

161

RECEIVED 418

JAN 26 1995

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 on back of form. Complete each item in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Walnut Cove Colored School
other names/site number London School

2. Location

street & number NW cor Brook & Dalton Sts. not for publication
city or town Walnut Cove vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Stokes code 169 zip code 27052

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

William S. King 1-17-95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
 - entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:)

Edson H. Beall 2/24/95
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Metal

other Brick

Wood

Narrative Description

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

Walnut Cove Colored School
Name of Property

Stokes Co., NC
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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Ethnic Heritage: African American

Period of Significance

1921-1944

Significant Dates

1921

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rosenwald Fund plan

Contractor - Dan River Lumber and Milling Co.

Walnut Cove Colored School
Name of Property

Stokes Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	7
---	---

5	7	6	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	0	1	7	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone

Easting

Northing

2

3

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone

Easting

Northing

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 Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization _____ date November 5, 1994

street & number 637 N. Spring St. telephone 910/727-1968

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Historic Preservation Foundation of NC, Inc. on behalf of Walnut Cove Colored School, Inc

street & number P. O. Box 27644 telephone 919/832-3652

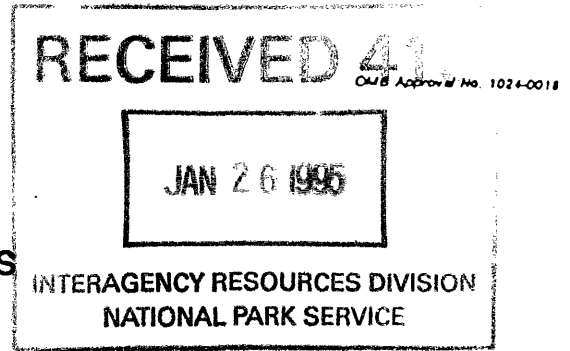
city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611-7644

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet



Section number 7 Page 1

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

DESCRIPTION -

The Walnut Cove Colored School is a one-story, rectangular frame building with weatherboard siding, a broad clipped gable roof, large sash windows, and a projecting front vestibule. The interior is divided into five classroom spaces and is simply finished. The Walnut Cove Colored School stands at its original location on a corner lot in the predominantly African American "London" section at the north end of Walnut Cove. Currently in fair condition, the school is in the early stages of a community-supported restoration project. It retains a strong degree of historic integrity in terms of its location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Walnut Cove Colored School stands on a grassy lot with few trees at the northwest corner of Brook and Dalton streets. It is surrounded by residential properties.

The rectangular building measures approximately 49 feet wide by 73 feet deep and rests on a brick foundation. A gabled vestibule projects from the front of the building, and across two-thirds of the rear there is a shallow projection of approximately seven-and-a-half feet. The plain weatherboard siding is interrupted on either side of the building by rows of nine-over-nine sash windows. Originally, these were in sets of five, one set per classroom. Now, however, one window in each set has been converted to a paneled door with an overhead transom. The front of the school has six-over-six and twelve-over-twelve sash windows, while windows on the rear are six-over-six sash. Both the clipped-gable main roof and the secondary gabled roofs on the front and rear of the building have exposed rafter ends and widely overhanging braced eaves. Two interior brick chimneys project from the ridge of the roof, while a smaller stove stack rises from the rear of the building on the west side.

The interior of the Walnut Cove Colored School is finished as simply as the exterior. The walls and ceiling are sheathed with narrow beaded boards, and the floor is also of wood. The doors are of the five-panel variety typical of the period, and door and window trim consists of plain wooden boards. The main entrance to the school was from the front, with a small vestibule and attached cloak room. Although School Board Minutes (December 6, 1920) describe the plan for the new school as having four rooms, the plan was either modified during construction or at some time thereafter, for the surviving building has five classrooms. A longitudinal partition wall with two chimneys serving as stove stacks divides the two sides of the building. On the east side are two rooms of equal size which are joined by a large opening to create an auditorium. The stage stood at

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

the rear (north end) of this side of the school, but it has been removed. On the west side of the center partition, the front classroom equals in size each of the two classrooms on the east side. Behind this room, the remaining space is divided into two smaller classrooms of nearly equal size and a cloakroom. When the school was converted to apartments after 1955, additional partitions were built. These have been removed as part of the current restoration project.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE -

Summary:

Built in 1921 to replace a much smaller school for African American children, the Walnut Cove Colored School was the pride of the black community in Walnut Cove. At a time when most schools for black children in Stokes County were one- or two-room buildings, the five-classroom Walnut Cove Colored School was viewed as a great improvement. It was paid for, in part, by the Rosenwald Fund and, in fact, was the only Rosenwald school built in the county. The school was built according to plans furnished by N. C. Newbold, the Rosenwald agent in North Carolina, and was constructed by the Dan River Lumber and Milling Company. The Walnut Cove Colored School fulfills Criterion A for listing in the National Register because of its significant association with the development of education for African American children in Stokes County. As the educational center of the black community in and around Walnut Cove for over thirty years, the school played a significant role as part of the twentieth-century African American ethnic heritage of the area. Its period of significance spans the period from 1921, when the school was built, to 1944, the last year in which it meets the 50-year criterion for listing in the National Register. The school, however, continued to operate as such for eight more years, until a larger school with twelve classrooms and a cafeteria was completed in 1952. Today, local pride in the Walnut Cove Colored School is responsible for the current effort to preserve the building for use as a community center.

Historical Background:

By 1920 the black community in Walnut Cove had grown to the point that the two-room frame school near the north end of town had become woefully inadequate (Walnut Cove Interview). Public discussions ensued, and on December 6, 1920, the Stokes County Board of Education formally considered the problem. The Rosenwald Fund had offered to donate \$1,200 toward the construction of a new, four-room schoolhouse for the African American children in the community. The school board agreed to accept the offer for help with the school, which was to be built according to plans furnished by N. C. Newbold, North Carolina's agent for Negro schools in the state. The secretary to the board was instructed to advertise for bids for the construction of the new school, the bids to be opened on the first Monday in January (Minutes,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

December 6, 1920). Those bids were rejected, however, and new bids were requested to be opened February 7, 1921 (Minutes, January 3, 1921). This time, Dan River Lumber and Milling Company's bid of \$4,487.00 was accepted. The contract with this firm specified that the school was to be built according to the blueprints supplied by N. C. Newbold. Materials from the old school could be used, and the completed building was to be painted with two coats of standard paint. No money was to be paid to the contractor until the work was finished, and then only one-third of the payment was to be made, with another third to be paid in six months, and the last third to be paid in twelve months (Minutes, February 7, 1921). On August 1, 1921 the Superintendent of Schools reported to the board that the Rosenwald building in Walnut Cove had been completed (Minutes, August 1, 1921).

During the following three decades, the Walnut Cove Colored School provided grades one through ten for the African American children of Walnut Cove and the surrounding area. Some children walked as far as five miles to get to school. Toward the end of that period, children came from as far away as Danbury. Those wishing to complete grades eleven and twelve had to go outside the county to such places as Madison, Winston-Salem, and Surry County, and it was not until the 1940s that a bus was obtained to transport high schoolers to Madison. Although the Walnut Cove Colored School was considered by local residents to be a "hot shot" school in its day and was very much a focal point of the black community, it was not progressive in every way. For example, the school never had indoor plumbing (Walnut Cove Interview).

By the 1940s the Walnut Cove Colored School, also known as the London School for its location in that part of town, had become heavily overcrowded, with often more than 130 students attending (Walnut Cove Interview; King Journal, May 26, 1994). By the end of the decade the school board was discussing the need for a new school (Minutes, November 23, 1949). In September 1950 plans for the new school were completed by architect J. M. Franklin, and on February 16, 1951 the low bid by general contractor Needham-Fulk was accepted (Minutes, September 5 & 29, 1950, February 16, 1951). In January of 1952 the new school for Walnut Cove's black children in grades one through twelve was completed and opened with twelve classrooms and a cafeteria (Minutes, January 7, 1952).

On January 21, 1952 the school board authorized the superintendent to sell the old Walnut Cove Colored School property (Minutes, January 21, 1952). It was not, however, until July 5, 1955 that R. M. Whicker and his wife, Kate, purchased the property from the Stokes County Board of Education (Deed Book 124, 153). It was later sold to V. L.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

DeHart, Jr. During the four decades from 1952 to 1994, the former school building was used at times for apartments and at other times stood vacant (Walnut Cove Interview).

In January 1994 a group called Walnut Cove Colored School Inc. was formed to reclaim the school for renewed use as a community center and museum. In April 1994 DeHart sold the property to the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc., who purchased it to hold in trust for the Walnut Cove Colored School, Inc. until the local group could raise enough funds to buy the building. The Preservation Foundation is helping the group with its preservation plans, and the Town of Walnut Cove and the State of North Carolina are also assisting with the project (King Journal, May 26, 1994).

Education and African American Ethnic Heritage Context:

Across-the-board education reforms in North Carolina during the first quarter of the twentieth century brought improvements to schools for blacks as well as those for whites. Yet most of the schools constructed prior to World War I remained simple one- or two-room log or frame buildings. Even by 1920, only four percent of the state's schools had more than three rooms (Sumner, 2).

The 1920s is sometimes referred to as both "The Golden Period of Negro Education" in North Carolina and "The Modernization Period." The most important statewide event of the period came in 1921 with the establishment by the state legislature of the Division of Negro Education for the purpose of giving better supervision to the black schools in the state (Cooke, 19). Nathan Carter Newbold was named director of the Division, and he worked tirelessly for improvements in the schools for African American children in North Carolina. He was particularly enthusiastic about the school-building program of the Rosenwald Fund and encouraged numerous communities to match the available funding for these schools (Hanchett, 406-407). Named for philanthropist Julius Rosenwald, the president of Sears, Roebuck and Company, the Rosenwald Fund offered matching grants to rural communities interested in building black schools. Between 1917 and 1932, more Rosenwald Schools--787--were erected in North Carolina than in any other state (Hanchett, 387, 388, 408). When the need arose for a new school for black children in the Walnut Cove area, Newbold pushed for a four-room school to be built with the help of Rosenwald funds and using Rosenwald plans (Minutes, Dec. 6, 1920).

The early twentieth-century schools built in Stokes County reflected the pattern seen elsewhere in the state. Judging from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

surviving examples, they were practical one-story frame buildings with one or two rooms and little or no ornamentation. This pattern held true for the schools for whites as well as for those for blacks. Two types of school buildings were particularly common. The first type was a rectangular weatherboarded structure with a central entrance on the gable-end facade and numerous windows along one or more of the remaining elevations, exemplified by the 1901 Brown Mountain School (black). The second type was a frame building much like the first type but with the addition of a side wing forming an L-shaped structure with separate entrances into each of the classrooms. The Prestonville Colored School (ca. 1910) and the Pine Hall Colored School (ca. 1916) illustrate this type. These small frame schools and others much like them--such as the Dry Hollow, Danbury, Pinnacle, Good Will, and Brim's Grove schools--continued to operate until the consolidation of the county's black schools in 1952 with the construction of the London High School in Walnut Cove (Phillips, 37).

Against this setting, the construction of the four-to-five-room Walnut Cove Colored School was a great improvement. It was the only school built with Rosenwald Funds in Stokes County and was approached in size only by the 1920s Brown Mountain School, a frame school with a later brick veneer addition. The most impressive schools of the period in Stokes County were the Germanton Union School and the Nancy Reynolds School, both large brick structures built in 1923 (Phillips, 38). However, these were both white schools and served to demonstrate the continued disparity between the educational facilities for the two races, even though both showed improvements during the period. The 1921 Walnut Cove Colored School survives, in fact, as the finest school for African American children built in Stokes County during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 7

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES -

Cooke, Dennis Hargrove. The White Superintendent and the Negro Schools in North Carolina. Nashville: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1930.

Deed Book 2, Stokes County Register of Deeds, Danbury, NC.

Hanchett, Thomas W. "The Rosenwald Schools and Black Education in North Carolina." The North Carolina Historical Review (October, 1988).

King Journal, May 26, 1994.

Phillips, Laura A. W. Phillips. Interview with Dorothy Dalton, Joe Hairston, Elizabeth Hairston, Ralph Mitchell, and Ruth Mitchell. Walnut Cove, September 13, 1994. (Copy of interview in State Historic Preservation Office file on Walnut Cove Colored School.)

Phillips, Laura A. W. "Stokes County Historic Inventory: Final Report." Prepared for the Stokes County Historical Society, 1989. (Copy on file with the State Historic Preservation Office.)

Stokes County Board of Education Board Minutes, volumes I & II. (In possession of Stokes County board of Education, Danbury, NC.)

Sumner, Jim. "A Brief History of North Carolina's Early Twentieth Century Public School System." North Carolina Historic Preservation Newsletter (Spring, 1990).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10; photos Page 8

Walnut Cove Colored School
Stokes County, NC

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property consists of Lot 79, Stokes County Tax Map 282 D, as outlined with a heavy black line on the accompanying tax map.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property includes the town lot of less than one acre which is the historic and current site of the Walnut Cove Colored School.

PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION -

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) Walnut Cove Colored School
- 2) Walnut Cove, Stokes County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) September 14, 1994
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: overall view, to north
B: rear and northeast elevations, view to south
C: context view, to west
D: auditorium/classrooms, view to northwest
E: rear classroom, view to southwest

WALNUT COVE COLDRED SCHOOL

STOKES COUNTY TAX MAP 282D, LOT 79

SCALE: 1" = 100'



(FOWLER RD.)

NINTH STREET

DALTON STREET

WINDMILL STREET



84A

84

76

77

72

34

33

32

83

82

81

80

79

78

116

117

118

119A

RISING STAR BAPT. CHURCH

RISING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH

87

88

89

114

113

120

19

90

190

91

190

9

190

9

190

94

200

95

200

96

200

97

200

200

98

300