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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Cadentown School Page 1 Property Name

Fayette County, Kentucky County and State

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property		****
historic name <u>Cadentown School</u>		
other names/site number <u>Rosenwald Fund School; Kentucky Histo</u>	ric Resources Indivi	dual Survey Form FA-1007
2. Location		
street & number705 Caden Lane	not for publication	N / A
city or town Lexington	vicinityX	
state Kentucky code KY county Fayette	code <u>067</u>	zip co <u>de40509</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of in nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the docum National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and profess my opinion, the property is meets does not meet the National Re considered significant in nationally is statewide in locally. (In Sec	entation standards fo sional requirements s egister Criteria. I reco	or registering properties in the et forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In commend that this property be
Dell Man	2-20	1-06
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director, KHC	Date	
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office		
In my opinion, the property in meets in does not meet the National Reg ( in See continuation sheet)	gister criteria.	
Signature of certifying official / Title	Date	

State or Federal agency and bureau

Cadentown SchoolPage 2Fayette County, KProperty NameCounty and State	entucky
A National Park Service Contification	
4. National Park Service Certification         I hereby certify that this property is:         I certify that this property is:         I determined eligible for the National Register         I determined not eligible for the National Register         I removed from the National Register         I other (explain):	Are of the Keeper Date of Action Corsen A. Deal 4:5.06
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property       Category of Property <ul> <li>private</li> <li>public-local</li> <li>district</li> <li>public-State</li> <li>public-Federal</li> </ul> Name of related multiple property listing listed in NA	Number of Resources within Property         Contributing       Noncontributing         2       buildings         1       sites
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if Cat:	if needed)
7. Description	
Architectural Classification Cat: <u>Other: Rosenwald 1-A Plan</u> Sub:	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)         foundation <u>concrete piers</u> roof <u>composition shingle</u> walls <u>wood weatherboard</u> other
Narrative Description	

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 8. Statement of Significance

#### **Applicable National Register Criteria**

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.

Π **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.)

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

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

Π

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one ore more continuation sheets.)

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR
67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register

- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark X
  - recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # KY-288
    - recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

#### Areas of Significance

Black Ethnic Heritage Education

Period of Significance 1922 to 1947

# **Significant Dates**

N/A

Significant Person N/A

(enter only if Criterion B selected)

# **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A (enter only if Criterion D selected)

#### Architect/Builder

Frankel-Curtis Co., Architects & Engineers

#### **Primary Location of Additional Data**

State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency

	Federal agency
X	Local governme

LO	cal	go	ver	nm	ien	t

University

Other

Name of repository: Division of Historic Preservation. Lexington - Favette Urban County Government

#### 10. Geographical Data

#### Acreage of Property 1.04

UTM References	Zone	Easting	Northing	Quad Name
Coordinate 1:	16	725640	4209900	Lexington East
	(See (	Continuation	n Sheet)	

#### **Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at a point on the northwest side of Caden Lane where said street doglegs to the southeast, thence in a northwesterly direction approximately 380 feet to a point, thence in a southwesterly direction approximately 30 feet to a point, thence in a northwesterly direction approximately 30 feet to a point, thence in a northwesterly direction approximately 300 feet to a point, thence in a southeasterly direction approximately 392 feet to a point, thence in a southwesterly direction approximately 392 feet to a point, thence in a southwesterly direction approximately 392 feet to a point, thence in a southwesterly direction approximately 94 feet to a point, thence in a southerly direction approximately 18 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately 1.04 acres.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The boundaries outlined in the Verbal Boundary Description reflect the historic boundaries of the former Cadentown Baptist Church property on which the Cadentown School is situated.

#### 11. Form Prepared By

name/titleRandy Shipp					
organization Division of Historic Pre	eservation, Lexington	- Fayette Ur	ban County	Governme	ent
street & number 200 West Main Str	eet		telephone	(859) 258	8-3265
city or town Lexington	state_KY	_ zip code _	40507	date	07-19-2005

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### **Continuation Sheets**

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Scaled Floor plan for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### **Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

#### **Property Owner**

name <u>Lexington – Fayette Urban County Government</u> street & number <u>200 West Main Street</u> city or town <u>Lexington</u> state <u>KY</u> zip code <u>40507</u>

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

# Section 7 Page 1 DESCRIPTION

The Cadentown School (FA-1007) is a one story frame structure in Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky. Rectangular in plan, it is approximately 22 feet wide and 43 feet deep. Topped with a simple gable roof, the building has a southeast – northwest orientation and is located between the former Cadentown Baptist Church and its cemetery. The site falls away slightly from the northwest to the southeast. The front elevation faces Caden Lane, which is the primary interior road for this historic, post-Civil War African-American rural hamlet.

The foundation for this structure consists of a grid of 15" x 15" concrete piers upon which the floor joists and built-up wood girders rest. Typical frame construction is used throughout. The walls are constructed of 2" x 4" wood studs topped with wood ceiling joists. Wood rafters are then placed on the top plates and define the roof shape. The concrete piers are hidden with a skirt of vertical wood boards. The floor system is wrapped with a wood board board that is topped with a wood water table. The exterior walls are sheathed with 1" x 6" diagonal boards and then covered with lapped horizontal weather boarding. This weather board has a 4" exposure. The gable roof has exposed rafter tails and is covered with composition shingles.

The front or southeast elevation is defined by a central door that was originally accessed by a simple set of steps. These steps were originally protected by a small shed roof that was supported by two wood brackets. This entrance is flanked by two narrow six-over-six wood sash windows. The southwest elevation contains two groupings of oversized nine-over-nine wood sash windows. The first group of six windows is located in the classroom space. The remaining group is a pair of the windows located in the domestic science room. The height and width of these windows allow the interior spaces to receive a considerable amount of natural light. The northwest elevation contains a single door set off-center to the body of the structure. The southeast elevation has a single oversized nine-over-nine wood sash window to provide additional natural light into the domestic science room.

The interior of the structure is divided into five spaces. The entrance vestibule, which is roughly square in shape, opens directly into the classroom. This vestibule is in turn flanked by two cloak rooms. These three spaces extend the full width of the school. The classroom is a large rectangular space that is roughly 21 feet wide by 29 feet deep. Single wood doors provide access to the cloak rooms from this space. The southwest wall contains the group of six oversized windows previously discussed. The northeast wall originally contained a large blackboard, now missing. The northwest wall retains its original blackboard as well as a single door leading to the domestic science room. A brick flue was located in the north corner of the classroom to allow for a small heating stove. This flue has since been removed and an open space exists where none was previously. The domestic science room runs the full width of the rear of the school building. This space contains the oversized windows and the door previously mentioned. In addition, the brick flue was centered on the wall between the domestic science room and the classroom, allowing for the installation of a cook stove. All of the walls and ceilings of the interior spaces were sheathed with narrow beaded board, much of which still remains.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

The design for this school building was derived from the One Teacher Community School Plan No. 1-A developed by the Julius Rosenwald Fund in the early part of the twentieth century. The plans for the Cadentown School were prepared by Frankel-Curtis Company, Architects and Engineers of Lexington, Kentucky in 1922. These plans faithfully follow the Rosenwald plan with only a few exceptions. The fenestration patterns of the southeast and southwest elevations are the same in both plans. While the northeast elevation contains the single window into the domestic science room, the Rosenwald plan called for a series of "breeze windows" set high in the wall. The exterior door from the domestic science room is also flipped from the Rosenwald plan. The biggest difference in the two plans is the wall between the classroom and the domestic science room. The Rosenwald plan called for this to be a movable partition, but the local interpretation called for it to be a fixed stud wall.

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There are two additional historic elements located on this property: the Cadentown Baptist Church and its cemetery.

The Cadentown Baptist Church was constructed soon after Cadentown was established in 1879 and was an important gathering place for the community. According to church history, the building was remodeled into a "beautiful frame structure." The one-story frame building is topped with a steeply-pitched gable roof and has a southeast-northwest orientation. Situated within forty-five feet of the road, the front elevation faces Caden Lane. The southeast elevation is dominated by a projecting bell tower that is centered on the façade. This bell tower also contains the main entrance to the church. This entrance was originally a pair of solid wood doors topped with a three-light transom. While the transom remains, the doors have been replaced with a single door flanked by a pair of sidelights. The northeast wall of the bell tower contains a single one-over-one wood sash window to provide natural light into the entrance vestibule. The bell tower extends above the peak of the gable roof of the main body of the structure. It in turn is topped with a steeply pitched hipped roof.

The northeast and southwest elevations each contain three oversized one-over-one wood sash windows to provide natural light into the sanctuary. In the 1950s, a small concrete block addition was made to the rear of the original church building. Running the full width of the church, it is topped with a low pitched hip roof. The frame portion of the structure was originally sheathed with lap wood siding that had a 4" exposure. During the 1940s, the building was covered with Brick-Tex siding. A recent remodeling has turned this structure into a single family dwelling, presently lived in by Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government employees who serve as overseers of the site. A part of this remodeling included the covering of the original frame portion and the concrete block addition with vinyl siding.

Located along the rear of the property is a cemetery long associated with the Cadentown Baptist Church. While only a few of the original grave markers remain, its location is identifiable.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>8</u> Page <u>1</u>

Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cadentown School (FA-1007) near Lexington, Fayette County, Kentucky meets National Register Criterion A and is significant within the National Register Areas of Significance Black Ethnic Heritage and Education. It is an important part of the history of Cadentown specifically and the African-American community of Fayette County in general.

#### Historic Context: Rosenwald Schools in Kentucky, 1917 - 1932

Public education in Kentucky traces its roots to legislation passed by the General Assembly in 1837 to establish a state wide system of schools as well as the State Board of Education. Using monies provided by the federal government, the goal was to provide an education to all white children between the ages of seven and seventeen. It wasn't until after the end of the Civil War that the concept of public education for black children was formally addressed. In 1874, the General Assembly created a separate system of public schools to serve the African-American community. This concept was reinforced in 1891 when Kentucky's revised constitution legalized a segregated school system. While the system functioned until the United States Supreme Court ruled on the case of *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954, the segregated school systems were not equally funded. Thus, the concept of "separate but equal" was never realized. The existence of these conditions for over a century established the need for outside assistance in the African American community.

The later part of the nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century saw a rise in the number of individuals and organizations that sought to address social ills between the races. One such individual was Julius Rosenwald (1862 - 1932). Born in Springfield, Illinois of German parents, Rosenwald grew up only one block from the home of Abraham Lincoln who was a close friend of the family. His father was well established in the clothing industry both during and after the Civil War. After finishing two years of high school, he was sent to New York to learn more about the clothing business from his uncles. Ultimately, in 1884, he and his brother opened their first clothing store in Chicago. In the 1890s, Rosenwald became a manager of Sears, Roebuck and Company. It was through his urging that that Richard Sears, president of the company, introduced the use of the mail order catalog that was a hallmark for many decades. In 1909, Rosenwald took over as president with the resignation of Richard Sears.

While Rosenwald had always been interested and supportive of the needs of the Jewish community, it was his wife who introduced him to the social causes for less fortunates. As a result of this, he became active in efforts to address these needs, especially in the African-American community. In 1911, Rosenwald had the opportunity to meet Booker T. Washington while he was in Chicago raising funds for the Tuskegee Institute. A bond developed between the two as they found that they shared a common philosophy. They both believed that help should be provided to those working to raise themselves up, provided that help did not destroy the individual's self-reliance. They both believed education to be a key component of self help.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

Section \_8\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_ Prior to meeting Rosenwald, Washington was able to convince Standard Oil to share in his dream of providing schools for rural African-Americans. Working through the General Education Board headed by John D. Rockefeller, Henry H. Rogers of Standard Oil agreed in 1904 to aid in building schools in three Alabama counties. Both men felt it important that the black community should contribute to this work, so that it would not be purely a gift. This stipulation would instill a sense of ownership and pride within the community. Over the next five years, forty-six schools were built in select counties of Alabama. However, with the death of Rogers in 1909, the work was discontinued.

In 1912, Rosenwald saw the importance of Washington's efforts, and began providing financial support. These funds were distributed as matching grants for the construction of additional schools. The oversight and planning for this program was handled by the Extension Department at Tuskegee Institute. By the time of Washington's death in 1915, the collaboration had created over 300 African-American schools in three different states.

The work begun by these two men not only continued, but expanded on a larger scale than either had dared dream. Working together, Rosenwald, the General Education Board, the Slater and Jeanes Funds and Tuskegee Institute developed a plan for rural schools throughout the south. This new plan included provisions for the housing and training of teachers. To this end, Rosenwald agreed to provide a portion of the cost of building schools where the local African-American community exhibited a strong financial and social commitment to education. In addition, each community had to guarantee to equip, furnish and maintain the schools after they were built. It was Rosenwald's intent to gradually reduce his contributions and increase public support, with the hope that eventually the entire process of funding black education would be undertaken using public monies.

As the project grew and expanded, so did the requirements of its management. In 1917, Rosenwald incorporated the Julius Rosenwald Fund as a non-profit corporation having as its primary purpose the promotion of "the well-being of mankind." From 1917 until 1928, Rosenwald personally maintained control over the Fund while the building program was administered in Tuskegee. By 1920, these administrative functions had been moved to Nashville, Tennessee. For the first time, construction was put under the management of a white man, Samuel L. Smith, who was named director of the Rosenwald Fund Southern Office. Smith's responsibilities included cooperating with the departments of public instruction in fourteen southern states. Under Rosenwald's plan, Smith would see that African-American State Building Agents were hired with half of their salaries being paid by the Fund and half by the states desiring new schools. These state agents would inspect and supervise the construction of schools and teachers' homes in their respective states.

As Rosenwald's health began to decline, a major reorganization of the Fund was undertaken in 1928. This reorganization saw the Fund transitioning from private to corporate giving and the establishment of a board of trustees. In addition, Rosenwald was replaced as president of the Fund by Edwin R. Embree. The programs of the Fund, which had originally focused on building rural African-American schools, expanded to include aid to colleges for teacher training, black leadership development, fellowships for promising black and white students, research on African-American health and medical services, subsidies for county and school libraries, appropriations for specific social studies and contributions to agencies and individuals working in the field of race relations.

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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# Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

By the time of Rosenwald's death in 1932, the Julius Rosenwald Fund had helped construct over 5,300 public schools, shops and teacher's homes in fifteen southern states. The total cost of all of these projects was an impressive \$28,408,520. This figure includes \$4,364,869 (15.36%) in Rosenwald funds, \$18,105,805 (63.73%) in tax funds, \$4,725,891 (16.64%) from African-Americans and \$1,211,975 (4.27%) from the white community.

It was Rosenwald's firm belief that the generation which contributed to the making of wealth should be the one to benefit from it. Therefore, he stipulated the Fund should expend its principal and interest within twenty-five years after his death. In keeping with these wishes, Embree discontinued building Rosenwald Schools in 1937 and closed the Fund completely in 1948.

Rosenwald School Construction in Fayette County Kentucky

The Commonwealth of Kentucky was one of the fifteen states that benefited from the efforts of Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald and other forward thinkers. Between 1917 and 1932, the Julius Rosenwald Fund assisted in the construction of 158 schools and other buildings across the Bluegrass state. Fayette County benefited from these funds with the construction of five schools and one shop. Of these six structures, Cadentown School is the only surviving Rosenwald Fund School.

An overview of the Fayette County Schools constructed by this fund include:

- □ Uttingertown School originally a two-room, two teacher facility that was funded in 1917-1920. It was demolished after 2000.
- □ Coletown School a two-teacher facility that was funded in 1920-1921. It was demolished at an unknown date.
- □ Avon School a one-teacher facility built 1922-1923 . Its demolition date is unknown.
- □ Cadentown School a one-teacher facility built 1922-1923.
- □ Ft. Springs School built 1922-1923. Its demolition date is unknown.
- Douglas School an eight-teacher facility built 1929-1930 and demolished at an unknown date. Note, that the Douglas School listed on the National Register in 1998 was built in 1947 to replace the 1929 Douglas School. The 1947 and 1929 schools occupied different locations on Price Road.
- □ Douglas School Shop an addition to Douglas School from 1931-1932. Its demolition date is unknown.

#### History of Cadentown and the Cadentown School:

The settlement patterns of African-American hamlets in the Bluegrass are unique from those found in the rest of the South. After the Civil War social and economic conditions in the South, including intensive agriculture, numerous small or marginal land holdings and a very low reserve of operating capital, encouraged the development of a scattered population of African-American sharecroppers. Contrary to these overall conditions, the economy of the post-Civil War Bluegrass was quickly

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Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

reestablished, assuring that the large farm owners could afford to continue an extensive form of agriculture that emphasized specialized stock raising, and only a few labor intensive crops such as tobacco and hemp. This agricultural focus apparently favored a clustered pattern of settlement, in which the clusters were located in close proximity to the large farms so that the resident labor force would be readily available.

The residential options for most African-Americans at this time were restricted by financial impoverishment and a lack of welcome from white communities. They frequently had to settle on whatever property was made available to them. Land for clustered-house villages in the Bluegrass region was usually acquired in one of two ways: either the land was sold or given to African-Americans by local estate owners and former slave holders, or the land was purchased by a "developer" for the express purpose of selling lots to African-Americans at a profit. In most cases, they gained ownership of a cottage and the land. Many owners remained dependent on the larger farms for employment, continuing their long-term occupational relationship, though as wage laborers rather than as slaves.

There were about thirty small nucleated black settlements or hamlets scattered among Bluegrass farms, thirteen of which where located in Fayette County. These communities traditionally appeared to have had less than fifty (50) residents with each parcel usually consisting of a residence and a garden plot of corn, collards, cabbage and potatoes that served as an additional source of food. Small tobacco allotments provided a supplementary source of income, and often such animals as hogs and chickens wandered about the yards.

The Cadentown community evolved in a similar pattern. In 1867, Owen Caden purchased just over forty-three acres of land in the eastern portion of Fayette County. By 1869, Caden began to sell individual parcels of land ranging in size from one to eight acres. Cadentown's first parcel owner was an African-American farmer, and within ten years, all of the lots had been sold. The resulting development reflected a relatively self-sustained community nestled in a rural setting and near a railroad line. In addition to the individual house parcels with their sizable lots, the community also included public sites. Several of these, including two historic churches, a schoolhouse, and a fraternal order lodge, survive today.

One of the earliest public sites established was the Cadentown Baptist Church. Soon after purchasing the land that now sits on Caden Lane in 1879, the congregation built a sanctuary on the site. The community as a whole recognized that the best hope for the future lay in the education of its children. In support of this, the church offered a portion of its lot for the construction of a school. Little is known about this school building except it was located in the same general area as the present Rosenwald School. The previous building served the community from the time of its construction until 1922.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

During the 1922/23 funding cycle, Cadentown received assistance for the construction of a new school building from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The one-teacher school that was built cost a total of \$3,300. This figure includes \$300 from African-Americans, \$500 in Rosenwald funds and \$2,500 in public funds.

The design for this school building was derived from the One Teacher Community School Plan No. 1-A developed by the Julius Rosenwald Fund in the early part of the twentieth century. The plans for the Cadentown School were prepared by Frankel-Curtis Company, Architects and Engineers of Lexington, Kentucky in 1922. These Frankel-Curtis plans survive today and document that the design faithfully followed the Rosenwald plan with only a few exceptions. The fenestration patterns of the southeast and southwest elevations are the same in both plans. While the northeast elevation contains the single window into the domestic science room, the Rosenwald plan called for a series of "breeze windows" set high in the wall of the classroom. The location of the exterior door from the domestic science room is also flipped from the Rosenwald plan. The biggest difference in the two plans is the wall between the classroom and the domestic science room. The Rosenwald plan called for this to be a movable partition, but the local interpretation called for it to be a fixed stud wall.

When completed, the Cadentown School housed grades 1 through 6. The doors to the new school opened in 1923 and served the community through the school year ending in 1947. During those 24 years, the children of Cadentown were educated in a building that the community could call its own. Many of these students went on to be leaders not only in their community, but across the Commonwealth. After its closure in 1947 the Cadentown Baptist Church used the school building as an activity center. When the church moved to its new location within the community, the property and buildings were transferred into private ownership. In recent years, the property has been acquired by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government which plans to renovate the structure.

# Integrity:

Today the Cadentown School, while suffering from abandonment in recent years, is remarkably intact. Much of the original integrity and character remain. The original plan for this facility remains in a relatively unaltered state. Its original setting also survives intact from the time of its construction, situated between the former Cadentown Baptist Church and its cemetery. The church building, while altered and expanded over time, retains its mass, scale and its identity as a small rural religious structure. Even though the cemetery retains few of its original grave markers, its location at the rear of the property is identifiable.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Cadentown School Fayette County, Kentucky

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- Cadentown Neighborhood Association. <u>Cadentown: Fayette County, Kentucky</u>. Prepared by University of Kentucky Program for Archaeological Research. Lexington, Kentucky. Unknown date.
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- Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Historic Building Survey Records. Division of Historic Preservation. Lexington, Kentucky.

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Original Construction Drawing Cadentown School Property, Lexington, Fayette County Kentucky



**One Teacher School** 





TO FACE NORTH OR SOUTH CHLY

Cadentown School Property, Lexington, Fayette County Kentucky





**Existing Plans** Cadentown School Property, Lexington, Fayette County Kentucky



**Existing Plans** Cadentown School Property, Lexington, Fayette County Kentucky