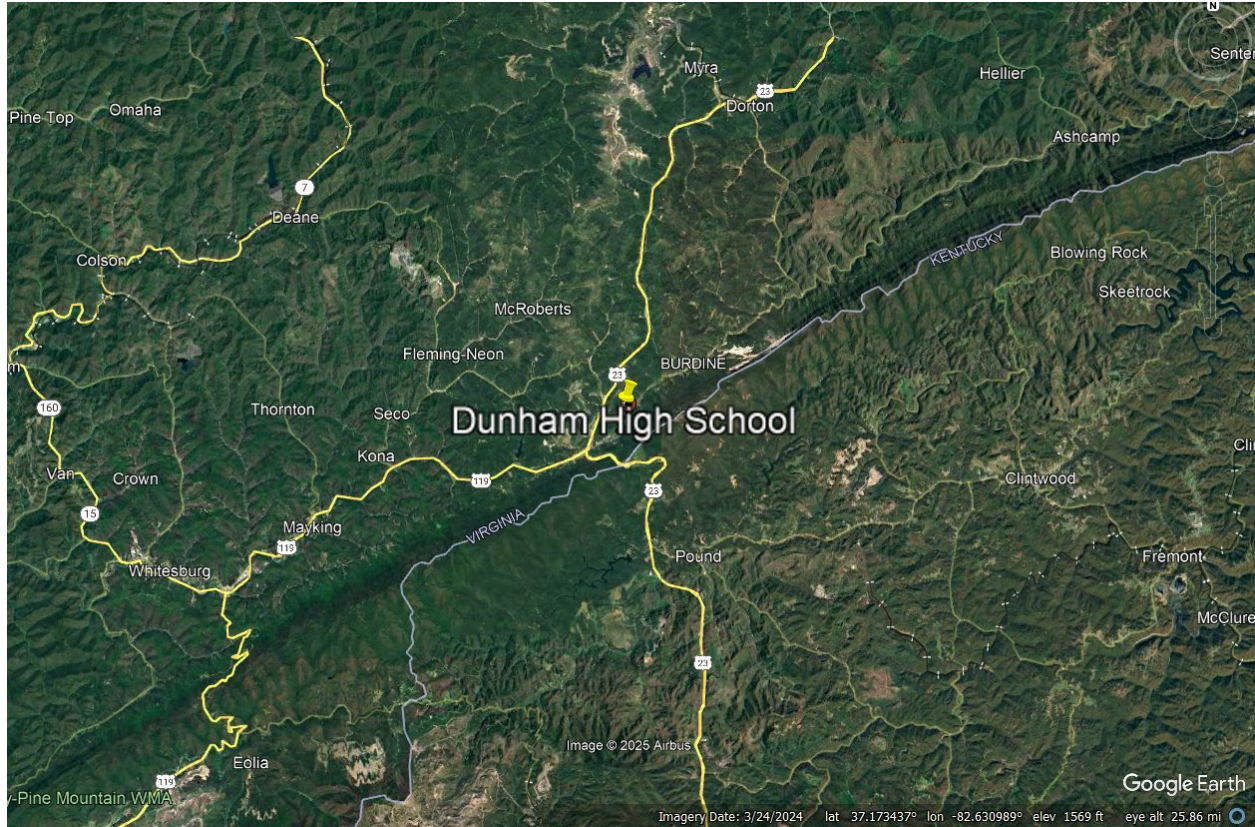
The area proposed for National Register listing is all of parcel 27 of map 1 of the Original Town of Jenkins, Kentucky.

Boundary Justification

The area selected for National Register listing has integrity of setting, and includes resources that played the biggest part in establishing the focal resource, Dunham High School.

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Dunham High School on area map

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Carolyn Hollyfield Rodgers
organization: NA
street & number: 3014 Villa Lane
city or town: Missouri City state: Texas zip code: 77459
e-mail: carolyn.h.rodgers@gmail.com
telephone: 713-858-1434
date: 12-29-24

Photographs

Photo Log: Information the same for all photograph:

Name of Property: Dunham High School
City or Vicinity: Jenkins
County: Letcher
State: Kentucky
Photographer: Todd Depriest
Date Photographed: 12-10-2024

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:



Photo #1 of 5 (KY_LetcherCounty_DunhamHighSchool_0001)

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Photo #2 of 5 (KY_LetcherCounty_DunhamHighSchool_0002)

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Photo #3 of 5 (KY_LetcherCounty_DunhamHighSchool_0003)

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Photo #4 of 5 (KY_LetcherCounty_DunhamHighSchool_0004)

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Photo #5 of 5 (KY_LetcherCounty_DunhamHighSchool_0005)