

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Harnett County Training School

Dunn, Harnett County, HT0523, Listed 8/20/2014
Nomination by Ed Turberg
Photographs by Ed Turberg, May 2012



Harnett County Training School, 1922



Gymnasium and auditorium, 1948

**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 Harnett County Training School

other names/site number Harnett High School

2. Location

street & number 610 East Johnson Street not for publication N/A

city or town Dunn vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Harnett code 085 zip code 28335

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.)

Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
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 or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Harnett County Training School
Name of Property

Harnett County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- 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 resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION

Sub: School

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: EDUCATION
RECREATION AND CULTURE
SOCIAL

Sub: school
sports facility
meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial Revival
- Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
- roof Asphalt
- walls Brick
- other Cast-stone Decorative Elements

Narrative Description

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

Harnett County Training School
Name of Property

Harnett County, North Carolina
County and State

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.

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Architecture

Period of Significance

1922-1968

Significant Dates

1922, 1927, 1948, 1950, 1956, 1960, 1968

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Boney, Leslie N., Wilmington, NC

Player Realty Construction Co., Fayetteville, NC

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: _____

Harnett County Training School
Name of Property

Harnett County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 5.33 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>718140</u> <u>3910140</u>
2	__	__

Zone	Easting	Northing
3	__	__
4	__	__
__ 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 Edward F. Turberg

organization Architectural Historian date April 20, 2014

street & number 307 North 15th Street telephone 910-762-6301

city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28401

12. 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 City of Dunn, North Carolina

street & number 401 East Broad Street, P.O Box 1065, telephone 910-230-3507

city or town Dunn state NC zip code 28334

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 Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Harnett County Training School comprises a complex of one two-story and five single-story brick buildings erected for Dunn's African American students over a thirty-four year period between 1922 and 1956, as well as a modern greenhouse structure. The property is situated in the northeast sector of the city on the south side of East Johnson Street in a historically African American neighborhood of mostly single-story frame residences of medium size. Trinity AME Zion Church, an anchor of the community, stands just east of the school campus. The seven school resources (six buildings and one structure) are arranged in a generally linear pattern running from north to south on the five-and-a-third acre lot with a parking lot extending along the west side of the grounds and Burke Street forming the eastern boundary of the campus. Progressing south from East Johnson Street are a gable-front combined Gymnasium/Auditorium, built in 1948; the two-story, flat-roofed Rosenwald-funded Harnett County Training School dating to 1922; a 1950 detached brick boiler room; two, one-story, flat-roofed Library and Office Building and Cafeteria buildings, both erected in 1956 and currently used for senior citizen activities, connected by covered walkways; a noncontributing steel-framed greenhouse erected in 2010; and a one-story, flat-roofed Rosenwald-funded classroom annex added in 1927, now designated the Education Building. All of the buildings save the two-story building, the greenhouse, and boiler room are in continuous use for sports and sport-training facilities, leisure recreation, food preparation and meal services, and classroom activities. Concrete walks connect the various structures and the level grounds feature grassy areas, foundation plantings, and several varieties of trees.

Beyond the boundary to the south are a heavily altered 1980s one-story, brick classroom building now used as the Dunn Head Start facility, and a running track and sports field, originally part of the school property, now a city-run municipal park named for Dr. Conrad Belfield Codrington (1885-1965), a Dunn African American physician. Installed in 1978, C. B. Codrington Park offers a walking track, playground equipment, basketball, tennis, and swimming pool facilities. Residences are found to the east, west, and north of the campus.

Harnett County Training School (Main Building) (1922, 1950) Contributing Building

Exterior

The earliest building on the campus is a two-story, Rosenwald-funded, fourteen teacher-type school, measuring 157 feet by seventy-one feet, rising from a solid brick base with 1:5 Flemish stretcher bond walls terminating in a cast-stone corbelled parapet with a row of soldier-course bricks running under the corbelling. The foundation consists of several running-bond brick courses terminating in a soldier-course brick band capped by a sloping concrete watertable. The symmetrical (west) façade consists of a central section, originally sheltered by a front-gabled porch, but now with an entry stoop with knee-walls, a metal handrail, and a handicap ramp running to the south along the façade. The deeply recessed entrance bay, with a soldier-course lintel, is flanked by clusters of five, six-over-six wood sash windows separated by brick pilasters and framed by continuous cast-stone sills, and soldier-course lintels with cast-stone corner blocks. To the left and right of the central section are projecting bays

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containing single windows in the shallow side walls and four, grouped windows with similar treatment along the façade. The end bays project further and have recessed panels highlighted by diamond-shaped central bosses, framing soldier-course borders, and square corner blocks. Windows on the second story duplicate those below with the exception of two single windows above the entrance. Above these windows is a cast-stone panel inscribed "Harnett County Training School - Class '37" and the termination of the parapet in a low peak.

At the north and south elevations of the building a smaller window is located at the west end and a group of six windows at the east end on both floors. These windows have detailing similar to those of the façade. Lower, enclosed brick-veneered stair pavilions with flat roofs, added in 1950, obscure the other earlier doors and windows on these elevations. Steps with metal railings lead to porches sheltered by flat awnings. The stair pavilions have door openings with soldier-course lintels on the first level leading to double doors, rectangular windows with rowlock sills in the west elevations lighting the stair landings, and square window openings filled with decorative concrete block screens and cast-stone sills on the second level. Stepped parapets conceal the slight easterly slope of the roof.

The rear (east) elevation has windowless projecting end bays and fenestration in the central section similar to that on the front façade. A brick chimney rising from the center of the rear wall was originally a part of the central heating system. A one-story, flat-roofed, brick storage room addition with deep eaves, built in the 1950s, is attached to the southeast corner of the school. Five-panel doors open from the south and east walls of the addition.

Interior

Access to the school is through a recessed entryway with double, glazed panel doors framed by sidelights and transom opening into a square vestibule that connects to the main, north-south corridor. To the west and east of the corridor are offices, classrooms and closets with replacement solid core doors. At each end of the corridor are bathrooms that replaced the original staircases in the 1950s when the current stairways were built in the north and south pavilions. Most of the walls and ceilings are plaster on metal lath with the ceilings later covered with acoustic panels. The walls of the second-level hallway have vertical tongue-and-groove wainscoting with molded caps and baseboards. The floors are covered with linoleum tiles with wall-to-wall carpeting in the classrooms. The four bathrooms, two on each floor, have terra cotta tile floors and baseboards, with particle board panels covering the lower walls. Window and door trim, baseboards, and chalkboards are of unmolded wood painted a variety of colors ranging from grey to tan to white. The windows have continuous projecting sills on the interior. Dog-leg stairways in the pavilions at the north and south ends of the corridors have steel risers, treads, and balustrades. The walls are painted concrete block and the upper landings feature concrete grilles in the north and south walls.

Boiler Room (1950) Contributing Building

To the east of the main building is a detached, three-section brick boiler room and storage area with a tall, square brick chimney stack centered on the north wall. The boiler room in the north section has a square window on the

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east elevation and a flat roof with overlapping fascias. The middle section, attached to the south side of the boiler room, has a window in the east wall; the southernmost section has double doors on the southeast corner. Both sections have flat roofs three brick courses lower than the boiler room roof with concrete copings. The buildings were constructed in 1950, at a cost of \$39,000, to provide an updated central heating plant consisting of two boilers and fuel storage tanks.

Classroom Building (1927; 1956) Contributing Building

Exterior

Situated 150 feet south of the main building is the one-story, Rosenwald-funded six-classroom building, measuring 150 feet north-south and fifty-four feet east-west. The school is based on the Rosenwald Fund's Community School Plan No. 6. The exterior walls have soldier-course watertables and are faced with bricks in a 1:5 American Bond pattern. The north and south walls have stepped parapets with cast-stone coping. The upper wall on the west façade terminates in a cast-stone parapet that rises to a peak above the central recessed entrance, which has a stoop with four concrete steps flanked by brick knee walls with cast-stone caps. All but the middle classroom on the east side of the building, which has four windows, have five grouped windows with continuous cast-stone sills on both the west and east elevations, which flood the rooms with light. In the 1980s the original six-over-six wooden sashes were replaced with shorter, one-over-one sashes, the upper terminations enclosed by solid wood panels to conform to the original framed openings. Small, single windows light bathrooms at the north and south ends of the façade. A tall brick chimney stack on the south side of the building and a small addition at the southeast corner are adjacent to the deeply recessed south entrance. A similar entrance is at the north end of the building.

Interior

Paired, six-panel replacement metal doors with transom and covered sidelights on the façade open into a vestibule terminating in a cross-hall running the length of the building. Paired doors on the north and south ends exit to covered walkways leading to adjacent buildings. Walls are plaster and ceilings are dropped acoustic tile, like those in the main building. The floors are covered with carpet in the halls and classrooms, and tile in the twin bathrooms at the ends of the corridor. The windows, doors with transoms, and the segmental-arched opening leading from the vestibule to the main hall have simple moldings with mitered corners and the baseboards have molded caps. In 1956, the interior was altered to provide nine classrooms, a storage room, and two bathrooms.

Gymnasium/Auditorium (1948; 1960) Contributing Building

Exterior

The gable-front brick and concrete block structure, with shed-roofed lower sections along the north and south sides, has three metal awning windows in the upper front gable, terra cotta coping on the parapets, and originally

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featured a series of tall clerestory windows along the upper part of the north and south elevations. These were later replaced by smaller sliding windows with brick sills and infill on the lower level, and larger fixed-pane windows with vinyl siding on the upper story. A one-story, five-bay, flat-roofed entrance pavilion was built on the west façade in 1960. Unlike the 1:5 common bond brick pattern of the main block, the front addition duplicates the Flemish stretcher bond of the 1922 two-story building. The three replacement front doors with covered transoms and sidelights are sheltered beneath flat metal canopies supported by round pipe supports. The two end bays originally had banks of windows, now replaced with vinyl infill and two small fixed-pane windows per bay. The upper walls terminate in terra cotta capped parapets.

In 1960 a wide, one-story, six-bay by six-bay addition was built across the rear of the main block with a mix of windows on the south elevation and metal doors sheltered by hoods with brackets on the east elevation. The metal-frame awning and hopper windows have brick sills and soldier-course lintels. Two of the windows in the center bays of the east elevation are filled with vinyl siding. The walls are faced with 1:6 bond brickwork, while a later addition faced with 1:5 bond brickwork runs along part of the north elevation of the gym with small windows and a door sheltered by a hood supported by brackets. The upper walls and parapets are capped by terra cotta coping and the vinyl-sided upper-stage housing with a flat roof and parapets covers the eastern gable of the main building.

Interior

The interior of the gymnasium/auditorium consists of an entrance lobby built in 1960 to accommodate visitors attending games and performances without directly entering the main area of the building. The interior walls are painted concrete block with painted brick walls in the rooms in the north and south ends of the lobby. The lobby floor is covered with blue and white vinyl tiles and the ceiling is of acoustic tiles with recessed lighting, as are all the ceilings in the 1960 addition. A ticket counter and twin rest rooms are at the center of the east wall of the lobby. The rest rooms have tile floors and lower walls, and marble stall dividers. At the northern end of the lobby is a room set apart for weight training, while the south end of the lobby opens into an audio-visual room adjacent to a glass display case containing trophies and other sports items. The walls of the rooms are painted brick, and the floors are carpeted.

The 4,800 square-foot gymnasium, entered from each end of the lobby through double doors, has a basketball court with twelve-foot-deep side bays supported by I-beams and containing wooden bleachers. The floors are polished hardwood. Small storage closets are at the northwest and southwest corners of the room. The west end of the gymnasium has original lower-story window openings with molded sills; the larger center window does not have a molded sill. These windows were filled in when the lobby was built. The windows over the bleachers also have molded sills. The ceilings of the side bays and the east end of the main room are covered with pressed metal tiles, while the basketball court has acoustic tiles attached to the flat ceiling. The east wall of the gymnasium has a slightly projecting raised stage with six-riser steps at each end of the platform leading onto the stage; storage closets and lighting controls are at the rear corners of the stage. Two doors on the south elevation lead to the exterior.

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Doors to the left and right of the stage originally exited to the rear yard. The left door now opens to a small courtyard with two windows lighting the east locker room in north addition, accessed from the northeast corner of the gymnasium. The right door opens to a passageway along the south side of the stage leading east past a small refreshment room and closet to two rooms in the 1960 east addition, which were built as classrooms. A storage closet separates the two rooms, and a third room, with an exit to the north, is within the later addition. The south room incorporates a boxing area with a raised boxing ring and a door opening to the exterior. The room on the north end of the addition is used for wrestling matches and exercise equipment.

Library and Office Building (Senior Center) (1956) Contributing Building

Exterior

Between the 1922 and the 1927 buildings are two separate Modernist buildings with activity rooms, offices, kitchen facilities, and a cafeteria. The west building, originally containing the library and offices, was later adapted for use as a senior citizens' activity center retaining the original floor plan. The building, seven-bays-wide and five-bays-deep, has an off-centered entrance with paired, glazed doors, single-pane sidelights and a three-light transom sheltered beneath a later projecting flat-roofed porch with heavy, square supports. Windows consist of multi-light pivoting metal hopper panels in steel frames set singly, in pairs, and in continuous bands on the north elevation. The brickwork is running bond veneer and deep eaves extend over concrete corner posts and pilasters on the side bays. The flat roof has painted aluminum fascias and zinc flashing.

At the east end of the hall and the east end of the activity room are two sets of paired, glazed, metal doors with covered transoms and glass sidelights opening to a covered patio between the senior center and cafeteria buildings. Small one-over-one sash windows with cast-stone sills are on the south end of the east elevation. A single door with a transom and concrete ramp on the north elevation is a later addition giving access from a side driveway to the activity room. Covered walkways extending beneath corrugated metal canopies carried by square steel supports run between the buildings.

Interior

A wide central hall runs west to east from the glazed front entrance to a similar entrance at the rear of the building. The walls on the north side of the hall have fixed-pane windows in wide wood frames between plywood panels, and a door opening onto a 2,100 square foot library and activity room. The walls on the south side of the hall have glazed doors opening into five offices and storage closets. The walls are painted concrete block except in the offices, which are painted plywood. The floors in the hall and activity room are polished linoleum, with carpeting in the offices, and the ceilings have acoustic panels set in aluminum strips concealing flush-mounted fluorescent lights and air ducts.

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Cafeteria (1956) Contributing Building

Exterior

The irregular-shaped, flat-roofed Modernist cafeteria building, built east of the library and office building, has similar architectural and structural features, including multi-light steel frame windows in continuous bands, running bond brick veneer walls, and deep eaves extending over concrete corner posts. The building has entrances on the west, south and east sides, with the main, west, entrance having a replacement wood, crisscross-paneled door, with a diamond-pane upper section, flanked by high single-pane sidelights. The west door and the south metal double-leaf loading-bay doors with a concrete sill are sheltered by metal shed roofs supported by round metal posts. Windows on the north and south elevations are similar to those on the library and office building. The east elevation has five clustered windows with a continuous cast-stone sill in the center of the wall flanked by shorter, windowless bays. The east end of the north elevation contains a small, six-over-six vinyl sash window and a multi-panel door added later. The flat roof has painted aluminum fascias and zinc flashing.

Attached to the wall adjacent to the main entrance is a metal plaque which reads:

ADDITION
TO HARNETT HIGH SCHOOL
ERECTED 1956
BOARD OF EDUCATION HARNETT COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
SYDNEY C. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN
CHARLES U. SKINNER A.C. BAREFOOT
J.R. BAGGETT, JR. HAYWOOD T. ROBERTS
G.T. PROFFIT, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
PLAYER REALTY & CONSTRUCTION CO.
LESLIE N. BONEY, ARCHITECT, WILMINGTON

Interior

A small vestibule opens through double-doors to a 3,300 square foot cafeteria with a large kitchen and adjacent pantries on the north side of the room. The northwest and southwest rooms, originally used for cooking classes, are now used for additional food service and meeting spaces. Between the northwest room and the kitchen are twin bathrooms opening through an ante-room off the cafeteria. The walls are painted concrete block, exposed brick, and sheetrock walls added for storage areas and bathrooms. Modern cabinets and kitchen equipment are found in the kitchen. The floors are covered with vinyl tiles in the assembly rooms, and terra cotta tile in the kitchen areas. The ceilings have acoustic tiles set in aluminum strips and recessed lighting and air ducts.

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Greenhouse (2010) Noncontributing Structure

Twenty feet east of the 1927 classroom building is a 300-square-foot, rectangular, gable-roofed greenhouse of polycarbonate panels and steel frame construction. The building was given, in 2010, to the Police Athletic League (PAL) by the First Baptist Church of Dunn through a grant applied for by PAL.

Integrity Assessment

The Harnett County Training School buildings retain good integrity in all but the main, 1922 Rosenwald-funded building, which, over a period of nearly half a century, has suffered from deferred maintenance and the invasion of pigeons on the upper level. All character-defining exterior features are intact, but the windows are obscured by the installation of plywood protective panels. Despite deterioration of plaster ceilings and walls since the closing of the building, the interior retains most of its original materials and finishes as well as original floor and ceiling coverings, which were later modernized by installation of floor tile and carpeting, and acoustic tile ceilings.

The gymnasium/auditorium has been altered by the removal of the large windows on the north and south sides of the main room, as well as changes in the entrances and windows on the front façade. However, photographs showing the original fenestration of the building and physical evidence showing the size and configuration of the windows indicate their original appearance. The changes to the building's fenestration do have an adverse effect on the building but are not sufficiently negative to make the building a noncontributing resource within the context of the campus. Plans are in place to install new windows duplicating the original designs.

The 1927 Rosenwald-funded classroom building has been altered by the installation of smaller vinyl-clad windows on the exterior, but the interiors have been sympathetically rehabilitated for use as a state-of-the-art learning center.

The library and office building and the cafeteria building retain their architectural and historical integrity, despite adapting the original library in the multi-purpose building for use as a senior activity center. The cafeteria building has been sympathetically rehabilitated with new kitchen facilities, storage rooms, and bathrooms. Modern cabinets and kitchen equipment are found in the kitchen. The ceilings in both buildings are of modern acoustic tile.

Alterations that have been made to improve the condition and changed uses of the buildings over time have not compromised the architectural and historical character-defining features of the structures and do not adversely affect the integrity of the complex or the contributing status of the complex as a whole.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Harnett County Training School meets Criterion A in the areas of Education and Black Ethnic Heritage as Dunn and Harnett County's only extant historic African American graded school and as the focus of local efforts to enhance educational opportunities for blacks during the segregation period ending in the late 1960s. The 1922 Colonial Revival-style Harnett County Training School, an early example of a brick, two-story, Rosenwald-funded, fourteen teacher-type school, and the 1927 brick, one-story, Rosenwald-funded six-classroom building based on the Community School Plan No. 6 meet Criterion C in the area of Architecture as largely intact examples of standardized Rosenwald school forms. Both buildings have a north-south orientation and incorporate banks of large windows on their east and west elevations to provide ample light to each classroom. The school meets Criteria Consideration G for the post-1964 educational use of the school as an exceptionally important institution for African American educational and social development in Dunn and Harnett County through the desegregation of Dunn schools. The period of significance extends from 1922, the date of construction of the original Rosenwald-funded school building, to 1968, the date of the last class graduation, and encompasses the expansion of the school in 1927, 1948, 1956, and 1960, with the growth of student attendance and public activities. During that period the school offered the African American community a place for sports events, concerts, and cultural programs. The 1922 main building was erected for African American students from the first through the eleventh grades and was expanded in 1927 by the construction of the one-story classroom building to accommodate the increasing number of students in the first through fourth grades that were moved from the main building.³³ The need for recreational facilities, a library, home economics and industrial arts rooms, and food services was met by the Harnett County School Board by the construction of a gymnasium/auditorium in 1948 and library, office, and cafeteria buildings in 1956. In 1960, two more classrooms, a lobby, restrooms, and locker rooms were added to the gymnasium/auditorium.³⁴

Historical Background

Dunn is situated along the fertile Piedmont Plateau, forested with a variety of pine, oak, maple, ash, and gum woodlands, where small streams flow through sloping ravines to the Cape Fear River, supplying water to the numerous farms which are the region's economic mainstay.³⁵ Located in the southeastern corner of Harnett County, four miles east of the Cape Fear River, Dunn took its name from Bennett R. Dunn (1849-1893), construction engineer with the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, who designed and built the seventy-six mile spur leading from Wilson to Fayetteville through the center of the town. The rail line was completed on October 1, 1886 and was extended forty-three miles further to reach the South Carolina border by March 28, 1892.³⁶ With

³³ Mary Alice Hasty, *The Heritage of Harnett County, North Carolina* (Charlotte, NC: Delmar Printing Co., 1993), 50.

³⁴ *ibid*; Herman P. Green, *A History of Dunn, N.C.* (Dunn, NC: Twyford Printing Co., 1985) 61,

³⁵ Federal Writers' Project, *North Carolina A Guide to the Old North State* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1939), 322.

³⁶ Hasty, 533.

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the prospect of profitable growth, the town, whose economy was originally based on logging and turpentine distilling, developed into an agricultural center and it was incorporated on February 12, 1887.⁵ The population grew at a moderate pace for the next half century, from 1,072 inhabitants in 1900 to 4,558 in 1930.⁶ In 1917, a soil survey was conducted by the North Carolina and the United States Departments of Agriculture, which numbered 2,710 county-wide farms, averaging 90.8 acres in size, producing cotton, corn, a small amount of tobacco, and a variety of fruits for local and distant markets. At the same time, iron ore mining and textile manufacturing added new industries to the traditional agricultural economy.⁷

Among the construction programs completed by the city of Dunn during the twentieth century were an electric generating plant in 1902; telephone service in 1907; a municipal building containing an opera house in 1910; a central sewage system in 1912-1915; a library built as a project of the Woman's Club of Dunn in 1922-1923; and expansion of the well-fed water supply with a central system fed by the Cape Fear River in 1924.⁸ In the early years of the twentieth century, the streetscapes of Dunn displayed a variety of building types, including one- and two-story frame structures occupied by dry goods merchants, hardware companies, grocers, furniture dealers, banks, dentists, doctors, and lawyers. By 1915, most of the wooden structures had been replaced by modern two-story brick buildings, their main street-level floors being stores selling groceries (twenty-nine in 1918, thirty-eight by 1926), dry goods, drugs, hardware, and a theater. Specialty stores selling feed, general merchandise (five-and-dime stores), a sewing repair shop, and several small restaurants also filled the storefronts. The upper levels of the buildings contained the offices of attorneys, insurance agents, doctors, and dentists. In the late 1920s, gas stations were built along the roadways on the fringes of town to service local and traveling motorists. A tractor and auto supply store, and a farm machine service building were located along Dunn's main street, North Clinton Avenue.⁹ By the end of the 1950s, the small groceries and dry goods stores had mostly been replaced by specialty clothing, gift shops, florists, and cafés. Professional offices moved to the first level for the convenience of customers, and the upper stories were delegated to storage. A large grocery market was built on East Broad Street, east of the center of town, while smaller groceries were built in outlying neighborhoods. Drug stores remained in the downtown, some in business since the early part of the twentieth century.¹⁰

Throughout the twentieth century Dunn continued to be the most heavily populated municipality in Harnett County. To this day its population is more than double that of any of the other four incorporated municipalities, these being Erwin, Angier, Coats, and Lillington, the county seat. Dunn has also maintained by far the largest collection of early twentieth-century commercial buildings in Harnett County.¹¹

⁵ Green, 58.

⁶ WPA Guide, 323.

⁷ Robert Journey and S. O. Perkins, *Soil Survey of Harnett County, North Carolina* (NC Department of Agriculture and US Department of Agriculture, 1917), 11.

⁸ Green, 18-20, 143.

⁹ National Register Nomination, Dunn Downtown Historic District, September 9, 2009.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ *ibid.*

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Education and Ethnic Heritage/Black Context

At the beginning of the twentieth century, the educational system for African Americans in North Carolina, and throughout the South, was rudimentary at best. The public school system had officially segregated the races in 1875, declaring that there should be separate but equal educational facilities for white and black children. Not until 1910, however, did public elementary schools for blacks begin receiving state funds. In 1913, recognizing the need to improve schools for black students, North Carolina established the office of supervisor of rural elementary schools to promote the education of African American children. In 1921, a separate agency, the Division of Negro Education, was created to further advance public education for black students.¹² A survey in the early 1930s conducted by the Division of Negro Education found that some black classrooms had sixty to one-hundred students, that only half of the schools stayed in session for the full school year, and that only seven percent of black students attended high school.¹³

Simultaneously, as North Carolina was working toward bettering education for its African American children, Julius Rosenwald, a Chicago philanthropist, started a fund for building new and modern school facilities for black students. Rosenwald (1862-1932), who made a fortune through his part ownership of Sears, Roebuck, and Company, became interested in aiding the African American community after reading two books, a biography of William H. Baldwin, a Northern white man who devoted his life to promoting black education in the South, and *Up From Slavery*, the story of Booker T. Washington's life. In early 1911 he met with Booker T. Washington in Chicago, and later that year, toured Washington's Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, which impressed him greatly. In 1912, he was made a trustee of Tuskegee Institute. With Julius Rosenwald's determination to turn his philanthropy toward improving the education of African Americans in the South, requests for funding schools began to emerge. The first school building projects were in rural Alabama; Rosenwald provided funds to construct six small schools in 1913 and 1914, which were operated by Tuskegee Institute.¹⁴

Rosenwald created his fund for Southern education in 1917 with four funding priorities: the building of school houses for rural African American children, the establishment of libraries, the education of teachers, and the development of centers for higher education for the black population. When Rosenwald established his fund, in the entire South there was not a single standard eight-grade rural black public school and no black public high school approved for even two years of high school work. Where there were African American schools, they were open an average of four months a year, and the teacher usually had only attended school through eighth grade.¹⁵

¹² Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott, Flora H. Hatley, *A History of African Americans in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992) 154, 155.

¹³ *ibid.*, 135.

¹⁴ Edwin R. Embree and Julia Waxman, *Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund* (Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1949), 5, 25-26.

¹⁵ *ibid.*, 37-38.

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For a community to qualify for support to build a school they needed to meet certain criteria. According to a publication printed by the Rosenwald Fund,

A school had to represent common effort by the state and county authorities and the local colored and white citizens. The state and county had to contribute to the building and agree to maintain it as a regular part of the public-school system. White citizens had to take an interest and contribute part of the money, since it was felt that white leadership was essential to the success of such a program in the South.... And the Negroes themselves had to show their desire for education by making gifts of money or labor, usually both.¹⁶

The buildings were to be constructed according to simple plans that were provided by the Fund. The curriculum was to include formal and theoretical education and, as suggested by Booker T. Washington, students were also taught practical skills.¹⁷ Since the majority of schools were in rural areas with no electricity, maximizing natural light was a major concern. For this reason, the Rosenwald plans all featured groupings of tall, double-hung sash, classroom windows along the east and west walls. A southern exposure would be too warm during the late spring, summer, or early fall months; and northern light in the winter would not provide enough light. The plans also specified that each window should have tan shades, to better regulate the amount and intensity of light. Windows were always to the children's left, so that a shadow would not be created as they wrote unless a student was left-handed. The interiors were to be painted either with a cream ceiling with buff walls and walnut-stained wainscot, or with an ivory cream ceiling with light gray walls. Interior corridors were to be minimized so that usable space was maximized.¹⁸ Each Rosenwald school also included an "industrial room," smaller than the standard-size classroom, for girls to be taught home economics and boys farm work and the use of simple tools. In addition, the school was to be used as much as possible by the public, and to that end, an auditorium that could seat the entire community should be built as part of the school.¹⁹

By 1917, the Rosenwald Fund was formally established and the rural school building program became one of the largest educational programs administered by the Fund. In its thirty-one years of operation, from 1917 to 1948, the fund contributed more than five million dollars in matching funds to the construction of 5,300 schools, shops, and teachers' homes in fifteen Southern states. These schools became known as "Rosenwald Schools."²⁰

In 1913, the state of North Carolina, following the lead of Virginia, appropriated funds to hire administrators for white and black rural schools. North Carolina Director of Negro Education, Nathan Carter Newbold (1871-1957), a white resident of Pasquotank County, North Carolina, convinced state legislators and local governments to

¹⁶ *ibid*, 39.

¹⁷ *ibid.*, 40.

¹⁸ Thomas H. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, Vol. LXV, No. 4, October 1988: 401.

¹⁹ *ibid.*, 401-405.

²⁰ Wikipedia, "The Rosenwald Fund." <http://en.wikipedia.org>.

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allocate matching funds for constructing Rosenwald schools in the state. In 1915, a two-classroom school was erected in Chowan County. By 1932, when the Rosenwald Fund closed out its construction efforts, North Carolina had erected 813 Rosenwald buildings for educating 114,201 African American students, at a cost of more than five million dollars, far more than any other state.²¹ Harnett County accounted for 35% of the schools, numbering twenty-three, ranging from one- to twenty-room facilities. Of these, the Harnett County Training School in Dunn was the only multi-story brick structure.²²

In the early 1920s, numerous one-room schools were scattered throughout Harnett County providing limited education to children of each area. The developing decade brought about efforts to consolidate those schools into a more efficient and modern system; school districts were created in the county with both elementary and high school facilities. Ten new community schools for white students were Anderson Creek, Angier, Benhaven, Boone Trail, Buie's Creek, Coates, Dunn, Erwin, Lafayette and Lillington. The high schools resulting from the consolidation effort of this era were to serve white students of the county until the next consolidation push in the 1970s. Four high schools constructed for African American children prior to desegregation in the late 1960s were Shawtown School, located near the county seat of Lillington, constructed in 1928; the Harnett County Training School (Harnett High School) in Dunn, constructed in 1922; Johnsonville School in western Harnett County, constructed in 1934, and Ridgeway School in Erwin, constructed in 1935.²³

Prior to 1920, African American students in Dunn attended classes in several churches, including Trinity AME Zion Church, at the southeast corner of East Johnson and Burke streets, where the third and fourth grades were taught.²⁴ Among the members of the church was John D. Culbreth, chairman of the church committee who, with other residents of Dunn, approached the superintendent of schools, James W. Snipes, to build a school to consolidate the various classes into one building. The vacant property to the west of Trinity AME Zion Church, bordered by East Johnson, Burke and Surles streets, containing ten acres, was sold on January 23, 1920, by W. H. Lane to the Board of Trustees of the Dunn Graded Schools, for \$7,272.73. A bond referendum for \$200,000 was approved for educational improvements in Dunn, and in 1922 a school for African American students named Harnett County Training School was erected on the site, together with a playing field for outdoor recreation.²⁵ The new Rosenwald-funded school building was built of brick in the prevailing Colonial Revival style with a symmetrical plan, a central pedimented porch entrance, multi-light sash windows, and decorative panels highlighting the end bays. The school contained fourteen classrooms, an office opposite the front (west) entrance, and a library on the upper level. An auditorium, planned as part of the design, was not built. The total cost of construction was \$50,090.00, with \$2,090.00 raised by the African American community, \$46,500.00 from public resources, and \$1,500.00 from the Rosenwald Fund.²⁶

²¹ Embree and Waxman, 57.

²² Thomas H. Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review* Vol. LXV, No. 4, October 1988: 435.

²³ John Hairr, 124, Principal's Annual Reports, 1924 to 1935.

²⁴ *Heritage*, 50.

²⁵ Green, 61.

²⁶ *ibid.*

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At its opening in 1922, the new school accommodated grades one to eleven, and the first class graduation was held in 1923. The principal, from the opening of the school to 1930, was Woolsey D. Gay (1889-1968), who came to Dunn from Talladega, Alabama.²⁷ During his tenure, student enrollment rose steadily due to an expansion of the area that was served by the school, requiring a school bus to bring children to the school.²⁸ In 1925, a bus garage and a six-room Rosenwald-funded teachers' home were built on the grounds (neither is extant). Two years later, in 1927, an additional Rosenwald-funded, one-story building, based on Community School Plan No. 6, was erected containing six much-needed classrooms, costing \$20,800.00: \$1,008.00 from African Americans, \$19,192.00 from public resources, and \$600.00 from the Rosenwald fund.²⁹ All of the structures built after the 1927 classroom building were funded solely by Harnett County, since the Rosenwald Fund had ended its building assistance programs in 1932.³⁰

In 1930, Woolsey Gay returned to Talladega and was succeeded in Dunn by John T. Turner, a native of Georgia, whose tenure lasted until 1942, after which Arthur Dees of Oxford, North Carolina, became principal. During his time in office, the school was renamed Harnett High School, and in 1948, a combined gymnasium and auditorium, with raised stage at the east end, was built at the northeast corner of the school lot, just north of the main school building. The cost of construction was \$60,000.³¹

From 1949 through 1963, Freeman H. Ledbetter was the school principal and he oversaw several improvements on the site. In 1950, a one-story brick structure was built behind the school to contain a new central heating system with two boilers, fuel storage tanks, and a tall, square chimney. The cost of the project was \$39,000. In 1956, two buildings were erected south of the main school building, one containing a library and offices, and the other housing a cafeteria and home economics classrooms. The buildings were connected by covered breezeways. The cost for both structures was \$91,300. In 1960, a lobby at the front of the gymnasium/auditorium was built as a buffer to eliminate entrance from outdoors directly into the main playing area and to provide two public restrooms, a ticket counter, and two classrooms. Further additions to the building included a low, flat-roofed wing on the north side containing twin locker rooms, and on the east side a similar addition containing two classrooms (now the boxing and wrestling areas).³²

Freeman Ledbetter's successor was W. E. Hall from eastern North Carolina. In the late 1960s, during his term as principal, all of the Harnett County schools were desegregated. The last class from Harnett County Training School graduated in June of 1968. Thus, in the thirty-four year period of growth of the Harnett Training School complex, from 1922 to 1960, a total of \$336,390 was spent on construction and maintenance on the school site, a major commitment by residents and civic leaders in Dunn to advance educational opportunities within a segregated school system, providing both spacious and attractive educational facilities for the African American

²⁷ *Heritage*, 50.

²⁸ Sanborn Insurance Company map of Dunn, NC, April 1925, sheet 1.

²⁹ Green, 61; Fisk University, Atlanta GA: Rosenwald Database.

³⁰ *ibid.*, *Heritage*, 50.

³¹ *ibid.*, *Heritage*, 50.

³² *ibid.* Green, 50.

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community. The fact that the Harnett County Training School was constructed of brick, as well as the high number of Rosenwald schools constructed in the county in general, indicates the strong commitment of county leaders, educators, and local residents to build substantial structures that enriched the educational, cultural, and social conditions of Dunn's African American citizens. The support of the Rosenwald fund to help the school to develop was a dynamic force in the success of the operation.

The school, built to educate students from both Dunn and outlying rural areas, housed grades one through eleven, with grades one through four being transferred to the new building, "the little building", in 1927. According to the Principal's Annual Report for Harnett County Training School, from 1924 through 1964 teachers instructed students in the basics of reading, spelling, arithmetic, geography, history, and penmanship. Extracurricular activities at the school included sports (a tennis court was built at the south end of the grounds in the 1920s for use by teachers, students, and local patrons), music (the Glee Club performed at the initial broadcast of radio station WPTF in Raleigh, and such luminaries as Marian Anderson and Paul Robeson appeared in concert at the school), oratory, home economics, agriculture classes, and scouting programs.

In the twenty-first century, the school campus continues to have an active place in the African American community of Dunn. Although the school ceased to function as a high school with the last class graduating in 1968, the school continued to be used as a middle school and was expanded with the construction of another classroom building at the south end of the campus in the 1980s (outside the National Register boundary). The middle school was closed in 1985 and the campus sat vacant until 1995 when the Dunn Police Department began using the campus for its Police Athletic League (PAL) program.³³ The classroom buildings were used for a short time by the program but the gymnasium/auditorium continues to provide a venue for sporting and entertaining events for the community and the PAL program and is now known as the Dunn Police Athletic League Center. PAL provides baseball, basketball, boxing, wrestling, and track and field sporting events, and mentors 400 youths. In addition, the 1927 classroom building is used as a teaching center for special classes in computer use, language arts, mathematics, and social studies for students between six and eighteen years of age. The library and office building is currently a senior center. The cafeteria is still used for food preparation and serving meals as well as other activities requiring large spaces. The 1980s classroom building is now used by Dunn Head Start³⁴

Architectural Context

Less than fifteen percent of the more than 800 Rosenwald-funded schools built in North Carolina contained six or more classrooms. The 1922 Harnett County Training School is a significant and early example of a two-story fourteen-teacher type Rosenwald school. In combination with the no-longer extant 1925 six-room teachers' home and the 1927 brick classroom building, which is based on the Rosenwald Fund's Community School Plan No. 6, a plan more typically seen with frame construction, this was a large complex. Following the guidelines of the

³³ Patricia Harmon-Lewis (Public Relations Office, Harnett County Schools). Phone interview with Jessica Dockery, 5/9/14.

³⁴ Stephen Neuschafer (Assistant Manager, City of Dunn, NC). Phone interview with author, 4/16/2014.

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Rosenwald Fund, the north-south oriented buildings were restrained in their architectural design, featuring banks of large sash windows on the east and west elevations to maximize light and air into the interior, high ceilings, operable transoms over doors on interior corridors, storage closets, and three sections of chalkboards in each room for students and teachers to write out the lessons. The 1922 main school and 1927 classroom building have symmetrical plans and parapets with central peaks accenting the recessed front entrances.

Few comparable Rosenwald-funded school structures of the period remain in the state. Two-story Rosenwald schools were not common in North Carolina and were even less so during the early years of the Rosenwald Fund building project. Examples include the frame, six-teacher 1918 Hyde County Training School in Sladesville, the brick, nine-teacher 1921 Johnston County Training School in Smithfield, the brick 1923 Darden-Vick School in Wilson, Wilson County, (NR, 1988, contributing resource in the East Wilson Historic District before destroyed), the brick 1923 high school building constructed on the campus of the Berry O'Kelly Training School, an eight-building campus in Raleigh, Wake County, the brick, six-teacher 1924 Warrenton School, which also had a Rosenwald-funded teacherage, in Warren County, and the brick, five-teacher 1925 Roseboro School in Sampson County. Toward the end of the building project large high schools were more frequently constructed, including the two-story, eight-teacher 1926 Shelby/Cleveland County Training School No. 2, which was originally frame but veneered soon thereafter, the brick, two-story, eleven-teacher 1927 Clayton High School in Johnston County, the brick 1931 Atkins High School in Winston-Salem, (NR, 1999), which was constructed as a two-story building with a later third story addition, and the brick, three-story, twenty-teacher 1932 Williston School in Wilmington, New Hanover County, (NR, 2003, contributing resource in the Wilmington Historic District Boundary Expansion). Of these, only Williston School, Shelby/County Training School No. 2, and Atkins High School are extant. Although Harnett County counted twenty-three Rosenwald-funded schools in 1930, only the Harnett County Training School survives.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is shown on the attached tax map, at a scale of one inch equals 200 feet, by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes a residual 5.33 acres of the land historically associated with the school and provides an appropriate setting. The boundary excludes athletic fields and a pool, which are part of a city park to the south, as well as a 1980s classroom building immediately to the south of the 1927 classroom building.

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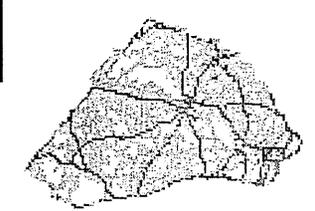
Photographs

Harnett County Training School
Dunn, Harnett County, North Carolina
Edward F. Turberg
February 9, 2014
NC SHPO

Photos are identified below and are marked on the accompanying plans.

- 01 Overall view of the campus from the northwest
- 02 Overall view of the campus from the southwest
- 03 1922 building, west (front) and north sides from the northwest
- 04 1922 building, north and east elevations from the northeast showing boiler room and chimney
- 05 1922 building, 1st story hall looking south
- 06 1922 building, 1st story classroom looking southwest
- 07 1927 classroom building, west (front) façade
- 08 1927 classroom building, rear (east) elevation looking southwest showing noncontributing greenhouse
- 09 1927 classroom building, hall looking north
- 10 1927 classroom building, classroom looking southwest
- 11 1956 library and office building (Senior Center), north and west (front) elevations from the northwest
- 12 1956 library and office building (Senior Center), east elevation
- 13 1956 library and office building (Senior Center), multi-purpose room looking northwest
- 14 1956 cafeteria and office buildings, north elevations
- 15 1956 cafeteria building, main lunch room and smaller lunch area looking southeast
- 16 1948/1960 gym/auditorium from the southwest
- 17 1948/1960 gym/auditorium from the northeast
- 18 1948/1960 gym/auditorium, lobby looking south
- 19 1948/1960 gym/auditorium, main room looking east

HARNETT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA
GIS/LAND RECORDS



- AddressPoints
- Roads
- MajorRoads
- Rivers
- Parcels
- County_Boundary
- CityLimits
- Fort_Bragg_Camp_McCa
- Red: Band_1
- Green: Band_2
- Blue: Band_3
- Harnett.sid
- Red: Band_1
- Green: Band_2
- Blue: Band_3

Harnett County GIS
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 Lillington NC 27546
 Phone: 910-893-7523 www.harnett.org



Any use of this map shall be at the sole risk of the user of this map. Although, all effort has been taken to insure accuracy in the data presented, Harnett County makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the accuracy of this information represented herein. Any user of this product shall hold harmless Harnett County, its elected officials, employees and agents from and against any claim, damage, loss, action, cause of action, or liability arising from the use of this GIS product.



1" = 200'

Harnett County, NC
 Harnett County Training School
 National Register **Boundary**

Contributing
 Noncontributing