

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cub Run Elementary School

Other names/site number: HT 1355

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

2. Location

Street & number: 170 E. Gap Hill Rd.

City or town: Cub Run State: Kentucky County: Hart

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

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 _____ _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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	
1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	_____	Total

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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

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Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

Cub Run Elementary School (HT 1355) is a two-story consolidated school constructed in 1948 and located at 170 E. Gap Hill Rd, in Cub Run, Kentucky (Figure 1). Cub Run is a small, unincorporated community in the western portion of Hart County, centered at the intersection of Cub Run Highway (KY 88) and E. Gap Hill Road, just north of Mammoth Cave National Park. The school is situated on the west side of E. Gap Hill Road, roughly 800 feet south of the intersection of that road and Cub Run Highway. The property includes approximately 5 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

Cub Run Elementary School is just south of the intersection of E. Gap Hill Rd. and Cub Run Highway, around which is the only really consistent development in the area, consisting primarily of single-family homes and a couple commercial properties. The land around the school and the neighboring houses and businesses is almost entirely undeveloped, dense forest. The school's property consists of parking lots along E. Gap Hill Rd both to the east and northeast of the building, as well as parking and paved areas to the south and west. To the north, south, and west, there are large patches of open grassland, some of which appears to have been previously used as a baseball field while other areas are used for other modern recreational activities. The elementary school has had several additions since its construction, expanding the building's footprint and effectiveness.

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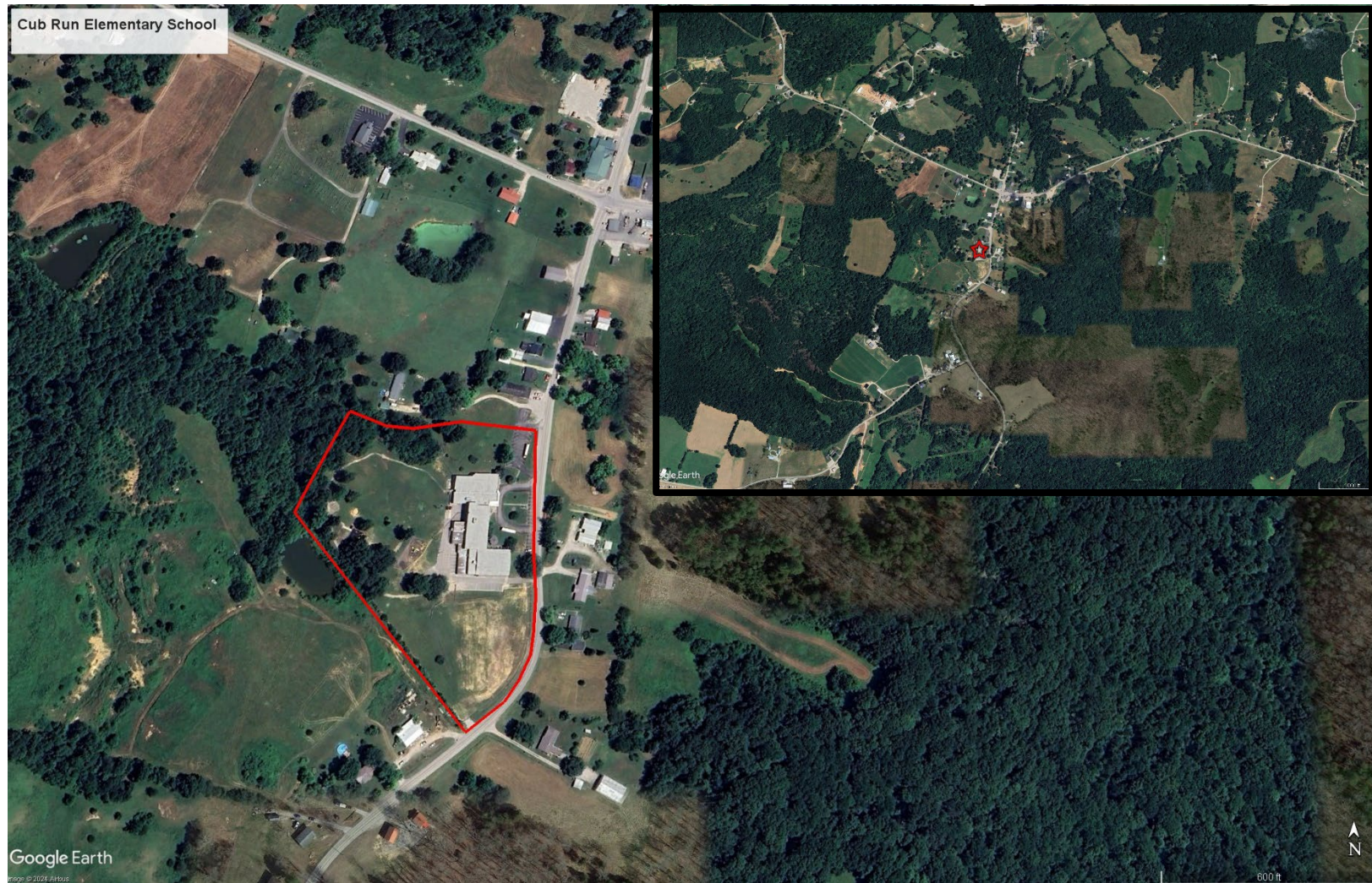


Figure 1. Boundaries of Cub Run Elementary School, as shown on an aerial map (Google Earth). Location relative to the surrounding area can be seen in the insert corner callout

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Description of Resource

Exterior

The Cub Run Elementary School is a one to two story building constructed with a concrete foundation, brick veneer exterior, with a flat roof clad with a built-up roof. The north portion of the building is one story while the center and southern end of the building are two stories. The main entryway is located on the one-story portion of the building with a covered entryway that wraps around a corner. The covered entryway is constructed before metal posts with a flat roof. The two-story portion of the building is set back from the northern end and has bands of concrete along the exterior. The windows of the building are fixed metal windows that are stacked in groups of three. The southern end of the building is the gymnasium with a concrete foundation, a light-colored brick exterior cladding, and a arched roof. (Photos 1 through 5).



Photo 1, Cub Run School facing west



Photo 2, school facing southwest



Photo 3, school facing southeast



Photo 4, school facing west

Interior

The building's main entryway is located on the east elevation connected to the looped driveway. The interior of the entryway has a poured concrete floor that was likely covered by vinyl tiles that have since been removed and a mixture of brick and glass walls (Photo 6). The vinyl tile

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ghosting is prominent on the concrete floors. There are two doorways out of this entryway, one leading to the main portion of the building and the second leading into the reception area. The reception area has vinyl plank flooring, a mix of glass walls and drywall, and a drop ceiling. The glass areas have metal frames with wired glass panels (Photo 7). This area contains the front desk, a kitchenette, a bathroom, and a storage area (Photo 8). Also in this space is the principal's office, which is a single room with carpet flooring, concrete block and drywall walls, and a drop ceiling (Photo 9).

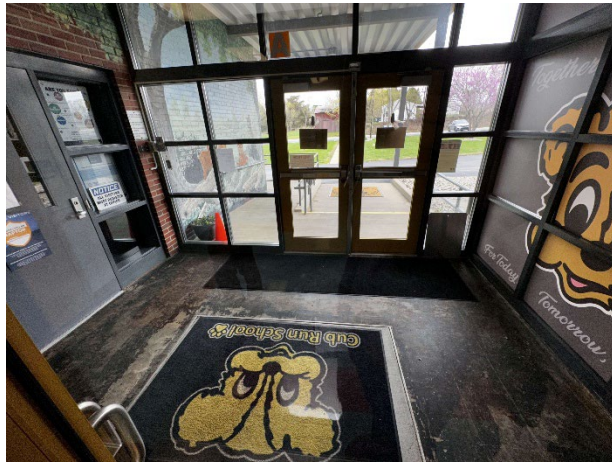


Photo 6, entryway

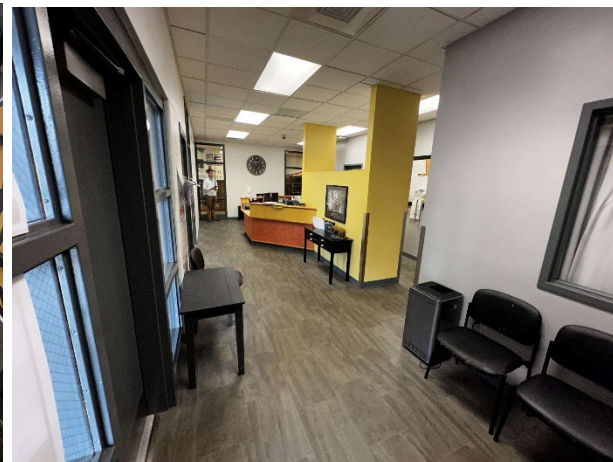


Photo 7, administrative area

The primary hallways of the Cub Run Elementary School are constructed of vinyl tile flooring, concrete block walls, and a drop ceiling (Photo 10). The hallway that connects the main entryway to the main hallway of the school has a ramp with a slight raise to allow access to the main hallway. Behind this ramp is a staircase that leads to a lower level of the building. There are two staircases within the building, each with rubber tread stairs with a simple metal banister in the center and metal handrails along the walls (Photo 11).

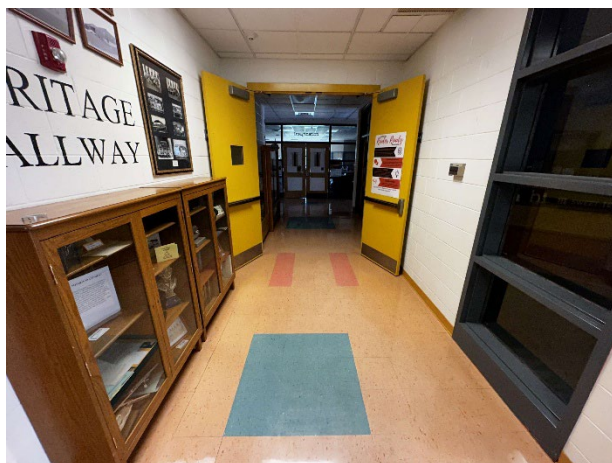


Photo 10, hallway

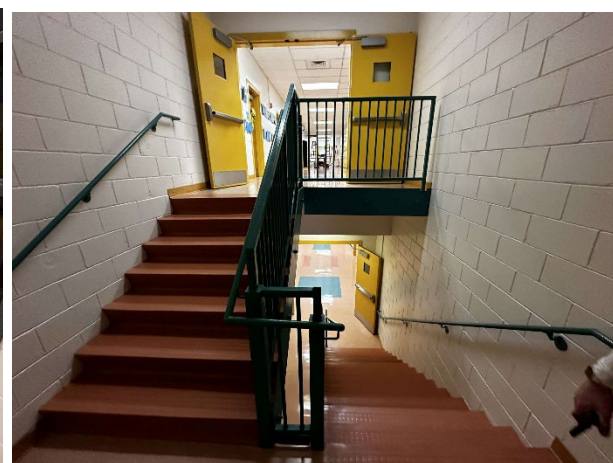


Photo 11, stairway

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There are three main hallways that run through the school with one across the top of the L running east to west (Photo 12) the central hallway through the building running north and south (Photo 13), and one running north south along the bottom portion of the building. These hallways connect to classrooms, a cafeteria, a media room, bathrooms, storage areas, and other functional spaces. The majority of these spaces are constructed of vinyl plank flooring to replicate hardwood, concrete block walls or drywall, and a drop ceiling (Photo 14). Additional materials used include tile flooring in the cafeteria, vinyl tiles in storage spaces, and ceramic tiles in the bathrooms (Photos 15 and 16).



Photo 14, classroom



Photo 15, cafeteria

The building retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association as it has been used continuously as a school for the Cub Run community. The use of different materials and renovations completed on the school over the course of its history enforces these aspects to ensure its continued use. The building does lack integrity of materials and workmanship from those renovations and changes; however, the building retains its overall integrity through its use and function as a school.

Changes to the Property Since the Period of Significance

Cub Run 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. Many of the school's additions were done during the

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.

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Period of Significance, with the exception of the last small addition on the north end of the building and to the rear of the building, including a renovation from 2000 that included the addition of a media center, additional classrooms, an elevator, and computer center.² The two-story portion of the building is original and the gym and one-story entryway projection were all constructed during the Period of Significance. It is unclear if the gym was constructed before the current school, as there was a one-room school in the area previously, or concurrently, but as early as 1951, the gym and the two-story original portion of the school were present. Despite the material changes to the building, namely the most recent additions that occurred after the Period of Significance and other alterations to the building's material, the building still retains sufficient integrity and meets the Registration Requirements set forth in the Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPD.

² 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.

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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
1948-1975

Cultural Affiliation
NA

Significant Dates
1948

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Cub Run Elementary School (HT 1355) is locally significant within the historic context, Public Schools in Kentucky 1800-1975, as outlined in the Historic Public Schools of Kentucky MPD, 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 Cub Run 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.

Cub Run 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 Cub Run 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.³ During those nine years, there was an intentional effort to consolidate schools. As such, 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*

³ The Historic Marker Database, "Hart County One-Room Schools 1945-1946," Electronic Document, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=174340>, accessed October 2024.

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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 Cub Run 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 Cub Run 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 two-story, rectangular building with several 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 underwent several changes and occupied an area that has not changed much since. In 1960, the two-story portion of the building was present along with the southern gym and the northern, one-story projection, although it was not as expansive as it is today. In the years since, there has been another one-story addition off the north end of the building as well as small projections off the rear of the building.

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.

Throughout its existence, the Cub Run 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

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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.

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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.

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.

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). *Cub Run, KY. 7.5-minute Topographic Map*. United States Geological Survey, 1966.

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: _____

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): HT 1355

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 37.302790 Longitude: -86.061663

Verbal Boundary Description

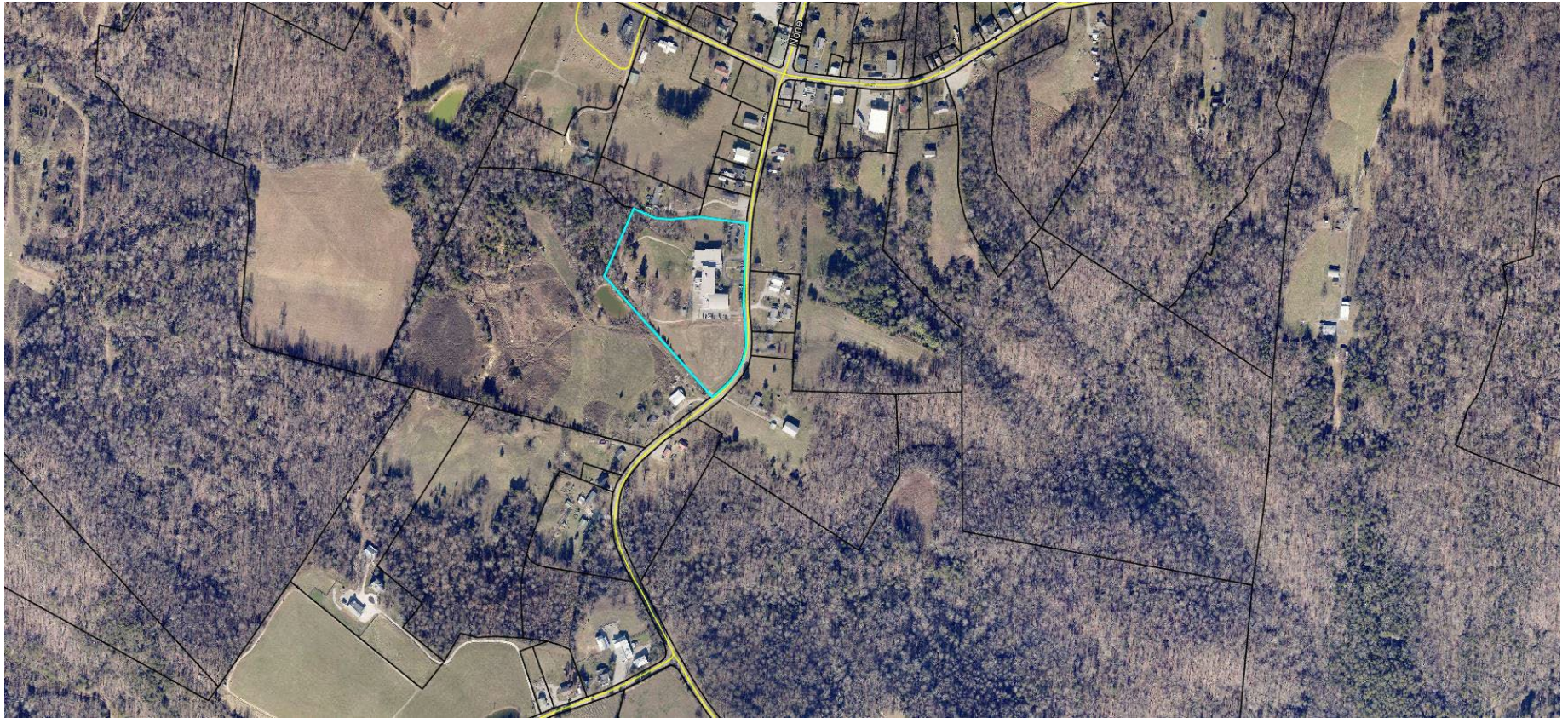
The boundary of the Bonnieville Elementary School includes the entire legal parcel on which the school is located. Beginning at the southern tip of the property, where the line of trees meets E. Gap Hill Road, proceeding northwest roughly 775 feet, then continuing northeast approximately 320 feet, then continuing east to E. Gap Hill Road, then continuing along the western side of the roadway to the point of the beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

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

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Parcel Map Courtesy of Hart County, KY PVA

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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: December 2024

name/title: Michael Langmyer, MHP

organization: Architectural Historian

e-mail: langmyer94@gmail.com

date: December 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

Photographs

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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: Cub Run Elementary School

City or Vicinity: Cub Run

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 16: View of Cub Run Elementary School, camera facing west.
- 2 of 16: View of Cub Run Elementary School, camera facing southwest.
- 3 of 16: View of Cub Run Elementary School, camera facing southeast.
- 4 of 16: View of Cub Run Elementary School, camera facing west.
- 5 of 16: View of Cub Run Elementary School, camera facing north.
- 6 of 16: View of interior entryway, camera facing east.
- 7 of 16: View of interior reception area, camera facing south.
- 8 of 16: View of interior reception area, camera facing north.
- 9 of 16: View of principal's office, camera facing east.
- 10 of 16: View of interior hallway, camera facing north.
- 11 of 16: View of interior stairway, camera facing south.
- 12 of 16: View of interior hallway, camera facing west.
- 13 of 16: View of interior hallway, camera facing south.
- 14 of 16: View of classroom, camera facing southeast.
- 15 of 16: View of the cafeteria, camera facing south.
- 16 of 16: View of restroom, camera facing west.

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