

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Bonnieville Elementary School

Other names/site number: HT 1353

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

2. Location

Street & number: 7874 North Dixie Highway

City or town: Bonnieville State: Kentucky County: Hart

Not For Publication: NA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 _____ <u>Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <p>_____ Signature of commenting official: Date _____</p> <p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

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

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

EDUCATION/School

Current Functions

EDUCATION/School

7. Description

Architectural Classification

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: CONCRETE

Exterior Walls: BRICK, CONCRETE, METAL/Steel

Fenestration: METAL/Aluminum, METAL/Steel

Roof: SYNTHETICS

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Bonnieville Elementary School (HT 1353) is a sprawling consolidated school constructed in 1948 and located at 7874 North Dixie Highway, in Bonnieville, Kentucky (Figure 1). Bonnieville is a small, unincorporated community in the north-central portion of Hart County, situated just west of Interstate 65. The school is situated on the east side of North Dixie Highway (31W), just north of the intersection of Dixie Highway and Bacon Creek Road (KY 728) which is, itself, just over 0.5-miles from I-65's on and off ramps. The property includes just over 6 acres, consisting of the entire parcel that has historically and presently been associated with the school and related activities. The Period of Significance stretches from 1948, the year the building was constructed, through 1975, the last year included in the Multiple Property Listing *Historic Public Schools in Kentucky*. The building is in good condition and retains sufficient integrity for listing.

Character of Site

Bonnieville Elementary School is in the heart of the densest portion of Bonnieville, along N. Dixie Highway, a rural community of less than 300 residents. The school is surrounded by primarily single-family residential dwellings with a smattering of other buildings nearby, such as religious facilities and commercial buildings. On the other side of N. Dixie Highway, a former Louisville & Nashville rail line runs parallel to the street and on the other side of that is undeveloped land, both agricultural and wooded. Interstate 65 is situated just west of the school, separated by dense woods. There is a parking lot spanning the entire length of the building's primary (west) façade, paved access roads to the rear of the building, and a large grassy area behind the school that was once used as a baseball field but appears to have become overgrown and neglected. The elementary school has had several additions since its construction, expanding the building's footprint and effectiveness.

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State



Figure 1. Boundaries of Bonnieville Elementary School, as shown on an aerial map (Google Earth). Location relative to the rest of Bonnieville and I-65 can be seen in the insert corner callout

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

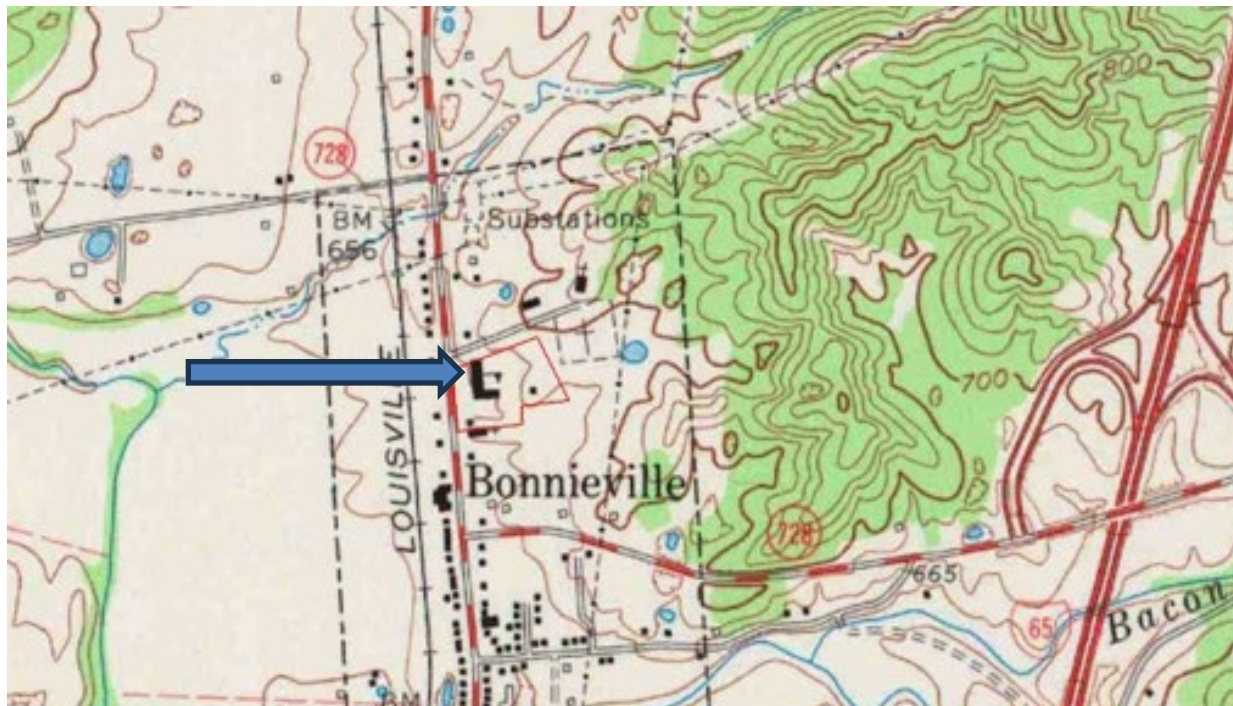


Figure 2. Boundary of the Bonnieville Elementary School NR Listing, as shown on the USGS 7.5-Minute Upton, KY Map (USGS 1979).

Description of Resource

Exterior

The Bonnieville Elementary School is a one-story structure that extends north and south with a central block flanked on either side by an east west wing. The structure is constructed from a concrete foundation, brick veneer siding over concrete block walls, with a flat built-up roof. The main entrance is located on the west façade of the school and has a set of stairs leading up to the main doorway, which is a glass and metal double door with side lights. There is a ramp next to the stairs to the main entrance and has two segments to reach the main door. The main entrance is covered by an awning with a V roof, supported by two metal posts set into concrete piers. The southern wing of the building is slightly taller than the rest of the school and has metal wording the says “Bonnieville Elementary” along the west façade. There is a long concrete ramp up to an entrance with two brick walls jutting out. Windows on the central portion of the building include blocks of metal framed fixed windows with concrete sills. Windows on the wings are similar in style and design; however, the framing is thinner, and the groupings of windows are located next to a doorway (Photos 1 through 7).

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Hart County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State



Photo 2, south end of the school



Photo 3, school facing northeast



Photo 4, school facing southeast



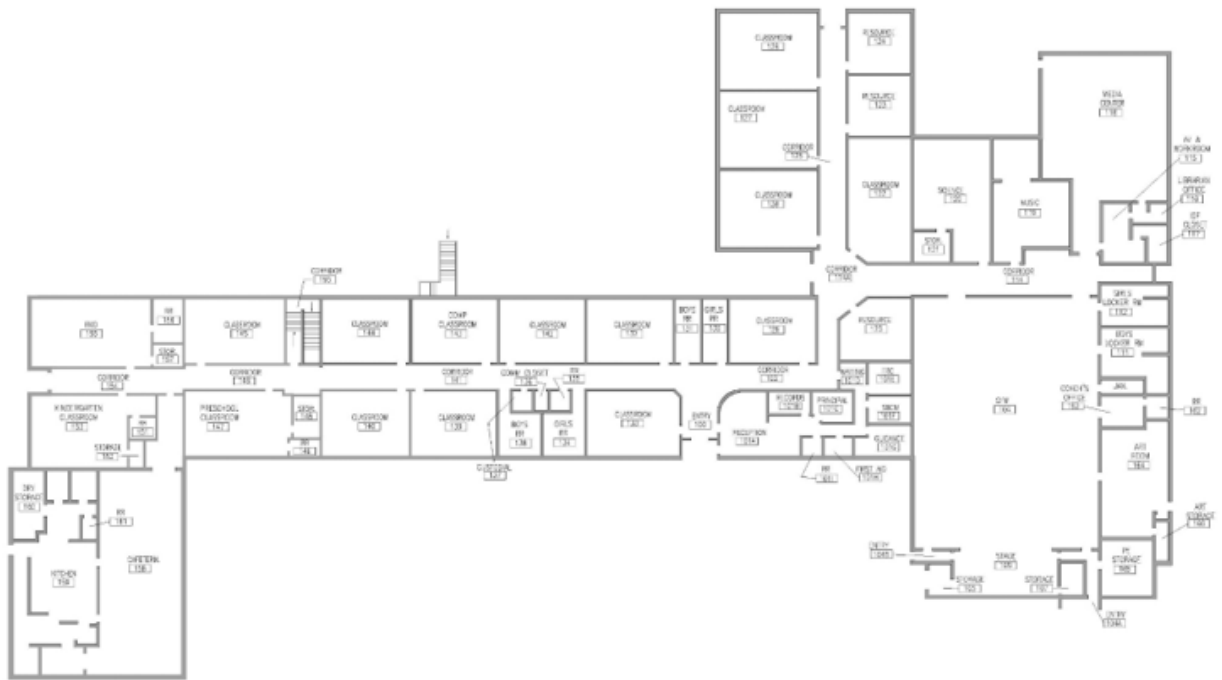
Photo 5, school facing southwest

Interior

The interior of the Bonnieville Elementary School is comprised of a long central hallway flanked by a central hallway connecting to the main entrance and the ends extending into the wings at the north and south ends of the central corridor (Photo 8). The general makeup of the building's interior includes vinyl tile flooring, concrete block walls, and a dropped ceiling (Photo 9). This is carried throughout the hallways of the building and includes classrooms, office spaces, and larger rooms such as the cafeteria and music room (Photos 10 through 13). Other spaces, such as the media center have carpeted flooring (Photo 14). The gym is a large open structure with exposed steel beams and HVAC, concrete block walls, and a hard wood floor, fashioned after a typical basketball court floor (Photo 15).

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State



① Bonnieville Elementary School

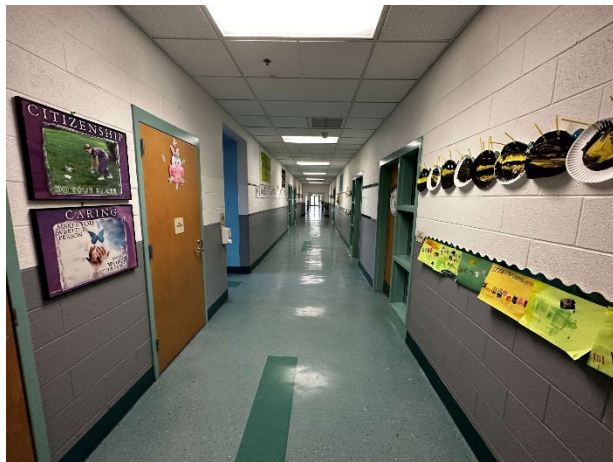


Photo 8, hallway

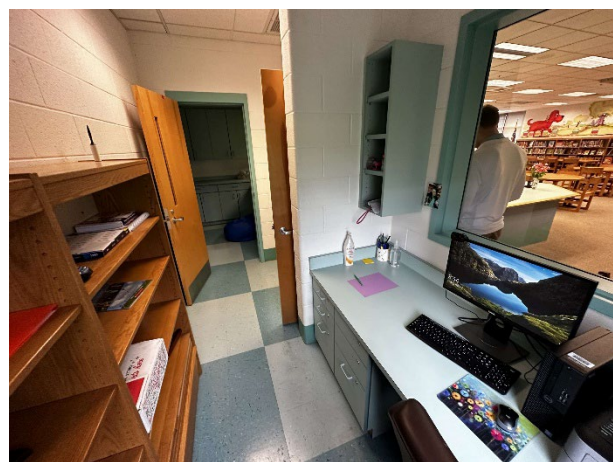


Photo 11, office

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State



Photo 12, classroom



Photo 13, cafeteria



Photo 14, media room



Photo 15, gym

There are various supporting rooms throughout the school, such as storage spaces, restrooms, and custodial rooms. The restrooms have ceramic tile flooring, a mix of ceramic tile clad walls and concrete block walls, and a dropped ceiling (Photo 16). This is carried through both public restrooms with multiple stalls and single person restrooms (Photo 17). Many of the restrooms also have paintings or murals on the walls depicting different things, such as cars and sports depictions (Photo 18). The IDF room has vinyl tile flooring, concrete block walls with one brick clad wall, and a drop ceiling (Photo 19). This is one of the few areas where a brick wall is seen instead of a concrete block wall. The custodial closet is a mix of a closet and building mechanical systems and is clad with vinyl tile flooring and concrete block walls (Photo 20).

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Hart County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State



Photo 17, restroom

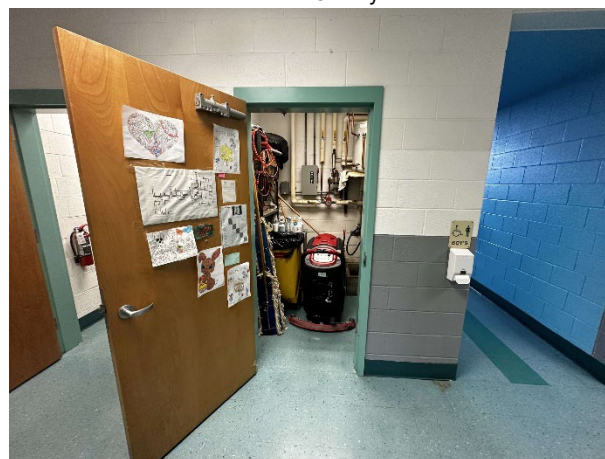


Photo 20, utility closet

Changes to the Property Since the Period of Significance

Bonnieville Elementary School was constructed in 1948 and has been expanded through additions, and minor changes to the interior, consistent with a school that has been in continuous use for nearly eighty years. Some of the changes, which are necessary to the ongoing use as a functional and safe school, include new roofs, gutter, soffit, and fascia, HVAC renovations, lighting renovations, site drainage and sewer renovations, phone system upgrades and replacement, installation of electronic door alarms on all exterior doors, and installation of higher efficiency appliances.¹ In addition to this, the school has undergone routine maintenance and small-scale alterations to keep the school running smoothly and fully operational.

The school has maintained its use as a public school for all the years since its original construction. The various additions and renovations made to the school were done to ensure that it could continue to function as a school. The original portion of the building's exterior that is visible includes the central block with the use of brick exterior cladding. Early additions, that occurred within the building's first decade in use, are within the Period of Significance and include two extensions to the south of the original small building. This includes the current main entryway. There was another addition to the north within the Period of Significance, that occurred in the 1960s, but the southernmost and northernmost additions, which each project to the west further than the original building, were not added until later. Despite the material changes to the building, the building still retains sufficient integrity and meets the Registration Requirements set forth in the Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPD.

¹ Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Finance and Operations, Division of District Support, District Facilities Branch, *Hart County School District Facility Plan*. February 2020.

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

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
1948-1975

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Dates
1948

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Hart County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Bonnieville Elementary School (HT 1353) is locally significant within the historic context, Public Schools in Kentucky 1800-1975, as outlined in the Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS, and is a significant early instance of the property type Post-War School Buildings. The school's significance is rooted in the ongoing consolidation movement, which resulted in the construction of modern educational facilities throughout Kentucky to cater to a wider geographic region and provide better educational accommodations for the schoolchildren, and how that movement positively impacted rural communities. Schools, such as Bonnieville Elementary School, were essential for Kentucky's rural and suburban areas, as they provided adequate educational facilities, established with progressive ideologies best suited for learning, that could grow and evolve as needs arose. Bonnieville Elementary School was an early example of this Property Type, being constructed just a few years after the end of WWII, and its growth and success is characteristic of the overall consolidation movement, especially due to its location just off Interstate 65, allowing for ease of access.

Bonnieville Elementary School meets the Registration Requirements set forth in the Multiple Property Listing. The Post-War School Buildings Property Type includes buildings that were a part of the ongoing consolidation movement of the mid-20th century. These buildings are characterized by the prevalent architectural and educational ideologies of the time, those that were designed to best foster learning for Kentucky's schoolchildren. These buildings' ability to evolve and grow in order to accommodate ongoing needs was paramount. As such, buildings, such as Bonnieville Elementary School, were frequently altered and additions were added. These additions and alterations that occur after 1975 are weighed against the significance of the building, to determine whether the building's significant identity survives in material form. The important question an eligible property must answer in the affirmative is whether the building's physical status today continues to reinforce the significance of local historical educational efforts.

Similar to other rural counties in Kentucky, the educational landscape following World War II drastically changed. This was in large part due to the changing demographics of the area with the return of veterans and the subsequent baby boomer population, as well as the constant improvement of the Commonwealth's infrastructure, coupled with the increasing availability of automobiles for Americans. Of the five elementary schools currently serving Hart County, which in this case refers to public schools offering preschool through eighth grade classes, four were constructed within the Period of Significance of the Multiple Property Listing Historic Public Schools of Kentucky. These elementary schools were built between 1943-1960, with the earliest of these schools being one of the rare examples of a public school being constructed during the war. The fifth active public elementary school in Hart County was constructed in 2007.

In Hart County, the post-war years brought about a new era in public education. In 1945, there were 67 one-room schools within the county, but in less than a decade, all of them had been closed.² During those nine years, there was an intentional effort to consolidate schools. As such,

² The Historic Marker Database, "Hart County One-Room Schools 1945-1946," Electronic Document, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=174340>, accessed October 2024.

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Hart County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

between 1943 and 1948, three consolidated elementary schools were constructed. Over the next couple decades, schools in Hart County remained segregated, despite the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling in 1954. By 1965, however, all schools used for segregated education of African Americans in Hart County were demolished. It was around this time that another elementary school, LeGrande Elementary, was constructed. At this point, there were four consolidated elementary schools in Hart County, geographically placed to accommodate all school-aged students in the county, thus fully realizing the consolidation school model and eliminating the necessity of local rural schools in the area. It is an interesting point that all “elementary” schools in Hart County offer preschool through eighth grade courses, essentially eliminating the need for separate middle schools in the county. While this is not unheard of, it is somewhat unique for an entire county to adopt this approach.

History of Nominated Property

The Bonnieville Elementary School was constructed in 1948, just a few short years after the end of World War II. At this time, Kentucky was rectifying the vast disparities between its city schools and the county schools in the more rural regions. The school consolidation movement began around the turn of the century, but in many of Kentucky’s counties, it was not until after WWII that diligent efforts were made to implement the changes both in physical school construction and ideological evolution of the curriculums and the importance placed on new offerings. Despite the passing of the 1934 School Code, it was not until 1943, which was in itself odd because of the war, that Hart County made moves to consolidate its school buildings. Memorial Elementary School, built in 1943, was the first in the region, but it was closely followed by Bonnieville and Cub Run which covered the county from east to west, respectively.

When Bonnieville Elementary School was built, it was still a relatively small facility, though designed with the contemporary education-focused architectural ideologies in mind. The original school was a simple one-story, rectangular building with bands of windows, allowing for adequate lighting, and most importantly, designed in a way to allow for ease of growth as needs arose. Within the first decade of its existence, the building experienced two additions to the south, the first of which included the modern entrance, designated as such by the central recessed entryway with a projecting roof covering. Less than a decade later, another addition grew from the building, this time to the north and east, which was shortly followed by the large, projecting addition off the southern façade, one that extended further toward Dixie Highway, which, due to the grade change, allowed for a two-story presence in the historic school.

This pattern, of a series of additions to the original school plant, is emblematic of the significance of the new county consolidated schools, as they were designed with that precise purpose in mind. As opposed to the larger schools of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries that focused on grandeur and portraying a sense of high-style academia, the new schools recognized that the largest downfall to those earlier schoolhouses was their inability to adapt to the growing and often unpredictable needs of local education. The new school designs sought to remedy that by utilizing simple forms, simple materials, and consistent designs on a sprawling building that allowed for additions to be easily added onto the outer wings and, less commonly, the rear of the building.

The years of Bonnieville Elementary School’s growth align with the major social and demographic changes that were occurring statewide, namely as the baby boomer population entered elementary

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Hart County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

age and following the desegregation of schools. Although Hart County school populations remained predominantly white, the closure of the few African American schoolhouses in the county meant that the existing County schools had to expand to accommodate.

Since the Period of Significance, around the turn of the twenty-first century, another addition has been added to the north end of the building, projecting toward the road to match the southern addition, giving the school as a whole a “U” shaped appearance. There have also been additions as well as the construction of ancillary buildings to the rear, in addition to recreational fields and structures including playgrounds, storage buildings, and a baseball field.

Throughout its existence, the Bonnieville Elementary School has been designed and constructed architecturally to meet the contemporary requirements of public education and has grown to accommodate growing populations and increased needs. It has remained a valuable resource in Kentucky public school education and a testament to the mid-twentieth century ideologies ensuring that the design of schools could adapt with growing needs, provide an ideal learning environment for students, and be easily accessible by all students in the surrounding district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

The Historic Marker Database, “Hart County One-Room Schools 1945-1946,” Electronic Document, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=174340>, accessed October 2024.

Kentucky Department of Education, Office of Finance and Operations, Division of District Support, District Facilities Branch, *Hart County School District Facility Plan*. February 2020.

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.)

United States Department of the Interior. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. (Washington D.C.: United States Department of the Interior, 1995) 46.

United States Geological Survey (USGS). *Upton, KY. 7.5-minute Topographic Map*. United States Geological Survey, 1979.

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

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): HT 1353

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.4 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 37.381305 Longitude: -85.902606

Verbal Boundary Description

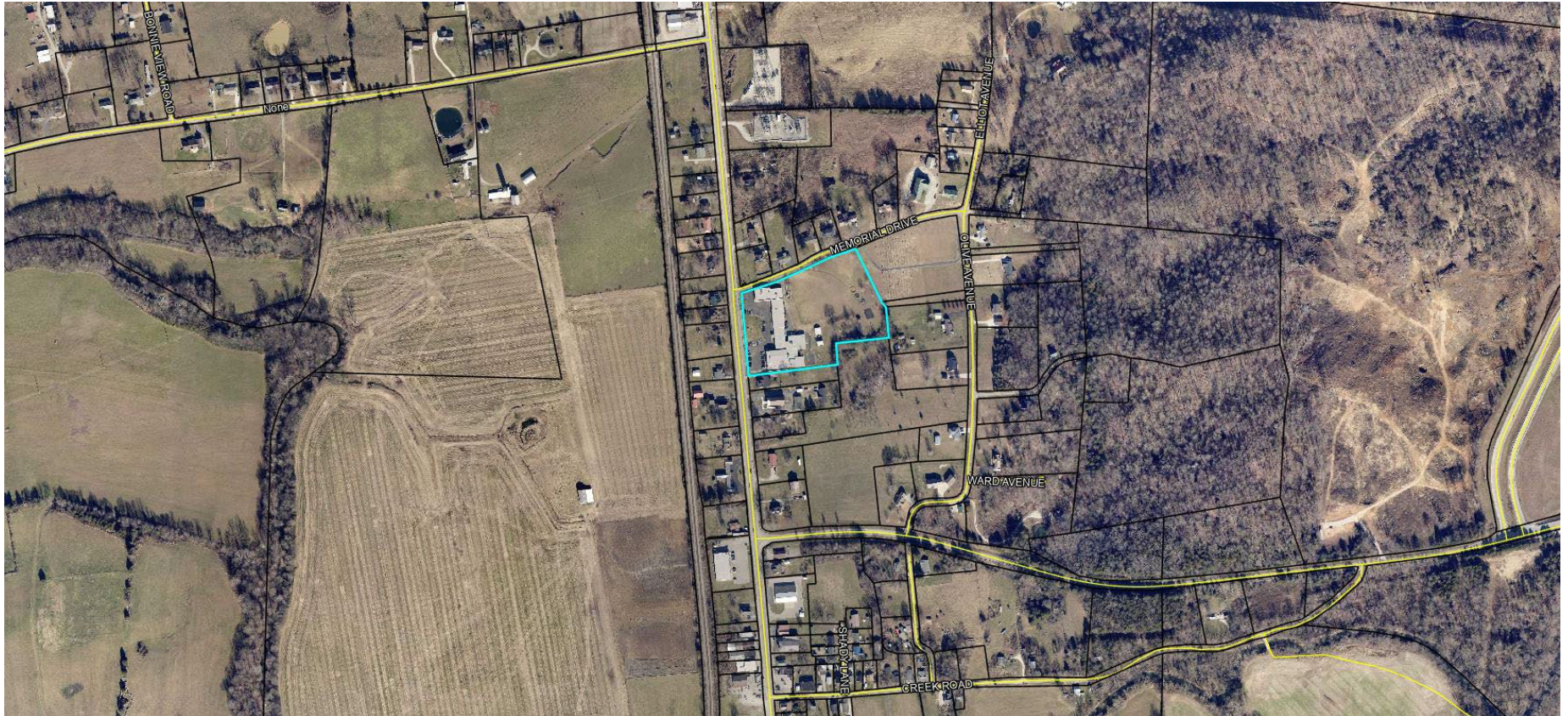
The boundary of the Bonnieville Elementary School includes the entire legal parcel on which the school is located (see map which follows the Boundary Justification). The property is roughly bounded by Memorial Park Drive to the north, Bonnieville Memorial Park Cemetery to the east, the building and property at 7846 North Dixie Highway to the south, and North Dixie Highway (US 31) to the west.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the entirety of the property historically and currently associated with Bonnieville Elementary School.

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State



Parcel Map Courtesy of Hart County, KY PVA

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

Property Owner:

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

name Hart County School Board
street & number 25 Quality Street Telephone _____
city or town Munfordville state Kentucky zip code 42765

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: 1131 Logan Street
city or town: Louisville state: Kentucky zip code: 40204
e-mail: wcunningham@pinionadvisors.com
telephone: 502-807-0575
date: October 2024

name/title: Michael Langmyer, MHP
organization: Architectural Historian
e-mail: langmyer94@gmail.com
date: October 2024

Additional Documentation

- **Maps** (submitted as separate PDF documents):
 - A **USGS map** or equivalent indicating the property's location.
 - **Property Valuation Administrator map** showing the full property's boundary (may differ from the boundary proposed for listing)
 - **District sketch map** (all district nominations; any single listing with 3 or more features)
 - **Photograph Identification Map** (all districts, recommended for any nomination)
- **Floor Plan** for Kentucky properties nominated according to Criterion C
- **Survey Form:** All properties must be surveyed on KHC Individual Resources form. Sites surveyed more than 5 years ago must be re-surveyed.
- **Photographs:** 2 sets. Official set (each image 6MB or larger) named according to NR naming convention; Small set (each image 100-200 KB). Submit as .jpg files
- **Presentation:** Short PowerPoint or video presentation of your property for Review Board

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)

Hart County, Kentucky

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Bonnieville Elementary School

City or Vicinity: Bonnieville

County: Hart County

State: Kentucky

Photographer: Joe Pierson

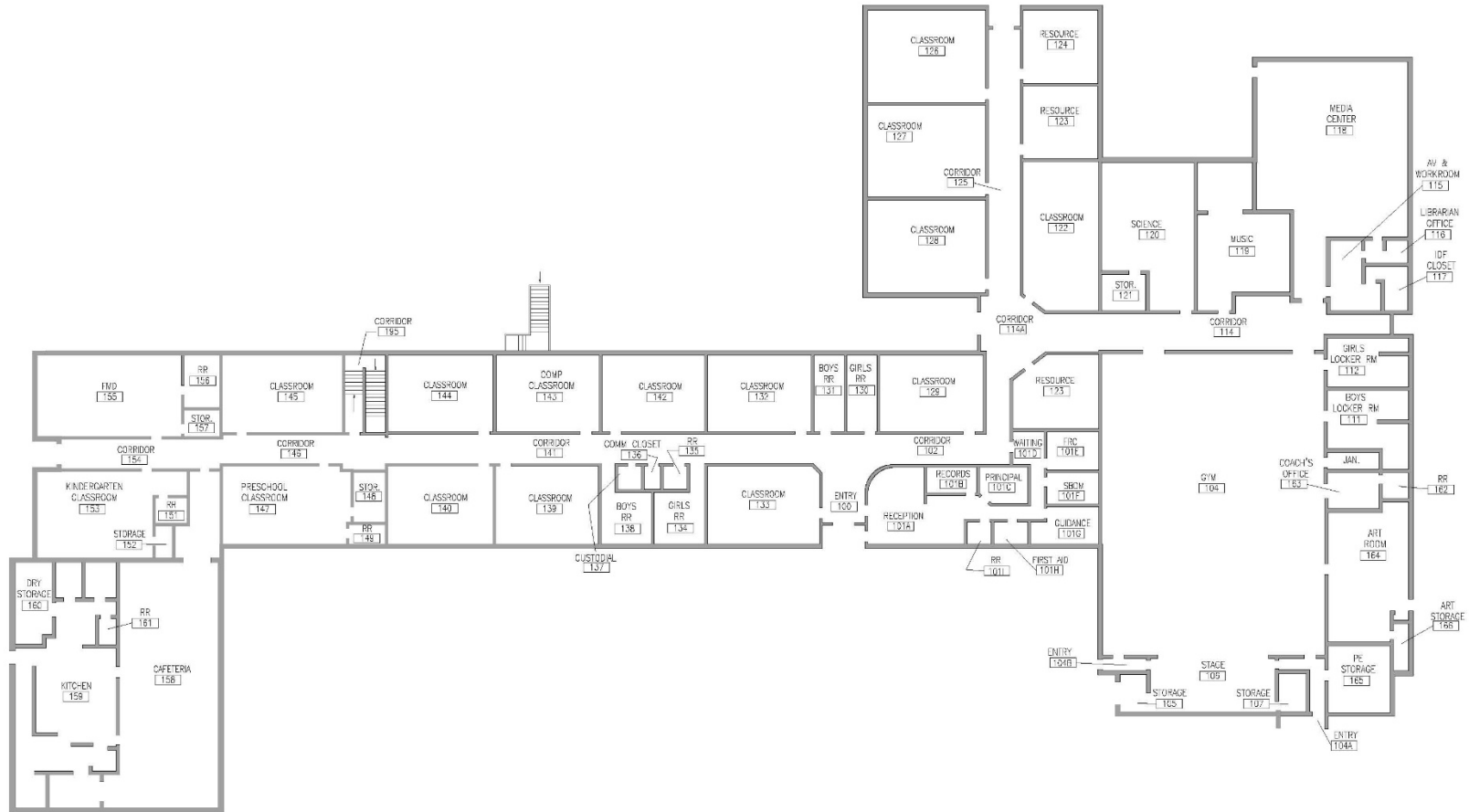
Date Photographed: December 2024

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

- 1 of 20: View of Bonnieville Elementary School, camera facing east.
- 2 of 20: View of southern addition, camera facing east.
- 3 of 20: View of Bonnieville Elementary School, camera facing northeast.
- 4 of 20: View of Bonnieville Elementary School, camera facing southeast.
- 5 of 20: View of Bonnieville Elementary School, camera facing southwest.
- 6 of 20: Detail of the entryway, camera facing northeast.
- 7 of 20: Detail of windows, camera facing northeast.
- 8 of 20: View of interior hallway, camera facing north.
- 9 of 20: View of interior hallway, camera facing north.
- 10 of 20: View of interior classroom, camera facing east.
- 11 of 20: View of the librarian's office, camera facing west.
- 12 of 20: View of the music room, camera facing northeast.
- 13 of 20: View of the cafeteria, camera facing south.
- 14 of 20: View of the media room, camera facing northeast.
- 15 of 20: View of the gymnasium, camera facing east.
- 16 of 20: View of interior single-person restroom, camera facing west.
- 17 of 20: View of interior restroom, camera facing east.
- 18 of 20: View of interior restroom with mural, camera facing west.
- 19 of 20: View of server closet, camera facing east.
- 20 of 20: View of custodial closet, camera facing west.

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State



① Bonnieville Elementary School

Bonnieville Elementary School (Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPS)
Name of Property

Hart County, Kentucky
County and State

