

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 10-900a). 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 & Chance sts.) not for publication
city, town Fayetteville vicinity
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	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> Total

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 nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William D. Fair, Jr. 8-11-87
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/grammar schoolEducation/secondary school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Other: Utilitarian IndustrialClassical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brickwalls brickwoodroof tinother concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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.

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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.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Ethnic Heritage-black
Education
Architecture

Period of Significance
ca. 1915-1940

Significant Dates
ca. 1915
1927

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Waddell, James

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

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.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Despite the presence in Fayetteville of the state's first normal school for Freedmen, founded in 1867 (now Fayetteville State University), black public education lagged behind white public education in that city, as it did in the rest of the state, in the early part of the twentieth century. Black schools suffered from poor library facilities, low salaries, and high teacher-pupil ratios. Most black schools were modest one-teacher frame structures.¹ For a variety of reasons, the situation began to improve about the time of the First World War. The Jeannes Foundation, a private source of education for black children, made its way to Fayetteville in 1910 with the appointment of Mrs. Maud Scurlock as Jeannes Supervisor. She was replaced the next year by Mrs. Ann Chesnutt Waddell who held that position for twenty years and became an important figure in the city's educational life.² Black schools received increasing attention from local school officials and state officials such as Eugene Clyde Brooks, whose tenure as North Carolina State Superintendent of Public Schools from 1919 to 1923 has been called a "golden period of Negro education in North Carolina."³

It was in this context that the Orange Street School was constructed about 1915 as a public graded school. The two lots on which the school stands were deeded to the trustees of the Fayetteville Graded School in 1912, and the Fayetteville City Directory

See continuation sheet

1st black teacher college in South

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of 1915-1916 shows that it was standing in that year.⁴ 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.⁵ Other works by Waddell in Fayetteville are Huske Hardware, Kress 5 & 10¢ Store, Jones Drug Store, and the Smith Academic Building on Fayetteville State University Campus.⁶

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.⁸ 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.

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Footnotes

¹Judson R. Dicks, "Education in Cumberland County, North Carolina, 1900-1943," (Unpublished M. A. thesis, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1949), 24-25.

²John A. Oates, The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear (Fayetteville Woman's Club, 1972, 2nd printing), 702. Willard B. Gatewood, "Eugene Clyde Brooks and Negro Education in North Carolina, 1919-1923," North Carolina Historical Review, XXXVIII, Number 3 (July 1961), 363, hereinafter cited as Gatewood, "Eugene Clyde Brooks."

³Gatewood, "Eugene Clyde Brooks," 379.

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

⁵Sally Smith, "Restoring Landmark to Black Education," Fayetteville Observer, November 9, 1986, hereinafter cited as Fayetteville Observer, November 9, 1986; Information supplied by Ernest McNeil and W. Edward Murphy.

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

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

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

⁹Fayetteville Observer, November 9, 1986; Information supplied by Ernest McNeil and W. Edward Murphy.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 1.2 acres

UTM References

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See continuation sheet

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'.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Oswald, Ruth Little, and Jim Sumner, staff
 organization State Historic Preservation Office date January 30, 1987
 street & number Div. of Archives & History, 109 E. Jones telephone (919) 733 6545
 city or town Raleigh state North Carolina zip code 27611

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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.

Dicks, Judson R. "Education in Cumberland County, North Carolina, 1900-1943."
(Unpublished M.A. thesis, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1949.)

Fayetteville City Directory, 1915-1916.

Gatewood, Willard B. "Eugene Clyde Brooks and Negro Education in North Carolina, 1919-1923."
North Carolina Historical Review. XXXVIII, Number 3 (July 1961).

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

Oates, John A. The Story of Fayetteville and the Upper Cape Fear. Fayetteville: Woman's Club, 1972, 2nd printing.

Smith, Sally. "Restoring Landmark to Black Education." Fayetteville Observer,
November 9, 1986.

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