

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 3 1988  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Garth School

and/or common SCG143

2. Location

street & number 501 South Hamilton Street

NA  
not for publication

city, town Georgetown na vicinity of

state Kentucky code KY county Scott code 209

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Scott County Board of Education

street & number Long Lick Road

city, town Georgetown x vicinity of state Kentucky

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Scott County Courthouse

street & number 101 East Main Street

city, town Georgetown state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date 1971 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort state Kentucky

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Garth School (photos 1-19) is a 250-by-110 foot symmetrical irregularly shaped red brick building of the Collegiate Gothic and Arts and Crafts styles. The building is decoratively detailed with stone. It is positioned above two grassy terraces in a parklike setting on a six-acre lawn landscaped with a variety of trees including the usual oaks and maples and the less usual hemlock, ginkgo, basswood, and osage orange trees (photos 1, 11, 12, 20.) Garth School faces U.S. 25 or South Broadway (photo 20), the main north-south arterial through Georgetown, the 12,000-person seat of Scott County. Scott, with a population of 26,000 persons, is a 285-square-mile county in north central Kentucky, a historically important agricultural area. The area being nominated includes the building and the grounds. The area being nominated includes:

- 1 contributing building: Garth School;
- 1 contributing structure: the carefully designed and planted landscape;
- 0 contributing sites;
- 0 contributing objects.

Garth School is located one block southwest of the Georgetown College Historic District entered on the National Register August 8, 1979; one block southeast of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church (SCG 142), entered on the National Register October 30, 1973; 2 blocks south of Main Street Commercial District, entered April 15, 1982, expanded February 24, 1975; one block west of Cantrill House (SCG80, entered April 2, 1973; and one and one-half blocks southeast of Branham House (SCG129), entered April 2, 1973.

**Setting.** Garth School faces west toward U.S. Highway 25 (Georgetown's South Broadway). A deep sloping lawn leads from the main facade toward the sidewalk bordering the highway. A semi-elliptical curbed walkway leads to a double terrace which has steps and sidewalks leading to the two main entrances to the school building. The pair of sheltered recessed entrances are set inside twin square stone-trimmed buttress-supported towers which are located about a third of the distance from the corners (photos 20, 4).

The grounds are bounded on three sides by city streets: South Broadway on the west, South Hamilton on the east, and Jackson Street on the north (see sketch map). A mixture of residential and commercial lots border it on the south. The north lawn has long served as a school and city playground. The area southeast of the building provides for limited faculty parking, a grassed play area, and a concrete-surfaced area with basketball goals and a tennis court (photo 12). Double terracing of the lawn in front of the building creates a podium for the building. The east lawn includes a wide sidewalk bordering the street and wide walkways leading to the rear tower entries, and a circular drive for school buses (photo 8).

See continuation sheets.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1925-1934 **Builder/Architect** Frankel and Curtis, Architects and Engineers; G.H. Nunnelley Company, T.H. Kemper, contractor

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Garth School, a 1926 250-by-110 foot school building of Collegiate Gothic and Arts and Craft styles, is being proposed for nomination on a state level of significance to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. It is being proposed under the Area of Significance of Education for the role it played in making legally possible the construction of larger school buildings in Kentucky between 1926 and 1934. It is also being proposed under the Area of Significance of Law, for the role it played in developing the legal framework for construction of schools between 1926 and 1934 in Kentucky. The school building retains most of its integrity in spite of recent replacement of multi-paned windows with metal framed sash, and the downsizing of the auditorium resulting from a space utilization mandate of the Kentucky Education Cabinet.

**Education Context.** Garth School is being proposed for nomination under Criterion A under Area of Significance: Education, due to the fact that it provided a legally acceptable means of answering school facilities needs not only of Georgetown and Scott County, Kentucky, but more importantly, for the State of Kentucky. This significance is due to Garth School's pilot role as a school built under the bonded holding company plan, a system of financing public schools which made it possible in Kentucky between 1925 and 1934 for schools to be built which would be adequate in size, quality, and facilities, necessary for serving growing educational needs in spite of construction bonding limits imposed at that time by the Constitution of Kentucky.

Kentucky's education system developed slowly during the settlement and antebellum periods due to the fact that plantation owners considered the education of children to be the responsibility of each family. While a number of important classical and scientific academies were established in Kentucky in the early decades after settlement in the mid-1770s, Kentucky lacked a public school law until 1821. Kentucky's late beginnings as a provider of common school education continued to be felt well into the 20th century (many theorists believe this to be a factor in Kentucky's problems as late as today). Kentuckians, ever anxious to avoid taxation, wrote school building bonded construction limitations into the Constitution of 1891, creating a situation which was answered by the "Georgetown Case" which resulted in the building of Garth School in 1926 and other schools during the next few years until the law was finally changed in 1934.

In 1896 the Kentucky legislature made primary education mandatory for children from the ages of 7 to 14, resulting in an increase in school attendance. Section 157 of the 1891 Kentucky Constitution placed serious restrictions on bonded indebtedness. The need to provide buildings and teachers became more pressing when in 1908 the Sullivan School Law required each county to establish a four-year high school with free tuition and empowered counties to administer schools rather than individual districts.

See continuation sheet.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Articles of Incorporation Book I, Scott County Clerk's Office, Scott County Courthouse, Georgetown, Kentucky.

Bevins, Ann Bolton. A History of Scott County As Told By Selected Buildings. Georgetown, Kentucky, 1981. (See continuation sheet.)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6

Quadrangle name Georgetown

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	6	7	1	3	7	5	0	4	2	3	1	3	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	6	7	1	3	7	4	0	4	2	3	1	1	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	6	7	1	3	6	0	0	4	2	3	1	1	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	6	2	1	3	6	1	0	4	2	3	1	3	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at Point A, the southwest

corner of the intersection of Jackson and South Hamilton streets, proceed slightly west of south 600 feet along the west edge of South Hamilton Street to

the south property line (Point B); thence 450 feet nearly due west to the east

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see continuation sheet)

state NA code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann B. Bevins

organization (consultant)

date August 3, 1988

street & number 1175 Lexington Pike

telephone (502)863-0197

city or town Georgetown

state Kentucky 40324

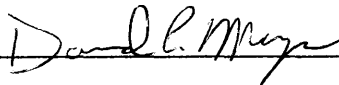
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-26-88

For NPS use only

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



date 11/16/88

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Landscaping includes a balanced pattern of hemlocks along the inside of the elliptical sidewalk, osage orange trees which are thought to be remnants of earlier hedge fences, a single ginkgo tree just northwest of the building, and a basswood tree near the northeast corner. Much of the landscaping was in place when the site was bought in 1925 from Georgetown College, and some of it dates to Samuel Shepard, an attorney, another previous owner. There is a tradition that older ginkgo trees (which are native to China and Japan and had become extinct in other parts of the world including the United States) in Central Kentucky trace to their having been gifts as seedlings by Henry Clay to his associates, Shepard having been one of them. The historic landscape plantings contribute to the park-like situation of the grounds of Garth School (photos 1, 11, 12, 20).

**Exterior Description.** Garth School embodies features of both Collegiate Gothic and Arts and Crafts styles. Stylistically it has buttresses, towers, stone labels and segmental-arched hoodmolds over windows, and battlemented roofline parapets with gunport designs, all of which are representative of Gothic Revivalism (photos 1, 3, 4, 5). It has stone and brick patterning, including bricks scored with deep wavy vertical lines and squared rough-faced limestone blocks laid with raised squared mortar joints, both of which are representative of the Arts and Crafts period which was prominent in the mid-1920s (photos 2, 6).

The main facade (photo 1) extends for fifteen bays under a battlemented parapet cornice. These bays include projecting blocks on either end. Between the end blocks and the two front buttressed towers are pairs of wide flat-arched windows with beveled stone labels. Seven tall windows with segmental arches with stone hoodmolds, separated by double-tiered buttresses, light the section between the towers where the former auditorium was housed. All window sash was replaced in 1985 with sash framed with dark steel and fitted with tinted glass, upper portions of windows directly under the arches having been covered with dark panels to accommodate lowered ceilings.

Crowned projecting corner blocks on either end bear central panels which are laid in flemish bond and have a large central panel outlined in stone. At the top of the center of the stone border is a cartouche with classical symbols (photos 6, 7). Other brickwork of the corner blocks as well as that of the rest of the building is laid in running bond.

Flanking the towers (photos 1, 4, 5) are stone-capped corner double-tiered buttresses set at right angles. The deeply recessed doorways are set behind stone-faced segmental-arched openings above which are panels of similar smooth-faced stone. Tall windows lighting the stairwells within the towers have labels. Upper portions of the towers have bands of Tudor arches cut in stone

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with brick insets, above which are label-capped blind windows under a crowned parapet cornice.

Double-tiered buttresses are also placed between auditorium windows and on corner blocks. The roofline has a stone-emphasized battlemented parapet (photo 3). Tall 2-story windows between the towers have segmental arches and stone labels; these windows serve the large auditorium and balcony. Windows on the outer sides of the towers serve classrooms on each level; they have flat arches and stone labels.

The rear facade (photos 8, 9) facing Hamilton Street to the east is less formal than the main or west facade, lacking the corner projecting blocks. The towers lack the Tudor-arched patterns and added height of those on the main facade. Variations also include two crowned sections of the extended central battlement. All openings on the east side light a single level of activity.

**Interior Description.** The Garth School building has a deep basement faced with variously sized blocks of rough-faced limestone laid with raised squared mortar joints. The ground floor or basement (illustration 2) has as its original major feature a large gymnasium with balcony (photo 15); overhead steel beams support the auditorium with balcony overhead. Opposite the gymnasium are the kitchen, serving area, and 2 lunchrooms (photo 14). On the north end of the corridor are three classrooms and storage and service areas. Opposite the south corridor are 2 classrooms, restrooms, janitor's area, storage rooms, and utilities and furnace rooms. The high basement is well lighted with large windows (photo 2).

As originally designed, the main floor (illustration 2) was built around a large auditorium (photos 16-18) which has a large stage with dressing rooms, a downstairs seating area accomodating 1,000 persons in connected slightly arched rows of cast iron-supported wooden chairs (photo 19). Blue velvet draperies and shades cover the tall windows, multi-paned double-hung sash of which has been replaced by contemporary black steel windows. The balcony (photos 17, 18), which is entered from the second floor, seats 300, and is fitted with similar seats. Across the east hall from the auditorium are school offices and a faculty lounge flanked by large classrooms. Other space on this floor is used for classrooms. There are 11 classrooms on this floor. Corridors are brightly painted and brightly lighted, with original texturing of surfaces reflecting the period of construction. Ceilings have been lowered in halls and classrooms. Attractively finished oak floors have been retained in classrooms while corridors have been tiled.

The upper story includes access to the balcony, the upper reaches of the auditorium, 9 classrooms, and a large library (illustration 3).

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In spite of replacement windows which administration sources say were necessary for the safety of students, the building and its 6-acre site retains considerable integrity in location, setting, design, workmanship, association, and feeling. In spite of interior ceiling modifications and replacement windows, the property's integrity of materials remains strong. State education department officials have mandated conversion of the downstairs portion of the auditorium into library and office space. However, the stage and balcony will be retained, providing performing arts opportunities for students and community.

Garth School and its grounds includes one contributing building and one contributing structure, the historic setting, the 6-acre campus with its historic trees, walkway, and terraces.

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**Attachments:**

- Map # 1: U.S.G.S. map, Georgetown Quadrangle;
- Map # 2: Sketch map, Garth School and grounds;
- Illustrations # 1, 2, 3: Architect's drawings of basement, first and second floors;
- 20 photographs.



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This law also provided for consolidation of schools when "advantageous and necessary."<sup>2</sup>

By the 1920s the school building situation in Kentucky was seriously deficient. The Kentucky Educational Commission of 1921 revealed that only 50 percent of Kentucky's schoolhouses were "painted and in good repair." Leaking roofs, missing weatherboarding, missing window panes, broken seats, and general conditions of neglect and inadequacy were reported. It was estimated that the financial loss to the state through poor schoolhouse planning and construction had been more than \$10 million during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Concluded the report, "The schoolhouse situation is thus extremely bad." In 1923 the Commission reported little improvement: 82 percent of children in county districts attended one-, two-, and three-teacher schools. It was further recommended that 22 percent of county district schoolhouses be abandoned.<sup>3</sup> The major problem of answering this general need of more, better, and larger school building was the removal of limits set on bonded indebtedness by Kentucky's Constitution.

Georgetown, settled in 1786, had grown to 350 people by 1800. By 1800 the community had acquired importance as a manufacturing center for paper, hempen rope, sailcloth, and bagging for the American South's cotton produce. County seat of agriculturally prosperous Scott County, Georgetown had a classical academy which opened in January 1788. The academy was succeeded by Rittenhouse Academy in 1799, and in 1829 Georgetown College, a Kentucky Baptist institution, took over the assets of Rittenhouse Academy. Paralleling the situation in much of Kentucky, a number of private academies for both male and female students continued to diminish the importance of public education in Georgetown and many other Kentucky communities until the late 1880s; this was largely due to slow development of support for public education both locally and on a statewide level.

The city's previous school building for white children (local schools were segregated until 1956) had been constructed in 1881 with four rooms and 2 study halls. This building was enlarged by 5 new rooms and a large auditorium in 1894. By 1905 the school registered 430 pupils and 13 teachers. The 1925 enrollment was 650 children.<sup>4</sup>

As discussed below under Law Context, it can be seen that the development of a plan by Georgetown school officials and attorneys to successfully build a large school building of a cost far in excess of the legal bonded limits provided an answer to the same problem for many Kentucky communities. Evidence of the effect across Kentucky of the successful development of a legally acceptable plan for building Garth School in Georgetown can be found in statistics published biannually by Kentucky's superintendents of instruction. These statistics were first published in the superintendents' reports after the

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1925-1926 biennium and showed 16 systems to have had large liability listings, indicating that new schools had been built for costs considerably in excess of constitutional bonded limits.

Districts showing school districts' school construction liabilities for the 1925-1926 biennium of more than \$100,000 included Corbin, \$100,552; Christian County, \$120,618; Middlesboro, \$150,900; Ashland, \$511,428; Clifton City, \$111,500; Fort Thomas, \$135,500; Newport, \$370,800; Winchester, \$170,500; Owensboro, \$290,000; Lexington, \$126,250; Cynthiana, \$149,662; Covington, \$911,849; Carlisle, \$185,886; Hazard, \$170,865; and Georgetown, \$163,000. The 1927-1928 reporting period found Georgetown's liabilities to have increased to \$209,000. Added during that period were Mayfield, \$124,000; Louisville, \$165,946; Paintsville, \$1,010,473; and Bowling Green, \$170,000. Additions for the 1930 reporting period were Danville, \$134,000; Bellevue, \$110,000; Floyd County, \$118,000; Kenton County, \$197,030; and Maysville, \$133,640. The 1931 period found also Pineville, \$92,550; Catlettsburg, \$99,900; Madisonville, \$99,900; Henry County, \$89,200; Ludlow, \$172,085; and Shelbyville, \$114,033. Added in fiscal years 1931 and 1932 were Boone County, \$157,000; Glasgow, \$99,500; Breckinridge County, \$139,200; Letcher County, \$110,407; Logan County, \$116,787; Mason County, \$115,000; Paducah, \$374,125; and Hazard, \$199,062. In 1932-1933, Harrodsburg in Mercer County showed liabilities of \$94,999; and in 1933-1934, Greenup County, \$142,215; Ludlow, \$151,335; and Erlanger, \$98,800, had joined the list.

**Law Context.** The obvious shortcomings of Kentucky School Law had brought much needed school construction to a halt as Kentucky communities in the 1920s were seeking for a solution to the dilemma of a statewide scale. Section 157 of the Constitution limited communities with a population of 15,000 or more to tax limits of \$1.50 on \$100 valuation. Those with 10,000 to 15,000 persons had a limit of \$1.00 per \$100 valuation; and those with less than 10,000 persons had a 75 cent limit. Counties and taxing districts were limited to 50 cents.

In Georgetown, which had an independent school district, there was considerable sentiment for building a new school as early as 1920. In May 1922, a \$62,000 bond issue was approved by the voters. However, that sum, the maximum amount allowed by the state constitution, was considerably less than the cost of an adequate building. J. Wilbur Lancaster was superintendent of Georgetown City Schools at that time and sought a way within the law and in spite of the constitution to provide a school which would cost about \$200,000. Lancaster, who had earlier taught school in Mason County, was familiar with the May's Lick Improvement Company, a holding company which was organized to build the 1910 May's Lick Consolidated School.<sup>7</sup> However, that company had sold shares of stock to cover construction costs. Lancaster modified the shares

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concept, and with attorneys J. Craig Bradley, V.A. Bradley, and H. Church Ford, developed a holding company which would issue bonds, which had a legally binding authority that corporate shares lacked.

In order to test the legality of the plan, a test case was filed in Scott Circuit Court, with R.H. Waller as plaintiff and the Georgetown Independent Board of Education as defendant. The case was filed June 3, 1925, asking the court to determine if (a) the board could spend the proceeds of its \$63,000 bonds sale and then sell the property to the proposed corporation; (b) if the defendant could contract with the proposed corporation to lease the property with rentals not creating indebtedness beyond legal limitations; (c) if the defendant had the power to levy legally limited taxes for a sinking fund; and (d) if the lease was sufficient consideration for the option to purchase. Waller stipulated that the board would "obligate itself to \$100,000 without a vote of the people, far in excess of its income . . ." The court's judgement was that the board could spend the bond money insofar as it would go toward the erection of a new school building and then deed the lot to the Georgetown Public Service Corporation for \$100,000 and further consideration of the leasing agreement.

Attorney V.A. Bradley, Sr., told this writer in 1963 that "the Georgetown Case" became so popular among communities seeking to build adequate school facilities that the firm sent out 75 copies of the briefs, and that the case was the "highest single factor in the vast improvement of the quality of housing in Kentucky graded and high schools."<sup>10</sup>

On November 20, 1925, Articles of Incorporation were filed for the Georgetown Public Service Corporation which provided that the not-for-profit corporation organized for educational purposes could acquire and hold title to a building site, mortgage the site to raise funds to erect the building, lease the site from year to year with purchase option to the Board of Education, hold title until such time that it should be transferred, and have the power to handle the property or dispose of it should the Board fail. There were to be no capital stock or stockholders, and a 35-year time period for retiring bonds was established. The 7 incorporators comprised the board of trustees.<sup>11</sup>

Site of the former Georgetown Female Seminary, an affiliate of Georgetown College before the college became fully co-educational in 1892, was chosen for the site of the new school in January 1925. Edwin Claude Garth, who had been killed in an automobile accident, was memorialized by his parents Claude H. Garth and Mary G. Garth with \$10,000 toward the \$25,000 purchase price asked by the Kentucky Baptist Education Society.<sup>12</sup> On April 6 J.N. Moreland and Son wrecked the seminary building, saving bricks for use in the new building. On April 10, 150 representative citizens met at the Lancaster Hotel and floated

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\$100,000 in bonds in the first five minutes. On July 28 an additional \$50,000 in bonds was floated.

Designed by the Lexington firm of Frankel and Curtis, architects and engineers, Garth School was built in 1926 by G.H. Nunnolley Company and T.H. Kemper. The partnership of Leon K. Frankel and John J. Curtis was an important firm which designed Lexington City Hall (1924 - 1926), and a Dutch colonial house sponsored by the Lexington Herald for Better Homes Week of April 1927. The partnership was in charge of a renovation of Central Christian Church, Lexington, following a 1934 fire. Frankel, with F. Paul Anderson, was architect of Lexington Herald Building at Short and Walnut in Lexington (1917, expanded 1929). Frankel also designed the Lexington Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd (1924-1926). Frankel was a professor of engineering at the University of Kentucky.<sup>13</sup> His designs, including that of Garth School, reflected his engineering skill.

G.H. Nunnolley Company was paid \$173,157 for constructing Garth School exclusive of lighting, plumbing, and heating. Cost of the latter was to amount to \$30,000. A \$150,000 mortgage was made on December 29, 1925, in favor of Farmers Bank, stating that 150 bonds in the sum of \$1,000 would return 6 percent per annum for a period not to exceed 30 years. The first lease by the corporation to the city board was made December 22, 1925.<sup>14</sup>

Evidence of the effect across Kentucky of the successful development of a legally acceptable plan for building Garth School in Georgetown can be found in statistics published biannually by Kentucky's superintendents of instruction as discussed under Education Context. These statistics were first published in the superintendents' reports after the 1925-1926 biennium and showed which systems with large liability listings had undertaken major construction programs with costs in excess of constitutional bonded limits.

In spite of the success of the bonded holding company plan in helping solve Kentucky's inadequate and overcrowded schools situation, the state superintendent and the Kentucky Education Commission were critical of the process and contended that "more than one-third of the school indebtedness was contracted in violation of Section 157 of the Constitution of Kentucky. We have met with creditable response to our effort to curtail such indebtedness and to diminish the unusually large amounts carried as current indebtedness." After 1934 Kentucky law provided for bonded development of school properties subject to approval by the state superintendent and a two-thirds vote of the local electorate. In the case of the Scott County Board of Education vs. McMillen (270 KY.483), the court on November 5, 1937, ruled that the plan of the county board for providing "for conveying to a holding corporation properties which were to be jointly mortgaged to secure payment of bonds, was not invalid because all properties were jointly mortgaged to secure payment of

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bonds or because provision for refunding of any taxes paid by bondholders if the annual payment was within the board's unencumbered annual income."<sup>15</sup>

**Integrity Assessment.** Garth School, an impressive building of the Collegiate Gothic style located on a large park-like lot on South Broadway (U.S. 25) in Georgetown, Kentucky, retains its integrity in relation to its location, setting, design, workmanship, and association, and most of its integrity of materials and feeling. Replacement of original windows compromises integrity of materials and feeling somewhat, but its other attributes are so outstanding that the effect of the new windows is minimized. The expansive auditorium space is being reorganized under a space requirement mandate of the Kentucky Education Cabinet to provide for offices and library, leaving the stage and a smaller seating area as well as the balcony. The school building is being proposed for nomination under Criterion A under the Areas of Significance of Education and of Law, as its construction influenced school buildings and school building law in Kentucky during the important period of 1925 to 1934.

(See Continuation Sheet for Endnotes)

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Endnotes

1. See Thomas D. Clark, *A History of Kentucky* (Lexington: The John Bradford Press, 1960; Hartford, Ellis Ford, *The Little White Schoolhouse* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1977)).
2. Clark, 359-260; Hartford, 13.
3. Hartford, 19-21.
4. Ann Bolton Bevins, "Scott County Educational Chronology," prepared by Scott County Education Bicentennial, unpublished MS.
5. Biennial Report, Superintendent of Public Instruction of Kentucky, 1925-1934.
6. *Kentucky Common School Laws*. (Commonwealth of Kentucky Education Bulletin XVIII, 4; June, 1950.
7. See National Register nomination for Mays Lick Consolidated School, prepared by Gloria Mills. Entered on National Register April 29, 1982.
8. Conversations with the late V.A. Bradley, 1963; Mariam Hunt Lancaster, daughter of J.W. Lancaster, 1963 to present.
9. R.H. Waller vs. Georgetown Board of Education, petition for declaratory judgment. Files, Scott County Circuit Court.
10. Conversations with V.A. Bradley, September 25, 1963.
11. Articles of Incorporation Book 1, page 372, Scott County Clerk's Office.
12. Trustees of Kentucky Baptist Education Society to Georgetown Board of Education, January 16, 1925, Scott County Deed Book 54, page 99.
13. Clay Lancaster, *Vestiges of the Venerable City* (Lexington: Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1978), 109, 155, 169-170; National Register nominations for Central Christian Church, Lexington; and Lexington Herald Building, Lexington.
14. Deed Book 55, page 2.
15. *Kentucky Common School Laws*, 1950 (Commonwealth of Kentucky Educational Bulletin, XVIII, 4; June 1950); *Report of the Kentucky Education Commission* (Frankfort, 1933), 121; *Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction* (Frankfort, 1933), 67.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Garth School, Scott County, Kentucky

Section number   9   Page   2  

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Item # 9, Major Bibliographical References, Continued.

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Kentucky Common School Laws, 1950. Frankfort: Commonwealth of Kentucky Educational Bulletin, XVIII, 4; June 1950.

Lancaster, Clay. Vestiges of the Venerable City. Lexington-Fayette County Historic Commission, 1978.

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Report of the Superintendent of Instruction. Frankfort: Commonwealth of Kentucky Educational Bulletins, 1926-1937.

Waller, R.H., vs. Georgetown Board of Education, petition for declaratory judgment, 1925. Scott Circuit Clerk's Office, Georgetown, Kentucky.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Garth School, Scott County, Kentucky

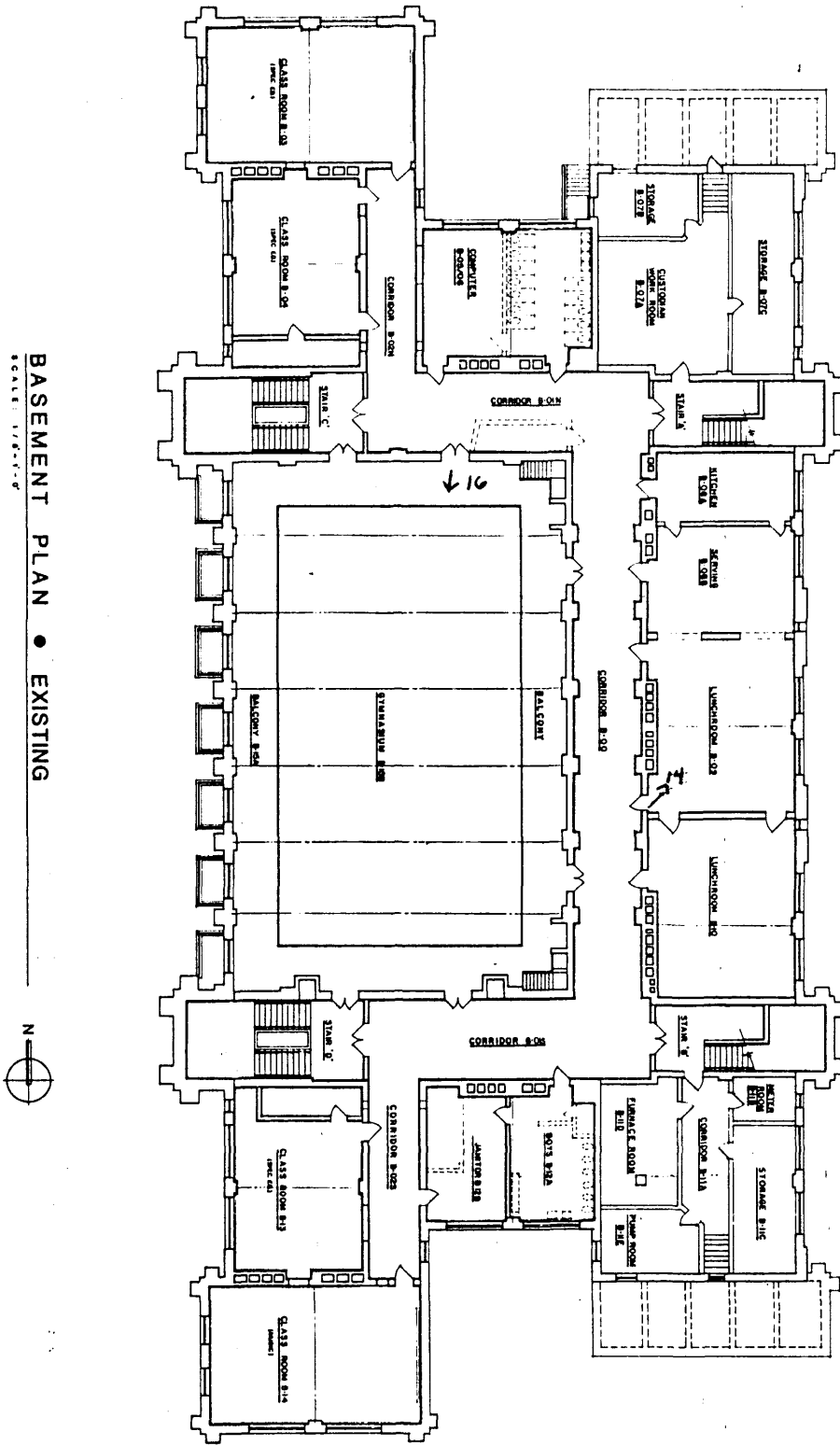
Section number   10   Page   2  

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side of South Broadway (U.S. 25) (Point C); thence 600 feet along the east edge of South Broadway to intersection with Jackson Street (Point D); thence 450 feet along the south edge of Jackson Street to the point of origin.

Boundaries include Garth School building and the approximately 6-acre campus, which provides a parklike landscape situation with both organized and passive recreation spaces, historic trees including a ginkgo tree, osage orange trees, hemlock trees, a basswood tree, and the semi-elliptical curbed walkway leading from South Broadway to stepped walks to the tower entrances.





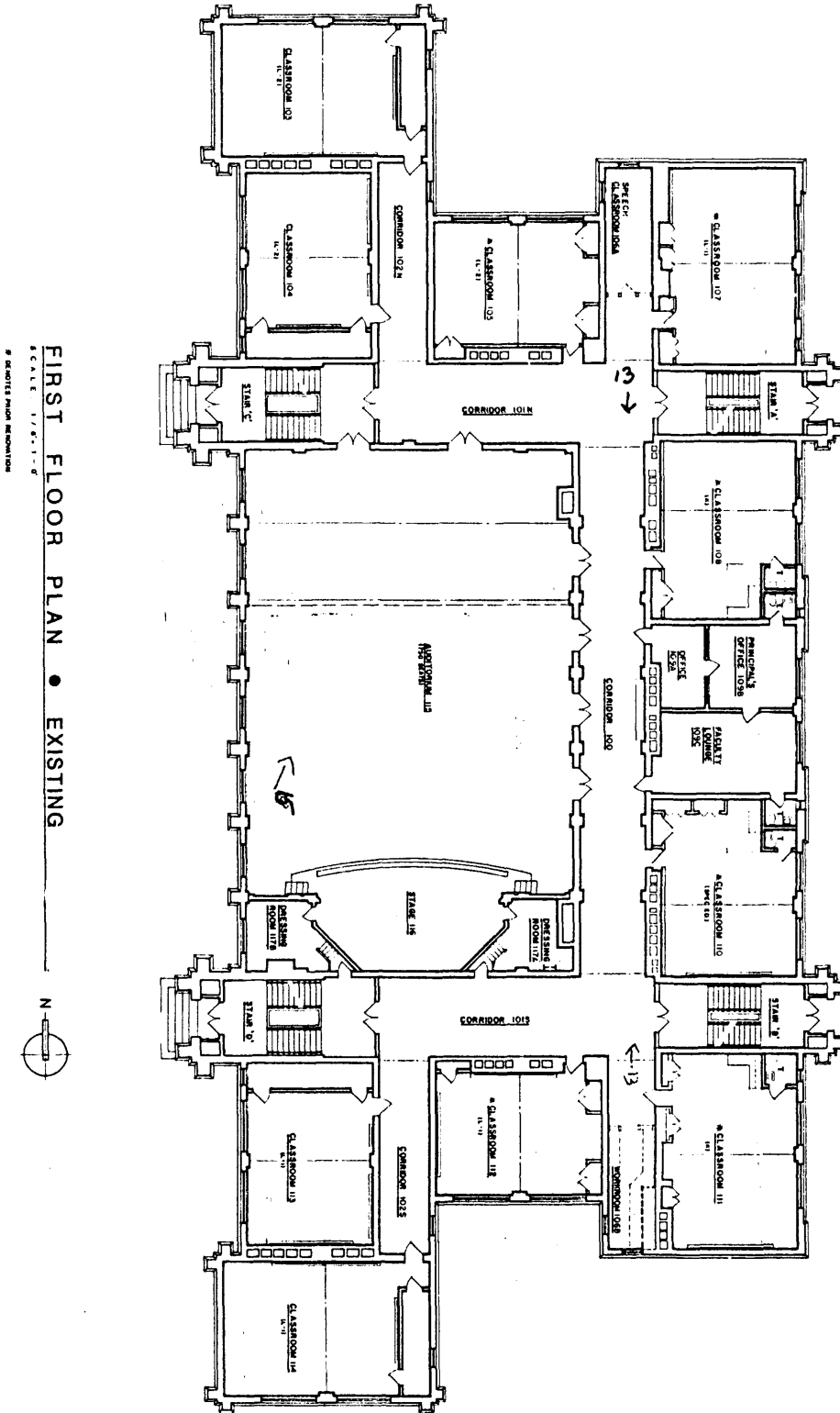
BASEMENT PLAN • EXISTING  
 SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



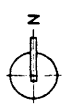
A-1



Architect's  
 Civil Engineering  
 Mechanical  
 Electrical  
 Plumbing  
 Fire Protection  
 Structural  
 1200 North Broadway Road, Suite 800  
 Lexington, Kentucky 40503  
 606-277-2013

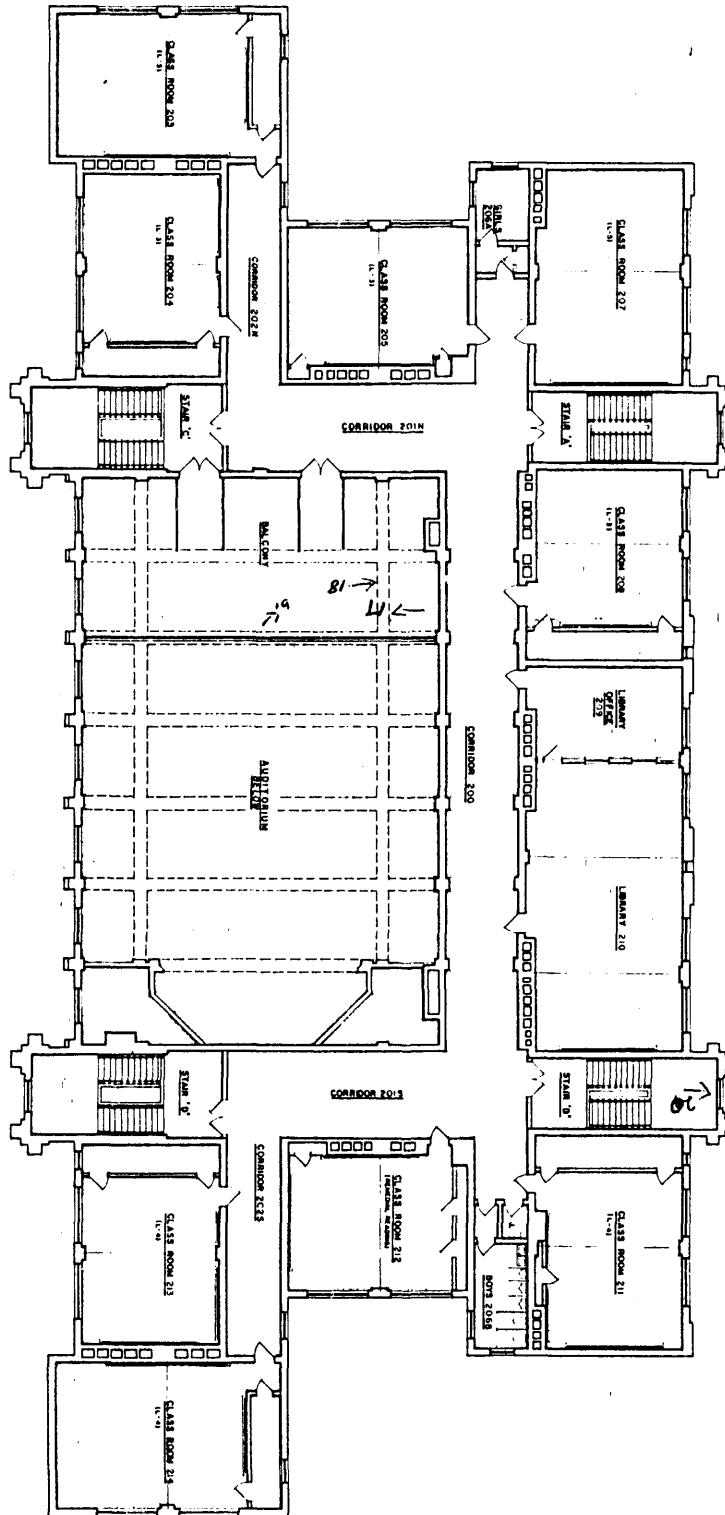


FIRST FLOOR PLAN • EXISTING  
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"  
 # REPORTS FROM REVISIONS



SECOND FLOOR PLAN • EXISTING

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



GARTH SCHOOL RENOVATION SCOTT COUNTY SCHOOLS GEORGETOWN, KENTUCKY

EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

DATE: 06-12-01

PROJECT: 01-0000

A-3

Omni  
Architects



Architecture  
 Landscape Architecture  
 Civil Engineering  
 Planning  
 Interiors  
 2300 Commonwealth Road, Suite 600  
 Lexington, Kentucky 40503  
 606/277-2015

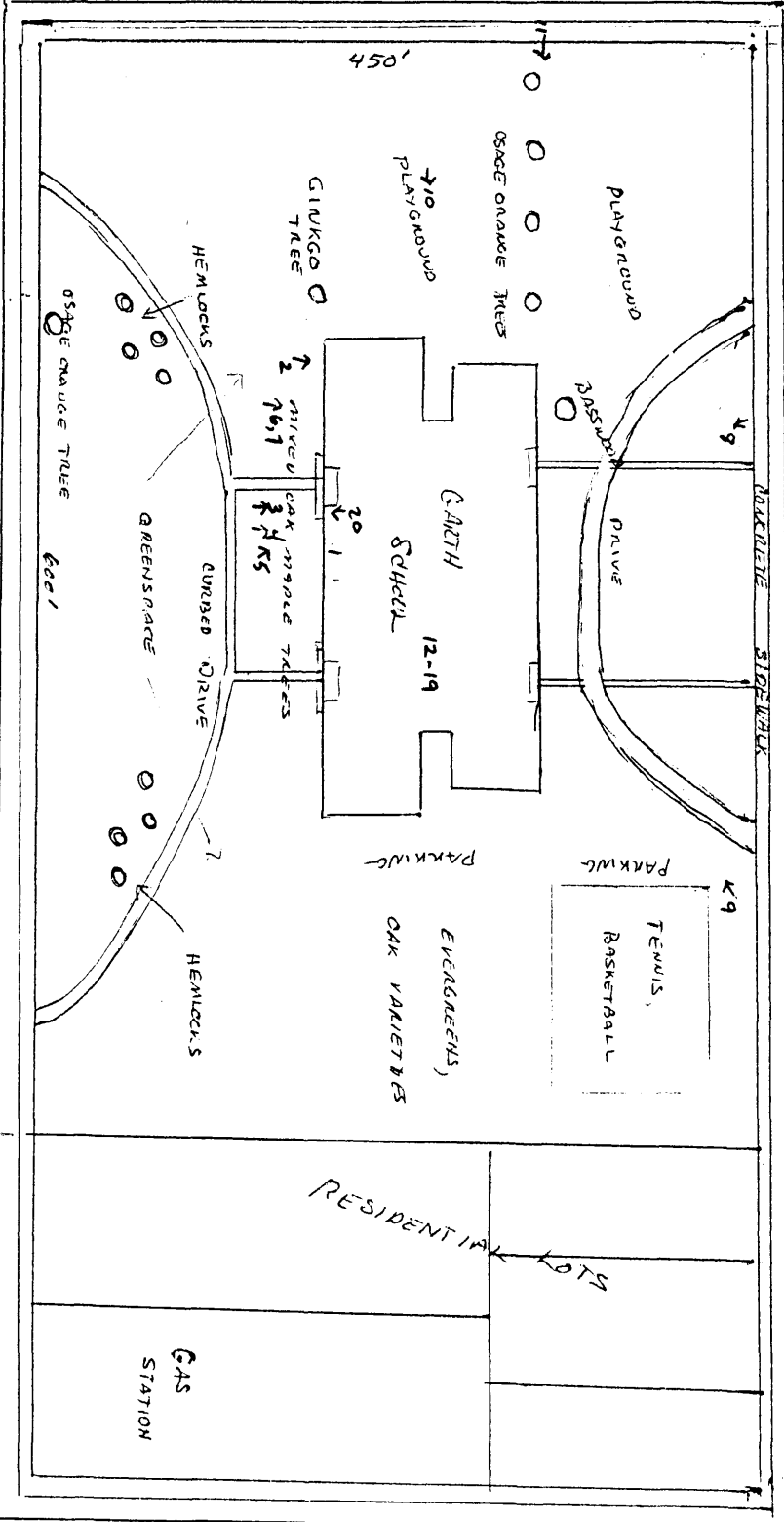
RESIDENTIAL LOTS

EAST JACKSON STREET

RESIDENTIAL

SOUTH HAMILTON STREET

RESIDENTIAL LOTS



N

SOUTH BROADWAY

US 25

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL LOTS

EAST CLAYTON AVENUE

RESIDENTIAL

RESIDENTIAL

Garth School, Scott County, Kentucky  
 # SCG143  
 Sketch Map showing building, setting  
 Map # 2

