Lincoln Hall

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Kentucky
COUNTY: Madison
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Berea College - Lincoln Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC: same

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Berea College

CITY OR TOWN: Berea

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

STATE: Kentucky — CODE: 21

COUNTY: Madison — CODE: 151

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☒ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Berea College

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Berea

STATE: Kentucky — CODE: 21

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Madison County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER: Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Kentucky — CODE: 21

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	[X] Excellent	[ ] Good	[ ] Fair	[ ] Deteriorated	[ ] Ruins	[ ] Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	[X] Altered	[ ] Unaltered	[ ] Moved	[X] Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Berea College is a small liberal arts school located in Berea, Kentucky, a small town in the western foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Berea's campus spreads over approximately 140 tree covered, well landscaped acres. The physical plant consists of some 44 buildings ranging from the Georgian Fairchild Hall built in 1873 to the contemporary brick and glass Hutchin's Library. None of Berea's buildings are of major architectural significance. Some of local architectural importance while others have strong associations with the school's history.

Of Berea's many structures Lincoln Hall has the deepest associations with the school's history and is the most symbolic of Berea's identity and purpose. Lincoln Hall, a three story brick building, was constructed in 1887. A friend of the school, Roswell C. Smith, founder of Century Magazine, donated the funds for the building's design and construction. He requested that it be named after Abraham Lincoln. Originally Lincoln Hall contained classrooms and offices on the first floor, classrooms and a library on the second floor, and laboratories, museum, and society meeting rooms on the third floor. As the school grew and the physical plant expanded, the library, classroom, museum, and laboratory functions were moved to other structures. Today Lincoln Hall is used for the offices of Berea's president and other administrative personnel and functions.

Lincoln Hall has undergone no exterior alteration since its construction and thus possess full integrity. The interior has been altered as the result of changing functions and the upgrading of climatic and electrical systems. These alterations have not changed the basic floor plan and thus do not appear to have impinged on the structure's basic integrity.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [x] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [x] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Berea College in the history of black education is that it was the first college established in the United States for the specific purpose of educating black and white together. Berea, which traces its beginnings to 1855, was not the first college to admit blacks nor was it the first school established to offer Afro-Americans access to higher education. Schools like Cheyney and Lincoln in Pennsylvania and Wilberforce in Ohio had been established either as Negro Colleges or as schools that would admit blacks. Berea, however, was the first school at which integration of the races was a specific reason for establishing the school. As Berea's founder John G. Fee informed a friend in 1855, "We eventually look to a college giving an education to all colors, classes, cheap and thorough."

Berea's history begins in 1855 when John Fee, an ordained minister and an agent of the American Missionary Association, opened a small elementary school in a church built on a ridge in southern Madison County, Kentucky. Fee named the location of his church and school Berea after a biblical town where men were opened minded. Racial tolerance is implicit in Berea's name. Fee, a native Kentuckian, had returned to the western, non-slaveholding part of his home State in 1853 at the urging of Cassius M. Clay. Clay, who had been impressed by a pamphlet Fee had written entitled Antislavery Manual, urged Fee to spread the abolitionist cause among the people of western Kentucky. By 1855 Fee had established a reputation as a staunch abolitionist. As a result his church and school had become a hated symbol to pro-slavery forces. Between 1855 and 1859 Fee and his friend J. A. R. Rogers, an Oberlin graduate and fellow minster who had come to Berea to help Fee, struggled to keep the school alive. Their lives were often threatened, but they continued their crusade. In 1859 Fee, Rogers, and others drew up a constitution for Berea College. To this day the school is guided by the fundamentals of this constitution, which reads in part,

> The purpose of the College shall be to furnish the facilities for a thorough education to all persons of good moral character, at the least possible expense, and all the inducements and facilities for manual labor which can reasonably be supplied by the Board of Trustees shall be offered...This college shall be under an influence strictly Christian, and as such opposed to sectarianism, slaveholding, caste, and every other institution or practice.

Shortly after Berea's constitution was written, John Brown raided Harper's Ferry. Throughout the South the action provoked a wave of fear and

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reprisal. In December 1859 a group of some 65 armed men rode into Berea and informed Fee and Rogers that they had ten days to leave the State. When the governor refused to provide protection, they packed and left.

Fee spent the war years raising money for the future college. No sooner were the guns silent than Fee returned to Kentucky and reopened the school. The American Missionary Association provided the necessary financial support. During the school year 1866-67 one hundred and eighty seven students attended the elementary classes. Ninety six were black and ninety one were white. The first college class registered in 1869, the same year Rev. E. Henry Fairchild, another Oberlin product, became Berea's first president.

Between 1869 and 1904 Berea put into practice the educational ambitions of its founders. Berea grew as a fully integrated college with a black population of from one third to one half of the student body. A work-study progam was established to help students finance their own education as well as to teach them the rewards of labor and craftmanship. Through the work-study program an educational opportunity was provided for the usually economically disadvantaged youth of the Appliachian region. Until 1904 Berea remained true to the motto John G. Fee had given it. The motto reflected the educational philosophy of the American Missionary Association, "God has made of one blood all nations of men."

In 1904 Jim Crow, that symbol of instituionalized racism, was spreading throughout the southern and border States. Laws calling for the strict segregation of the races issued from every State legislature. Kentucky was not immune. In 1904 the State legislature passed a law stipulating that blacks and whites could not be taught in the same classroom. Although the law applied to all schools, it was aimed specifically at Berea. For four years Berea and its supporters fought the law in the courts. In the process they assembled a wealth of documentation demonstrating that integration did not play a role in academic achievement and that integration had many social benefits in promoting better understanding between the races. The fight was lost. (The role of Berea's president at the time, William Frost, is a subject of controversey.) In 1908 the United States Supreme Court, which only twelve years previously had handed down its famous separate but equal decision in Plessy v. Ferguson, ruled that, since Berea was a private organization incorporated by the State of Kentucky, the State had the right to regulate it according to State laws. The Supreme Court sidestepped the specific issue of the constitutionality of racial segregation in education, an issue that would not be fully decided for almost another fifty years when a carefully selected little girl named Brown would decide to attend an all white school in Topeka, Kansas. Berea College v. Commonwealth of Kentucky (211 U.S. 45) became a landmark case in segregations's tortured constitutional history.

Beginning in 1904 Berea segregated. Part of the school's endowment and a portion of its operating funds were used to establish an all black school at Lincoln, Kentucky. The country's first attempt at fully integrated higher education came to an end.

In addition to its significance in the history of Black education, Berea is equally important to the history of American education as a whole. The school's self help philosophy centered on a student work program in lieu of tuition and its dedication to educating the disadvantaged youth of 230 mountain counties in Southern Appalachia give it a unique position in the history of American higher education. The work-study program has been copied by other schools in this country and abroad. In addition Berea has achieved a reputation for academic achievement and is considered to be one of the best liberal arts colleges in the southern and border States.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bond, Horace Mann, "The Education of the Negro in the American Social Order", (New York, 1934).

Frost, William B., "Berea College," From Servitude to Service, (Boston, 1905).

Holmes, Dwight, The Evolution of the Negro College, (New York, 1934).

Nelson, Paul D., "Experiment in Interacial Education at Berea College, 1858-1908," The Journal of Negro History, January, 1974.

Peck, Elisabeth S., Berea's First Century 1855-1955, (Lexington, 1955).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES	
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			~~LATITUDE~~ UTM	~~LONGITUDE~~
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	~~Degrees Minutes Seconds~~	~~Degrees Minutes Seconds~~
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	° ' "	° ' "
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	16.739700.4161590	
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"		
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: James Sheire, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

DATE: August 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington, D.C.

STATE:

CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

_____

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

_____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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