# 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 Lincoln School		
Other names/site number N/A		
Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A		
2. Location		
Street & number 229 Westgate	N/A	not for publication
City or town Sikeston	N/A	vicinity
State Missouri Code MO County Scott	Zip Code 63767	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
	determination of eligibility meets the docume ic Places and meets the procedural and protest the National Register Criteria. I recomme of significance:  B _ C _ D  217 S // O  Date	fessional
Signature of commenting official	Date	
Title State of	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 Reg	ister
determined not eligible for the National Register	removed from the National Register	
other (explain:)		
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action	-

Lincoln School	
Name of Property	

# Scott County, Missouri County and State

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)		ources within Projects	
		Contributing	Noncontributir	ıg
X private	X building(s)	1	0	buildings
public - Local	district	0	1	sites
public - State	site	4	0	structures
public - Federal	structure	0	0	objects
	object	5	1	Total
		Number of cont listed in the Nat	ributing resourc tional Register	es previously
			N/A	
6. Function or Use				
<b>Historic Functions</b> (Enter categories from instructions.)		Current Function (Enter categories fro		
Education/school		Vacant/ Not in us	se	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)		Materials (Enter categories fro	m instructions.)	
Modern Movement		foundation: Co	oncrete	
		walls: Brick, Co	oncrete	
		roof: Asphalt		
		other:		

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Lincoln School

Name of Property

Scott County, Missouri County and State

8. 9	State	ement of Significance	
(Mar	<b>plica</b> k "x" i ster li:	able National Register Criteria n one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National sting.)	Areas of Significance
Х	Α	Property is associated with events that have made a	Education
		significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Ethnic Heritage - Black
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
	С	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	Period of Significance 1948-1968
		individual distinction.	
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates
		important in premistory of history.	1948, 1953, 1958, 1968
_		a Considerations in all the boxes that apply.)	
Pro	pert	y is:	Significant Person
	۱ ۸	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
	Α	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A
	В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
	С	a birthplace or grave.	IWA
	D	a cemetery.	Architect/Builder
	Е	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Builder: Gerhardt Construction Co 1948
			Architect: William B. Ittner Inc1948
	F	a commemorative property.	Architect: Buchmueller, R. Paul – 1953 additions
	G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.	Builder: Clinton, Ray – 1953 additions
Χ	ST	ATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES	
9.	Maj	or Bibliographical References	
	•	<b>graphy</b> (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in prepare documentation on file (NPS):	ing this form.)  Primary location of additional data:
	_preli	minary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requ	uested) X State Historic Preservation Office
	_prev	riously listed in the National Register	Other State agency
	_prev	riously determined eligible by the National Register	Federal agency
	_desi	gnated a National Historic Landmark	Local government
	_	orded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<u> </u>
		orded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Other. Name of repository:
	reco	orded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	
Ыic	toric	Resources Survey Number (if assigned):	

Lincoln School	<u></u> S	Scott County, Missour	<u>i</u>
Name of Property			
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property 2.8 acres	-		
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates  Datum if other than WGS84: (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)			
1 36.874453 -89.605066 Longitude:	3 Latitude:	Longitude:	
2 Latitude: Longitude:	4 Latitude:	Longitude:	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)  NAD 1927 or NAD 1983	3		
1 Zone Easting Northing	3Zone	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 Hannah Houston, Daisy Mowery, A	ılyssa Voss, & Steven J	. Hoffman, Ph.D.	
organization SEMO Historic Preservation Prog	gram	date February 13	, 2024
street & number 1 University Plaza		telephone 573-65	1-2808, 217-549-7502
city or town Cape Girardeau		state Missouri	zip code 63701
e-mail hhouston1s@semo.edu, shoffmar	1@semo.edu		

#### **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.

United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018

Lincoln School

Name of Property

Scott 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:	Lincoln School
City or Vicinity:	Sikeston
County: Scott	State: Missouri
Photographer:	Hannah Houston
Date Photographed:	August 24, 2023: photos 001-10, & 13; April 1, 2023: photos 11, 12, & 14-22

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

- 1 of 25: Main façade (east elevation), facing southwest
- 2 of 25: Gymnasium windows facing southwest
- 3 of 25: Main entrance facing west
- 4 of 25: East elevation facing south
- 5 of 25: East elevation, south end, 1956 addition facing southwest
- 6 of 25: South addition facing northeast
- 7 of 25: South addition, facing north
- 8 of 25: South addition, facing northwest
- 9 of 25: West elevation, facing northeast
- 10 of 25: west elevation, facing east
- 11 of 25: west elevation, south exterior wall of kitchens, facing north
- 12 of 25: north elevation facing southeast
- 13 of 25: Interior entrance facing west
- 14 of 25: Vestibule facing south
- 15 of 25: Hallway 1 facing south
- 16 of 25: Gymnasium and stage west wall facing west
- 17 of 25: Gymnasium east wall facing east, Lamella roofing system
- 18 of 25: Hallway three facing west
- 19 of 25: Classroom 13 facing northeast
- 20 of 25: Cafeteria facing northeast
- 21 of 25: Kitchen facing west
- 22 of 25: Hallway 2 facing west
- 23 of 25: Classroom 5 facing south
- 24 of 25: West elevation facing east
- 25 of 25: Basketball court facing south

#### Lincoln School

Name of Property

### Scott County, Missouri

County and State

#### Figure Log:

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

1 of 6: Building layout 2 of 6: Building additions map

3 of 6: Neighborhood Boundary

4 of 6: Site Map

5 of 6: Historic photo Lincoln school

6 of 6: Context Map

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page _	1
----------------	---	--------	---

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

OMB No. 1024-001

#### Summary

The Lincoln School, located at 229 Westgate in Sikeston, Scott County, Missouri is a one story, red brick, and concrete school building with various additions at the north and south. The footprint with additions forms an approximate "I" shape oriented north-south. The window openings are numerous and large, maximizing natural sunlight. The original metal frame windows on the east façade are covered in metal grates. The school has a low-pitched roof over the central section of the school that runs north-south. A barrel roof with a Lamella structural system covers the gymnasium addition that runs east/west on the north end of the original school section. The recessed main entrance is located on the west side of the building. Free-standing concrete letters that spell "LINCOLN" sit atop the entry's concrete overhang. The building was constructed in Sikeston's historically African-American neighborhood known as Sunset (referred to in text as the "Sunset Addition" or "Sunset Community").

The building served as a school for African American students in the area from its construction in 1948 until the closing of the school in 1968. The architectural firm of William B. Ittner, Inc. created the original plans for the Lincoln School. The building was constructed by Gerhardt Construction Company without the gymnasium that was in original construction plans in 1948<sup>1</sup>. The original gymnasium was constructed several years later when two additional classrooms and a cafeteria designed by Architect R. Paul Buchmueller were built by contractor Ray Clinton in April 1953.<sup>2</sup> Interviews with locals indicate that the south wing addition took place between 1956 and 1958 but no exact date of the addition has been found. The property also consists of 4 additional contributing resources, including 2 parking lots, a basketball court, a sidewalk circulation network, and one non-contributing site where the foundation for a trades building is located.

In the early 2000's the building was used as a community center and has been vacant since 2007. While areas of the building have been targeted by vandalization, the Lincoln School retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The additions that were added flow with the original materials and style of the original school building. The additions themselves show the growth of student population and the value of education in the Sunset Community.

#### Setting

The Lincoln School is located within the Sunset Community of Sikeston, Missouri, situated between Westgate and Luther Street (see figures 3, 4 and 6). The North end of the property

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Lincoln School Board Minutes. March 10, 1947.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Lincoln School Board Minutes. May 8, 1947

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page _	2
----------------	---	--------	---

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

OMB No. 1024-001

runs along W. North Street. The Lincoln School is sited on a level lot featuring a mix of lawns and asphalted spaces. A lawn expands along the entire façade (east elevation) and eastern half of the north elevation of the building, and there is a small asphalt parking lot located to the southeast of the building along Westgate Street. The space to the south of the schools is mostly a grassy space today with an asphalt basketball court at the southwest corner of the property. A larger playground and a workshop once stood in the grassy area just south and southwest of the school building.

The Sunset Community is a historically black residential neighborhood in Sikeston with homes on small lots set back from the streets, mature trees, several churches, and a park. Most homes in the community date to the community's population boom from 1940-1950. The Sunset community was originally bound by the railroad tracks to the south and the east (see figure 3). Boundaries of the community by roads were West Malone Avenue (south), N Frisco Street (east). The community was self-sufficient and set west of historic downtown Sikeston.

#### **Architectural Description**

The windows of the school are uniform throughout the building. There are large multipaned steel framed windows that are original to their original construction dates. Above the windows on all elevations are a brick pattern. The building has a complex layout due to the two additions to the original building.

Exterior

Façade (East Elevation)

The façade of the school from north to south includes the gymnasium (1953), original school block with main entrance (1948), and a projecting addition that houses a classroom (c. 1956) (see photos 001 and 004). The gymnasium has a barrel roof that is half a story higher than the rest of the school. The original block meets the gym just south of the gym windows. The east wall of the gym is divided into two bays comprised of three large metal original windows each. Each bay has a large, 16 light window located closest to the center of the elevation, with two 12 light windows on the north and south sides respectively (see photo 002). The bottom 4 lights on each window are operable and tilt outward, and the top lights (8 or 12) are fixed. The block is a one-story, brick building laid in a common bond and has a non-historic, shallow side-gable roof. A wide concrete header runs beneath the overhanging roof throughout the original building and the c. 1956 addition. A raised decorative brick element runs beneath the concrete cornice, and around the large classroom windows. The brick element is laid in a soldier brick pattern along the cornice, in a stacked brick column along the sides of the windows, and as a header row for the window sill (see photo 004). The main entrance is located at the point where the gym and original block meet and allows access to both sections. An original, poured concrete L-

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

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

OMB No. 1024-001

shaped door surround on the north side of the entryway and a concrete block wall with a concrete cap terminating approximately one foot from the roof on the south, frames the entrance and provides a small overhang. The south wall of the entryway contains a window, which was covered with plywood at an unknown date. Above the entryway, on the roof there are concrete letters spelling out LINCOLN. The doorway is comprised of two, original metal doors with large single pane windows, with sidelights and a large transom above. The transom glass was broken and the entire transom was covered in plywood at an unknown date. The brick surrounding the doorway is laid in a running bond pattern, with five stacked brick columns framing the space above the doorway and highlighting four decorative pyramid shaped concrete or limestone blocks located immediately above the doorway (see photo 003). A sign panel is centered above the doorway. The sign was covered with plywood in 2022.

Continuing south, the façade has 4 bays of original steel-framed windows. The original flat roof was altered after the period of significance to provide a slight pitch to address water issues in the building (see photo 001 and figure 5). The upper lights in all window assembles are covered with plywood, apparently as part of the renovations surrounding the roof alteration. In the bay immediately south of the entrance a window of three lights wide and four lights tall is visible. The next 2 bays contain window assemblies of five lights wide and 4 lights tall, although the northern most assembly has its northernmost column of lights covered with plywood to accommodate the additional of a closet on the interior of the classroom. The fourth window assembly is 5 lights wide and 5 lights tall. All windows have added metal grates over the windows to protect the original windows from vandalism and are removable.

Approximately 20 feet to the south of the last bay of windows is the end of the 1948 block (see photo 004). The c. 1956 southeast addition is connected to the 1948 block at this point and projects approximately 45 feet east toward Westgate Street. The extension runs approximately 8-10 feet eastward before indenting approximately 2-3 feet before continuing out to the eastern end of the addition. An entry comprised of two historic, metal doors with single pane glass windows is located where the building indents, and a brick column the east of the door the same width of the initial wall frames the doorway, and a shed roof covering creates the look of a recessed doorway on this elevation. (see photo 004) The eastern elevation of the addition is made of red brick in a running bond pattern with a recessed, original metal frame window assembly 8 lights wide and 5 tall, with the lower lights being operable. A poured concrete bulkhead extending to the ground runs along the length of the windows. The lower lights on the north and south sections of the window were removed to allow for window air-conditioning units at some point and have since been covered in plywood (see photo 005). The addition's roof was altered from a flat roof to one with a slight downward slope to the south, and the upper portion of the window assembly was covered with non-historic plywood sheathing in a board and batten design at this time. This alteration took place after the POS, and non-historic metal cladding is visible along the roofline on all elevations of the addition.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	4
----------------	---	------	---

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

OMB No. 1024-001

#### South Elevation

The south elevation consists of the south elevation of the 1948 Block with c. 1956 additions on either side (see figure 2). From left to right, beginning with the c. 1956 addition to the west, the façade is similar to the east elevation described above except it retains its original flat roof and has an L shape. The south elevation is made of red brick in a running bond pattern with a recessed, original metal frame window assembly 6 lights wide and 6 tall, with the lower lights being operable. A poured concrete bulkhead extending to the ground runs along the length of the windows. Many of the lights have been covered with plywood, and the remaining lights covered with a protective metal mesh (see photo 006). The plywood and metal mesh can be removed to reveal the window grid beneath. This portion of the addition extends approximately 8 feet south of the original block, forming the long end of the L. The short end of the L connects to the original block and contains Hallway 2 (see photo 007). An original double metal door with single lights is located at the point where the wing meets the original block. Two, small, original, rectangular metal frame windows are located high on the wall to the east of the entry door, and the flat roof has a wide overhanging eave. The 1956 wing has a slightly lower roof than the original block (see photo 007).

The south elevation of the original block is comprised of red brick laid in a common bond and has 4 bays of large windows covered by plywood that can be removed. The flat roof has a wide overhanging eave (see photos 007 and 008). The left (west) two bays and the right (east) two bays have original concrete block between and above the windows, with brick construction separating the two sets of window bays. Located on the end window bays and in the middle of the two sets of window bays there is stacked brick ornamentation running on the edge of the windows and forming the window sill, similar to what is found on the east elevation described above.

The easternmost portion of the south elevation consists of the south end of the c. 1956 addition. The south elevation of this addition is two bays wide and is made of red brick in a running bond pattern. The left (west) bay is comprised of a recessed original metal frame window assembly, likely 6 lights wide and 6 tall, with a poured concrete bulkhead extending to the ground running along the length of the windows. Many of the lights have been covered with plywood (see photo 008). The plywood can be removed to reveal the window grid beneath. The right (east) bay consists of a blind, brick wall with no windows, laid in a running bond pattern.

#### West Elevation

The west elevation is comprised of the 1953 addition, the original block, and the western portion of the c. 1956 additions, which give the building a U shaped configuration (see photo 009). The short brick wall of the small room on the north elevation (classroom 13) is visible to

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

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

OMB No. 1024-001

the left (north). The west elevation of the 1953 addition is brick construction with a recessed façade. There is a short blank brick wall flush with the overhanging eave located in the center of the addition containing the exterior doors described in the interior description of the lunch/tutoring room (see photo 010). The entryway wall is flanked on either side by window assemblies comprised of 2 light wide and 6 light tall window units, which in turn are flanked by three light wide and 6 light tall window units. The upper two lights of all the window assemblies are covered with plywood. The kitchen wall described in the interior description partially blocks the window unit on the southern portion of the façade and is visible from the exterior.

The south wall of the gymnasium and 1953 addition consists of a blank, brick wall extending approximately 70 feet to the east, a small bump out section with a shed roof containing the kitchen addition described in the interior description, with two original wood sash windows covered on the interior and an original metal exterior door (see photo 011). The second story of the 1953 addition has a westerly sloping roof, with a parapet wall running north-south on the east end. Two four-light original metal frame windows are to the west and a smaller window, covered in wood sheathing, is located to the east. To the right (east) of this addition is the south wall of the original gymnasium building with mechanical equipment, a metal coal chute door, and a doorway that leads to an unfinished utility or mechanical room. The large doorway has horizontal and vertical soldier brick surrounding the original opening, but a smaller door was inserted into the opening and the surrounding area filled in with asbestos shingle siding at an unknown date during the period of significance. To the right of the doorway is a large chimney and this is where the gymnasium connects to the original block building.

The west elevation of the original block building forms the base of the U and consists of red brick laid in common bond pattern (see photo 009). At the north end is a single, large window and three sets of paired large window assemblies symmetrically placed across the remainder of the façade. All windows on this elevation of the original block building are covered in plywood that could be removed. The same decorative pattern of vertical and horizontal soldier bricks surround the windows, with original concrete block between and above each set of windows, similar to the pattern noted on the south elevation (see photo 024).

A perpendicular section of the original block building extends approximately 20 feet west from the south end of the western elevation of the original block building and is comprised of red brick laid in a common bond pattern. The north wall of this section contains a single sash window to the east that is covered with plywood that could be removed, and a narrow opening, likely another window also covered in plywood, to the west (see figure 2 and photo 024). The c. 1956 addition, with its lower roof level visible, is red brick laid in a running bond and extends west. This elevation consists of a single window, likely sash, covered with plywood, a set of original double metal doors the same as those located on the south elevation, and a large window assembly above a concrete bulkhead. The configuration of this window assembly is

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	6
----------------	---	------	---

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

OMB No. 1024-001

unknown due to being partially covered in plywood, but based on exterior dimensions it is likely the same as those noted on the south elevation.

The west elevation of the c. 1956 addition sits on a concrete foundation and consists of a blind, brick wall with no windows, laid in a running bond pattern, with a small a/c unit protruding out of the wall near the center.

#### North Elevation

From left to right, the north elevation consists of the gymnasium with its visible barrel roof a short single-story portion of the addition, (room 13), and the northern elevation of the cafeteria (see photo 012). Above and behind the single story, the taller brick wall and sloped roof over the stage and a portion of the cafeteria's painted brick wall are visible. The gymnasium's north elevation is divided by tapered concrete buttresses into five equal bays. The bays are red brick topped with a ribbon of glazing comprised of 8 light window assemblies under the roof's shallow eave. Some window lights are missing and have been covered with plywood. Original, solid metal entry doors are located on the outermost edge of both the eastern and western bays of the gymnasium. The room 13 section is comprised of 3 bays with a single window in the center bay and two windows in each of the other bays. All windows in this section have been boarded up, likely sometime after construction and before 1989 when the school board sold the building. Approximately 8 feet of the cafeteria portion of the addition is visible and is comprised of a painted brick wall with no openings.

#### Interior

The interior of the building includes thirteen classrooms, a kitchen, tutoring room, gymnasium with stage, two offices and four bathrooms. The 1948 block was designed as a wide double-loaded corridor.

#### Entry way and vestibule

The main entrance from the façade/east elevation on Westgate Street contains the exterior double leaf door described in the Façade description above and leads to a square entryway with white linoleum tile. The entryway's ceiling surface material is gone but the wood support members are in place. The walls are painted brick. On the north end of the entryway is a doorway to the gymnasium comprised of an original, metal double door with two light windows.

An original double leaf wood door on the west wall leads to a vestibule created when a new doorway was inserted into the hall of the 1948 block to limit access to the classrooms, likely for when the building was used as a community center during nights and weekends during the

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page _	<u>7</u>
----------------	---	--------	----------

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

OMB No. 1024-001

period of significance (hallway 1) (see photo 013). The door is flanked by six pane sidelights, with four two light transoms located above. The entrance to hallway 1 from the vestibule consists of a dividing wall with a centered cased opening flanked by narrow vents (see photo 014).

#### 1948 Block

The only hall in the 1948 portion of the building is a double-loaded corridor running north-south (Hallway 1, figure 1). The ceilings throughout the 1948 portion of the building appear to be historic, acoustic tiles or wallboard. The original concrete block walls were covered with non-historic plywood at an unknown date and are painted beige with simple wood crown molding and trim covering. Several exposed steel columns are evident on the east and west side of the hallway (see photo 015). Hallway 1 supports classrooms 1-6, the furnace room, bathrooms 1 and 2, and offices 1 and 2. All classrooms in Hallway 1 contain original, tiled flooring, exposed concrete block walls and wooden vertical paneling with a singular chalkboard, white perforated ceiling tiles and wooden doors with a singular pane (see photo 023). All windows have their original metal framing. Some windows have been boarded from the exterior with plywood or metal grating, as discussed in the exterior subsection.

Offices 1 and 2 both contain non-historic gray low-pile carpeting and perforated ceiling tiles. Office 2 contains a smaller enclosed office space. Bathroom two contains two stalls and a small changing space with white tiles as flooring and backsplash.

1953 Addition: Gymnasium with stage

The Gymnasium and related additions is located at the north end of the 1948 Block (see Figure 2). The main entrance through the school's vestibule described above. The north end of the school contains the gymnasium, kitchen, and tutoring room. The gymnasium contains original concrete flooring with basketball court markings, original basketball hoops, bleachers, and stage. The stage is recessed into the gym's west wall. The stage is elevated with wooden flooring and walls (see photo 016). Movable bleachers are along the north wall. Two original single steel doors are located at each corner of the north wall. The gymnasium was a part of the original construction plan for the school but was not fully completed until after the original classrooms and office space was completed. The ceiling of the gym is arched with a wooden diamond pattern (see photo 017). This pattern is called a Lamella Roofing system. <sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Wight, Ted. "Gustel R Kiewitt & Lamella Dome Roofs." ST LOUIS STYLE, February 16, 2023; and, Weight, Kevin. Chandler High School, National Register of Historic Places Nomination. https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/07f62de7-253a-482e-8a51-73b46d0121ea. Accessed 2/12/2024.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

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

OMB No. 1024-001

At the west end of the gymnasium to the south of the stage is Hallway 3 that leads to the Kitchen and tutoring rooms (see Figure 1). The hallway runs east-west, and the historic opening on the south to the lunch/tutoring room and kitchen is enclosed with non-historic wood sheathing. The north wall of the hallway is exposed original concrete block and has an original wood door to the stage area. The hallway has a raised ceiling, with light coming in from two second story windows visible on the western exterior elevation (see photo 018). The windows visible on the exterior of the south elevation (see photo 011) are covered by the slanting interior ceiling, installed at some point after initial construction, possibly when the opening to the cafeteria was closed. The hallway terminates at its western end in the lunch/tutoring room.

The lunch/tutoring room extends in a north-south direction and is partitioned into two smaller spaces. At the south end of the west wall of the lunch/tutoring room is a doorway opening to a small entry vestibule containing non-historic solid metal doors to the exterior on the north and south. At the north end of the lunch/tutoring room is a closet and a doorway to Room 13, which is likely another addition that occurred during the period of significance and is visible from the exterior in photos 012, 010, and on the interior photo 020. There is a non-historic door on the east wall of Room 13 leading to the gymnasium, and on the south wall an original solid wood door leads to the stage area (see photo 019). The east wall of the lunch/tutoring room was divided into three small closets to house mechanical equipment, potentially when the school was upgraded with an HVAC system at an unknown point during the period of significance. In the lunch/tutoring room, there is a non-historic wood door on the south wall leading to the kitchen. On the east wall of the kitchen is a cased opening into the area of the cafeteria that had been closed off from the hallway, likely when this room was expanded to the west in what appears to be a later addition that occurred at an unknown point during the period of significance. The walls are all original exposed concrete block with the exception of the northern wall of the original kitchen and kitchen addition, which is historic wood sheathing, likely installed when these spaces were initially renovated to expand the kitchen area (see photo 021). Historic blue tile floors, potentially vinyl asbestos tiles, extend throughout. The windows in the lunch/tutoring room and kitchen are described in the exterior subsection.

The south end of Hallway 1 intersects with Hallway 2 which runs perpendicular and then turns to create an L shape leading to a set of exterior doors on the south elevation (see figure 1). Based on an exterior examination of the brick pattern on the south wall, it seems likely the original block of the building was expanded with additions to both the east and west and reconfigured on the interior. This section of the original building, however, would have been slightly offset from the remainder of the original block as seen in the aerial view of the school (see boundary description image and figure 2). Hallway 1 provides access to the c. 1956 east and west additions on the original 1948 Block. The hallway is partitioned into east and west sections with a wall and historic door with single pane window close to Hallway 2's intersection with Hallway 1 (photo 022). Hallway 2 is for the most part a single-loaded corridor that provides

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	<u>7                                    </u>	3
----------------	--	---

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

OMB No. 1024-001

access to Classrooms 7-12 and Bathroom 2. The classrooms on the c. 1956 addition have wider classroom space than the classrooms in the original block of the school. Thicker concrete block walls show where the original building ends and the east and west portions of the c. 1956 addition begins. The classrooms in the addition also have painted concrete block walls versus the original classrooms that are covered with wooden paneling or drywall. Floor coverings include non-historic carpet in classrooms and the hallway and areas where the flooring has been removed exposing the concrete floor below. Ceilings throughout are either comprised of acoustic tile, or the ceiling material has been damaged and removed exposing the framing and insulation above.

#### Additional Resources

Sidewalks and concrete pathways, constructed during the period of significance, contributing structure.

A network of concrete sidewalks and pathways connect the building to the non-extant Trades Building on the southwest, Westgate Street on the south and north ends of the original block, and a curved walkway extends to the south from the original portion of the east-west block (see figure 4).

Northwest parking lot/paved yard, constructed at an unknown date during the period of significance, contributing structure.

The entirety of the yard space extending from the south end of the c. 1956 addition along Luther Street to North Street was finished in concrete at some unknown point during the period of significance, likely after the 1953 and c. 1956 additions were complete (see photo 009 and figure 4).

Southeast parking lot, constructed at unknown date during the period of significance, contributing structure.

This concrete parking lot is located on Westgate Street south of the east wing of the c. 1956 addition (see photo 008 and figure 4).

Basketball court, constructed at an unknown date during the period of significance, contributing structure.

The poured concrete basketball court is located at the southwest corner of the property. One basketball hoop post is still intact, although the backboard and hoop are missing. Based on oral histories, this space has remained largely unchanged since its construction during the period of significance (see figure 4).

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	7	Page	10
----------------	---	------	----

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

OMB No. 1024-001

Trades Building foundation, constructed 1949-50, noncontributing structure.

Located southwest of the 1956 addition, the Trades Building was demolished after the period of significance but before the current owner acquired the property in 1989. This feature is noncontributing due to loss of physical integrity (see figure 4).

#### Integrity

The building retains the appearance it achieved during the 1948-1968 Period of Significance through the initial 1948 construction and the 1952 and c. 1956 additions. Much of the historic layout, features, and materials have been retained, including building materials such as a majority of the flooring, doors, and original windows. Although some of the windows have been covered over, much of the original window framing is visible from the interior. Although the original concrete block walls appear to have been covered with wood sheathing in Hallway 1 and most of the classrooms and offices in the 1948 original block building at an unknown time, they still retain their overall spaciousness and feel, and the original concrete block construction is evident in Classroom 6. In addition, the Lincoln School's long wide hallways, spacious classrooms, and offices, along with the large open gymnasium, stage, kitchen and cafeteria retain the look and feel of a mid-twentieth century school. Additionally, the mid-century modern main entry, with the intact concrete LINCOLN signage over the entry, effectively conveys its modern design.

Some aspects of the building have changed since the end of the period of significance, including the removal of at least some asbestos materials. The entrance to Hallway 1 from the vestibule has a non-historic dividing wall with a cased opening constructed after the period of significance, likely between 1989 and 2000. Although this feature is non-historic, it does not significantly detract from the school's ability to convey its significance. Additionally, a low-pitched gable roof over the 1948 Block and a low-pitched shed roof on the east portion of the c. 1956 addition were installed between 1989 and 2022. Although the altered roof profiles affect the design and look of the building, that effect is minimized due to sensitive use of shallow pitches to the non-historic roofing, just enough to shed water effectively while not drawing focus to the roof itself. The gabled roof was also clad in a dark material that seems to help divert attention. Otherwise, the setting of the neighborhood has retained a similar feel, and association from the Period of Significance, and the nominated property as a whole has retained its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association as a mid-twentieth century African American school.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page _	11
----------------	---	--------	----

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

OMB No. 1024-001

#### Summary

The Lincoln School, at 230 Westgate Street in Sikeston, Scott County, Missouri, is locally significant under Criterion A in Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black. Constructed in 1948 it is a significant example of education during racial segregation in Sikeston, Missouri. It is located within the Sunset Community, a residential neighborhood with a large African American population. The period of Significance begins with the building's construction as a segregated school for African American children in 1948 and ends in 1968 the year the school closed. Significant dates of the school are 1948 the opening of the school, 1953 the gymnasium addition, 1954 the ruling of *Brown V. Board of Education*, the south addition construction in c. 1956, and the closing of the school in 1968. The Lincoln Junior High School provided a space for education and community events to the African American community during a time of racial segregation in America.

#### Elaboration

Sikeston's African American Community in Sunset

Sikeston is at the southern border of Scott County, which is at the northern most point of Southeast Missouri's Mississippi River Delta Cotton Belt. Established by John Sikes in 1860, Sikeston's location along the railroad eventually led to prosperity and growth. Sikeston's population increased steadily from 191 in 1880 to 1,077 in 1900. After the establishment of the Little River Drainage District in 1904, Sikeston became one of the more prosperous farming communities in the region and the population continued to grow, rising to 3,327 in 1910.

The cotton boom in the 1920's led to an increase in population, and an increase in the percentage of African American residents migrating in from the south. In 1920 there were only 90 African Americans recorded by the Census living in Sikeston, a number that increased five-fold to 448 in 1930.<sup>7</sup> By 1940 nearly a third of the county's population was African American.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Foley, Terri L. "Architectural/Historical Survey Report of Historic Business District, Sikeston (Scott County), Missouri," <a href="https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Sikeston%20HBD%20Report.pdf">https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Sikeston%20HBD%20Report.pdf</a> accessed 2/10/2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Foley, 1910 Census, Supplement for Missouri, Table IV Composition and Characteristics of the Population for Places of 2,500-10,000, p. 680..

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Foley.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> 1920 Census, "Composition and Characteristics, Table 16, Composition of the Population, for Incorporated Places of 2,5000 to 10,000: 1920, p. 48; 1930 Census, "Composition and Characteristics, Table 16, Composition of the Population, for Incorporated Places of 2,5000 to 10,000: 1930, p. 1357.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Capeci, Dominic J., 1986. "The Lynching of Cleo Wright: Federal Protection of Constitutional Rights during World War II." The Journal of American History 72 (4): 859-87. Doi:10.2307/1908894.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	12
----------------	---	------	----

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

OMB No. 1024-001

With the town's location, jobs supporting the surrounding farm community, including in the cotton fields and lumber industry, led to an increasing black population throughout the first half of the twentieth century. Most African Americans, however, were confined to low-wage, unskilled labor as hired field hands, common labor for major Sikeston employers like the Sikeston Cotton Oil Mill or performing personal services for white businesses and wealthy families. Similar to conditions that prevailed in the Deep South, African Americans in Sikeston and the Bootheel lived in a social and economically segregated environment.

The segregated community of Sikeston lived in the Sunset Addition at the west end of town (see figure 3). What, according to one researcher, had begun as "an informal immigrant community in the mid-1920s" had become "an organized ethnic community by the early 40s." The locals knew the boundaries of the addition to be two railroad tracks, one marking the eastern part of the community and one track outlining a southern boundary, whereas the west boundary was a cotton field and to the north the cotton mill. (See Figure xx) Sunset had midwives, a cab service, grocery stores and its own schools and ball teams. The Sunset Addition was largely self-sufficient, with several churches, the school, and various recreational opportunities. Sue Marble, a Sikeston local and resident of the Sunset Addition, described life in the neighborhood to a *Southeast Missourian* reporter stating that, "Blacks stayed among themselves, and whites did the same. We had everything we needed for our livelihood, and we didn't bother with theirs." <sup>13</sup> John Harrington reflected on his early years in the Sunset Addition in a *Facebook* post following the murder of George Floyd that was subsequent shared on June 17, 2020, on the PeaceWorks Kansas City website:

I was born & spent my early life in a sundown town in Southern MO called Sikeston. All of the Black people lived in a 1 square mile area called Sunset. As a child, Sunset was my Wakanda. Everything was Super Black. The schools, churches, corner store, barbershop, beauty salons, & night clubs. Not until I was 8 & crossed the tracks to go to Hucks did my perfect world come crashing down. I was told to get my Nword ass back across those tracks by the police, who I was already scared of cause they used to beat up my uncles & cousins on the regular, & we all grew up hearing the story of the angry white mob that lynched a Black man in front of our grandparents' church. That was my first ride in a police car, @ 8 years old. It changed me forever. 14

The most famous, and tragic example of the local relationships between racial groups in the town, occurred on Sunday, January 25, 1942, when a white mob lynched Cleo Wright, an

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Capeci, Dominic J. The Lynching of Cleo Wright. The University Press of Kentucky, 1998, p. 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Capeci, 1998, pp. 3-12.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Capeci, Dominic J. *The Lynching of Cleo Wright*. The University Press of Kentucky, 1998, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Capeci, Dominic J. The Lynching of Cleo Wright. The University Press of Kentucky, 1998, p. 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Blackwell, Sam. "A Brief Historical Review of Sikeston Mo." Southeast Missourian. November 11, 2001.

https://peaceworkskc.org/everyday-racism/, accessed 2/20/2024.

NPS Form 10-900 **National Park Service** 

United States Department of the Interior

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet** 

Section	number	8	Page	13

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

OMB No. 1024-001

African American cotton mill worker. 15 Wright was taken from the city jail, tied and dragged behind a car into the Sunset Addition. 16 The mob placed his body on a pole in between two prominent community churches and burned his body. 17 Church goers witnessed the lynching and were instructed by police to not leave. 18 After the mob dispersed, police kept the neighborhood on lockdown. 19 In response to the lynching hundreds of the Sunset community fled Sikeston.<sup>20</sup>

Amidst the racial segregation and tension in the town, the Lincoln School, once built, served as a safe space for the neighborhood and safe space for African American children to learn. Even after the passing of Brown v. Board of Education in 1954, the Lincoln School was utilized in the Sunset Community for another fourteen years.

Education Opportunities for Black Students in Missouri

After enacting laws prohibiting the education of African Americans during slavery, Missourians were slow to embrace education for blacks even when it was mandated by the 1866 constitution following general emancipation.<sup>21</sup> The Missouri Constitution was amended in 1875 to mandate separate school facilities for blacks and whites, a requirement that would remain in place until the Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education* made segregation illegal.<sup>22</sup> Educational opportunities in the Bootheel were particularly limited, and a survey of black schools in the region in 2002 revealed only two other extant schools in Scott County, one in Haywood City and one in Oran. 23 During the early twentieth century, African Americans outside larger cities and towns often had to travel long distances to attend school, and often had to make due with poorly constructed facilities, unfair pay for teachers, and limited resources.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Capeci, Dominic J., 1986.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> NAACP Report: Investigation into the Lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, [Mo] January 23, 1942 (Microfilm), 2007.082, Box: MF031, Reel: 06. Special Collections and Archives.

http://library.semo.edu:8081/repositories/2/resources/215.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> NAACP Report: Investigation into the Lynching of Cleo Wright"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Capeci, Dominic J., 1986.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> NAACP Report: Investigation into the Lynching of Cleo Wright"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Capeci, Dominic J., 1986.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Kremer, Gary R., and Brett Rogers. Rural and Small Town Schools in Missouri.

<sup>2002.</sup>https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/AA%20Schools%20PIV%20Report.pdf accessed 2/10/2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Greene, Lorenzo J., Gary R. Kremer, and Antonio Holland. Missouri's Black Heritage, revised edition. Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1993, p. 107; Kremer and Rogers 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Kremer and Rogers, 2002, p. 67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Kremer and Rogers, 2002, Greene, Lorenzo J., Gary R. Kremer, and Antonio Holland. Missouri's Black Heritage, revised edition. Columbia and London: University of Missouri Press, 1993, pp. 146-147; Cox, Amber, Howardsville School National Register of Historic Places nomination,

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	14
----------------	---	------	----

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

OMB No. 1024-001

Despite these conditions, African Americans in Missouri, as elsewhere, often saw education as an important route to social and economic advancement.<sup>25</sup>

Education Opportunities for Black Students in Sikeston

The previous school for African American children originated in 1922. The education for children who lived in the Sunset Community was limited due to the months needed for them to work in the cotton fields. <sup>26</sup> The first school for black students in Sikeston was located at 1004 Maud Street in Sikeston. <sup>27</sup> The school no longer remains but the historic West End Baptist Church is on the original site of the school. <sup>28</sup> Schooling was available for students grades 1-8, taught by one teacher. To teach all grade levels in a day, at times, older students stepped in to teach portions of the younger pupils' lessons. <sup>29</sup> The first teaching assistant hired at the school was not until 1926. <sup>30</sup> The first mention in the Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools report of schooling for the Black students in Sikeston is from 1923. <sup>31</sup> . There is no data showing the number of students attending. The Missouri Annual Report showed the school which was listed only as 'Sunset' was a one room building in new condition. <sup>32</sup> A second room was added onto the one room schoolhouse, no date of construction has been found for the addition. By 1931-32 the school had 162 students in attendance. <sup>33</sup>

The Lincoln School and Significance Under Criterion A, 1948-1968

When the Lincoln School was built on Westgate and the additions to the building were completed the school's student numbers had nearly tripled.<sup>34</sup> Once completed with the additions, it had 13 classrooms, a principal's office, auditorium, workshop, auditorium,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Kremer and Rogers 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Sikeston R-6 School Board. *The History of Lincoln School*. February 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Sikeston, Missouri. 2010

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Sikeston, Missouri. 2010,

Sikeston R-6 School Board. The History of Lincoln School. February 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Sikeston R-6 School Board. *The History of Lincoln School*. February 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Sikeston R-6 School Board. *The History of Lincoln School*. February 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> "1922, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools, 1858- Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1922. 192, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools - Missouri State Archives - Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present - Missouri Digital Heritage Hosted Collections (oclc.org)

<sup>32 &</sup>quot;1923, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> "1931, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1931. 1931, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools - Missouri State Archives - Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present - Missouri Digital Heritage Hosted Collections (oclc.org).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> 1955, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1955.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page _	<u> 15</u>
----------------	---	--------	------------

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

OMB No. 1024-001

cafeteria, and a gymnasium (figure 1). Grade levels taught at the school also increased to the 10th grade. Any students wanting to graduate with a high school-level diploma had to complete their schooling at a high school in the area that allowed Black students, the closest being Charleston. 35 The State of Missouri's Annual Report of Public Schools in 1939 reported 460 students enrolled at the school. A decade later the schools saw a slight decline of about 100 students.<sup>36</sup> In 1950 the Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools outlined the growing need for quality education for Black students, stating that the state of Missouri saw an increase of approximately 6,000 additional Black students in 1949-1950. 37 By 1950 the Lincoln school had regained its enrollment to over 400 students.<sup>38</sup> The shop for industrial trade was added to the property in the 1949-1950 school year and was highlighted in the Annual Report for public Schools<sup>39</sup> The workshop was torn down before the school was bought by the current owner in the early 2000's, a specific date of demolition cannot be found. A foundation slab is visible where the shop once stood. The report from the 1949-1950 school year also reported an increase in funding going to black schools for vocational home economic and agricultural programs. 40 These programs funded through the State either doubled or tripled in black schools across Missouri<sup>41</sup>.

In addition to being a place for African American children in Sikeston to receive an education, the Lincoln School was also an important community resource. The school provided adult vocational and basic education programs in the evenings. The gymnasium, after it was completed, was used as a community center for evening physical education programs and community group meetings. In many ways, Lincoln School served as the primary civic infrastructure for the Sunset community, and in addition to churches and small businesses in the neighborhood, helped sustain the African American community of Sikeston throughout the difficult days of segregation.

#### Post Brown vs Board of Education

After Brown vs Board of Education passed in 1954, children who attended Lincoln School could be enrolled in Sikeston's Public Schools. Students who wanted to complete high school were able to do so without traveling to other towns. Enrollment during the 1953-1954 school year

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> Sikeston R-6 School Board. *The History of Lincoln School*. February 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> "1949, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1949.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> "1949, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> "1950, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1950.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> "1950, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> "1950, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "1950, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> The Daily Standard, March 27, 1968, p. 7.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page	16
----------------	---	------	----

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

OMB No. 1024-001

was 442 students. <sup>43</sup> The State's annual report of Public Schools in 1955 did not include separate data for the Lincoln School. After 1954, there is no data on how many students still attended Lincoln school until its closure. Because of racial tensions in the area families did not feel that their children were safe in the white schools. <sup>44</sup> Integration of the schools did not go swiftly, The Southern School News reported that six high schools in the bootheel region including Scott County had not fully integrated their High Schools. <sup>45</sup> Gary Kremer, a prominent historian of Missouri's African American history, noted that "Desegregation in the Bootheel counties was later than in any other part of the state." He also quotes Alonzo Greene, who was reporting on the progress of desegregation in 1958, as saying "that the schools there were 'not yet desegregated." <sup>46</sup>

By 1968 the Lincoln school closed, and all students were integrated into the public school system. The Sikeston *Standard Democrat* reported on the official closing of the school July 8th of 1968. In an interview by a reporter of the *Sikeston Standard*, previous principal of the Lincoln School, Russell V. Ford stated, "Yet, the closing at the same time is joyous because it marks the beginning of making free and equal education in the community. The school was utilized after its closure as a training facility for Manpower Development and a community center and the school's library, located in classroom 8, was available for continued community use 49. In 1971, just three years after the Lincoln school closed African American students boycotted the Sikeston High School, calling against unfair punishments towards black students and overcrowded school buses. Twenty- eight of the seventy- five black students that protested were arrested following the boycott<sup>50</sup>.

#### The Lincoln School after 1968

The Lincoln school remained an integral part of the community after the school closed in 1968. In 1989, the Sikeston Board of Education approved the bid of \$30,000 by Michael Green to purchase the building <sup>51</sup>. During the early 2000s, the building was the home of the Lincoln-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> "1954, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1954.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Little, Eugene. Interview. Conducted by Hannah Houston. August 25, 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> "Missouri Study Discloses, 9,000 Still in All-Negro Systems." *Southern School News.* June 1, 1956, Vol. 2 edition, sec. Issue 12. <a href="https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn59049440/1956-06-01/ed-1/seq-16/">https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn59049440/1956-06-01/ed-1/seq-16/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Kremer and Rogers, 2002, p. 65.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Sikeston R-6 School Board. *The History of Lincoln School*. February 2022.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> "School Closing Called Sad and Happy." The Daily Standard. July 8, 1968.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> "School Closing Called Sad and Happy." *The Daily Standard*. July 8, 1968.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Blackwell, Sam. "A Brief Historical Review of Sikeston Mo."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Sikeston R-6 School Board. *Certification of Resolution*. September 1989.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	8	Page _	<u>17</u>
----------------	---	--------	-----------

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

OMB No. 1024-001

Gloryland Community Center<sup>52</sup>. The community center gave individuals access to GED courses and head start programs<sup>53</sup>. On occasion, Sikeston held Saturday basketball games in the gymnasium when the facility was a community center. The building has been vacant since the late 2000's.

Based on a window survey, research into African American education in Sikeston and interviews with community members, the Lincoln school is the only extant educational facility built for African Americans in Sikeston. The prior school for African Americans in Sikeston, located on Maud Street, no longer exists. The Lincoln School remains as the only surviving remnant of segregated education in the mid-twentieth in Sikeston, Missouri, and aside from the churches and homes of the Sunset Addition, remains one of the most notable surviving resources in Sikeston of this important era of American history.

#### Conclusion

The Lincoln School operated as a school for African Americans in Sikeston, Missouri from the time of its construction in 1948 until it closed in 1968 and is locally significant under Criteria A: Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black. Throughout its history, Lincoln served as an important community resource for African Americans living in Sikeston. Located in the Sunset Addition, the highly segregated neighborhood in which Sikeston's African Americans lived, the school not only served as the only source of formal education for African American children during a time of segregation and separate educational facilities for blacks, but it was also an important community resource. Serving as a sort of community center for Sikeston's African American community, the Lincoln School was a major point of community pride, and continued to be used as a resource for the black community even after it closed as a school. The building retains its integrity, and despite alterations and additions over the years, maintains its character-defining features, location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building, while not currently in use, is still viewed by locals as an important pillar of their neighborhood, a reminder of the tight knit community that valued and fought for the education of the next generation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Welton, Scott. "City and Charter Communications Reach Agreement." Sikeston Standard Democrat, March 4, 2003.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Welton, Scott. "Local Program Receives Funding." Sikeston Standard Democrat, October 7, 2004.

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-001

United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service** 

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet** 

Section number	9	Page _	18
----------------	---	--------	----

Lincoln School
Name of Property
Scott County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
1

#### **Bibliography:**

- "1922, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools, 1858- Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1922, 1922, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools -Missouri State Archives - Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present -Missouri Digital Heritage Hosted Collections (oclc.org)
- "1931, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1931. 1931, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools -Missouri State Archives - Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present -Missouri Digital Heritage Hosted Collections (oclc.org).
- "1939, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1939.
  - https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll16/id/20011/rec/71.
- "1949, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1949.
  - https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll16/id/23639/rec/81.
- "1950, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1950.
  - https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll16/id/23906.
- "1954, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1954.
- "1955, Missouri Annual Reports of Public Schools." Missouri Annual Report of Public Schools, 1858-Present. Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Missouri State Archives, June 30, 1955.
  - https://mdh.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16795coll16/id/25971/rec/87.
- Blackwell, Sam. "A Brief Historical Review of Sikeston Mo." Southeast Missourian. November 11, 2001.
- Capeci, Dominic J. 1986. "The Lynching of Cleo Wright: Federal Protection of Constitutional Rights during World War II." The Journal of American History 72 (4): 859-87. Doi:10.2307/1908894.
- Capeci Jr, Dominic J. The Lynching of Cleo Wright. University Press of Kentucky, 1998.
- Cox, Amber, Howardsville School National Register of Historic Places nomination, https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Howardville%20School.pdf, accessed 2/10/2024.
- Daughters of Sunset, curator. (2022). Memories of Sunset. The Sikeston Depot Southeast Missouri Museum of Art and Culture. Sikeston, Missouri.

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-001

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Section	number	9	Page	19
--	---------	--------	---	------	----

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

Foley, Terri L. "Architectural/Historical Survey Report of Historic Business District, Sikeston (Scott County), Missouri,"

https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/Sikeston%20HBD%20Report.pdf accessed 2/10/2024.

Greene, Lorenzo J, Gary R Kremer, and Antonio Frederick Holland. *Missouri's Black Heritage*. Columbia: University Of Missouri Press, 1993.

Kremer, Gary R., and Brett Rogers. Rural and Small Town Schools in Missouri.

2002. <a href="https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/AA%20Schools%20PIV%20Rep">https://mostateparks.com/sites/mostateparks/files/AA%20Schools%20PIV%20Rep</a> ort.pdf accessed 2/10/2024.

Lincoln School Board Minutes. March 10, 1947.

Lincoln School Board Minutes. May 8, 1947

Lincoln School Board Minutes. May 30, 1952.

Lincoln School Board Minutes. September 25, 1952.

Lincoln School Board Minutes. October 14, 1952.

Lincoln School Board Minutes. April 16, 1953.

Little, Eugene. Interview. Conducted by Hannah Houston. August 25, 2023.

Lynch, Fred. "J.W. Gerhardt, Longtime Contractor." seMissourian.com. Southeast Missourian, November 25, 2015. https://www.semissourian.com/blogs/flynch/entry/64103.

"Missouri Study Discloses, 9,000 Still in All-Negro Systems." *Southern School News*. June 1, 1956, Vol. 2 edition, sec. Issue 12.

https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/lccn/sn59049440/1956-06-01/ed-1/seq-16/.

PeaceWorks Kansas City. "Everyday Racism - PeaceWorks Kansas City," June 17, 2020. https://peaceworkskc.org/everyday-racism/.

"School Closing Called Sad and Happy." The Daily Standard. July 8, 1968.

https://www.newspapers.com/image/87358348/?terms=Lincoln%20School%2C%20Sikeston&match=1.

Scott County Assessor Office, GIS, Modified by Hannah Houston

Sikeston R-6 School Board. *The History of Lincoln School*. February 2022. (located in school board office)

Sikeston R-6 School Board. *Certification of Resolution*. September 1989. (located in school board office)

Sikeston Standard Democrat. April 16, 2019. James N. Howard. https://standard-democrat.com/story/2601953.html.

"Sunset Reunion Held Saturday." Sikeston Standard Democrat, September 4, 2001. https://standard-democrat.com/story/1331492.html.

Through the Years: A Pictorial History of Sikeston, Missouri. 2010

Marshall, Albert P. "Racial Integration in Education in Missouri." *The Journal of Negro Education* 25, no. 3 (1956): 289–98. https://doi.org/10.2307/2293438.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number	9	Page	20
----------------	---	------	----

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

OMB No. 1024-001

NAACP Report: Investigation into the Lynching of Cleo Wright at Sikeston, [Mo] January 23, 1942 (Microfilm), 2007.082, Box: MF031, Reel: 06. Special Collections and Archives. http://library.semo.edu:8081/repositories/2/resources/215.

United States Census Bureau. Thirteenth Census of the United States: 1910.

United States Census Bureau. Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920.

United States Census Bureau. Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930.

United States Census Bureau. Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940.

Weight, Kevin. Chandler High School, National Register of Historic Places Nomination. <a href="https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/07f62de7-253a-482e-8a51-73b46d0121ea">https://npgallery.nps.gov/GetAsset/07f62de7-253a-482e-8a51-73b46d0121ea</a>. Accessed 2/12/2024.

Welton, Scott. "City and Charter Communications Reach Agreement." Sikeston Standard Democrat, March 4, 2003. https://standard-democrat.com/story/1338580.html.

Welton, Scott. "Local Program Receives Funding." Sikeston Standard Democrat, October 7, 2004. https://standard-democrat.com/story/1342770.html.

Wight, Ted. "Gustel R Kiewitt & Lamella Dome Roofs." ST LOUIS STYLE, February 16, 2023. <a href="https://www.stlouis.style/architecture/gustel-r-kiewitt-lamella-dome-roofs/">https://www.stlouis.style/architecture/gustel-r-kiewitt-lamella-dome-roofs/</a>.

Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-001

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	10	Page _	21
----------------	----	--------	----

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

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

The North end of the property runs along North Street between Luther and Westgate Street. The southern end of the property is blocked off by a line of trees. The black box is the property boundary.



Source: Scott County Assessor Office, GIS, Modified by Hannah Houston

NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Lin
National Register of Historic Places

OMB No. 1024-001

Section number 10 Page 22

### **Boundary Justification**

Continuation Sheet

The boundaries of the nominated property are the parcels of land historically associated with the Lincoln School.

NPS Form 10-900 National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior

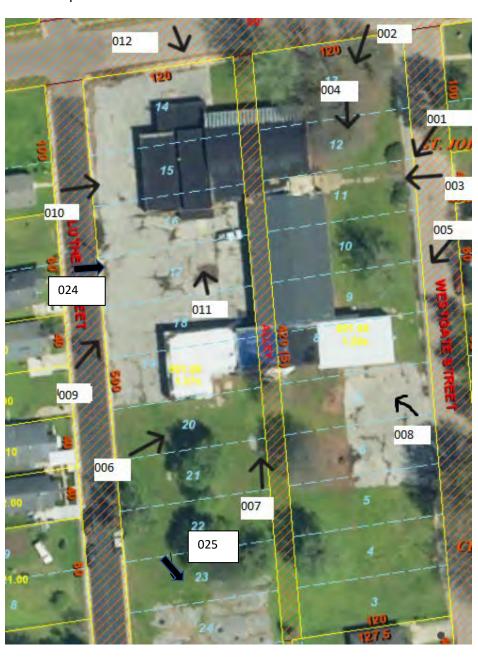
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>Figures</u> Page <u>23</u>

Lincoln School
Name of Property
Scott County, MO
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OMB No. 1024-001

Photo Map: exterior



Source: Scott County Assessor Office, GIS, Modified by Hannah Houston

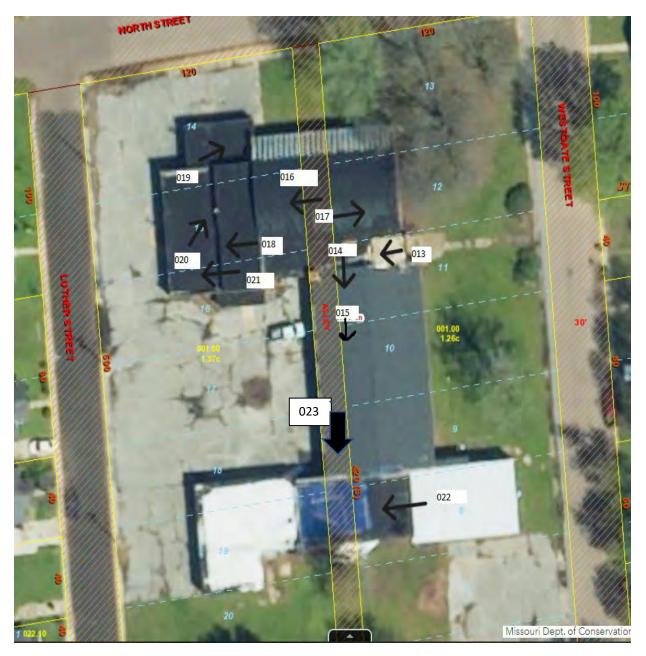
OMB No. 1024-001

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _	Figures	Page _	24
------------------	---------	--------	----

Lincoln School
Name of Property
Scott County, MO
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# Photo Map: interior



Source: Scott County Assessor Office, GIS, Modified by Hannah Houston

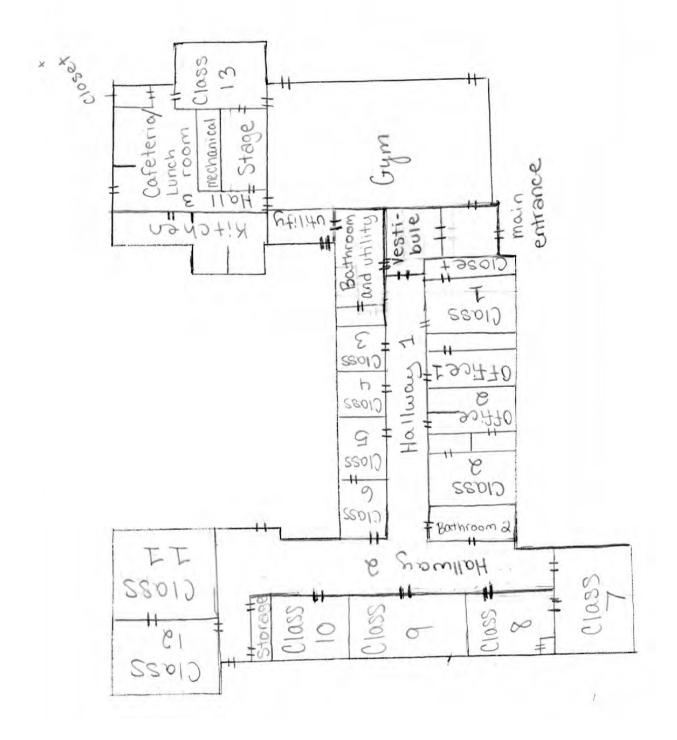
OMB No. 1024-001

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	Figures	Page _	25
----------------	---------	--------	----

Lincoln School
Name of Property
Scott County, MO
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 1. Building Layout (not to scale), drawn by Hannah Houston

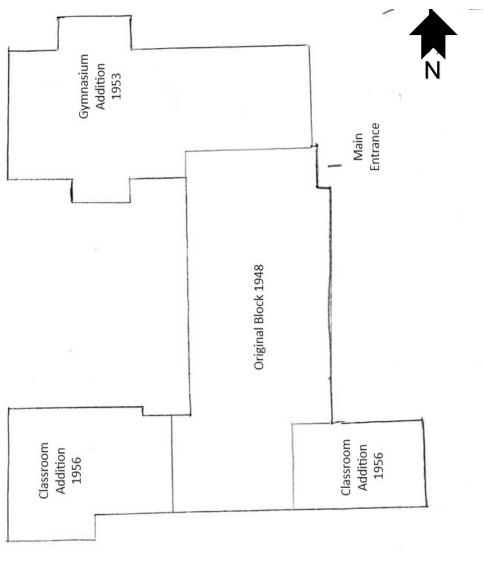


National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	Figures	Page _	26
----------------	---------	--------	----

Lincoln School	
Name of Property	
Scott County, MO	
County and State	
N/A	
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)	

Figure 2. Building Additions Map (not to scale), drawn by Hannah Houston



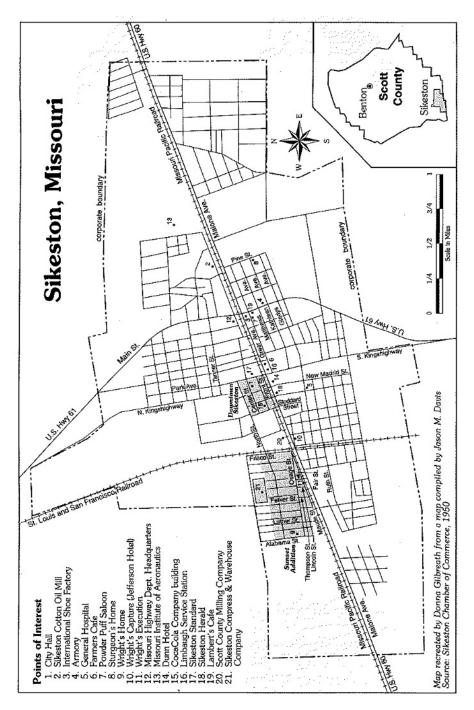
Additions Layout

1948- Original Block 1953- Gymnasium Addition 1956- Classroom Addition/ South Hallway National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number	Figures	Page _	27
----------------	---------	--------	----

Lincoln School
Name of Property
Scott County, MO
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3. Neighborhood Boundary, Current and Historic



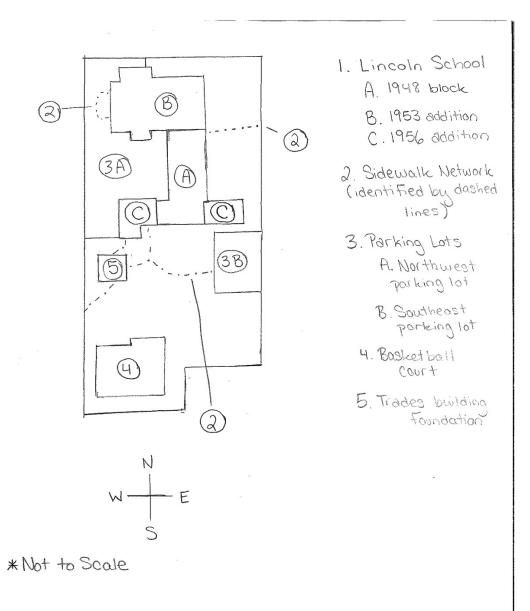
Source: Capeci Jr, Dominic J. *The Lynching of Cleo Wright*. University Press of Kentucky, 1998, p. 2.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>Figures</u> Page <u>28</u>

Lincoln School
Name of Property
Scott County, MO
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 4. Site Map



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 29

Lincoln School
Name of Property
Scott County, MO
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

OMB No. 1024-001

Figure 5. Historic photograph Lincoln School

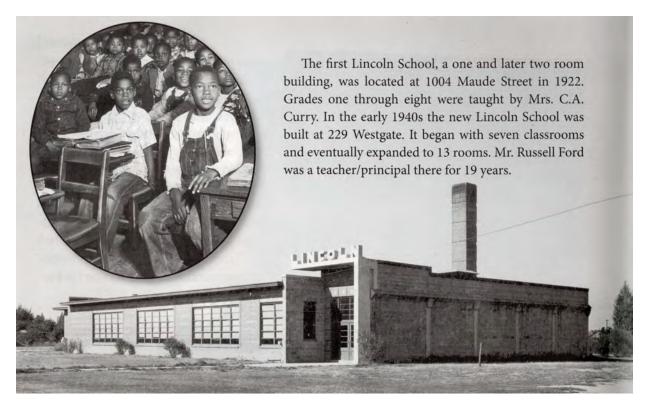


Photo source: Through the Years, page 124.

OMB No. 1024-001

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number <u>Figures</u> Page	ge <u>30</u>
------------------------------------	--------------

ſ	
ı	Lincoln School
ı	Name of December
ı	Name of Property
ı	Scott County, MO
ı	County and State
ı	County and State
ı	N/A
ı	Nome of multiple listing (if applicable)
ı	Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6. Context Map



Scott County, ESRI Maps. February 2024. Map created by Hannah Houston.





























