United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name Orange Street School
   other names/site number

2. Location
   street & number 500 block of Orange Street (NE corner of Orange & )
   city, town Fayetteville
   state North Carolina code NC county Cumberland code 051 zip code 28301

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property
   X private X building(s) Contributing Noncontributing
   □ public-local □ district 1 1 buildings
   □ public-State □ site
   □ public-Federal □ structure
   □ object

   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination □ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. □ See continuation sheet.

   Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer
   State or Federal agency and bureau

   Date 8-11-87

   In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. □ See continuation sheet.

   Signature of commenting or other official Date

   State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby, certify that this property is:
   □ entered in the National Register. □ See continuation sheet.
   □ determined eligible for the National Register. □ See continuation sheet.
   □ determined not eligible for the National Register.
   □ removed from the National Register.
   □ other, (explain:)

   Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
The Orange Street School sits in the 500 block of Orange Street, a narrow, recently paved street in a traditionally black neighborhood in the heart of downtown Fayetteville. The site is bounded on the rear (east) by the railroad tracks. A number of late nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century modest frame dwellings surround the buildings. The school has been vacant since 1983 and is awaiting restoration by the non-profit foundation which owns it. The school, built about 1915, is a two-story, approximately square building, three bays wide and three bays deep, of brick construction. The utilitarian industrial design is enhanced by Neo-Classical elements on the main (west) facade, which faces Orange Street. Although deteriorated, and with minor alterations, the building and setting retain their historical integrity.

The brick is laid in a variation of common bond consisting of five rows of stretchers to one row of alternating headers and stretchers. A low hip roof of standing seam metal, with exposed rafter ends, covers the building.

The main facade has a central entrance set in a large arched opening with a keystone and is flanked by one-story pilasters with triple bands of brick and concrete caps forming capitals. The original double leaf door has been replaced by a later single door, and a wooden covered stoop added. South of this original entrance, a small plain door with a similar stoop has been added. In the second story, above the entrance, is a three-part window with narrow, vertical three-over-three sash. This window emphasizes the central focus of the main facade. Flanking the upper window are decorative brick panels consisting of an outer band of slightly raised brick in a basketweave pattern and a smaller band of raised brick with crosseted corners. At the corners of the main facade are plain brick pilasters.

The south (right) and north (left) elevations have irregular fenestration consisting of three-over-three sash windows grouped in three units of four on the south and singly, in pairs, and in groups of five on the north. The window openings have segmental arches on the first story and flat arches on the second story. Several window openings have been infilled with brick.
The east (rear) elevation has a central entrance at both stories, and no windows. The lower entrance contains a double door (apparently a replacement) beneath an original fanlight. The upper entrance is a replacement double door under a multi-pane transom. This entrance is reached by a metal staircase, and protected by a wooden shed roof (both apparently replacement). A two-story brick wing addition covers the northwest bay of the rear elevation.

The interior of the Orange Street School is largely unaltered. The front entrance opens to a transverse hall with stairs rising in the northwest corner and then to a wide center hall extending through the building to the rear entrance. Classrooms open off each side of the hall. Throughout the interior are the original wooden floors, rough plaster walls, five-panel wooden doors with operational three-pane transoms, and high ceilings. Some of the ceilings have been covered with accoustical tile. Original blackboards and bulletin boards are in place in the classrooms. The second floor has the same floor plan as the first floor. The two classrooms in the northeast corner of the second floor are connected by an unusual tambour door-wall which opens to create an auditorium.

There is one outbuilding—a five bay shed garage of frame construction built in the rear yard after 1953 when the property became offices and storage for the Board of Education. This is non-contributing.
The Orange Street School is believed to be the oldest public education structure of either the white or the black race remaining in Fayetteville, a southeastern North Carolina city with a large black population. The two-story brick building with modest Neo-Classical detailing was built about 1915 as an elementary school. From 1927 to 1940 it also housed the forerunner of E. E. Smith High School, and the period of significance ends when E. E. Smith High School moved to a new building in 1940. The school was built by locally prominent black contractor James Waddell. This local landmark is eligible for the National Register in that it is an important reminder of the history of black education in Fayetteville, and, although architecturally modest, is representative of early twentieth century school architecture throughout North Carolina.
of 1915–1916 shows that it was standing in that year. Although the two-story brick building is modest by later standards, it was a major improvement over the earlier small, wooden structures commonly used for black public education. It was built by locally prominent black contractor James Waddell. Other works by Waddell in Fayetteville are Huske Hardware, Kress 5 & 10¢ Store, Jognes Drug Store, and the Smith Academic Building on Fayetteville State University Campus.

The Orange Street School is believed to be the oldest standing public education structure built for either the white or the black race in Fayetteville. The oldest building on the Fayetteville State University Campus is the above-mentioned Smith Academic Building, built in 1924.

Edward Evans (1863–1943), a Fayetteville native, was the first principal of the Orange Street School. Evans served as a teacher and principal in Fayetteville for over fifty years. He was also a church and civic leader in the black community. During his tenure, whose exact span is not known, the school was an elementary school. In 1927, a high school, which eventually became E. E. Smith High School, was opened on the second floor of the building, with the elementary school remaining on the first floor. At this time, the high school was one of only two black high schools in Cumberland County. The high school was moved out of the building in 1929 but returned in 1931. During this period, the school's principal was Armour J. Blackburn, who later became Director of Personnel at Washington's Howard University and for whom Howard's Armour J. Blackburn University Center is named. It was through the efforts of Blackburn that E. E. Smith was first accredited in 1929, his first year as principal. During this period, the first floor continued to house an elementary school.

E. E. Smith High School moved to newer quarters in 1940, the same year that Blackburn left. Orange Street School was then an elementary school only until 1951. In that year it became a junior high school only, thus marking the first time since its opening that it did not house an elementary school. In 1953 the junior high was removed and the building was used by the Board of Education for various office and storage functions until 1983 when it was abandoned. In 1986 the Cumberland County Board of Education deeded the building to the Orange Street School Restoration and Historic Association, Inc. for one dollar. Its plans to restore the building as a museum of public education have drawn wide support in the area. The association recently received a grant from the North Carolina State Legislature for stabilization of the building.

CRITERIA EXCEPTION G: The extension of the period of significance to 1940, beyond the normal fifty-year cutoff for eligibility, is justified because of the exceptional significance of Orange Street School from 1927 to 1940, when it was one of only two black high schools in Cumberland County. The school was one of the most visible symbols of the improvements made in black public education in Fayetteville during the ca. 1915 to 1940 period.
Footnotes


4 Cumberland County Deed Book 171, page 242; Fayetteville City Directory, 1915-1916.


6 Information supplied by Ernest McNeil and W. Edward Murphy.

7 Brochure on the history of Fayetteville State University, in files of Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC 27611.

8 Fayetteville Observer, November 9, 1986; Information supplied by Ernest McNeil and W. Edward Murphy; Dicks, "Education in Cumberland County," 62.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.2 acres

UTM References

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>693300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Verbal Boundary Description

The property, outlined in red on the enclosed Cumberland County Tax Map, No. 0437, is Parcel No. 0437-58-5184.

Boundary Justification

The property consists of the entire city lot, 1.2 acres in size, outlined in red on the tax map. Its dimensions are 215' by 240' by 190'.
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brochure on the history of Fayetteville State University. Files of Survey and Planning Branch, State Historic Preservation Office, NC Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, NC.

Cumberland County Deed Book 171, page 242. Cumberland County Register of Deeds, Fayetteville, NC.


Fayetteville City Directory, 1915-1916.


McNeil, Ernest and Murphy, W. Edward, Interview.

