### 1. Name of Property

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### 2. Location

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### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

- [x] national
- [ ] statewide
- [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: 

- [x] A
- [ ] B
- [ ] C
- [ ] D

Signature of certifying official/Title:  

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of Commenting Official:  

Title:  

State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
Auburntown High School Gym
Name of Property

Cannon County, TN
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain:) ____________________

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private
Public – Local
Public – State
Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s)
District
Site
Structure
Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0
Auburntown High School Gym

6. Function or Use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: METAL; CONCRETE; ASPHALT

Narrative Description

The Auburntown High School Gym, located in Auburntown, Cannon County, Tennessee, is a ca. 1937 rectangular building that stands approximately two stories tall with a barrel shaped roof. The walls are wood frame and clad in original sheet metal stamped to imitate rock face blocks. The foundation is concrete block. Original interior features include the wood gym floor, bleachers, and wainscoting. Historic additions to the building include a concrete block manual arts building on the south elevation constructed in 1950, and a 1950s concrete block addition for concessions and lobby space along the north elevation. A 1990s addition provided restrooms adjacent to the concessions. The stage at the south end of the court was enclosed 1950s. The wood sash windows were covered with sheet metal in the 1990s. These modifications facilitated the continued use of the gym by Auburntown Elementary School. The nomination only includes the historic gym, as the school’s historic classroom building burned in 1977 and was replaced ca. 1978. The gym sits toward the back of the school property, just southwest of the classroom building. Adjacent to the gym are the school’s playground, outdoor basketball court, and baseball field. The school’s campus sits behind a residential area in Auburntown’s downtown core near the corner of Old Highway 96 (the town’s Main Street) and Woodbury Road.
The property retains its integrity of setting and location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. These attributes qualify the property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for historic significance in relation to the impact of New Deal programs and local recreation.

Site and Setting

The Auburntown High School gym has no distinguishable primary façade though the main entrances are located through the north elevation which faces the school playground. An asphalt driveway leads from the parking lot at the classroom building to the northeast. The driveway splits, with one leg running to the primary entrance in the north elevation of the gym and the other running parallel to the east elevation. There is a prefabricated storage shed located between this driveway and the east elevation. This shed is located outside of the proposed National Register boundaries. To the east of the driveway is a covered pavilion, an outdoor basketball court, playground equipment, and a small, informal baseball field. These resources also are located outside the proposed National Register boundaries. Directly behind the gym is overgrown brush. A wire fence that marks the western boundary of the school’s property runs parallel very near the gym’s west elevation.

Auburntown Gym, 1937, 1950s, 1990s  Contributing building

Exterior

Auburntown High School gym is a large, two-story, rectangular building sitting on a north-south axis. Asphalt shingles cover the barrel-shaped roof, and the foundation is concrete block. Historic sheet metal stamped to resemble rock face blocks cover the exterior walls and has been painted white. The windows of the gym were covered in the 1990s with sheet metal that matches the style and texture of that on the exterior walls but remains unpainted. All additions to the building are concrete block. Historic photographs of the gym as originally built are found in Figure 1 and Figure 2.

Exterior additions to the building include the 1950 manual arts building attached to the south elevation. The manual arts building is one-story with a gable roof covered in corrugated metal. This building retains its original metal awning windows and exposed rafter tails. A 1950s, one-story shed roof addition housing the lobby and concessions area is attached to the north elevation of the gym. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Attached to the north elevation of the concessions section is a 1990s restroom addition which has a shed roof covered in corrugated metal.

The north elevation includes the concrete block restroom addition, which projects approximately 15 feet from the west half of the concessions addition. There is one single-leaf, glass door in the north elevation of the restroom addition, near the northwest corner, that opens into a short hallway with restrooms. The east half of the concessions addition contains a glass door with a full-length fixed side panel of glass that leads into the lobby and functions as the gym’s primary entrance. A cloth awning covers the doorway. The gym’s barrel-shaped roofline rises approximately one story above the additions. Two square-shaped aluminum vents perforate the wall just above the roofline of the concessions addition.

The concrete block foundation of the gym is visible on the east elevation. There were originally 10 wood sash windows along this elevation. All windows have been covered but are still extant. Seven window locations are readily distinguishable as they are covered with unpainted sheet metal that matches the style
and texture of the sheet metal on the walls. Three of the former window openings are less obvious because the covering was painted white to match the walls. In one of these, an aluminum vent has been installed. Toward the southeast corner, a single-leaf metal door located at the second-story level is accessed by a wooden staircase built up against the wall of the east elevation. This door was cut in the late twentieth century for fire safety.

The façade (east elevation) of the concrete block manual arts building addition is set back nearly three feet from the east elevation of the original gym building. The single-leaf metal entrance into the manual arts addition is located near the corner where the two buildings join. Two slender, square, wooden posts support the small portico’s shed roof, which is continuous with the slope of the main roof. The concrete stoop is nearly flush with the ground. There are three evenly-spaced metal awning windows along the rest of the elevation. Each window is a 4-over-4 sash window, with one fixed, 2-pane sash below. There is an air conditioning unit in the window closest to the south corner.

The south elevation of the manual arts building is the gable end and has two windows of similar style and material as those on the east elevation. Both windows on the south elevation are 6-over-6 sash windows, with one fixed, 3-pane sash below.

The gym building’s south elevation rises above the manual arts building’s gable roof and is visible around the manual arts addition. There are no window or doors in this elevation.

The west elevation mirrors the east elevation, except for a single-leaf metal door in the 1950s concessions addition.

Interior

The building’s historic interior is characterized by the features in the gym, including the original wood floors, bleachers and stairs, and wainscoting. A historic photo showing the wainscoting and flooring can be seen in Figure 3. The original scoreboard has also been preserved. There was originally a stage and concessions area at the south end of the gym. School officials enclosed the area in the 1950s, adapted the space into storage and more locker rooms for the basketball teams, and moved concessions into the concrete block addition on the north side of the building. Originally, the building had two covered entrances on its north elevation that led directly into the gym. According to alumni, concessions were originally sold from the stage area. The addition of the lobby and new concessions area at the north end of the building allowed for more ticketing space and additional standing room for spectators when the bleachers were full. Restrooms were added with an addition to the northwest corner of the building in the 1990s. The original 9-over-9 wood sash windows are also covered and railing was added to the bleachers ca.2000 to comply with fire safety code. Original windows and the bleachers without the railing can be seen in Figure 4.

The lobby area is accessed through the concessions addition on the north elevation. This door functions as the main entrance to the building. The walls of the lobby are concrete block, and the floors are vinyl composition tile (VCT). The ceiling is covered in spray foam insulation. In the south wall of the lobby is a wide doorway to the basketball court. In the west wall of the lobby is a doorway to the concessions area. The concessions area was last updated in the 1990s when the restroom addition was built. The floor is covered in VCT, except for the linoleum-covered kitchen area behind the concessions counter. In the west wall of this room is a doorway to the other hallway that leads to the 1990s restroom addition.
This hall has a door in its north wall that leads outside. A single-leaf door in the west wall also leads outside. The doorway in the south wall leads to the basketball court. Two open doorways in the east wall lead to the restrooms. The floor is covered in VCT. The ceiling is covered in corrugated metal panels and has exposed metal and wooden beams.

The basketball court’s floor is covered in original, tongue-and-groove wood flooring. The community remembers the Auburntown High School manual arts class helped cut and install the court floor when the gym was built. The ceiling is covered in spray foam insulation. The wooden bleachers are set about three feet off the ground along the east and west sides of the gym floor. The bleachers are accessed by wooden stairs located near each corner of the court. Next to the set of bleacher stairs located at the northeast corner of the gym, there is a small wooden door that leads to storage space below the bleachers.

In the middle of each of the walls that border the long sides of the court, there is a wooden scorekeeper’s table. This feature likely contributed to a newspaper’s claim that the gym “boasts modern press accommodations.”¹ Below each scorekeeper table, on the floor level, is a bench. Both sets of bleachers have three long rows of wooden benches for spectators. Metal bars were placed along the border of the bleachers ca. 2000 to comply with fire safety code.

Team photographs and banners are along the north and south walls of the gym. The north wall has original wood wainscoting that rises approximately 6 feet high. Above the wainscoting is wood paneling. Attached to the wood paneling near the doorway to the restroom hall is the original scoreboard. Near each corner are doorways to the lobby and restroom hall.

The south wall of the gym does not have wainscoting due to the 1950s stage enclosure. The wall is covered in wood paneling. Near both south corners of the court, four wooden stairs lead to the bleachers. Each set of these stairs is curved and formed to fit the corners of the walls. The landing at the southwest corner also provides access to an emergency exit with a single-leaf metal door in the west wall, a single-leaf wood door in the south wall that leads to a locker room, and a doorway that leads into the enclosed stage space. Here, there is a small hallway that ends in a storage room with a wood door. In the south wall of the hallway is a wood door to another storage room. These rooms at the south end of the building all have wood flooring original to the gym.

The landing near the southeast corner of the gym leads to an emergency exit with a single-leaf metal door in the east wall. In the north wall of this area is a wood door to another locker room space.

The interior of the manual arts building cannot be accessed from the gym. The building is divided into two main parts. There is a small office along the south end of the building, and the main instruction room takes up the rest of the space. The walls are concrete block, except for the dividing wall which is frame covered in fiberboard. The floor in the office is concrete. The floor in the main room is covered in VCT. The ceiling of the entire space is covered in fiberboard.

Auburntown High School Gym

Name of Property

Cannon County, TN

County and State

**Integrity**

The location and setting of the Auburntown High School gym in a small, rural town remain unchanged. It is near an area considered by residents to be the historic downtown and residential area. The additions of the manual arts building (ca.1950), the concessions area (1950s), and the bathroom hall (1990s) did not affect the workmanship, material, or design of the original New Deal-era gymnasium. The 1950s additions and alterations, including the enclosure of the stage and covering of windows, fell within the Period of Significance and reflect how the community adapted the building for its continued use hosting community events. These characteristics lend the Auburntown High School gym a high level of integrity regarding association and feeling.
8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance
1937-1972

Significant Dates
ca. 1950

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Works Progress Administration
Robinson, Hop (foreman)
Auburntown High School Gym, located in Auburntown, Cannon County, Tennessee, is locally significant under Criterion A in Social History for its association with the Works Progress Administration (WPA), one of the New Deal’s most impactful programs. Built in 1937 by the WPA, the gym exemplifies the ways in which the federal agency improved the physical plant of schools, especially those in rural areas, across the country. The building is also locally significant under Criterion A for Entertainment/Recreation history. Touted as modern and accommodating when it was built, the gym was the Auburntown High School’s first, and has remained the community’s only, indoor sports facility. As such, the building gave an immeasurable boost to the local school’s basketball programs, which, along with the many social and community events held at the gym, played a central role in the entertainment and recreation activities of Auburntown and this rural section of Cannon and Rutherford counties. Historic additions to the building include a ca.1950 concrete block manual arts building on the south elevation, and a 1950s addition to the north elevation of lobby space and a concession area improved the athlete and spectator experience at the gym, and extends the period of significance from 1937 to the 1950s.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Auburntown is a small, sparsely populated incorporated town located in the northwest section of Cannon County, at the intersection of Old Highway 96 and Tennessee 145 (also known as Woodbury Road). It stands near the border of Rutherford County. As early as 1850, the town had several blacksmiths, a tailor, stores, a saloon, and churches. Though the population of the town has never risen above several hundred, it supported a small but vibrant business area throughout the first half of the twentieth century that included a bank, general stores, a dry goods store, a post office, elementary and high school, and service stations. Though vacant, many of these building still stand along Old Tennessee 96, Auburntown’s Main Street. The Auburntown High School gym is located just south of Main Street, behind the town’s residential section.2

Cannon County’s segregated school system offered many elementary grade schools for white children, and one school for Black children in the Auburtown area. The Auburntown High School was constructed for white students in the early 1920s after the Tennessee General Assembly authorized the creation of the Auburntown High School District. The new building was frame, with two classroom wings that flanked an auditorium in the middle and housed the first through twelfth grades. The basketball program, one of the only sport-related extracurricular activity available to students at the school, was established before the new building was erected. Lacking an indoor basketball facility, the school’s basketball teams practiced and played visiting teams on its court outside.3

In July 1935, a Nashville Banner article documented that Frank Osteen, Auburntown High School’s principal, along with other community members, raised around $1500.00 in “personal contributions from interested persons” for the construction of a gym for the school. The article detailed plans to apply for additional funding and labor from the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Created during the Great Depression as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal, Congress established the WPA in 1935

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primarily to put people to work. Projects such as the Auburntown High School gym used local labor, injecting money into local economies, while improving the facilities and places people relied on most. A Tennessee newspaper explained to its readers, “[The WPA] will substitute for direct relief a system of building and construction that will not only furnish employment but will bring permanent benefit in the way of buildings, roads, and other projects.”

Due to the WPA’s primary mission to employ people, the agency’s administrators wanted most of the federal assistance to go toward wages. As a result, WPA officials favored project proposals such as the Auburntown High School gym, where local sponsors supplied cash or materials. State WPA leaders also pursued a basic goal of using the federal funds to improve public school buildings. As W. Burr Cullom of the state WPA office explained, funds for schools included, “the erection of new buildings, the remodeling and repairing of old ones, the beautifying of campuses and the improvement of athletic fields.”

In September 1935, the WPA approved the application. A little over a year later, in October 1936, local WPA supervisor Wiley Bass announced construction of the gym had begun with local man Hop Robinson as the foreman. Local farmers Robert and Amy Donnell deeded to the Cannon County School Board the land for the gym, located immediately southwest of the school’s frame classroom building.

A student at Auburntown High School at the time of the gym’s construction, Winfred Gaither remembered Robinson used non-standardized lumber for the beams and “hoisted them into place with ropes he made on site.” Gaither recalled, “We students would watch anxiously as the building began to take shape. When the building was almost finished Mr. Hop…would let us high school boys skip ‘study hall’ to go out and lay gym flooring.” Robinson and WPA-employed locals finished the gym in the summer of 1937. In May, the brand-new gym was “thrown open for use” for a Parent-Teacher Association banquet that drew “one of the largest crowds ever seen at an event of the kind in the Auburntown community.”

During its eight years in operation, the WPA employed more than eight million people in various capacities across the country, ranging from labor on construction projects to programs that promoted the arts. Throughout the agency’s existence from 1935 to 1943, it employed thirty to forty thousand Tennesseans a year. Construction included bridges and roads, airports, public parks, and public buildings. In addition to Auburntown High School’s gym, Cannon County’s WPA projects included the new Woodbury High School (not extant) built in 1935; the town’s first concrete sidewalks; improvement of the grounds around the courthouse; a community garden in the Bluewing community; and hot lunch programs in the schools.

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5 Cullom is cited in West, Tennessee’s New Deal Landscape, 97.
7 Gaither, “Childhood Memories,” 18.
WPA also provided the labor for the town’s new water and sewer system, which was funded by the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1935-1937.9

Improving school campuses, such as Auburntown High School, was a major project area of the WPA and echoed Progressive Era ideas that rural areas could benefit from public projects, especially in the realm of education. The agency built 123 new schools and undertook 480 renovation projects across the state. According to W. Burr Cullom of Tennessee’s WPA office, school construction and renovation projects gave “hope and cheer” to the people of Tennessee, who, saw “the ‘face’ of the state’s school system ‘lifted’ from the ugliness and desperation of the depression.”10 Local schools, especially those in rural areas such as Auburntown, could rarely afford to construct gymnasiums on their own, especially during the Great Depression. A significant addition to Auburntown High School’s campus, the gym was the school’s first indoor sports facility and proved central to local community life and recreation by helping invigorate the school’s basketball teams.11

By the 1920s, schools all over the South had organized basketball teams, and local newspaper coverage of school basketball games indicated the popularity of the sport in the region. Auburntown High School men’s basketball team began appearing in newspapers as early as 1921, and by the 1930s, the school had high school and elementary teams for male and female students. Similar to baseball, one of the reasons for basketball’s popularity – particularly among school-aged children in rural areas – was the relative ease with which they could create their own equipment. In remembering the ways sports shaped his childhood, former Auburntown High School basketball player Winfred Gaither recalled fashioning a goal “from the wire stabilizer from the rim of a Number Two wash tub nailed up on the side of our weatherboard home…The boundaries were determined by the edge of our front porch, the [water] “spout” and maybe a couple of rocks to mark the line.”12

The same principle applied to local schools, where administrators needed only identify a flat area outside for a dirt court, one or two goals, and a ball for their school team to practice and host games. The basketball teams at Auburntown played and practiced on the school’s outside court until the 1937-1938 season. Mable Turney remembered the men’s team practicing on the outside court: “The boys would come real early in the winter time so they could practice ball on frozen ground for it would be too muddy if we had much rain.”13 The new gym eliminated the teams’ dependency on the weather and increased their capacity to hone their skills. Gaither remembered Auburntown High School was “destined to leave the old, dirt, outdoor basketball court and occupy a new ‘state of the art’ (we thought) gymnasium.”14 Former student Rachel Vance declared, “When they built that big ole gym at [Auburntown High] school, we just thought we were as rich as a Rockefeller.”15

9 West, Tennessee’s New Deal, 217, 227.
12 Gaither, “Childhood Memories,” 17.
13 Mable Hawkins Turney, “Early Memories of Auburn School,” 45.
14 Ibid., 18.
15 Rachel Vance to Derek Vance, Senior Scholarship Trust at Cannon County High School, “Old’Uns’ Stories Told to Young’Uns: Original Stories Donated by Members of the Cannon Community, Volume II,” (March 2002).
The new gym, “said to be one of the best in middle Tennessee,” inspired administrators to hire a new basketball coach, Robert Hitt.16 A 1937 newspaper article claimed the school “has had a new deal in basketball starting this year” due to a “spacious new gym” and a “revamped” coaching staff that “has boosted the Auburntown cagesters rank in the middle Tennessee small high school circles.”17 To officially dedicate the new gym, Auburntown’s coach arranged an exhibition game between the New York Celtics barnstorming team and the Blue Raiders men’s team from the State Teachers College in Murfreesboro (now Middle Tennessee State University) on January 8, 1938. The novelty of the new gym and the momentum it bred was not lost on the players. Gaither recalls, “We had a new coach…new basketball suits (black and gold) and a new gym. We practiced faithfully and with great intent…We thought we could beat anybody as we had been inspired from watching the ‘New York Celtics’ (now Boston Celtics) as they played in our gym when it was first built.”18

Newspaper accounts indicate the Auburntown High School basketball teams certainly improved in the years immediately following the construction of the gym. A December 1938 article from a regional newspaper mentioned “a most formidable looking boys team surging over the horizon from out at Auburntown,” while another article declared that Auburntown “boasts one of the strongest high school teams in the district.”19 Throughout the following decades, the men’s high school team remained top seeded in the district, and both men’s and women’s teams made regular appearances in district and regional semifinals.20

The rejuvenated teams and new indoor court, with its generous seating and accommodations, encouraged the growth of a supportive fanbase comprised of members from the local community who attached much of their identity to the success of the local basketball teams. In 1937, a Tennessean article called Auburntown “one of the most basketball minded towns in this section” and stated that the “Citizens are naturally proud of the handsome new plant.”21 Alumnus Greg Kennedy stated, “Soon Auburn’s gymnasium became the envy of the county.”22 Having the newest and most accommodating gym in the county was certainly a point of pride for the residents of Auburntown, and it helped fan the flame of the local rivalry between Auburntown High School and the county’s other high school in Woodbury, the latter’s gym at the time reportedly “not much more than a spruced-up barn with a basketball floor.”23

Like many New Deal buildings, the gym features simple and functional design characteristics, all of which improved the experience of playing and watching basketball games. In addition to the obvious advantage of

playing and watching the winter sport inside as opposed to outdoors, Gaither remembers the Auburntown High School gym was well-lit compared to some of the other regional school’s poorly lit courts. For example, the basketball court of Irving College school in Warren County was lit by “100-watt bulbs powered by a Delco battery electric system charged by a small gasoline engine located outside.”24 The dim lighting made it “so dark during the game that once the ball was passed, it was very difficult to see,” and during halftime, the lights were turned off to charge, leaving spectators to “sit there in the darkness.”25 Auburntown’s gym boasted a sophisticated lighting system with two parallel rows of five 500 watt bulbs over the gym floor, and two less powerful bulbs over the open stage, all connected to a main switch and fuse box (See Figure 5). Besides the lighting, the gym’s bowl-like form, created by raised bleachers along either length with the court at the bottom, provided maximum spectator visibility from each seat. A local newspaper stated that in the gym there was “not a single obstruction to hamper vision of play,” due to it being a “postless” court.26

Changes to the building that occurred during the 1950s made the gym even more accommodating to players and their audiences. The stage at the south end of the court, where concessions were sold during the games, was enclosed. The concrete block addition to the north elevation provided a new, spacious concessions area and a small lobby for ticketing and standing room when the bleachers were full. This addition enabled the building to accommodate larger audiences who were more likely to stay for multiple games (elementary team games, high school team games, privately-sponsored-team games, and tournaments) due to increased comforts. Until 1948, when the Veterans Memorial Gym was built in Woodbury for the Central High School, Auburntown High School gym was the best equipped and most comfortable basketball gym in the county.

While some local, indoor events continued to be held in the auditorium of the Auburntown High School building until it burned in 1977, the gym offered a large, updated, flexible space for school pageants, graduations, Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) meetings, fundraisers, and reunions, all of which were popular community events. The school’s annual summer carnival, which was a large community gathering sponsored by the PTA and benefitting the school, was held in the gym and on the surrounding grounds during the early to mid-twentieth century. Also during this time, independent basketball teams who were sponsored by local businesses also used the gym for their games. Later in the twentieth century, basketball teams in the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) used the space for practices during the spring and summer seasons.

Around 1950, a concrete block manual arts building was added to the gym’s south elevation. The timing of the manual arts building addition reflects Tennessee’s increased education spending in general due to the state’s first retail sales tax levied in 1947 and the growing availability of funds for vocational education, specifically after World War II, due to the George-Barden Act of 1946.27

25 Ibid.
The Auburntown High School gym was used by the school’s men’s and women’s basketball teams until the frame school building burned in 1977. After the fire, the county consolidated high school grades at Woodbury High School in the county seat. A new building, Auburntown Elementary School, was built in 1978 on the site of the burned high school building. During the time between the old school’s destruction and the construction of the new building, the nominated gymnasium served as Auburntown’s elementary school building. According to former principal Roger Turney, the school building burned on a Thursday, and by the following Monday the elementary school classes had resumed in the gymnasium and the manual arts building attached to it.  

Auburntown Elementary School has continued to use the New Deal-era gym for physical education classes, graduations, intra-county elementary basketball games, and other community events. The school will close in the summer of 2022. The continued use of the building by the school necessitated the most recent changes, including the 1990s addition of new bathrooms and the safety railing placed along the edge of the raised bleachers.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography


“Strong Manchester Meets Top Seeded Auburntown Tonight.” *Nashville Banner.* March 5, 1943.


Auburntown High School Gym
Name of Property

Cannon County, TN
County and State

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<td>designated a National Historic Landmark</td>
<td>Local government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #</td>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #</td>
<td>Name of repository:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CN-498
10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property**  
Less than 1

**USGS Quadrangle**  
Auburntown 319-NE

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84:  N/A

1. NW corner:  
   Latitude:  35.945273  
   Longitude:  -86.098196

2. NE corner:  
   Latitude:  35.945238  
   Longitude:  -86.097956

3. SE corner:  
   Latitude:  35.944716  
   Longitude:  -86.098052

4. SW corner:  
   Latitude:  35.944749  
   Longitude:  -86.098274

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The west boundary runs parallel to the west elevation of the building, in between the building and a fence line located approximately 2.5 feet from the exterior wall. The north boundary is an imaginary line that begins at this fence, approximately two feet north of the restroom addition to the nominated building’s northwest corner. The imaginary line runs directly eastward approximately seventy feet before it ends at an imaginary point along the northern border of Cooper Avenue which serves as a driveway to the gym. The east boundary runs directly south from this point on Cooper Avenue and runs parallel approximately one foot from the building’s east elevation. This boundary is approximately one hundred ninety-five feet long and ends at an imaginary point near the southeast corner of the manual arts building. The south border runs westward from this point approximately seventy feet and ends at the wire fence that represents the west boundary. The reference points noted above correspond to the four corners of this boundary. These boundaries are depicted on the enclosed boundary map.

**Boundary Justification**

These boundaries were chosen to include only the Auburntown Gym, as there are no other known resources historically associated with the nominated building.
Auburntown High School Gym
Cannon County, TN

USGS Topographic Map

Location of Auburntown Gym is indicated by the red circle
Original Map Scale 1:24,000
Auburntown High School Gym                                Cannon County, TN
Name of Property                                      County and State

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Boundary Map

Imagery Courtesy of State of Tennessee, Comptroller of the Treasury, Department of Property
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Auburntown High School Gym Cannon County, TN
Name of Property County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name Savannah Grandey Knies and Carroll Van West
Organization Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University
Street & Number 1301 E. Main Street, Box 80 Date February 2022
City or Town Murfreesboro Telephone 615-484-8938
E-mail Savannah.grandey@mtsu.edu State TN Zip Code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications 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.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Name of Property: Auburntown High School Gym
City or Vicinity: Auburntown
County: Cannon
State: Tennessee
Photographer: Savannah Grandey Knies
Date Photographed: February 23, 2021

Auburntown High School Gym

Name of Property: Auburntown High School Gym

County and State: Cannon County, TN

Site Plan (insert site plan with photo locations keyed to plan)
Floord Plan (insert floor plan with photo locations keyed to plan)
Figure 1. Undated photograph of Auburntown High School gym as originally built. View is the northeast oblique. *Courtesy of Auburntown Historical Society.*

Figure 2. Undated photograph of Auburntown High School gym as it was originally built. View is the east elevation. *Courtesy of Auburntown Historical Society.*
**Auburntown High School Gym**

**Name of Property:**

**Cannon County, Tennessee**

**County and State**

**Name of multiple listing (if applicable)**

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*Figure 3.* Photograph of 1950-1951 Auburntown High School women’s basketball team and coaching staff. Notice the wainscoting and wood flooring that remains extant (refer to photo 12) in the nominated building.

*Courtesy of Auburntown Historical Society.*
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Figures Page 26

Auburntown High School Gym
Name of Property
Cannon County, Tennessee
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 4. Undated photograph showing original windows. Courtesy of Auburntown Historical Society.
Figure 5. Lighting plan for Auburntown High School gym. *Courtesy of Auburntown Historical Society*
Property Owner:

Cannon County School District, ATTN: Superintendent Freddy Curtis

Name

Street & Number

301 W. Main Street

Telephone

615-563-5972

City or Town

Woodbury

State/Zip

TN 37190