

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

Historic name Douglass School
Other names/site number N/A
Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

2. Location

Street & number 215 W. 16th Street N/A not for publication
City or town Higginsville N/A vicinity
State Missouri Code MO County Lafayette Zip Code 64037

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Bu K R DEPUTY SHPO 1-23-23
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Douglass School
Name of Property

Lafayette, County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE
walls: BRICK

roof: METAL: Tin; ASPHALT
other: _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Douglass School
Name of Property

Lafayette, County, Missouri
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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): _____

Areas of Significance

Education

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance

1925-1955

Significant Dates

1925

1955

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Abt, Ludwig (Moberly, MO) architect

Page, Ed (Marshall, MO) builder

Douglass School
Name of Property

Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1 39.078610 -93.720770 3 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

2 _____ 4 _____
Latitude: Longitude: Latitude: Longitude:

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____ NAD 1927 or _____ NAD 1983

1 _____
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (On continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (On continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judy Lindquist

organization Douglass School Project date 9/16/2022

street & number 283 Glen Valley Drive telephone 636-357-5209

city or town Chesterfield state MO zip code 63017

e-mail cjjslind@charter.net

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
 - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Douglass School
Name of Property

Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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: Douglass School

City or Vicinity: Higginsville

County: Lafayette State: Missouri

Photographer: Greg Benton unless otherwise noted.

Date Greg Benton photographs taken August 19, 2022.
Photographed: 310 taken January 14, 2023. 1, 5, 6, and 13 taken September 29, 2022

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

Photo Key; Figure 18.

- 1 of 18 Douglass School lot (facing southeast) warehouse located east of lot. (taken by Judy Lindquist) (p. 2)
- 2 of 18 Douglass School east/front elevation (facing northwest) (pages 2, 3)
- 3 of 18 Douglass School east/front elevation (facing west) pp. 2, 3)
- 4 of 18 Douglass School entrance (Travis Benton, former Douglass student) (facing west) (p. 3)
- 5 of 18 Douglass School roof (facing south) (taken by Judy Lindquist) (pp. 1, 3)
- 6 of 18 Douglass School showing roofline and nearby warehouse (taken by Judy Lindquist) (facing northwest) (p. 3)
- 7 of 18 Douglass School north (right) elevation platform/stage (facing southwest) (p. 3)
- 8 of 18 Douglass School north (right) elevation platform/stage (facing south) (p. 3)
- 9 of 18 Douglass School south/left elevation (facing northeast) (p. 3)
- 10 of 18 Douglass School west/rear elevation (facing southeast) (taken by Doug Booker) (p. 4)
- 11 of 18 Douglass School rear/lower level west entrance (west elevation) (facing east) (p. 4)
- 12 of 18 Douglass School north stairway (from entryway) (facing north) (p. 4)
- 13 of 18 Douglass School north stairway (from lower level) (facing south) (taken by Judy Lindquist) (p. 4)
- 14 of 18 Douglass School library (northeast corner of building main level) showing interior of windows (facing northeast) (pp. 3, 4)
- 15 of 18 Douglass School library sealed window (facing east) (p. 3)
- 16 of 18 Douglass School "girls" room/lunch room (southwest corner of lower level) (facing south) (p. 5)
- 17 of 18 Douglass School main level classroom—repaired beam (facing southwest) (p. 5)
- 18 of 18 Douglass School main level classroom—condition of floors, windows, ceiling (facing west) (p. 5)

Douglass School

Name of Property

Lafayette County, Missouri

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Figure Log:

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

Figure 1. Contextual map. Source: Mapcarta. 2022 (pp. 1, 8, 9)

Figure 2. Site map. Source: Google Maps. 2022 (p. 1)

Figure 3. Blueprint, front (1/2) and rear (1/2) elevations of Douglass School. Source: Louis Abt, 1925 (p. 3)

Figure 4. Blueprint, end elevations of Douglass School. Source: Louis Abt, 1925 (p. 3)

Figure 5. Blueprint Main floor Douglass School. Source: Louis Abt, 1925 (p. 4) (current layout)

Figure 6. Blueprint lower level Douglass School. Source: Louis Abt. 1925. (pp. 4, 5) (current layout)

Figure 7. Douglass School students and portion of original building erected 1886 (photo c. 1916.)

Source: Western Historical Manuscript Collection (pp. 7, 12)

Figure 8. Map of Little Dixie. Source: Wikipedia (pp. 7, 8)

Figure 9. Federal census 1860.(p. 9)

Figure 10. Historic areas of Higginsville map. Source: Show-Me Regional Planning Commission,1982. (p. 8)

Figure 11. Salary schedule for Higginsville teachers 1915-1916. Source: Lafayette County C-1 School District, 1915. (p. 11)

Figure 12. Salary schedule for Higginsville teachers 1920-21. Source: Lafayette County C-1 School District, 1920. (p. 11)

Figure 13. Report of state supervisor of Negro schools (1943). Source: *76th Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of Missouri for School Year Ending 6/30/1925*. 1925 (p. 12)

Figure 14. Teachers Marie Jordan (primary), Sophronia Woods (intermediate), John Roberson (high school) on steps of Douglass School. (c. 1948) Source: Travis Benton (p. 13)

Figure 15. Graph-Population percentage of African Americans in Higginsville during period of significance (p. 13)

Figure 16. Graph-Douglass School Enrollment 1926-1955 (p. 13)

Figure 17. Flyer. Source: Higginsville Advance. 1921.(p. 14)

Figure 18. Photo key. Survey of property for Douglass School. Source: Nolte Land Surveying. 2022. (p. 19)

Figure 19. St. James AME Church facing south from 16th Street (p. 8)

Figure 20. Interior view of stage area (facing north) (p. 4)

National Register of Historic Places
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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SUMMARY

Douglass School, a Prairie style building, is located at 215 W. 16th Street in Higginsville, Lafayette County, Missouri. (Figures 1 and 2) It was designed by Ludwig Abt of Moberly, Missouri, and completed in the fall of 1925.

The school is a brick two-story rectangular 64'10" x 32'10" building with split level entry and a low hipped roof with wide eaves. A small enclosed gable crowns the original entrance with transom. The entrance is reached by a set of concrete stairs. At the eaves the entry is framed by two brackets at each side, and brackets are present under the eaves at each corner. The facade is bisected by recessed vertical wooden paneling (believed to be original). The main level 3/1 windows are original, although most have sustained damage. Lower level windows have been replaced with storm windows to prevent further damage to the interior. Stucco panels framed by wood separate the windows at both levels. The property is sited in a residential area and has a larger setback from its neighboring properties with a generous front lawn and backyard. The school is shaded by mature trees. Character defining features include the fenestration pattern of the main level windows, roof profile, decorative exterior features such as the brackets and gable. Likewise, the original entrance, stage and interior spaces related to educational activities such as classroom space, and the girls' and boys' playrooms are considered significant features.

The lower level housed the lunchroom and woodworking shop, as well as the boiler room and restrooms. The main level was one large room, which could be divided into classrooms with an accordion door (stored on the premises). Also included on the main level are two small rooms, one the principal's office, and the other a library. An enclosed platform extending out from the north end of the building was used as a stage for plays and assemblies.

The building has had few changes to its design. In about 1960 the south stairway was removed. The original heating system was taken out. Bathroom fixtures are gone. Most of the asphalt roof has been replaced with tin. (Photo 5) The footprint of the building is the same as when it was designed and built in 1925. Changes are largely due to deterioration such as broken windows and interior environmental damage to the floors, ceilings, and walls. However, these do not impact the property's ability to convey its historic significance; the school retains integrity.

SETTING

Higginsville is in Lafayette County, Missouri, and is about 40 miles east of Kansas City and five miles north of Interstate 70. Lafayette County was part of the territory once known as Little Dixie because of the large number of enslaved people in the area. Douglass School is located in one of three historically African American neighborhoods of Higginsville. The primarily residential neighborhood containing Douglass School is bounded on the north by 16th Street, to the west by Spruce, on the south by 19th street, and the eastern boundary is Walnut (Figure 1). A warehouse was built about twenty yards to the northeast across the alley from Douglass and stands between the school and nearby St. James AME Church. (Figures 2 and 19) The warehouse

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Douglass School
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N/A
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was erected on what was once the outdoor basketball court for Douglass School and is not currently part of Douglass School property.¹ Since it no longer retains any visual association with Douglass School it is excluded from the boundary. The .29 acre lot is on a 178' gravel/dirt alley (north to south) that joins 16th and 17th Streets, and is bounded by a private residence about fifty yards to the south, private shed about 30 yards to the west, grassy area (part of Douglass School property) between building and 16th Street on the north, and the warehouse to the east. (Photo 1). The building stands about 15 feet to the west of the alley and is about halfway between 16th and 17th Streets. It is the only structure on the lot. The school has a larger setback than its neighboring properties, with a large side and back yard. The school is shaded by mature trees. Many of the homes along 16th and 17th Streets were standing during the period of significance. A handful of nearby residences were built more recently in the 1960's and 1970's. A storage building for Higginsville Special Road District is located to the north of the school across 16th Street.

The front entrance faces east toward the alley.

EXTERIOR

Douglass School is a two-story Prairie School style building with a reinforced concrete foundation and a hipped, tin roof (originally asphalt shingles) and split level entry (Photos 2 and 3). The brick work is running bond. The windows have continuous lintels and sills. Six concrete steps lead up to a stoop in front of the original wooden multi-light double entry doors with multi-light side lights. The property features historic wooden 3/1 windows on the main floor. Most are broken. The lower level windows have been replaced to prevent further damage to the interior. The roof line extends out from the building 3' around the entire perimeter and has decorative smooth-surfaced brackets framing the entry (2 on each side) and all four corners of the building. The brick terminates at a stucco course beneath the eave. Beneath each bracket is a descending square stucco detail. There is a small enclosed gable at the roofline over the entrance that has stucco in the pediment. The dimensions of the school are 64'10" feet by 32'10" feet. The main floor also features an original enclosed platform with a flat roof measuring 6'5" by 17' extending out from the building at the north end. It is supported by two non-historic 2 x 4's and two historic 6" x 6" diagonal wood braces² and is constructed of metal lath with stucco. This platform provided an indoor stage area for the students.³ The floor on the main level is edge grooved yellow pine. It is badly damaged.

The original blueprints call for windows on either side of the existing window panels on the front and rear elevations. The former owner and several former students were consulted, and none remembers windows in those locations. Window frames are visible from the interior, but they are

¹ Benton, Travis. Interview. Conducted by Judy Lindquist. Benton Hall, Higginsville, Missouri, September 29, 2022.

² Abt, Ludwig. Douglass School blueprints. Higginsville, MO Board of Education, May 19, 1925.

³ Roundtable discussion. Former Douglass School students. Benton Hall, 1806 Walnut, Higginsville, MO, February 11, 2022

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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

tightly sealed (Photos 14 and 15). It seems they may have been covered early in the life of the building, or perhaps at the time of construction.

Both the lower and main levels are above ground.

PRIMARY (EAST) ELEVATION (Photos 2 and 3, Figure 3)

The entrance of Douglass School faces east. The front of the building is symmetrical with an entryway in the center, and two window banks on each side. (Photos 2-3) There is one 20' wide enclosed gable over the doors. The double entry wooden doors are each 2'6" x 7' 6". (Photo 4) Each has six window lights on the upper half. On either side of the doors are sidelight panels which also have six window lights but are narrower than the entry doors. A three-section transom is situated over the door. The two outer sections of the transom are directly above (and the same width as) the sidelight panels, and have four lights each. The middle section is one piece above the two entry doors and has 12 window panes.

The window banks are centered on each half of the building on either side of entry. They extend vertically from the foundation concrete to the ceiling line. Each set features two lower level (6/1) windows and two main level windows (3/1) (about eight feet above foundation). They are wood-framed and are separated by stucco on metal lath over sheeting on 2" x 6" studs. There are two wood panels on each side of the window banks that cover original inset stucco panels, and they are separated from window banks by 18" of brick from foundation to roof line. These panels are original decorative features of stucco on metal lath over wood, and do not cover historic windows. They are currently protected by wood paneling. (Photos 2, 3 6, and Figure 3) The windows of the lower level have been covered with storm windows to prevent further damage to the interior until restoration can be completed.

Six concrete steps lead up to a 10' wide x 4' stoop in front of the entry. The brick knee walls supporting the stairs are 5" x 11" and stand 12" high above platform. (Photo 4)

The asphalt shingle roof has mostly been replaced with tin in 2022 to prevent further damage to the interior. (Photos 5 and 6)

NORTH AND SOUTH ELEVATIONS

The north elevation is identical to the south except for the enclosed platform (described above) attached to the north elevation (Figure 4). There is a boarded window opening on each side of the platform. (Photos 7 and 8). Two of the four original braces supporting the projecting stage have been replaced with modern supports.

The south elevation is blind and the concrete foundation is visible. (Photo 9)

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Douglass School
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Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

WEST (REAR) ELEVATION

There is no change in grade from front to back. Both main floor and lower level windows are visible as in front. There are four window panels grouped together in the middle of each half of the building on this elevation. (Photo 10). The building is vertically bisected by a projecting brick flue; the chimney was removed above the roofline after being damaged by wind (date unknown per Travis Benton, former owner). The back of the building is very similar to the front. The basement windows are 6/1, and upper windows are 6/1. Once again the upper and lower windows are separated by panels of stucco on metal lath over wood. On the outer edges of the window panels are wood boards separated vertically from the windows by brick. These boards cover original window frames. They do not cover historic windows (see comment pp. 2-3). The lower level windows on the south side of the building have been covered by storm windows to prevent further damage until restoration can be completed.

An original wood door is located just north of the centered chimney. It is currently protected by a tin panel. Above the door and extending to the ceiling line is another panel of stucco on metal lath over wood that is covered by plywood panels. (Photo 11)

To the south/right of the flue is the coal chute to the boiler room (Photo 10). Above the coal chute is another paneled window opening. And to the north/left is an exterior doorway into the boiler room.

INTERIOR

Inside the double entry doors is a landing with a stairway (oak treads) to the right leading to the basement. (Photos 12 and 13; Figures 5 and 6) An identical stairway to the left has been removed. Two steps directly in front of entry door lead through another doorway up to a hallway running north to south. A wall (north to south) separates the corridor from the classrooms on the main floor. The oak used for the landing has rotted, and has been temporarily replaced with plywood.

The main floor of the school (Figure 5) comprises one large room which was originally divided into two classrooms created by using an accordion door. The accordion door (currently stored in the basement) was retracted so all students could see the stage area (described above) during assemblies and plays.⁴ (Figure 20). The north classroom was for grades 1-8 and the south classroom was for high school students. In 1936 the elementary grades were separated and a partition divided the north classroom into two rooms (Grades 1-6 and 7-8).⁵

A library was maintained in a room at northeast corner of the main level at the end of the corridor to the right. This 15'6" x 13' room and an identical room at the southeast corner of the

⁴ Roundtable *ibid*.

⁵ "Douglass School Serves Negroes Until Integration Begins in 1955." *The Higginsville Advance*, ND.

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N/A
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main floor (used for the principal's office) are listed as cloak rooms on the original blueprints. It is doubtful they were ever used for that purpose.⁶ (Photo 14)

Floors are mostly edge grooved yellow pine. There is an 8" wood base.

The stairway to the right of the entry landing leads down to what was the boys' corridor and toilet (northeast corner of building). The stairs to the left leading down to girls' corridor and toilet (southeast corner of building) were removed by Hoefer Interiors during their ownership of the building (about 1960). A wall running the length of the building and parallel to the front of the school to the left at the bottom of the stairs separates the corridor from three areas: the boys' play room/shop (northwest corner), boiler room in the middle, and girls' play room (southwest corner) The girls' play room also served as the lunchroom.⁷ (Photo 16; Figure 6)

There is extensive water damage to the floors, ceiling, and walls of the main level. (Photos 17 and 18).

The basement is mostly unfinished and has concrete floors. The boiler room is enclosed by 9" brick walls. The walls of the lower level class/lunch rooms are plaster on metal lath, and will need repair.

INTEGRITY

Douglass School remains in its original location at 215 W 16th Street in Higginsville. The only alteration as far as materials is that the asphalt roof has been replaced by tin. Four sets of historic windows on the lower level are protected by storm windows until restoration can be completed. The door on the rear elevation has been clad in metal and the inset vertical stucco panels have been boarded. The south inside stairway leading to the lower level was removed, and the original heating system has been taken out. The chimney (above the roofline) was removed after being damaged by wind (date unknown). All bathroom fixtures have been removed. The original accordion room divider, blackboards, and several original desks are stored in the basement. Other than the removal of the south staircase, no changes have been made to the floor plan. Exterior features, including brickwork, fenestration patterns, and doorways are retained. The materials are original, but need repair. .

Two major structural issues have been remedied. A fallen ceiling beam on the main level has been replaced (Photo 17) and the roof has been repaired to stop further damage from leaks. Two of the original four braces supporting the projecting stage on the north elevation have been replaced with modern supports.

There is, however, significant cosmetic damage to the interior which was a result of the leaking roof. Windows have been broken and floors, walls and ceiling need repair.

⁶ Roundtable, *ibid.*

⁷ Roundtable, *ibid.*

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N/A
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Overall these changes are minimal. Character defining features such as the main level fenestration pattern, exterior detailing, and significant interior spaces are retained. Douglass School is completely recognizable as the building that was erected in the summer of 1925. As discussed below, it is one of two remaining non-residential buildings that served the African American community of Higginsville, Missouri during the period of significance.

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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

SUMMARY

Douglass School is located at 215 W. 16th, Higginsville, Lafayette County, Missouri, and is locally significant under criterion A: Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black. This school was built by Ed Page, designed by Ludwig Abt of Moberly, Missouri, and erected on the site of the original Douglass School (built 1886) (Figure 7). Both were constructed with public funds for the education of Black students during the years of segregation following the Civil War. The original Douglass School was razed in 1925, and the current school building erected on the same site. Higginsville and Lafayette County are located in the territory formerly known as Little Dixie (Figure 8), so named because of its large enslaved population. Douglass School served the African American students of Higginsville grades 1-12 from 1925 (construction) until 1950 (when high school students were bussed to school in Lexington, Missouri), and grades 1-8 only from 1950-1955. The school closed in 1955 when local schools were integrated following the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Douglass School is significant because it was the only place African American children could be educated in Higginsville and the surrounding area. The property was identified in a 1982 architectural survey of the community as a rare surviving historic Black property.⁸ Only two known non-residential buildings representing the Black community during the period of significance still stand in Higginsville. (The other is St. James AME Church located nearby.) The period of significance for Douglass School is from 1925 when it was constructed, to 1955 when local schools were integrated.

ELABORATION

HISTORY OF HIGGINSVILLE AND LAFAYETTE COUNTY

The early settlers of Lafayette County were from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. The area around Higginsville was fertile farm land, and the newcomers cultivated the same crops they had grown in their former areas. Two of these crops were hemp and tobacco. The migrants brought their enslaved people and slave culture with them. The area which would become Higginsville was considered part of the agricultural center of the region, and the farms depended heavily on the labor of enslaved people.⁹

Higginsville, Missouri is located in Lafayette County approximately 40 miles east of Kansas City and five miles north of Interstate 70. The town's "founding father," Harvey Higgins arrived in Lafayette County from Kentucky in 1840.¹⁰ He brought three enslaved people with him. By 1860 he had 19 enslaved workers.¹¹ His obituary states that just before the Civil War he owned 720 acres (raising stock and growing hemp) and 21 enslaved people.¹² On June 24, 1869,

⁸ Bielefeldt V. and Janice McMillan, "Historic and Architectural Survey of Higginsville, Missouri (Part1). Show-Me Regional Planning Commission, September 1982. Pp. 17-18.

⁹ Sellers, Katherine Wilson. *Historical Glimpses of Lexington*, p. 21. The Lexington Library and Historical Association, 1980. p. 16.

¹⁰ Higginsville Chamber of Commerce. *Pictorial History of Higginsville, Missouri 1869-1990*. Heritage House Publishing; May 1991. p. 3.

¹¹ U.S. Census. Slave Schedules, 1860.

¹² "Harvey J. Higgins Dead." *The Higginsville Advance*, October 6, 1893. p. 1.

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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Higgins purchased about 200 acres of land along the newly built Lexington and Sedalia Railroad. He then helped map out a town on that property. At the time, he was 57 years old and had been living in the area for 30 years. Higgins was a farmer, with interests in the railroad and banking. The plat for the town was filed at Lafayette County recorder's office on August 14, 1869.¹³ Higginsville was incorporated in 1876.¹⁴

Leading up to the Civil War, Lafayette County was part of the territory called "Little Dixie." It was so-called because of the high percentage of enslaved people in the area. According to Federal Census records, the state percentage of enslaved persons in 1860 was 10%, but by 1860 Little Dixie counties were enumerated at 20% to 50%. In 1860, the Federal Census shows the enslaved population of Lafayette County to be 6,374. The white population was 13,688, with 36 "free colored" listed (Figure 9). This means nearly 33% of the people in Lafayette County in 1860 were enslaved.

The Lexington and Sedalia Railroad later became a main link in the Missouri Pacific Railroad. A Higginsville post office was established in 1870. The Alton Railroad soon went through Higginsville, and contributed to the growth of the community. Fifteen years after Higginsville was founded, rich, heavy veins of coal were discovered in the area. Coal mining developed into a big industry, and many former enslaved people found employment at the coal mines.¹⁵ In addition to mining, Black residents of Higginsville found work on nearby farms (particularly Hoosier's), the slaughterhouse, and as cooks at restaurants well into the 20th century.¹⁶

As Higginsville developed, three areas in the town were settled by African American families. The first area is bounded by 16th Street and 19th Street on the north and south, and Walnut and Spruce on the east and west. (Figure 10) Douglass School and St. James AME are located within those boundaries. The other two areas are residential. "Camel Road" is located on Hickory Road between 23rd and 24th Streets. And "The Flats" area is bounded on the north by 24th Street, the south by 25th, and Shelby and Oak on the east and west respectively.¹⁷ (Figure 1) According to one current Black resident, those who settled there were former enslaved people and/or their descendants. They moved to the area from outlying farms near Higginsville and Hodge (15 miles to northeast).¹⁸ In 1877 Reverend William Henderson purchased a lot at 200 West 16th for the construction of St. James African Methodist Church (Figure 19). The church had been founded September 28, 1875. The first building burned in 1878, and the current church was built in the same location and dedicated August 7, 1880.¹⁹ Before the original Douglass School was built in 1886, classes for Black children were held in the basement at St. James Church. St. James AME

¹³ Higginsville Chamber of Commerce. Ibid. p. 3.

¹⁴ *History of Lafayette County, Mo.* Missouri Historical Company, 1881. p. 408.

¹⁵ Lethem, Jno. *Historical and Descriptive Review of Missouri*. Ackermann Bros. & Heintze, 1891.

¹⁶ Benton, Travis. Ibid.

¹⁷ Lee, Allan. Interview (driving tour). Conducted by Judy Gover Lindquist, September 29, 2022.

¹⁸ Seals, John. Interview. Conducted by Judy Gover Lindquist. Benton Hall, Higginsville, Missouri, September 29, 2022.

¹⁹ Bielefeldt, V.L. Ibid.

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and Douglass School, and are the only buildings remaining that served the Black community in Higginsville during the period of significance.²⁰ Mount Muncie Cemetery has also served that population, and is located outside Higginsville city limits about two miles south of Douglass School (Figure 1, southeast corner of map). Schools and churches became the center of the Black communities, and represented the unity of that population. They characterized the identity of the people living there.²¹

AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION IN MISSOURI AND HIGGINSVILLE

In the years before 1825 it was the duty of slaveowners with an enslaved apprentice to teach their enslaved laborers reading, writing and math skills. In 1825 a law was enacted which forbade such education. Enslaved apprentices could no longer learn reading, writing, or mathematics. This closed off the enslaved persons' main source of education. In 1847, an ordinance was enacted by the Missouri Secretary of State which totally prohibited the education of enslaved people. "No person shall keep or teach any school for the instruction of Negroes or mulattoes in reading and writing in this State."²² It was believed that an educated enslaved person was dangerous, and would be more inclined to revolt against his or her situation. Anyone found educating an enslaved person was subject to a fine and/or imprisonment.

Following the Civil War in 1865, a new State Constitution was drafted and ratified. Article Nine provided free public schools for all residents between the ages of 5 and 21. This included newly emancipated people. Every township in Missouri was to establish and maintain schools for Black school-age children. In 1866 the state legislature enforced this provision by requiring each township or city board of education in the state to establish and maintain schools for African Americans in jurisdictions where Black school-age children numbered twenty or more. By 1870, Missouri was recognized as the former slave state with the largest proportion of schools for Black children.²³ But the number of available schools available to Black students was still woefully low. In that same year, Missouri was the 21st state to ratify the 15th Amendment to the Constitution. It said that a person's right to vote cannot be denied because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

According to Booker T. Washington, "few people who were not right in the midst of the scenes can form any exact idea of the intense desire which the people of my race showed for education. It was a whole race trying to go to school. Few were too young, and none too old, to make the attempt to learn."²⁴

²⁰ *Continuing the History of Lafayette County, Volume I.* Lafayette County Historical Society, 2002. p. 55.

²¹ Kremer, Gary R. and Brett Rogers. *African American Schools in Rural and Small Town Missouri: The Missouri River Valley.* William Woods University, 1999. p. 4.

²² Act of February 16, 1847, Section 18 1847. Missouri Laws 103.

²³ Kremer, Gary R. *Ibid.* p. 2.

²⁴ DuBois, W.E.B. *Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880.* The Free Press, a Division of Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1998, p. 641

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When Higginsville was platted in 1869, and before the local school district was established, children (both Black and white) from the town walked two miles to Republican School District No. 2 (changed to District No. 47 in 1910). The District was located southeast of Higginsville at the intersection of Republican School Road and Route T, and was consolidated with Higginsville C-01 District in 1951.²⁵ It is not known if there was a separate building for Black students. There is only a record of one schoolhouse in the district. In the early 1870's there was a petition in Higginsville to establish a separate school district, and in 1872, after approval of the township board, Higginsville School District No. 5 was created. Forty white children then attended classes in a home across the street from the Higgins Hotel, located at 1800 Main Street.²⁶ A school for white children was erected in 1878. But the Black children (numbering 8) still walked two miles to school in District No. 2.²⁷

At one time there were twenty schools dedicated to the education of Black students in Lafayette County. Douglass School was the only local school for the students of Higginsville. In nearby Lexington, the establishment of a school for Black students was postponed until 1867 due to lack of funds to pay the teachers. At that time, Black students in Lexington met in the basement of the German Methodist Church on West South Street. The maximum number of students allowed was 40. A high school for Black students was established in Lexington in 1876. A bond issue to build a schoolhouse failed, and in 1877 the District leased a carpenter shop to be used as a school. In 1891 two rooms were added to the First Ward School building in Lexington for the use of Black students.²⁸ And opposition to African American schools in the area was strong. In October of 1911 a Black family in nearby Corder, Missouri (10 miles northeast of Higginsville) was threatened by local residents. The family supported the idea of having a school for Black students in Corder. Shots were fired into the air and explosives were set off. The family moved away from the area shortly thereafter.²⁹

One of the challenges of educating the Black children of Higginsville and in Missouri in general was the training of qualified teachers. The general consensus by both Blacks and whites was that only Black teachers should educate Black children.

There is a prejudice among both whites and Blacks, against white teachers for colored schools. This prejudice is natural, and in full accord with sound reason. Therefore there is being made an energetic effort to educate colored men and women for the profession of teaching.³⁰

²⁵ *History of Lafayette County, Missouri Rural Schools*. Lafayette County Historical Society, 1996. p. 88

²⁶ Harvey Higgins Historical Society (Higginsville, Missouri). Database. Accessed at 2113 South Main Street, Higginsville, MO, September 29, 2022.

²⁷ Higginsville Chamber of Commerce. Ibid.

²⁸ Bell, Leslie H., *Educational Heritage of a Century, A History of the Lexington Public Schools*, Walsworth Publishing Company, Inc., 1962. pp. 15, 18, 22.

²⁹ *Continuing the History of Lafayette County, Volume I*. Lafayette County Historical Society, 2002. p. 7.

³⁰ Coleman, Hon. W.E., State Superintendent of Schools (Missouri). *Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools*. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1883.

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In 1870 Lincoln Institute in Jefferson City, Missouri, began receiving funds from the State of Missouri for the training of Black teachers. The Institute had been established by former slaves who served in the 62nd United States Colored Infantry. These soldiers had learned reading, writing, and arithmetic at boot camp. They donated a portion of their pay to start the school, and their main goal was to educate newly emancipated African Americans, and to promote study and labor.³¹ The first principal of Lincoln was Richard Baxter Foster, a white man who had served as a First Lieutenant in the 62nd. He was From New England and educated at Dartmouth.³² As will be discussed later, Sam Duncan, principal of Douglass School from 1935 to 1950 was educated at Lincoln Institute. The pay scale for Black teachers was not equal. White teachers and Black males were paid more than Black women across Missouri.³³ (Figures 11 and 12)

In the Sixth Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of Missouri (1871), Superintendent Joseph McClurg reported that approximately 4,358 of 37,173 scholastic age “colored” children were attending school. At that time there were 212 available schools for the Black population. He also reported that there were serious obstacles to the education of Black children in the state, and that the superintendent of each county be responsible for developing educational equality.³⁴ In 1877 only 42% of enumerated Black children were attending school, but by 1890, the percentage of potential Black students attending school had grown to 70.8%.³⁵ Mr. McClurg also noted that he believed Lincoln University was the only institute of its kind that addressed the issue of educating Black teachers.³⁶

In 1875, the Missouri Constitution was revised and declared separate schools for Black students would be established. In 1865 the Constitution merely stated that separate schools for children of African descent were to be established.

After the St. James Methodist Episcopal Church was built in Higginsville in 1879, Black students began attending school in the basement of that building until their school was built in 1886.³⁷ That new facility was called Douglass School. By the school year of 1889-1890 151 students were enrolled at Douglass. Two teachers were employed.

In 1883, the State Superintendent of Schools reported that for the most part, school districts were complying with giving Black individuals equal advantage in education, and that the former prejudice against the education of Black students had mostly disappeared.³⁸ This statement was

³¹*About Lincoln*. Lincoln University, Missouri. <https://www.lincolnu.edu/web/about-lincoln/our-history> accessed August 7, 2002.

³² Williams, Henry Sullivan. *The Journal. Of Negro History Vol V*. University of Chicago Press on behalf of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, April 1920. pp. 152-153

³³ Kremer, Gary R. *Ibid.* p. 13.

³⁴ McClurg, Joseph, State Superintendent of Schools (Missouri). *Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools*. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1871. p. 22.

³⁵ Williams. *Ibid.* p. 160.

³⁶ McClurg. *Ibid.* p. 22.

³⁷ Bielefeldt, V.L. Architectural/Historic Inventory Survey Form. Show-Me Regional Planning Commission, September 1982. Pp. 17-18.

³⁸ Shannon, R.D., State Superintendent of Schools (Missouri). *Missouri Annual Report of Public School (Missouri)*; 1875

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made in a year when Black students from Higginsville were attending school in the church basement.

The original Douglass School was a two-story frame building (Figure 7). In 1896 Douglass School had its first graduate, John Edwards. At that time the enrollment of Black students had increased, and the school board decided to build a 20 x 24 addition. It was one story, with the work being done by Phillips and Hoffman.³⁹

Furniture and supplies for Douglass School were most often hand me downs from the white schools. Former Douglass students recalled sitting at desks that had words carved into them, and books that had notes and names scribbled on the pages.⁴⁰ The school received textbooks that were out of date, often 6-7 years old. The small school library had no reference books, and in fact, one student remembers that there were only three books in their library.⁴¹

In 1925 The Superintendent for the State of Missouri reported the challenges of providing good teachers and equal opportunity for Black students. A “Negro School Inspector” (House Bill No. 487 passed in 1921) had been appointed to visit Black schools and offer assistance in reaching the goals of providing quality education to their students. (See Figure 13) The Superintendent observed that Black students were not here by choice and that Missouri should not neglect their interests, but provide proper education and training.⁴²

That same year, the directors of the Higginsville School District called for a special election to issue bonds for three new school buildings. They were Emerson and Irving Schools for white students, and Douglass School for Black students. The current buildings were determined to be inadequate for the district’s needs.⁴³ The bond issue passed, and the three old buildings were razed and new buildings erected on the same sites. The building contract was awarded to Ed Page of Marshall, Missouri. The architect for all three buildings was German-born Ludwig Abt, a prolific designer from Moberly, Missouri. At the beginning of the 1925-26 school year, the buildings were not ready, and Douglass students met at Williams Hall, with grades 1-8 meeting in the morning, and high school students in the afternoon.⁴⁴ The new building was completed, and classes began there in October of 1925.

In 1928, The State of Missouri enacted legislation making it mandatory to provide transportation and tuition for Black students living in rural areas.⁴⁵ Students travelled from several neighboring communities to attend Douglass School. They came from Blackburn, Alma, Mayview, and Odessa. Students from Mayview and Odessa rode the “dinky” train. A dinky train is a short train

³⁹“School Buildings Now Being Razed,” *The Higginsville Advance*, June 12, 1925. p. 1.

⁴⁰ Roundtable discussion, Ibid.

⁴¹ Champion, Bonnie Benton. Interview. Conducted by Judy Gover Lindquist. Benton Hall, Higginsville, Missouri, September 12, 2022.

⁴² Lee, Charles.,76th *Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of Missouri for School Year Ending 6/30/1925*. The High Stephens Press, 1925.

⁴³ “For Three New School Buildings.” *The Higginsville Advance*, March 20, 1925. p. 1.

⁴⁴ “Schools Open First Monday in September.” *The Higginsville Advance*, August 28, 1925. p. 1.

⁴⁵ Lee, Charles. Ibid.

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that runs limited routes.⁴⁶ Principal Sam Duncan often had to wait at the station with the students late at night until the train arrived to take them home.⁴⁷

The main floor of Douglass was originally split into two classrooms (one for grades 1-8, the other for high school) with an accordion door (stored on premises) dividing the room, with one teacher for 1-8, and one for high school. In 1936, the elementary grades were separated, and a partition was used to divide the north classroom into two rooms.⁴⁸ There were now three classrooms and three teachers (Figure 14).

In his report of 1944, Roy Scantlin, Superintendent of Missouri Schools, continued the discussion about equal educational opportunity for Black residents of Missouri, including expansion of programs for Black schools. Funds from the Southern Education Foundation were used to augment salaries of an assistant state supervisor (of “negro schools”) and two area Jeanes supervisors (African American teachers hired to assist the area schools). Scantlin’s goal was to expand assistance from schools into the communities. His department helped establish health clinics in neighborhoods, promoted the Black Parent-Teacher Association, and encouraged the creation of Black Boy Scout troops.⁴⁹

By 1950, the Black population of Higginsville had declined from 354 (10%) in 1940 to 267 (7.8%) (Figure 15). The decline is attributed to a lack of jobs. The majority of jobs available to Black residents at the time were as janitors, cooks, and slaughterhouse workers. Some trained teachers went to Kansas City to find employment.⁵⁰ Because of the decline in Black population, the high school enrollment at Douglass also dropped. (Figure 16). Douglass High School closed (while grades 1-8 continued to operate) and those high school students were transported by bus to Lexington, about 12 miles away. Principal Sam Duncan drove the bus. One former student remembered boarding the bus at 7:30 in the morning, and driving past the white Higginsville High School on their way to Lexington. She observed that Higginsville was willing to incur the extra cost of a bus and driver to prevent the Black students from attending the white school.⁵¹ Segregation went beyond the schools, of course. The Higginsville movie theater had “special seats” for the Black population. There were 32 seats at the back of the theater. If those seats were full, Black customers were turned away, even if there were white seats available. Black children and their families were not allowed at the public pool in Higginsville, and ironically had to swim in a pond at the Confederate Memorial Park.⁵² Black students were not allowed in the public library, cutting off another means of accessing research materials for school. According to one

⁴⁶ “Dinky Train.” Sensagent. Accessed September 28, 2022. <http://dictionary.sensagent.com/Dinky%20train/en-en/>;

⁴⁷ “Douglass School serves negros until integration begins in 1955.” Ibid.

⁴⁸ “Douglass School serves negros until integration beings in 1955.” Ibid.

⁴⁹ Scantlin, Roy. *Ninety-Fifth Report of the Public Schools of the State of Missouri*. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, June 1944.

⁵⁰ Champion. Ibid.

⁵¹ Champion. Ibid.

⁵² Roundtable discussion. Ibid.

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former student, they were taught at an early age to do and go where they were told. If children followed those rules, they avoided trouble with the white community.⁵³ Another former Douglass student recalled that she cleaned house for the owner of the bowling alley, but was not allowed to bowl there.⁵⁴ Even the local fairs were segregated (see Figure 17).

Former students remember details about their time at Douglass. Every morning started with the Pledge of Allegiance. One student recalled the smells of lunch cooking in the basement as classes were being held upstairs. Proms were held at Douglass. Students came from African American schools in Moberly, Liberty, Sedalia, Lexington, and other communities for basketball tournaments on the outdoor court at Douglass. Games were followed with picnics. The students interviewed all recalled that the classroom focus was on reading, writing, and arithmetic. There were not a lot of resources for an expanded curriculum such as geography, history, or music.^{55 56 57}

The principal of Douglass School from 1935 to the closing of its high school in 1950 was Samuel A. Duncan. He was born in Norbonne, Missouri, and was educated at the above-mentioned Lincoln Institute. In 1935 he moved to Higginsville to become principal of Douglass School. When the high school closed in 1950, Mr. Duncan was paid \$1 a day to drive the high school students by bus to Lexington to attend the Douglass School there.⁵⁸ Following integration in 1955, Mr. Duncan worked as a janitor, grocery boy, and cook at the country club until he could get a job in the Higginsville School District in 1958.⁵⁹ As a teacher in that district he taught history, psychology, sociology, economics and French, and coached football and track. He was nominated as Missouri Teacher of the Year in 1979. And the high school football field was named in his honor: Sam Duncan Field.⁶⁰

Even though schools were integrated in 1955, segregation in other parts of Higginsville continued. One student of note from Douglass School was George Seals. George attended Douglass School until integration in 1955, and graduated from Higginsville High School in 1960. He went on to play for the Chicago Bears, Washington Redskins, and Kansas City Chiefs. One day in 1967 George told his friends he was going swimming at the segregated public pool. He convinced a couple of them to go with him. This act help bring about the integration of the pool.⁶¹

Douglass elementary grades remained open until Higginsville schools were integrated in 1955. Bonnie Benton Champion stated that upon integration, a lot of the teachers and students were not ready for the Black students to attend their schools. In particular, she had one teacher that required her three Black students to sit at the back of the room.⁶²

⁵³ Roundtable discussion. Ibid.

⁵⁴ Champion. Ibid.

⁵⁵ Champion. Ibid.

⁵⁶ Benton. Ibid.

⁵⁷ Seals. Ibid.

⁵⁸ Board of Education for Higginsville School District. Minutes dated November 21, 1950.

⁵⁹ *Husker Herald*. Lafayette County C-01 School District, October 27, 1970.

⁶⁰ Schneider, Bill. Speech. Higginsville C-1 High School, October 6, 1989.

⁶¹ Seals. Ibid.

⁶² Champion. Ibid.

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Following its close in 1955, the District immediately moved the electric stove and gas range from Douglass to Emerson School. Until Hoefer Interiors purchased Douglass in 1958, the building was leased to the local park board.⁶³ It was used for various activities including Boy Scout meetings.⁶⁴ In 1958 Hoefer Interiors of Higginsville purchased the building to use for storage. And in 1990, former student Travis Benton bought the building from Hoefer. He has also used it for storage up to the present time.

An historic architectural survey of Higginsville was conducted in 1982. It identified Douglass School and St. James AME Church as serving as the spiritual center of the Black community.

CONCLUSION

Douglass School is an integral part of the history of African Americans in Higginsville and Lafayette County, Missouri. From 1886 to 1955, Douglass School (the original building and current buildings, both located at 215 W. 16th Street in Higginsville) was the only place local Black students and Black students from the surrounding area could receive an education. These students were the descendants of enslaved people and lived in a time of segregation in all aspects of life. Douglass was also a gathering place for Black students from nearby towns. The current building was financed through public funds (bond issue), and served the Black community for thirty years during the time of segregation in Higginsville. Just two buildings that served the Black community in Higginsville during the period of significance still stand. They are Douglass School and St. James AME Church (203 W. 16th – discussed above). At one time there were twenty African American schools in Lafayette County.⁶⁵ Only two (known) are still standing—Douglass (Higginsville) and a former school (currently used as a residence) in nearby Mayview. Although the building is in critical need of repair, Douglass School is architecturally mostly the same as when it was built in 1925. Repairs that are needed are to windows, doors, ceilings, and floors. Douglass School is of significant historic importance to the Higginsville and surrounding communities.

⁶³ Higginsville School District Board Minutes. Higginsville High School, September 19, 1955.

⁶⁴ Seals. Ibid.

⁶⁵ Kremer, Gary R. Ibid.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

A TRACT OF LAND BEING A PORTION OF LOTS 15 AND 16 OF WEST SIDE ADDITION TO THE CITY OF HIGGINSVILLE, AS SAID LOTS APPEAR UPON THE PLAT OF SAID ADDITION OF RECORD IN PLAT BOOK 5 AT PAGE 14. IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF DEEDS FOR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSOURI, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 5 IN SAID ADDITION, SAID POINT BEING LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF WALNUT AND 16TH ST, THENCE ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF 16TH STREET, N88-41-17W, 660.54 FEET TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE DEPARTING SAID SOUTH RIGHT-OF-WAY, S03-57-55W, 68.97 FEET; S88-51-34W, 68.97 FEET, THENCE S06-30-02E, 131.82 FEET, THENCE S88-51-34W, 74.44 FEET TO A POINT ALONG THE WEST LINE OF LOT 15 IN SAID ADDITION. THENCE ALONG SAID WEST LINE N01-12-10E, 202.68 FEET TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT 15; THENCE ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF SAID LOTS 15 AND 16, S88-41-17E, 60.03 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 0.29 ACRES, SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RIGHT-OF-WAY OF RECORD. (See Figure 18)

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building and immediate grounds that have historically been associated with Douglass School and that maintain historic integrity. At the time of its construction the School District owned Lot 14 and another part of lots 15 and 16. The property was recently subdivided. A modern warehouse has been constructed on what was historically the basketball court and thus it is excluded from this nomination

National Register of Historic Places
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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

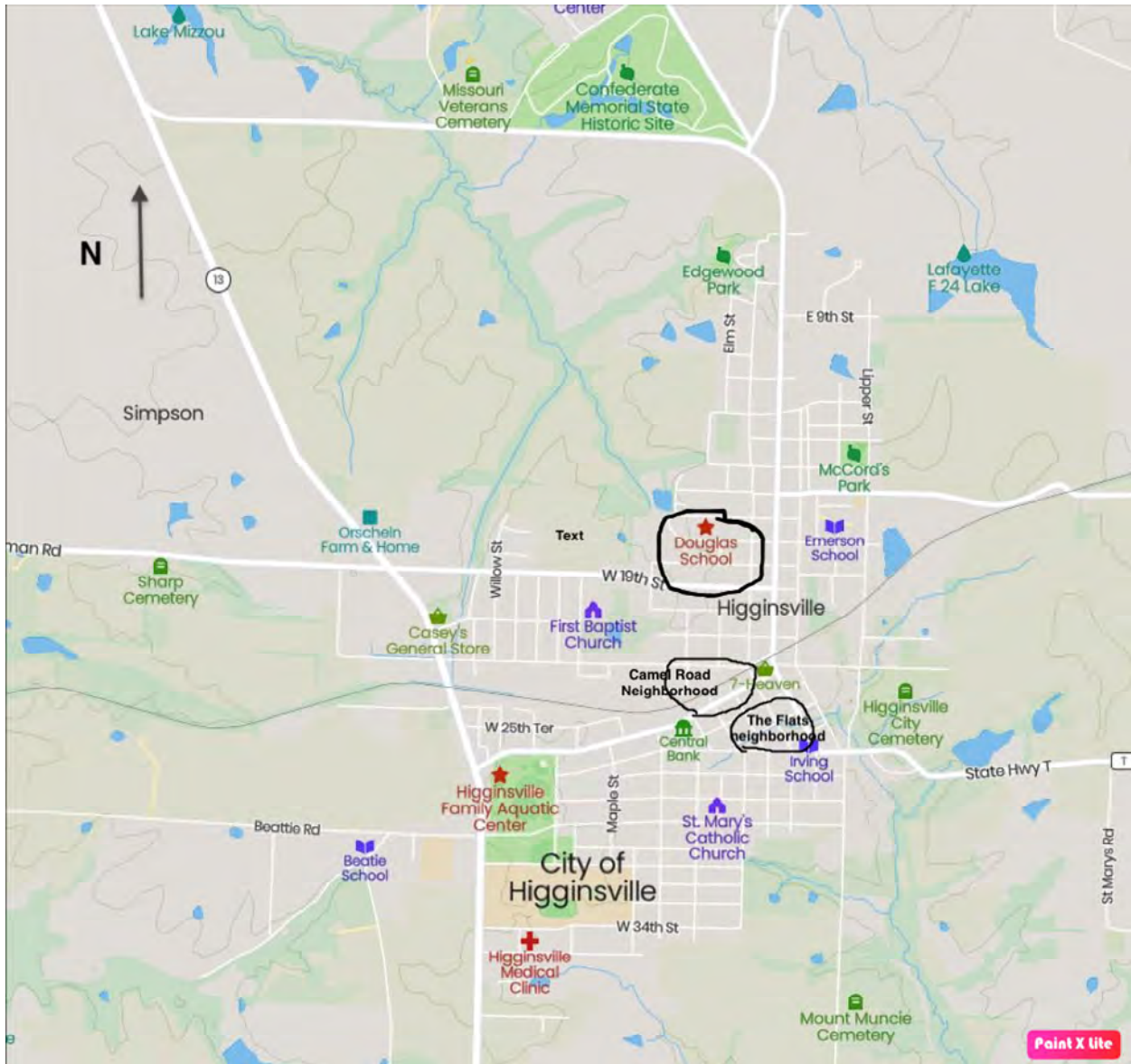


Figure 1. Contextual map. Source: Mapcarta, 2022. (pp. 9-14) African American neighborhoods are circled (not to scale) (pages 1, 8, 9)

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Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 21

Douglass School
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N/A
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Figure 2. Site Map. Lat/Long: 39.078610, -93.720770
Source: Google Maps. 2022. (to scale: 1/2 inch = 62 feet) (p. 1)

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Continuation Sheet

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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

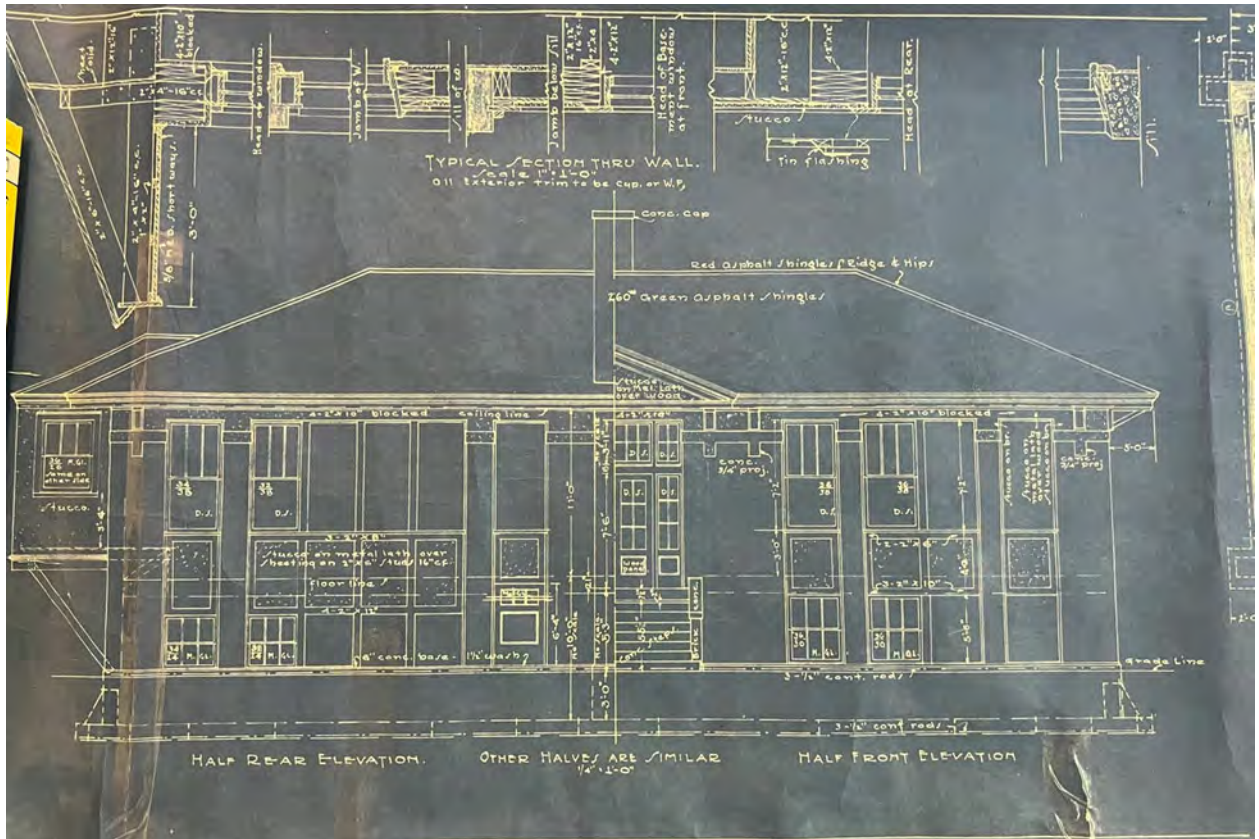


Figure 3. Blueprint half rear/half front elevations. Source: Louis Abt, 1925. (p. 3)

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number Figures Page 24

Dougllass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

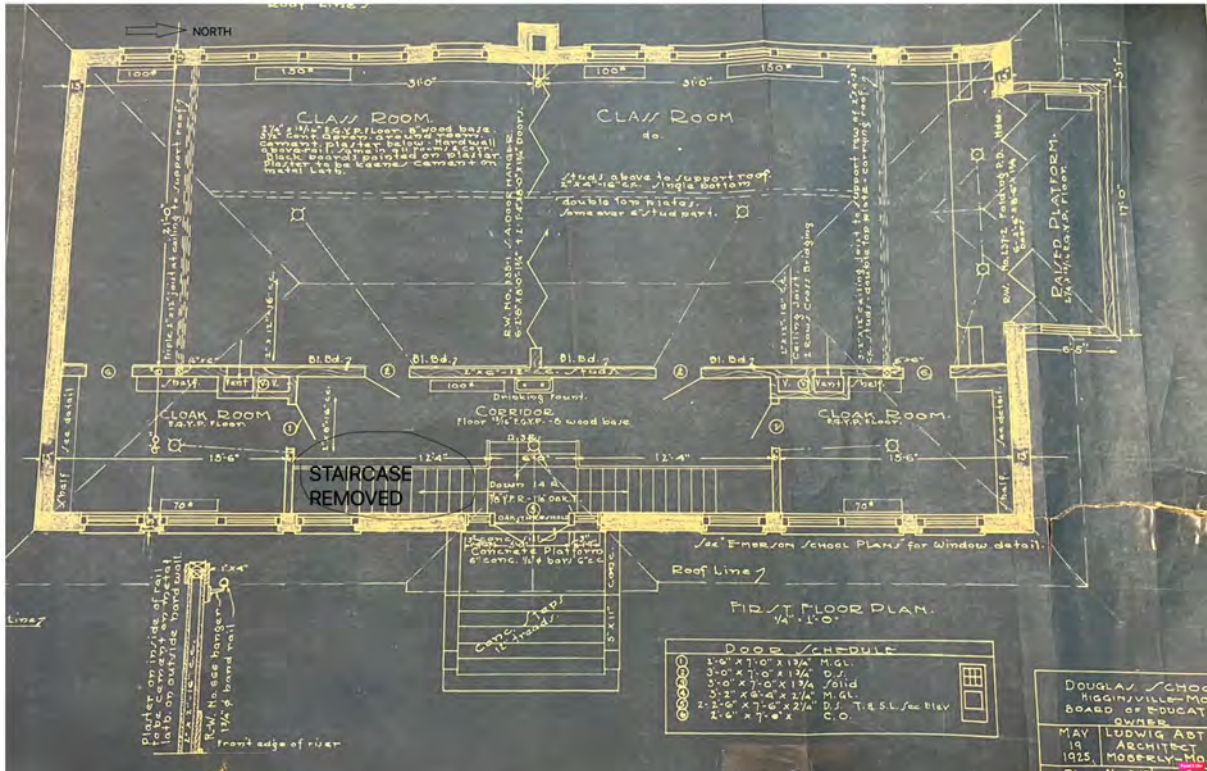


Figure 5. Blueprint main floor Douglass School. Source: Louis Abt, 1925 (current floor plan) (p. 4)

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number Figures Page 25

Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

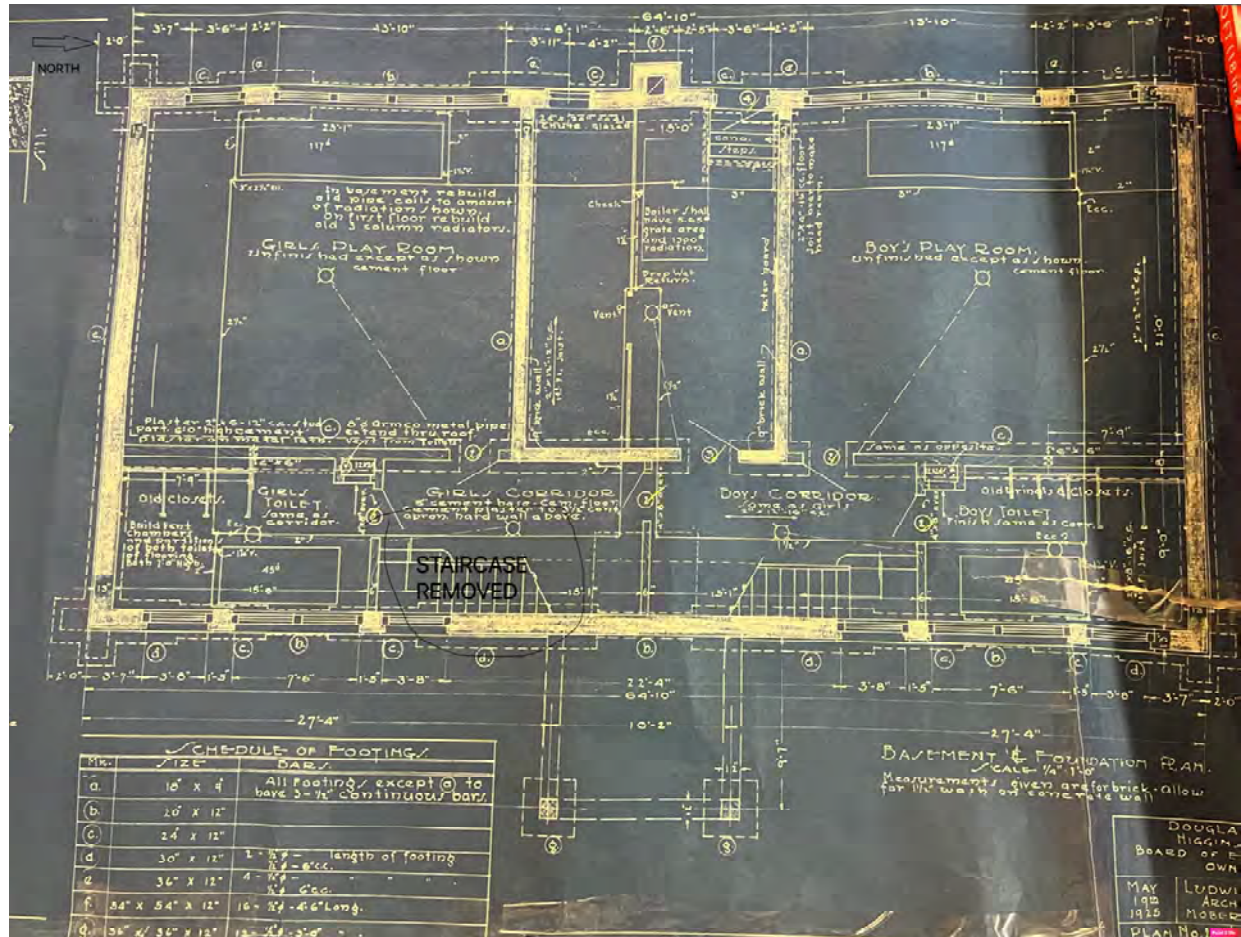


Figure 6. Blueprint lower level Douglass School. Source Louis Abt, 1925 (current floor plan) (pp. 4, 5)

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Douglass School

Name of Property
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N/A

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Figure 7. Douglass School students c. 1916 (original building). Source: Western Historical Manuscript Collection (pp. 7, 12)

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Douglass School
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Figure 8. Map of Little Dixie. Source: Wikipedia (pp. 7, 8)

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N/A
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CENSUS OF MISSOURI.

TABLE SHOWING THE POPULATION OF MISSOURI BY COUNTIES, AS RETURNED BY THE EIGHTH CENSUS, 1860.

Counties.	Whites.	Free Colored.	Slaves.	Total.
Adair	8,436	9	86	8,531
Andrew	10,949	21	880	11,850
Atchison	4,578	12	59	4,649
Andrain	6,109	—	1,166	8,075
Barry	7,728	10	217	7,955
Barton	1,798	—	21	1,817
Bates	6,765	8	442	7,215
Branton	8,460	13	599	9,072
Bollinger	7,126	—	245	7,371
Boone	14,399	53	5,034	19,486
Buchanan	21,799	51	2,011	23,861
Butler	2,857	2	52	2,891
Caldwell	4,810	2	222	5,034
Callaway	12,885	31	4,523	17,449
Camden	4,769	—	206	4,975
C. Girardeau	13,961	53	1,533	15,547
Carroll	8,692	3	1,068	9,763
Cass	8,781	3	1,010	9,794
Cartier	1,200	15	29	1,235
Cedar	6,420	6	211	6,637
Chariton	9,572	51	2,839	12,562
Christian	5,262	—	229	5,491
Clark	11,216	13	455	11,684
Clay	9,325	43	3,455	13,023
Chilton	6,695	19	1,144	7,848
Cole	8,445	15	187	9,697
Cooper	13,528	28	3,800	17,356
C. Crawford	5,640	1	182	5,823
Dade	6,721	5	346	7,072
Dallas	5,777	1	114	5,892
Daviess	9,248	—	358	9,606
DeKalb	5,081	6	107	5,224
Dent	5,498	—	156	5,654
Douglas	2,414	—	—	2,414
Dunklin	4,855	—	171	5,026
Franklin	16,465	19	1,601	18,085
Gasconade	8,641	9	76	8,726
Gentry	11,862	—	118	11,980
Greene	11,509	9	1,668	13,186
Grundy	7,596	6	285	7,887
Harrison	10,601	—	25	10,626
Henry	8,429	1	1,215	9,645
Hickory	4,503	7	195	4,705
Holt	6,241	—	369	6,550
Howard	9,486	74	5,886	15,446
Howell	3,133	—	36	3,169
Iron	5,529	—	313	5,842
Jackson	18,882	70	3,944	22,896
Jaeger	6,533	15	335	6,883
Jefferson	9,763	17	564	10,344
Johnson	12,743	5	1,896	14,644
Knox	8,436	7	284	8,727
Laclede	4,875	2	305	5,182
Lytayette	13,688	36	6,374	20,098
Lawrence	8,559	3	284	8,846
Lewis	10,983	24	1,279	12,286
Lincoln	11,347	23	2,840	14,210
Linn	8,569	26	577	9,112
Livingston	6,812	—	605	7,417
Macon	13,873	13	630	14,516
Madison	5,179	18	467	5,664
Marion	4,830	7	64	4,901
Marion	15,732	89	3,017	18,838
McDonough	3,957	9	72	4,038
Mercer	9,374	2	24	9,300
Miller	6,572	2	238	6,812
Mississippi	3,849	—	1,010	4,859
Moniteau	9,375	4	745	10,124
Monroe	11,722	42	3,021	14,785
Montgomery	8,061	10	1,647	9,718
Morgan	7,545	8	649	8,202
New Madrid	3,863	14	1,777	5,654
Newton	8,842	51	426	9,319
Nodaway	5,123	2	127	5,252
Oregon	2,983	—	26	3,009
Osage	7,622	—	256	7,879
Ozark	2,361	43	43	2,447
Pemiscot	2,682	12	268	2,962
Perry	8,366	23	739	9,128
Pettis	7,504	6	1,882	9,392
Phelps	5,628	2	81	5,714
Pike	14,302	60	4,055	18,417
Platte	14,981	56	3,313	18,350
Polk	9,468	15	512	9,995
Pulaski	3,779	—	56	3,835
Putnam	9,176	—	31	9,207
Ralls	6,788	13	1,791	8,592
Randolph	8,777	11	2,619	11,407
Ray	12,038	7	2,047	14,092
Reynolds	3,135	—	38	3,173
Ripley	3,666	3	78	3,747
St. Charles	14,313	29	2,161	16,503
St. Clair	6,229	9	574	6,812
St. Francois	6,292	80	877	7,249
St. Genevieve	7,323	89	617	8,029
St. Louis	184,313	1,865	4,346	190,524
Saline	9,800	23	4,876	14,699
Schuyler	6,655	—	39	6,697
Scotland	8,742	—	131	8,873
Scott	4,730	14	503	5,247
Shannon	2,271	—	13	2,284
Shelby	6,565	12	724	7,301
Stoddard	7,659	3	215	7,877
Stone	2,884	—	16	2,900
Sullivan	9,095	1	102	9,198
Taney	3,489	5	82	3,576
Texas	6,009	2	56	6,067
Vernon	4,712	2	136	4,850
Warren	7,798	7	1,034	8,839
Washington	8,670	25	1,028	9,723
Wayne	5,361	7	261	5,629
Webster	6,579	—	220	7,099
Wright	4,442	—	66	4,508
Totals	1,063,491	3,572	114,931	1,181,994
Indians not included.	—	—	—	—
Gasconade	1	—	—	1
Jackson	17	—	—	17
Totals	1,063,509	3,572	114,931	1,181,012

Figure 9. Federal Census 1860 (p. 8)

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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

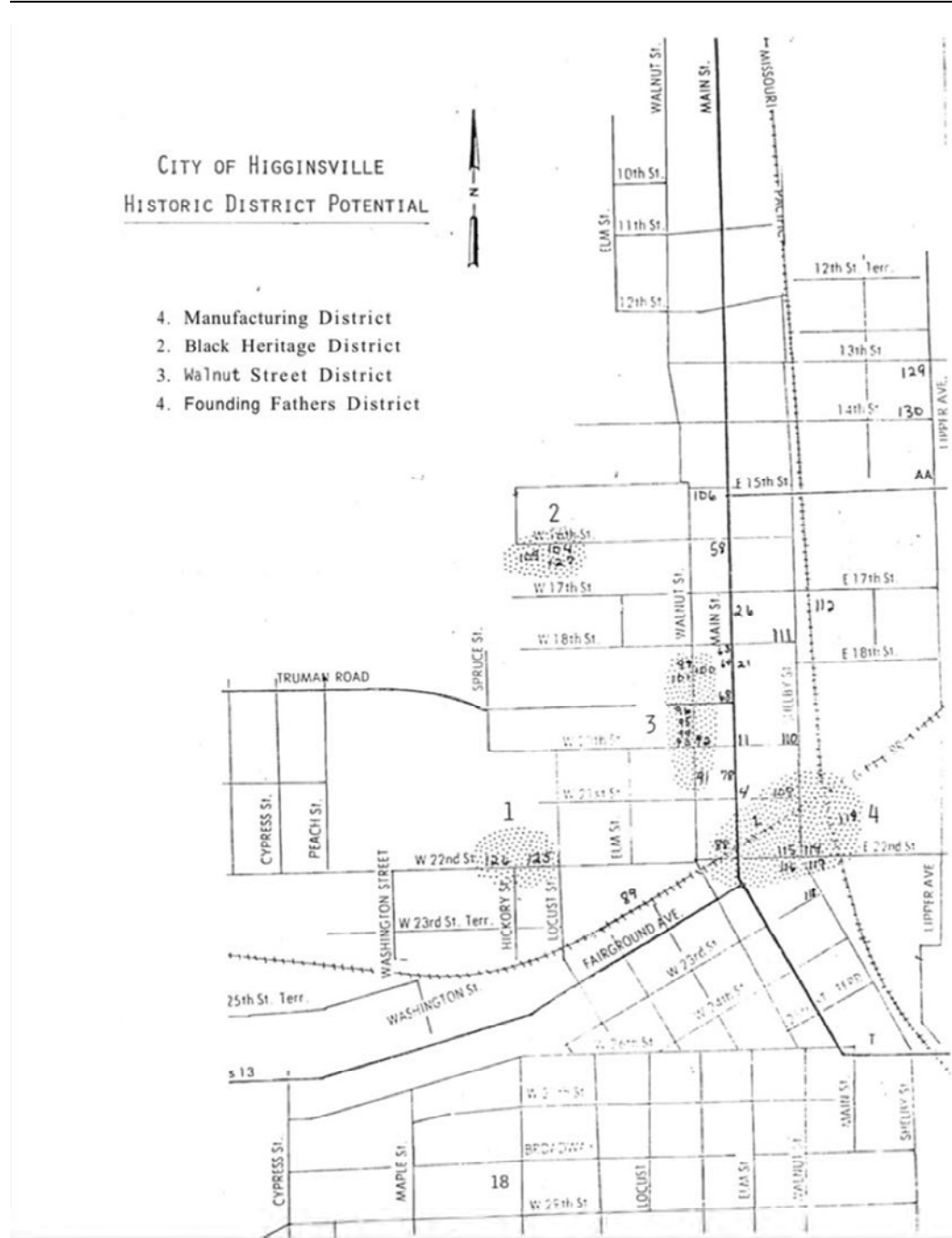


Figure 10. Historic areas of Higginsville map. Source: Show-Me Regional Planning Commission 1982 (p. 8)

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Douglass School
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Lafayette County, Missouri
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The following constitute list of teachers for the year 1915-16.

High School.
Superintendent - D.W. Brennan, \$140.00
Principal, DeMarles Everett, 70.00
Teachers' Training, Bess Dee Groves, 90.00
Latin & German, Elizabeth Cochran, 65.00
English and Science, Mable I. Majer, 85.00
History, Mazee Bridges, 60.00 = 65.00

Emerson Building.
Principal, J.R. Plattenburg, \$65.00
Room No. 1, Edith Kleinschmidt, 50.00
Room No. 2, Mary Sparks, 50.00
Room No. 3, Mrs. Etta Barclay, 45.00 --- 50-
Room No. 4, Mary Peddicord, 50.00

Irving Building.
Principal, Jeda Hackley, 65.00
Room No. 1, Mary L. Martin, 50.00
Room No. 2, Anna Rehring, 50.00
Room No. 3, Grace Jennings, 50.00

Douglas School.
Principal, Wm. B. Fulbright, 50.00
Assistant, Mrs. Dora S. Johnson, 35.00
2nd " Anna Bintl 35.00

Janitors.
High School, E.C. Stesberg, \$50.00
Emerson School, J.H. Kohlmeyer, 28.00
Irving School, Peter Mueller, 25.00
Douglas School, Chas. Smith, 17.50

Figure 11. Salary schedule for Higginsville teachers 1915-1916.
Source Lafayette County C-1 School District, 1915 (p. 11)

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Doulass School
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OF SUPERINTENDENT D. W. BRANAM, SUPT.

HIGGINSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 HIGGINSVILLE, MO.

**SALARY SCHEDULE
 HIGGINSVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
 1920-21**

D.W.Branam, Superintendent-----\$200.00 per month

HIGH SCHOOL

DaMaris Everett, Principal-----	150.00	"	"
Elorence Kenaston, Teacher-Training-----	150.00	"	"
Alma Macdonnel, Eng. & Latin-----	150.00	"	"
Irene B. Wilson, Hist. & Domestic Art-----	150.00	"	"
Mary Witt, Commercial Subjects-----	133.33	"	"
<i>Helena Gulkevson, History & English</i>	<i>133.33</i>		

EMERSON SCHOOL

Joda Hackley, Principal-----	133.33	"	"
Loula Grace Erdman, Sixth & Seventh Grades---	100.00	"	"
Grace Jennings, Fourth and Fifth Grades---	100.00	"	"
Bulah Monson, Second & Third Grades---	100.00	"	"
Mildred Stillwell, First Grade-----	100.00	"	"

IRVING SCHOOL

Julia Jordan, Principal-----	111.11	"	"
Margaret Rabsahl, Fourth and Fifth Grades---	100.00	"	"
Verlea Heimbrook, Second and Third Grades---	100.00	"	"
Gweneth Jordan, First Grade-----	100.00	"	"

DOUGLASS SCHOOL

D.H. Jones, Principal-----	75.00	"	"
Ruby Mae Evans, Primary-----	50.00	"	"

JANITORS

<i>A.B. Ward</i>			
Walter Wickiser, High School-----	55.00	"	"
John Mathews, Emerson School-----	40.00	"	"
Mrs. Walter Wickiser, Irving School-----	35.00	"	"
Chas. Smith, Douglass School-----	25.00	"	"

Janitor's salary to begin September 1st.

Figure 12. Salary schedule for Higginsville teachers 1920-21.
 Source: Lafayette County C-1 School District 1920 (p. 11)

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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

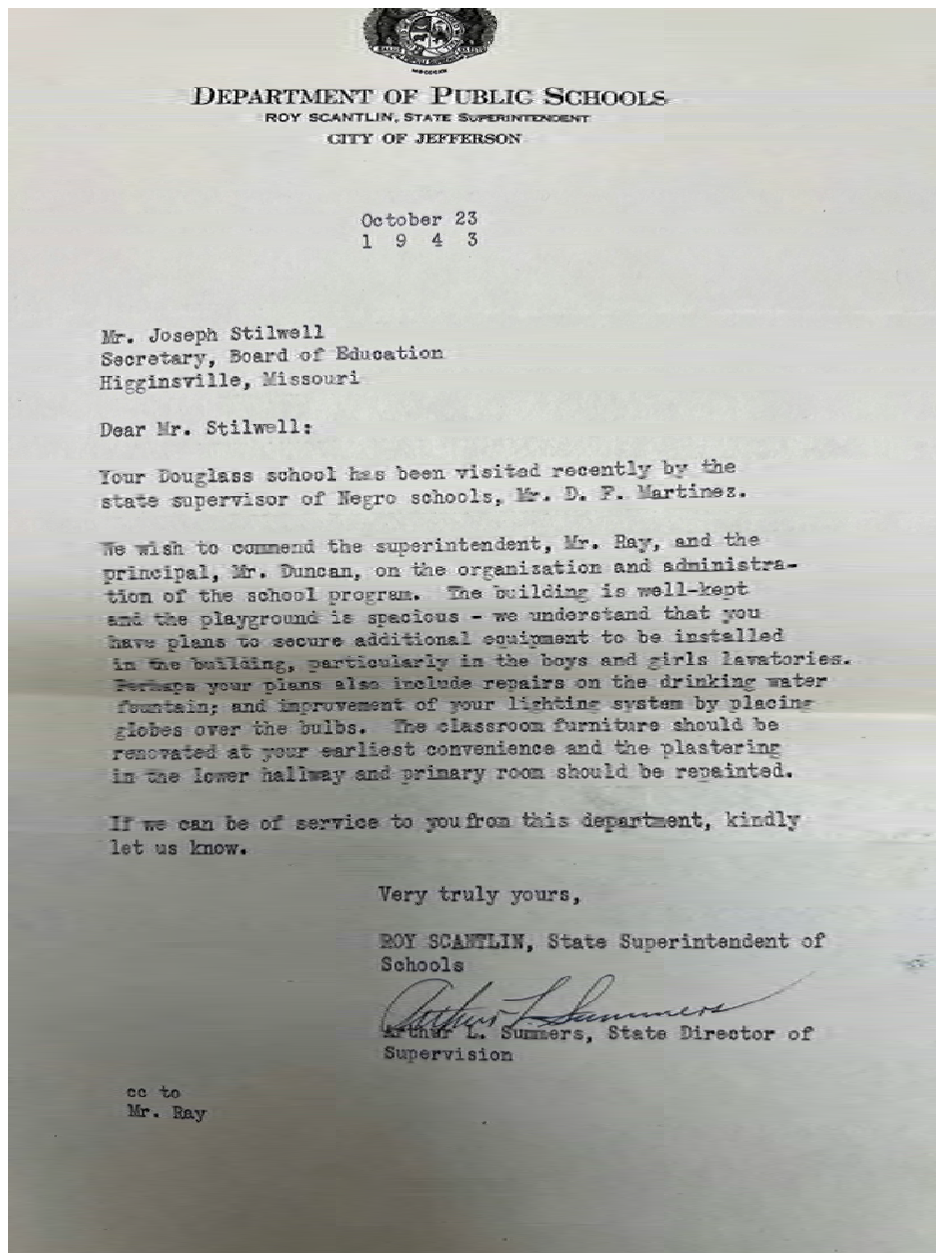


Figure 13. Report of state supervisor of Negro Schools (1943). Source: 76th Report of the Superintendent of Public Schools of the State of Missouri for School Year Ending 6/20/1925, 1925 (p. 12)

National Register of Historic Places
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Douglass School

Name of Property
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Figure 14. Teachers Marie Jordan (primary), Sophronia Woods (intermediate), John Roberson (high school) on steps of Douglass School (c. 1948) Source: Travis Benton (p. 13)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 34

Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

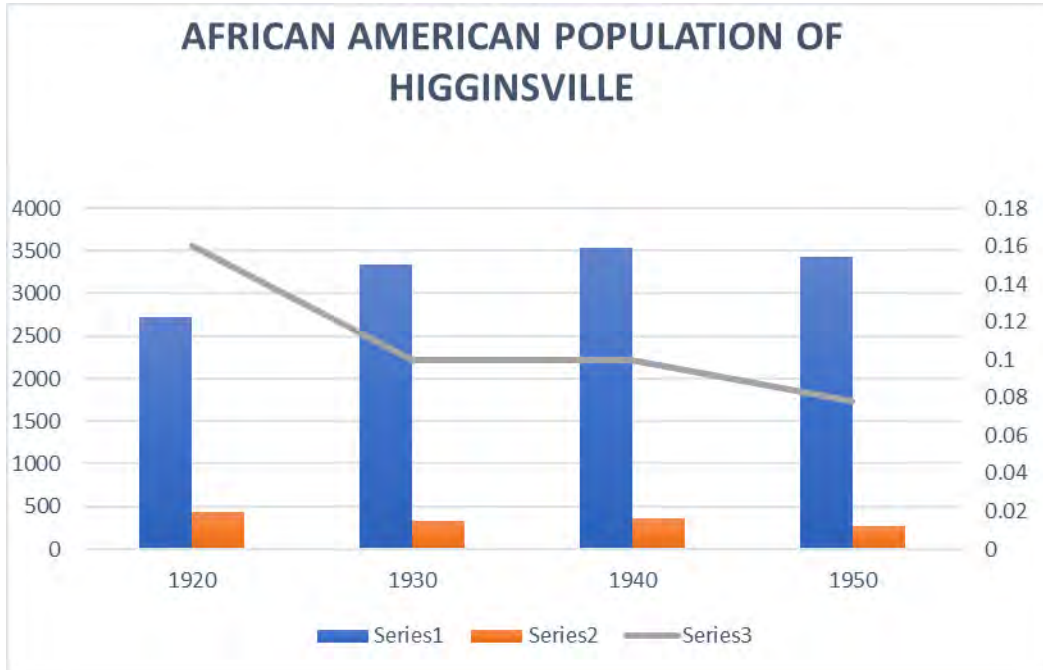


Figure 15. Graph-population percentage of African Americans in Higginsville during period of significance: 1925-1950 (p. 19) Series 1 = Higginsville population; Series 2 = Higginsville African American population; Series 3 = percentage of population of African American residents (p. 13)

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Section number Figures Page 35

Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

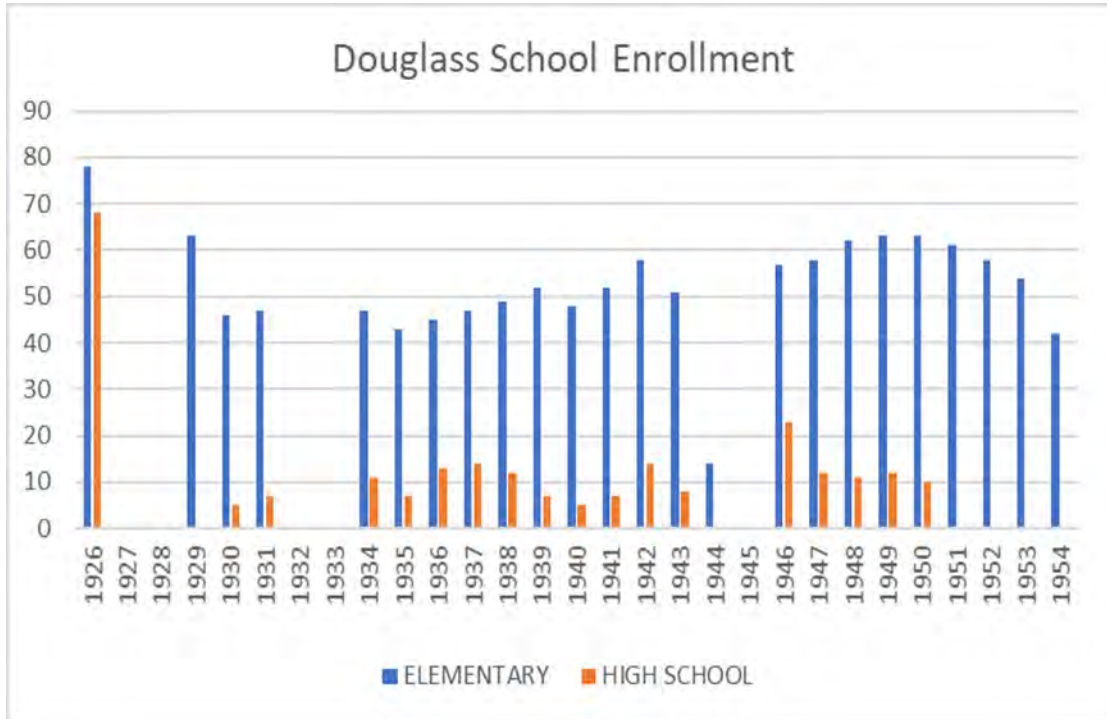


Figure 16. Graph of Douglass School enrollment during period of significance: 1925- 1955 (p. 13)

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Douglass School

Name of Property
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N/A

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Figure 17. Flyer. Source: Higginsville Advance 1921 (p. 14)

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Douglass School
Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

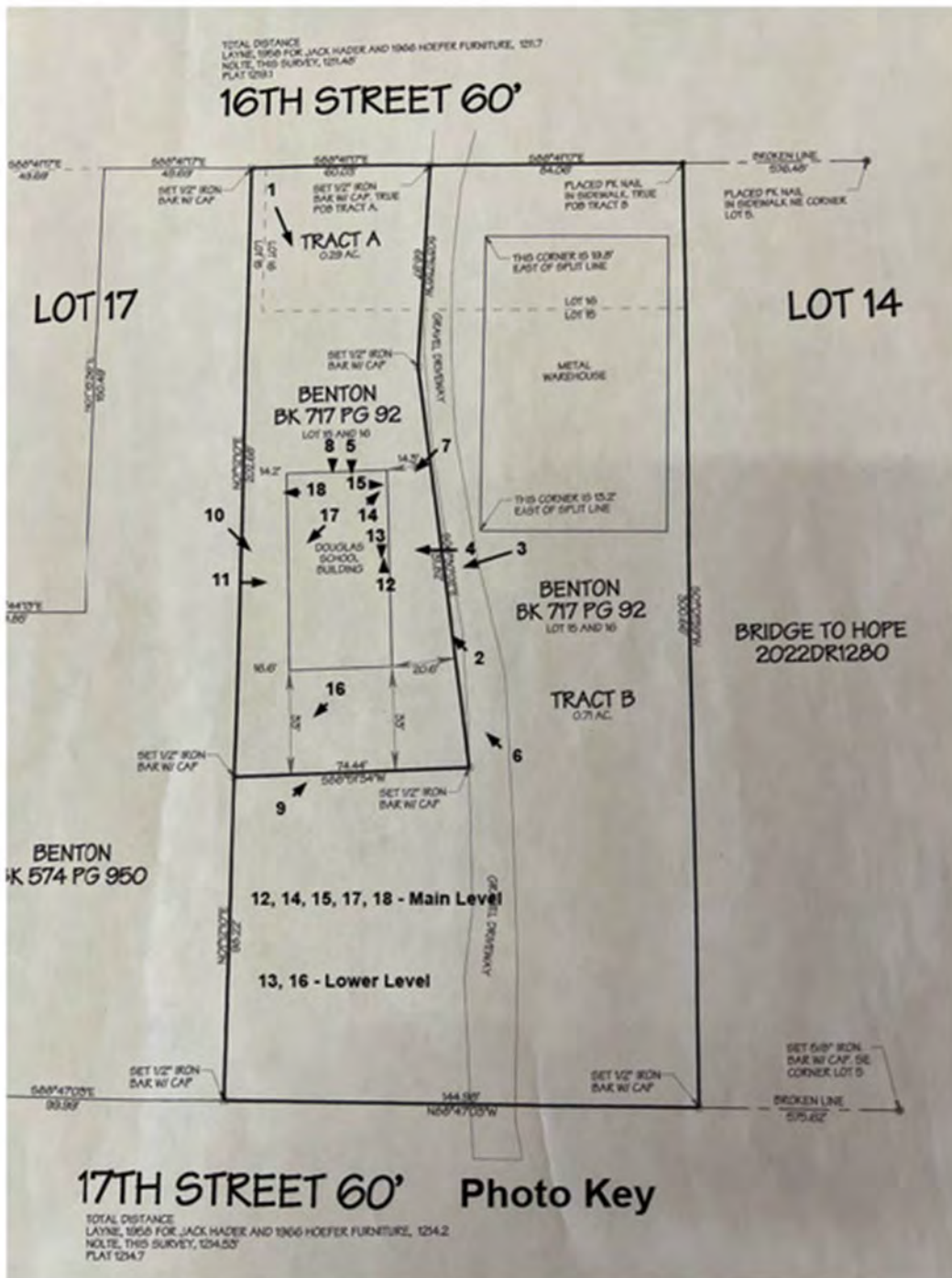


Figure 18. Survey of Douglass School property. Source: Nolte Land Surveying, 2022. Keyed to photo log. (p. 19)

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Section number Figures Page 38

Douglass School

Name of Property
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N/A

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Figure 19. St. James AME Church, 203 W. 16th Street, Higginsville. Photo taken by Judy Gover Lindquist September 29, 2022. (pp. 2, 8)

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Douglass School

Name of Property
Lafayette County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

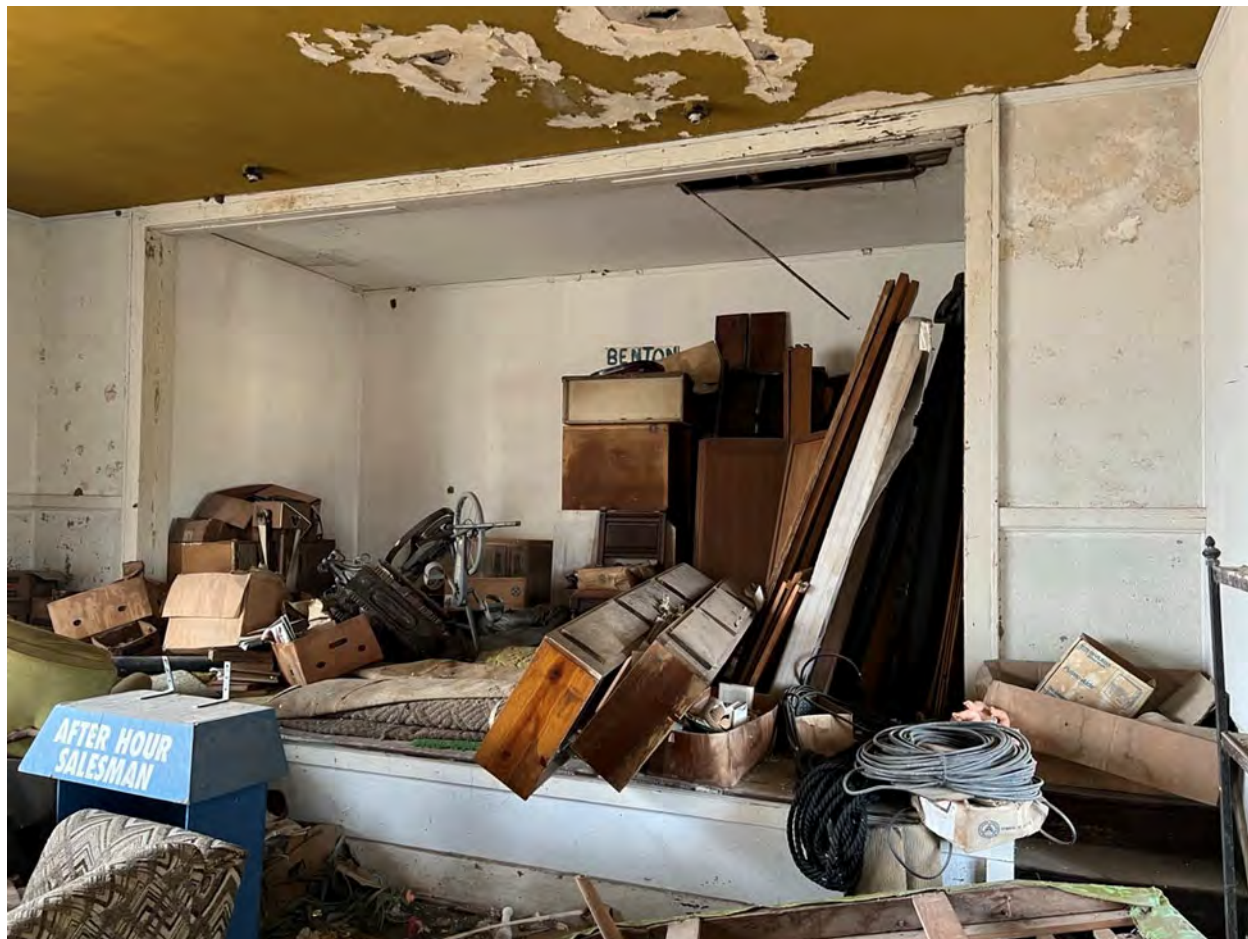


Figure 20. Interior view of stage area at north end of building. (p. 4)



1

































