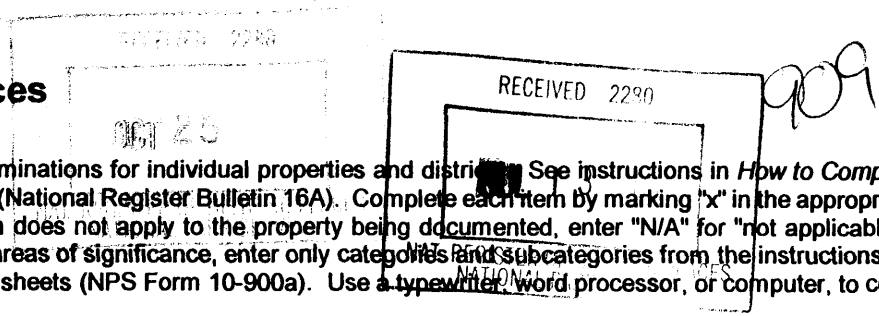


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.



1. Name of Property

historic name Verona High School

other names/site number BE-838

2. Location

street & number 14923 Walton-Verona Road not for publication N/A

city or town Verona vicinity N/A

state Kentucky code KY county Boone code 015 zip code 41092

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally,  statewide,  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
David L. Morgan, SMPO and  
Executive Director, KHC 6-5-2000  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
State Historic Preservation Office/Kentucky Heritage Council  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Signature of commenting official/Title 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Beth Boland Date of Action 12/3/02

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)  
in the count)

- 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 resource

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/ school

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

Refer to continuation sheets

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)

- 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1914-1950

Criteria Considerations

Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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

Significant Dates

1914

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Nicholson, George P., builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or 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
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Verona High School  
Name of Property

Boone County, KY  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.68 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	703 370	4299 120	3			Verona Quad
2				4			

N/A See continuation sheet.

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date November, 1999

street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

### 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 **sketch map** 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

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

**Verona High School**  
**(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)**

Section Number 7 Page 1

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**Description**

The Verona High School (BE- 838) is a two-story vernacular brick school building, rectilinear in form, with a seven-bay facade and a flat roof. With reference to the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "Historic Resources of the County of Boone, Kentucky," the Verona High School represents Property Type VIII, *educational architecture*.

The school employs a functional design (Photos 1, 2, 3), with little reference to any formal architectural style, yet it is the most physically-imposing edifice in the Boone County village of Verona. The overall appearance of the building is similar to that employed for other schools built in Boone County in the early years of the twentieth century, including those erected at Walton and Petersburg. Simple and symmetrical in its massing, the Verona High School stands two full stories above a raised basement. The seven-bay facade incorporates an extended entry pavilion with a centered opening which contains double wood doors incorporating solid lower panels and glazed upper panels. Above the doorway is a rectangular sandstone tablet bearing the inscription, "VERONA HIGH SCHOOL" and the date, "1914." The rear elevation (Photo 3) is six bays in width, with little ornamentation. The building's flat roof is concealed behind a somewhat deteriorated low parapet of brick and concrete; a modest, unornamented and partially deteriorated metal cornice extends around the perimeter of the building. Fenestration is flat-topped, with windows set on stone sills and capped with stone lintels. Modern replacement sash have been installed in some of the original openings, while other windows have been boarded over. The replacement windows fill the original openings completely and do not seriously detract from the overall physical integrity of the building.

The interior of the school is deteriorated and has been heavily vandalized, but nonetheless retains much of its overall plan and massing, incorporating two restrooms and a cafeteria in the basement, four classrooms on the first story, and an assembly room and offices on the second.<sup>1</sup> The main entry doors open into an abbreviated entrance hall which leads to a broad transverse hallway lined with classrooms. Some wood trim, including modest baseboards and four-panel doors, remain intact, along with several blackboards. The interior wall and ceiling surfaces are plastered. Currently vacant and deteriorating, the building was condemned but at the time of the preparation of this nomination the property had been purchased and was awaiting rehabilitation.

The nominated property is located at the east end of the village of Verona, in southeastern Boone County, Kentucky, approximately fifteen miles south of the county seat of Burlington. The building is two block west of the center of the village, and occupies a flat lot shaded by mature shade trees. No dependencies are associated with the school.

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<sup>1</sup>At the time of the preparation of the National Register nomination, the second story was not accessible for inspection or photography due to the deteriorated condition of the building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

**Verona High School**  
**(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)**

Section Number 8 Page 1

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**Significance**

The 1914 Verona High School (BE-838) is significant under National Register Criteria A and C. With reference to Criterion A, the school is a locally-distinctive example of the type of building which was associated with the consolidated education movement in Boone County during the first quarter of the twentieth century; its Criterion C significance derives from its architectural design, which is characteristic of educational architecture in the area during the same era. The property is significant within MPDF Historic Contexts I and IX, "Settlement, Socioeconomic Growth, and Maturity of Boone County, 1789-1950" and "Education in Boone County, 1789-1950," respectively. Although somewhat deteriorated, the school retains integrity and satisfies the Registration Requirements set forth in Section F of the Boone County MPDF.

Verona High School was built in 1914-1915. The earlier Verona school was located on another site within the community. Beginning in 1908, the Kentucky Legislature instituted a series of educational reforms which would alter forever the character of Boone County's educational patterns and would result in an overall county-wide elevation of educational standards. On May, 1914, a local referendum was held on the question of building a high school. One hundred forty-one voters favored the construction of a new building, while sixty opposed the project. A 2.86-acre building site was acquired from O. K. Whitson for \$600.00. The architect for the new building has not been identified, but it is known that bids for the construction of the new school were opened on August 22, 1914, and that the contract was awarded to George P. Nicholson of Walton, at a contract price of \$10,090. The new Verona High School opened in September, 1915, under the supervision of principal Miss Nannie Hamilton. The building housed grades one through twelve from the 1915 school year until 1935, when the Verona and Walton school districts merged, creating the consolidated Walton-Verona District.<sup>2</sup> Following the 1954 construction of the present Walton-Verona High School in Walton, the Verona High School building was converted to an elementary school; it was abandoned following construction of the new Walton-Verona Elementary School in 1971 and has been vacant since that time.

Verona High School is one of several historic school buildings in the county that are significant because of their association with educational reform in Boone County during the early twentieth century. These reforms, initiated on the state level, included consolidation of local schools and establishment of high schools. During the second half of the nineteenth century, rural Kentucky was served by one-room schoolhouses, which typically housed grades one through four. An 1880s report of the School Commissioner noted that the county's educational system consisted of forty-six individual districts served by one building each. The report noted that thirty-four of these facilities were of wood construction, two were of brick, and seven were built of logs.<sup>3</sup> The report also included a valuation of the school buildings, and all seven log facilities were valued at an aggregate total of \$60.00. The primitive condition of Kentucky's schools was believed by many to hamper the educational process and the *Recorder* editorialized,

The valuation of the log school houses in this county is a sad commentary on their condition. No teacher, no matter how well qualified, can be a successful educator in a house that is worth as little as it appears these

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<sup>2</sup>This data was taken from a hand-written, unsigned manuscript apparently prepared for the 1973 Alumni Banquet of Verona High School. It is in possession of the Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board.

<sup>3</sup>These figures do not total forty-six, perhaps due to a typographical error in the original newspaper account.

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

**Verona High School**  
**(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)**

Section Number 8 Page 2

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**Significance, continued**

log houses are . . . The districts that have this low grade of school edifice are standing in their own light and neglecting a duty they owe to their children.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to dilapidated buildings, poor pay and inadequate training discouraged Kentucky teachers. Moreover, parent apathy led to low rates of student attendance, particularly during harvest and during periods of inclement weather. The *Recorder* chastised such parents: "There are hundreds of well-meaning but thoughtless country people who require their children to work on the farm when they ought to be in school, thus robbing them of the inestimable benefit of a good education." Such children "suffer an incalculable loss" and enter adult life "obliged to knock about the world doing the drudgery of [their] former companions, looked upon as a sort of ignoramus incapable of using his [sic] best energies."<sup>5</sup>

By the early years of the twentieth century, educators were becoming alarmed by the deplorable state of education in Kentucky. In 1908, John Crabbe, the state's newly-elected Superintendent of Public Instruction, led a vigorous campaign for the improvement of education. In the legislative session following Crabbe's election,

. . . a series of laws was enacted which promised to revolutionize Kentucky education. Two teacher-training normal schools were founded, provisions were made for a high school in each county, the mode of teacher certification was revised, a child labor law was enacted, a compulsory school law was passed applying to towns and cities through the fourth class, local taxation was authorized. County districts were revised, and the door was opened for enactment of laws permitting later school consolidation.<sup>6</sup>

In the wake of these reforms, the system of one-room schoolhouse-based education began its transformation. Minuscule and outdated facilities were consolidated into newer, larger buildings which served wider geographical areas. Increased funding, improved teacher training, and better facilities began to lead to improvements in the overall quality of education. "Gradually more than 8,000 dilapidated one-room schoolhouses surrendered to consolidation and settled into the obliterating dust of decay or became even shabbier tenant houses and hay mows."<sup>7</sup> School consolidation in Boone County began with the dawn of the twentieth century and was spurred by Crabbe's reform legislation. The Walton-Verona Independent School District, which incorporated several smaller, rural districts, was established c. 1900; 1908 saw the merger of Florence District 118 and Pleasant Ridge District 119.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *Boone County Recorder*, December 20, 1882.

<sup>5</sup> *Boone County Recorder*, September 12, 1878, p. 4.

<sup>6</sup> Clark, Thomas *Agrarian Kentucky* (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1977), p. 111.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 113.

<sup>8</sup> Conrad, William *Boone County: The Top of Kentucky* p. 41

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
Continuation Sheet

***Verona High School***  
***(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)***

Section Number 8 Page 3

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**Significance, continued**

Access to secondary education was also an important component of school reform. During the nineteenth century in many rural areas of Kentucky, students desiring a high school education had to pay tuition and board away from home. In 1902 a new graded school--which included the county's first public high school--opened in Walton.<sup>9</sup> Boone County High School, located in Burlington, opened in 1910. Verona High School, dating from 1914, was "considered one of the best."<sup>10</sup> In Belleview, Petersburg, and Florence, schools were constructed which housed grades one through twelve in the same facility. The Petersburg Graded School is owned by the County and its future is uncertain. Belleview School has been seriously altered with a resulting loss of integrity.

Since some consolidated schools were no longer within walking distance for all students, transportation became an issue within the context of Kentucky education. In 1912, the Legislature enacted legislation empowering county boards of education to establish boundaries for school districts and to levy taxes for student transportation. While some districts chose to provide for student transportation, others did not. In Boone County, the practice of busing students from outlying areas to a central school began in 1913 when the Petersburg Graded School initiated bus service for students from the former Berkshire and Terrell districts.<sup>11</sup> Verona High School became a magnet for students from rural areas; pupils from neighboring counties even commuted by train received their education at Verona.

Within the Context of Criterion C, the Verona High School is significant as one of Boone County's best examples of an early twentieth-century public school building. The building's restrained, functional design represents the standard for school construction from the turn of the century through the 1930s; a similar design was utilized by the turn-of-the-century Walton High School and the Boone County High School (no longer extant). Unlike some other historic school buildings in the county, the Verona High School has not been compromised by modern additions. Minor alterations to the building include the installation of some replacement windows (sized to the original openings) and the addition of interior partitions installed during a recent remodeling; these treatments, along with its deteriorated condition, have not seriously compromised the overall character of the building.

With further reference to Criterion C, Verona High School is significant as a representative of the work of local master building George Nicholson. He was a prolific contractor in the Boone-Kenton County area throughout the first forty years of the twentieth century. He build numerous private homes, including his own c. 1925 residence in Walton (BE-927). He was also responsible for the construction of commercial buildings, schools, and churches in the area, including, in Boone County, the Walton Baptist Church (1914), the 1901 Walton High School, and the Walton Equitable Bank (1929), and in adjacent Kenton County, the Erlanger-Elsmere High School, Park Hills School, and Forest Hills School, all in the late 1920s.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Conrad, William *The History of Boone County Schools* (Florence: Boone County Educational Council, 1982), p. 24.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup>Information regarding George Nicholson was provided by the Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board, Burlington.



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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

***Verona High School***  
***(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)***

Section Number 9 Page 1

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

***Verona High School***  
***(Historic Resources of Boone County, Kentucky)***

**Section Number 10 Page 1**

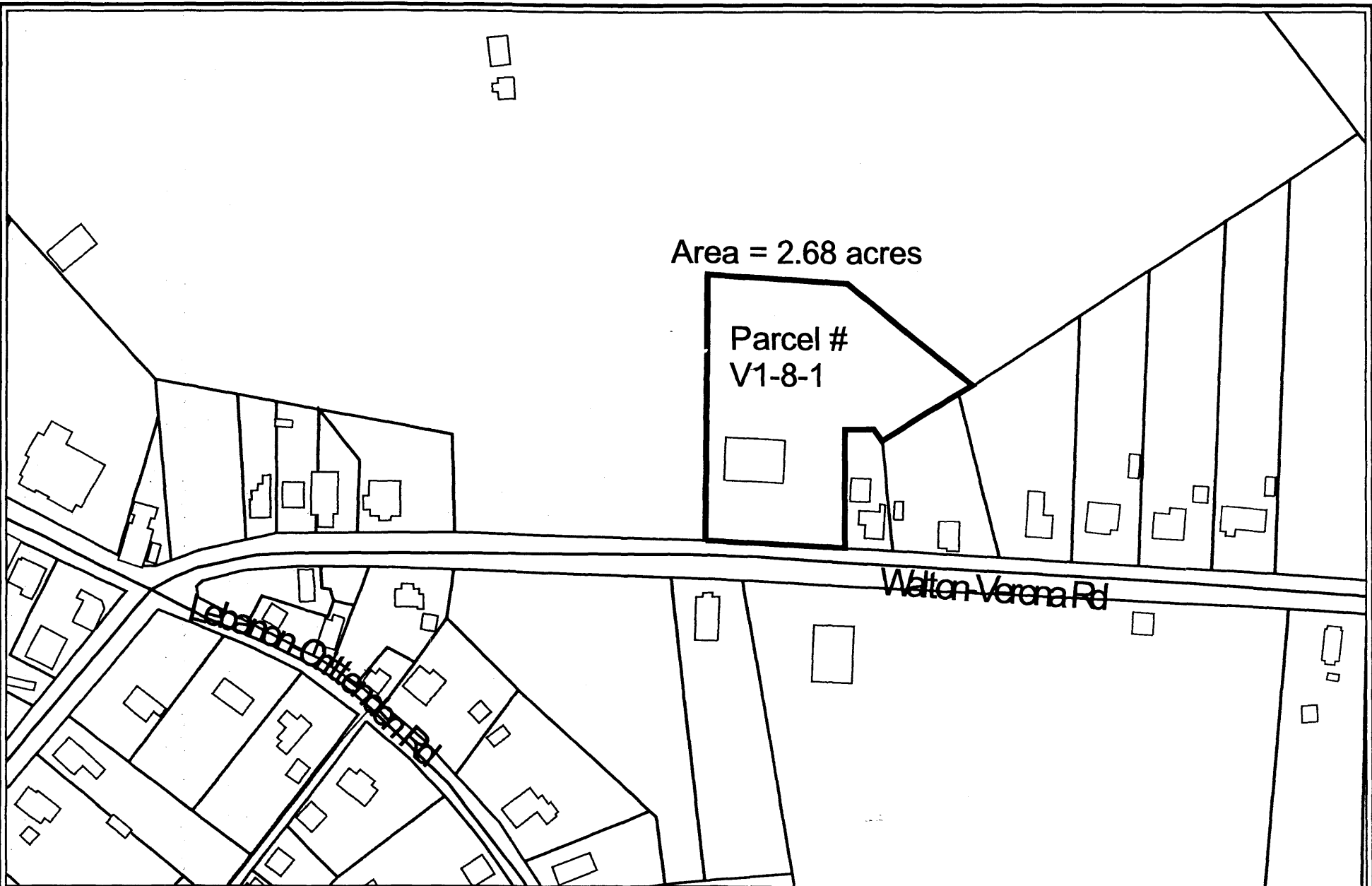
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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

Being all of that property described in Boone County, Kentucky Deed Book 395, Page 15 and Property Tax Parcel Map No. V1-8-1, and more particularly shown on the accompanying map prepared by the Boone County Planning Commission.

**JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of this nomination consist only of that tract which contains the school building and the acreage historically associated with the property.



Historic Resources of Boone County, KY  
VERONA SCHOOL  
BE 838

200 0 200 Feet

Produced by the  
Boone County Planning Commission  
GIS Services Division  
August 24, 2001

