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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Historical Society Receives Grant to Plan New African-American Education Museum

The Fluvanna County Historical Society has received a \$3,000 grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Alice Rosenwald Flexible Fund for developing plans to convert Fluvanna's Dunbar Rosenwald School into a museum of African-American education. The Society has been working with Mozell Booker and the Fluvanna NAACP to capture the history of our local Rosenwald schools and to make this information available to the public.

The Dunbar School, built in 1923 with a combination of funding from Julius Rosenwald and the local African-American community and the public in Fluvanna, is located in the southern part of Fluvanna County on Route 650 near the New Fork Baptist Church. The total cost of constructing the school was \$2,600. It is currently owned by several people who have indicated an interest in restoring the school and using it as a museum and community center.

The Historical Society in conjunction with the NAACP received a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities last year to restore the photographs in a newly discovered photo album of the early Rosenwald Schools and to record the histories of teachers and students who taught in the Rosenwald schools or were educated there. This project led to the Society's decision to seek further funding for the Dunbar project.

"I am very excited about the possibility of having a wonderful historic building to house our collection of videos and memorabilia from the early part of the 20th Century. This will give all Fluvanna citizens an opportunity to learn more about the Rosenwald schools in Fluvanna and the contributions citizens made to their construction and operation," said Mozell Booker, former President of the Fluvanna NAACP and one of the owners of the Dunbar School. "We have an opportunity now to take advantage of the oral and video histories and the restored photo album to create a permanent exhibit of African-American education."

The grant will be used to hire a consultant to plan for the restoration of the Dunbar School as a museum and community center. "The Historical Society is playing a pivotal role in coordinating this project, and I am very proud of our involvement in this

effort to pass on to future generations the proud history of the Rosenwald schools and those who were educated in them,” said Marvin Moss, President of the Fluvanna County Historical Society.