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 any 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  Randleman Graded School
other names/site number  Randleman High School; Shaw Furniture Industries Showroom

2. Location

street & number  130 West Academy Street  not for publication  N/A
city or town  Randleman  vicinity  N/A
state  North Carolina  code  NC  county  Randolph  code  151  zip code  27317

3. 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  X  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  X  nationally  X  statewide  X  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]

Jeffrey C. Jones  SHPO  3/4/05

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

[Signature]

[Date]

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

[Signature of the Keeper]  Date of Action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entered in the National Register</th>
<th>Determined eligible for the National Register</th>
<th>Removed from the National Register</th>
<th>Determined not eligible for the National Register</th>
<th>Other (explain):</th>
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See continuation sheet.
### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- **X** private
- ___ public-local
- ___ public-State
- ___ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- **X** building(s)
- ___ district
- ___ site
- ___ structure
- ___ object

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tr>
<td>objects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

- N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed In the National Register**

- N/A

### 6. Function or Use

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

- EDUCATION/school

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

- WORK IN PROGRESS

### 7. Description

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

- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENT.REVIVALS

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation  **BRICK**
- roof  **METAL/TIN**
- walls  **BRICK**
- other  

**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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**Name of repository:**
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  2.2 acres

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

1  17  607850  3964260
  Zone  Easting  Northing
2
3  Zone  Easting  Northing
4  See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Jeffrey S. Smith and Susannah Franklin Buss, Historic Preservation Consultants
organization  Landmark Asset Services, Inc.  date  February 6, 2004
street & number  406 East Fourth Street  telephone  336.722.9871, ext. 106
city or town  Winston-Salem  state  NC  zip code  27101

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name  Randleman School Commons, LLC
street & number  406 East Fourth Street  telephone  336.722.9871
city or town  Winston-Salem  state  NC  zip code  27101

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 the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
Randleman Graded School
Randolph County, North Carolina

Narrative Description

The 1906 Randleman Graded School is located at 130 West Academy Street, just west of Randleman’s central business district. The school sits within a 2.2-acre parcel that includes only the south-facing building. The front yard is divided into two grassy lawns by a concrete sidewalk that leads up to the school’s front entry. Mature shrubbery surrounds the façade and a large, mature evergreen sits at the corner of the eastern wing. Vegetation is growing to the east of the school building. Randolph County’s first indoor gymnasium was built to the north of the Randleman Graded School circa 1928, but the metal-clad building was demolished circa 1980 after the building no longer served the needs of a student body. The school’s circa 1940 industrial arts building is situated on an adjoining parcel to the north, which is owned by the City of Randleman and is not included in the nomination.

Construction of the main block of Randleman Graded School began in 1904 and the building was ready for occupancy by 1906. The two-story brick building, five-bays wide and three bays deep, has a low-hipped roof and flanking hip-roofed two-bay wings. The entire building rests on a raised basement.

The original façade of eclectic design is substantially intact. The chief design inspiration was the Romanesque Revival style. The projecting entrance pavilion features a massive Richardsonian Romanesque-influenced arch. On the second story, corbeled shoulder pilasters support a tripartite window of three narrow six-over-six sashes with two-pane transoms. Projecting above the roof is a curvilinear parapet that was originally pointed, but changed to a curvilinear shape early in the school’s history. The roofs have wide bracketed wooden eaves. The façade of the main block is flooded with light from the sets of windows similar to the upper pavilion. These are wider nine-over-nine double-hung wooden sashes with three-pane transoms. At each end of the two-story section is a single narrow window like those of the pavilion. Brick stringcourses separate the stories. The rear elevation of the original block had the same windows, though now many are filled in with brick. The stringcourse continues around the entire block, as does the bracketed eave.
There were two wings added in 1926, one to the east side and one to the west side of the building. These are one-story above a raised basement and two-bays wide. Bands of twelve-over-twelve wood sash windows with recessed brick aprons are separated by brick pilasters. The 1937 extension to the north of the east wing is similar in design and has windows primarily along the rear (north) elevation. The same bracketed eave is employed on both additions as well.

The original floor plan included a front entrance lobby that opened to the two-story auditorium, the principal’s office to the east of the lobby, additional offices to the west, and eight classrooms. Each wing had two classrooms, one to the front of the central hall and one to the rear. Four classrooms were housed in the basement of the main block. The upper level provided gallery seating for the auditorium. This light-filled and open space looks down on the auditorium and stage. In 1926, each wing was extended to the west and to the east in order to accommodate ten new classrooms. One final addition to the north was made to the east wing in 1937 to provide four more classrooms, two in the basement and two on the first floor. This brought the total classroom number to twenty-two. The classrooms and corridors within the wings still retain their original narrow-strip hardwood floors, plaster walls, tall baseboards, and some have beaded-board wainscoting. (see Figure 1.)

The exterior has undergone minor alterations. Soon after 1918, the original two-over-two wood sash windows were replaced with wooden nine-over-nine and six-over-six sashes. The original one-light and two-light transoms were replaced by two and three-light transoms at this time. These windows are still in place. Other windows in the wings were covered over with boards. Some of the early windows have been left uncovered randomly throughout the building. The transom above the front door was boarded over while Shaw Furniture Industries owned the school. Also during Shaw’s occupancy, the main block was painted white.

The interior floor plan has been altered from its original configuration in limited areas of the building. Shaw Furniture Industries added partitions to create furniture showrooms in the first floor seating area of the auditorium and built a staircase and mezzanine-level platform in the former stage area. The company installed 2x2 acoustical
Despite the school’s use as a furniture gallery for over forty years, the exterior and the majority of the interior still retain a high level of integrity from their period of significance as a school. A planned rehabilitation of the building will return the auditorium and other altered interior spaces and the exterior to its original appearance. The building will be used as a senior housing and community center. The Randleman community will use the auditorium in various capacities. Apartments will be constructed out of the original classroom spaces as well as out of original boiler and coal rooms and offices.
Randleman Graded School, situated at 130 West Academy Street, in Randleman, North Carolina, one block west of the business district, educated the town’s citizens from its construction in 1906 until 1960, when it was replaced by a new school. Built on land donated by founding father and local businessman, John Ferree, the imposing two-story school building was built at a time when many school-age children were being educated in one or two-room frame schoolhouses across Randolph County. The county’s first brick school building, with an ornate Romanesque style entrance pavilion, featured “modern” amenities that made it an up-to-date school building in the state at the time. Manned with teachers for the first through eighth grades and with an initial enrollment of four-hundred and forty, the Randleman Graded School eventually offered public instruction for all twelve grades. The building was expanded in 1926 and 1937 with additional classrooms. The Randleman Graded School has local significance in the area of education under Criterion A as Randolph County’s first brick school and one of its best-preserved historic schools. Its period of significance begins in 1906 and continues to 1955, the end of its historic eligibility. Randleman Graded School also meets Criterion C as a landmark building with features of various revival styles, including the Romanesque Revival, in Randolph County.

Historical Background

The Randleman community grew from an 1849 cotton mill enterprise that was initially known as Union Manufacturing. In 1868, John Ferree and John B. Randleman purchased the cotton mill and changed the name to Randleman Manufacturing Company. The community became known as Randleman at Ferree’s request after the sudden passing of his colleague in 1879. The last quarter of the nineteenth century was a period of rapid industrial growth for the area, so much so that Randleman, incorporated by act of the North Carolina General Assembly in 1880, was the largest manufacturing city in Randolph County. The High Point, Randleman, Asheboro and Southern Railroad came

through Randleman by 1889, the town’s first drug store and first bank had been
constructed by 1900, and the population doubled from 1,027 in 1890 to 2,190 in 1900.\(^3\)

An early nineteenth-century education was obtained in Randolph County through
either an itinerant teacher or from a charter school. Because of poor road conditions
across the county and limited means of transportation between neighboring townships,
rudimentary, log or frame, one-room schoolhouses were constructed in almost every
Township within Randolph County.

In 1839, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the first state common
school law. Based on a plan devised by North Carolina Judge Archibald D. Murphey, the
law called for a system of public instruction that included primary and secondary schools
which eventually led to the university level, education of the deaf and dumb and
education for those too poor to attend. The law also dictated each county in the state to be
divided into school districts. Randolph County was initially divided into twenty-one
districts, but these were divided again into smaller districts so that each district could
have a schoolhouse that was close enough for the school children to reach on foot, which
is how most children reached school. By 1861, there were seventy-one districts within
Randolph County.

Many of the county’s schools found it difficult to remain open during the Civil
War because all state funds were directed to the war cause and most of the male
instructors were in service. The new state Constitution of 1868 expanded upon the
components of the common school law, calling for a school term no less than six months
in duration, schools for both races, supervision of the school system by the Board of
Education and children of “sufficient mental and physical ability shall attend the public
schools during the period between the ages of six and eighteen years.”\(^4\)

Although left impoverished by the ruinous Civil War, and no literary fund remained to
rely upon, North Carolina’s system of public instruction were funded by such private
organizations as the Freedmen’s Bureau, the American Missionary Association, and the
Peabody Fund. In 1877, the North Carolina General Assembly passed a law that required
counties to levy for school purposes and by 1885, these funds were used to renovate or
rebuild many of North Carolina’s schools.

One such special tax was levied in order to support the Bloomfield School, the predecessor of the Randleman Graded School. Located on the current site of the Holiness Church in Randleman, Bloomfield was a special charter school that consisted of one classroom and a vestibule. As enrollment grew, Bloomfield’s primary department occupied the vestibule and three additional classrooms were added around 1900. By 1902, the school had the largest enrollment in the county. Following completion of the Randleman Graded School in 1906, the Bloomfield School became obsolete and was demolished at an unknown date.  

Construction of the Randleman Graded School began in 1904 in a clover field on land that was given by one of Randleman’s founding fathers, Mr. John Ferree. A Mr. Henley was contracted to make and lay the bricks to construct the school building. It cost $10,000 to build the school, which consisted of eight classrooms, four in the two-story center section, four in each of the two wings, and a two-story, eight hundred seat auditorium in the central block of the building. In 1905, the citizens of Randleman had voted in favor of a $15,000 bond to pay for schools and roads. In the June 7, 1906 edition of The Courier, the building was described as, “large, handsome and modern in appearance. It is designed with the utmost regard for the comfort, convenience and health of the students. The rooms are spacious, well lighted and ventilated and are heated by a hot air system that cost $1,250 to install.” The school was equipped with double patent desks and chairs for the students; the total cost for these items was $1,215. Desks for teachers cost only $32. Seven different instructors taught the first through eighth grades in the opening year. Professor John L. Harris of Elizabeth City, North Carolina was the school’s first principal.

The addition of classrooms in both 1926 and 1937 reflects the growing needs of the school to serve and educate the citizens of Randleman. Built in a similar style, the 1926 east and west wing expansions raised the number of classrooms to eighteen. In 1937 four more were added to the north of the east addition. Activities and services were expanded over those decades as well.

8 Ibid.
Records about Randleman Graded School are scant prior to the publication of The Rendezvous, Randleman’s annual yearbook, which began circa 1944. A former student, ninety-one year old Artus Lineberry, who attended Randleman from 1917 until his commencement in 1929, recalled memories of his attendance at the school in an interview. He started at Randleman in the first grade and graduated in the eleventh grade. The first grade was divided into an “advanced section” and a class for those that required a slower pace. The typical subjects- reading, writing and arithmetic- were taught in the elementary grades, and history was added in the higher grades. As no bus service was provided, Mr. Lineberry and the other students walked to school. The auditorium was used for student performances, in addition to Commencement. The elementary grades would present a performance in the autumn while the Junior Play and Senior Play were held in the spring. By the time Mr. Lineberry graduated in 1929, school was in session for eight months. According to Mr. Lineberry, the state paid only for six months, so the town assessed a special tax in order to keep the school in session for an additional two months.9

A former student who came back to Randleman to teach is Randleman resident Joe Brookshire. Mr. Brookshire attended the first through twelfth grades at Randleman. He was in the first class to attend twelve years of school at Randleman and his class graduation was in 1947. Mr. Brookshire remarked that the school’s gymnasium, locally known as “the tin gym,” was the first indoor gym built in Randolph County. Prior to the gym’s construction, the school children played outside in the front and back yards of the school. The first through sixth grades were taught in the west wing while seventh through twelfth grades were taught in the east wing. Mr. Brookshire began teaching at Randleman in 1951 under Principal L. H. Ballard. He taught the eighth grade and was head coach of the basketball, baseball and football teams as well as the athletic director.10

Another former student of the Randleman Graded School is life-long Randleman resident, Ruth Hill. Mrs. Hill began at Randleman in 1936 when she was six years old. She completed all twelve grades and graduated from Randleman in 1948. In the “early grades” she studied reading, writing and arithmetic. Geography was added to the curriculum in the fourth grade. Geometry and Algebra, taught by Ms. Maude Reid, were difficult subjects taken while in upper grades. Until her family moved into Randleman Township, Mrs. Hill walked five miles from her family’s outlying farm to school. Her

9 Oral interview conducted with Mr. Artus Lineberry by the author on 1.20.2004.
10 Oral interview conducted with Mr. Joe Brookshire by the author on 1.21.2004
Mother always made a lunch that she carried with her as the school did not have a cafeteria until Mrs. Hill was in 'high school.' Recess was a daily part of the school day. If the weather permitted, the students went outside and played games like Red Rover or just talked with their peers, but if the weather was foul, the students were still given time for a break. Weekly assemblies were held in the auditorium and led by the principal, Mr. H. H. Hamilton, who read announcements to the student body. When the seniors entered the auditorium, the remaining students were expected to rise out of respect for the seniors. Mrs. Hill enjoyed school and had good teachers; her seventh-grade teacher was Mrs. Ellen Barker, who also taught Mrs. Hill’s mother when she was a student at Randleman Graded School in 1910.  

According to a school history compiled and published in *The 1945 Rendezvous*, in 1921 the school had fourteen rooms and 625 students. In 1926 two wings were added to the east and west of the original school, built in brick and in a style similar to the original block. This added ten new classrooms. The student population rose to 788 after the new addition. From 1927 to 1943, home economics, agriculture and music were added to the curriculum. The school’s Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1927 and “soon became the strong arm of the school.” The first project chosen by the PTA was the construction of a gymnasium, which was met with exuberance by the entire community. Construction of the gym, the first in the county, was completed in 1928. The PTA was also responsible for improving the school’s grounds, expansion of the elementary and high school libraries, the purchase of pianos and stage equipment and establishing a cafeteria for the students. Throughout the school’s history, a Glee Club, Beta Club, 4-H Club, and a Home Economics Club were organized, and chapters of Future Farmers of America, Future Homemakers of America and Future Business-Leaders of America were established. In 1947, a football team was organized. 

Although another addition was made to the school building in 1937, the school building eventually became overcrowded and obsolete. The 1937 addition added four classrooms that helped accommodate the growing student population. This addition was built to the north of the east wing and was also of similar brick style. In February 1953, a new high school building was completed and the older students moved to the new Randleman Senior High School. By 1960, a new Randleman Elementary School was ready for students. The remaining student body of the Randleman Graded School moved

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11 Oral interview conducted with Mrs. Ruth Hill by the author on 1.21.2004
12 *The 1945 Rendezvous*. Published by the Randleman Senior Class, 1945, 12-13.
from the ca.1906 building into the new facility. Shaw Furniture Industries bought the school in the 1960s after modern school buildings replaced the Randleman Graded School and had the gymnasium demolished in the 1980s. They owned the building and operated their furniture showroom in it until 2000. At present, a planned rehabilitation will convert the former classrooms/showrooms into apartment housing for the elderly residents of Randleman. The auditorium will be used by the citizens of Randleman for various purposes.

**Education and Architecture Context Statement**

From 1880 to the mid-1920s, North Carolina built thousands of new schoolhouses.\(^{14}\) The state was in a period of transition from the common school system, which “bore the stamp of rural society” to a graded school system, where the classroom produced “good citizens.”\(^{15}\) The graded school system measured the child’s success and rewarded their scholastic achievements by promoting them to the next grade. Wilmington established the first graded school in the state by 1868 and Greensboro followed in 1870. Raleigh and Charlotte had graded schools in 1876, Fayetteville in 1875, and Wilson and Goldsboro in 1880.

Under the leadership of Charles Aycock, governor from 1901-1905, public education was made a high priority in his administration. The North Carolina General Assembly doubled the state funds available for school construction and the old Literary Fund became a revolving fund for building loans and improving schoolhouses; the fund was repaid by the local government who received the loan. With funds available, new schoolhouse construction as well as building improvements to existing school buildings was occurring throughout Randolph County. The county’s first brick school is the Randleman School built in 1906. The brick Liberty Graded School was built in 1908 from a design by Greensboro architect W. L. Brewer. It was described as an “interesting brick structure with a second-floor auditorium.”\(^{16}\) Unfortunately, the building burned in 1925 and was not rebuilt. Around 1909, the Asheboro Graded School Building was erected at 329 Fayetteville Street, on the grounds of an early male academy and the later county fair. In the 1920s, during North Carolina’s era of schoolhouse consolidation, the

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\(^{15}\) Ibid, 6, 21.

In 1936, A. C. Woodruff, the architect of Asheboro’s City Hall, designed a Neo-Classical-style, brick gymnasium. The main school building was demolished in 1969.

There are few historic schools left in Randolph County, and none from the time period and in the style of the Randolph Graded School. Central School in Asheboro is a 1926 Rosenwald school for African-Americans. It is significantly different in style. It is a one-story rectangular brick school with a side gabled roof, a shed dormer, exposed rafter beams, and other Craftsman-style elements. Another existing historic school is the Asheboro High School, c. 1950. It is a large brick school built in the Moderne style. Vastly different in style, it is one story with a flat roof and a concrete façade featuring pilasters and a frieze with Moderne designs.

Since the 1908 Liberty Graded School and the 1909 Asheboro School are gone, the 1906 Randleman Graded School is the sole surviving monument to the Aycock era of school construction in the county. This early twentieth-century school is a unique and stylish example of eclectic design and retains a high degree of its historic integrity.
Randleman Graded School
Randolph County, North Carolina

Bibliography


. The 1944 Rendezvous. Randleman, NC: The Senior Class of Randleman High School, 1944.


Randleman Graded School
Randolph County, North Carolina


Randleman Graded School
Randolph County, North Carolina

Verbal Boundary Description

Tract delineated by a heavy solid line on the Randolph County Tax Map, parcel number 3606. It is drawn at a 1 inch=100 foot scale.

Boundary Justification

The 2.2 acre nominated property includes the portion of the original school tract that is historically associated with the main school building. The rear section of the original tract is now owned by a separate entity.
RANDLEMAN GRADED SCHOOL
RANDLEMAN, NC
RANDOLPH COUNTY

FIGURE 1
**NOTICE**

Users of this map are notified that public primary information sources must be consulted for verification of the information contained herein.