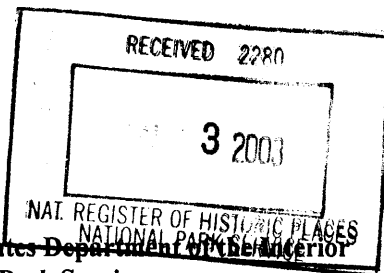


2763



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name Bradford School House  
other names/site number BK-284

**2. Location**

street & number Route 8 and 1109 not for publication N/A  
city or town Foster vicinity N/A state Kentucky code KY  
county Bracken code 023 zip code 41043

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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     nationally     statewide x locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

David L. Morgan 3-04-03  
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan, SHPO and Executive Director, KHC Date

    Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(    See continuation sheet)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
    entered in the National Register     See continuation sheet.  
    determined eligible for the National Register     See continuation sheet.  
    determined not eligible for the National Register      
    removed from the National Register      
other (explain)    

for Daniel J. Vin June 18, 2003  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Numbers of Resources within Property

Contributing    Non-contributing

- |              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>  1  </u> | <input type="checkbox"/> buildings  |
| <u>  </u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> sites      |
| <u>  </u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> structures |
| <u>  </u>    | <input type="checkbox"/> objects    |
| <u>  1  </u> | <u>  0  </u> Total                  |

Number of contributing Resources previ-

ously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing    N/A

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Add more category and subcategory lines if needed)

Cat: Education                      Sub: School

Current Function

Cat: Vacant/Not in Use              Sub:                     

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification    Other

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- |            |                          |
|------------|--------------------------|
| foundation | <u>limestone</u>         |
| roof       | <u>tin</u>               |
| walls      | <u>wood weatherboard</u> |
| other      | <u>N/A</u>               |

**Narrative Description (on continuation sheets.)**

**8. Statement of Significance**

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes)

- 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.)

- 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.

Areas of Significance Education

Period of Significance 1871 - 1930

Significant Dates 1930

Significant Person N/A (enter only if Criterion B selected)

Cultural Affiliation N/A (enter only if Criterion D selected)

Architect/Builder unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance (on continuation sheets.)**

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Reference Entries (on continuation sheets.)**

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CRF 67) has been requested
- Previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by HAB Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by HAE Record # \_\_\_\_\_ Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1 acre

**UTM References**

Zone	Easting	Northing	
16	748 420	42996080	Moscow, Ohio, Quad

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The accompanying survey, labeled "#26-SITE PLAN" shows the area proposed for visiting as a rectangle, within which is the structure designated as "OLD SCHOOL HOUSE."

**Boundary Justification**

The area selected for listing is that area which has historically been associated with the school's function. The one acre that the school is sitting on is bordered by a stream, Little Snag Creek, and woods on the east, north and south side. The west side of the acre is bordered by a small, paved, one lane county road and woods. The area is remote forest farmland around the school house and not associated with the school's setting.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title <u>Dinah Bird Westerfield</u>	organization <u>N/A</u>
mailing address <u>2165 Stewart Road</u>	telephone <u>937-376-3404</u>
city or town <u>Xenia</u> state <u>OH</u> zip code <u>45385</u>	

**Property Owner**

name Dinah Bird Westerfield  
street & number 2165 Stewart Road telephone 937-376-3404  
city or town Xenia state OH zip code 45385

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 7, Page 1

Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

**Narrative Description**

The Bradford School House (BK-284) was built as a one story, one room, frame, clapboarded structure. The School House is a few feet east from a two lane country road, Route #1109. East of the building, approximately 75 feet away, is Little Snag Creek, which runs into the Ohio River about one third mile away downstream. Despite close proximity to the creek and river, no flooding occurred in the 1937, 1964, and 1997 floods. Since Route #1109 is not a heavily traveled road, the School House is in a very tranquil valley setting, surrounded by 300 acres of wooded, undeveloped land. Old farm buildings and a dry stone wall occupy the same valley with the School House.

The Bradford School House appears on a Bracken County Subscription Map dated 1871. The local residents claim the School House is indeed the one on the map (Klein interview). The School House was built for first through eighth grade education. The building was used as a school house until the fall of 1930 when it was deactivated due to school consolidated in Bracken County.

A gable is on the east and west ends of the building. The structure sits on an 18-inch limestone foundation. The stones for the foundation most likely were gathered from Little Snag Creek. The dimensions of the rectangular structure are 30' long, 21' wide, and 20' high at the gable tops. An east side door is original to the structure. Two original windows are located on both the south and north side of the structure.

After the building was closed as a school, it was altered and converted to a single-family dwelling. It appears an external door was put into the west side of the structure as well as a two-foot-by-two-foot window in the east side of the structure. A wood stove flue was put into the structure near the east end. Externally, otherwise, the structure was not altered. All desks, chalk boards, and school furnishings were removed internally. Two partitions internally were constructed to divide the interior into four rooms. Shreds of old floral wallpaper still cling to some of the internal partitions. The two partitions are constructed from the floor to the ceiling. However, both partitions could be removed so that the school house could be restored to its original floor plan of an open room. The floors are bare pine planks partially covered with linoleum.

The Hester, Tucker, and Bill O'Brien families took up residence in the dwelling after Ronnie Weisbrodt purchased it in the early 1930s for \$100 (*History of Bracken County Bicentennial Edition*). After Zeno Winkler lived in the dwelling, Harry Cline, Jr. purchased the building in about 1950 for \$250. Cline's family originally had owned the property where the school house sat. His mother had been a teacher there and he was one of the last children who attended the school in 1929. The building has been used for storage since Cline purchased the structure (Cline interview). Current owner, Dinah Bird Westerfield, purchased the building in 2001. It remains vacant with the anticipation of its restoration.

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8, Page 1**

**Property Name Bradford School House**

**BK-284**

**Bracken County, KY**

**Narrative statement of significance**

The Bradford School House (BK-284) at Route #8 and #1109, Bradford, Bracken County, Kentucky meets the National Register Criterion A and is significant within the historic context "Education in Bracken County, 1837-1934." It is significant as a good representative of local schools in that County from 1860s through the 1930s. The Bradford School House demonstrates the County's priority for education, and its method of meeting that priority, during the significant period. This context has been developed for this nomination.

This nomination divides the state's and county's educational history into 4 periods. In each section the State's history will be examined, then the Bracken County response will be presented. The premise of this nomination is that Bracken County was a leading county in providing education to its citizens, and the Bradford School House represents well the county's response during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The school is significant not only for its historic typicality, but also because today it's a rare example of such schools.

Kentucky's educational policy can be classified into four important time frames:

- I. Education in Kentucky and Bracken County, Early Years.
- II. Education Organization in Kentucky and Bracken County, 1837 to 1908.
- III. Education in Kentucky and Bracken County, Progressive Era, 1908 to 1934
- IV. Education in Kentucky and Bracken County after 1934.

**I. Education in Kentucky and Bracken County, Early Years**

The free system of public schools in Kentucky is a relatively recent invention. Unlike the New England states, which established a system of common schools in the early nineteenth century, Kentuckians did not make substantial investments in their school systems usually until the twentieth century. Initially, Kentuckians tried to develop a system of land-grant seminaries in every county. Land was set aside by the State in the counties for erection of academies; though the State intended to support the initial start-up costs, maintenance would be provided by private individuals and groups on the local level. These academies were never meant to be free to all children in the area, as subscription was required before a student could attend. The consequence of the early experiment was exclusion of poorer children due to the hefty costs of tuition. Much of the difficulties with academies resulted from a perception that they were elitist institutions (Kennedy, n.p.).

The Bracken County educational system in the early 1800s did resemble Kentucky's educational practice of establishing academies. The desire for Augusta, the

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Section 8, Page 2

Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

county seat of Bracken County, to flourish as a cultural and educational center became a reality when in 1797 the Bracken Academy was founded (*History of Bracken County*). At that time, Philip Buckner, the Founding Father of Augusta, was a member of the General Assembly of Kentucky. Six thousand acres of land located in Union and Christian counties were donated to Augusta by the General Assembly of Kentucky for educational purposes. This land was sold and the proceeds were vested in the trustees of Bracken Academy who were appointed by the Kentucky General Assembly in the November session of 1798. In addition, ferry rights for crossing the Ohio River was granted to Bracken Academy in order to assist in providing maintenance funds for this institution. Bracken Academy in Augusta was one of the first colleges established west of the Allegheny Mountains. Bracken County was an early leader in Kentucky for establishing education as an important priority for its citizens.

## **II. Education Organization in Kentucky and Bracken County, 1837 to 1908**

Most historians of educational history attribute the beginning of Kentucky's common school system to the dispersal of the Federal Surplus in 1837. Certainly, the Federal distribution spurred on enactment of the first coherent common schools legislation in the State. Although the State started to organize and structure a funding process for public schools, no uniform and effective statewide system existed. Instead there were myriad, tiny self-taxing local districts within each county that operated in relative isolation. The State Superintendent of Education began making formal reports to the State government in 1840. It is very evident from these formal reports the extensive degree of disorganization in the educational system (Kennedy, n.p.).

Only 24 out of a total of 90 counties, in 1841 for example, were divided into school districts and only 22 counties had accepted local taxation for common schools (Superintendent's Annual Report, 1840). Part of the hesitation at the county level was related to a lack of comprehensive support from the General Assembly of the State. The State legislature continually spent the moneys reserved for the school system for other purposes until the fund was totally depleted. In 1844, from one to 40 free public schools were in operation in nearly half the counties of the State (Superintendent's Annual Report, 1844). The educational system did continue to expand and improve gradually (with some interruption during the Civil War) until 1908 due to an overall emphasis on increasing education. Very few substantive changes were made in the Kentucky educational policy until the beginning of the twentieth century. While a dizzying array of minor alterations were enacted, from frequently changing the number of district trustees to increasing the State school tax, the essential district-oriented approach and independent county system was maintained.

In contrast to the State of Kentucky, the Bracken Academy, which had converted to Augusta College, remained a paragon for education in Kentucky until it began to experience problems in the mid 1800s when the College became the center of a great controversy in the slavery/anti slavery issue. Many of the teachers and students at the

**National Register of Historic Places**

**Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8, Page 3**

**Property Name** Bradford School House

**BK-284**

**Bracken County, KY**

Augusta College were pro-abolitionist and pro-union during the Civil War also. The Kentucky Legislature revoked the charter of the Augusta College on February 26, 1849 (*History of Bracken County*). The ferry rights owned by Augusta College were given to Joshua T. Bradford by the Kentucky Legislature (the ferry still operates in 2002).

Meanwhile, the 1840 "Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Kentucky" states Bracken County's population was 7,053, with 1465 children between the ages 7 to 17, and with Bracken County's share of school funds at \$586.00 (Kennedy, n.p.). In Bracken County 343 children attended public school with 12 male and 1 female teacher. However, the report stated 413 individuals over 20 were unable to read. According to this report, Bracken County had an above average number of children in school. But, the Bracken County illiteracy rate was about average. Bracken county, by 1841, was one of the 24 counties out of 90 in the State that had already formed school districts.

Funding educational efforts during this time frame was a major problem in Kentucky, as stated earlier. The Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Kentucky, to the Legislature of Kentucky, for the year 1848 suggested that approximately 50 percent of the counties were willing to increase taxes for the support of common schools. The same report indicates that 944 residents of Bracken County supported the tax of two cents on each one hundred dollars worth of taxable property and 201 residents of the County opposed the increase of school tax. Similar results were exhibited by Bracken County residents in 1855 when 1,017 residents voted for another school tax increase, while 161 were against the tax increase. Again, Bracken County was a leader in education improvements versus other counties in Kentucky.

The State's educational annual report for 1861 was the first report that shows the counties and their school districts subdivisions. This report indicates that Bracken County has 55 school districts. Bradford School is shown in district six, with 43 children and 18 of these 43 attended school for five months that year. Most children in other counties attended school for only three months the same year. The report shows that the average cost per child for education in Bracken County was \$1.82. In 1865, A.C. Armstrong, president of the Augusta Female College, was appointed commissioner of education in Bracken County and served until 1884. The State Annual Education Report indicates, "The commissioner having been recently appointed reports no visits. He thinks our schools will not result in the good which we expect or desire until the tax is increased." Mr. Armstrong also became the State Chairman of the Educational Committee and wrote some of the first school laws of the State of Kentucky (*History of Bracken County*).

Although Bracken County was one of the more progressive counties in the State in terms of education, Mr. Armstrong improved Bracken County's schools significantly as can be seen in the following annual reports from the State Superintendent of Public Instructions. Mr. Armstrong says (report's year cited at the beginning of text block):



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Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

1866 - Bracken County. . . *"I have visited all the districts in the county but one; have renewed the boundaries, and organized six new districts. There are fifty-three districts in the county. A free school has been taught in forty-eight of them, forty-six have reported, and five have no school-houses, but are building new houses now. I hope I will be able to report all the districts next year. There seems to be a general interest taken in the promotion of the common school system. So far as I have heard an expression, the people desire an increase of the school tax. I think a poll-tax of one dollar should be levied and collected by the sheriff, in the same manner that he collects the State revenue. The present law does not seem to meet the approbation of the people, for two reasons; in the first place, it is too difficult to obtain a majority of the districts, &c.; in the second place, it does not permit a tax to be levied sufficient to meet the demand of the people. I think it should be amended so as to allow the trustees of each district to levy and collect a tax sufficient to keep a public school open at least five months in the year, build and repair school houses, furnish fuel, and defray all other necessary expenses. A five months' school will accomplish more than three 'three-months' schools.' I think I have stated the will of the people as far as I have heard their opinions on the subject of taxation. We must have more money some way, in order to carry on our public schools and raise them to a respectable degree."*

1867 -Bracken County. The Commissioner writes: *"The present law is almost a dead letter, because the funds are too meager to meet the wants of the people. Now, I think it strange indeed that our legislators still turn a deaf ear to the petitions of their constituents, and seem willfully to neglect the most important duty that devolves upon them as statesmen. I see no good reason why Kentucky, noted for her liberality, should not have as perfect a School System as any State in the Union."*

1875 - Bracken County. *"Fifty two school districts, and have had from five to seven months free school taught in all but three small districts, where we have had only three months' school. These schools have been taught, with but few exceptions, by good teachers, who attended the Teachers' Institute, and there received certificates of qualification before the schools commenced. All the children have had the privilege of a good school, with but little expense in addition to the school fund and a special dog tax of \$14.50 to each district. These schools have been well attended, and have been appreciated by our citizens, who are striving to educate their children. The people of Bracken are becoming more interested in our Public Schools as our system improves, and regard its advances with pride.*

*We have a special law that gives the Trustee the power to*

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Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

*assess and collect a poll-tax not to exceed \$2.00, from the patrons of the school, which is used to provide fuel and all necessaries that pertain to the comfortable conduct of the district, which seems to be satisfactory and beneficial.*

*We have built twenty new school houses under the provisions of the new school law, repaired three, and three are being built (and will be finished in a few weeks). The Augusta school-house is a brick building, costing \$4,500; the rest are modern frame buildings, costing from \$600 to \$1,500 each. Some of these houses were built by taxation and subscription, as the citizens of the district would elect. All the balance are good houses but ten, and they must be torn down and new houses built next year; then Bracken county will be second to no county in the "grand old Commonwealth" in the important work of educating her youth. We are now making a bold effort to furnish all our houses with patent seats and desks. We hold a County Teachers' Institute every year in the month of August. These Institutes are beneficial to the Teachers and people; all seem to take an interest in them. Sixty Teachers attended the last. I would suggest a few changes in the school law. . . .*

*First The law should make some provision to pay the Teacher his salary at the end of each month, if the State should be compelled to borrow it (until the sheriffs pay the revenue), and pay the interest out of the School Fund. Our Teachers get an order on the Commissioners for their salary at the close of each month; the Commissioners accept to pay in February; and then the order is thrown on the market at a discount of 20 to 30 per cent.*

*Second The time of holding an election to vote a tax for tuition, to prolong the session, &c., should be changed, so as to be held at any time the Trustee and the people may elect. If the election is held in July, the people are not willing to vote a tax on themselves to pay a Teacher that they know nothing about, &c.; but if a popular Teacher is employed, and the people are anxious to retain him, and keep the school open longer than five months, they will freely vote the tax; but then it is too late, and this Teacher has gone to another field of labor. Well, there are other changes I might suggest; but we must educate our people by degrees to the necessary changes that ought to be made.*

*I have received important information from your able decisions published in the "Home and School Journal." Every Trustee should take the Journal, and then he would be able to aid the Commissioner in his arduous labors.*

*I have not visited all our schools this year. I visited all those that required my presence - some of them four or five times, where locations for new houses were to be made, elections held, &c. I have made addresses and lectures, advised the parents to send to school,*

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Section 8, Page 6

Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

*and encouraged the children to improve and make use of the means that the State has provided for their benefit. I keep myself well posted on the management of all the schools in the county. I could spend nearly all my time profitable in the promotion of our educational system in the county, while we are building and repairing school-houses." A.C. Armstrong, Com.*

A stark contrast can be made between other counties whose reports appear in the same 1880 document and Bracken County:

1880 - Boyd - *"A general lack of interest in the common-school systems by those for whom it was designed - the poor - is reported from Boyd. The examinations show a fair class of teachers, and with their co-operation, better things are expected." and "The schools in this county have improved in the last four years, and are still improving, but are not yet what they should be. The great need is more money, though a great deal of what they have is wasted, chiefly because there is not enough to get such teachers as are needed. Voting a tax in this county to pay teachers, has been a complete failure."*

- Bracken - *"The common schools of Bracken are improving every year, and the people more willing to contribute their means to educate the masses. There are forty-three good, comfortable school-houses, furnished with patent desks, &c. These cost on an average \$800.00. There are six very uncomfortable houses with no accommodations, but new ones are to be built next year. There is generally a good corps of teachers, who attend the Institutes, which have been conducted regularly for ten years, and have resulted in good both to teachers and to patrons. The colored schools are scattered, and cannot be regularly attended, but are considered beneficial. The children are learning to read, write, and cipher, and are obtaining some knowledge of grammar, and some of them will be prepared to conduct business for themselves."*

In terms of the Bradford School House, an 1871 subscription map at the Bracken County Historic Society shows the Bradford School. In 1884, H.T. Bradford of Petra was named Commissioner of Education for Bracken County. The Bradford Family has been prominent in Bracken County for two centuries. Indeed, the Bradford community of the Bradford School House was named after H.T. Bradford's family. Mr. Bradford states in the Annual Report of Education for Kentucky:

1887 - Bracken - *The schools of Bracken are in good condition, well supplied with good, competent Teachers. Perhaps in no other county of Northern Kentucky are examinations of Teachers so severe - a third-class certificate is as hard to obtain as first or second, in some other counties. The Superintendent is very proud of the work beginning for the coming winter, and knows that the schools are advancing at a healthy rate. The only special want is improvement in*

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8, Page 7

Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

*the condition of the school-houses shall see that done in another year."*

Reviewing Kentucky's educational reports, between 1840 to 1908, Bracken County's school system resembled the hodge podge approach to educational policy. However, comparing the Commissioner's reports from various counties, between 1840 to 1908, Bracken County's educational structure performed more consistently and it executed the State's educational policy more successfully. Consequently, Bracken County entered in the twentieth century as a leader of public schools in Kentucky. The Bradford School House bears witness to this period, as it was constructed during the 1837-1908 era.

### **III Education in Kentucky and Bracken County, Progressive Era, 1908 to 1934**

In 1908, the State school system underwent a great change. Previously, the system was managed on the district level; the 1908 school law made the county the primary unit of school administration. These measures were intended to bring about a new era of efficiency and order to Kentucky's school system. Centralization of school authority and efficient operations were the dominant theme of what historians call the "progressive era."

With these new measures for efficiency also came a focus on professionalism in the field of school administration. Efficiency manifested in efforts to license teachers, and improve qualifications for all school administrators. Perhaps most important was the 1908 mandate that compelled all counties to establish one or more high schools by 1910. Before this time, it was common for children to finish school with the eighth grade. Concerns about Kentucky's high level of illiteracy and poverty led to the 1912 legislative provision which mandated attendance for all school children from age 6 to 16. In spite of the approval of this provision, some Kentuckians persisted in denying the benefits of an elementary or secondary education to their children. The effect of the 1908 legislation had a dramatic impact but was less than the progressives hoped.

The 1908 Kentucky School Law made significant changes like the primary unit of school administration. Since education was already well organized at the County level in Bracken, these significant changes did not apparently affect the Bradford School, the School's district number was changed from number 6 to number 17 in 1917. The Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kentucky of 1909<sup>(13)</sup> states:

*Bracken County - "Notable progress is being made here. Two high schools established at Augusta and Brooksville. Few people oppose the new law. Great good has come to the cause of education - the cause of its discussion. A great many of the teachers have been attending the Eastern State Normal and many more will go there at the end of the present term."*

*Education of the masses is the battle cry in this county. Notable progress has been and is being made here in the interest of better facilities all along the line.*

*We have just built a splendid school-house, and equipped it with all modern appliances including a Manuel Smith heating and ventilating furnace.*

*We have raised a larger sum for the purpose of increasing the salaries of our teachers than ever before.*

*Our schools will be supplied better than ever before in every convenience that goes to make the up-to-date school.*

*Our high schools located at Augusta and Brooksville are filling a long felt want and are meeting the expectations of those attending them.*

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 8, Page 8

Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

*Very few people now oppose the new law, and I can truthfully say that great good has come to the cause of education in this County because of the discussion of its salient features. A compulsory school law framed so as to be effective in every rural school of the state would send Kentucky bounding forward toward the goal of progress so much desired by every true educator.*

*Our County Board of Education before building another new single room house will thoroughly look onto the matter of consolidation. I am of the opinion that no more single rooms should be built and have so advised the board . . . .there is crying need for trained teachers. . . . .*

*Much needs yet to be done, but we believe that Kentucky's citizenship will find a way to solve all vexing problems and give the state to a high standard of excellency."*

1911 - Bracken County. *"Educational sentiment in this county is decidedly on the increase. Better qualified men are being elected trustees.*

*We are building some splendid new school houses every year. Each of these houses is supplied with the very best single seats, new boards, maps and globes. We now have ten houses so supplied, and in addition, these houses are warmed and ventilated with the most modern and up-to-date heating plants.*

*The County Board of Education is planning to consolidate several subdistricts, hoping by this means to remedy the serious evil of small attendance. . . "*

These reports from Bracken County express some of the sentiments of the Progressive era of education at the State level. The emphasis on efficiency regarding heating of schools to furnishings is remarkable. Notice also that consolidation issues are mentioned in both 1909 and 1911 reports. These reports suggests that Bracken County continued to make educational progress.

By 1929, Bradford School was serving 17 white males and 18 white females. These school children varied from ages 6 to 17. The fall of 1929 was the last school year the Bradford School House was used. The following year, 1930, Bradford School children were bused to Johnsville to finish up through the eighth grade or to Brooksville for high school (Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1929). The Bradford School continued to serve approximately 30 to 40 children during its 80 years or so of existence. During the same time frame, Bracken County as a whole increased from about 1400 school aged children to 2500.

#### **IV Education in Kentucky and Bracken County after 1934**

In Kentucky there was a strong backlash to many of the reforms that were instituted during the early twentieth century. The progressive movement did not achieve all of its goals, but many measures were passed with the effect of a stronger, more efficient school system. The 1934 School Code was among the many measures intended to ameliorate problems within the school system. School consolidation was the dominant theme across the Commonwealth. Consolidation was a program aimed at combining small, "inefficient" schools into larger schools. Efficiency was not merely gauged in terms of financial expenditures, but also measured according to the number and quality of educational programs that could be maintained. For example, a small one-room school did not have the funds to hire specialized teachers for graded programs, nor were there funds for better equipment or a larger buildings. Thus, smaller schools merged into larger county schools. There

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**Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8, Page 9**

**Property Name** Bradford School House      **BK-284**      Bracken County, KY

were 7,067 one-room schools in the State of Kentucky in 1918-19 (Superintendent's Biennial Report, 1919) and by 1938-39 there were only 4,383 (Superintendent's Report, 1939). The majority of school consolidation had occurred by the Second World War. A newspaper report suggested in 1966 that 422 one-room schools were still being used in Kentucky (*New Democrat*, June 1, 1966). By 1969, only 100 one-room schools still operated in the State (*Courier Journal*, October 24, 1969). The one-room school house, once an institution in public education, was disappearing due to consolidation, so only 15 one-room schools remained operating in remote areas of Kentucky in 1974 (*Jefferson Sun*, January 10, 1977). Education has continued to improve throughout the twentieth century in Kentucky.

In Kentucky, the 1934 school code was among the many measures intended to improve the State educational system. School consolidation was the key driver of changes for education in most counties. Once again, Bracken County was a leader in that it had consolidated its schools years ahead of most counties. Bracken County educational systems continued to improve after 1934.

**Conclusion**

The pioneers who settled Bracken County held education as a priority. As the years passed nearly every Bracken County community had a school. There were 57 schools in Bracken County at one point in time. By 1939 the community schools were consolidated into three county schools and one independent school (*History of Bracken County*).

Bradford School House typifies the educational system between 1855 to 1930 at both the County and State level. The one-room school house, once an institution in public education has literally disappeared. Out of the thousands of one-room school houses built in Kentucky, very few exist today. No other one-room school house in Bracken County is known to have been preserved. In Bracken County, the one-room schools have been abandoned then deteriorated and/or erased with the progress of time. The Bradford School House is historically significant because it is representative of the Kentucky education system and is a rare example still surviving today. The Bradford School House after over a century stands as a tribute to education in Bracken County, the State of Kentucky, and rural America.

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section 9, Page 1

Property Name Bradford School House

BK-284

Bracken County, KY

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Kentucky, Communicated to the House of Representatives, December 30, 1840

Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Kentucky, Communicated to the House of Representatives, December 30, 1844

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Associated Press

Courier Journal, newspaper article, October 24, 1994

Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kentucky, for the two years ending June 30, 1909

Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kentucky, for the two years ending June 30, 1911

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Cline Jr., Harry

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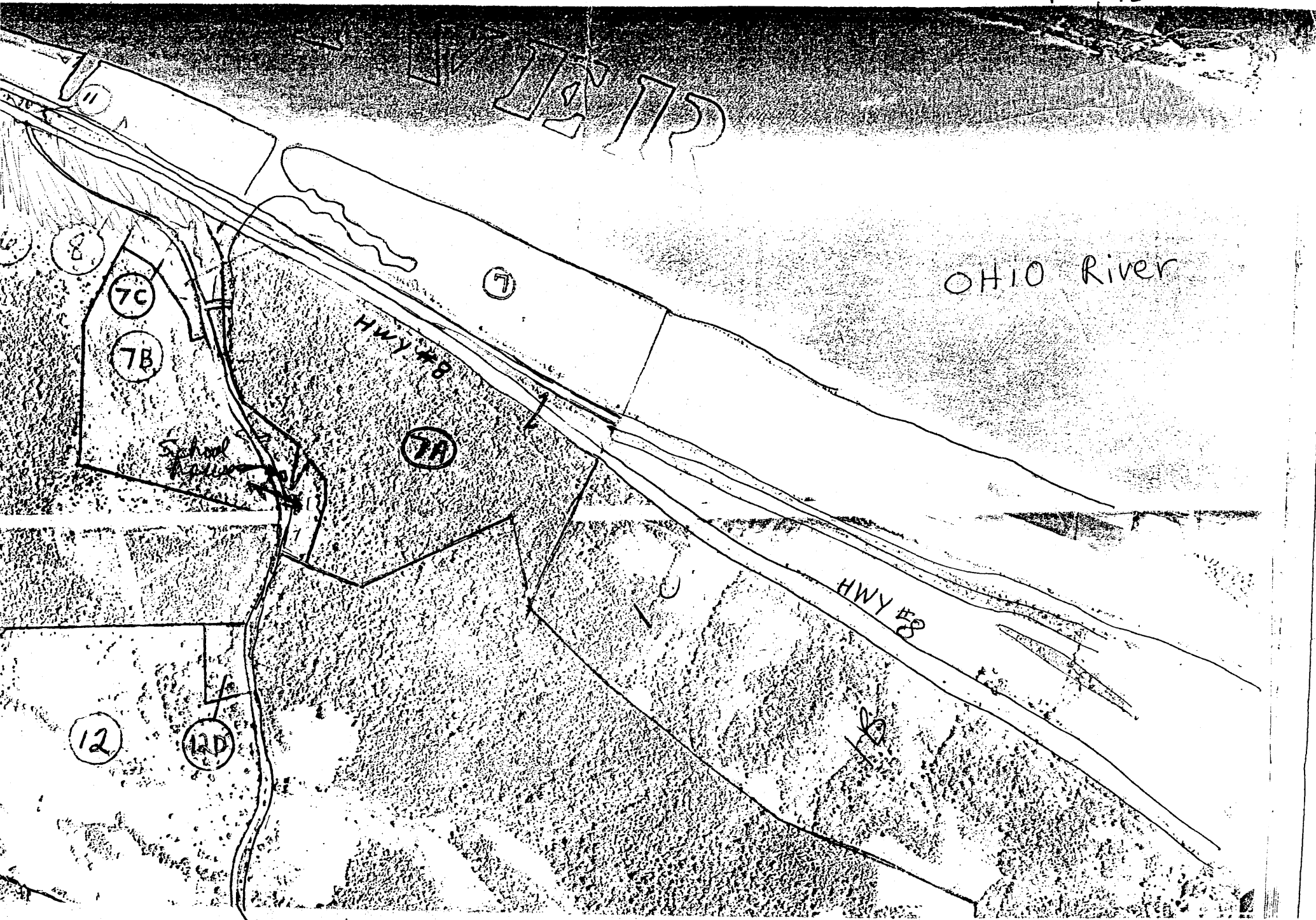
Jefferson Sun, newspaper Article, January 10, 1977

Kennedy, Rachel and Cynthia Johnson

*Kentucky Historic Schools Survey: An Examination of the History and Condition of Kentucky's Older School Buildings*. Draft dated January 20, 2002

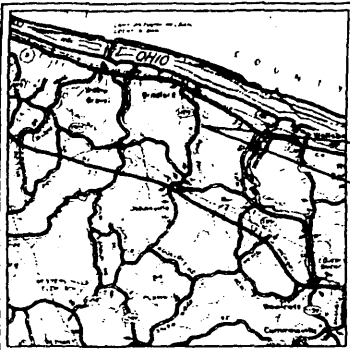
Wilson, Gordon

New Democrat, newspaper article, June 1, 1966



▲ Rt. #1109





VICINITY MAP

SITE LOCATION

# SURVEY FOR DINAH BIRD-WESTERFIELD

KY HWY. 1109, BRACKEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY  
DATE: 1/22/2001 SCALE: 1" = 200'

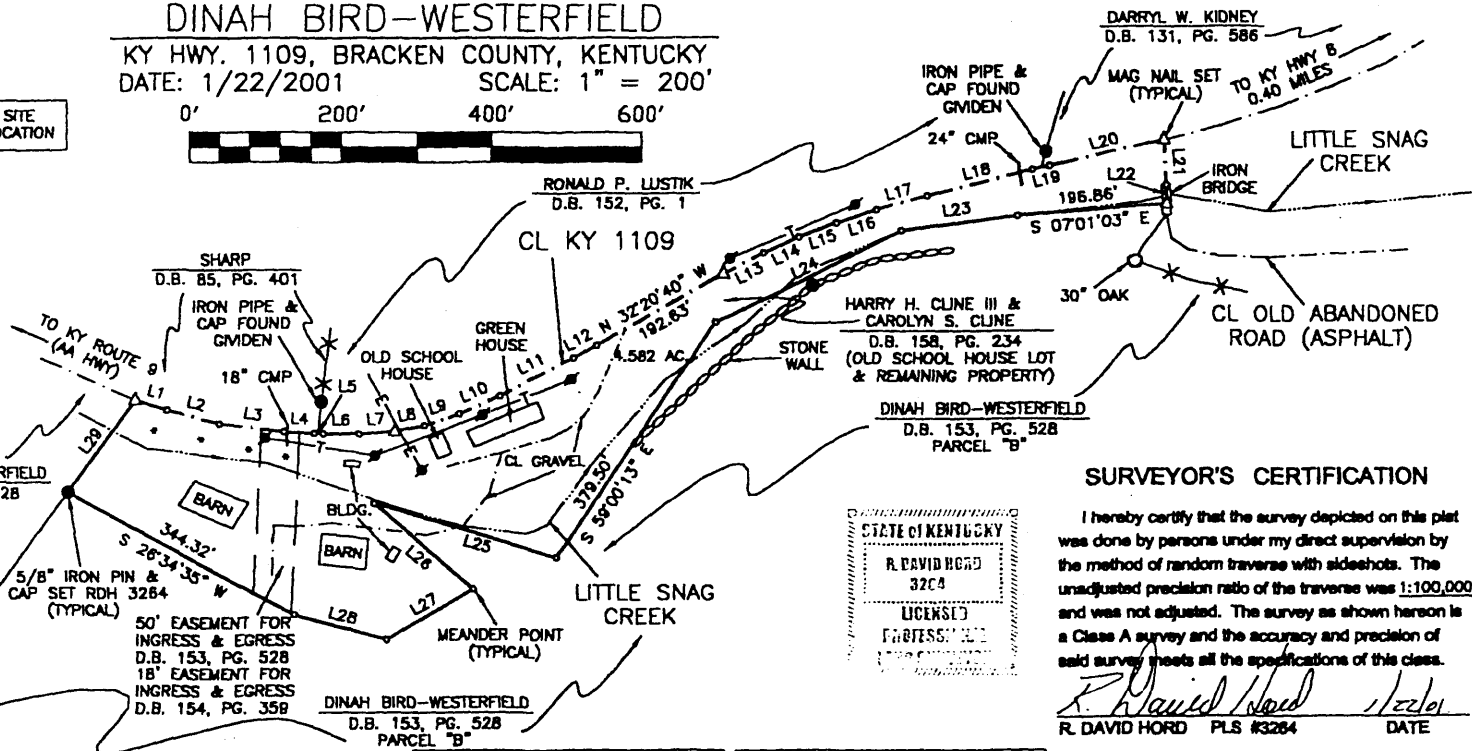
0' 200' 400' 600'



**LEGEND**

- REBAR 6/8" DIAMETER w/PLASTIC CAP STAMPED RDH 3284 (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
- MEANDER POINT
- △ MAG NAIL
- FENCE POST
- TREE (AS NOTED)
- UTILITY POLE
- BOUNDARY LINE
- - - CENTERLINE OF ROAD
- - - EDGE OF PAVEMENT
- × × FENCE LINE
- - - STREAM LINE
- - - RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW)

NOTES:  
BEARINGS COORDINATED TO 1/2" IRON PIPE & CAPS FOUND, GVIDEN L.S. #2221, D.B. 152, PG. 1, RONALD P. LUSTIK.  
PROPERTY SUBJECT TO ALL LEGAL RIGHT-OF-WAYS, EASEMENTS AND UNRECORDED CONVEYANCES.  
PROPERTY SUBJECT TO INGRESS & EGRESS EASEMENT AS SHOWN ON PLAT AND RECORDED AS 50' EASEMENT, D.B. 153, PG. 528 AND 18' EASEMENT, D.B. 154, PG. 359.  
PROPERTY SUBJECT TO ANY EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY FOR KY 1109 FOR BENEFIT OF COMMONWEALTH OF KY. SHARP DEED LINES CALLS FOR SNAG CREEK 1805 DEED. CLINE CLAIMS TO CENTERLINE EXISTING KY 1109 SHARP DOES NOT CLAIM TO CREEK.



STATE OF KENTUCKY  
R. DAVID HORD  
3284  
LICENSED  
SURVEYOR

**SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the survey depicted on this plat was done by persons under my direct supervision by the method of random traverse with sideshots. The unadjusted precision ratio of the traverse was 1:100,000 and was not adjusted. The survey as shown hereon is a Class A survey and the accuracy and precision of said survey meets all the specifications of this class.

*R. David Hord*  
R. DAVID HORD PLS #3284 DATE

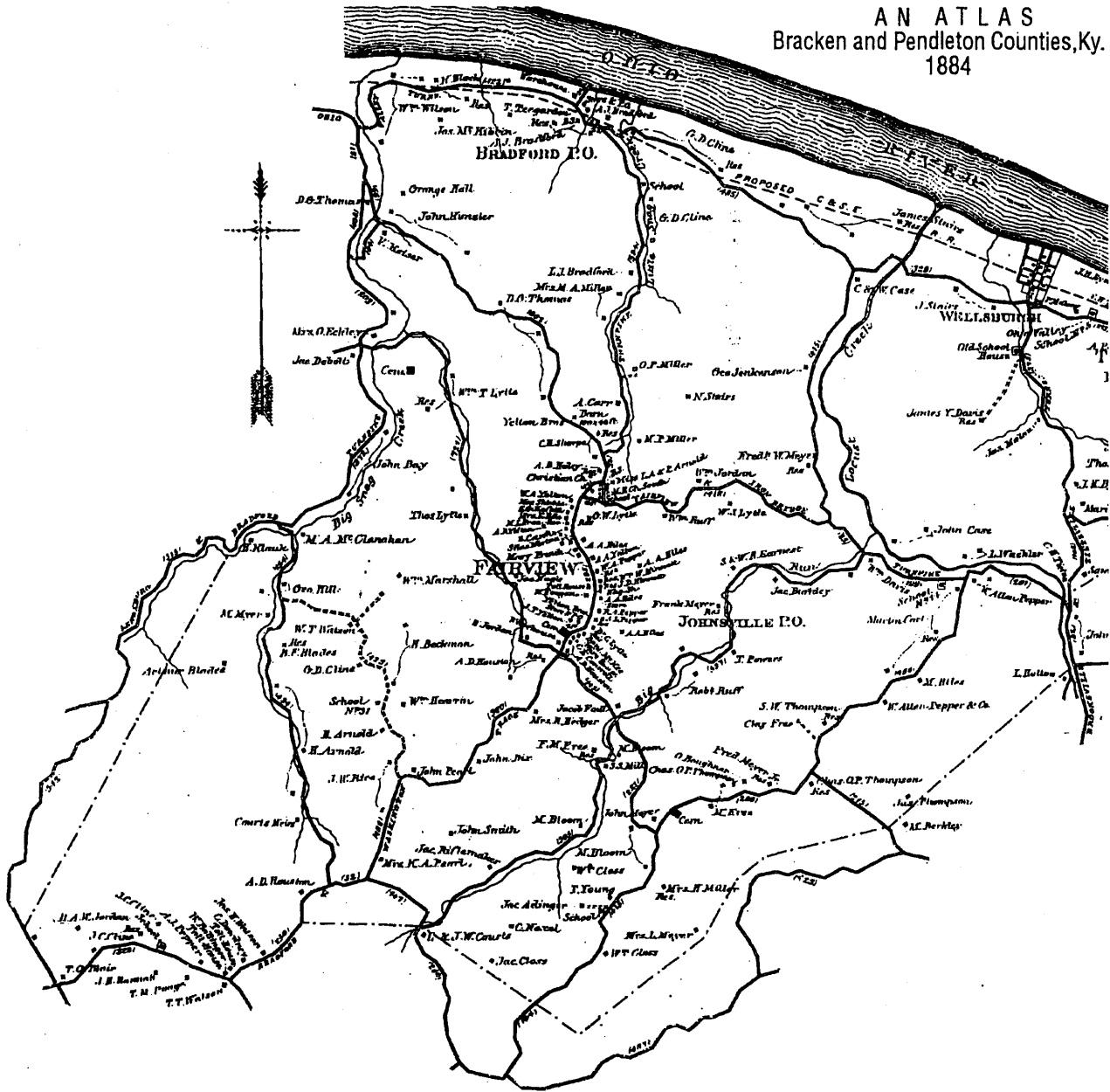
LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE	LINE	BEARING	DISTANCE
L1	N 15°01'07" E	43.88'	L16	N 20°13'56" W	57.28'
L2	N 12°23'02" E	72.84'	L17	N 17°48'43" W	70.74'
L3	N 05°03'20" E	86.38'	L18	N 16°05'01" W	144.32'
L4	N 00°13'45" E	36.81'	L19	N 14°57'04" W	23.61'
L5	N 00°08'56" W	11.70'	L20	N 15°22'15" W	154.23'
L6	N 01°55'36" W	46.47'	L21	N 09°36'30" E	60.40'
L7	N 06°39'37" W	47.54'	L22	N 05°36'30" E	25.13'
L8	N 13°09'47" W	40.10'	L23	S 09°19'59" E	156.22'
L9	N 20°26'31" W	49.81'	L24	S 28°25'18" E	278.08'
L10	N 26°08'53" W	59.98'	L25	S 14°23'39" W	255.96'
L11	N 29°52'35" W	109.30'	L26	N 36°44'44" E	177.31'
L12	N 31°07'45" W	34.90'	L27	S 32°12'28" E	134.67'
L13	N 28°38'52" W	80.10'	L28	S 12°33'36" W	128.10'
L14	N 26°12'02" W	50.41'	L29	N 56°07'25" W	153.42'
L15	N 22°15'36" W	53.89'			

**R D H SURVEYS, INC.**  
R. DAVID HORD  
4012 SLACK PIKE  
MAYSVILLE, KY 41056  
606-759-7309

#26 - SITE PLAN  
Deed Description - 2001:

That certain plot of ground and building thereon known as the "Old Bradford Schoolhouse" lying in the East side of the Johnsville-Bradford turnpike adjoining the lands of Harry Cline Sr. and also any land from the iron bridge that connects the Johnsville-Bradford turnpike and old Wellsburg turnpike south on either side of the creek to the south boundary of old Schoolhouse lot.

AN ATLAS  
Bracken and Pendleton Counties, Ky.  
1884



**BRADFORD BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

**L. J. & A. J. BRADFORD**, Dealers in Leaf Tobacco, Grain, General Merchandise, Coal and Lumber.  
**G. D. CLINE**, Leaf Tobacco Dealer.

**FAIRVIEW BUSINESS REFERENCES.**

**YELTON BROS.**, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Clothing, &c. Also Dealers in Leaf Tobacco, Stock and Grain. P. O. Johnsvills, Ky.  
**W. W. KINNETT**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker, Manufacturer of Cutter Plows. Horse Shoeing a Specialty. Repairing of all kinds done with Neatness and Dispatch. Shop East Side of Fairview, Ky.  
**J. D. KINNETT**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker and Proprietor of Hotel.  
**C. LITTLE**, Physician and Surgeon.  
**M. L. FREE**, Carpenter.  
**A. B. HALBY**, Blacksmith and Wagon Maker.  
**A. L. PEPPER**, Justice of the Peace.  
**JAMES T. DAVIS**, Dealer in General Merchandise, Wellsburg, Ky.  
**B. W. THOMPSON**, Constable.