

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic C. S. Brown School Auditorium

and/or common Brown Hall

2. Location

street & number SE side of NC 45, 0.05 mi. NE of jct. with SR 1457 & 1449 not for publication

city, town Winton _____ vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Hertford code 091

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Howard Hunter, Sr., Chairman lessor: Mr. James Felton, President
Hertford County Board of Education C. S. Brown School Auditorium Restoration Assn

street & number Hertford County Courthouse P.O. Box 38

city, town Winton _____ vicinity of state North Carolina 27986

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hertford County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Winton _____ state North Carolina 27986

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

At the C. S. Brown School in the small courthouse town of Winton, the handsome Colonial Revival Auditorium completed in 1926 is the sole building which maintains its association with Calvin S. Brown, the school's founder, as well as its architectural integrity. Representative of school buildings typically being constructed during the early portion of the twentieth century, the 528 seat auditorium also provided additional space within the school complex for six classrooms and the principal's office. Under a twenty-five year lease with renewal option to the C. S. Brown School Auditorium Restoration Association, the auditorium is currently undergoing a sensitive rehabilitation for use by the school and as a community center.

A one-story stuccoed tile block building with brick foundation, the auditorium which faces to the northwest is composed of a five-bay central pavillion with hip roof and flanking classroom wings. Plain parapet walls conceal the flat roof of each wing. Highlighting the building is a handsome pedimented portico with a small fan light in the tympanum and a dentil cornice distinguishing the full entablature. A number of years ago, the four original Doric columns were replaced by four square-in-section brick piers. In addition, the stuccoed walls and brick foundation are delineated by a simple belt course and water table respectively. Standing seam tin sheathes the roof.

Enhancing the Colonial Revival character of the portico is the fenestration detailing of the central pavillion. Its five symmetrically placed bays alternate from a double window with six-over-six sash to a double-leaf entrance. Each grouping is capped by a graceful fanlight with radiating bars. The doors to the two entrances are partially glazed and contain nine lights. Taking a secondary position the windows in the wings at the front are twelve-over-twelve double sash ones and those along the sides in the classrooms are the same except grouped in units of five per classroom.

The interior plan follows a standard pattern with the entrances opening into the auditorium with stage and dressing rooms at the opposing end. Flanking the auditorium area on each side were originally the following: to the right, the principal's office and three classrooms and to the left, a storage room and three more classrooms. At the rear, halls originally flanked the stage area and led to the two rear exits. During the current rehabilitation project these halls, formerly converted into bathrooms, are being reopened with the rear northeast classroom adapted to provide restroom and kitchen facilities.

The auditorium seating pattern contains twenty-two rows of seats bisected by a center aisle with twelve seats to each side. Before removal the seating followed a concentric arc seating arrangement. The walls are simply finished with plaster and skirted by a picture molding. As elsewhere in this building, the heating system's radiators are attached to the wall approximately three feet from the floor. The ceiling is finished with beaver board and wooden battens. Four large fifty-two pane skylights help illuminate the area. Hardwood floors are found throughout the building.

Projecting approximately four feet into the seating area, the stage, itself, is elevated about three feet and faced with narrow vertical board sheathing. To each side is a short flight of steps which enters onto the stage. Handsome Doric pilasters flank the stage and support a full entablature with dentil cornice. A dressing room is located at each side of the stage.

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Continuation sheet Architectural Description Item number 7

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Similar in detail, each classroom is generously proportioned in size and naturally lit by an expansive cluster of windows. Blackboards line the front and side partition walls in each room and in most cases tack boards were added later above each blackboard. Only in the rear two classrooms were additional freestanding bulletin boards incorporated into the plan. Each was located at the rear of the room and behind it was a narrow storage area. This feature remains intact only in the southeast classroom.

The principal's office and storage room are identical in size but not in detail. The principal's office contains only a single decorative and/or functional feature, a picture molding skirting the walls. On the other hand, the storage room far wall has a built-in cupboard and the length of the flanking partition wall is lined with built-in bookshelves.

Operating today as an elementary school, the C. S. Brown School complex includes five buildings in addition to the auditorium and the cemetery of C. S. Brown and his wife. Each of these buildings dates from the mid-twentieth century except for Moorehouse Hall which dates from the time of Waters Institute and is located just south of the auditorium. Originally a three-story brick structure, Moorehouse Hall built ca. 1905 was radically altered and disfigured in 1952 by the removal of its top two stories.

Adjacent to the school but not within the boundaries of the nominated property is located the South Winton Baptist Church built ca. 1895 to serve the school and local residents as well as provide a home for Dr. Brown's ministry. Following his death, the Board of Education sold the property on which the church stood to the congregation. In recent years it was brick veneered.

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C. S. Brown School Auditorium

Continuation sheet Historical Significance

Item number 8

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The Calvin Scott Brown School is located in the Hertford County seat of Winton. The auditorium dates from 1926 and is the oldest intact and unaltered building associated with the school and with Brown, a noted black educator and clergyman. The school, which has changed names several times, dates back to 1886. Originally a private school, it has been part of the Hertford County system since 1923.

Calvin Scott Brown was born March 23, 1859 in Salisbury, the son of Henry and Flora Brown. He attended a school in Salisbury operated by the Friends Association of Philadelphia and received a first grade teacher's certificate in 1878. Shortly thereafter he entered Shaw University in Raleigh, where he worked his way through school, became private secretary of school president Dr. Henry Martin Tupper, and graduated in 1886 as valedictorian.

In 1885 Brown traveled to Hertford County to preach at the Pleasant Plains Baptist Church. The next year, following graduation from Shaw, he returned to that church to become its minister. He quickly became aware of the desperate need for the establishment of a school in the area for blacks. A local supporter of the school, Levi Brown, Sr., donated five acres of land, and the school first called Chowan Academy, opened for classes in October of 1886. The school consisted of one three story building, four faculty members, thirty-five boarding students and eighty-five day students. The Board of Trustees consisted of J. B. Catus, president; I. Boone, secretary; M. T. Pope, financial secretary, W. D. Newsome, treasurer, J. O. Holloman, Reverend A. Parker, William Scott, Nicholas Lassiter, R. A. Reynolds, Joseph Rooks, Reverend A. Cooper, Isaac Jordan, and Levi Brown, Sr.

Chowan Academy quickly gained a reputation as "one of the ablest schools in the state,"³ largely due to the expertise of Dr. Brown, who obtained his Doctor of Divinity degree from Shaw in 1898.⁴ While other black schools found it difficult to remain solvent in this period Chowan Academy found several sources of revenue. Although frequently short of funds the school was able to survive and expand from its shaky beginnings. One of the school's leading benefactors was New York piano manufacturer and philanthropist Horace Waters, who donated eight thousand dollars for the erection of a girl's dorm and a lesser amount for a boy's dorm. The girl's dorm was completed in 1893 and named Reynolds Hall, after Miss M. C. Reynolds, another northern supporter. Also in 1893 the school was renamed Waters Normal Institute in honor of Horace Waters. The school received an annual appropriation from the American Baptist Mission Home Society of New York.⁵ The appropriation was reportedly "a larger appropriation. . . than any other school aided by the society."⁶ Locally Waters Institute received money from the Chowan Sunday School Association, established by Brown in the 1880s. Dr. Brown's increased stature in the religious community of the state also gave the school visibility and aided in its fund raising. Brown was the founder of the Lott Carey Baptist Foreign Mission Convention which performed missionary work in Africa, Haiti, India, and South America. He was a member of the Shaw board of trustees, president of the State Teachers Association, president of the State Baptist Convention, and a delegate to the 1896 World's Sunday School Convention in Rome and the 1924 World's Baptist Convention in Stockholm.

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In 1915 the United States Department of Education surveyed Waters as part of its "survey of negro education in North Carolina." The survey found the school with 9 teachers and 279 students, 61 of whom were boarders. Distressingly, they found that the industrial department had closed due to lack of funds and that secondary attendance was "negligible." The physical plant was valued at \$32,500.

By the 1920s the school's financial problems had become sufficiently serious that it was unable to meet state standards or adequately pay its staff. In 1922 Dr. Brown asked the county board of education to take over the school. In 1923 this was accomplished and Waters Normal Institute, renamed Hertford County Training School, became part of the county school system. Dr. Brown was appointed principal of the school. He also became a member of the county Board of Education. At this time the school was the only black high school in the county, and many of its students came to class by bus. By the late 1920s the school had approximately 365 high school students and 450 elementary students.

In 1924 the school changed names again, becoming the Waters Training School. The auditorium, originally named Brown Hall, was completed in 1926. It consisted of six classrooms, office space and a 552 seat auditorium. The building was partially funded by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, established for aiding education. In 1935 the boarding aspect of the school was dropped.

Dr. Brown died September 9, 1936. He was eulogized as the "patriarch of Eastern Carolina."¹¹ He was replaced as principal by H. C. Freeland, a native Floridian educated at Durham's North Carolina State College (now North Carolina Central University) and New York University. Reynolds Hall burned down in 1941 and was replaced the next year by a new building. In 1943 Waters Training School was renamed the Calvin S. Brown High School. This left the auditorium as the oldest unaltered building on campus. The school is now the Calvin S. Brown School and serves as an elementary school.¹²

Although state aid for public schools in the state was granted "without reference to race. . . as early as 1869" public secondary schools for blacks did not appear with any regularity until the 1920s.¹³ Thus it was private schools like Waters Normal Institute that bore the brunt of the task of educating blacks after the Civil War. The success of the school and its importance in the community can be seen from this 1909 quote from Dr. George Sale, superintendent of education of the American Baptist Home Mission Society:

Standing in front of the property and looking down the long wide street toward the river, all the houses one sees are owned by Negroes, many of them old students of the institute, all of them attracted there by the school. . . .A chance remark elicited the astonishing piece of information that land on the school end of the street costs considerably more per foot than on the business end. The influence of the school reaches throughout the county. A drive of twelve miles through the country took us past some of the finest farmhouses I have seen in the South, owned by colored

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people, by Pleasant Plains Church, one of the most attractive of county churches. Dr. Brown has preached thrift as a part of his gospel, the ownership of a home on earth as well as a mansion in the skies, and many of these thrifty farmers owe their possessions to the encouragement given them by "Preacher Brown."¹⁴

For the most part the influence of the school was local in nature. Yet within that local sphere the school had considerable impact. Likewise, Calvin Brown exerted a major influence on Hertford County's educational, religious, and social life for the half century he lived there.

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NOTES

¹Who's Who in Colored America (Brooklyn: Thomas Yenser), Fourth Edition, 1937), 81, hereinafter cited as Who's Who in Colored America; The Shaw Bulletin, Volume VI, November, 1936, hereinafter cited as The Shaw Bulletin.

²Madge W. Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School," Unpublished, 2-6, hereinafter cited as Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School."

³Hugh Victor Brown, A History of Education of Negroes in North Carolina (Raleigh: Irving Swain Press, 1961), 35, hereinafter cited as Brown, A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina.

⁴Who's Who in Colored America, 81.

⁵Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School," 5-9; The Shaw Bulletin; Brown, A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina, 26.

⁶Brown, A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina, 35.

⁷The Shaw Bulletin; Who's Who in Colored America, 81; Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School," 6-8.

⁸Quoted in Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School," 15-16.

⁹Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School," 18-22.

¹⁰Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School," 22-23.

¹¹The Shaw Bulletin.

¹²Hunter, "The History of C. S. Brown High School," 23-27.

¹³Hollis Moody Long, Public Secondary Education for Negroes in North Carolina (New York: Columbia University, Teachers College, 1932), 3.

¹⁴William Newton Hartshorn, An Era of Progress and Promise, 1843-1920 (Boston: Priscilla Publishing Company, 1910), 124-125.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 8.5 acres

Quadrangle name Winton, N.C. (1982)

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	2	6	1	4	0	4	0	2	8	2	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached Hertford County tax map # 6906.11. Nominated property outlined in red.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Architectural Description: Drucilla G. Haley, Survey Specialist
Statement of Significance: Jim Sumner, Researcher

organization Eastern Office
N.C. Division of Archives & History date March 1, 1985

street & number 117 W. 5th Street telephone (919) 752-7778

city or town Greenville state North Carolina 27834

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 *William S. King, Jr.*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date April 11, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Brown, Hugh Victor. A History of Education of Negroes in North Carolina. Raleigh:
Irving Swain Press, 1961.

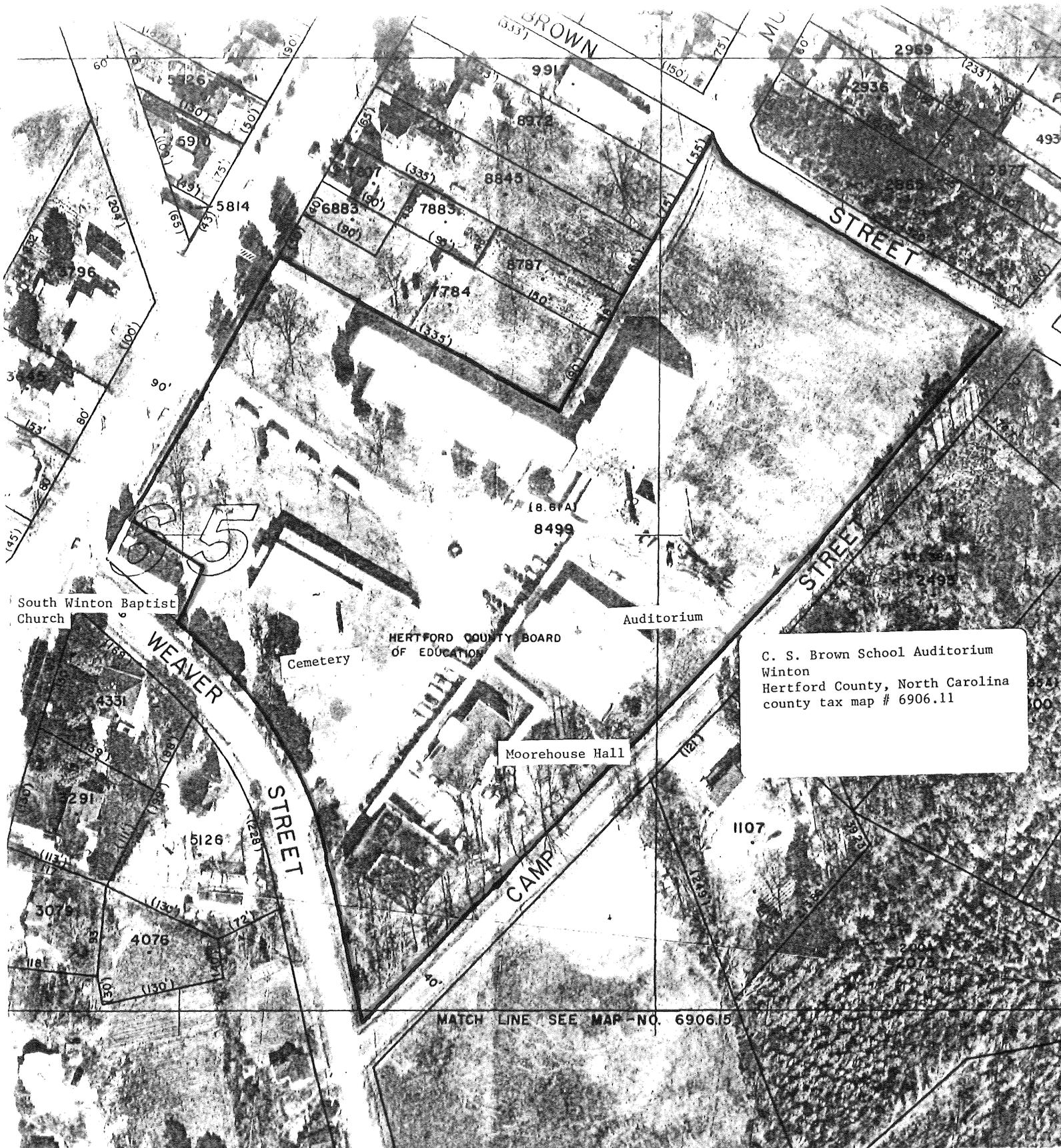
Hartshorn, William Newton. An Era of Progress and Promise, 1843-1920. Boston:
Priscilla Publishing Company, 1910.

Hunter, Madge W. "The History of C. S. Brown High School." Unpublished, copy in file.

Long, Hollis Moody. Public Secondary Education for Negroes in North Carolina. New
York: Columbia University, Teachers College, 1932.

Shaw Bulletin, The. Volume VI, November, 1936.

Who's Who in Colored America. Brooklyn: Thomas Yenser, Fourth Edition, 1937.



South Winton Baptist Church

Cemetery

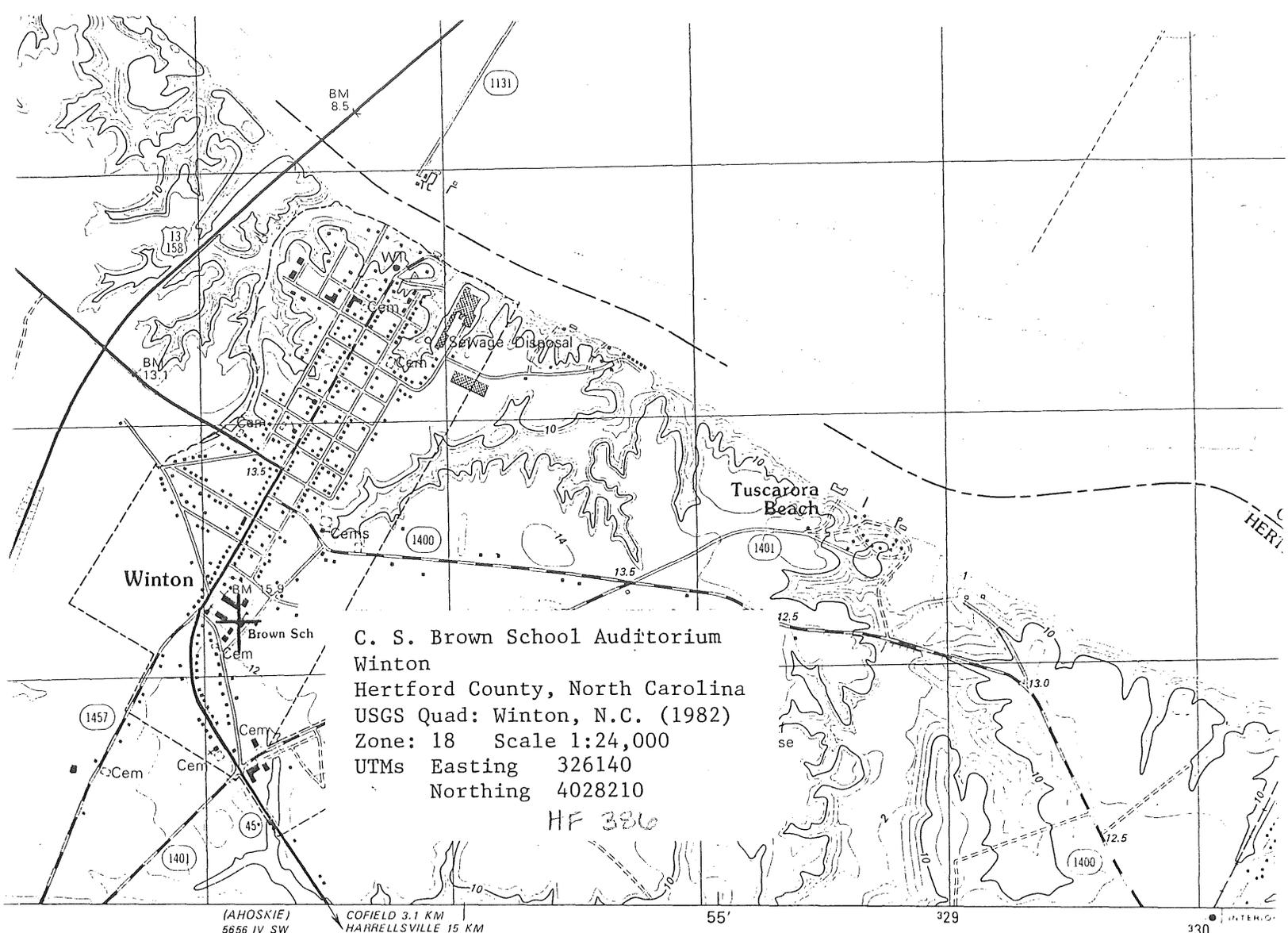
HERTFORD COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Auditorium

Moorehouse Hall

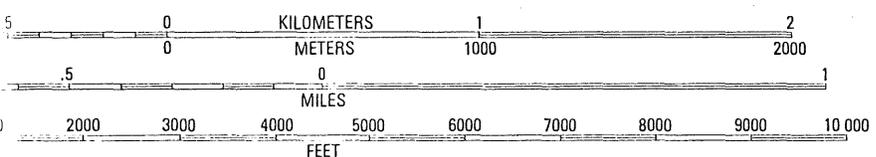
C. S. Brown School Auditorium
Winton
Hertford County, North Carolina
county tax map # 6906.11

MATCH LINE SEE MAP - NO. 6906.15



C. S. Brown School Auditorium
 Winton
 Hertford County, North Carolina
 USGS Quad: Winton, N.C. (1982)
 Zone: 18 Scale 1:24,000
 UTM's Easting 326140
 Northing 4028210
 HF 386

SCALE 1:24 000



Primary highway,
 hard surface
 Secondary highway,
 hard surface
 Interstate

CONTOUR INTERVAL 2 METERS
 SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 1 METER
 DASHED SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOURS ARE APPROXIMATE
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER
 OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN NEAREST 0.5 METER
 CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN METERS—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
 THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO DATUMS IS VARIABLE
 DASHED LINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
 THE PERIODIC TIDES IN THIS AREA ARE NEGLIGIBLE



CONTOURS AND ELEVATIONS IN METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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 DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

