United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____________ B. F. Grady School _____________
other names/site number ____________________________

2. Location

street & number _____________ N side NC 11 .3 mi. W of jct. with NC 111 _____________ N / N not for publication
city or town _____________ Kornegay _____________
state _____________ North Carolina _____________ county _____________ Duplin _____________ code _____________ 061 _____________ zip code _____________ 28508

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

[ ] As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally [ ] statewide [ ] locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William [Signature]
[Title]
SHPO [Office]
1-20-74 [Date]

[ ] In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature of certifying official/Title]
[Date]

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

[ ] I entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] I determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] I determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] I removed from the National Register.
[ ] Other, (explain) _____________

Signature of the Keeper _____________ Date of Action _____________
### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ private</td>
<td>□ building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 1 buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☑ public-local</td>
<td>□ district</td>
<td>Noncontributing 0 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ public-State</td>
<td>□ site</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ public-Federal</td>
<td>□ structure</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>□ object</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

N/A

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Education: school

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Education: school

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Classical Revival

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Foundation: brick
- Walls: brick
- Roof: asphalt
- Other: iron, wood

**Narrative Description**
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[ ] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[ ] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[ ] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Architecture

Period of Significance

1928–1943

Significant Dates

1928

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/BUILDER

Boney, Leslie Sr. (architect)

Hudson, H.W. Jr. (contractor)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

[ ] previously listed in the National Register

[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register

[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark

[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

[ ] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State agency

[ ] Federal agency

[ ] Local government

[ ] University

[ ] Other

Name of repository:
B.F. Grady School

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.5 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 18 2 41 75.0 3 3 82 6 80
2 11
3 Zone Easting Northing
4

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title H. Ruth Little
organization Longleaf Historic Resources
date November 19, 1993

street & number 2709 Bedford Ave.
telephone 919-836-8128

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27607

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0016), Washington, DC 20503.
7. Description

The B. F. Grady School is located on a 2.5 acre site on the north side of NC 111 three-tenths of a mile west of the junction of NC 111, near the community of Kornegay in northeast Duplin County. The large two-story brick Neoclassical Revival style school faces south to the highway, with a circular driveway leading to the main entrance. Approximately 100-foot deep landscaped grounds separate the school from the road. A stone monument to Benjamin Franklin Grady is located in the center front edge of the grounds, with large evergreen and hardwood trees and shrubs and a grassy lawn creating a green buffer between the school and the road.

The original tract of 9.55 acres also contains a 1935 frame gymnasium located behind the rear playground area, and a shop and kindergarten building constructed in 1946 on the west side. These buildings and acreage are not included within the nominated boundaries because the entire campus, now in excess of 26 acres, is undergoing a major rebuilding campaign. A new elementary school to replace the present building is under construction on the east side of B.F. Grady School, and this new facility and other possible construction will at least alter the relationship of the gymnasium and shop with the main building, if not result in demolition of the entire present campus. The present school will be closed and its future is highly uncertain. In order to allow maximum flexibility for new construction on the campus, only the 1928 building and its immediate setting, consisting of the landscaped front yard and narrow side and rear yards, are being proposed for listing.

The school building completed in 1928 is twenty-seven bays wide and is composed of a three-bay central portico and twelve-bay wide flanking classroom sections. The school contains six classrooms and an auditorium on the first floor and seven classrooms and a science lab and home economics room on the second floor. At each end of the original building is a restroom and staircase. The building was expanded to the sides three times. In 1938 a wing containing one classroom at each level was added on the west end, and in 1947 a nearly identical wing was added to the east end. In 1950 a three-story wing was wrapped around the west end addition, containing the cafeteria on the first floor and two upper levels of classrooms (see Figure 1).
The focus of the main (south) facade is the classical portico, three bays wide, featuring a pediment with modillion cornice, molded eaves, and a stuccoed tympanum with a bulls-eye window. The square wooden posts supporting the pediment are recent replacements for the original fluted Corinthian columns, but the original Corinthian pilasters are still in place against the brick facade. The entrance, recessed within an arched opening, consists of a double wooden and glazed door with sidelights and a tall fanlight with decorative wooden muntins. Above the entrance is a delicate cast-iron balcony.

With the exception of the 1950 west wing, which created an asymmetrical facade, the original building with flanking wing additions forms a unified composition that appears to have been built as an ensemble. The original building and two early additions have matching exterior materials and design, with dark red brick veneer walls with a concrete water table and a concrete cornice band beneath the parapetted eaves. The roof is flat. All windows are six-over-six wooden sash with molded surrounds and brick lintels with concrete keystones. Exterior doors on the sides and rear are paneled and glazed, with three pane transoms and molded surrounds. Blind brick panels articulate the windowless east and west ends, and diamond-shaped concrete blocks accent the roof parapet. The auditorium, projecting in the rear, has a slightly different wall treatment, with brick buttresses with concrete caps separating pairs of nine-over-nine wooden sash. The rear wall of the auditorium has a row of six-over-six sash windows mounted high above the ground.

As with the earlier additions, a conscious effort was made to construct the 1950 addition to harmonize with the classical detailing of the earlier building. The walls have red brick veneer, the bands of metal casement windows have brick lintels with keystones like those of the older building, and the west wall has a decorative blind panel matching those of the older building.

The interior of the B.F. Grady School is basically unaltered. The floor plan of the first floor consists of an entrance lobby flanked by two small offices opening into a wide corridor that extends the width of the building. The auditorium is located opposite the entrance foyer, with a single classroom on each side of it. There are four classrooms on the front side of the corridor. Beyond the stair hall at each end is an additional classroom. On the second floor there are five classrooms along the south side of the corridor and two on the north side, with three smaller rooms located in the
center, above the auditorium, that apparently originally functioned as specialized laboratory space. Beyond the stair hall at each end is an additional classroom.

Access to the 1950 wing is through the west end of the 1938 addition, at both levels. This wing contains a kitchen and cafeteria on the ground (basement) level, three classrooms at the first floor level and three at the second floor level.

All interior finishes are original: the pine board floors, plaster walls, plain wooden chair rails, tongue & groove ceilings, and paneled and glazed doors with transoms. Classrooms are arranged so that the desks face chalkboards located on the inner walls, and light comes through the bands of windows over the children's shoulders. The stairwells at each end have brick walls, open windows with no sash, and open-string wooden staircases with paneled newels, plain balusters and molded handrails. The classroom additions of 1938 and 1947 contain the same general finish as the original classrooms, however the 1950 addition has concrete floors, concrete block interior partitions and plaster ceilings.

The size and finish of the auditorium are noteworthy. The space has the same pine floors, plaster walls and tongue-and-groove ceiling finish as the rest of the original building. The approximately 270 seats are arranged in three sections with two aisles separating them. The seating is original, and consists of rows of seats with cast-iron bases and shaped plywood seats and backs. Four cast-iron posts support the load of the second story above the auditorium. At the north end of the auditorium is a stage with a classical pilastered wooden surround. A dressing room and bathroom flank the stage in each corner.
8. Statement of Significance

B.F. Grady School, an imposing Neoclassical Revival style two-story brick schoolhouse in the Kornegay community of northeast Duplin County, is one of only two of the four consolidated schools that were built in this rural coastal plain county in the 1920s that have survived. The thirteen-classroom building with a large auditorium, built in 1928 from a design by noted Wilmington architect Leslie Boney, Sr., is the epitome of the modern school and community center that transformed rural life across North Carolina from the era of one-room schools and poor roads to the era of large schools built on highways, with students transported from a large district on school buses. Grady School is a typical and well-preserved example of this important type of school, which is now threatened across the state as a new generation of school architecture replaces these historic buildings. Grady School is eligible for the National Register for its local educational significance as one of the last surviving large rural schools of the consolidation era in Duplin County. Like many of these schools, Grady School functioned as a community center during the Depression and World War II, when a number of government programs operated at the school. The school is also eligible for its local architectural significance as an intact example of the dignified, modest Neoclassical Revival style that characterized school buildings of the era.

Historical Background

B. F. Grady School was constructed in 1928 from a design by Leslie Boney, a Wilmington architect, by contractor H. W. Hudson, Jr., on a 9.55 acre tract. It was the product of the statewide movement to consolidate public schools in the 1920s, and replaced approximately one dozen rural schools in the vicinity. The new school was named for Benjamin Franklin Grady (1831-1914), a prominent local educator and the Duplin County Superintendent of Public Instruction during the 1880s. Grady was not personally responsible for the establishment of Grady School, but there are several indirect connections to him. One of his descendants, William Joshua Grady, a county commissioner and member of the county Board of Education, was instrumental in consolidating community schools which had been organized in the late nineteenth century in this area into the B.F. Grady School. Among the schools consolidated were Smith's Chapel, Oak Grove, O'Daniel, Red Hill, Woodland, Mill Hill, Hebron, Beaver
Dam, Oak Ridge, Snow Hill, Pleasant View, and Sarecta. Still later, Albertson School and Outlaw's Bridge School were consolidated into Grady School.

The school was built on property known as the William Gaston Kornegay Place lying between the North East Cape Fear River and the junction of NC 11 and NC 111 in Albertson Township at Kornegay crossroads. The property was acquired by condemnation. The school had grades one through high school. The school had only three principals during its first thirty-four years. The first principal, Carl H. Walker, served until 1939, followed by Earl D. Edgerton until 1946, and H. M. Wells until 1962.

The school grounds were said to be completely devoid of plantings. Judge Henry A. Grady, son of B.F. Grady, provided trees of many species for the landscaping of the front grounds of Grady School in the 1930s. These are now large and create a pleasant setting for the imposing school building. The rusticated granite monument to the John Grady family, who lived nearby in the eighteenth century, was erected in front of the school, close to the highway, by Grady descendants in more recent years as a tribute to their ancestors.

Immediately after the school opened, the Great Depression commenced, followed by World War II. Both would influence activities at the school for two decades. In 1935 a gymnasium was built on the property under the auspices of the Public Works Administration founded in 1933. A teacherage to house unmarried teachers was built east of the school in 1940 under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, founded in 1935. The teacherage was moved away in the 1980s, since teachers had access to automobiles and no longer needed to live within walking distance of the school. School buses were used from the beginning to transport students, who came from a wide area.

In the fall of 1940, all single men in the county registered for the peacetime draft under the Selective Service Act at B.F. Grady School. On December 8, 1941, the morning after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the student body assembled in the auditorium and heard by radio the Declaration of War by President Roosevelt. The War Ration Books distributed by the federal government for the rationing of goods were distributed by Grady teachers to all families in the school district. The school became a center to mobilize support for the war effort. Teachers and parents enrolled
in American National Red Cross Home Nursing and First Aid classes taught at the school. The school was a recycling collection center for materials vital to the war effort.\(^4\)

Following the war, B.F. Grady School played yet another role in the community—as the center of veterans' vocational training. The School Agriculture Department set up a Veteran Farm Program. In the late 1940s there was a B.F. Grady Pre-School Medical Clinic which had the highest enrollment of any other pre-school clinic in Duplin County. In 1950 there were 126 veterans enrolled in night classes under the agriculture instructor.\(^5\)

B.F. Grady School has been a central focus for community activities throughout its history. Agricultural meetings, 4-H club, scouts, civic and family gatherings have taken place there. It has been the site of intermural contests, musical productions and community service projects.

The B.F. Grady High School department was consolidated with Beulaville and Chinquapin into the Beulaville High School in 1962, leaving grades one through eight at B.F. Grady School. Grady School was integrated in 1968.\(^6\) The school currently serves grades one through eight.

**Education Context**

B.F. Grady School is one of only two of the four consolidated schools built in Duplin County during the 1920s that survives. The 1920s, the "Good Roads" era, was the era of school consolidation in North Carolina. School consolidation could not occur until roads had been built to carry the buses that delivered children from a large geographic area to the district school. With the construction of a highway network throughout the state in the 1920s, and the widespread improvement of secondary roads, schools began to be consolidated. School systems established as a result of consolidation combined student enrollments from one and two-room rural schools into large brick schools. These consolidated schools have many common characteristics. They are built from approved plans, generally of brick, and were designed according to prevailing educational theories. Each classroom had a bank of tall windows to let in sunlight. An auditorium was a popular feature, so that the schoolhouse functioned as a community center as well. Most are of plain, utilitarian design with modest stylish
A site on a state highway, centrally located to serve the district, was also an important consideration.

Throughout its period of historical significance, from 1928 to the World War II era, B.F. Grady School has been the epitome of the modern school and community center that was one of the symbols of rural progress in the 1920s. The consolidated school was intended to be more than just a bigger version of the one-room schoolhouse. It was to be an agent of social, intellectual and moral uplift for the entire rural community. As State Superintendent E. C. Brooks wrote in 1921, the modern school with eight, twelve or sixteen classrooms and an auditorium is "the hope of the rural community."

Here the children of the farm may secure as good instruction as the children of the towns receive. Here the patrons may meet either for pleasure to enjoy an evening entertainment provided by the schools, or to form a cooperative association that will insure them better return for their labors. A school auditorium in the country is one of the best assets of a community. It affords an opportunity for the people to meet in large assemblies and for the young people to have entertainments and a richer social life. As a result of this type of building, the school is becoming the community center.... The hope of the rural community is this large type of community school.

In 1988, 504 schools built before 1930 were still in use in North Carolina. Four consolidated schools, all of brick construction in the Neoclassical Revival style, were built in Duplin County during the late 1920s: B. F. Grady School, Chinquapin School, Magnolia School and Hillville School. Two of these are now destroyed; Hillville School burned and Magnolia School was demolished. The B.F. Grady School and the Chinquapin School located on NC 41 in Chinquapin are the only surviving schools of this property type left in the county, and both are on the National Register Study List. The Magnolia School gym, a frame building, and the Magnolia School auditorium, a brick Neoclassical style building, both constructed with WPA funds in the 1930s, survive and have also been placed on the National Register Study List as the result of the 1993 comprehensive survey of Duplin County.

Two other Duplin County schools are also considered eligible for the National Register as a result of the comprehensive survey: Little Creek School in Greeners, a
frame public schoolhouse for blacks built about 1930, and the Magnolia Male Academy in Magnolia, a private schoolhouse built in 1858. The male academy, a two and one-half story frame building of Italianate Revival style crowned with a cupola, is the most architecturally distinctive schoolhouse in the county.\textsuperscript{8}

Architecture Context

The Neoclassical Revival style was the preminent style for public schools in North Carolina during the consolidation period of the 1920s-1940s. Schools of similar design, form, and age to the B.F. Grady School stand in many counties of North Carolina. In each county, however, these educational landmarks have strong local significance. The B.F. Grady School and the Chinquapin School are nearly identical examples of the style, and both were designed by Leslie Boney Sr. of Wilmington in the late 1920s. Leslie Boney, Sr. was one of the earliest graduates of the architecture program of the School of Engineering at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. He graduated in 1905 and became one of the earliest licensed architects in the state.\textsuperscript{9}

The style suited the goal of the State Department of Public Instruction to provide both intellectual, social and moral uplift for the community, since the two-story classical portico, a relatively inexpensive architectural feature, symbolized the ideal of progress during the early twentieth century. The large, finely detailed auditorium of B.F. Grady School is a particularly significant feature indicating the showplace status of the school.

\textsuperscript{1}History of the B.F. Grady School, anonymous typescript, 1957, located in National Register file, NCSHPO, Raleigh.

\textsuperscript{2}Special Proceeding 929, Superior Court, Duplin County: "Board of Education of Duplin County VS. W.G. Kornegay etals," Book 1102, pages 703-711. The 9.55 acre tract was laid off on February 6, 1928. A sketch of the tract is included in the special proceeding.

\textsuperscript{3}"History of the B.F. Grady School."

\textsuperscript{4}Letter from Hazel Ruth Kornegay to Shirley Strowd, Sept. 26, 1992 (copy in National Register File, NCSHPO, Raleigh.)

\textsuperscript{5}"History of the B.F. Grady School;" Kornegay letter.

\textsuperscript{6}"History of the B.F. Grady School."
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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8Jennifer Martin, Duplin County Study List presentation to the North Carolina National Register Committee, October 14, 1993.

9. Bibliography


Duplin County Superior Court Special Proceeding 929, Book 1102, pages 703-711, "Board of Education of Duplin County VS W.G. Kornegay etals."


Martin, Jennifer. Duplin County National Register Study List Presentation to the North Carolina National Register Committee, October 14, 1993.

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Planning, Raleigh. Duplin County Property Accounting Book, blueprint of floor plans of B.F. Grady School, drawn in August 1972 by M. Stevens.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is shown by a line drawn on the accompanying site plan, prepared by Boney Architects, June 15, 1993, at a scale of 1" = 60'. The front boundary, along NC 11, is 405 feet; the side boundaries, being the outer edges of the asphalt driveways flanking the building, are 285 feet; and the rear boundary, approximately thirty feet behind the building, is 360 feet wide.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the immediate setting of the B.F. Grady School, and is drawn to eliminate the shop/Kindergarten building on the west and the gymnasium to the rear due to imminent construction of a new middle school on the site of these buildings.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

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Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs:

Photographer: M. Ruth Little
Date: September 1993
Location of negatives: North Carolina State Preservation Office, Raleigh

A. Front view, from south
B. View of front portico, from southeast
C. View of rear, from northeast
D. View of 1950 west end addition, from southwest
E. View of 2nd floor hallway, from east
F. View of typical classroom, first floor.