Dunbar School is a rectangular, two room brick structure with hipped-ridge roof. In design, Dunbar exemplifies typical commercial brick structures of the era. Dunbar's functional simplicity in design is offset by subtle detail including recessed brickwork on facade and east and west ends. Original entrance door and two-over-two windows are still intact, although most are covered with corrugated metal. The facade exhibits an overhead garage door as part of a later renovation.
Centralia’s African American community has traditionally been confined to the northwestern edge of the city, along and primarily north of the railroad tracks that bisect the business district. Beginning in the late nineteenth century, African Americans found jobs with local small-scale industry, especially in the brickyards. The coal mines that extend through central and northern Boone County also provided plenty of low-level positions. The black community was quick to establish local institutions; by 1877, they organized a fraternal lodge, the Good Templars, and by 1890 their first church, St. John A.M.E., which is said to have been the site of the first black school in town, although this claim cannot be verified.

Paul Dunbar School was erected on the south side of the railroad tracks sometime in the late 1920s. The one-acre lot where Dunbar stands was originally purchased by the Centralia Commercial Club from C.B. Rollins on March 23, 1925, for $100.00. The land soon came into the hands of Centralia Public Schools, although a deed was never produced. The site included lots 9, 10, 11, 12, along Fullenwider Street between West Wilson Street and the Chicago-Alton Railroad right-of-way.

As designed, Dunbar was a two room building, with a classroom on the west end and a smaller combination cloak and lunchroom on the east. On both west and east walls of the classroom, plaster was painted black and used instead of chalkboards. A single coal stove provided heat.

Grades one through eight were taught at Dunbar. Teachers included: Ernestine McLendon Rogers, Lillian Kemp, Mrs. Doolhan from Vandalia. Textbooks and other materials were always passed down from the white school. In the 1930s, Dunbar's total enrollment was between twenty-three and thirty students. The day traditionally started with prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and a song. The school year included a Christmas program, which was well attended by the black community and annual commencement, both of which were held in the building.

Centralia Public Schools ended segregation in 1956. In April, 1959, the property was sold by the City of Centralia for $1.00 and was subsequently purchased by a series of owners, among them Donald L. Bollinger who set up a concrete plant on the premises and converted the former schoolhouse into a workshop. As part of the 1970s renovation a large overhead door replaced a series of windows on the facade. Despite minor renovation, much of the interior and exterior remain original, including the painted "blackboards."

Dunbar is a significant landmark in the local African American community and is one of only a handful of African American cultural resources left in northern Boone County. It is the last known surviving black school in the county outside of Columbia. Despite minor fenestration and some interior changes, Dunbar has retained much of its original appearance and its architectural integrity. The current owner is presently renovating the structure for re-use as an office.

The former Dunbar School stands isolated on a one-acre site at the corner of Fullenwider and Wilson Streets on the western edge of Centralia. The Chicago-Alton Railroad right-of-way boarders the property on the north; vacant lots to the east and south, along Wilson Street.

Williams, Everett. Telephone Interview, Centralia, MO. June 23, 1999

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Dunbar School, Centralia, MO.
View from southwest.

Dunbar School.
View from northwest
Dunbar is a typical, rectangular, one-room school house with hipped roof. Although its distinctive tower, windows, floor, front entrance, and central bay of the facade have been removed, much of the interior features, including chalkboards and wainscoting remain intact. Since relocated, a door has been installed in one of the window openings on the south side and a a crude awning constructed.
The late nineteenth century witnessed the emergence of a strong African American community in Auxvasse. As in most small towns a black community developed across the tracks, west of the dominant white community, removed socially yet economically locked into a situation of dependency. Most blacks either worked for local white farmers or found employment with local white merchants. Some also worked in the coal fields, west of town.

Although an earlier school for African Americans may have been established in Auxvasse prior to the building of Dunbar, extant records only go back as far as the 1890s; Dunbar was built around 1890 on a lot at the corner of 3rd and Harrison Streets, at the western edge of the city, and consisted of a single classroom which accommodated grades one through eight. Around 1895, after several years of operation as "Auxvasse Negro School," its fourth teacher, Sarah Francis Jackson of Brown's Station, and the current students gave the school a more formal name, calling it "Dunbar," after the then-famous African American poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar.

Over twenty teachers taught at Dunbar School from its initial establishment until desegregation in 1956: Mrs. Nannie Hawkins; James Henry Coles; Miss Sarah Francis Jackson; Miss Janette Norton; John W. Butler (1908-1910); W.S. Smith (1915-1916); Earl Payne (1916-1917); Miss Eula Scott; Miss Wilma C. Hampton; George McNeal; Wendell Douglas; O.T. Bailey (1923-1924); B.F. Butler (1924-1925); P.L. Farris; Miss Grace Scott; Mrs. Bertha Bell (1931-1932); Miss Flossie Pearle Logan; Miss Sarah Mae Miller; Mrs. Hazel Douglass; Miss Sarah Bell Jackson; and Miss Fontell Moten Logan.

Records indicate that over seventy-five students graduated from the eighth grade in Dunbar's roughly seventy years of operation. After graduation students were given the opportunity to attend high school, at Lincoln in Jefferson City, and later at Garfield High School in Mexico, but before the 1940s transportation was not provided and for that and economic reasons, the vast majority did not attend. Moreover, the cost of sending a student to Lincoln fell upon the parents parents.

At its original location on Harrison Street the gable-end entrance faced south; the teacher's desk and blackboard were opposite on the north interior wall. The playground extended south from the entrance. A centrally located wood stove provided heat in the winter, although the building was poorly insulated and difficult to heat. Textbooks were well worn and came directly from Auxvasse's white school.

Daily routine traditionally included prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and song. Many of the formal school activities, such as plays, Christmas programs and yearly commencement, were held in Auxvasse's Second Baptist Church.

Dunbar closed its doors in May, 1957 and remained vacant until 1962, when it was purchased by Basil Tate, who moved it approximately one-half mile west to a site on the south side of Harrison Street just outside of town, where it remains today. Shortly after its relocation the former schoolhouse was vandalized; original windows were broken out and the entrance door torn from its hinges. It has been converted for use as a hay storage shed. In the process, the small tower and central projecting bay have been removed, along with the floor and windows.

Despite severe alterations, and the fact that it has long been removed from its original location, it still retains some of its architectural integrity and stands as an important landmark for Auxvasse's dwindling African American community.
41. Sources of information

Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.


42. Form Prepared by
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43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Dunbar School, vcn., Auxvasse, MO. View from southeast.
The former Grant School is a gable-end, one room schoolhouse with additions; a two room addition on the north and a small entrance room attached to the original gable entrance. Original windows have been retained only in the south wall. The interior has undergone extensive remodeling and consequently none of the original trim or fixtures survive. A basement was added at a later date. Eaves have been extended approximately six feet, giving the structure an interesting A-frame or Swiss chalet appearance despite the roof’s relatively shallow pitch.
Grant School is said to have been established for the descendants of the Grant family slaves. The Grants owned a large farm in the area and held a substantial number of slaves. After the Civil War, many of their former slaves remained in the immediate area and worked as farmhands for the Grants and other white land owners.

The building identified as Grant School does not appear on Callaway County atlases until 1919 and by all indication was built sometime around the turn of the century. It was also referred to as Whetstone, presumably because it is located on Whetstone Creek. It operated continually from around the turn of the century until desegregation in 1955. The local white school was also called Grant, and was located approximately one mile west of Grant "Colored." Grant (white) (also still standing and converted into a residence) was a significantly larger building that incorporated subtle Neo-Classical stylistic elements.

Grant School was a small, single room gable-end school with metal roof and vertical plank siding. The structure was framed-out using rough-hewn oak. Overall, it was one of the better constructed rural schools in the county.

The earliest records pertaining to Grant are county superintendent inspection notes from 1909; the six-month term began August 6 and the building was valued at $400.00. The teacher in that year was Lula Covington (later McKim), age 22 from Mexico, MO., who taught at Grant through at least 1912. The teachers from 1921 through 1955 included: V. Van Buren (1921-1924); H. Cornell Pasley (1923-1924); Hazel V. Dixon (1924-1925) (listed by the county superintendent as one of seven African-American teachers on the county payroll that year); Nannie Taylor (1927-1934); Lucille Vane (1934-1937); Zula Curtis (1938-1945); Edna Mae Taylor (1946-1947); Eula Allene Glover (1947-1949); Nellie Richmond (1950-1952), and Flossie Logan Williams (1952-1955).

After 1955 Grant was converted into a residence and passed through a succession of owners, including the Lomax and Sears families who minimally maintained it. In 1964 the building was purchased by Charles Watson, who undertook the most extensive renovations. Watson added a basement and a two-room (bedroom) addition on the north, and an entrance room on the east side. He also constructed a half-story upstairs for bedroom space. Eaves were extended approximately six feet on each side and a rear door and deck added on the west end. The chalkboard, positioned on the west wall, was left intact and covered during the renovation.

Grant served fully three generations of African Americans in eastern Callaway County and is one of only two remaining African American cultural resources in the Williamsburg area (along with Gregory School [see #4] in the Yucatan Community south of Williamsburg). It is a significant historic landmark to the black community of Callaway County and should be recognized as such.

The former schoolhouse is located on 1.8 acres. It is on a private lane approximately 300 feet south of County Road 142, between Calwood and Williamsburg and directly southwest the historic Grant farm.

Sources of information


Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.


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Originally erected around 1865, Mt. Vernon is a simple gable-end church with later additions on south side, and the east end. Original windows in the north wall have been boarded-up and the all but the northern end sheathed in vinyl siding. Three concrete buttresses support the western foundation. Despite upgrades and remodeling, a portion of its original interior remains.
39. History and Significance

After Emancipation a small, yet significant African American community developed along the Missouri River bluffs, north of Cedar City and west of Holts Summit, at the heart of which was Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church. The church also functioned as the first school for this community, prior to the building of an actual schoolhouse.

On September 2, 1864, Ronald Childs deeded a small parcel of land for the building of Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church; the following year the structure was completed and soon after, school was held there. There are no extant records pertaining to either the church or school from these early years and it is not known exactly how long the building functioned as a school.

In 1896 the church was rebuilt under Rev. Saul by Edd Oliver Sr., Henry Wilson, Osker Murray, Ronald Childs, Prissie Oliver, Lizzie Murray, Kattie Johnson, and Fanny Wilson. On September 5, 1929, two acres of adjacent land on the south side of church were purchased from Joseph Dearing for the purpose of extending the cemetery. During Rev. Shad Miller’s pastorate (dates unknown) the foundation was reinforced with concrete, including the necessary addition of three buttresses on the west end. Under Rev. G.W. Simmons, the Mt. Vernon Missionary Club was organized. In the 1960s the organization sponsored the addition of modern siding and a paved parking lot. The succeeding pastors have overseen further additions and interior remodeling, including bathrooms and the installation of gas heat.

It is uncertain exactly when a school building was erected. Oral sources indicate that a small, white frame building was built approximately two and one half miles south of Mt. Vernon Church, just north of the Katy Railroad tracks and west of what is now county road 391, at the foot of a hill. Not a trace of this building currently remains. It was traditionally called "Gravel Colored," or "Mt. Vernon Colored," of school district #102 (the origin of the name is unclear; the white school in the district was called Gravel). Grades one through eight were taught at both schools in the district. The earliest records date to 1909 and indicate that Gravel Colored was a five-month school that opened on September 9, and the teacher was Anna Anthony of Jefferson City; in 1910 the school year was expanded to six months and Lillian Ramsay was the teacher. In the county superintendent of schools’ annual report of report for 1924, Gravel Colored was listed as one of seven African American schools in operation. It was closed in 1928 when a black school was established in nearby Cedar City. Gravel’s last three teachers were: Nannie Smith (1924-1925); James Cole (1925-1926); and Francis Poston (1926-1927).

Despite its very simple design and current appearance—sporting relatively recent additions and vinyl siding—Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church is one of the oldest and most important African American landmarks in Callaway County; it served as both church and school and, perhaps most importantly, has continued to function as the heart of the black community in Holts Summit/Cedar City area for almost 135 years.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Mt. Vernon Church is situated on the edge of a slight hill, below street level on Callaway County Road 391, approximately three miles southwest of Holts Summit. Mt. Vernon Cemetery is directly south and west of the church. The church and cemetery are enclosed by a chain-link fence and woods and farmland ring the site.

41. Sources of information

Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.


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Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church.
View from northwest.

Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church (Gravel School).
Vcn. Holts Summit, MO.
View from northwest.
Gregory Colored School is a frame, gable schoolhouse with wooden porch, shake awning, two over two windows, and corrugated metal roof. The simplicity of the facade (and overall building) is offset with subtle wood dentil moulding above the off-center entrance door. The north side exhibits a second door. With the exception of chalkboards, all original interior trim is still intact.
At Yucatan, located along the eastern fringe of central Callaway County, a black community developed long before the Civil War. Local oral record maintains that several families of free blacks lived in the area as early as the 1840s. The black community of Yucatan has, until recent years, remained somewhat dispersed throughout the surrounding countryside, with little definite concentration. Yucatan's black community was traditionally comprised of families who migrated from a larger, closed community called "the 1,400 Acres," once located north of Portland, along the Callaway/Montgomery County line.

The present structure was built on a one-acre lot sometime in the 1870s. However, it does not appear in any of the county atlases of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The earliest written records of the school are inspection notes made by the Callaway County School Superintendent in 1909; Mary Robinett of Columbia was the teacher that year, and in 1910, Victoria Hunter. Callaway Superintendent of Schools, J.C. Humphreys, in his annual report of 1924 named Gregory Colored as one of seven African American schools in operation in Callaway County that year.

The teachers from 1924 through the early 1940s included: George Gregory (1923-1924); Mrs. S.F. Parsons (1924-1925); Riley Taylor (1925-1926); Lora Stover (1926-1927); Valen Stephenson (1927-1930); Zula Curtis (later Jennings) (1930-1931); Eleanor Gathright (1931-1932); Nellie Richmond; and Suzie Hunter.

The school day began early with song, Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer. Students had a fifteen minute recess at 10:00 and lunch from 12:00 to 1:00. Their playground was located east of the building.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the local white school board paid little attention to Gregory Colored. When basic building maintenance was needed, the board did not act immediately. For example, windows were frequently broken out. One winter in the 1930s, school was closed for two or three weeks before windows were replaced. The building was poorly insulated and difficult to heat with their small wood stove. To make matters worse, every winter Gregory faced a shortage of wood; the local board provided a specific allotment, and when the supply was used up, the teacher's request for additional wood was often ignored. Consequently, school was forced to close for weeks at a time during the winter; most years school was only in session for six or seven months. In the 1920s students in the white school were regularly inoculated against disease, while the African American students only occasionally received inoculations. The school board also saw to it that Gregory Colored regularly received the discarded text books from Gregory White School.

Gregory closed in the early 1940s. The building was subsequently used as a church in the 1940s and 1950s and as a general store, run by Red Carver, a local entrepreneur in the 1960s and 1970s.

In its simple design Gregory Colored is typical of many rural black schools in Central Missouri; the material neglect by the local school board is equally typical. Since the late 1970s, the structure has met with neglect and abuse, much to the dismay of the local black community. Nevertheless, Gregory is an important African American cultural resource in eastern Callaway County and merits recognition and preservation, despite its poor condition.

Gregory Colored is located on a one-acre lot on the west side of Callaway County Route D, approximately five miles north of Readsville. A double-wide mobile home is situated about forty yards south of the former school. There are woods behind the building. No outbuildings remain.
41. Sources of information

Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.

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William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Photographs

Gregory Colored School, Yucatan, MO.
View from southeast.

Gregory School.
View from northeast.

Gregory School.
View from southwest.
Hawkins was originally a one-room gable end schoolhouse. There are additions on north, east, and west sides, but the original structure remains intact underneath the later construction. It has recently been sheathed in vinyl. Little of the original interior remains.
Immediately following Emancipation, a community of former slaves developed in the area around New Bloomfield. The men supported their families primarily by working as farmhands. The women worked as domestics for white families.

Within a few years, the first Hawkins (Colored) School opened, sometime before 1875 (District 98, School #2); it first appears depicted in the Callaway County Atlas of 1876, on land owned by W.J. Hawkins). It was initially called a "Subscription School." (Some local sources say the school was built not on Hawkins' land, but on property donated specifically for that purpose by John Reese, whose home was east of the school building.) The name Hawkins was given to the school later, after the white Hawkins school.

The original Hawkins was a one-room, log building, heated by a central wood stove. School was held only a few months out of the year, compared to eight months at the white school; the teacher was paid in kind by the children's families, with produce, eggs and other food.

Around the turn of the century the old log building ceased to be used and a new school was built at the present site, approximately two miles east of New Bloomfield on what is now Route TT. The new Hawkins School was a 16' by 18' simple one-room, gable-end frame structure with an entrance on the south end and blackboards on the north wall. It was built on a half-acre lot, with a playground in front of the building. The building was very cold; a small coal stove provided minimal heat. Water was carried from a spring to the north of the school. Characteristically, books and materials were obtained secondhand from the white Hawkins School in New Bloomfield. Because there was no transportation provided, enrollment was quite small.

In later years, children from the black Cave's Community, east of New Bloomfield, attended. The Cave's Community children had to walk four miles, so they left home early, started their school day early and left school before the other students were dismissed, in order to get home before dark. So that their children could make the trip, the residents of Cave's Community even built a suspension footbridge over Hillers Creek. Among the New Bloomfield families whose children attended were the Murrays, Brookses, Reeses, Logans and Davises. Cave's Community families included the Caves, Holts and Howes. Teachers at the new Hawkins (some of whom were former students) included: Luther Cave, Maude Hunter, Lena Wade (later Lena Cave, from Fort Scott, Kansas), Katherine Jefferson, Flossie Brown (later Flossie Kelly) and Lucille Cave Glover.

Hawkins served only grades one through eight. Because of the economic circumstances of their families, most of the students never reached eighth grade, but almost all of them left Hawkins knowing how to read and write. Sometime in the early 1930s, when transportation by car became available to them, some of the grade school children were driven to school. High school students were transported by car to Carver in Fulton. Because Carver was a two-year high school, students who completed their education there were transported to Lincoln Lab High School in Jefferson City for their final years. In the beginning they were bused from Fulton to Jefferson City. Later, a bus from Auxvasse transported all the children from the Hawkins School.

Through the 1940s the black population in the New Bloomfield area declined, and by 1951, Hawkins School was closed. For the next five years, elementary school children from the area attended Washington School in Jefferson City. In 1956, the New Bloomfield schools were integrated.

After remaining vacant for a few years, Hawkins was purchased and converted into a private residence. The building was owned by a succession of individuals, among them, the Kelsey family, Carl Powell, and the current owner, Don Irvin. Irvin made extensive additions on the east and west sides of the building, creating a bedroom and kitchen.
Hawkins School is historically important in the development of the African American community in western Calloway County. The school served fully three generations of local African American children. Though the structure has been altered, its lasting importance as part of the area's African American cultural legacy must not be overlooked.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former Hawkins School is located approximately three miles southeast of New Bloomfield on Callaway Route TT at the intersection of Rd. #452. Woods line the property on the north and east. A modern home is located on the west side. There are no extant outbuildings.

41. Sources of information


Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.


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6/30/00
Photographs

Hawkins School, vcn. New Bloomfield, MO
View from southwest

Hawkins School
View from northeast

Hawkins School
Original school with additions under construction

Hawkins School
Before latest additions
Erected around 1900, Herbert King School is a simple, one-room, gable, frame structure. In its simple design, use of materials, and lack of even the most basic ornamentation, King typifies the rural African-American school. The building features: two over two windows, metal roof, single chimney, gable-end door, and concrete stoop. The interior has experienced little alteration, but chalkboards and desks have been removed.
39. History and Significance

After Emancipation, several substantial African American communities developed along the eastern edge of Callaway County, the largest of which was referred to as "The Fourteen-Hundred Acres," located along the Montgomery-Callaway line, north of Portland. As a key river port for Callaway County before the advent of the railroad, Portland attracted blacks who found jobs as menial laborers; the building of the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad through the southern edge of the county in the 1880s created similar work for blacks.

There is uncertainty surrounding the initial establishment of a school for African Americans in the Portland area. An early reference to a black school in the vicinity of Portland appears on October 11, 1901 in the short-lived Portland Ledger, which reported: "Both of our schools are closed, the white because of scarlet fever, the colored because of the St. Louis fair." Although Herbert King School dates to around the turn of the century, it does not appear on the Callaway County Atlas for 1897, but only in the atlas of 1919. In county records King was often referred to as Callaway District #90, Colored or simply "Portland Colored."

County superintendent's records show that in October 1910 the teacher was Ruth Sims and in June 1911, Lula Peach. The school operated on an eight-month year. However, in 1916 the number of school-aged black children dropped below the minimum number required to maintain a school, and King was closed. Pauline Baker Wilson was the teacher for the 1915-1916, year which operated from August 31 to April 26, with eleven students. Subsequently the building was used as a black church through the 1920s and early years of the Depression. It was re-opened as a school in September of 1938, only to close again in May 1945. Teachers included: Lu Ella Robinson (1938-1940); Oscar C. Lawson of Sedalia (1940-1942); Jettie C. Lawson (1942-1944); and Geraldine B. Cave (1944-1945).

It appears that the black community around Portland was temporarily revived in the later years of the Depression, only to once again witness a serious decline in the postwar years.

Herbert King was one of the few rural black schools in Callaway County that was constructed specifically for use as a school. Although there is no longer a black community in the Portland area, the structure is significant to the historical development of the Portland community in general. King is also architecturally significant; despite its architectural simplicity, it is perhaps the purest and best remaining example of an African American rural school in the Missouri River Valley. Though the building has experienced minor interior changes, specifically the removal if its desks and chalkboards, the exterior has not been altered and it remains on its original site.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse stands on a hill, on the south side of Highway 94 northeast of Portland, in southeastern Callaway County. There are no remaining outbuildings. Although greatly in need of attention, the building itself is protected and the site well maintained by the landowner.

41. Sources of information

Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.

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Oak Chapel Baptist Church is a simple gable-end church with later additions on both north and south ends. Facade exhibits a double-leaf entrance door and broad awning. It is sheathed in vinyl siding and devoid of ornament. Modern one-over-one windows have replaced originals. Overall, the historic building has been camouflaged by later renovation and appears as a modern structure.
Following Emancipation, a black community of farmers and farmhands, reported to be former local slaves, established a community in the geographically rugged area west of Guthrie, near the Boone County line. The Nevins family, whose land was due west of the church (now part of Mark Twain National Forest), would continue to be associated with the community from its early development through recent years. The original church was called Oak Ridge, and was probably built sometime in the early 1870s, although it does not appear in county maps until after the turn of the century. What is clear is that an early church and school were established in the community.

Sometime around 1900 a new church was built on the site. It is uncertain whether the old church was razed or simply adapted to create the new structure; it is the turn-of-the-century structure that remains, albeit enveloped by more recent additions and vinyl siding. In its most recent metamorphosis, the old church appears deceptively contemporary. The present structure poses something of a mystery in that apparently nothing has been written about either the building or the congregations that used it. Compounding the difficulty of documenting its history is the fact that the rural black community associated with the church and school dissolved in the 1930s. The current congregation is also African American, but has no connection to past congregations.

Dry Fork School may have been meeting in the original church since soon after Emancipation. Dry Fork Colored (later referred to as Callaway County #77), is believed to have been established in the late 1860s, making it one of the earliest black schools in the county. Mrs. Albert (Leola) McBride attended Dry Fork Colored School at what was originally called Oak Ridge Church for a number of years in the mid to late 1890s. "Then they changed it to a house over on Dry Fork Creek and that is where they finished-up. That was when I stopped school. We called graduation when you finished the 5th reader," McBride recalls. For McBride, "graduation" would have been about 1900. The house would have been located 1/4 to 1/2 mile north of the church on Dry Fork Creek. In 1911 Dry Fork Colored (at its new location) was taught by Lisha Martin, who was paid $25.00 per month for the six-month school year.

By the early 1960s Oak Chapel was effectively abandoned and in a state of disrepair. In 1965 the structure was purchased and renovated for use as a Baptist church. The renovation included extensive interior changes and the addition of a vestibule. In 1997 the congregation built a rear addition, which included a meeting room and administrative office space. The latest work also encased the entire building in vinyl siding.

Although the history of Oak Chapel Baptist Church is punctuated with uncertainty, one fact is evident: this site served as the heart of the local black community for many years and functioned as one of Callaway County's earliest rural schools. Although renovations have completely hidden surviving features of the earlier historic structures (and in the process negated its architectural significance), the cultural importance of Oak Chapel Church and cemetery must not be overlooked.

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40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Oak Chapel Church is located at the end of Callaway County Road 365, five miles west of Guthrie and approximately 1/4 mile north of Rt. J. It is situated on the crest of a ridge and ringed by woods. South of the church and across the road is the old section of the cemetery; directly north is the new section.

41. Sources of information

Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.


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Photographs

Oak Chapel Baptist Church, Vcn. Guthrie, MO, Callaway County
View from southeast

Oak Chapel Baptist Church
View from southwest
Erected in 1879, Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church is a gable-end church, a simple style typical of rural churches in general. On the exterior, vinyl siding covers the original clapboard, and concrete steps and a small aluminium awning highlight the facade. Original two-over-two windows, most with colored glass, are intact in the north and south walls. Interior features include the original floor and ceiling, vintage walnut pews and pulpit.
After the Civil War, several black communities developed in south Callaway County; other black families were scattered in secluded pockets, primarily north and west of Tebbetts. A number of families lived on the outskirts of the small town itself. Some of these families farmed their own land; others worked as laborers for local white farmers. Women worked as domestics in white households. Most of these families consisted of former local slaves and their descendants, who, upon Emancipation, retained names from former masters. Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church, just north of Tebbetts, served as a focal point for these communities. For these farmers, Oakley was a source of inspiration, as well as a place to socialize with family and friends. In the early years of the Great Depression it even functioned as the local school, a use not uncommon for black churches, especially in Callaway County. At least eight African American churches in the county at one time or another served as schools, some retained that function for many years.


Oakley was constructed by the men of the new congregation in the familiar, simple rectangular form assumed by most rural black churches. Windows utilized relatively inexpensive blue glass. The interior was and would remain quite basic, with simple wainscoting extending around the single room. The walnut pews and pulpit, of vernacular design, were examples of fine local craftsmanship. A single woodstove, centrally located was the only source of heat. A small parsonage was also erected approximately ten yards north of the church.

After Emancipation the black population in the Tebbetts area was substantial; by the 1870s, Hord "Colored" (Callaway District #106) had been established at a location northwest of Tebbetts. In the first decade of the twentieth century, a new building was erected one-half mile west of the original location. For many years Hord School accommodated the black students in the area, but it evidently closed in 1928, due to a decrease in school-age population. In 1932 Tebbetts "Colored" (District #108) was established in place of Hord School, and held classes in Oakley Chapel A.M.E. for a number of years in the early to mid 1930s. The only known teacher was Marie Higginsbottom, daughter of Oakley's minister at the time, Rev. H. Higginsbottom. Oral sources suggest that Oakley may have only served as a school for a few years, before the number of school-age children once again dropped below the specified number and the school was closed.

In 1949, Oakley's sister church, Cave A.M.E. (also known as Cedar Grove), located approximately five miles northwest of Tebbetts, closed. Oakley and Cave Churches were established at about the same time, and remained closely linked. For many years the preacher at Oakley also held services at Cave A.M.E. Cave Community, once the largest freedmen's settlement in Callaway County, had been experiencing a rapid decline since the late 1930s. A very remote farming community, it had never been accessible by automobile. Most of the remaining members of that congregation
transferred to Oakley; various families of Caves, Howes, and Holts were welcome additions to Oakley's congregation. As early as the mid-1940s, Oakley's membership was expanding to include individuals from a much broader area. Clearly Oakley's deteriorating congregation benefited temporarily from the demise of black farming and need for rural black labor.

By the early 1950s, Oakley was greatly in need of repair. In 1954 the building was remodeled during the tenure of Rev. Marjorie L. Casson, who had become Oakley's first female pastor one year earlier and who closely oversaw the project through completion. The renovation included the construction of a small concrete porch and steps, the installation of five walnut pews from Cave Church, and the addition of asbestos siding. The original wooden steps were replaced by poured concrete ones. The few extant records from Cave Church were placed behind the cornerstone, which was re-laid as the old foundation was shored up. Marjorie Casson was also pastor of several other A.M.E. churches in mid-Missouri. In 1954 she spearheaded the renovation of one of her other churches, St. John A.M.E. in Centralia. Casson remained at Oakley for over twenty-five years.

On April 7, 1962 the old parsonage was razed and the building of a new one begun. Rev. M.L. Brown of Quincy, Illinois presided over the groundbreaking ceremony. Rev. Quinn of Jefferson City and Rev. H.L. Vaughn were on hand for the dedication of the new parsonage.

The farm crisis of the 1920s and the Depression that followed had devastating effects on the rural black communities in the county, and indeed, throughout Missouri. Specifically, the programs of the New Deal offered economic security to black farmers and farm hands, and lured whole families out of their rural isolation, which in turn caused a rapid decline in population that dealt a severe blow to once-thriving black communities in South Callaway. Rural black schools continued to decline. On the eve of Desegregation, there were only five black schools operating in the county. Churches like Oakley also continued to decline through the 1950s and 1960s, as succeeding generations gravitated toward opportunities in Fulton, Jefferson City and even St. Louis. In 1964 Oakley boasted thirty-seven members; by 1980 Oakley's congregation had dropped to a small handful. Today, only two dedicated members remain. Services are still held in Oakley, albeit on a monthly basis.

Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church is an important African American landmark in Central Missouri. For over 120 years it has served black families in south Callaway County as not only a religious center, but an educational and social center as well. Fortunately, it has retained a high degree of architectural integrity; many of its original features, both inside and out, are still intact. Even the 1954 renovation was intended only to repair and preserve the building, not to significantly alter it. Oakley is also noteworthy in that it is a fine example of a simple religious/vernacular form of architecture that is fast vanishing from Missouri's rural landscape.

Every third Sunday in June, the small congregation of Oakley holds a basket supper attended by individuals whose families were once connected to Oakley, as well as the larger black community of south Callaway County. Donations from this yearly event constitute the bulk of Oakley's financial support, and, consequently, more attention has been paid to addressing only the most necessary maintenance; in 1997 the building was re-roofed. Oakley should be seriously considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, primarily for its value to the ethnic heritage of Callaway County and of Missouri. However, its architectural significance should not be overshadowed by its enduring history.
40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church is perched on ridge, approximately one-eighth of a mile north of Tebbetts; the property offers a spectacular view of the Missouri River and bottom land east of Tebbetts. The Cemetery occupies the entire eastern half of the property. A parsonage is located approximately fifteen yards north of the church; a well is directly northeast.

41. Sources of information

Hamilton, William. Fulton, MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.


42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/00
Photographs

Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church
Tebbetts, MO.
View from southwest

Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church
View from west: facade

Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church
Cornerstone

Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church
View from southeast

Oakley Chapel A.M.E. Church
View from northeast
Erected prior to the turn of the century, Crow's Fork Baptist Church is a simple gable-end structure with an annex addition on the south side and an attached restroom addition on the southeast corner. Original double entrance doors and one-over-one windows remain intact. It is sheathed in asphalt sheets, but has otherwise retained its original appearance. It has retained all pews and other interior features as well.
In the late nineteenth century a widely diffused black farming community developed east of Fulton. Crow's Fork Baptist Church was built sometime prior to the turn of the century, presumably at around the same time as the adjoining cemetery was established. It was named for a nearby creek. A deed could not be located but the earliest graves date from the 1890s (although there are also numerous unmarked graves in the oldest section of the cemetery). Neither church nor cemetery appears on county maps before 1915. Pugh Colored School was eventually established in the church. The eastern addition to the church dates to this era and was probably added for use as a classroom as well as for a church annex. Pugh "white" School was located approximately one mile south of Crow's Fork Church. The schools were so close to one another that former students from the white school recall hearing the sounds of black children playing outside at recess.

Records from as early as 1906 suggest that a black school was in operation before that date but at that time there were not enough black students in the district to warrant hiring a teacher. Reports note that there were two schoolrooms in the district, but only was used, due to the fact that there were only nine black students in the district. In 1908, enumeration records indicate eleven black students, and in 1909, fifteen. In 1910 the black school-age population reached a sufficient number. Luther Cave of Dixie (Cave's Community) was the first teacher on record, hired in 1910 to teach a five month term at $30.00 per month. The term in 1911-1912 was even shorter, beginning in early October and ending in early February. In 1912-1913 Georgia Tilford taught a five-month term with twenty-one students. The district clerk's report for that year notes that Pugh district had two schools in operation, each seating forty-five students. In 1913-1914 Grace Bradford taught a split-session six-month term consisting of four winter months and two and one half months in April, May, and June, with fifteen students (a significant decline from the previous year). In 1914-1915, a drop in enrollment closed the school (thirteen students), but it reopened the following year (1915-1916) with twenty students and an eight-month split session (five months in fall and three in the spring) and Verlie Porter as teacher. In 1916-1917 Pauline Baker Wilson of Portland was the teacher with seventeen students. There are no records available for the years 1918-1923, but records beginning with the 1923-1924 school year, do not mention an African American school in the Pugh district. From 1910 through 1917 $25.00 to $30.00 per month remained standard salary for black teachers, while the teacher at Pugh White, with comparable enrollment, received $40.00 per month. The Pugh district encompassed over seven square miles of Township 47, Range 8, Sections 4,5,6,7,8,9, and 18. Pugh White continued to operate until it was consolidated with Fulton Public Schools in 1966.

Crow's Fork Church was used and maintained until the mid-1980s by a handful of descendants of who lived in in nearby Fulton, but has been largely neglected since that time. In the late 1980s it was purchased by the present owner, Ronald Slaughter, who is well aware of its historical significance.

Although the rural black community associated with Crow's Fork Church has long disappeared, along with much of its history, the church and cemetery remain as solitary reminders. Under the protection of the present landowner, it has so far escaped vandalism and total neglect that has led to the destruction of similar rural black sites in Callaway County. Although not architecturally significant, Crow's Fork is an important black cultural resource in Callaway County, and is one of only few remaining rural African American churches still intact in the county. It merits further research and preservation.

Crow's Fork Church is located on a one and one-half acre parcel of land on the west side of Callaway County Road #123, just north of County Road 108. Crow’s Fork Cemetery is northwest of
the structure. The site is ringed by farmland and woods and enclosed by a barbed wire fence on three sides and a chain-link fence in front.

41. Sources of information

Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Crow's Fork Baptist Church, vcn. Williamsburg, MO. View from northeast.

Crow's Fork Baptist Church. View from northwest.
Constructed as a coal workers cottage prior to 1920, Truitt School is a simple side gabled, one-room ceramic block structure with metal roof, exposed rafter ends, and four-over-four windows (two on both east and west sides and one on both gabled ends). The original interior remains intact, but desks and chalkboards have been removed.
In the late nineteenth century a small African American community developed approximately three miles south of Stephens Store, along the western edge of Callaway County. Simpson A.M.E. Church served as the heart of this small, yet active community. Most of the males in the community worked as farmhands for local white farmers, while others labored in the nearby coal fields.

Sometime before the turn of the century there were enough school-age black children to warrant a school. The location of the original school is not depicted in any of the county atlases, nor do we know exactly when it was established. Oral sources insist that the earliest African American school in the district (#34) was a small log house on the west side of County Road 269, north of Monicle Creek. The earliest written record pertaining to the school dates to the 1909-1910 school year; John W. Thomas of Shelbyville, Tennessee was the teacher from at least as early as 1909 through 1914. Their five month term opened on August 30, 1909 with 33 students enrolled. On October 20, 1909, and October 18, 1910 the school was inspected by the County Superintendent, who referred to it as "Truitt Colored" and noted that Thomas was the teacher. Truitt graduated one student in 1914.

The original school building was destroyed by fire in the early 1920s and shortly thereafter, Clint Nickelson, a local white coalmonger, offered a small, red ceramic block building, which was formerly the home of one of his employees. It was outfitted with discarded desks and chalkboards from the white school in the district, the same school from which Truitt students commonly obtained used textbooks and other materials. This small building served as Truitt School until desegregation in 1954.

Students from eastern Boone County and from as far away as McCredie (present-day Kingdom City) also attended Truitt. McCredie's black school-age population fell below the required number and was forced to close in May, 1930. Students from McCredie were transported seven miles by car.

The teachers from 1932 through 1954 included: Gertrude Phillips (1932-1933); Mrs. Cecil Griswell (1933-1934); Helen Hunter (1934-1936); Lucille Baines (1936-1937); Flossie Pearl Logan of Auxvasse (1938-1941); Maude Hunter of Auxvasse (1941-1942); Mrs. Corene Bradford of Fulton (1942-1944); Eula Allene Glover of Fulton (1944-1947); Lena Wade Cave (1947-1948); Mrs. Alma Smallwood Richmond (1948-1954). Richmond was paid the sum of $325.00 per month, the highest salary drawn by any black teacher in rural Callaway County.

First through eighth grades were all taught in a single room with eight desks. Chalkboards lined the east interior wall between the door and flanking windows. A single wood stove, centrally located, provided heat in what was a very cold building. The school day began with the recitation of the Lord’s Prayer and a song. East of the entrance was the playground where, at recess and after school, students played baseball and other games.

Upon graduation, students could attend high school, but up until 1947 the boarding school at Lincoln in Jefferson City was the only option and parents had to pay tuition; for most black families it was simply not feasible. From 1948 to 1954 bus transportation was provided by the state, but students had to walk as much as three or four miles to catch the bus on Highway 40.

The annual Christmas program was one of the highlights of the year. Parents were asked to contribute scrap material for costumes, and old sheets were used for curtains. Attendance was so high that it was always standing room only in the small building. Graduation was also a gala event with a full evening of performance and song. Both of these events offered a chance for the entire community to gather; consequently, in later years they were held across the road at Simpson A.M.E. Chapel, which could better accommodate the crowd.
Although not architecturally significant, Truitt is an important African American cultural resource in western Callaway County.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Truitt School is located on a small rural lot adjacent to Simpson Chapel A.M.E. Chapel on Rd. 269, approximately two miles South of the Stephens Store Community in North-central Callaway County. No contemporaneous outbuildings remain. A mobile home is situated approximately 100 feet east.

41. Sources of Information

Hamilton, William. Fulton MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
The Bartlett Classroom Building is a brick, two-story structure, laid out in a modified four-over-four plan. In design, the structure reflects the symmetry and simplicity of form typical of the era. The horizontal, blocky quality of the structure is broken up by vertical masonry detail in the central portion of the facade and by brick quoins which extend from the foundation to an upper belt course on all four corners of the building. It exhibits six sets of double twelve-over-twelve windows on its facade, along with a centrally positioned single twelve-over-twelve with four-pane flanking sidelights located.
above the entrance. The same twelve-over-twelve windows are present on its south side, (four sets of double windows flanking its south entrance) and the west side (six sets of triple windows). The north side exhibits one small window on each floor. Vandalism has taken its toll on most of the windows. The interior consists of two classrooms and a home economics room in the first floor and two classrooms and an auditorium on the second floor. Although the interior is in a state of disrepair, most of the original fixtures, including lockers, water fountains and chalkboards are still intact; even books and other materials remain from its last year of operation (1956-1957).

39. History and Significance

Dalton Vocational School was the brainchild of Nathaniel C. Bruce, who wanted to establish a school in the Midwest modeled after his alma mater, Tuskegee. Bruce had been a student of Booker T. Washington. Like his mentor, he believed that education was the key to black progress, and he dedicated his life to the education of his race. Originally called the Bartlett Agricultural and Industrial School, Bruce's institution served thousands of black Missourians from the time it opened in 1907 until it closed at the end of the 1954-1955 school year. Dalton Vocational School so closely resembled the famed Alabama institution, that Bruce himself often referred to his school as "the Tuskegee of the Midwest."

After settling in St. Joseph for a brief period, where he acted as a high school principal, Bruce moved to Chariton County where, in 1907, his dream began to materialize. He established his school in a log barn on eight acres of land owned by John Ewing, an ex-slave who owned 120 acres of land adjoining the small railroad town of Dalton. Initially Bruce had five students, three boys and two girls, each of whom spent half of the day in the classroom and the other half in the field. His goal, as expressed in a school brochure, was "to train the negro youth 'back to the land' and for efficient service in the home and on the farm."

Bruce rented land in the nearby Missouri River bottom in 1908-1909 and experienced total crop failures both years, forcing Bruce and his students to live on cornbread and water, and to search for higher ground. Simultaneously, his tribulations came to the attention of several prominent citizens of St Joseph, Columbia, and St. Louis: Mr. and Mrs. Herschel Bartlett, Judge and Mrs. W. K. James, Professor Joseph D. Elliff, Dr. Calvin N. Woodward, Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Busch I, William B. Ittner and Charles Nagel, each of whom made contributions that allowed Bruce to purchase twelve acres of land from George D. Dalton. Later in 1909, Bruce and his students erected the first permanent building, the Busch Building, on the school's new campus. This two-story frame structure housed four classrooms and a boys' dormitory. He named the school the Bartlett Agricultural and Industrial School, after its chief benefactor.

In 1911, the Bartlett Agricultural and Industrial School was reorganized under a board of trustees. The school operated under the day-to-day supervision of Bruce and the guidance of a fifteen-person board dominated by Judge James and Bartlett. The teachers' salaries during this period came almost exclusively from private donations, supplemented by money earned from crops and livestock raised at the school. The board purchased an additional sixty acres of land in 1912. That same year they constructed the Bartlett Building, containing two additional classrooms, an auditorium, and a girls' dormitory. In 1914 a new barn and silo were built, funded by the school's $3,000 prize for winning a statewide corn-growing contest, sponsored by the Missouri Corn Growers' Association. But all the while Bruce, with endorsement by the board of trustees, began to lobby for much-needed state support. Since most families could hardly afford tuition, the school often accepted donations of potatoes, navy beans, and other produce as payment.
In addition to students from surrounding towns, individuals from as far away as Montgomery City, Mexico, and Bunceton attended Bartlett School. The out-of-town students stayed in dormitories on the premises; girls stayed upstairs in one building and boys stayed in another. Classes were held in the downstairs rooms of these same buildings. Some of the local students only attended for part of the day because they had to work to contribute to family income. Local students are known to have traveled up to five miles one way via wagon, two-wheeled cart, and even muleback to attend classes.

In 1918 Missouri Governor Fredrick D. Gardner organized the Negro Industrial Commission to research and advise the state in the educational, moral and industrial betterment of African Americans. Not suprisingly, Bruce was appointed as the first chairman of the newly organized commission that, among other things, aimed to advise black farmers in the matter of better and more productive farming. The commission offered as one of its major legislative recommendations the establishment of a sub-experiment station under the control of the state. Bruce hoped that his school would become such a station, and after several years of lobbying by Bruce and his fellow commissioners over the viability of the idea, his school was chosen to function in that capacity. In 1923 the board of trustees donated fifty acres of chioce land to the state of Missouri for developing an agricultural extension model farm for the training of black youth. With this inducement, the 52nd General Assembly (1923) appropriated $15,000 for the organization and administration of a demonstration farm and agricultural school expressly for African Americans at Dalton, but under the college of Agriculture of the University of Missouri. With the takeover, the institution's name changed to the Dalton Vocational School. The following year the school was placed under general control of the College of Agriculture and the money used to buy more land and erect new buildings, including a model farmhouse, a trade shop, and hog and poultry houses.

Early in 1924 Bruce was appointed State Inspector of Negro Schools by the State Superintendent of Schools and later in the year left the Dalton School to devote more time to his new post. H.L. Drew, who had been trained at the school by Bruce, became acting principal. Dalton remained under state control until 1929, when the 55th General Assembly transferred control from the University of Missouri to Lincoln University in Jefferson City. The 1929 law also provided that African American children living in a school district which made no provision for their education could attend Dalton School without paying tuition. That same year, John W. Butler, a Bruce student and former farm demonstration agent, became acting principal. Upon Butler's death in 1934, E.M. Parrish, the Vocational Agriculture instructor, received the interim principal appointment. The following year Beverly R. Foster was elected principal.

The school continued to grow throughout the 1930s; enrollment reached forty-two in 1931, and more than doubled over the next decade. The 1942 term's enrollment totaled 109 students, 49 boys and sixty girls, taught by ten instructors, seven of whom were Lincoln graduates. Even though appropriations never proved adequate, state money continued to provide the main source of the school's financing.

The original Bartlett Building was destroyed by fire in 1931. At the time it housed fourteen girls and three female instructors. The building was a total loss, unrecoverable by insurance, since the policy had been allowed to lapse because of insufficient funds. The Missouri legislature soon appropriated money for a new building in 1937. F.C. Heariold, superintendent of buildings and grounds at Lincoln University, designed the new Bartlett Building, and students and faculty pitched in to help build it. Dedication of the new building occurred on May 18, 1938. Principal Foster presided over the cornerstone-laying ceremony. William J. Thompkins, a Lincoln alumnus and Recorder of Deeds, Washington D.C., delivered the keynote address. Others on hand included W.B. Jason, acting
president of Lincoln University; Roland Wiggins, State Inspector of Negro Schools; W.G. Mosley, field agent at Lincoln University; and Nathaniel C. Bruce. The two-story brick building cost $38,355.56 to construct and contained four classrooms, an auditorium and a library. Like the earlier building on the same site, the new structure was named for Herschel Bartlett, one of the school's early benefactors.

During the ten-year period from the mid-1930s through the mid-1940s, Dalton received approximately $173,000 of state funds, or an average of $17,300 per year. In 1938, the school purchased a bus for the transportation of students from outlying areas, in addition to the two privately owned automobiles they had already been using to transport sixty-eight non-resident students from Salisbury, Keytesville, Triplett, and other small communities in the area.

By the early 1950s, Dalton Vocational School received approximately $100,000 each biennial legislative session. But despite modest increases in funding through the years, Dalton School still received less than it needed to operate adequately. In 1951 Dalton Vocational School served nineteen school districts in Carroll, Chariton, Howard, Linn, and Saline Counties. Students were transported by bus from as far as seventy miles away. By statutory provision, these districts remained exempt from tuition and did not have to pay transportation costs, which caused a further drain on the school's limited finances.

Dalton's teachers were not well paid. For example, when Eliot F. Battle, a Tuskegee graduate, was installed as principal in September 1953, his salary was set at $3,200 per year. The average white male high school teacher in the state earned slightly over $4,000 per year, and the average white high school teacher made about $3,400. With twelve years of teaching experience, Victoria Jones earned $2,160, and the average Dalton teacher made only $2,110.

Despite poor salaries, Dalton School boasted several fine instructors who distinguished themselves by their many years of loyal service. E. M. Parrish taught vocational agriculture from 1929 until 1944. Victoria Jones taught history, social studies, math and served as the school librarian from 1932 until 1956. Reginald S. Robinson taught English and speech for twenty-two years.

Following the Brown v. the Board of Education decision in 1954, the 68th General Assembly appropriated $42,500 (a reduction of $7,500 below the operational costs for the 1954-1955 school year) for the operation of the Dalton Vocational School for one last year; Dalton closed its doors for good in May 1956 and Dalton students began to attend schools in their own communities. The superintendent of the local district expressed interest in leasing the property, but when arrangements fell through, Lincoln University's board of curators recommended to the General Assembly that the state sell the property.

In 1957, the 69th General Assembly passed House Bill 562, which authorized the board of curators to transfer land and property of the school "to any state agency." The bill further stipulated that if not conveyed to a state agency within two years, the property could be sold by the curators "on the most advantageous terms possible." Because no state agency apparently wanted the property, it stood idle for several years, experiencing neglect and vandalism. In 1960 Lincoln advertised the buildings and approximately 123 acres of land for public sale "by Special Warranty Deed." Donald Grotjan, a local farmer, placed the high bid of $15,498, but later declared himself unable to purchase the property because the bank refused to finance purchase "by Special Warranty Deed." When none of the other bidders expressed further interest in buying the land, the board of curators approved the request of Donald Kahler for grazing rights to the land with the understanding that he would maintain the property. Finally, in 1971, a local black farmer and Dalton alumnus, Roland L. Hughes, purchased the property for $20,000. By the time Hughes acquired the property, most of the buildings were in
disrepair. Hughes still uses the barn, the former cafeteria and machine shop and the Bartlett Building, which has been adapted for re-use as a tobacco drying facility and to house hogs.

The Bartlett Building was once the heart of the Dalton campus and has long been symbol of the school that played an integral role in the lives of African Americans from all over Central Missouri. The building stands as a silent testimonial to Bruce's vision and the school's accomplishments.

The Bartlett Building is in the best condition of all the remaining structures on the former Dalton campus. Although it has been neglected, it is still structurally intact and is a prime candidate for renovation. It also merits consideration for a National Register nomination; many former students have expressed a passionate interest in saving and renovating the structure, only to be discouraged by the financial reality of such an undertaking.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The Bartlett Building is perched on a hill in the center of what was Dalton Vocational School, just north of the city limits of Dalton. Directly northeast of the building are two homes, one the former principal's cottage and the other a later dwelling, and the former cafeteria and machine shop; the Busch building is about 300 feet southwest (see Site Plan and Extant Buildings).

41. Sources of information


42. Form Prepared by
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6/30/99
DALTON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL: EXTANT BUILDINGS

Busch Building
1909

Shop
c.1920

Modern Pole Barn

Cafeteria
FRONT

Shop

Front

Principal's Cottage
c.1930

Well
Addition c. 1950

Garage

Barn
c.1915, c.1920

Cafeteria
c.1920

Poultry House
c. 1950

Cafeteria

Modern Pole Barn
(Dilapidated)

Shop

Poultry House

Shed
Lincoln School is a simple T-plan, frame structure. A covered porch and carport have been added to the eastern end; an enclosed porch graces the western end. With the exception of hardwood floors, little of the original interior remains intact.
Keytesville’s African American community was concentrated primarily on the southern edge of the city. Many families migrated to Keytesville from the all-black farming community of Namrash in the early decades of the twentieth century. Keytesville’s African American community originally developed west of the business district. The first African American school in Keytesville was a small frame structure, built around 1870 at Depot Road (later Grand Street) and Harris Street.

Around the turn of the century the focus of the black community shifted to the southwestern edge of the city. In the 1890s the local school board purchased a one-acre lot at the southwest corner of Water and New Streets. Lincoln School, a two-room, T-plan, frame structure was soon erected.

Eight grades were taught at Lincoln and two teachers were employed; grades one through four were taught on the east end of the building and fifth through eighth on the west side. A permanent wall divided the classrooms. A single woodstove provided heat for both rooms.

Teachers included: Mrs. Helen Hyde King; Mrs. Ruth Flournoy Ray (also the principal) Hattie Powell; and Mamie Louis Warrick. Textbooks were always well-used discards from Keytesville’s white school. Each morning the students lined up in the front of the school and in two single-file lines marched into the classroom where they would recite the Lord’s Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, the Ten Commandments, and a song, before beginning class.

The playground was located southwest of the school "down under the hill," where students played baseball and other games; in inclement weather spelling bees were held inside. Highlights of the school year were the Christmas music program and Commencement. These events attracted many individuals from the community. The traditional last-day-of-school-picnic was also an eagerly-awaited event.

Until the 1930s high school was not a viable option; those who wished to attend had to make arrangements with friends or relatives in Kansas City or attend the boarding school at Lincoln in Jefferson City. Beginning around 1933 students attended high school at Dalton Vocational School (see #13), located approximately six miles southwest of Keytesville. Bus transportation was provided.

Lincoln was used until Keytesville Public Schools desegregated in 1957. In 1963, Lloyd Wheeler purchased the building and adapted it for re-use as a private residence. The classroom was divided into a living room, bedroom, and bathroom, and the wall between the entrance hall/cloak room and classrooms was removed. A porch was constructed on the western end of the building, which was later enclosed. The larger Victorian windows were replaced with smaller ones, asbestos siding was added, and the entrance was shifted from the front of the hall to the side.

Despite experiencing significant modifications, Lincoln is one of Keytesville’s most important African American cultural resources.

Lincoln School is located on a one-acre, hillside lot at the corner of New and Water Streets in the southwestern fringe of Keytesville. It is bounded by woods on the north and pasture on the south. No contemporaneous outbuildings remain.

**Sources of information**


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Students in front of Lincoln School, Keytesville, MO. c.1910. Photo courtesy of Pocahontas Wheeler.

Lincoln School. View from southeast.
Lincoln School is a simple brick central hall or T-plan variation typical of post-World War II adaptations of this classic form. Except for a small entrance awning and covered basement entrance, added as part of the 1980s renovation, Lincoln has retained its original form and overall appearance, including six-over-six windows (two evenly-spaced on both north and south ends, and in two sets of five [ribbon windows] on the west side). The structure also reflects the 1940s revival of neo classical design, that was particularly popular in schools and other public buildings. Classical simplicity is evident in its overall symmetry, central gable, windows, original entrance treatment, and use of...
decorative attic vents centered on all three gables. Later renovations have only slightly altered the original hall and two-classroom floor plan and a significant amount of original interior trim remains intact.

39. History and Significance

The town of Salisbury developed after the Civil War, and with it a black community consisting primarily of former slaves from the area (Chariton, Howard and Randolph Counties). The city's African American community was traditionally located on the south edge of the city. Around the turn of the century the black community experienced significant growth, as what had been Chariton County's largest rural black community, Namrash, began to dissolve and black families gravitated toward jobs in Glasgow, Keytesville, Brunswick and Salisbury. By 1880 an A.M.E. Church had been established, and, by 1909, the Second Baptist Church which continues to serve the community today.

There is a considerable amount of uncertainty as to when the first school for African Americans was established in Salisbury. The oral record maintains that two-room frame structure (also called Lincoln) was constructed around 1890 at the present site on Weber Street with a gable-end entrance facing the road. A deed could not be located. It is likely that the A.M.E. Church, built prior to this date, and on an adjoining property, served as a temporary school before Lincoln was erected. The earliest written records date to the first decade of the twentieth century and list J.H. Viley as principal and Nora B. Oney as assistant principal for the 1905-1906 school year.

In 1941 Lincoln School burned, and the following year "new" Lincoln was erected on the same site. Lincoln was laid out on a simple T-plan and contained two classrooms separated by a central hall; grades one through three on the south end and four through eight on the north. The chalkboards in both rooms were located on the windowless east wall. A stairway just inside the front entrance descended to a cafeteria in the basement with a small kitchen located at one end. The playground was located north/northwest of the building and in front, along Weber Street and contained little in the way of equipment. The original entrance was comprised of a pair of three-pane doors topped with a five-pane transom light.

Teachers at Lincoln included: Frankie McAdams (Miss Frankie); A.B. Boulden; Mr. Samuel Richardson; Mr. Wise; Mr. Bagby; Mr. Thonkin; and Nanny Hopkins. The principal was Clyde Banks. Books and other materials were handed down directly from the local white grade school. Black students were well aware of where the books originated and resented having to use books that were barely servicable. After graduating eighth grade, students could attend Dalton Vocational School (see #13) located approximately eleven miles southwest of Salisbury. Bus transportation was provided.

Salisbury Public Schools desegregated in 1956, at which point Lincoln was purchased by the city of Salisbury and used as an annex until 1965, when the it was given to the Chariton County Historical Society to house a museum. Lincoln served the needs of the society from 1966 to 1983. When the historical society acquired new facilities in 1983, they sold the building to the congregation of Peace Lutheran Church, who altered the interior to accommodate their needs, replaced the original entrance doors with a single insulated door, and constructed a front entrance awning and a gabled rear entrance shelter.

Lincoln School looks much the same as it did when it closed its doors as an educational institution almost a half century ago. It is one of the last African American schools to be constructed in our eighteen-county survey area and has retained much its original appearance; it has been well maintained. Although not of great architectural significance, it is a cherished landmark in Salisbury's
black community, and one of only three black public schools remaining in Chariton County.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Lincoln is located on a large lot on the north edge of the city park, on Weber Street (Highway 129) in south Salisbury. An entrance lane is directly north of the structure and a vacant lot to the west. There are no outbuildings.

41. Sources of information

Dameron, Lilly. Interview. Tape Recording, Salisbury, MO. June 12, 1999

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Lincoln School, Salisbury, MO.
View from northeast

Lincoln School
View from northwest
Dalton's Phyllis Wheatley School is a simple two-classroom, T-shape school with intersecting gable, corrugated metal roof, clapboard siding, and subtle Victorian exterior trim. Original doors, two-over-two windows, and porch awning are still intact. Interior features include: original hardwood floors, bullseye mullion, and one original chalkboard. The floorplan has experienced only slight alterations.
39. History and Significance

A small African American community had developed in Dalton before the turn of the century, largely due to the advent of the railroad. Prior to 1900, most blacks in Chariton County lived in an all-black community called Namrash, approximately seven miles south. Namrash was the largest black community in Chariton county and as it began to dissolve in the 1890s, families scattered throughout the county, augmenting already established black communities in such towns as Salisbury, Keytesville, Brunswick, Forest Green, and Dalton. The development of Dalton's African American community coincided with the establishment of Dalton Vocational School. The 1900s and 1910s especially witnessed the migration of black families to the Dalton area, necessitating the establishment of two new schools in the Missouri River bottoms. Agee School, located several miles south of Dalton, was the largest of the two.

Phillis Wheatley was established around 1890 by two sisters, Lauraminna and Violet Woods, who taught there for many years. The relatively high enrollment warranted the employment of two teachers; grades one through four were taught in the larger classroom on the west end, and grades five through eight on the eastern end. A sliding wooden partition divided the two classrooms and was removed for Christmas programs and other functions that required larger space.

Teachers in the 1900s-1920s included: Professor Tate; Professor Payne; Dorothy Skillman; Mary Tatum; Theodosia Soil; Mitchell Barton; and Rosa Taylor. During this time it became a standard practice for the teacher to see to it that older students aided in instructing the younger students.

Each morning the teacher led the students in a short devotion, Pledge of Alliegance, and song. This traditionally took place on the front steps, weather permitting. Their curriculum was very basic, with emphasis placed on reading, writing and arithmetic. Books and other materials were, without exception, passed down from the white school; students at Wheatley never received new materials of any kind. Recreational equipment was either brought from home by the students, or donated by parents.

The school ground encompassed about two acres; the playground was located north and east of the building along the hillside, and consisted of a ball field, basketball court, and swings. Wheatley remained in use through the early 1920s, at which point children began to attend a new grade school recently erected at the present site of Dalton Vocational School, approximately one half mile northeast of Wheatley. When the Dalton school was destroyed by fire in 1936, Wheatley was reopened and an additional (third) classroom soon added on the north end. Beginning in the 1920s, after graduating from the eighth grade, students could attend high school at Dalton Vocational School. Wheatley was used until 1956, when desegregation called for all schoolchildren in and around Dalton to be transported to Keytesville. Teachers in the 1930s through 1950s included: Mrs. Day; Bernice Morgan; B.A. Winn; and Charles Mann.

In 1963, after several years of disuse, the building was purchased by Burt Coy, a Dalton resident; he adapted it for re-use as a private residence. A permanent partition between the two rooms and the addition of a kitchen with running water and bedroom on the eastern end constituted the major changes. Coy subsequently razed the 1940s (north) addition and salvaged the lumber. The interior, including the original bullseye Mullion and trim, was largely left intact. Andy Turner, a tenant of Coy through the late 1950s and early 1960s, was the last person to live in the building.

In the 1960s Wheatley was sold to a Christian congregation to use as a church. A raised stage and hardwood railing were added as the western end was converted into an apse. The Church of God in Christ used the building until around 1973; it has been vacant ever since. In 1989 Donald Hughes purchased the property through a quit-claim deed.
Despite its extremely poor condition, Wheatley is an important African American cultural resource; it played a key role in the development of Dalton's still vibrant African American community.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Wheatley is located on the south side of a hill on Plum Street, on the western edge of Dalton. Vacant lots and farmland ring the building. A well is located approximately twenty feet southeast of the main entrance; a privy is situated approximately fifty feet east. On the northern end a concrete foundation outlines where the 1940s addition once stood.

41. Sources of Information


42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
PHYLLIS WHEATLEY SCHOOL
DALTON, MO.
CHARITON COUNTY
ORIGINAL INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT
Built in 1912, Garrison School is a rectilinear brick building of vernacular design. Original windows and doors have been replaced, but otherwise the building has retained its original appearance and architectural integrity. Dressed stone sills are still intact. Although constructed much later, the gymnasium/auditorium north of the classroom building (Garrison Assembly Hall) has also retained its original exterior and interior appearance. Main building and gym are connected by a causeway, off of which are several smaller, recent additions.
After the Civil War, a significant black community developed on the northern edge of Liberty. By 1872 they had founded Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and in 1875 erected an A.M.E. church on north Main Street.

The first African American school in Liberty was established shortly after Emancipation in a large room on the second floor of the home of Miss Laura Armstrong. This school is said to have been in the vicinity of the present structure. Subsequently, a school was established in the home of Lucretta Robinson. Robinson taught both African American and Native American children from the Liberty area. Classes were later held in the "Old Rock Church," which stood near the present building. The teacher at this site was Nathan Berry.

In 1880 the first black school in Liberty was constructed on the north end of Main Street. One year earlier, the local school board had purchased the land for an unspecified amount. "Old" Garrison was a brick T-plan school with three rooms (two classrooms) and an enrollment of about one hundred students by 1900.

In 1910 the 1880 building burned; the present building was erected on the same site in 1912. In 1939 an assembly hall was added north of the original building.

One of Garrison's best known educators was Professor James Arthur Gay. Born in Texas in 1882, Gay was hired in 1910 to serve as both teacher and principal of "Old" Garrison. He remained in that position in the new structure until 1932.

In 1922 Garrison's enrollment was 123 students. The school accommodated grades one through eight and two years of high school. Lillian Booker, Minnie Williams, and Marion Pearley were noted teachers at Garrison through the 1920s. Characteristically, books and other materials were discards from the local white school.

In 1932 Professor C.E. Gantt was hired as the new principal; he would stay until Liberty Public Schools were desegregated in 1956. On the eve of desegregation, in the early 1950s, Garrison had seven teachers, including an art supervisor and band instructor. A local newspaper report from the fall of 1952 stated that according to Gantt: "... everything has been done to secure adequate equipment, modern facilities, and an enriched curriculum to give Garrison students maximum opportunity to develop their talents." Garrison boasted six large classrooms, a cafeteria, assembly hall that would accommodate 500 people, a gymnasium, school library, home economics room, modern restrooms and showers. Gantt noted that during inclement weather, students didn't have to leave the building because all the facilities they needed were in one building.

In 1952, due to a drop in enrollment, Lincoln School in Excelsior Springs no longer offered high school classes, and seven students were transported from that city to Garrison by private automobile. In 1956, Liberty schools were desegregated. Garrison School was retained by the school board and used for storage. In recent years it was converted into a kindergarten and continues to be used as one. The most recent renovation included the replacement of windows and doors and small additions.

Despite a number of significant changes, including a complete renovation of its interior, Garrison continues to be architecturally important. Alterations to the exterior have been minimal, and the building is a landmark in the town. Neither can its role in the development of Liberty's African American community be underestimated.
40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on an elevated lot at the north end of Main Street in the heart of the African American Community. A tree line defines the property on the north. A modern Playground is located on the west end of the lot while, a basketball court occupies the eastern end behind the original school building.

41. Sources of information


42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/00
Garrison School, Liberty, MO.
View from southwest

Garrison School
View from southwest; auditorium addition

Garrison School
View from east

Garrison School
View from east; auditorium entrance
**MISSOURI HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM**

**1. No.** 17

**2. County** Clay

**3. Location of Negatives** Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Program

**4. Present Name** Bonucci Property

**5. Other Names** Lincoln School

**6. Location** East Kansas St.

**7. City or Town or Township, and Vicinity** Excelsior Springs, MO.

**8. Site Plan**

```
+-------------------+-------------------+-------------------+
| OSAGE ST.         | E. KANSAS ST.     | FRONT             |
|                  |                   |                   |
|                  | LINCOLN SCHOOL    | PLAYGROUND        |
|                  | Addition c. 1985  |                   |
|                  | Addition c. 1927  |                   |
```

**9. Category** Site [ ] Structure [ ] Building [X] Object [ ]

**10. On National Register?** Yes [X] No [ ]

**11. Eligible?** Yes [X] No [X]

**12. Part of an Established Historical District?** Yes [X] No [ ]

**13. District Potential?** Yes [X] No [X]

**14. Date(s) or Period** 1904-1905; 1927-1928

**15. Style or Design** Cube

**16. Architect** L.B. Alnutt

**17. Contractor or Builder** L.B. Alnutt

**18. Original Use** School

**19. Present use** Apartments

**20. Ownership** Public [ ] Private [X]

**21. Owner of Property** Eddie Bonucci

**22. Open to Public?** Yes [ ] No [X]

**23. Local Contact person or Organization** Herbert Ellett

**24. Other Surveys in which included** None

**25. No. of Stories** 1

**26. Basement** Yes [X] No [ ]

**27. Foundation Material** Rough-Cut Stone

**28. Wall Construction** Concrete Block

**29. Roof Type and Material** Gable, Asphalt Shingle

**30. No of Bays** Front 2 Side 1

**31. Wall Treatment** Common Bond W/ Stucco

**32. Plan Shape** Cube

**33. Changes** Addition [X] Altered [X] Moved [ ]

**34. Condition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interior</th>
<th>Exterior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**35. Preservation Underway** Yes [X] No [ ]

**36. Endangered?** Yes [ ] No [X]

**37. Visible from Public Road?** Yes [X] No [ ]

38. Further Description of Important Features

Erected 1904-1905, Lincoln School is a concrete block, two-classroom cube with gablet roof. The concrete block is covered by a thin layer of textured stucco. The facade exhibits two entrance doors (one for each classroom), both capped with a small awning and triangular knee beaces. Original concrete/stone porch, steps and railing are still intact, as is a rock retaining wall along the eastern side of the building. The hillside lot allows for a walkout basement on the western end. With the exception of hardwood floors, little of the original interior remains.
The African American community in Excelsior Springs has traditionally been centered on a hill north of the downtown area along and east of Main Street. In the wake of Emancipation, blacks were drawn to Excelsior Springs by economic opportunities created by the resort/bath houses for which the city is famous.

It is generally believed that the first school building for the African American students in Excelsior Springs--Lincoln School--was established on East Kansas Street in 1888. However, records of the North Main Street Baptist Church reveal that a group consisting of Reverend Horton Norton and eight other African American citizens met in Lincoln School in 1885 to organized their church, and subsequently held services there until they purchased property for their new building. This evidence suggests the possibility that an even earlier black school, also called Lincoln, was in operation before 1885. Early teachers included: Miss Adeline Taylor; Professor William Doxey (teacher and principal); Professor L.W. Johnson (teacher and principal); Professor Riley H. Payne and Professor H.W. Burton.

In the Spring of 1900, under the leadership of Burton, forty-eight citizens of the African American community presented a petition to the local school board expressing a need for a new school for black children. After the board entertained the possibility of simply making repairs to the old school, a proposition was finally passed by the voters of the city for a $1,250 bond to build a new school. In April, 1904, the board formally approved the hiring of L.B. Alnutt to draw up plans for the building of both black and white schools. On June 4, 1904, plans for a new building on the site of the old school were formally approved by the board. At the same time the voters and board approved funding for a new white school called Wyman at a cost of $6,735. It was decided in the July meeting that Alnutt should use concrete block instead of brick that was to be used in the building of Wyman. The stringy disparity between the two contemporaneous schools in terms of cost and materials attests to the conscious local white marginalization of Excelsior Spring's black community and overall lack of concern for its social and intellectual enhancement. When completed in 1905, Lincoln was not provided with a library, and even basic textbooks were castoffs from Wyman and frequently unusable and beyond repair. Burton was the first teacher of new Lincoln School and principal from 1914 through 1925.

In 1927 Lincoln underwent extensive remodeling at a cost of almost $10,000. New windows and a large concrete verandah and concrete steps were added, the exterior was stuccoed, the old roof replaced, indoor restrooms installed, and large cloak rooms built at each of the two front entrances. Both classrooms were completely refurbished and outfitted with removable desks and a partition that retracted to create a large single room. While Lincoln was being remodeled, students attended class in the old Interurban Station Building, which had been moved from Concourse Street to a lot in the 200 block of East Kansas Street (at the corner of at the corner of Cannon and E. Kansas). Teachers at this location were: Miss Lulu White; Miss Thelma Gaines and Miss Laura Bates. As the project was underway, the building materials--concrete block, lumber, and roofing materials--were stolen from the site by workers. Despite setbacks, the renovation was completed in 1929. Moreover, due to the upgrades, Lincoln was recommended for recognition as an accredited unit of the state High School Association and designated as a first class school by the State Superintendent of schools in December 1930. The African American community was outraged at such a decision; the material upgrades, they felt, did not merit a "Class A" designation; they viewed it as a "token gift" that did little to better the quality of education for their children.
The faculty was also augmented to two full-time teachers, one also the acting principal. Teachers from this era included: Professors G. Hutchins; Marvin Gravette; E.F. Hayden; John N. Sanders, Mrs. Ella Gordon Carter; Robert L. Green; William Jacobs; Miss Helen E. Washington; Miss Mabel Scott; and Miss Foxworth. With the exception of Mrs. Gordon Carter, those teachers who also assumed the role of principal were exclusively males. Music teachers through the years were: Miss Mary Kelso (white); Miss Thelma Paige; Mrs. Rosa Lee Ellett; Mrs. J.N. Sanders and Mrs. R.L. Green.

At its height during the 1920s, Lincoln had a consistent enrollment of between forty and fifty students. The school day began with recitation of the Lord’s Prayer, the preamble to the U.S. Constitution, and a song, usually "America the Beautiful" or "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The Ten Commandments were recited once each week.

Their playground was southeast of the building and included a dirt basketball court. Playground equipment was added as part of the upgrades of the late 1920s. In the 1930s high school enrollment consisted of enough males to form a football team. Used uniforms of every conceivable color were provided by the district, and the team played other black high school teams such as Richmond, Lexington, and Liberty.

Lincoln’s annual commencement was the highlight of the school year, an important event involving the entire African American community. Due to the extraordinary attendance and lack of space at Lincoln, this event was traditionally held at the North Main Street Baptist Church. However, beginning in 1925, attendance was so overwhelming that it had to be held at other venues including city hall and the Auditorium Theatre. The program was an extravaganza of music and readings by students various grades, and compelling speakers from outside the community. In the spring, students produced an all-school play which was always well-attended. The school year ended with a field trip, often to Kansas City.

In the early decades of the twentieth century the city’s African American community faced overt racism and violence from the white community. In the 1910s and 1920s gangs of racist whites systematically and regularly harassed blacks. The friction between the white and black communities came to a head on August 7, 1925 when Walter Mitchell, a farmhand from nearby Lawson was accused of a crime he did not commit, forcibly taken from the boarding house where he was staying, paraded through the downtown streets and lynched behind the famous Elms Resort by a cheering mob. The city’s leading newspaper, the Excelsior Springs Daily Standard, attempted to justify the mob’s actions the following day. The black community was forever embittered; this spelled the beginning of the end of the black community. After reaching its height in the late 1920s, the community would slowly begin to diminish when racism was coupled with the economic realities of the Great Depression.

By 1952 Lincoln witnessed such a sharp drop in enrollment that the school board decided that high school would no longer be offered as part of Lincoln’s curriculum. (In 1952 Lincoln had an enrollment of only eleven high school students). Consequently, beginning in the Fall of 1952, students were transported to Garrison School in Liberty (see #16), their transportation and tuition to be paid by the Excelsior Springs District. The district soon purchased a used Desoto station wagon and hired Richard Moore, a faculty member to transport the students to and from Liberty for $50.00 per month. But in July, 1953, owing to declining enrollment at Garrison, the Liberty School District decided that black students from both Liberty and Excelsior Springs would be transported by bus to Lincoln High School in Kansas City, a decision that was not well received in the black community. The arrangement, however, did not last long. In March 1955, the board unanimously resolved that Excelsior Springs schools would be desegregated beginning September 1, 1955. Lincoln School was
to be given to the city Park Department with the understanding that it never be sold. In defiance of
the school board's injunction, the building was soon purchased by a private individual who converted
it into a residence; the large Victorian windows were removed and replaced with fewer and smaller,
more energy-efficient windows and the floorplan was rearranged. In 1992, the present owner
renovated the building once again, converting it into a duplex.

Despite modifications, Lincoln has retained much of its original exterior appearance and its overall
architectural integrity. Lincoln School is a significant historical landmark in Excelsior Springs' African
American community; as an institution, it shaped the lives of fully three generations.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Lincoln is situated on a hillside lot on the southeast corner of East Kansas and Osage Streets.
Directly across the street is Lincoln Park. There are no remaining outbuildings.

41. Sources of information

March 19, 1999.
Ellett, Herbert. "Lincoln School: Notes From Excelsior Springs School's Board of Education
Meetings." Unpublished Manuscript.
Students in front of Lincoln School, 1955. Photo courtesy of Herbert Ellett.

Lincoln School, Excelsior Springs, MO. View from northwest.
Dunbar School is typical of the functional, utilitarian design of schools in the post-war era in its irregular, horizontal plan and extensive use of brick, concrete block, and steel-frame windows. Two overhead doors have been installed in the northern wall of the western wing as part of a later renovation. The interior has experienced little change; chalkboards and original doors and fixtures are still intact.
Bunceton once had a significant black population concentrated primarily on the southern edge of the city. The first Dunbar School was constructed in the late nineteenth century between Spruce and Cherry streets. "Old" Dunbar consisted of a single room for grades one through eight and employed one teacher. If an African American student wanted to attend high school they had the option to attend Sumner in Boonville, some twelve miles north; transportation, however, was not provided. On December 8, 1947, Dunbar was consumed by fire. Beginning in January, black students were bused six miles to a one-room school in Belair until a new school could be constructed. The temporary building was a two-story brick building on the east side of Highway 5, and was formerly the local white school. Lela Patterson was the teacher during the interim.

In March 1951, the Bunceton School Board purchased four acres from J.R. Daniel on the south end of Vine Street, just east of the old school, and "new" Dunbar was subsequently erected. White Bunceton residents who remembered when Dunbar was built and first began operation, noted that it offered better facilities than the white school, which compounded existing racial tensions in the city. New Dunbar School consisted of two classrooms, an office, an auditorium/cafeteria, a kitchen, and a boiler room. One classroom accommodated grades one through four and the other fifth through eighth. The school employed a staff of seven, including three teachers and a full-time principal. In 1955, with a burgeoning enrollment, they converted the administrative office into a classroom and employed three teachers. During Dunbar's five years of operation teachers were: Virginia Stemmons, Flolene Jackson (both teachers at the former school) and Lela Patterson. Eula Patterson Nelson was the principal. Textbooks were cast offs from Bunceton's white school and in such poor shape that they were difficult to use. As with the students of old Dunbar, high school was not a viable option.

Dunbar was only used for a few years, until May 1956, when the Bunceton school district formally integrated and black students began attending Bunceton elementary and high schools. The building remained vacant, under the control of the Bunceton School Board, until 1963 at which time it was purchased and renovated by Delbert Tollener who used it as a tire repair shop and warehouse until his death in 1991. An interior wall (between the two classrooms) was removed and two large overhead doors installed on the northern end to accommodate a loading dock. The large 12' x 4' and 10' x 12' windows on the north end of the auditorium were also removed and bricked over. However, many on the interior fixtures, including blackboards remain intact.

The building has been vacant since 1991, the victim of vandals and the elements. Despite its appearance, the structure has retained its original form and is in generally good condition; It is a fine candidate for adaptive reuse. Dunbar is significant to the development of Bunceton's African American community and one of only two remaining black landmarks.

Dunbar School is situated in a rural setting, on four acres on the south end of Bunceton. It is surrounded by pasture on three sides and enclosed within a chain-link fence.

The original gable-end schoolhouse has been incorporated into a contemporary home and constitutes roughly the southeast one-forth of the present structure. The original gable entrance has been enclosed, all windows removed, and portions of the north and south wall removed to accommodate additions. Other than the frame, floor, and structural supports, almost nothing of the original school remains. It has, however, retained its gable form within the later structure.
In the late nineteenth century a scattered black community, consisting principally of small farmers and farm hands developed in the Gooch’s Mill or “Big Lick” area about three miles southwest of Wooldridge in eastern Cooper County. Few actually lived in the community itself, but most owned farms in the surrounding countryside. By the turn of the nineteenth century they had erected Salem Church, a lodge hall and a school, all located on or near the main road through the community (present-day Big Lick Road). The first Liberty “Colored” School was a gable-end frame structure, situated on the crest of a hill, approximately one-quarter mile northeast of the church and cemetery, and about 150 yards north of Big Lick Road. (T.48-R.15 -S.28). It was built on stone piers with clapboard, metal roof and a front door facing northwest. Today, only the piers and a small concrete stoop remain; the barely visible road winding up to it has long abandoned the county.

The school year started on the last Monday in August. The school day began at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, a song, inspection, and a prayer. Each morning two of the older students were assigned to walk down to a spring located at the foot of the hill and fill a large container with the day’s supply of drinking water. Like all the rural schools, Liberty’s course of study was determined by the county board of education, but the learning experience was a positive one, involving a very close relationship between teacher and student, and demanded and received the active support of the parents.

In 1940 Liberty (white) School closed due to dwindling enrollment. The former white school, located one mile east, was slightly larger and in much better condition. Recognizing the disparity between school buildings, the school board determined that the black students henceforth, hold classes in the former white Liberty School. This “better” building served the local black community until 1948, when it too closed with the beginning of consolidation, and remaining students were transported to Boonville. Teachers in the “New” Liberty included: Lottie Miller, Eula Patterson and Joetta Campbell (who was teaching when Liberty closed in 1948). Enrollment through the 1930s and early 1940s was consistently between fifteen and twenty students.

Christmas programs, as well as Halloween, Thanksgiving and other seasonal celebrations were an important part of the school year. Like activities organized by the church, school functions became social affairs, attended by the entire black community. Liberty School’s Christmas play and graduation ceremonies, both highlights of the school year, were held at Salem Church, which accommodated a larger crowd. Here the school and church together functioned as centers of community life.

At their new building, under Mrs. Lottie Miller, students of Liberty School obtained new textbooks and other materials for the first time. Standards for teachers were also changing. In 1943 Miller was replaced by Eula Nelson when the school board determined that Miller did not have the necessary qualifications to continue teaching.

After remaining vacant, the former school was purchased in the 1960s and renovated for use as a residence. Sometime in the mid 1970s an addition was built on the north side and in 1985, the present owners added an addition on the west end. The original classroom now serves as the master bedroom of what is otherwise a contemporary home.

Although originally built to accommodate white students, Liberty school served the rural black families of the Gooch’s Mill area for almost a decade. Since the original Liberty Colored School and Salem Church have both been razed (the latter in 1999), the present structure, along with a small cemetery constitute the last material remnants of a black community that is rapidly fading from memory.
Liberty School is located approximately one and one half miles east of the small community of Gooch's Mill on present-day Big Lick Road, in eastern Cooper County; the slightly larger community of Wooldridge is approximately three miles northeast. The former school is cleverly incorporated into a modern home on a large lot. The original outhouse and a small storage shed are still standing approximately seventy-five yards east of the building. Woods border the site on three sides.
40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Liberty School is located approximately one and one half miles east of the small community of Gooch's Mill on present-day Big Lick Road, in eastern Cooper County; the slightly larger community of Wooldridge is approximately three miles northeast. The former school is cleverly incorporated into a modern home on a large lot. The original outhouse and a small storage shed are still standing approximately seventy-five yards east of the building. Woods border the site on three sides.

41. Sources of information

Missouri. Cooper County. Recorder's Office. Deed Books.. Cooper County Courthouse, Boonville, MO.

42. Form Prepared by

Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization

William Woods University

44. Date

6/30/99
Photographs


Liberty School. View from east. (original gable-end facade, now altered).

Liberty Colored School. View from south.
Students at the first Liberty Colored School. ca. 1938.

Unidentified students in front of the first Liberty Colored School. ca. 1938.
Built in 1937, Lincoln is a simple one-room schoolhouse with gable-end double entrance. Walls are brick over glazed ceramic block. Facade exhibits original entrance door, topped with three-pane transom light and pedimental awning that echoes the pitch of the gable. An off-center second door provides access to a furnace room and is flanked by original four-over-four windows. The west wall displays a set of four ribbon windows. An enclosed porch has been added in the north end. The original interior configuration has been altered and a half-story upstairs created.
In the early twentieth century Blackwater had a significant African American population. At its height in the 1930s and 1940s, 130 to 140 blacks lived in Blackwater, all concentrated in an area centering on or around Trigg Street, on the eastern side of town. Most adult males were employed by the local quarry, located two miles east; others labored for local white farmers. Women worked as domestics in the local white community. In the 1940s about forty families lived in Blackwater; in the 1950s twenty; in the 1960s the black community had dwindled to six. Most were rural folk, former farmers and farm laborers whose ways of life had been greatly impacted by the Depression. The black community was augmented when a number of families moved to Blackwater from Choteau Springs, approximately five miles southeast, as a rural freedmen's community near the famed resort dissolved with the decline of the resort. Blackwater’s black community supported an A.M.E. and Baptist church, both located near Lincoln School on Trigg Street.

The new Lincoln was comprised of a single classroom and two smaller rooms, a furnace room and cloak room. The teacher’s desk was situated in the northern end and blackboards were positioned along the north wall and between windows on east and west walls. The playground was located along the eastern edge of the building.

Oral and written sources indicate that Gladys Brown was the only teacher ever employed at Lincoln; she taught kindergarten through eighth grade from 1937, when the school first opened, to 1957, when it closed its doors for good (she may have taught in the earlier building also; records pertaining to Blackwater’s African American school prior to 1937 cannot be located). Mrs. Brown always began the school day with the Pledge of Allegiance, a song and a short devotion. All books and other materials were castoffs from Blackwater’s white school. After eighth grade, students had the option of going on to high school at either Sumner in Boonville or Lincoln-Hubbard in Sedalia, but transportation was not provided. Economic realities forced most students to discontinue their education after grade school.

After Lincoln was closed in 1957, it remained vacant for several years, until Frank Oswald purchased it in the early 1960s and converted the school into a grain bin (small hinged openings used for pouring grain into the building were inset between rafters and are still in place and visible). Lincoln was subsequently used to store furniture. In 1988 the present owner purchased the building and adapted it for re-use as a residence, lowering the ceiling and adding a two-room upstairs, along with a rear enclosed porch.

Although Lincoln is not especially significant from an architectural standpoint, it is an important African American cultural resource and one of the last material remnants of Blackwater’s black community.

Lincoln is located on the eastern edge of Blackwater on the north side of Trigg Street. The African American Baptist church adjoins the property to the east; a modern home on the west. No outbuildings remain.
Lincoln School, Blackwater, MO.
View from east.

Lincoln School. Cornerstone

Lincoln School.
View from southeast.
Erected as early as the 1880s, Otterville Colored School is a simple frame structure with metal roof. The western end (rear) displays an eight-foot addition and rear entrance dating to the 1960s. Original two-over-two windows are present in both north and south walls. The original interior has been subdivided as part of a later renovation, but most of its trim has been retained. Overall, the structure reflects an economical use of space and materials.
In the late nineteenth century Otterville had a significant African American community concentrated in the extreme northwestern edge of the city as well as in rural areas in the vicinity. Most males worked for local white farmers; women primarily engaged in domestic work in white households. Several families worked their own small farms.

Otterville School was the first known school provided for blacks in the area. It was built sometime in 1880s on land located approximately one and one half miles north of town, adjacent to the Otterville City Cemetery. However, it does not appear on the Cooper County plat maps from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At its original location, the gable end entrance faced east.

Grades one through eight were taught by one teacher. As in all one-room schools, students were called by grade to the front of the room to receive their lessons from the teacher; then they returned to their seat to work on lessons, until they were called up again for another subject. It was also customary for older students to help teach the younger ones. School was in session from September to April, and some students walked several miles to attend. The chalkboard was affixed to the wall opposite the entrance door. Nails functioned as coathooks in the back of the room and a centrally located wood stove provided heat. During the winter months the building was extremely cold, owing to its very basic construction and lack of insulation. Their textbooks were never new and frequently in practically unusable condition. Electricity and plumbing were not added while it functioned as a school.

Records associated with Otterville Colored School are believed to have been destroyed in a fire in the 1950s and, consequently, the names of the earlier teachers cannot be documented. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that the Otterville black community began to dissolve in the 1940s and has since further diminished. Laura White was the teacher from the 1920s through the 1940s. Otterville Colored closed in the late 1940s.

The schoolhouse stood vacant until 1962 when it was purchased by Cecil Cave and moved to its present location at 401 Boonville Street in Otterville. It was then renovated for use as a workshop and an 8' x 16' addition was constructed on the back side and a rear entrance added. The single classroom was divided into two rooms; blackboards were removed. Cave also added electricity.

Although currently in very poor condition, Otterville School is historically significant to the local African American community.

The former schoolhouse is situated on a large lot on Boonville Street in the northern portion of Otterville. Otterville Baptist Church borders the lot on the north.

Sources of information


Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

William Woods University

6/30/99
Photographs

Otterville Colored, Otterville, Mo.
View from north.

Otterville Colored, Otterville, MO.
View from southwest.
Erected around 1890, Robinson Colored was initially a double-pen, saddlebag frame structure with metal roof. A two-room ell and porch was added on the west side in the 1920s when it was renovated for re-use as a private residence. The building's facade displays two separate entrance doors (one for each classroom) and an awning. Windows in both the original structure and ell addition are vertically segmented four-pane upper sash over single pane lower sash. The school portion also retains some of its original trim and hardware.
39. History and Significance

Robinson School is believed to have been constructed sometime in the 1890s to accommodate the black community in the Prairie Home area. The town itself never had a significant African American community. Instead, the local black population was concentrated primarily in the rural Splice Creek area, located approximately two and one half miles northeast of Prairie Home. It was here, in this geographically rugged, largely untillable area that black farmers formed a community, at the center of which was Splice Creek Baptist Church (established in 1905). The Cooper County plat map of 1915 reveals a small patchwork of African American farms in this region.

Robinson School was constructed along the road between Prairie Home and Wooldridge (present day Cooper County Route EE), approximately three and one half miles north/northwest of Prairie Home and one mile west/northwest of the Splice Creek community. Little is known about Robinson; the black community at Splice Creek dissolved during the 1930s and 1940s. Records indicate that a "Prairie Home Colored" school operated from the 1890s through the early 1920s; this is believed to have been Robinson. Sometime in the mid-1920s Robinson was closed, and African American children began to attend Salem, two miles north of Prairie Home and one mile west of Robinson. Zenobia Ellis was the teacher through the 1910s and early 1920s. Students had to walk an average of two to three miles one way from the Splice Creek community to attend.

As originally constructed, Robinson was a two-room saddlebag frame structure with two doors on the east side (one for each room) and two over two windows in both east and west walls. Chalkboards were on the north and south ends of the building. A chimney was centrally located in the wall between the two rooms, and two wood stoves (one in each room) provided heat.

Robinson was subsequently purchased by a local farmer named Martin Blanck, who renovated the building and constructed a 14' X 28' ell addition on the west side to accommodate a kitchen, pantry, and porch and shifted the main entrance to the north end of the ell. Two windows were removed on the west wall to accommodate the addition; one was enlarged into a doorway. Remaining windows were replaced with shorter, bungalow-style windows and new windows were added in the north and south walls. Electricity was also installed. John Miller purchased the structure in the late 1930s and lived there until he, in turn, sold it to the present owner A.V. Graff in 1948. Graff enclosed the small porch, converted the pantry into a bathroom (the first indoor toilet), made numerous small upgrades, and lived in the former school until 1961, when he moved it approximately seventy-five yards west, away from the highway, to make room for the family's present home. Since then, the Graffs have used the structure primarily for storage.

While Robinson is significant as an African American cultural resource, extensive fenestration and other modifications negate any architectural significance.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Robinson School is located on the A.V. Graff farm, approximately three and one half miles northwest of Prairie Home on Route EE; it is situated approximately 100 yards west of the highway and is surrounded on all sides by farmland. The Graff home and assorted later outbuildings associated with the farm are present on the site.

41. Sources of Information


Robinson School, vcn. Prairie Home, MO.
View from northwest.

Robinson School, vcn. Prairie Home, MO.
View from southeast.
Students in front of Robinson School, 1915. Photo courtesy of Ruby Jackson
Salem is a two-room side-gable, saddlebag frame structure originally designed with two doors and a window on the west side, one window in the south wall and two windows on the east. Windows and doors have not survived. The structure exhibits a corrugated metal roof and vertical plank siding. It is likely that the building was originally a house, since the saddlebag design is more common to dwellings than to schools. The interior retains little of its original trim and the walls are lined with newspapers dating to the 1930s when it is believed to have first been converted into a residence.
History and Significance

A significant African American community never developed in the town of Prairie Home. Instead, the bulk of the local black population was concentrated in two areas north of town: in the rural Splice Creek area, and northwest of town near present-day Highway 87. As early as the 1880s, black farmers and laborers formed a community northwest of town along Splice Creek, a geographically rugged area. Robinson School (see #18), the first African American school in the area was established in the closing decades of the nineteenth century.

In the early years of the twentieth century, a second school was established north of Prairie Home to accommodate African American students living west of the Splice Creek area, and northwest of Prairie Home (largely families of black farmers in the proximity of what is now Highway 87). Records indicate that a Prairie Home "Colored" school operated from just after the turn of the century through the mid-1920s; this is believed to have been Salem. Salem School is a frame, side-gable, saddlebag structure, similar to Robinson in design, only considerably smaller and with vertical-plank exterior rather than more costly clapboard. Although Salem exhibits a double-door facade, the interior was originally comprised of a single classroom with a chalkboard (on what is now the north wall), woodstove (centrally located), and about a dozen desks. It was located in a patch of woods on the south side of what is now Cave Creek Road, approximately one-half mile north of its present location, off of Lacy Lane.

Teachers at Salem included: Miss Mary Smith, Viola Lucas, Eula Nelson and Miss Georgia Crump. They did not have many books; those they did have were passed down from other schools. Although grades one through eight were taught at Salem, many of the students quit after the sixth grade. Salem’s enrollment declined during the late 1920s and Salem closed in the early years of the Depression. It was subsequently used as a dwelling by the Pilgrim family (probably at this location) and later relocated on a farm located approximately one mile south and used for hay storage. Subsequent owners include the Wiemholt and Barbee families. In recent years Salem has experienced neglect and deterioration, but due to its remote location, stands intact and has retained much of its original appearance.

Despite its current condition, Salem School is an important African American cultural resource in Cooper County. It is one of only four structurally intact black rural schools in the county. It has retained its architectural integrity and original appearance and was easily identified by the few surviving former students.

Sources of information

Photographs

Salem School, vcn. Prairie Home, MO. View from southwest.

Salem School. View of facade.

Salem School. View from southeast.
**MISSOURI HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM**

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**Further Description of Important Features**

Booker T. Washington is a simple, one-room school with a northern gable entrance and standing-seamed roof. Original four-over-four windows are still present in both east and west walls. After desegregation, a front porch awning, side entrance, and rear addition were constructed as part of a renovation for re-use as a home. Recently, a deck has been added on the western side. The interior retains little of its original configuration or trim.
In the wake of Emancipation an African American community began to develop in the Northeastern corner of New Haven. The city's port on the Missouri River and later, the railroad provided plenty of jobs for black males, while women worked as domestics in white households.

The first school for African Americans was a small frame building known as the "red tin building," located on a lot in the 800 block of Olive Street, approximately one hundred yards north of the present structure. This early school does not appear on city maps, nor are there extant records to indicate exactly when it was established. It was used until 1923, and teachers included Martha Keen (1891-1893); Laura Jackson (1913-1915); Elsie Pack (1915-1918); Cora Wells (1917-1918); H.L. Parsons (1919-1921); A.B. Patterson; and Cornelia M. McAllister (1921-1923).

Booker T. Washington was erected in 1923 on two lots that the school board purchased the previous year for $500.00. The board hired a local contractor, Oscar Thomann, to design and build Washington at a cost of $1,785. The interior was originally comprised of a single classroom with a staircase leading to the basement in the northwest corner. A blackboard and teacher's desk were located on the south wall. A potbelly wood stove provided heat. In the 1940s a partition was added near the entrance door and plumbing was installed in the northwest corner, where a small kitchen was built. Up to that point water was obtained from a cistern in the rear portion of the lot. Despite the plumbing, an indoor toilet was never installed while it was a school.

In 1953 Washington was purchased by a Mr. Floyd, the first of a series of owners, who renovated it for use as a residence by constructing an 8' x 16' bathroom addition on the south end. However, interior space was not rearranged until N. Pryor purchased it in the 1960s and created a bedroom and living room. On the west side a window was removed and a second door installed. Georgia Burnett lived in the former school until 1990, when the present owner, Nathan Bailey assumed ownership and added a deck to the west side of the building.

Grades one through eight were taught at Booker T. Washington. Teachers included: Cornelia M. McAllister (who had been the teacher for many years in the "red tin building"); Mrs. Wright; Mr. Wright; Mrs. Grimes; Mrs. West; Mr. Danzy; Mrs. Ramona Smith; Mrs. Grumby; Mrs. Mason, and Mrs. Francis Brooks.

Books and other materials came directly from the local white school, frequently in very poor condition. In later years lunch was prepared on a coal/wood cook stove. Students played baseball, marbles, and hopscotch on the playground, which flanked the building on both east and west. The basement was used as a play area for recess on days when weather prohibited outdoor activities. Morning routine included prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and song. One of the highlights of the school year was the annual Christmas program, which was always well attended.

In 1952 the number of black students dwindled to six and Booker T. Washington closed its doors; the remaining students were transported by private car to Crispus Attucks School in Washington, fifteen miles away, until it was desegregated and closed in 1955. Upon completion of the eighth grade, students could attend high school at Lincoln High in Jefferson City; those who did so either made arrangements to stay with relatives or stayed in a dormitory on the Lincoln campus. Others made similar arrangements with relatives in St. Louis.

Booker T. Washington is historically significant to New Haven's African American Community; it is one of only a handful of remaining African American landmarks in New Haven.

Booker T. Washington is situated on a double lot on the south side of Olive Street, along a drainage creek, just below the hillside site of the original African American community of New Haven.
Missouri. Franklin County. Recorder's Office. Deed Books. Franklin County Courthouse, Union, MO.
Missouri. Franklin County. Clerk's Office. Public School Records. Franklin County Courthouse, Union, MO.

Students in front of the "red tin building," date unknown. From David Menke's *New Haven: The Early Years.*
**MISSOURI HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM**

1. **No.**
   - 24

2. **County**
   - Franklin

3. **Location of Negatives**
   - Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Program

4. **Present Name**
   - Boland Property

5. **Other Names**
   - Southern Presbyterian Church
   - Crispus Attucks School

6. **Location**
   - 23 E. 2nd St.

7. **City or Town or Township, and Vicinity**
   - Washington, MO.

8. **Site Plan**

   - [Diagram of site plan]

9. **Category**
   - Site [ ] Structure [ ] Building [X] Object [ ]

10. **On National Register?**
    - Yes [ ] No [X]

11. **Eligible?**
    - Yes [X] No [ ]

12. **Part of an Established Historical District**
    - Yes [ ] No [X]

13. **Name of Established District**
    - [Blank]

14. **Date(s) or Period**
    - C.1868

15. **Style or Design**
    - Gable-end Church

16. **Architect**
    - Unknown

17. **Contractor or Builder**
    - Unknown

18. **Original Use**
    - Church

19. **Present use**
    - Storage

20. **Ownership**
    - Public [ ] Private [X]

21. **Owner of Property**
    - Todd Boland
    - 27 E. 2nd. St.
    - Washington, MO. 63090

22. **Open to Public**
    - Yes [ ] No [X]

23. **Local Contact person or Organization**
    - Todd Boland

24. **Other Surveys in which included**
    - Washington City Survey, 1991

25. **No. of Stories**
    - 1

26. **Basement**
    - Yes [ ] No [X]

27. **Foundation Material**
    - Cut Stone

28. **Wall Construction**
    - Brick

29. **Roof Type and Material**
    - Gable, Corrugated Metal

30. **No of Bays**
    - Front 3 Side 3

31. **Wall Treatment**
    - Common Bond

32. **Plan Shape**
    - Rectangular

33. **Changes**
    - Addition [ ] Altered [X] Moved [ ]

34. **Condition**
    - Interior Good
    - Exterior Good

35. **Preservation Underway**
    - Yes [ ] No [X]

36. **Endangered?**
    - By What?
      - Yes [ ] No [X]

37. **Visible from Public Road?**
    - Yes [X] No [ ]

38. **Further Description of Important Features**

   Built around 1868, The former Attucks school is a Greek revival, gable-end church. Original arched six over six windows as well as some of the original shutters have been retained. The facade has experienced only minor changes; the original entrance doors (double) have been replaced with a considerably wider overhead garage door, which is is flanked by two blind windows. The original transom fan light and round oculus have been retained. (A matching oculus is also present in the north wall). The structure is reflective of Greek Revival style, waning, but still popular at the time of...
construction; it exhibits typical, low-pitched roof, slight eave overhangs, pedimental returns, and
masonry modillions. With the exception of the recent addition of a concrete floor, the interior has
retained its original appearance, including a vaulted wooden ceiling.
39. History and Significance

The development of an African-American community in Washington began before the Civil War
with a small, but significant population of freed blacks, perhaps owing to Washington's large German
population and their views against the institution of slavery. After Emancipation the black population
increased; by 1869 there were around 300 African Americans in the Washington area. Most were
small farmers, and farm hands who worked for local whites, others found employment on the city's
river port and later with the railroad. By the early 1870s an AM.E. Church had been established, and,
in 1877, a Masonic Lodge. School for African Americans was first held in .Washington City Hall and
later in the AM.E. church. Among the early African American teachers in Washington were: Thomas
Manly (1871); Ellen S. North (1876-1883); Ellen Smith (1879); Mamie F. Jones (1881-1892); Hardy 0
Jones (1883-1891) and Nellie B. Palmer (1895). Contrary to the Missouri Germans' liberal outlook on
slavery, African Americans in and around Washington met with overt racism in the later decades of
the nineteenth century, a common pattern evidenced in Hermann and other areas of German
heritage in Missouri.
Crispus Attucks School was subsequently established in the former Southern Presbyterian Church
. at the corner of Second and Market. The lot was originally purchased in 1859 by the Presbyterian
Church of Washington with the expressed intention of building a school at a later date. However, a
schizm within the congregation developed over the issue of slavery that intensified after
Emancipation. In 1868, two-thirds of the congregation withdrew and joined the Presbytery of St Louis
(or Southern Presbyterian Church) and built their new church on the property at second and Market.
In 1869 the new Southern Presbyterian Church apprars in a "Birds-eye View of Washington." It is
identified in Sandborn Maps from 1893 and 1898 as "Hall," suggesting that the Presbyterians used
the structure as a church for no more than about twenty years.
Architecturally, the building is an excellent example of Greek Revival, noticeible in both form and
detail and exemplifies the tendency for building traditions to linger in rural areas of Missouri; the
romantic classical revival was on the wane in urban areas of the state before the Civil War. In terms
of brickwork and fenestration--the arched windows--the building appears to illustrate the skilled
craftsmanship of immigrant German brick masons working in Washington after the 1840s and the
significant impact of their workmanship on the architectural traditions of Washington and the Missouri
River Valley.
It is uncertain exactly when the building became an African American School; it is first identified in
city maps as Attucks Public School in 1916 and remained as such through the mid- to late-1920s,
when a new school (which retained the name of Attucks) was erected at the northwest corner of
Third and Burnside Streets. African American teachers who taught in Washington after 1900 (either
at the AM.E. church or at Attucks, or both) were: Joseph C Johnson (1891-1917); Benjamin F.
Abington (1895-1909); Mrs Joseph C. Johnson (1909-1912); Ora Goode (1913-1916); Murril Goode
(1913); Richard Thomas Kelley (1917-1918); Benjamin F. Russell (1917-1923) and Geraldine C.
Collins (1918-1919). Although enumeration figures for Washington could not be located, the
overlapping dates of these teachers suggest that the black community was large enough to warrant
more than one teacher. In 1905 the African American School at South Point was closed and the nine
remaining black students began to attend school in Washington.
2


The building was subsequently used as a Vocational Agricultural Shop, before being purchased by the Boland family in the 1970s. The structure was once again adapted for re-use as a warehouse. As part of the renovation the original double-door entrance replaced with a modern overhead (garage) door and a loading ramp which extends from the grade of the sidewalk to floor level. In recent years original floor joists and hardwood floor were removed, the basement was filled in with dirt, and replaced with a concrete slab. The basement entrance on the northern end of the east wall was filled-in with concrete block, but is still visible.

The property is significant in that it retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and historical importance to the religious and social development of Washington in general, and served as an important institution in the development of the city's African American community as the first of Washington's three successive black schools.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on a small lot at the corner of second and Market Streets, in a primarily residential area east of the city's downtown business district. A modern home is located on the adjacent lot to the west, a stone retaining wall defines the edge of the property.

41. Sources of information

Missouri. Franklin County. Recorder's Office. Deed Books. Franklin County Courthouse, Union, MO.
Missouri. Franklin County. Clerk's Office. Public School Records. Franklin County Courthouse, Union, MO.

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Photographs

Crispus Attucks School (Southern Presbyterian Church) Washington, MO. c.1868. View from southeast.

Attucks School. View from northeast.

Attucks School. Detail of facade; transom fan light and oculus.

Attucks School. Detail of southwest corner; modillions.

Attucks School c.1920, with current teacher.
Erected in 1942, Crispus Attucks School is a single-story brick building, laid out on a T-plan. Its relatively plain facade is topped with a wood pedimental gable with returns. Original double eight-light entrance doors are flanked by two small four-over-four windows. A small entrance awning echoes the form of the gable. Original six-over-nine and four-over-four windows remain on north, east, and west walls. Basement windows are three-light (vertical-pane) and two-over-two. The overall simplicity of the building is offset by an upper belt course of small modillions. The original interior—trim, floors,
The development of an African American community in Washington began before the Civil War with a small, but significant population of freed blacks, perhaps owing to Washington's large German population and their views against the institution of slavery. After Emancipation the black population increased; by 1869 there were around 300 African Americans in the Washington area. Most were small farmers and farm hands who worked for local whites; others found employment on the city's river port and later with the railroad. By the early 1870s an A.M.E. Church had been established, and, in 1877, a Masonic Lodge. School for African Americans was first held in Washington City Hall and later in the A.M.E. church. Contrary to the Missouri Germans' liberal outlook on slavery, African Americans in and around Washington met with overt racism in the later decades of the nineteenth century, a common pattern evidenced in Hermann and other areas of German heritage in Missouri.

The African American community in Washington, with little exception, has traditionally been concentrated on West Front and Main Streets, and northwest of the downtown area between third Street and the Missouri River (near Burnside).

The first Crispus Attucks School (see # 24) was subsequently established in the former Southern Presbyterian Church at the corner of Second and Market sometime after the turn of the century; it is first identified on city maps as Attucks Public School in 1916 and remained as such through the mid- to late 1920s, when a new school (which retained the name of Attucks) was erected at the northwest corner of Third and Burnside Streets. Both schools consisted of a single classroom. The second Attucks school was used from the mid- to late 1920s until the present building was constructed in 1942. During the closing years of the Depression, the black community expanded and outgrew their building at the Third Street location; the new Attucks was a much more spacious facility.

Attucks is a typical T-plan school with two classrooms divided by a retracting wooden partition. A small foyer leads upstairs to classrooms and two smaller rooms, one an office and the other a storage room. Downstairs was a boys' and girls' restroom, and a cafeteria and adjoining kitchen on the east side. A boiler room and coal bin were located south of the kitchen and accessible only from the outside stairs.

During its fourteen years in operation Attucks' teachers included: Mrs. South (who taught at the Third Street location); Mrs. Mulkey; Jessie Williams and Mrs. Bryant (who was the teacher when Attucks closed in 1956). First through fourth grades were taught in the north side of the building and sixth through eighth on the larger north side; a wooden partition separated the two classrooms and could be retracted to create one large room for all-school activities. Chalkboards were located on the east and west walls of the south classroom and along the north and west walls of the north room. The playground was located west of the building. In addition to the more spacious accommodations in general, the new Attucks was a significant improvement from both of the earlier locations. The basement cafeteria provided hot lunches and a place to play on inclement days. However, the common practice of providing the students with used books and other materials from the local white school did not change; other than the school, nothing was new.

In the early 1950s, New Haven's Booker T. Washington School closed due to a drop in enrollment and the remaining students were transported to Attucks by car. Black schools in New Haven, Robertsville, Union, and Washington interacted with one another as did the black communities of these towns. These schools met in athletic competitions, as well as for social events. But by the late 1940s many of Franklin county's smaller black communities were experiencing demographic changes as African Americans in small-towns sought employment in St. Louis and other larger cities.
After graduating from the eighth grade, students could attend high school in Jefferson City. Lincoln University provided a boarding school that accommodated students from eight counties. But most students from Washington could not attend due to the additional cost of transportation and other expenses. Moreover, economic realities—the need to work to contribute to the family income—forced the vast majority of Washington’s black students to discontinue their education after finishing the eighth grade. The few students who could attend rode the train from Washington to Jefferson City.

After Desegregation in 1956, Washington Public Schools retained the property and renamed the building Thomas Jefferson School. It would function as a school for special education students until 1968. The structure was purchased the following year from Washington Public School District by James Feltmann, who has used the building as a storage facility. In 1981 the Feltmann’s connected the building to an indoor pool by constructing a short hallway. In the process, a breach was made in the foundation to accommodate access to the basement of the structure. Amazingly, Attucks was not significantly altered other than than the removal of a small basement window and the addition of a narrow concrete staircase; the exterior was not damaged in construction.

Despite the addition, the property is significant in that it retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and historical importance to the social development of Washington in general, and served as an important institution in the development of the city’s African American community as the last of Washington’s three successive black schools. Attucks should be considered as a viable candidate for a National Register nomination.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Attucks is perched on a hill in the northwest corner of Washington. The site overlooks Washington City Park to the south and the Missouri River to the north. Attucks is attached to the Feltmann residence by a hallway.

41. Sources of information

Missouri. Franklin County. Recorder’s Office. Deed Books. Franklin County Courthouse, Union, MO.
Missouri. Franklin County. Clerk’s Office. Public School Records. Franklin County Courthouse, Union, MO.

42. Form Prepared by

Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization

William Woods University

44. Date

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Photographs

Crispus Attucks School, Washington, MO.
View from west (facade)

Attucks School. View from southeast

Attucks School. View of facade ca. 1970

Attucks School. View from southwest ca. 1970


Attucks School. Interior: partition and south classroom
The former Dunbar School was originally a single room, gable end structure. It exhibits a later addition on the eastern side. There are three-over-one windows in both the original structure and the addition. The facade exhibits two entrance doors, each flanked by a single window. A covered porch extends along the length of the facade.
Saint Clair developed a significant African American community in the late nineteenth century concentrated at the southwestern edge, just outside the city limits. Good Hope Baptist Church and adjoining cemetery was established sometime before the turn of the century. Black families built their homes east of the church along what is now Ridge Road; some of the early structures remain but have been incorporated into current homes, and as such are practically imperceptible. Little is known about St. Clair's African American community due to the fact that it experienced a rapid decline in the early 1920s. The school does not appear on early maps but is believed to have been in operation from just after 1900 until about 1918. Descendants of the St. Clair black community recall that the school was called Dunbar, but was more often referred to as St. Clair "Colored". It is uncertain exactly what caused the community's decline, but simultaneously the black population in Union, approximately ten miles north of St. Clair, and Moselle, four miles east, and other small black communities in the eastern part of Franklin County, experienced growth as most of the city's black population relocated.

Originally, St. Clair Colored was a single room with gable entrance on the south. Teachers included: G.W. Wood Jr. (1909-1910); America C. Brooks (1913-1916) and Myrille V. Graves (1916-1918).

The building was subsequently converted into a residence (probably in the 1930s) at which time a large outbuilding was constructed along the eastern edge of the lot. Later owners constructed an addition along the eastern side of the building, roughly doubling the structure's dimensions and interior space. The interior of the original structure was divided into two bedrooms and the addition provided a bathroom, livingroom, and kitchen. At that point a shallow partial basement was dug under the northern end of the original structure and concrete walls and entrance steps poured. In 1976 the current owner purchased the building and has no knowledge of the structure's original use and knew little about the black community that the school and nearby church once served. At this point, St. Clair's first black community has largely faded from memory; like native earthworks to European settlers, these few material remnants have become enigmas to the working class white community that now encloses them.

Despite the addition and extensive interior modifications, Dunbar is an important African American cultural resource in St. Clair. The school, church and cemetery are the last material remnants of a long-forgotten black community, and all merit recognition and preservation. The church is especially endangered, since in recent years the congregation has dwindled and it has fallen into disrepair.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Dunbar School is located on a small lot at the corner of Ridge and Wells St. in the southeast corner of St. Clair. There is a 16' x 26' storage building approximately thirty-five feet east of the building (along the eastern edge of the property); woods border the north edge of the lot.

41. Sources of information

Cooley, Sue. St. Clair, MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.
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Dunbar School, St. Clair, MO.
View of facade from southwest.

Dunbar School.
View from southeast.

Dunbar School.
View from west.

Dunbar School.
View from northwest.

Good Hope Baptist Church.
View from northwest.
Lincoln is a simple frame, gable-end school. A decorative brick facade adorns the western end of the building, covering the original entrance and extending beyond the building on the north side to form an ornamental wall. Lincoln is sheathed in vinyl siding on the remaining three sides. On the east side is a fourteen-foot addition. The stone and concrete block foundation walls are exposed on the south and east sides. None of the original interior has survived its several renovations.
In the late nineteenth century, a black community developed on the eastern edge of Union, a few short blocks southeast of the Franklin County Courthouse. By 1880 they had established two churches in the community and a school. The location of the earlier school is unknown. Early written records indicate that G.A. Martin was the teacher in 1880.

Lincoln school was probably erected shortly after the turn of the century. Teachers included: J.O. Cayce (1909-1913); Wilfred E. Wise (1915-1918); Ethel Aitch (1919); Louis Bryant (1919-1920); Cynthia Pepp (1920-1921); Julia Leia Cargile (1922-1923); T.A.D. Wright (1924). Teachers at Lincoln in the 1930s and 1940s included: Miss Donell Cummings; Mr. Generly, Mr. King and Mr. Wendell.

Lincoln School began as a 32' x 24' structure. It originally had a west-facing gable-end entrance and windows on both north and south sides. On the interior, the chalkboards were affixed on the east wall and between windows on the north and south walls. A single wood stove, vented through a chimney in the east end, provided heat. The playground was located behind the building.

The school day began with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance and a song. The single room accommodated all eight grades. Each grade was called before the teacher and given their lessons, after which the students returned to their desks to work. At Lincoln the younger students often listened to and learned from the lessons given to the older students. Their books and any other materials were never new, but handed down from the local white school, as was the rule in Missouri’s segregated educational system. In the early 1940s, Moselle’s African American school closed, due to a decline of the community and consequently, in enrollment. The handful of remaining Moselle students were transported to Union by private car.

Union desegregated in 1956, and the building was retained by the Union School board until the early 1960s, when Lincoln was renovated for use as a public library. The library renovation included shifting the entrance from the west (gable) end to the north side. The original entrance was covered by a brick facade extending beyond the width of the building and incorporating a series of three glass-block windows, equally spaced. The original windows on north and south walls were covered. The library relocated in the mid 1970s and the building stood vacant for several years before it was purchased by a Christian group for use as a church. The interior of Lincoln was renovated to accommodate the congregation, who used it for over ten years before selling it to the present owner.

Despite extensive interior and exterior changes, the former Lincoln School is an important African American cultural resource. It is one of the last remaining black sites in the city, and one of only four remaining black schools in Franklin County outside of Washington.

The former schoolhouse is located on a lot at the corner of Springfield and Linden Streets, southwest of the Franklin County Court House in the heart of Union. The building abuts the sidewalk on the west end. From the sidewalk, the lot slopes toward the east, exposing the structure’s foundation. No outbuildings remain.

Cooley, Sue. St. Clair, MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.


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Lincoln School, Union, MO.
View from northwest

Lincoln School
View from southeast

Lincoln School
View from southwest
Moselle Colored School is a one room, side gable structure with south entrance. There are three window openings on the north wall, two in the west wall and a small window on the south. The entrance door has been removed and all windows broken. The interior retains much of its original trim. A flue remains on the west end. The structure was erected on an incline and stone piers are visible, especially on the north side.
39. History and Significance

After Emancipation an African American Community developed just outside the small railroad town of Moselle, located approximately four miles east of St. Clair, along the eastern edge of Franklin County. The black community developed southwest of the business district, on a rocky ridge overlooking a small creek.

By the 1870s they had established the Second Baptist Church, and school was held in the Goode home. Although dilapidated, both the church and Goode residence remain. Families associated with the early development of the community were: Morris, Jenkins, Aitch, Shoves, and Draytons. Many who lived in the community owned no land at all, but by special arrangement built their small homes on the property of relatives. Most of the early families worked for local white farmers; the advent of the railroad also provided employment.

It is uncertain exactly when, or for how long the Goode home was used as a school. The earliest records pertaining to a black school in Moselle date to the first decade of the twentieth century, at which point the church may have functioned as the school. Teachers included: Hattie G. Boyd (1909), James Herbert (1916-1921), and J.R. Shakelford (1917-1918).

The present schoolhouse dates to the 1920s, when the black community was at its height. Teachers associated with this building were: Sister Cummins, Eva Woods, and Lillian Kemp (who was the teacher through the 1930s and early 1940s). Daily routine included a short prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and a song. Every morning designated students walked to a creek at the foot of the ridge to obtain their daily water supply. Books and other materials were always second hand. The single classroom contained about ten to fifteen desks. The blackboard and teacher's desk were located on the eastern end.

In the 1930s enrollment still exceeded twenty students, but it dropped to around ten in the early 1940s. Consequently, the school was closed and Moselle students were transported to Lincoln School in Union (see #27), approximately eight miles northwest of Moselle.

Sometime in the 1940s or early 1950s the structure was converted into a dwelling. A single wall divided the room into two rooms to accommodate a kitchen and bedroom, and a well was dug and cistern installed nearby.

In its remote location on the outskirts of the city, Moselle Colored has long been both protected from human encroachment and neglected. Although presently in poor condition, Moselle Colored School is an important historical landmark in the Moselle community and merits recognition and, if possible, preservation.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on the crest of a hill on the edge of the abandoned African American community of Moselle, about one-half mile southwest of the former business district. There are several other vacant buildings in the general proximity, including: the former Second Baptist Church, the Goode home, and the Jenkins home. The entire area is overgrown with cedars and hardwood saplings. A small creek, once a lifeline for the community, is located north of the school.

41. Sources of information

Missouri. Franklin County. Recorder's Office. Deed Books. Franklin County Courthouse, Union, MO.

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MOSELLE COLORED
VCN. ST. CLAIR
FRANKLIN COUNTY

ORIGINAL INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT
SCALE: 1/8" = 1' 0"

STOVE
BLACKBOARD

PLAYGROUND
Douglass School is a single-story ceramic-block building, laid out on an irregular plan. The ceramic block is covered with a thin layer of textured stucco. Stylistically it is bungalow with exposed rafter ends, and windows and trim typical of the period (c. 1930). The facade exhibits a small ornamental, arched window, porch awning, and triangular knee braces. Although the interior has experienced extensive renovation, the basic floor plan has not been significantly altered. Noteworthy interior features include hardwood floors, unique walnut mullion, and trim.
The construction of the Chicago and Alton Railroad through Armstrong in 1878, precipitated growth and prosperity in a town that had long been overshadowed by its sister community, Roanoke, approximately five miles north. Armstrong's economic prosperity in turn, fostered the development of a vibrant African American community, concentrated along the eastern edge of town on the previous site of the Armstrong fairgrounds and set apart from the white community by the railroad tracks that slash through town from the northeast. Consequently, through the late nineteenth century males in the community were either employed by local white agriculturists or by the railroad. The tobacco industry was especially important to the local economy, and both field and factory jobs attracted large numbers of blacks prior to 1900. Women in the community found domestic work in local white households.

Through the 1890s blacks in and around the city of Armstrong attended school at a neighborhood bar called "the Big Apple," located at the end of Elm Street, adjacent to the tracks. Students used barstools and tables as desks by day, and at night the building became the center for local night life on the black side of the tracks. The first school for African Americans in Armstrong was a small frame building, erected in 1900. It was located north of the railroad depot and east of the tracks on a small triangular lot. It was called Douglass and accommodated students through the eighth grade. The first commencement took place in June, 1901 at the M.E. Church on Pine Street. Teachers at this early school included: Professor Cravens, Samuel Isham Richardson, Juanita Richardson Patton, Bertha Enyart, Ada Basket, and Professor Perry Martin Cason. The close relationship between Douglass School and the M.E. Church would continue through the 1950s.

As Armstrong's black community grew, the small structure did not adequately meet their needs and "new" Douglass was constructed around 1930 at the corner of Elm and Haley Streets on a large lot purchased by the school board one year earlier. Douglass originally consisted of five rooms, including a coat room, a kitchen, a restroom, and two classrooms. Grades one through four were taught in the east side and five through eight on the west. Beginning in the 1930s various years of high school were also taught on an "as needed" basis. Teachers at the "new" Douglass included: Mrs. Griffin, Shirleen Miles, Rosie Neff, and Ethleen Wols (who taught for many years in Saline County). Books and other supplies were never new, but were passed down from the local white school. Morning routine included Pledge of Allegiance, a short devotion, and song. The playground, where students played baseball and other games, was located along the eastern side of the building.

In the 1940s students were transported by bus to Dalton Vocational School in Chariton County (see #13). The bus route originated in Slater and transported students from Gilliam, Glasgow, Armstrong, Roanoke, Forest Green, and Keytesville. Douglass closed its doors 1956 and students were integrated into Armstrong Elementary and High School. Shortly thereafter, Armstrong schools closed and both black and white students attended Fayette Public Schools.

In 1957 Joe Parker, a local resident and a former student of the older school, purchased and renovated Douglass for use as a private residence. The renovation included lowering ceilings and rearranging the floorplan, including the removal of two non load-bearing interior walls. One of the classrooms was converted into a garage and a large overhead door installed. However, much of the original hardwood interior trim and hardwood floors remain intact.

Douglass is significant in its historical value to the local African American community who is aware of its importance as the only remaining black landmark in Armstrong. Perhaps more importantly, by all indication, Douglass is the last African American school still standing in Howard County.
40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Douglass is situated on a large lot on the northeast corner of Haley and Elm Streets in the Fairgrounds Addition of Armstrong. A vacant lot borders the property on the east. There are no remaining outbuildings.

41. Sources of information


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Photographs

Students in front of Douglass School c. 1948. Teacher: Ethlene Wals

Douglass School, C. 1945. View of Facade Looking East
Douglass School is a two-story, rectilinear brick building laid out on a modified four-over-four design and incorporating Craftsman stylistic elements such as triangular knee braces, low-slung hipped roof, and wide eaves. The lower floor is partially subterranean. Douglass exhibits a pedimental center gable over a stepped entrance. Six-pane double entrance doors are flanked by six-pane sidelight and crowned by a oversize tri-partite multi-pane transom light. The facade displays creative juxtaposition of brick, wood, and windows, with a pronounced symmetry and a
vertical emphasis that is offset above by a horizontal band and shallow roofline. Original three-over-one windows in the facade (two sets of four) are intact. The original interior has been retained in its entirety, including: trim, fixtures, floors, and even blackboards.

39 History and Significance

Higginsville's African American community developed on the extreme northwestern edge of the city. By 1880 the community had established St. James A.M.E. Church, and in 1886 a school; both were located in the geographical center of the community between West Sixteenth and West Seventeenth Streets. This first school was a two-story frame structure called Douglass and was built on the same property as the church, approximately where the present (later) Douglass School now stands.

In 1925 the old structure was razed and "new" Douglass was erected. Douglass was a two-story, three-classroom building with Craftsman stylistic elements typical of the time, laid out on a modified four-over-four plan that efficiently utilized interior space. The interior is as symmetrical as the exterior; a small split-level foyer channels into a set of double staircases and north/south hallways on both floors. On the lower floor were a boys' and girls' restroom (on either side of the stairs), a lunch room on the south end, an industrial arts classroom on the north end and a boiler room in between. The second floor contained the administrative office in the southeast corner, a library on the northeast corner and three classrooms along the western side: first through fifth on the north wall with a stage, and grades six through eight in the central portion, and a third classroom on the south wall where high school was taught from the 1920s through the early 1940s. Temporary wooden partitions separated the three classrooms and were retracted for all-school activities. Soon after initial construction part of the second-floor north wall was removed and a wooden stage added in such a way that it extends awkwardly on the exterior and is supported largely by external supports extending from the lower level.

Teachers at Douglass over its exactly three decades of operation included: Samuel Duncan, Mr. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. Marie Fulton Jordan, and Sophronia H. Woods. Duncan started teaching at Douglass in the early 1930s and by 1936 he was appointed principal. When high school was offered at Douglass three teachers were employed (Duncan probably taught and assumed administrative duties as well). But from the early 1940s through integration in 1955, two teachers were employed; one taught first through fourth and the other fifth through eighth.

The typical school day started with the Pledge of Allegiance, a short prayer and a song. The playground was located east of the building and directly behind the church. Students played basketball on a dirt court. Students traditionally brought their lunch, but in later years a kitchen was set up on the first floor and a hot lunch made available. Educational materials were used and transported directly from the local white school. The Christmas program and graduation ceremony were the highlights of the year. Programs were held on the second floor, utilizing the open space of the second floor classrooms and the small stage.

In the early 1940s, high school was no longer offered and students were bused twelve miles to the newly erected Douglass School in Lexington (see #32). In 1956 Higginsville Public Schools desegregated and Douglass closed. Former Douglass students who were integrated into the white schools noted an easier than expected transition.

The building remained vacant and open to vandals for several years before the school board sold the property to the present owner and alumnus Travis Benton, who currently uses the building and surrounding grounds for storage. Benton has marginally maintained the building but has managed to preserve the original interior and exterior.

Higginsville's Douglass School is significant in that it retains integrity of location, design, materials,
workmanship and historical importance to the social development of Higginsville in general, and the black community in particular. Douglass is one of a handful of African American cultural resources in the Higginsville area and is one of only five remaining black schools in Lafayette County. Despite its showing superficial signs of neglect, Douglass is a treasured local landmark and merits serious consideration as a National Register candidate.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on a large lot between W. Sixteenth Street and W. Seventeenth Street. A pole barn is located approximately fifty feet northwest on the structure. Historic St. James A.M.E. Church adjoins the property to the northwest. Private residences ring the property.

41. Sources of information


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Photographs

Douglass School, Higginsville, MO.
View from southeast.

Douglass School.
Detail: triangular knee braces, windows and wide eaves.
Although not elaborate in detail, Douglass School exemplifies an institutional Deco design typical of larger schools of its era. The building is laid out on a simple "L" plan, with efficient use of interior space. The boxy appearance of the building is softened by a projecting polygonal bay on the southeastern end of the facade and by the introduction of curvilinear form particularly noticeable in the semi-circular entrance steps, the form of which is echoed above in the entrance awning. There is a strong emphasis on horizontality throughout the building, notably in the basic design of two long
wings, which project at right angles from a corner focus, and more subtly in horizontally-segmented three-over-three ribbon windows—two sets of five in both south and west portions of its dual facade—and by white decorative bands that segment the entire facade horizontally into three parts. The ribbon windows originally continued on the east side of the northern wing, but have been altered to accommodate a smaller window.

39. History and Significance

Of all the counties of Missouri’s Little Dixie region, Lafayette had the highest percentage of slaves. After the Civil War the towns of Lexington and Higginsville witnessed the rapid development of African American communities, as some blacks sought economic opportunity outside of agriculture. As an important river port and railroad stop, Lexington provided some of that opportunity. A black community developed first in an area northwest of the downtown business district (around North Sixteenth St.) and later on the eastern fringes of the city. By 1870 the community had organized both an A.M.E. church (Zion) as well as a Baptist church (Second Baptist) and Masonic Lodge.

The earliest school for African Americans in Lexington was established immediately after Emancipation, although its original location is not certain. Zion A.M.E. (see #34) may have functioned as a school in the 1870s, although it cannot be verified. By the 1880s a black high school was also established with George H. Green as Principal. In 1891 Lexington High School (Central School) was completed and occupied. The former First Ward School (white) became the black school the same year. An addition was constructed to accommodate the larger enrollment and it was officially renamed Frederick Douglass School on November 6, 1901. Douglass was a two-story frame structure located on Main Street. On one side of the building grades one through four were taught, and on the other side a hallway led to a classroom for grades five through seven. At a later date an auditorium/gymnasium was also constructed on the property. Douglass school was never adequately supplied; the library only contained a few books. It was the policy of the local board that used books and other materials be handed down to Douglass School.

In September 1905 a $15,000 bond issue for new school buildings passed, and the following year "Colored school building #2" was completed at 2206 E. Franklin Street, the present site of Douglass Elementary and High School. The small, single room building served as the black elementary school until it was closed and razed in 1941 to make room for the new combined elementary and high school. The black community referred to this one-room school as "Miss Walker's School" because Nannie Walker taught at this location for most of her professional career. In the winter of 1937 Douglass School burned and students were forced to attend Zion A.M.E. Church, which functioned as a temporary school for the next four years (1937-1941) until a new school was constructed. Teachers at the old school included: Elizabeth Johnson; George Green; John William Carter and Sarah Robinson.

The "new" Douglass School did not materialize quickly. To obtain necessary funding, a bond issue had to meet with voter approval. The black community launched an energetic campaign that eventually got them their school; in 1941 Miss Walker's School was razed and construction on "new" Douglass School began. It was finished in the summer of 1942, and a dedication service followed on September 7.

The new school was laid out on a basic "L" plan and contained six classrooms, two of which were larger rooms with wooden partitions that were retracted when space was needed. In the north wing high school classes were taught, while the elementary grades were located in the eastern wing. A home economics room was located on the far north end of the building. Administrative offices (which amounted to a principal's office and connected general office) were located at the intersection of the
two wings, just inside the front (southwest) entrance. In the basement of the north wing was a large room originally designed as an industrial arts classroom, but since machinery was never obtained by the district, the room was used for storage. A small room near the entrance functioned as a library but contained only a handful of books. As was common, most of their books and other materials were well used and came directly from Lexington's white elementary and high schools. Only on rare occasion did they receive anything in new condition.

The curriculum included only the most basic courses. Much to the dismay of the black community, the school board saw to it that Douglass never offered commercial or business courses that would prepare students for an occupation outside of the home or of the menial jobs traditionally filled by African Americans in Lexington. As one former student explained: "[students] were supposed to be taught useful skills that would help us get a job--the only typewriter in the building was the one used by the principal; you took what was given to you."

Teachers at the "new" Douglass School included: Nannie Walker (who taught elementary grades in Lexington for over forty years--from c.1910 until 1950; Maydella Alexander; Cordelia Kidd (who taught early elementary grades); James Williams; Norman Calhoon; George Green (who taught high school); Sam Duncan (who taught high school); Marie Fulton Jordan, and Eva Saunders. John W. Carter, a teacher at both the old and new school, became principal in the 1940s and oversaw its closing in 1955-1956.

In the early 1940s, soon after opening, Douglass became a regional high school and enrollment soared. Lincoln School in Richmond (see #41) (twelve miles north of Lexington in Ray County) discontinued high school classes and continued to bus students the twelve miles to Lexington-Douglass until desegregation.

Douglass' football and basketball teams competed against other black schools, including Lincoln-Excelsior Springs, Garrison-Liberty, and Sumner-Boonville. Their teams were never adequately provided with athletic equipment; uniforms were used and often of various colors.

Douglass School was in operation for less than fifteen years. On September 4, 1956 grades nine through twelve were integrated. One year later, on September 1, 1957, elementary and junior high grades followed suit.

The former Douglass School was retained by the district for a number of years as a storage facility before being purchased by H.T. Seaton in the 1980s. Seaton adapted the building for reuse as low-rent housing for the elderly. The renovation divided the interior office and classroom space into small apartments. Although the top half of many of the building's windows were covered with plywood, the exterior remains in its original form and has been maintained. Even the sign bearing the school's name still graces its facade. In recent years the smaller, eastern wing has been adapted for reuse as a daycare facility.

Douglass is an important black cultural resource in Lexington. It is the last African American school (built as a school) in the city and one of only five black schools schools still intact in Lafayette County. Due to the fact that it was built in the early 1940s, and has been minimally adapted for re-use, it continues to retain its relatively fine condition and should be considered for a National Register nomination despite interior remodeling. It is also architecturally significant in that it as a fine example of the 1930s Deco design as applied to school construction. Moreover, for the city of Lexington it is reflective of an architectural style and era that is not well represented, either in commercial buildings or residences.

The former Douglass School is located on a large lot on the corner of Franklin and 22nd Streets in a residential area on the eastern fringes of Lexington. There is a tall retaining wall defining the eastern edge of the property and residences on south, east, and west sides; commercial property
borders on the north.

41. Sources of information

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Douglass School, Lexington, MO. View from southwest (facade and entrance).

Douglass School. View from southeast (polygonal bay).

Douglass School. View from northeast (north wing).
Constructed sometime around the turn of the century, the former Douglass School is a gable-end, single-room schoolhouse with a later ell addition on the west/south end. The original gable entrance has been shifted to the south side. Original two-over-two windows have been retained throughout most of the oldest portion (paired on the north side); one set on the south side have been removed to accommodate a new entrance. One-over-one windows have been retained in the addition. Conversion into a residence and subsequent remodeling has removed any trace of the
original floor plan or interior trim. It has an entrance deck on the south side, an attached shed on the west end and is completely sheathed in aluminum siding. It has also retained part of its slate roof.

39. History and Significance

After Emancipation Mayview witnessed the development of a black community, concentrated primarily on the southwest side of town, south of the railroad tracks. The bulk of the early community was made up of former slaves from Lafayette and surrounding counties who continued to work as local farm laborers. The city's first school for African Americans was built on the eastern fringes of the city (on the site now occupied by the later building). It was a typical one-room, gable structure.

In 1928 a new school was erected for Mayview's white community. The building (still standing) is a large, Mission style four-over-four school, built north of the black community on the northwestern corner of town near the site of the original one-room white school. It was soon determined by the county school board that the old white school was in much better condition than the building that blacks were currently using. The black school was subsequently razed and the white school was transported across town by mule team and placed on the old site, where it was used until Mayview formally desegregated in September 1955.

Teachers in the 1920s and 1930s included: Mrs. Brazil, Mrs. Eva Saunders and Mrs. Brown, and in the 1950s: A. Laurel Williams from Mt. Olive. The typical school day began with prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and a song. The desks were arranged in several rows facing the chalkboard and the teacher's desk was located on the west wall, opposite the east gable entrance. All books and other materials were always handed down from the white school. The playground was located on the south side of the building. Douglass school served the black community of Mayview until desegregation in 1956.

In the 1940s the ell with partial basement was added. It provided a raised stage and a small office/storage space on the west end of the building.

After desegregation the structure was purchased by Wesley Johnson, who probably converted it into a residence. Subsequent owners include: Chester Fox, and Dean Franklin; the latter of whom is responsible for the most extensive interior renovation, and the small shed addition on the west end. The present owner purchased the property in the early 1990s and has since remodeled further and added a small entrance deck.

Despite extensive interior renovation, and minor structural changes, Douglass has retained much of its original form and appearance. Although the majority of Mayview residents are African American, Douglass is one of the few remaining black cultural resources in the area, and one of only two remaining small-town black schools in Lafayette county outside of Lexington and Higginsville.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former Douglass School is located on the southeastern edge of Mayview. The site is bordered on the north and west by houses and by farmland on the south and west. A later frame garage is located approximately sixty feet south of the building.

41. Sources of information

Missouri. Lafayette County. Clerk's Office. Public School Records. Lafayette County Courthouse,
Lexington, Missouri.

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<td>Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers</td>
<td>William Woods University</td>
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Photographs

Douglass School, Mayview, MO.
View from northeast.

Douglass School
View from southeast.

Douglass School.
View from east (original facade)
Dover Colored School is a small single-pen, gable building with an enclosed porch. There are two small sliding windows in the north wall, a small window in the south wall, and a brick flue on the east end. Except for the facade, it is completely covered with roll asphalt. Nothing of the original interior remains.
In the 1870s a rural freedmen's community called Cubie developed about three miles northwest of Dover, along the Missouri River in northwestern Lafayette County. The community was comprised primarily of former slaves from the area and their families. In later years Dover and nearby Hodge witnessed the growth of small African American communities as Cubie declined and families moved closer to job opportunities within the white community. Most of the black males around Dover were small farmers or worked as farmhands for local whites, while women usually found work as domestics. A portion of Dover’s small African American community remained rural.

The first school for African Americans in Dover was believed to have been established in a church on Locust Street. Around the turn of the century a small one-room school was built across the street from the African American church. A deed for this land could not be located.

Teachers through the 1920s and early 1930s included: Miss Mary Coates; Mrs. Idella McDonald; Mrs. Juanita Redus; and Mr. James Sanders. Traditionally grades one through eight were taught. But beginning in the late 1920s ninth and tenth grade were offered under James Sanders, after which students were transported to Douglass School in Lexington for their junior and senior years. At its height in the 1920s Dover Colored had an enrollment of twelve to fifteen students. Some students walked as many as two to three miles one way to Dover from their outlying farms.

The single classroom was extremely small and poorly insulated. A centrally located wood stove provided heat in the winter. Eight desks (two rows of four) accommodated the students, and it did not have electricity or indoor plumbing. Books and other materials were always well used and came directly from the white school. Annual Commencement took place at the African American (Prince Hall) Masonic lodge hall in Lexington.

In 1934 enrollment fell below the minimal number and Dover Colored was closed. The remaining four school-age children were transported in a Model-T Ford by Virgil Combs to Douglass in Lexington. Combs was one of two blacks in the community to own a car, and was paid a meager sum by the state for his services.

After remaining vacant for several years, the building was subsequently owned by a series of individuals who adapted it into a home and who were responsible for numerous modifications, including an enclosed front porch and electricity.

Despite its lack of architectural significance and extremely poor condition, Dover Colored School is an important black cultural resource and the last remnant of a vanished black community.

The former schoolhouse is located on a small lot on the east side of Locust Street in Dover. An outbuilding (its use is uncertain) is situated on the south edge of the school, and a privy directly behind. A dilapidated home occupies the adjacent lot to the south.

Sources of information

DOVER COLORED SCHOOL
DOVER, MO.
LAFAYETTE COUNTY

ORIGINAL INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT

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

Dover Colored School, Dover, MO. View from southeast.

Dover Colored School. View of facade.
Erected in 1871, Zion A.M.E. is a brick center-steeple church incorporating Greek revival and Romanesque stylistic elements including: Romanesque central projecting bay; round arched windows with clear glass and circular top pane; and decorative brick corbelling on the facade. The entrance is double-door with tri-foiled arched light above. A portion of the steeple has been removed along with Zion's bell (now made into a monument located in front of the building). Interior features include: original hardwood pews, pulpit, and all interior trim and fixtures. With the exception of the modified
steeple, exterior stucco, and minor turn of the century interior modifications, it has experienced relatively little change and retained much of its original appearance and charm.

39. History and Significance

Of all the counties of Missouri's Little Dixie region, Lafayette had the highest percentage of slaves. After the Civil War the towns of Lexington and Higginsville witnessed the rapid development of African American communities as some blacks sought economic opportunity outside of agriculture. As an important river port, and railroad stop, Lexington provided some of that opportunity. A black community developed first in an area northwest of the downtown business district (around North Sixteenth St.) and later on the eastern fringes of the city.

By 1867 the community had organized Zion A.M.E. church and erected a frame structure on Sixteenth Street (then College Street) at the cost of $2,000. The early members included: Nelson Coleman; Bettie Langhorn; Edith Wilson; Dandrige Johnson and Daniel Jenkins. In 1870 the burgeoning congregation erected the present structure at the corner of Lafayette and 16th Streets at a cost of approximately $4,000. Zion was dedicated by Bishop T.M.D. Ward of the District of Columbia. Among the early pastors were: Rev. Shyler Washington, and Rev. James Madison, under whose administration Zion was constructed. In 1880, Zion had the largest African American congregation in Lafayette County, boasting a membership of 137.

Zion was as large and as well-constructed as any church in town. It was built at the same time as Lexington's First Christian Church (1870), located about six blocks south of Zion. The First Christian Church is identical to Zion in its Romanesque design, detail, and workmanship and was likely designed by the same architect who employed the same masons. The First Christian Church provides an example how Zion looked before the loss of her steeple and before the unfortunate application of stucco.

Zion's interior is impressive. A split foyer leads down a single set of stairs to a hall and up a double set of stairs to the sanctuary. The sanctuary was designed with twenty foot ceilings and walnut pews. Shortly after the turn of the century, under the administration of Zion's eighteenth minister, Rev. W.C. Williams, the church was remodeled and the present raised chior and pulpit erected and electricity and indoor plumbing installed. A lighted arch was also constructed behind the choir as part of the same renovation. In the 1950s, under Rev. J.A. Chandley, the bell tower was deemed unsafe and removed; the bell is now displayed near the southwestern corner of the building.

The earliest school for African Americans in Lexington was established immediately after Emancipation, although its original location is not certain. Zion may have functioned as a school in the 1870s, although it cannot be verified. By the 1880s a black high school was also established with George H. Green as principal. When Lexington High School (Central School) was completed and occupied, the former First Ward School (white) became the black school. An addition was constructed to accommodate the larger enrollment and the building was officially renamed Frederick Douglass School on November 6, 1901. Douglass was a two-story frame structure located on Main Street. Douglass School was never adequately supplied; the library was not much more than a storage room and only contained a few books. It was the policy of the local board that used books and other materials be handed down to Douglass School.

In September 1905 a $15,000 bond issue for new school buildings passed and the following year "Colored School Building #2" was constructed at 2206 E. 22nd Street, the present site of "New" Douglass School (see #32). The black community referred to this school as "Miss Walker's School." because Nannie Walker taught elementary grades at this location for most of her professional career.
In the winter of 1937 Douglass School burned and students were forced to attend Zion A.M.E. for the next four years (1937-1941), until another school was constructed. Zion was large enough to hold Lexington’s black high school and elementary students but the church facilities were only minimally altered to accommodate them. The first floor functioned as a cafeteria and the sanctuary acted as a large single classroom that was partitioned into smaller meeting space. Students who attended school at Zion noted the discomfort of sitting and working all day in pews. Teachers during the interim at Zion included: Nannie Walker, George Green, Cordilia Kidd, Maydella Alexander, Eva (Saunders) Dixon, and Norman S. Calhoun.

A new school did not materialize quickly. To obtain necessary funding, a bond issue had to meet with voter approval. The black community launched an energetic campaign that got them their school; in 1941 Miss Walker’s School was razed and construction on "new" Douglass Elementary-High School began. It was finished in the summer of 1942 and a dedication service was held on September 7. But Douglass’ years in operation would be few. On September 4, 1956 grades nine through twelve were desegregated; on September 1, 1957, elementary and junior high grades followed.

The property is significant in that it retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship and historical importance to the religious and social development of Lexington. On more than one occasion it played an important role as an educational institution as well. It has been placed on the National Register Of Historic Places as part of a Multiple Resource nomination (Old Neighborhood Historic District). Despite its listing, the social and material history of Zion has eluded any significant formal documentation. It is presently endangered by lack of monetary support; an elderly, dwindling congregation can no longer adequately maintain the building. The A.M.E. Conference of Western Missouri, who owns the building, is not in a position to provide support. Moreover, the present African American community in Lexington is predominantly Baptist and has voiced little interest in helping to preserve what is undoubtedly Lexington’s most important and endangered African American cultural resource. Zion is one of the oldest and finest African American churches in our fifteen county target area.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings
Zion occupies a hilltop lot at the corner of 16th and Lafayette streets. Directly in front of the building is a retaining wall; directly behind, is a 12' x 70' mobile home which serves as a parsonage.

41. Sources of information

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Photographs

Zion A.M.E., Lexington, MO. View from southwest.

Zion A.M.E. View from southeast

Zion A.M.E. Interior: closeup of apse.

Zion A.M.E. Interior: view of east wall and apse.

Zion A.M.E. Interior: southwest corner.

Zion A.M.E. Interior: northwest corner.
Zion A.M.E.
View from west (façade).
The former Harrison Public School is brick, single story, T-plan variation. The structure is typical of Victorian-style school design in its tall, segmental arched windows (hooded and in groupings of three on facade and north wall), and mansard roof. Concrete steps and covered basement entrance were added as part of a later renovation after the original bell tower and wooden porch were removed, but original awning and supports remain. The interior space has been radically transformed and retains little of its original floor-plan or materials.
Tipton and the surrounding area was settled by Anglo-Americans from the upper South, who transplanted their system of chattel slavery; families of these slaves formed the bulk of the local black community after Emancipation. The black community developed in the oldest section of Tipton, north of the railroad tracks, reaching its high point in the first decades of the twentieth century and slowly diminishing after 1940. As in many Missouri towns, the railroad tracks have traditionally served as a dividing line between black and white communities.

The first African American school in Tipton was held in the frame home of Cal Shackelford the AME preacher, who was also the teacher. A Mr. Jones also taught at this first school, which only accommodated first through sixth grades and stressed basic skills, especially reading and writing. Shackelford's home was located on the adjoining lot east of the present site of Harrison School on Howard Street.

In 1888 the school board promised the black community that if they voted for a levy that would enable the white community to build a new high school, the board would also build an elementary school for African American students. The levy passed, and in 1889-1890 Harrison Public School was erected.

The original design included a distinctive bell tower, centrally positioned above the entrance. Interior space was divided into two classrooms and two cloak rooms; one side accommodated first through fourth grades and the other fifth through eighth. In the early 1940s Harrison's bell tower began to develop cracks; it was soon deemed structurally unstable and removed.

The first teacher was the famous educator, Professor C.C. Hubbard. He was assisted by Mattie Bell and Ida Hamilton. In 1923 Galveston Shipley was hired. Shipley taught at Harrison until he retired with the advent of desegregation in 1957.

Text books and other materials were rarely new; practically everything that Harrison's students received was passed down from Tipton's white school.

Upon completion of the eighth grade students received a diploma, and if they wanted to continue their education, had to enter high school at Jefferson City, Kansas City, Sedalia, or St. Louis. For those who chose to do so, it meant making living arrangements with friends or family in those locations. Consequently, few students before the 1930s went further than the eighth grade. Economic realities also inhibited further education. Around 1933 the school board decided to provide transportation for black students to Lincoln High School in Sedalia, a school later renamed for Harrison's former educator. In 1936 Harrison became a two-year high school; Mrs. Hortense McClanahan and Shipley were the teachers. One of the two classrooms accommodated high school students and the basement was converted into a classroom for grades one through four. In 1938 Harrison graduated its first high school class, numbering seven.

Beginning in the 1940s children from Syracuse, approximately seven miles west in Morgan County, also attended. In 1948 the school board decided to discontinue the high school and began once again to transport students to Sedalia. This arrangement continued until 1953, when the black community had dwindled to the point that there were few high school-age students. Harrison continued to operate as an elementary school until Tipton public schools desegregated in 1957.

After remaining vacant for several years Harrison was sold to Prairie Grove Baptist Church for $1,000. The church used the building for occasional basket dinners and other special events. In the early 1980s Rev. David Shipley (son of Galveston Shipley) and his wife Alberta Shipley purchased the building and spearheaded an extensive renovation. Exterior brick was sand-blasted and tuck-pointed and the interior was completely gutted and remodeled; original hardwood Victorian trim was
removed, plaster and lathe replaced with sheetrock, ceilings lowered, original windows updated with aluminum ones. Several of the windows in the north portion were filled in with matching brick. In addition, the building was rewired and new plumbing installed. The new plan divided the two classrooms into a large meeting room, a library, lounge, chapel, entrance hall, and storage room. The wooden porch was replaced with a concrete porch, although original supports and awning were retained. Re-named Tempo House Creative, it functioned as a Baptist meeting facility for several years. Alberta Shipley died in 1989 and willed the building to the Central District Missionary Baptist Association. The churches of the district continue to use then building as a retreat/meeting center called Genesis II. A stipulation in Shipley's will called for the establishment of the Shipley Memorial Library, a room designed to house materials related to the churches of the association and to Tipton's African-American community, including church records and local black history.

Despite the loss of its distinctive tower and extensive interior upgrades, Harrison has retained much of its original appearance and charm. It is significant in its historical value to Tipton's African American community.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

Harrison Public School is located on a one-acre lot on East Howard Street in the Northeast corner of Tipton. No outbuildings remain. A well, contemporaneous with the original structure, is located approximately sixty feet north.

41. Sources of information

Huff, Della. "Harrison School," unpublished excerpt from radio broadcast "Life and Times in Moniteau County."

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Harrison School, Tipton, MO.
View from northwest.
Bush School is a simple gable-entrance, one-room school house with original two-over-two windows on both east and west walls (paired) and a corrugated metal roof. It is sheathed in vertical plank siding and is considerably smaller than most schools (measuring only 20' x 14'). Interior features include: original blackboards, shelves, and flue. In general, Bush has retained its original appearance and simple charm.
In the late nineteenth century a small African American community developed in a remote area south of present-day Highway K on the western edge of Montgomery County. Residents found employment as hands for local white farmers and in several established quarries in the area. The bulk of the community was comprised of former slaves and their descendants originating in Callaway, Montgomery, and surrounding counties. The community straddled the Montgomery/Callaway County line, and by the turn of the century had established a church, cemetery, and school centered on T.46-R.6-S.18. The community has long been abandoned and consequently little is known of the families who lived there. Many of the graves in Nunnaly Cemetery are unmarked. The Moore and Brown families were prominent in the years prior to the abandonment of the community. The cemetery, along with a small, dilapidated church, are the last material remnants of a community that was begun in the late nineteenth century, and endured into the 1940s.

Bush School is a small gable-entrance structure built prior to the turn of the century on the eastern edge of the community. It was located on private land approximately one-half mile south of Nunnaly Cemetery. Bush was the name of a prominent white family who owned a considerable amount of land in the area; the local white school was also called Bush. The interior was outfitted with no more than a dozen desks facing two sections of chalkboard opposite the entrance. The earliest chalkboard is made of a series of horizontal boards painted dark green; a real chalkboard was later mounted over the board. Both old and new boards remain intact. Small bookshelves and a storage cabinet were located between the pairs of windows on side walls, and a small wood stove on the chalkboard end. A series of large nails along the rear wall, just inside the door, functioned as coat hooks. With the exception of the wood stove and desks, all interior fixtures remain. There is no evidence that it was ever insulated.

Little written documentation pertaining to Bush has survived. Callaway County records indicate that so many students from that county attended Bush that they paid the teacher, Ollie Banks of Fulton, to teach at least the 1934-1935 year and possibly longer.

In the late 1930s the community began to dissolve, and around 1950 Bush School closed. After it had been vacant for several years Otis Thompson purchased the schoolhouse and moved it on skids to its present location approximately one mile north, along Route K. Although Bush has experienced weathering and even some deterioration, it is the only African American school in our survey that survives in its original form. Thompson has consciously preserved the original interior and exterior of the building. In doing so, he has salvaged an important piece of history that remains frozen in time.

Bush School is a significant African American cultural resource in Montgomery County. It is the only remaining rural black school, and one of only four extant Jim Crow schools in the county.

The former schoolhouse is located on the Thompson farm approximately one mile east of the Montgomery/Callaway County line on the south side of Highway K in south-central Montgomery County. The Thompson home, an array of outbuildings (including a larger relocated one-room schoolhouse) also occupy the property; pasture and woods ring the entire site.

Hamilton, William. Fulton, MO. Unpublished notes, collected primary resources, and personal interviews.

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Bush School. Montgomery Co., MO.
View from northwest.

Bush School.
View from northeast.
BUSH SCHOOL
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
ORIGINAL INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT
SCALE: 1/8" = 1' 0"

STOVE
BLACKBOARD
Built around 1875, Lincoln School is a two story, rectilinear brick building with later additions on the east and north sides. The original two-over-two windows have been retained in the oldest portion, but have been covered by corrugated fiberglass. The original entrance on the northeast corner of the building has been enclosed by a small gable entrance hall that extends to cover a basement stairway. The interior retains its staircase and some original trim.
Following Emancipation Montgomery City witnessed the development of a significant African American community, concentrated along the north/northeastern edge of the city. The bulk of the community was originally comprised of former slaves from Montgomery and Warren Counties. Over the years male residents consistently found employment with local farmers and with the railroad that was at the center of the local economy; women traditionally found domestic work in the white community to supplement family income.

Lincoln School began as a two-story brick, hip-roof structure with one upstairs and one downstairs classroom; there was an entrance hall and narrow stairway on the eastern end. Architecturally, it does not reflect a common school form, but rather, resembles a simple rural house type of the period (c.1850-c.1880); it is probably a converted home, although this assumption cannot be verified. Close examination of the building reinforces the oral insistence that Lincoln was probably constructed around 1870. A deed could not, however, be located. The interior was outfitted with a wood stove in each of the two classrooms and chalkboards were positioned on the west wall. Around 1920 Lincoln was upgraded with the addition of indoor restrooms and electric lighting. Around 1935 an addition was constructed on the eastern end of the building to accommodate high school classes and included a basement and a boiler for steam heat.

Lincoln always employed two teachers: one for lower grades and the other for the upper grades. Teachers included: Mrs. Juanita Canter; John T. Bradford; Mrs. Ella Jane Taylor; Mr. ("Professor") Bill Anderson and Mrs. Fontell Logan (1944-1948). Bill Anderson was educated at Lincoln University and taught at Lincoln School from the 1920s through the 1950s. He is remembered for his creative infusion of music into the school day. Anderson was a gifted musician and always had a piano in his classroom. When students seemed bored or tired, he brought them back to life by spontaneously playing upbeat music on the piano and requiring them to rise out of their seats and dance around the room. One former student recalled: "Professor Bill could play that piano...he really got the classroom rocking." One of the later teachers, Fontell Logan, was terminated when state regulations for teachers were revised in 1947-1948; state revisions forced many rural and small-town teachers with less than sixty college hours from their positions.

Enrollment averaged about twenty to thirty students through the 1930s and 1940s. Grades one through four were taught in the first floor classroom, while grades five through eight met on the second floor. Daily routine included a short devotion, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a song. Books and other materials, never new, were discards from the local white school. The lot was over one acre in size and accommodated a playground on the north side of the building and a baseball field on the south side.

After completion of the eighth grade students had the option of attending Lincoln High School in Jefferson City. Although Lincoln was a boarding school provided at no cost by the state, transportation was not provided. Most families could not afford the additional expense however minimal. Some students attended high school in Columbia or Kansas City and made arrangements to live with relatives. Due to the inconvenience and the economic necessity of securing a job to contribute support to the family, most Montgomery City students received no more than an eighth-grade education. Around 1935, Lincoln began to offer two years of high school. An additional classroom was constructed on the eastern end of the building for high school classes.

In 1956 Montgomery City Public Schools were desegregated and for several years Lincoln remained vacant. Lincoln underwent a series of owners, including Keith Duren, who converted the school into three apartments in the 1960s and made numerous modifications. The changes were
primarily confined to the interior, and the exterior retained its original appearance. A fire in the early 1980s left the building in a state of disrepair. The building has been vacant since that time and has experienced vandalism and further dilapidation. Montgomery City's black community has also eroded over the last thirty years. Only a few black families live in what was geographically the black community surrounding Lincoln School; the black community is now diffused throughout the city.

Despite its present condition, Lincoln is structurally intact and retains its architectural integrity; it is not dilapidated to a degree that it cannot be stabilized and restored. Moreover, it is one of the oldest remaining schools in our survey area and one of only four extant black schools in Montgomery County.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former Lincoln School is located on a one-acre lot at the east end of 6th Street, in the northeast corner of Montgomery City. It is bordered by farmland to the north and east, a vacant lot on the west, and a patch of woods on the south.

41. Sources of information


42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Lincoln School,
Montgomery City, MO.
View from northwest.

Lincoln School
View from northeast.

Lincoln School
View from south.
Lincoln School is a simple gable-end ceramic block and brick structure covered with textured stucco. Two-over-two windows have been retained in the north and south walls of the original building. Hardwood floors and some interior trim have also survived. On the west end is an addition with shed roof and one-over-one windows containing kitchen, bathroom and rear entrance. The gable roof is part of a later remodeling. Its original flat roof with parapet is still intact and evident in the attic.
Wellsville's African American community was centered along Sturgeon Street, on the western side of the railroad tracks that bisect the city. Black families found employment with the railroad and with several brick plants in and around the city; the establishment of a firebrick plant on the north edge of Wellsville around 1920 led to a significant influx of African Americans.

The earliest African American school in Wellsville was a frame structure located south of the present building; a partial foundation remains. The present site (Lot #7, Block #6 of the original town) was purchased by the Wellsville School District from W.H. Arnold on August 15, 1921 for $600.00. Lincoln has always shared the 52' x 120' lot with the city; since the 1920s it has been the site of the city's water tower (the first one located within ten feet of the back door, and a later modern tower currently stands on the western edge of the lot).

As originally designed, Lincoln was a simple, rectangular, tile block building with a flat roof and parapet. The block was obtained from the local brick plant. In overall form and lack of ornament or distinguishing features, the structure resembled a large brick. The interior consisted of a single room with a chalkboard and teacher's desk on the western wall, a centrally located wood stove, and about thirty-five desks arranged in four or five rows. In the late 1940s, under Superintendent of Schools W.A. Bettcher, a bathroom and kitchen addition was constructed on the west end.

Teachers included: Iona Fogel, Rosie T. Williams, and Mrs. Clark (who was teaching when Wellsville public schools desegregated). Average enrollment through the 1920s and 1930s was thirty to forty students.

In the winter, the first students to arrive made a fire in the wood stove. The day started with Pledge of Allegiance, a short prayer and a song, usually "Lift Every Voice and Sing" or a patriotic song like "America." Once a kitchen was added in the 1930s, hot lunches were provided. Books and other materials were traditionally handed down from the local white school although on occasion Lincoln did receive new books. The playground was located directly west of the building; a ball field was located across Sturgeon Street (between the street and the railroad tracks). Equipment included only swings and assorted balls and bats, most contributed by individuals. Activities such as plays, the annual Christmas program and graduation always drew large crowds and were traditionally held in the larger community building.

In the 1930s high school classes were taught in a small building located on the adjacent lot south of Lincoln. Mrs. Harmon and Mr. Phillips were the teachers. This building was later a restaraunt, before it was razed in the 1970s. For a brief time in the 1940s students were transported to Lincoln School in Montgomery City for high school. Beginning in 1947, they were transported to Garfield School in Mexico until desegregation in 1955.

In November 1955 the the school board sold the property to Hubert R. Williams for the sum of $1.00 (quit claim deed). For a short time the building was used as a bar. In 1963 Williams constructed a gable (trussed) roof over the existing flat roof and converted the building into a residence. He also divided the interior space into two rooms and covered the exterior with textured stucco.

Subsequent owners included: Donzelly and Calvin Kemp, Fulton Jones and the present owner, Jeff Hollomon; all have further modified and upgraded the building at the expense of original features.

The black community began a rapid decline in the 1960s and 1970s as a result local plant shut-downs by some of the major local employers.
40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former Lincoln School is located in a residential area on Sturgeon Street, west of the railroad tracks and downtown area. The city water tower is located approximately sixty yards west of the building; the property shares an easement with the city.

41. Sources of information


42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/00
Lincoln School, Wellsville, MO.
View from southeast.

Lincoln School
View from northwest.
Erected in 1920, New Florence “Colored” was originally a single-room, gable-end schoolhouse. There is a small, later addition on the western side, an even later carport on the southwestern corner and a porch on the south end. One side of the roof is asphalt shingle and the other is corrugated metal. Original windows are still intact on the facade and eastern side of the building. Little of the original interior trim or floorplan remains.
Sadly, little is known about the African American community that developed in New Florence. The blacks who lived there were employed mainly as laborers for local white farmers. Some worked for the railroad. Although an earlier school may have existed, the present structure was built in 1920 and was still functioning as a school as late as the mid 1930s. Written records associated with the school could not be located. During the Depression the community experienced a sharp decline; from the 1950s through the 1970s New Florence did not have a African American community. In recent years new black families have begun to move into the city, but claim no connection with the earlier residents. Even older white New Florentines could barely remember a time when the city had a black community.

New Florence Colored was designed as a single room with gable-end entrance on the south and a chalkboard affixed to the north wall. Teachers included Mrs. Mary Butler and Mr. Butler.

The building was purchased by the Second Baptist Church in the 1950s and was used first as a church and then as a church school through the 1980s. An addition was built in the 1950s when it was used as a church. Subsequent owners have been: H.P. Frey, Thomas L. Pryor, Chris Jones, and the present owner, Linda Shedrick.

In the early 1990s the building was converted into a residence. The original interior trim was removed and the interior space subdivided to accommodate a single bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, dining room, and living room.

Despite modifications and additions the building has been maintained due to adaptive re-use and still retains some of its architectural integrity. New Florence Colored constitutes the last material remnant of the early black community in New Florence. It is one of only four extant African American schools in Montgomery County.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on a large lot on Lackland Street on the east side of New Florence adjacent to the city park.

41. Sources of information


42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Lincoln School is a grand, two-story side-gable brick building of unique design with classical detail. The highly ornamented center-gable entrance features a six-pane fan light. There are large ribbon windows in both north and south walls. The gable ends include palladian windows. Interior has experienced only minor renovation; many of its original features are still intact.
Soon after the Civil War a black community established itself in Richmond. Its members consisted mainly of former area slaves who were employed either as farm workers or coal miners.

In 1878 a tornado struck Richmond, destroying the established Andrew Lights church building. Shortly afterward, following a visit by CME pastor Reverend D. L. Tucker, the Andrew Lights church merged with the CME church under the name CME; the pastor was Reverend Holbert. At this time a leading white citizen, a woman, donated property for the establishment of the CME church. One stipulation attached to this gift was that the property used for both a church and a school. Lincoln School was soon constructed on this property, located east of the Ray County Courthouse on North Main Street (Lot #s 57 and 58 of the original town).

The first Lincoln School was a frame structure on the same site as the present building, positioned slightly to the east of the present school. This original school functioned until 1927, by which time it had become so dilapidated that a new school was built. The earlier building had four classrooms, two upstairs and two downstairs. Teachers included: William Jacobs, Alta Jacobs, Julia Riggs, Rosie Holmes, Forestine Holmes and Ethel Riley. The original school accommodated grades one through eight.

In 1928 the present building was constructed. The architectural firm of Tierney was hired to draw plans, and the J.D. Dunn Company of Kansas City was hired to build the school. Still in business today, the J.D. Dunn Co. was established only a few years earlier, and today has no record of the commission. Lincoln was an unusually well-made brick building with an elaborate entrance, featuring a transom fan light and rows of windows on the south facade. It had two Palladian windows, one at each gable end. Inside, there were two large classrooms—one housing grades one through four and the other grades five through eight—and a cafeteria.

Teachers at the new school included: Mr. Swanrick, Mrs. Hardin, Mrs. Thelma Gordon and Mrs. Armenta Gilliam and William Jacobs. Occasionally the school obtained new writing or drawing books, but for the most part materials and books were hand-me-downs from the local white school. School days were typical, beginning with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Students enjoyed recess on the playground behind the building.

In the 1940s Lincoln began to offer first one, and later three years of high school. To finish high school students had to be bused approximately nine miles to Douglas School in Lexington.

In 1956, the local schools desegregated, and Lincoln became an elementary school. It continued to function in this way until around 1984, when the school board sold it. Subsequently it passed through a series of owners, who made few changes, maintained the building well and altered the interior very minimally. As a result, Lincoln has retained its architectural integrity and remained in very good condition. It is, by and large, one of the most interesting, best constructed and best maintained African American schools in our target area. On grounds of both its historical and architectural significance, it should be a strong candidate for a National Register nomination.

Lincoln School is located on a large lot in a residential area east of Richmond's downtown. To the north is St. John C.M.E. Church. To the east is an open field. There are no extant outbuildings.

Missouri. Ray County. Deed Books. Recorder's office, Ray County Courthouse, Richmond, MO.

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<td>William Woods University</td>
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Lincoln School, Richmond, MO.
View from southeast

Lincoln School
View from east: palladian windows

Original plaque from Lincoln. In possession of Ray County Historical Society

Lincoln School
View from south: entrance

Lincoln School
View from northwest
Built in 1948, Arrow Rock "Colored" School is a simple gable end brick building laid out on an irregular plan. On the exterior, the structure retains much of its original appearance, including the original porch and gable awning with triangular knee brackets and six-over-six windows (five on west side and two flanking entrance door). The interior is divided into rooms as part of a later renovation.
In the late nineteenth century Arrow Rock had a vibrant African American community, concentrated, with few exceptions, on the north/northeastern edge of the city.

In 1859, James Milton Turner, an agent of both the Federal Freedmen's Bureau and the state Department of Education, came to Arrow Rock to investigate the local school board's failure to build a school for their blacks. When Turner questioned the school board about what had happened to the portion of local taxes that was to be allocated for that purpose, the members pleaded ignorance, but agreed to use funds apportioned to the white schools to establish a school in the Freewill Baptist Church (see #32). African American children in Arrow Rock continued to attend school at the church until 1894.

In 1890, the Arrow Rock School District procured a lot for $100 from Peter Hillen, on which to build a black school. The first school building, a frame structure, was erected in 1892 on the site of the present school, with materials salvaged from the old white school in the south part of town. When this building was demolished in 1937, a second frame structure was built immediately. In 1948, this second school building burned. The basement under the rear portion of the present building reveals older brick foundation walls that evidence a fire and may be remnants of the original 1890s structure.


Following the destruction of the second school building, a new one was built on the same site. Morris Peterson was among the local individuals who worked on its construction. As originally designed, the new Arrow Rock School was a one-room brick, gable-end structure on an irregular plan, probably incorporating part of an earlier structure on the north end. There were large four-over-four windows on the west side, and a small, covered porch on the gable end. The rear portion is a small L that protrudes to the west. In this part of the building was a small kitchen, where hot lunches were prepared. The school, which served grades one through eight, was used only until 1955.

Following desegregation, the school building was sold to the Robinson family, who converted it into a home by dividing the main interior room into two bedrooms, a bathroom and a living room. It continues to be used as a residence.

Despite the fact that some African American children in Arrow Rock did not attend school, or went only sporadically because of economic circumstances in their families, the Arrow Rock School was nevertheless central to the African American community in the town. For many, it provided a basic education, opportunity for social and intellectual growth, and preparation for life in the outside world. Architecturally the building is a fine and very late example of a classic gable-end schoolhouse. The Arrow Rock Historic District should be extended to include this building, which lies just outside the district boundary.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The building is nestled in a low-lying area, just north of the city limits of Arrow Rock. The property is comprised of a narrow lot amounting to .9 acres. The site and remnants of The AME church, once the heart of the black community, adjoins the property to the east. A frame shed was erected sometime in the 1960s and is located approximately twenty yards northeast of the School.
41. Sources of information

Kremer, Gary. Unpublished manuscript on education in Arrowrock.

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
7/30/00
Erected in 1934-1935, Lincoln School is a typical T-shape school, with hipped roof intersecting a clipped front gable (gabbit). A small entrance awning with brackets echoes the front gabbit. The original double entrance doors have been replaced by a single door as part of a later renovation. Original one-over-one windows (two on both east and west ends and six on the south side) are still intact. The interior, however, retains little of its original floor plan or appearance.
39. History and Significance

Blackburn's African American community developed in the years after Emancipation on the south edge of the city. Little is known about the early development of the community other than that it was comprised of former slaves from Lafayette and Saline Counties who continued to work as agricultural laborers in freedom. The first known school for African Americans was located in a small building on the south end of Ash Street on the northeastern edge of the city.

In 1934-1935 Lincoln School was constructed. Unlike most African American communities in Saline County, Blackburn's black population was large enough at that point to merit a two-room structure rather than the smaller gable-end schools that were built in other towns like Miami, Gilliam, Arrow Rock, Nelson, and nearby Mt. Leonard. Lincoln was a typical central hall, or T-plan school, comprised of two classrooms. On the west side grades one through eight were taught by Francis Guthrie (who taught at the earlier school); on the east side two years of high school were taught by Professor White. For a short time a Mr. Green also taught at Lincoln. All books and other materials were used and traditionally came directly from the local white school. The playground was located south of the school and consisted of nothing more than an open space with a ballfield.

Although the building had electricity, plumbing was never installed. Students came from the area around Blackburn and from Mt. Leonard for high school grades. Blackburn was one of the largest small-town black schools in the county and one of the last to be constructed.

In 1940 a fire completely destroyed Blackburn's white grade school. The later years of the Depression had witnessed the gradual decline of Blackburn's black community and a corresponding drop in enrollment as families migrated to available jobs. These two factors together were devastating to Blackburn's black community and would taint race relations to the present day. In 1941 the local school board decided that Lincoln be appropriated by the white community and that the city's black students attend an inferior building located several miles outside of town. Francis Guthrie angrily recalled that "when the whites wanted the building they just kicked us out---it was a sad day for the Negroes in Blackburn--and one we've never forgotten." When the whites began to attend the school, they received all new materials, plumbing was installed (including copper sinks), and the basement renovated to accommodate a kitchen/cafeteria.

The African American community continued to dissolve. By 1940 only a handful of black families lived in Blackburn. When their school closed in 1941 students began to attend Lincoln in Mt. Leonard. Francis Guthrie's sister-in-law, Beatrice Guthrie, who taught at Mt. Leonard, lived in Blackburn and transported the few remaining students to and from school.

The structure functioned as Blackburn's grade school for many years. It was sold by the local school board when a new grade school was built in the early 1960s. Subsequent owners--Hartwig, Schulte and Guthrie--converted it into a residence. Original fifteen-foot ceilings were lowered and the interior space was divided to create two bedrooms, a kitchen and bathroom. John Kennedy purchased the building in 1971 and continued the renovation.

Lincoln School is a significant African American resource in western Saline County. It is the last material remnant of a forgotten black community. Architecturally, it is a fine late example of a T-shape school, which were common from the 1890s through the Depression.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on a one-acre lot in a residential area on the southeastern edge of Blackburn. The building is surrounded by residences on the north and east, by a vacant lot to the west and farmland to the south.
Sources of information

History of Saline County. St Louis, MO: Historical Co., 1881.

Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

Organization
William Woods University

Date
6/30/99
Lincoln School is a simple, gable entrance, frame structure. On the front is a small entry porch; on the back, a later kitchen has been added. Two over two windows have been retained on both north and south walls. Interior features include painted-plaster chalkboards and original trim. Although the structure evidences minor exterior and interior modifications, it has, in general, retained much of its original appearance and is similar to other rural and small town African American schools built in Saline County during the era.
After Emancipation, a scattered rural black community began to form around Cambridge and Gilliam. Men were primarily sharecroppers and farm hands for local farmers; women were domestic servants for whites in Gilliam, Slater and New Frankfort.

The first African American school in the Gilliam area was located in Cambridge, a small rural settlement four miles northwest of town. Beginning in the 1860s, Cambridge was an important black community and included several businesses and a church. The school in Cambridge continued to function until the late 1890s, when it is believed to have burned, and African American children of Cambridge began to attend newly erected Lincoln in Gilliam.

Lincoln School was built around 1900 on a small lot at the intersection of Central and Pond Streets, approximately sixty yards west of the old ice house, and beside the Prince Hall Masonic lodge (non extant). Today, remnants of home made playground equipment mark this original location.

Lincoln accommodated first through eighth grade in its single classroom. The gable end entrance faced south; the teacher's desk and main blackboard were located opposite. A coal stove was centrally located in the classroom. The school day began with prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and a song. Each morning a designated student was assigned the task of obtaining the school's daily supply of water. Textbooks were well-used discards from the local white school, as was the case with other materials that they received; nothing was ever new.

Teachers included: Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald; Hester Wright (Brown); Ethlene Wols; Aquilla Johnson; Leslie Foster; Phoebe Washington; Flossie Wilson; Roberta Scott; Waverly Tillford; Rosemary Smith; Ida Sharon; Hester Brown; Mary Howard (1937 to 1942); and Violet Woods.

There existed a close relationship between church and school; the yearly Christmas program, plays, and graduation were always held in the more spacious St. John's Freewill Baptist Church, located one block east of the school. With the help of the church, Lincoln School held an annual ice cream social to raise funds that were used to buy playground equipment and other supplies that were not provided by the local board.

Before the 1930s high school was not a viable option. Students could attend Lincoln-Hubbard School in Sedalia, but transportation was not provided. But beginning in the late 1930s, students attended high school at Dalton Vocational school (see #13) in Chariton County; bus transportation was provided but Gilliam students had to endure the almost forty-five mile trip one way, via Glasgow and Keytesville. Students were required to walk to Highway 124, on the south edge of town to catch the bus. In winter months it was dark by the time they arrived home.

Upon desegregation in 1957, black students began to attend Gilliam Public School and Lincoln was converted into a community center. In the late 1960s St. John's Baptist Church acquired the building and moved it approximately 100 yards east to its present site on Elevator Avenue. Lincoln was adapted for use as a church annex; the front entrance was enclosed and the cloak room converted into boys' and girls' restrooms; a 7' x 23' kitchen was added to the eastern end and a new offset entrance created. The middle window on the northern side was removed and a second door installed. With the demise of Gilliam's black community in recent years, the structure has not been used much. It has been marginally maintained by a handful of concerned citizens.

In its simple form, Lincoln School is typical of countless one-room schools that once existed in small-town and rural Missouri. Despite its later addition, Lincoln School has retained its architectural integrity and charm. More importantly, it is significant for its historical value to the local African American community, who recognize and appreciate Lincoln and nearby Freewill Baptist Church as their only remaining material resources.
Lincoln School is located on a small lot in a residential area in the northwest corner of Gilliam approximately 100 feet north of the intersection of Elevator Street and Central Avenue. A few feet north is St. John's Freewill Baptist Church; a vacant lot is south.

Sources of information


*History of Saline County*. N.p.:n.p., n.d.


Form Prepared by

Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

Organization

William Woods University

Date

6/30/99
Lincoln School, Gilliam, MO. View from northeast.

Lincoln School. View from south.
Erected in 1915, Lincoln School is a simple frame, gable structure with small additions on gable ends; east addition extends to the north creating a small ell. Original gable entrance has been enclosed and shifted to the north side. Original (large) windows have been replaced as part of a later renovation.
The town of Miami developed as an an important Missouri River port and, in the wake of Emancipation, offered newly freed local blacks a small promise of opportunity. Consequently, a small African American community grew up on the eastern edge of Miami. The African American group's first school was a log structure located east of the bridge over Coon Hollow Creek. They were later provided with a small frame, one-room building on the eastern outskirts of town. There is little certainty as to the precise location of either of these early schools, nor have written records survived.

In the 1890s, the hub of the black community shifted to the northern edge of Miami, on the bluff south of the Missouri River landing. By 1906 the community had established the Second Baptist Church, and a Knights of Pythias lodge on the north end of Main Street. In 1915 a new school--Lincoln--was erected on a lot adjacent to the lodge on North Main Street. The Church, lodge, and school marked the geographical and social center of the community.

Lincoln was a typical, utilitarian, one-room gable schoolhouse, with metal roof and clapboard. It reflects the same simple design as other rural black schools built in Saline County during the era (i.e. Lincoln-Mt. Leonard and Lincoln-Gilliam). There was a chalkboard at the east end of the room, opposite the entrance, and a single wood stove provided heat. The original playground was south of the building.

Grades one through eight were taught at Lincoln. Teachers at Lincoln included: Mrs. Sammy Lampkin, Mr. Charlie Wolls, and Mr. Booker. When Miami's black community was flourishing in the 1920s, Lincoln boasted an enrollment of between thirty-five and forty students. Used textbooks and other materials were provided by the local school board (presumably from the white school).

Miami's black community reached its high point in the 1920s; the 1930s witnessed the slow demise of the community as blacks were drawn to other locations for government-sponsored jobs. Lincoln school remained open, however, until the late 1940s, when enrollment dropped to a single student. By 1970 only a handful of older African Americans lived in Miami; by 1980 only the buildings remained.

After remaining vacant through the 1950s, Lincoln was purchased by John Brown around 1960. Brown adapted the schoolhouse for reuse as a home, slicing the single room into a bedroom, bathroom, and kitchen, and building additions on both gable ends. He also replaced the original clapboard with masonite siding and original windows with smaller, more energy-efficient ones. Brown sold the property in 1969, and subsequent owners remodeled and continued to upgrade.

Despite fenestrations, additions, and interior changes, Lincoln School is significant as one of the few African American cultural resources remaining in Miami.

The former schoolhouse is situated on a hillside lot on the north end of Main Street in Miami. The former African American Knights of Pythias Building (now the Miami Historical Society Museum) is located on the adjoining lot to the north; it is bordered by woods on the south and east. The Second Baptist Church is located approximately 100 yards west.

Sources of information
History of Saline County. St Louis, MO: Historical Co., 1881.

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Lincoln School, Miami, MO.
View from southeast.

Lincoln School.
View from northwest.
LINCOLN SCHOOL
MIAMI, MO.
SALINE COUNTY

ORIGINAL INTERIOR ARRANGEMENT
B.R. 698

SCALE: 1/8” = 1’ 0”
Erected around the turn of the century, Lincoln School is a typical gable-end schoolhouse with small later additions on both east and south ends. All but one of the original two-over-two windows have been replaced; several have been removed completely and replaced with clapboard as part of a later renovation. In some of the original openings smaller one-over-one windows have been installed. Nothing remains of the original floorplan or interior trim.
39. History and Significance

After The Civil War, an African American community quickly developed on the south side of Mt. Leonard, south of the railroad tracks. The community was mainly comprised of former slaves from Saline and Lafayette counties. Men found employment primarily as farm hands; women often found regular domestic work for white families. Around 1880 Rev. Hopkins erected an A.M.E. church south of the railroad bridge and served as its pastor for many years. This structure was razed in 1948. The Gulf, Mobile, and Ohio Railroad slashed through the south end of town became a dividing line between black and white communities. By 1910, when Mt. Leonard was in its heyday as a railroad and farming community, the city had an equal population of blacks and whites.

The first school for blacks was held in the Methodist church and its first teacher was William (Will) Clark, who was also a barber and was well respected in the white community. When a new school was built for the city's white community around 1900, the black students attended the former white school, located one mile north of town. This arrangement infuriated the black community, and consequently it did not last long. After about three years of physical and verbal battles between black and white communities, the school mysteriously burned. A lot on the northwest corner of town was subsequently purchased by the county, and Lincoln School was erected.

Lincoln School was a simple one-room building that resembled other schools built in Saline County around the same time, such as Lincoln-Gilliam (see #44) and Lincoln-Miami (see #45). The classroom contained between fifteen and twenty desks, a wood stove, and a chalkboard on the east wall opposite the entrance. Plumbing and electricity were never installed while the structure was used as a school. The building had little insulation and was intolerably cold in the winter, despite a small wood stove. Books and other materials were always handed down from the local white school and were frequently in unusable condition.

Grades one through eight were taught in a single room. Teachers at Lincoln School included: Mrs. Beatrice Guthrie of Blackburn and Rev. Wisener (who was teaching when Lincoln closed for good in the early 1950s). Mrs. Velma Hodges of Mt. Leonard acted as substitute for a number of years under Wisener, who was often busy with church and community responsibilities. In the mid 1930s high school was made available, but students had to travel to Lincoln-Blackburn (see #47), located approximately six miles southwest of town. Transportation was not provided. When Blackburn students were relocated to a smaller building in 1938, Mt. Leonard high school students were transported to Malta Bend, some ten miles north.

In the early 1940s, students from Blackburn and Shakleford attended Lincoln. By that point Mt. Leonard’s black community had begun to dwindle and by 1948 black students from Mt. Leonard were bused to Malta Bend. Mt. Leonard’s black community continued to deteriorate; by the early 1960s only six black families lived in Mt. Leonard. Today only two African Americans live in Mt. Leonard.

Lincoln School stood vacant until the early 1960s when it was purchased jointly by Charles Biggs and two other individuals, Barnard and Buford, and adapted for re-use as a residence. In 1972 it was sold by Mary Biggs to John Moore, who lived in the building until he died in 1996. It has been vacant since that date and has experienced rapid deterioration.

Despite additions, fenestrations, and extensive interior remodeling, Lincoln is an important African American cultural resource in eastern Saline County; it is the last vestige of a black community that is rapidly fading from memory.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on a large lot at the corner of Blackstone Avenue and Fourth Street in the extreme northwest corner of Mt. Leonard. A dilapidated outhouse is southwest of the
structure. North and west of the building is farmland; south and east are residences.

41. Sources of information

History of Saline County. St Louis, MO: Historical Co., 1881.


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42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Photographs

Lincoln School, Mt. Leonard, MO.
View from southwest (facade).

Lincoln School. View from northwest.

Lincoln School. View from northeast.
1. COUNTY: Saline

2. SPECIFIC LEGAL LOCATION:
   305 N. Blackstone St.,
   NEC N. Blackstone & W. 4th St.

3. CITY OR TOWN: Mt. Leonard, MO

4. DESCRIPTION OF LOCATION:
   House abandoned—lot grown up
   with trees and brush

5. BUILDING: X
   STRUCTURE:
   1. ON NATIONAL REGISTRY YES: NO: X

6. SITE:
   1. ON NATIONAL REGISTRY YES: NO: X

7. BUILDING:
   1. IS IT ELIGIBLE YES: NO: X

8. MX DISTRICT Nr.: X

9. DISTRICT POTENTIAL YES: NO: X

10. NAME OF ESTABLISHED DISTR.

11. FURTHER DESCRIPTION OF IMPORTANT FEATURES:
    Typical rural one room
    school house. Has full concrete
    foundation. Some
    windows closed when converted to single family house
    with interior walls added. Front and rear rooms added.

12. HISTORY AND SIGNIFICANCE:
    Black students attended school in Methodist
    church until new school built in town for white students.
    Black students transferred to old white school 1½ miles
    north of town. Blacks revolted against walking 1½ miles
    to school. School mysteriously burnt down. New School
    (this site) built in town for black students. Used
    until school integrated. Teachers Aileen Robins,
    A. Thileen Walls, E. R. Cost, Director District 63

13. BUILDING CONVERTED TO:

14. SOURCE OF INFORMATION:
    Mildred Conners–Merle Trelow

15. PRESENT LOCAL NAME/DESIGNATION:
    Mt. Leonard Colored School
    District 63 Saline County

16. OTHER NAME:
    Lincoln Colored School

17. THEMATIC CATEGORY:

18. DATED OR PLACED:
    Believed 1925-30

19. STYLE OR DESIGN:
    Rectangular school Bld
    Unknown

20. CONTRACTOR OR BUILDER:
    Local volunteer citizens

21. ORIGINAL USE, IF APPARENT:
    School house

22. PRESENT USE:
    Abandoned
    had been single family

23. OWNERSHIP:
    PUBLIC: X
    PRIVATE: X

24. OWNERS NAME AND ADDRESS IF KNOWN:
    Raymond Ballenger
    RT. 2, Box 73
    Malta Bend, MO 65339

25. OPEN TO PUBLIC Y/N:
    NO: X

26. LOCAL CONTACT PERSON OR ORGANIZATION:
    Mayor Merle Trelow

27. OTHER SURVEY IN WHICH INCLUDED:
    Unknown

28. NO OF STORIES: One

29. GROUND? YES: NO: X

30. FOUNDATION MATERIAL:
    Concrete/cut stone

31. WALL CONSTRUCTION:
    Wood frame

32. ROOF TYPE AND MATERIAL:
    Gable/Asphalt Shingles

33. NO OF BAYS FRONT: 1 SIDE: 1

34. WALL TREATMENT:
    clap board

35. PLAN SHAPE:
    Rectangular

36. CHANGES ADDED:
    moved

37. CONDITION INTERIOR:
    poor

38. CONDITION EXTERIOR:
    fair

39. PRESERVATION UNDERWAY YES: NO: X

40. ENERGIZED?: YES: X

41. VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD YES: X

42. DISTANCE FROM PUBLIC ROAD:

43. DISTANCE FROM AND FRONTAGE ON ROAD:

44. PREPARED BY:
    Perry D. Lovett

45. ORGANIZATION:
    Regional Development Services, Inc.

46. DATE:
    July 1, 2003

---

Building converted to single family; house abandoned grown up in brush. trees

5 miles replaces 10 buildings torn down, this is one
Mount Leonard

305 Blackstone, Front (west side)
with add-on

305 Blackstone, Front (west side)
Close up of an add-on, interior
Mount Leonard

305 Blackstone, North side
with add-on

305 Blackstone, South side
### Missouri Historic Property Inventory Form

**Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. No.</th>
<th>43</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. County</td>
<td>Saline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Location of Negatives</td>
<td>Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Present Name</td>
<td>Skinner Property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other Names</td>
<td>Nelson Colored School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Location</td>
<td>Behind 209 Baker St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. City or Town or Township, and Vicinity</td>
<td>Nelson, MO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Site Plan</td>
<td>![Site Plan Diagram]</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**The former Nelson Colored School is a simple gable-entrance frame structure with clapboard siding and metal roof. It evidences extensive interior and exterior modifications and retains little of its original interior configuration or appearance. Original doors and windows have been replaced as part of a later renovation that also included an addition along the western side of the building and a two-room attic and stairway. A second entrance has been created in a window opening on the east wall. Sections of the original black-paint-on-plaster chalkboards and elevated stage are still intact.**
Nelson once had a flourishing African American community, concentrated primarily west of the downtown area. A number of African American families also lived on outlying farms. Nelson's first school for blacks was established shortly after Emancipation in a house belonging to Thornton Taylor. In the late 1880s or early 1890s Nelson "Colored" was built on the western edge of town next to the newly erected Mount Zion Free Will Baptist Church, just west of Baker and 2nd Street.

Originally, Nelson School was a one-room frame structure with a gable-end entrance facing south. The school does not appear on the 1896 Saline County plat map, but the use of square-cut nails throughout suggests a pre-twentieth century construction date. As with many African American schools, the building was erected on property belonging to the local black church, in this case Mt. Zion Baptist, whose congregation purchased the land in 1879 and erected their church one year later.

Nelson School accommodated grades one through eight. Some of the early teachers were: Mr. Tut, George Williams, William Houston, and Zora Stone. The school day began with a short prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and a song, often "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The students never received new materials. Their textbooks were discards from the white school; frequently the books were practically unusable with covers torn off and pages or even whole chapters missing. The blackboard, teacher's desk, and a wood stove were located on the northern end. The desk was positioned on a raised platform and the blackboard was comprised of several coats of black paint on plaster. Their playground was located along the east side of the building, in the area between the school and Mt. Zion Church.

At one time about sixty students attended, but this number slowly diminished during the Great Depression; by 1940 only two students were in attendance, which necessitated the closing of Nelson School for good. From then on, students were transported to the newly erected Lincoln School in Blackwater (see #19). If students wanted to continue their education after the eighth grade, they had no other choice than to attend Lincoln-Hubbard High School in Sedalia, some thirty-five miles away. In November, 1953, the district integrated.

The building remained vacant from the early 1960s to 1979, when Arlee Skinner purchased the property and renovated the school for re-use as a private residence. A major part of the renovation was a 13' x 34' addition on the west side to accommodate a bathroom and bedroom. Ceilings were lowered and a two-room second floor (1/2 story) created. The original windows on both east and west sides were removed and replaced with smaller, more energy-efficient windows and a large double-door entrance was installed in place of the center window on the east side. Indoor plumbing and electricity was also installed for the first time. The Skinners lived in the building until 1985. In recent years the building has been converted into a garage and the original entrance widened and replaced with a garage door. Mt. Zion Freewill Baptist Church was moved across town in the mid-1970s, and now stands vacant, its congregation disbanded. What once was a significant black community has also diminished in recent years; it has been reduced to a single extended family.

Although extensive changes and neglect have greatly compromised its architectural integrity, Nelson school is, nevertheless, important as an African American cultural resource, and merits recognition and preservation.

The former schoolhouse is situated on a one-acre lot in the western outskirts of Nelson, approximately seventy-five yards west of the Skinner residence at 209 Baker Street. The elevation of

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on a one-acre lot in the western outskirts of Nelson, approximately seventy-five yards west of the Skinner residence at 209 Baker Street. The elevation of
the lot is much lower than the surrounding land and due to frequent flooding, sediment has gradually built-up around the structure. There are no extant outbuildings. A small creek and levee is located just west of the building.

41. Sources of information

*History of Saline County.* N.p.: n.p., n.d.

42. Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

43. Organization
William Woods University

44. Date
6/30/99
Photographs

Nelson Colored School, Nelson, MO.
View from southeast.

Nelson Colored School. View from northeast.
Douglass is a small, rectangular, schoolhouse with gable entrance. The structure exhibits clapboard siding and a corrugated metal roof. It was originally designed with two small windows in the western wall and a series of six distinctive ribbon windows along its eastern side. The entrance door and windows have not survived but the stricture is otherwise structurally intact.
In the late nineteenth century a black community consisting primarily of farmers and farm hands formed northwest of Foristell in and around T.47.-R.1-S.19. The black community was not exclusive to this area; some lived on more isolated farms in the outlying countryside.

An earlier African American school was established during the Reconstruction era, south of Peruque Creek, along present-day Route T (T.47.-R.1-S.30). Many of the black families lived north of the creek and when water was high they experienced a great deal of difficulty crossing; some students floated across the creek on logs.

Around 1920 a new African American school, Douglass, was built on the northwest corner of the grounds of the M.E. Church and cemetery, located just north of present-day I-70 and east of Route W, on the western edge of St. Charles County. The land had been sold to the M.E. church in 1871 by B.T. Ball, a local, relatively well-to-do black farmer, for the sum of one dollar. Smith M.E. Chapel was erected soon after and the earliest graves in this historic cemetery date to this decade, although many are unmarked.

Douglass school operated continually from around 1920 through 1951. Teachers included: Mrs. Marie Washington; Mrs. Woods; Mary Troutt; Mr. Wolfolk; and Vernell Miller (who was the last teacher before desegregation). At its height in the 1930s, enrollment totaled thirty to thirty-eight students (combined grades one through eight). So many students attended in the 1930s and 1940s that the room was overcrowded. There were never enough desks and always a shortage of materials; students frequently sat two to a desk. The materials--books and erasers--without exception, were handed down from Foristell white school; a roomy two-classroom building located about two miles north, just off of Highway 40.

The school year began annually the first Tuesday after Labor Day and continued through April. In later years, the year was extended through May. The school day began promptly at 9:00 with prayer, pledge, and a song, and ended at 4:00 p.m. Many of the students who attended Douglass walked. Most lived a mile or more from the school and would not arrive home until after dark during the winter months. Electricity or plumbing was never installed in the building and heat was provided by a centrally located coal stove. On cold days the teacher arrived early enough to build the fire so that the small room was warm by the time students began to arrive. The coal shed is still intact, a few feet west of the building. For several years they drew their water from a well located a few yards east of the school, but the nearby cemetery contaminated the water, after which they obtained their daily supply of water from a cistern about one-fourth mile north of the school. A part of the daily routine in early years involved the older boys retrieving water first thing in the morning. If the boys we not there that day, the larger girls were called upon to perform this task.

Formal commencement combined graduates from Douglass and Lincoln-Wentzville and took place at the latter. After graduating the eighth grade students attended Franklin School in St. Charles, over twenty miles away. They would walk to a designated spot along Highway 40 where they would board a bus, along with other students from as far away as Warrenton, and Wright City. When the school was closed in 1951, the remaining students were transported to Lincoln School in Wentzville (see #48).

Although in poor condition, Douglass School is an important African American cultural resource. It is one of only two known surviving rural schools in St. Charles County. The site, including Smith A.M.E. Church and cemetery, should be considered for a National Register nomination. The cemetery is one of the oldest black cemeteries in the county and is only marginally maintained by a few older members of families associated with the property.
The former schoolhouse is situated in the northwest corner of a one-acre lot approximately 200 yards east of Route W, one mile north of I-70. Smith M.E. Chapel (dilapidated) and cemetery are located directly east/southeast of the building.

Sources of information

Photographs

Douglass School, vcn. Foristell, MO. View from northeast.

Douglass School. View from south (facade).

Smith A.M.E. Church and Cemetery. View from east.

Douglass School. View from north.

Smith A.M.E. Church (dilapidated). View from southeast (facade).
Erected around the turn of the century, Lincoln School was originally a glazed block/brick, single pen structure later enlarged with a concrete block addition on the north end. The earlier classroom retains original hardwood floor, eight-over-eight windows (concentrated and in ribbon form on east side), blackboards, rear stairs, and Victorian bullseye millwork, around windows and doors. Its original form is masked by a facade incorporating faux mansard roof on south and east and neo-Tudor half-timbering surface treatment. The apex of Lincoln's front gable is visible above the facade.
The structure has experienced numerous additions to the north and east (all after Lincoln closed). The original concrete entrance ramp and railing is still intact.

39. History and Significance

Immediately following Emancipation a black community developed on the eastern edge of Wentzville. A school for blacks was soon established in an old log church near present-day Linn Avenue. Beginning in 1880 school was held at newly erected Grant Chapel A.M.E. Church (destroyed), directly behind the present location of Lincoln School, and approximately sixty feet east of the later Grant Chapel A.M.E (c.1930), built on the same lot as the earlier structure.

Both oral and written sources indicate that Lincoln School was erected about 1900 on what was then the eastern fringe of the city. It was originally a one-room building with a gable entrance facing south, and stairs leading to a basement and rear entrance on the opposite end. Chalkboards lined the western wall, opposite the eight-over-eight ribbon windows. It was constructed of glazed ceramic block sheathed in white brick. Lincoln is one of the more unusual sites in our target area, both in terms of design and materials, and reflects an uncommon transition between late Victorian and Modern. It exemplifies a simple gable form but is constructed of glazed tile (of various shades) typical of the 1920s. The snow-white brick used both on the exterior and in the foundation is unlike any other in the area and is believed to be of limited and local manufacture. The ribbon windows are also typical of then-current architectural trends. However, the remaining bullseye mullion, windows, hardware and few remaining light fixtures are typically late Victorian and date to around the turn of the century.

Oral sources insist that it was built on land belonging to the A.M.E. church, although a deed could not be located. It would not have been unusual if the school was built on church property; often a church was not only the first school, but stood at the center of the black community, both figuratively and geographically. It was a logical location and in this case the lot easily accommodated another building.

With an influx of students in the 1920s, a second classroom constructed of concrete block was added on the north end. The front (south) classroom accommodated grades 1-6, and the back (north), 7-8. Teachers included: Tennessee Craddoc from Sedalia (who taught the lower grades for many years); Caudy Grady; Richard Lunceford; Mrs. Emma Brown and Mr. Leverne Miller. In the 1940s indoor plumbing was also added. The playground was located directly east and south of the building.

Daily routine included prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and a song such as "Lift Every Voice." Books and other materials were handed down directly from the local white school. A centrally located wood stove provided heat until a coal furnace was installed in the 1930s.

In 1957 Wentzville schools were integrated. Lincoln was purchased from the local school board by Frank Toth the following year. Toth operated a glass business at this location until 1998 and was responsible for three separate additions in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s respectively. However, Toth primarily utilized the space provided by the additions; the original schoolhouse was largely preserved, being used first as a showroom and later for storage. Toth did remove the eastern wall of the second classroom and added the Tudor facade that has camouflaged the original exterior to the present day. In 1998 Toth retired and sold the building to Dennis Harris, who currently operates an automotive repair shop.

Despite additions and changes in the exterior appearance, Lincoln School is an important African American cultural resource in the Wentzville area. Lincoln School and adjoining Grant A.M.E. are the last remaining historical black sites in the city; Lincoln is the only remaining black school in the county outside the city of St. Charles.
The former schoolhouse is situated on the eastern end of Pearce St. approximately sixty feet south of Grant A.M.E. Church.

Sources of information:

Harris, Dennis. Interview. Wentzville, MO. June 2, 1999.

Form Prepared by
Gary R. Kremer and Brett Rogers

Organization
William Woods University

Date
6/30/00
Lincoln School. Wentzville, MO. View from northwest.

Lincoln School. Wentzville, MO. View from southwest.

Lincoln School.
View of interior; chalkboard

Lincoln School.
View of interior; ribbon windows
Gibson School is a simple two-classroom, T-shape school with a front cloakroom, metal roof and clapboard siding. Several original windows have been replaced with smaller one-over-one units. An awning capps a single-leaf door. Interior features include: twelve-foot ceilings, hardwood floors, and some original fixtures. The stone foundation is exposed on the north side, providing an entrance to a walkout basement.
39. History and Significance

In the late 1800s an African American community grew up outside of Wright City, to the north of the town, in an area around the present Route J. Its economy was largely agricultural. Sometime around the turn of the century they built a school somewhere along current Route J to serve the community's black children; its exact location is unknown. Gibson School, built on a separate site, on the edge of a ridge along the same stretch of highway, was probably constructed around 1920. This school functioned up until desegregation, which was late in Wright City, around 1962.

Gibson is a large, T-plan frame building of classic design with a metal roof and eight-over-eight windows. There was a walk-out basement on the north end. The interior consisted of a front cloakroom and two classrooms, divided by a partition. There was no indoor plumbing; water was carried in buckets from the well outside. Grades one through four occupied the south classroom created by this division; grades five through eight held class in the north classroom. The playground was behind and to the east of the building. The children benefited from the tight-knit community atmosphere and their teacher's involvement in church and community efforts. Parents were active in annual events such as Christmas programs, school plays, and the Halloween costume parade through the town.

The school day at Gibson started with a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a song, often "America." Teachers there in the 1940s and 1950s included Gladys Sydner, Mrs. Gygans, Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Riddley. Teachers were required to attend county teachers' meetings at the white school, where they were made to sit in a separate section at the back of the room, reinforcing the Jim Crow philosophy that would linger here for so long. From 1954 to 1962, the teacher was Betty Brown, who was noted to be strict, and who, typically, emphasized the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. The students at Gibson had few books, and those they did receive were passed down from the local white school; frequently they were damaged or incomplete.

In 1961, upon desegregation, retired. By that year the Gibson School enrollment had increased to the point that the Wright City School District decided it was time to integrate the elementary schools. The upper grades had integrated into Wright City Junior High in 1958, but the elementary grades remained segregated until May, 1962. Upon integration, Betty Brown was sent a letter of thanks and dismissed. Though many black teachers in Missouri vocally protested their firing after desegregation, Brown chose to remain silent. Subsequently she was hired as a second grade teacher in the Wentzville School district, becoming the first African American teacher in the Wentzville public schools. She later received her MA and remained at Wentzville until she retired in 1990.

After 1962, Gibson was converted into a residence and went through a number of owners. The interior arrangement and twelve-foot ceilings remain intact, as does much of the exterior. A substantial portion of the original clapboard remains, but Masonite replaced it on the east side of the building, which also exhibits fenestrations: the removal of several windows. A back door and deck have been added, also on the east side.

Gibson is one of very few African American landmarks extant in Warren County; it is significant in the history of Wright City African Americans. A fine example of a T-plan schoolhouse, it has fortunately remained largely unaltered, despite its adaptation for reuse as a home.

40. Description of Environment and Outbuildings

The former schoolhouse is situated on a large lot on the east side of Route J. There are two contemporaneous privys, located approximately seventy-five yards east of the building. The site is currently a pallet factory and a number of recent outbuildings are scattered on behind the main building.
Photographs

Gibson School
Vcn. Wright City, MO.
View from northwest

Gibson School
View from northeast

Gibson School
Students at Gibson School (upper grades) c. 1952