

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
Office of Archives and History  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Lincoln Heights School**

Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, WK0314, Listed 09/11/2018

Nomination by Heather Slane & Cheri Szczodronski, hmwPreservation

Photographs by Cheri Szczodronski, August 2017



Façade (north elevation) of Rosenwald School, facing south



Southeast and northeast elevations of high school building, facing southwest

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lincoln Heights School

Other names/site number: Wilkes County Training School, Wilkes County Colored High School

Name of related multiple property listing:

Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 197 Lincoln Heights Road

City or town: Wilkesboro State: NC County: Wilkes

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

     national      statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A      B X C      D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau  
or Tribal Government

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☒
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION - school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL – clubhouse  
EDUCATION - school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER – six-teacher Rosenwald school, plan no. 6-A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION - brick

WALLS – brick

ROOF – asphalt shingle

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

**Narrative Description**

Lincoln Heights School is located at the south end of Lincoln Heights Road and Old 60 Redding Road (formerly Redding Street and Old 60 respectively), which parallel each other and connect at a loop north of the Rosenwald school. The building stands approximately one-third of a mile south of the intersection with Old US 421 and one-and-a-quarter miles due east of downtown Wilkesboro, the county seat of Wilkes County, at the south end of Cairo, a historically African American community. The school complex includes three historic buildings, all constructed in phases: the 1924 H-shaped Rosenwald school with 1926 and 1950 additions, the 1956 to 1963 high school and gymnasium, and the 1937 to 1957 agricultural shop and cafeteria. More recent construction includes a 1980s day care building and two 1980s garages, all of which are non-contributing due to age. The approximately nine-acre site features uneven terrain with the topography dropping off significantly to the south. It is heavily wooded with only the areas immediately surrounding the buildings cleared of trees. The school complex retains its rural context with low-density, single-family housing (most dating to the 1940s and 1950s) along Lincoln Heights and Old 60 Redding roads north of the school, and undeveloped, wooded land to the west, south, and east.

The 1924 six-teacher, brick Rosenwald school stands near the east end of the school complex with the high school/gymnasium to its northwest and the agricultural shop/cafeteria southwest of the high school. The H-shaped school was initially oriented facing south with Old 60 Redding Road extending around the south end of the school. However, when the building was enlarged with additional classrooms to the south in 1950, the road was truncated north of the building and

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the north elevation became the front of the building. North of the school is a triangular fenced grassy area with a flagpole at its north end and paved sidewalks connecting the north entrances of the school to each other, to Lincoln Heights Road on the east, and to a paved driveway on the west. This part of the property was used for faculty parking before it became the front of the school. Lincoln Heights Road now extends as a gravel road along the east elevation of the school, with a gravel parking area northeast of the school on a separate parcel. The road turns at the southeast corner of the school to become Old 60 Redding Road as it heads northeast away from the school. There is an open grassy field between the two south wings of the school and the remnants of a gravel driveway immediately south of the school. The site drops off considerably to the south, and land south and southeast of the building is heavily wooded. A paved driveway on the west side of the building connects to the gravel drive at the rear and to a paved parking area west of the school and south of the high school/gymnasium.

A one-story, brick, L-shaped high school/gymnasium is located northwest of the Rosenwald school and parallel with the north edge of the parcel. A paved driveway with parking along its south side extends from the north side of the Rosenwald school to the northwest corner of the high school/gymnasium, leading to a paved parking lot on a separate parcel north of the gymnasium (outside of the National Register boundary). The site slopes down from this drive, which is lined with trees, and the high school building is located below street level with a grassy area, now a fenced playground, along its north elevation between the building and the drive. The main entrance to the high school is on the east elevation, accessed via a concrete walk and steps through a grassy lawn that separates the high school from the Rosenwald school to its east. A concrete walkway extends along the south side of the building and there is a paved parking area southeast of the building. The land west of the building is heavily wooded.

The agricultural shop/cafeteria is southwest of the high school/gymnasium, and connected to the south elevation of the high school via a metal covered walkway. There is an open grassy lawn with several concrete picnic tables north of the building and a heavily wooded area to its west. A paved drive extends from the parking area southeast of the high school/gymnasium along the east elevation of the agricultural shop/cafeteria to a parking area south of the building providing access to vehicular entrances on the south elevation of the building. A non-contributing day care building is located south of the high school/gymnasium and east of the agricultural shop/cafeteria, separated from them both by paved driveways that extends around the south side of the building, accessing two non-contributing garages near the south tree line.

The school complex is currently located on two tax parcels, with the Rosenwald school separated from the rest of the buildings.<sup>1</sup> While the parcels total fourteen acres, only nine acres are included within the National Register boundary. Heavily wooded areas to the south and east of the Rosenwald school have been excluded because they do not appear to have been used by the school historically and a modern building stands east of the school on one of the parcels, though not visible from the school.

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<sup>1</sup> The parcel containing the Rosenwald School is currently owned by the Lincoln Heights Recreational Corporation while the parcel containing the rest of the building is owned by the Wilkes County Board of Education.

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### **A. Lincoln Heights School (original building)**

**1924; 1926; 1950**

#### **Contributing Building**

Lincoln Heights School is a symmetrical, one-story, H-shaped building originally constructed in 1924 following Plan No. 6-A from Samuel L. Smith's *Community School Plan, Bulletin No. 3* and featuring six classrooms flanking a central auditorium. The school was enlarged with four additional classrooms in 1926 and another four classrooms in 1950, all added to the south elevation, extending the original classroom wings and replicating its interior and exterior finishes. The additions, however, take advantage of the downward slope of the site and are each one story with a raised basement, resulting in four classrooms aligned with the main floor level of the original school and four classrooms at the basement level. With the construction of the 1950 classrooms, the north elevation, originally the rear of the school, became the façade.

The 1924 section of the school features a two-bay-wide, side-gabled auditorium flanked by projecting one-story, front-gabled classroom wings with slightly lower rooflines. It has a running bond brick veneer, original metal tile roof with open eaves and exposed rafter tails concealed by the aluminum gutters, louvered vents in the side gables, and several interior brick chimneys.

The 1926 additions extend the gabled roofline of the 1924 classroom wings to the south and include two classrooms on each wing, one on the main level and one on the basement level. The similarities in brick color and pattern, as well as window placement and interior materials, are due both to the construction of the classrooms so shortly after the initial construction of the school and the fact that three of the four classrooms were funded in part by the Rosenwald program and thus subject to the same stringent design review.<sup>2</sup> However, a seam in the brick bond clearly delineates the addition from the original building. The classroom wings have a brick veneer, exterior brick chimneys on the inside elevations, and metal tile roofs.

The 1950 additions include four classrooms, two on the main level and two on the basement level, and further extend the gabled roofline of the 1926 classroom wings to the south. However, the addition is separated from the 1926 classrooms by a brick firewall with parapet that extends above the metal tile roof and is capped with terra cotta coping. The classrooms have a darker brick veneer than the original building and 1926 addition and the brick is laid in a five-to-one common bond.

The north elevation of the 1924 school features nine-over-nine wood-sash windows, arranged in two groups of four, with rowlock brick sills to light the central auditorium. Entrances on each end of the elevation are modern vinyl replacement doors with one-light transoms, now boarded, and sheltered by hip-roofed porches supported by square wood posts. Near the center of this

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<sup>2</sup> Fisk University, "Rosenwald Database," <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2017); Board of Education Minutes, September 6, 1926; Letter from S.L. Smith to W.F. Credle, December 7, 1926, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Correspondence of the Supervisor of the Rosenwald Fund, July 1926-June 1927, Box 3, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC; Board of Education Minutes, September 6, 1926.

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elevation is a crawlspace access stair sheltered by brick walls with concrete caps and covered with a metal door. Projecting classroom wings that flank the auditorium on the north elevation each have a single entrance on their interior elevations, located near the intersection with the auditorium. The doors are modern replacement doors with boarded transoms and are sheltered by small hip-roofed porches shared with the north entrances to the auditorium. Paired six-over-six wood-sash windows are centered on the north elevations of these front-gabled classroom wings and there are rectangular louvered vents in the front gables.

The east elevation of the school features grouped windows lighting five classrooms, the north three of which are from the original 1924 construction and the south two of which were built in 1926 and 1950. Windows are grouped nine-over-nine wood-sash windows, all with rowlock brick sills. The north and center classrooms were each constructed with a group of six windows, though the north two windows on the center classroom have been removed and a metal door installed in their place. The classroom between them is slightly smaller and has only five windows, though the middle window has been removed and the opening infilled with brick. In lieu of paired windows on the south elevations of the classroom wings, prescribed by the Rosenwald plan to match the north elevations of the classroom wings, single four-over-four wood-sash windows were included on the east and west elevations, at the south end of the 1924 building to light the cloakrooms of the south classrooms, likely in anticipation of the 1926 addition. Small louvered foundation vents are centered below the north three groups of windows, and below the four-over-four window, is an original cornerstone relocated from the south elevation to accommodate the 1926 addition. The cornerstone reads "Wilkes Co. Colored High School-Erected 1924" and includes a list of board members as well as the contractors' names, Craven and Kendall.

The east elevation of the 1926 classroom features a group of six nine-over-nine wood-sash windows at the main floor level and grouped six-over-six wood-sash windows at the basement level, all with rowlock brick sills. The east elevation of the 1950 classroom has three pairs of nine-over-nine wood-sash windows at the main level and three pairs of six-over-six windows at the basement level, all with rowlock brick sills. All basement-level windows on the east elevation have been boarded.

Paired nine-over-nine windows on the south gable ends of the 1926 building and six-over-six windows at the basement level of that elevation were removed to accommodate the 1950 addition. The 1950 south elevation of the east classroom wing is without fenestration. It has an exterior brick chimney centered on the elevation and flanked by small rectangular louvered vents in the gable. A low concrete wall west of the chimney encircles an above-ground oil tank. A bronze plaque commemorating the 1950 addition has been removed from the building, but remains inside the school. It reads "Lincoln Heights School Addition-Erected 1950" and includes a list of board members as well as the contractors' names, Guy Frye & Sons, and the architects, Coffey & Olson.

The interior (west) elevation of the east classroom wing features classroom doors that open to a rear porch. Doors to the 1924 and 1926 classrooms are modern replacements with boarded

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transoms. However, entrances to the basement-level 1950 classrooms retain original one-light-over-three-panel doors and main-level entrances retain three-light transoms. The main-level doors are sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with a standing-seam metal roof that is supported by square wood columns. The porch, which extends across the south elevation of the 1924 auditorium and wraps around the interior elevations of the classroom wings, does not extend the full depth of the interior elevations, but instead extends just far enough south to shelter the entrances to the 1950 classrooms. It has a replacement railing consisting of horizontal boards with a single vertical support between each column, but retains most of its original tongue-and-groove flooring and beaded board ceiling. Modern wood steps have been added to the south end of the porches and there is a basement-level wide opening with paired plywood doors at the south end of the interior elevation of the east wing, south of the porch stairs.

Entrances to the basement-level classrooms are slightly below grade and accessed by concrete walkways below the main porch and sheltered by the above porch floor. The basement-level porch is supported by square wood columns on a brick knee wall with concrete cap. The knee wall, which steps up to the north, also serves as a retaining wall for the below-grade entrances. The basement-level walkway on the inside of the east wing has been partially enclosed with brick lattice. Wood steps at the north end of the walkways lead up to the main porch and to bathrooms constructed in the early 1950s under the 1924 portion of the porch.<sup>3</sup>

The south elevation of the 1924 auditorium features a centered inset entrance with paired modern replacement doors and a boarded transom. Original paired windows flanking the entrance have been removed and the openings infilled with brick. Modern replacement doors on each end of this elevation accessed cloakrooms. An original nine-step concrete stair with brick knee walls leads to the central entrance, but is no longer in use with the replacement railing spanning the opening to the stair. Above the porch roof on the south elevation of the auditorium are three pairs of six-light wood-sash fixed windows that historically lit the auditorium. Below the porch floor, flanking the concrete stairs, the foundation was infilled with concrete block in the early 1950s to create bathrooms for the school located under the porch and accessed via the exterior porch and basement-level walkways.

The interior (east) elevation of the west classroom wing mirrors the west elevation of the east classroom wing, but with the basement-level walkway partially enclosed with brick. The south elevation of the west classroom wing has an overhead garage door installed at its basement level.

The west elevation of the school is symmetrical to the east elevation, though all of the windows on the main floor remain in place. The north two basement windows have been infilled with brick, though the outline of the opening remains visible. The other basement windows in the 1926 classroom have been boarded, though basement windows in the 1950 classroom remain exposed. A metal fire stair on the west elevation leads to the main-level north window of the 1926 classroom.

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<sup>3</sup> Personal interview with Lincoln Heights Alumni (James Adams, Floyd Barber, Brenda Dobbins, Morris S., Brenda Sales, Paulette Turner, and Jane Wilborn) by Heather Wagner Slane and Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski. Lincoln Heights School. August 10, 2017. (hereafter referred to as "Interview with alumni, 2017").

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The historic layout of the building interior remains largely intact with an auditorium flanked by two classroom wings, each now with five classrooms on the main level arranged end to end. The four classrooms on the north end of the building are accessed both through the auditorium and via exterior doors. The south classrooms of the 1924 building as well as classrooms in the 1926 and 1950 additions are accessible only from the exterior porches and walkways. On the south wall of the auditorium, a central entrance is flanked by two offices and two cloakrooms. The auditorium space was altered after the school closed in 1968 with the removal of the original stage and the construction of a wall near the east end where the stage stood to create a hallway between the auditorium and classrooms on the east side of the building, altering the office on that side of the room and eliminating the cloakroom. The moveable partition between the auditorium and the center classroom on the west elevation has been removed, effectively extending the auditorium space all the way to the west elevation, and cloakrooms in the north classrooms have also been removed. The industrial room on the east elevation has been subdivided into offices and the southeast classroom from the original 1924 construction has been converted to a kitchen.

The interior of the auditorium, offices, and all classrooms have been altered with the installation of vinyl or tile flooring over original wood floors, dropped ceilings that extend below the top one-third of the windows and conceal original beaded board ceilings, and wood paneling covering the beaded board wall sheathing. Chalkboards and bulletin boards have been removed, but doors and windows retain original wood trim. Remaining cloakrooms in the south classrooms have original five- or seven-panel wood doors. All other interior doors are modern replacements.

Only the interior of the main-level southwest classroom in the 1950 wing remains largely unaltered and is representative of the historic finishes originally found throughout those wings. Original wood floors and plaster ceilings with narrow picture molding remain exposed, though plaster walls have been covered with wood paneling. It retains a cloakroom at its south end and chalkboards on the north wall have narrow bulletin boards across the top and along the sides, all of which retain original wood surrounds.

## **B. High School/Gymnasium**

**1956; 1960; 1963**

### **Contributing Building**

Located northwest of the main building, the one-story high school and gymnasium were built in three phases: separate classroom and gymnasium buildings in 1956, a locker room and single classroom addition connecting the earlier two buildings in 1960, and an addition with a library and two classrooms in 1963.

The 1956 classroom building is of concrete block construction with a modified five-to-one common bond brick veneer with alternating headers and stretchers, grouped metal-framed windows, and a nearly-flat gabled roof with membrane roofing, flush eaves, and aluminum gutters and downspouts on the north, south, and east elevations. The entrance, centered on the east elevation, is inset within a painted concrete block bay. It retains original paired one-panel

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wood doors with one-light metal-framed sidelights and a nine-light metal-framed transom that extends all the way to the roofline. The entrance is flanked by integrated brick planters and to the south of the entrance are two groups of three three-light metal windows with rowlock brick sills. North of the entrance, the east elevation is blind except for an air conditioning unit installed in the brick wall.

A utility room projects from the southeast corner of the building, though is flush with the façade. A former opening on its south elevation has a louvered vent at the top and has been infilled with brick below, laid in a herringbone pattern. An entrance on the west side of this projecting wing has a single entrance with a two-light transom. A tall square brick smokestack is located at the northwest corner of the wing, adjacent to the school offices.

The south elevation of the 1956 section of the building has a projecting bay immediately west of the utility room with two two-light, metal-framed windows lighting an office and flanking a later, smaller, opening with an air conditioning unit. To its west is a classroom wing with a three-light metal-framed window on the east end, lighting a restroom, with a group of nine two-light metal-framed windows to its left (west) with seven courses of original glass block above to diffuse the direct southern sun. A narrower bay, only three windows wide, is centered on this part of the elevation with glass block above and to its left an eight-window-wide bay has been altered with the installation of a metal door with plywood surround in place of the westernmost two windows, likely when the building was converted to a day care in the late twentieth century. To the left is another three-light metal-framed window, lighting a restroom.

The 1960 classroom at the west end of the 1956 building has a wide window opening with seven two-light windows on the bottom and glass block above, matching those on the 1956 building. To the west of this classroom is the entrance to a transverse hallway between the 1960 and 1963 classrooms. The entrance has paired wood doors with four horizontal lights at the top, two-light sidelights, and a three-part transom. It is located in an inset entrance bay accessed by concrete steps with a brick knee wall. A metal canopy on metal posts covers the walkway between this entrance and the cafeteria to the south. The far west end of the south elevation, the 1963 library and two classrooms, is four bays wide with the bays slightly shorter than those of the 1956 and 1960 portions of the building. Each bay has a group of six five-light metal sash windows. The west elevation of the 1963 classroom wing has no windows, but there is an inset entrance that opens to the main hallway. Matching the entrance on the south elevation, it has paired wood doors with four horizontal lights at the top, two-light sidelights, and a three-part transom.

At the northwest corner of the building is the 1956 gymnasium. Approximately twice the height of the classrooms, the gymnasium has a running bond brick veneer over the concrete block structure, a flat roof with metal coping at the shallow parapet, and aluminum gutters and downspouts. The south elevation of the gymnasium is partially obscured by the one-story 1963 classroom wing and the portion that extends above the classroom wing is without fenestration. The west elevation is five bays wide with paired two-light metal-sash windows high on the wall. Two entrances on the north elevation each have paired wood doors with four horizontal lights in the upper portion. The entrances are sheltered by flat metal roofs supported by brick walls,

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creating shallow vestibules. The east elevation of the gymnasium has a full height projecting center section (the stage area) flanked by lower, one-story storage wings. The projecting section has no fenestration on its north, east, or south elevations, but the upper portion of the walls on either side of it each have two pairs of two-light metal-sash windows. The one-story wing on the south end of the east elevation of the gymnasium is obscured by the 1960 locker rooms, but the north wing had three three-light metal-framed windows on its east elevation, though the north window has been removed and an air conditioner and plywood installed in its place, and no fenestration on its north elevation.

The east end of the north elevation of the building, set back from the north elevation of the gymnasium, includes the 1960 locker rooms on the west end, with smaller windows and exterior doors, and the 1956 classrooms on the east end. The locker room connecting addition is six bays wide with three-light metal-framed windows, paired in the westernmost bay and removed from the easternmost bay with plywood and an air conditioner installed in its place. Two wood doors in the second and fifth bays each have a single light in the upper part of the door and are sheltered by a low-pitched shed roof with asphalt shingles on metal posts. Four classrooms and one office on the east end of the north elevation were historically lit by groups of six five-light, metal-framed windows arranged end-to-end into a single continuous band that extends nearly the full width of the building. Most windows remain in place, however, in the late twentieth century, when the building was converted for use as a day care, one window from each classroom was removed and a single metal door installed in its place, retaining the uppermost window pane as a transom above the door and infilling the rest of the opening around the door with plywood or concrete block.

The plan of the original 1956 classroom building featured seven classrooms arranged along a double-loaded corridor with five classrooms on the north side of the building and two classrooms, two bathrooms, two storage rooms, and offices on the south side of the building. The gymnasium, now at the far northwest end of the building, was also constructed in 1956, though was not initially connected to the classrooms. The corridor of the classroom building was extended in 1960 with an additional classroom on the south side and locker rooms, adjacent to the 1956 gymnasium, on the north side. The corridor was further extended in 1963 when a library and two additional classrooms were constructed south of the gymnasium. The result is a double-loaded corridor that extends the full width of the building from east to west and a transverse corridor on the south side of the building between the 1960 classroom and 1963 library. The plan was altered slightly when the building was converted for use as a day care in the late twentieth century. Two of the original seven classrooms have been subdivided for use as offices and a kitchen, and one of the locker rooms has been converted to a small classroom.

The building interior retains a high level of material integrity with exposed concrete block walls, tile floors, and plaster ceilings with exposed pipes and conduit at the ceiling level. The hallway retains two-light metal-sash windows at the upper part of the walls, allowing for light and air to move between the hallway and classrooms, as well as several wood-framed bulletin boards. Doors to the offices and classrooms are solid wood doors, each with a single light in the top part

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of the door. Classrooms throughout the buildings have fluorescent lighting, radiators along the exterior walls, and original wood-framed chalkboards and bulletin boards.

The original offices at the southeast end of the building have dropped acoustic-tile ceilings, painted wood paneling covering the walls, and carpet on the floors. A small service window at the east end of the hallway opens to the easternmost office and has original wood trim, a sliding wood window, and a wood sill and apron. The windowless northwest office has four textured glass panes between the office and the hallway and four additional panes flanking the door to the office to its east, all allowing for light to transfer into the office from those adjacent spaces.

Bathrooms in the 1956 part of the building have terra cotta tile floors, exposed concrete block walls, and plaster ceilings. They retain original metal stall partitions and have exposed pipes throughout. Locker rooms, with bathrooms, in the 1960 part of the building have tile floors and tiled walls throughout with metal stall partitions. The east locker room has been converted to a small classroom and has had all fixtures removed and a dropped acoustic-tile ceiling installed, but retains a tiled floor and tiled walls in the former shower area only. All bathrooms and locker rooms have solid wood doors with no lights.

The gymnasium has a tiled floor, exposed concrete block walls, and exposed metal trusses supporting the flat roof. It retains original wood bleachers along the west wall and a wood floor at the stage on the east wall. The south wall of the gymnasium has two pairs of doors leading to the hallway, each solid wood with four horizontal lights at the top and matching the exterior doors on the north wall of the gymnasium. Doors to storage rooms on the east wall of the gymnasium are solid wood doors. Doors to the 1963 library, just south of gymnasium, are paired solid wood doors with four horizontal lights at the top.

### **C. Agricultural Shop/Cafeteria**

**1937; 1950; 1957**

#### **Contributing Building**

Located south of the high school/gymnasium and west of the Rosenwald school, the agricultural shop and cafeteria were constructed as two separate buildings that were joined with an addition in 1957. The 1937 agricultural shop at the southwest end of the building is a one-story-with-raised-basement, side-gabled building with a brick veneer, asphalt-shingled roof, interior brick chimney, weatherboards in the east gable, and rectangular louvered vents in both gables. Because the site slopes to the south, the north elevation is built into the hill and has an exterior brick stair that leads down to an entrance at the floor level. The west elevation has nine three-light metal-framed windows near the top of the elevation and a metal entrance near the north end, below the row of windows. The south elevation is four bays wide with three metal overhead garage doors and a single pedestrian entrance with a hollow-core metal door.

The one-story 1957 addition obscures the east elevation of the agricultural shop (except the gable) and features a concrete block exterior, brick veneer on the east elevation, metal panels at the top part of the wall, below the parapet with metal coping, and a flat roof with interior brick

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chimney. The south elevation is five bays wide with two metal overhead garage doors and two metal hollow-core doors. The westernmost door is located in a wide inset bay, indicating that an overhead garage door may have originally been in that location. The center bay has three metal-framed six-light fixed windows above a projecting, shed-roofed storage bay with a concrete block exterior, asphalt-shingled roof, and metal gate on its east elevation. The east elevation features three bays separated by square metal posts resting on brick knee walls and likely originally had windows, but all have been infilled with concrete block. A hyphen at the northeast corner of the 1957 addition connects to the 1957 kitchen wing adjacent to the cafeteria, though is located at a lower level due to the downward slope of the site. The hyphen is accessed on the east elevation by an exterior concrete stair surrounded by a low brick wall. The below-grade entrance is a hollow-core metal door with one-light transom, sheltered by a shallow awning.

The 1950 cafeteria is a one-story, side-gabled, concrete block building with a brick veneer only on the north elevation. It has an asphalt-shingled roof, plain weatherboards and an octagonal vent in the east gable, plywood sheathing in the west gable, and an interior brick chimney. The north elevation features two pairs of vinyl replacement windows, slightly smaller than the original windows, flanking a pair of hollow-core wood doors. The doors are sheltered by a flat metal canopy attached to a metal covered walkway supported by metal posts that leads to the rear of the high school building up a set of concrete stairs. There is a single metal door centered on the west elevation with a plywood panel on its left and a single vinyl replacement window to its north. The south elevation has three vinyl replacement windows and the east elevation is obscured by the 1957 addition.

The 1957 kitchen addition extends the full width of the east elevation of the cafeteria and connects to the 1957 shop addition. It has a flat roof with metal coping at the parapet, exposed concrete block walls on the south elevation, and brick veneer on the north and east elevations with metal panels covering the top one-fifth of the east and south elevations. A group of four six-light metal windows, each with an operable two-light sash at the bottom, are located on the east elevation in a slightly recessed bay. South of the windows is an inset entrance bay with hollow-core metal doors leading to the kitchen and an exterior storage room to the south. At the southeast corner of the kitchen wing is a small paved area encircled with a low brick wall with concrete cap and containing an oil tank.

The interior of the cafeteria has an exposed concrete floor where floor tiles have been removed, exposed concrete block walls, and a ceiling with stick-on acoustic tiles. Radiators extend the length of the north and south walls and there are original light fixtures throughout the space and exposed pipes at the ceiling. A wide opening at the east end of the cafeteria opens to the 1957 kitchen. The opening was flanked by windows before the construction of the kitchen and the south window openings remains, though the north opening has been converted to a door.

The interior of the 1957 kitchen wing has a terra cotta tile floor, plaster walls, and a plaster and drywall ceiling. A small alcove at the south end of the kitchen leads to a pantry, closet, and the inset exterior entrance on the east elevation. The interior of the agricultural shop was not accessible.

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## **D. Day Care**

**1980s**

### **Non-Contributing Building**

Constructed after the closure of the Lincoln Heights School in 1968, this one-story-with-basement brick-veneered school stands southwest of the Rosenwald school, and south of the high school. It is built on a slope that falls gradually to the west and south of the building, revealing the basement level. The building has a running-bond brick veneer with projecting string courses at the watertable and windowsill levels and forming a continuous lintel above the windows. This pattern continues along all elevations, with a set of continuous string courses at the basement level. It is topped with a flat roof with vertical metal sheathing on the parapet and metal coping. The façade is four bays wide with paired metal doors on the left (east) end of the façade, with a stretcher-course surround and sheltered by a flat-roofed metal awning. The concrete walk that leads to the front entrance is flanked by brick planters. Windows throughout the building are two-light fixed metal windows with concrete sills. Windows to the right (west) of the entrance are paired. There are single entrances at the main floor of the east and west elevations, each with a metal door and a flat-roofed metal awning. The entrance on the west elevation is accessed by an exterior metal fire stair while the east elevation is accessed by a raised brick walkway above the sloping ground. The one-story-on-basement rear (south) elevation is seven bays wide. It features irregular fenestration with paired, fixed, two-light, metal-framed windows with brick headers and concrete sills, and there are two pairs of metal doors at the lower level. A basement-level, flat-roofed wing at the southeast corner of the building is without fenestration. Brick retaining walls are located on the north and east sides of the school. The interior of the building was not accessible.

## **E. Garage**

**1980s**

### **Non-Contributing Building**

Located southwest of the Rosenwald school and southeast of the day care building, this one-story, front-gabled brick-veneered garage has an asphalt-shingled roof, vertical plywood in the front gable, and a metal roll-up door on the west gable end. It is accessed via a paved drive that extends around the south side of the day care building.

## **F. Garage**

**1980s**

### **Non-Contributing Building**

Located south of the agricultural shop, this front-gabled, metal-framed garage has a low-sloped metal roof, vertical metal sheathing, and a roll-up metal door on the north gable end. It is accessed via a paved drive that extends around the south side of the agricultural shop.

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### **Integrity Statement**

Lincoln Heights School retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, material, feeling, and association. Located on its original site, the building retains its historic setting with low-density residential development north of the school and wooded areas to the west, south, and east.

The 1924 Rosenwald-funded building was enlarged in 1926 and 1950, though the design and construction of the additions are in keeping with the design and materials of the original school. Material changes include the replacement of doors and the installation of tile flooring, dropped ceilings, and wood paneling in the classrooms and auditorium. The moveable partition and stage were removed and a hallway created on the east end of the auditorium. However, the overall massing and layout with classrooms arranged with access from exterior porches remains intact along with the original brick exterior, metal roof, and wood-sash windows.

The design and construction of the high school/gymnasium is in keeping with typical 1950s school design and construction. The building retains high material integrity with original massing, classrooms arranged along a double-loaded corridor, and original brick exterior, metal-framed windows, and wood doors. The simplicity of the agricultural shop/cafeteria is illustrative of its utilitarian function. It retains its original form and massing as well as exterior finishes, some original windows, and the interior wall and ceiling finishes of the kitchen and cafeteria. All together the school complex retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to convey the property's historic feeling and association.

### **General Statement of Archaeological Potential**

The school is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Archaeological remains, such as trash deposits, privy features, and other structural remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the Lincoln Heights School. Information concerning institutional culture and African American identity, as well as the spatial organization of outdoor activities and the character of daily life at the school, can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the school. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

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## 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.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE - BLACK

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**Period of Significance**

1924-1968

**Significant Dates**

1924 – original 6-teacher school constructed

1926 – 4-room addition constructed

1937 – Agriculture Shop constructed

1950 – 4-room addition to original building constructed, cafeteria constructed

1956 – high school building constructed, gymnasium constructed

1957 – kitchen added to cafeteria, addition to agriculture shop building constructed

1960 – 1-room addition and locker rooms added to high school

1963 – 2-room addition and library added to high school

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

African American

**Architect/Builder**

1924 – Craven & Kendall

1926, 1937 – architect/builder unknown

1950 additions – Coffey & Olson Architects

General Contractor: Guy Frye & Sons

1956 high school & gymnasium – Coffey & Olson Architects

Sidden Construction Co.

1957 Agriculture Shop & Cafeteria additions – Coffey & Olson Architects

Pennell & Haigler, Inc.

1960 high school additions – Coffey & Olson Architects

Deal, Isaac, & Setzer Construction Co.

1963 high school addition – Stinson-Hall-Hines Associates, Architects, & Engineers

Pennell & Haigler, Inc.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Lincoln Heights School meets National Register Criterion A for Education and African American Ethnic Heritage. It is significant at the local level for its association with African American education in Wilkes County from 1924 until 1968. The school was one of six schools in the county financed and constructed with the assistance of the Rosenwald Fund. The only African American high school in northwestern North Carolina, Lincoln Heights served elementary and high school students in Wilkes, Allegheny, Caldwell, and Surry counties. The period of significance begins in 1924, when the school was constructed, and ends with the desegregation of Wilkes County schools in 1968, when the school was closed and students were integrated into other schools in Wilkes County. The Lincoln Heights School is also eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. It is significant at the local level as an intact example of Floor Plan No. 6-A from Samuel L. Smith's *Community School Plan, Bulletin No. 3*. The distinctive characteristics of the six-teacher school plan, building form, and architectural details have remained largely unaltered since the school was constructed in 1924 and the school retains sufficient material integrity.

The historic and architectural context for the Lincoln Heights School is provided in the related Multiple Property Documentation Form "Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina," context pages E3-51, "The Rosenwald School Building Program in North Carolina, 1915-1932." The school building falls under property type Rosenwald School Subtype II, pages F52-55, and meets the registration requirements for the school subtype, pages F55-57. Specifically, the school was built between 1915 and 1932 utilizing funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund; retains good architectural integrity including an intact design, workmanship, and materials; and retains its original location in a rural setting.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### History of Lincoln Heights School

Wilkes County is located in the mountains of northwest North Carolina. It was established in 1777 from Surry County and the county seat, Wilkesboro, was incorporated in 1847.<sup>4</sup> The Yadkin River extends through the southern one-third of the county, separating Wilkesboro from North Wilkesboro. The county is traditionally agricultural, producing primarily tobacco,

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<sup>4</sup> Jay Mazzocchi, "Wilkes County," *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, edited by William S. Powell, <http://www.ncpedia.org/geography/wilkes> (accessed September 2017).

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chickens, hogs, apples, lumber, and textiles, although the fur trade and moonshining were also popular into the twentieth century.<sup>5</sup>

Education was viewed as a route to a better life – in fact, the Lincoln Heights motto was “Opportunity through Education,” – however, few opportunities existed for African Americans in the south.<sup>6</sup> In Wilkesboro, African Americans worked in agriculture, textiles, or did domestic work in white homes.<sup>7</sup> Parents often encouraged children to get an education so they could leave Wilkes County for better opportunities. Although some alumni did not complete high school, many followed their parents’ advice, and after completing their primary education left Wilkesboro to seek college degrees, join the military, or get manufacturing jobs.<sup>8</sup>

Six schools were constructed in Wilkes County with assistance from the Rosenwald Fund. Green Hill School (1921-1922) and Ronda School (1920-1921) were one-teacher schools. Knottville School (1920-1921) and Yadkin Valley School (1920-1921) were two-teacher schools. Two larger schools were both located in Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro School (1920-1921) built as a four-teacher school, and Wilkes County Training School, renamed Lincoln Heights soon after construction, built as a six-teacher school in 1924 and expanded to a ten-teacher school in 1926 and a fourteen-teacher school in 1950.<sup>9</sup> Although it was unusual to have two schools located in the same community, the four-teacher Wilkesboro School, built under the Tuskegee Program, and the six-teacher Wilkes County Training School (Lincoln Heights) co-existed. The application to expand the Wilkes County Training School in 1926 caused some confusion with Samuel Smith, who managed the Rosenwald Fund from the Nashville headquarters. William Credle wrote to Smith clarifying which school was being expanded, and lamented, “In fact I have never seen the old Wilkesboro building. I regret that we did not go through the records and ascertain that we were carrying a school by this name.”<sup>10</sup> The two schools continued to operate independently.

In 1922, the Wilkes County Board of Education decided to consolidate the two African American schools in the Wilkesboro area, the Academy in the Cairo community east of Wilkesboro and Denny’s Grove School in downtown Wilkesboro, into a single school to serve both elementary and high school students.<sup>11</sup> Although some members of the community petitioned the school board against the consolidated district, the board moved forward and

<sup>5</sup> Mazzocchi, “Wilkes County”; Jennifer L. Peña and Laurie B. Hays, *Wilkes County: A Brief History* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2008), 101-108; Wynola Alexander, “History of Education for Negroes in Wilkes County,” *Lest We Forget: Education in Wilkes, 1778-1978* (Winston-Salem, NC: Hunter Publishing Co., 1979), 187.

<sup>6</sup> Hanchett, “The Rosenwald Schools,” 421; Anderson, “Lincoln Heights Served Many Children.”

<sup>7</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Note: Four rooms were added in 1926, however only three rooms were funded by the Rosenwald Fund.

<sup>10</sup> Letter from W.F. Credle to Bessie Carney, March 18, 1927, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Correspondence of the Supervisor of the Rosenwald Fund, July 1926-June 1927, Box 3, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>11</sup> Wilkes County Board of Education Minutes, September 4, 1922, Volumes 4-6, Microfilm Reels C.104.94004 and C.104.94005, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina (hereafter referred to as Board of Education Minutes); J. Jay Anderson, “Lincoln Heights Served Many Children,” Preservation North Carolina files, Raleigh, NC; Alexander, “History of Education for Negroes in Wilkes County,” 187.

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selected a site in the Cairo community for the new school.<sup>12</sup> Principal D.W. Graham wrote to W.F. Credle, North Carolina's Rosenwald Fund Supervisor, in December of 1922 asking for blueprints for a school with at least eight classrooms, anticipating a cost of at least \$10,000 and hoping to select a contractor early in 1923. Credle provided plans for a six-teacher building, stating that it could be expanded "without interfering with the symmetry of the building."<sup>13</sup>

The county school board submitted its application for Rosenwald Fund aid in May 1924, requesting a six-teacher school.<sup>14</sup> The board took a loan from the State Building Fund to contribute their portion of funds for the school's construction.<sup>15</sup> To provide their portion of the cost, the community sold bricks, fruits, vegetables, chickens, quilts, and other goods, held fish fry and bake sale fundraisers, and even raffled off a Model-T Ford.<sup>16</sup> Lincoln Heights was completed by June 1924 at a total cost of \$18,000, of which the Rosenwald Fund provided \$1,500, the school board provided \$13,000, and the community provided \$3,500.<sup>17</sup>

Although the Rosenwald Fund records called the school the Wilkes County Training School, and the cornerstone names it the Wilkes County Colored High School, it was renamed Lincoln Heights soon after construction. The name is credited to a long-time board member at the school, Reuben H. White, who said that he would like "to see our children reach the heights of a Lincoln."<sup>18</sup> Lincoln Heights served grades one to eleven until 1943 when the twelfth grade was added.<sup>19</sup> Each of the six classrooms had about 25-30 students, with some grades combined in classrooms. Initially, the building had no electricity and outdoor privies were the only restrooms.<sup>20</sup> The auditorium was located in the center of the building, and it could be enlarged by opening a partition of folding doors between it and one of the classrooms.<sup>21</sup> The first principal was Mr. Greene, and later principals included G.L. Eggleston, W. Burt Harper (until 1932), J.R. Edelin (1933-1950), J.F. Foxx (1950-1959), C.A. Merritt (1959-1961), and E.V. Dacons until the

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<sup>12</sup> Board of Education Minutes, October 6, 1922, November 13, 1922, August 21, 1923, September 14, 1923, and October 15, 1923; Anderson, "Lincoln Heights Served Many Children."

<sup>13</sup> Letter from D.W. Graham to W.F. Credle, December 11, 1922, Letter from W.F. Credle to D.W. Graham, December 16, 1922, NC Department of Public Instruction, Office of the Superintendent, General Correspondence, Julius Rosenwald Fund, 1921-1923, Box 86, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>14</sup> Letter from W.F. Credle to S.L. Smith, May 17, 1924, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Correspondence of the Supervisor of the Rosenwald Fund, June 1923-February 1925, Box 1, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>15</sup> Board of Education Minutes, November 13, 1922.

<sup>16</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017; Elizabeth Grinton, "History of Lincoln Heights High School," Preservation North Carolina Files, Raleigh, NC; Alexander, "History of Education for Negroes in Wilkes County," 187.

<sup>17</sup> Fisk University, "Rosenwald Database," <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2017); Board of Education Minutes, January 15, 1924; Letter from W.F. Credle to G.E. Davis, June 4, 1924, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Correspondence of the Supervisor of the Rosenwald Fund, June 1923-February 1925, Box 1, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>18</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017; Anderson, "Lincoln Heights Served Many Children"; Alexander, "History of Education for Negroes in Wilkes County," 187.

<sup>19</sup> Anderson, "Lincoln Heights Served Many Children."

<sup>20</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>21</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

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school closed in 1968.<sup>22</sup> Teachers and principals used corporal punishment to enforce the rules, but the alumni recall that if you got in trouble at school, you were in “double at home,” so the children rarely misbehaved.<sup>23</sup>

Students who lived close to the school walked, while students from farther away rode buses. Since it was the only school offering high school education to African American students in the northwestern region of North Carolina, some students came from neighboring Surry, Caldwell, and Allegheny Counties, either riding the bus or boarding in the local community.<sup>24</sup> The bus routes appear to have been established around the same time as the school was opened.<sup>25</sup> The school originally faced south, with Old 60 and Redding streets (now Old 60 Redding and Lincoln Heights roads) forming a U-shape from the north around the south side of the school, and alumni recall the buses pulling around to the front of the building to unload students.<sup>26</sup>

Each school day began around 8:30 with devotion and the Pledge of Allegiance.<sup>27</sup> Classes began at 9:00, and included English, mathematics, history, French, science, and home economics.<sup>28</sup> The students had scheduled bathroom breaks, which were overseen by student monitors. Lunch was at 11:00, and students said a prayer before eating. With no cafeteria initially, students brought their lunches and ate in the classrooms. Alumni recall that sometimes they were embarrassed to have anyone see what they brought, since most had only a biscuit or small piece of meat, but as they got older they started to combine and share lunches. Some students did work study in the library or cafeteria to pay for school lunches, earning \$30 every two weeks. School activities included movies once or twice a month, homecoming parades, talent shows, candy fundraisers, trips to the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh, operettas for the community, and May Day celebrations. Students could also join Glee Club, Future Farmers of America, Drama Club, or the Home Economics Club, or participate in football, basketball, baseball, or track.<sup>29</sup>

In 1926, four classrooms were added to the school. The Rosenwald Fund assisted with the construction costs of three of the classrooms, providing \$600. The school board provided \$5,535 funded by a loan from the State Literary Fund, and the community provided \$50.<sup>30</sup> The

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<sup>22</sup> Anderson, “Lincoln Heights Served Many Children”; Interview with alumni, 2017. Specific dates of service for Mr. Greene and G.L. Eggleston are not known.

<sup>23</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>24</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017; Anderson, “Lincoln Heights Served Many Children”; Alexander, “History of Education for Negroes in Wilkes County,” 188.

<sup>25</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017; “A Tower of Strength and Hope: Lincoln Heights,” Preservation North Carolina files, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>26</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>27</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>28</sup> J.T. Redding, Chairman, “High School Principal’s Annual Report,” 1934-1935, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, High School Principals’ Annual Reports, 1934-1935, Box 6, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>29</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>30</sup> Fisk University, “Rosenwald Database,” <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2017); Board of Education Minutes, September 6, 1926; Letter from S.L. Smith to W.F. Credle, December 7, 1926, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Correspondence of the Supervisor of the Rosenwald Fund, July 1926-June 1927, Box 3, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC; Board of Education Minutes, September 6, 1926.

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classrooms wings of the school's H-shaped form were extended to the south with two-story classrooms on each side, matching the form and details of the 1924 classrooms.<sup>31</sup>

By the 1930s, educational disparities between white schools and African American schools were clearly outlined in the Wilkes County Board of Education's annual statistical reports. During the 1931-1932 school year, white students were served by ninety-five schools throughout the county, including nine high schools. Meanwhile, African American students were served by only ten schools, only one of which served high school students.<sup>32</sup> African American education focused on vocational agriculture and home economics during this time as well, so in 1928, Professor R. Irving Boone requested assistance from the Rosenwald Fund to construct a new agriculture shop building to contain either six or eight classrooms. The standard plans for shops at that time only included two classrooms and a workroom, but the Rosenwald Fund indicated that modified versions of the plans to include additional classrooms would be acceptable.<sup>33</sup> It is unclear what transpired between the 1928 correspondence and the school board's approval of the building nine years later, but a two-room Vocational Agriculture Shop was added to the Lincoln Heights campus in 1937, constructed without Rosenwald funding.<sup>34</sup>

Superintendent C.C. Wright began a program of consolidating the one- and two-room schools across the county into larger, better facilities in the early twentieth century. This focus continued once C.B. Eller was appointed Superintendent of Wilkes County Schools in 1933.<sup>35</sup> During the 1930s and 1940s, Parks School, Fairplains School, Mountain Valley School, Beaver Creek School, and Elk School were consolidated into Lincoln Heights.<sup>36</sup>

To accommodate the consolidations of the 1930s and 1940s, the school board made several sizeable expansions to the Lincoln Heights campus through the 1950s and 1960s. The firm of Coffey and Olson Architects of Lenoir, North Carolina, prepared school plans during the 1950s, and Stinson-Hall-Hines Associates, Architects, & Engineers of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, prepared the school plans in the 1960s. The first indoor restrooms were added in the early 1950s, constructed under the porches on the south side of the building.<sup>37</sup> Four classrooms, a steam heating system, and a cafeteria building were added in 1950. Guy Frye & Sons served as the general contractor for this addition.<sup>38</sup> The cafeteria offered lunches for twenty cents and extra

<sup>31</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>32</sup> "Statistical Report: County Superintendent of Wilkes County 1931-1932," Board of Education Minutes.

<sup>33</sup> Sarah Caroline Thuesen, *Greater than Equal: African American Struggles for Schools and Citizenship in North Carolina, 1919-1965* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2013), 78; Letter from Superintendent C.C. Wright from W.F. Credle, March 23, 1928, Letter from R. Irving Boone to W.F. Credle, February 28, 1928, Letter from S.L. Smith to W.F. Credle, March 6, 1928, Letter from W.F. Credle to R. Irving Boone, March 8, 1928, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Correspondence of the Supervisor of the Rosenwald Fund, July 1927-1928, Box 4, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>34</sup> Board of Education Minutes, October 4, 1937.

<sup>35</sup> Peña and Hayes, *Wilkes County*, 66.

<sup>36</sup> Alexander, "History of Education for Negroes in Wilkes County," 193; Board of Education Minutes, September 5, 1932, October 7, 1932, and October 4, 1937.

<sup>37</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>38</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017; Board of Education Minutes, October 3, 1949, November 21, 1949, and March 29, 1950.

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milk for four cents.<sup>39</sup> The cafeteria was completely renovated and tile floors added in 1955. Athletic fields and a playground were added the same year, and Sidden Construction Company served as the general contractor.<sup>40</sup> In 1956, a new high school building was built, so the original classroom building housed grades one through eight, while grades nine through twelve moved to the new building. The high school was constructed adjacent to a small, two-room classroom building, which served as the band room after the band was formed in 1955. The band uniforms, hand-me-downs from a nearby white school, were stored here as well.<sup>41</sup> Also in 1956, permanent auditorium seats were added to the original building and a gymnasium was built near the new high school.<sup>42</sup> The following year, the cafeteria and agricultural shop were connected by the addition of a kitchen on the former and additional classrooms on the latter. Pennell & Haigler served as the general contractor.<sup>43</sup> In 1960, one classroom and locker rooms were added to the high school, connecting it to the gymnasium building, and the general contractor was Deal, Isaac, & Setzer Construction Company.<sup>44</sup> An addition was constructed onto the gymnasium in 1963, extending the corridor of the high school building, and including a library and two classrooms. Pennell & Haigler again served as the general contractor for this addition.<sup>45</sup>

The involvement of students from North Carolina A&T State University in the Civil Rights Movement had a significant impact on students at Lincoln Heights. During the Greensboro sit-ins in 1960, Floyd Barber, a high school student at Lincoln Heights who also drove the school bus, dropped off students at the school then drove the bus to downtown Wilkesboro with several friends intending to stage a similar protest. The students first went to the Liberty Theater and asked to sit in the lower level, rather than the balcony, but were denied and asked to leave. They

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<sup>39</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>40</sup> J.F. Foxx, "High School Annual Report," 1955-1956, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services, Supervision and Curriculum Section, High School Principals' Annual and Preliminary Reports, Wayne-Wilkes, 1955-1960, Box 56, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC; Board of Education Minutes, February 7, 1955, June 7, 1955, and July 22, 1955.

<sup>41</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017; J.F. Foxx, "High School Annual Report," 1955-1956, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services, Supervision and Curriculum Section, High School Principals' Annual and Preliminary Reports, Wayne-Wilkes, 1955-1960, Box 56, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC. Note: The origins of the two-room building are unclear, however, it may have been a smaller school that was consolidated with Lincoln Heights and its building moved to the Lincoln Heights campus. See Board of Education Minutes, October 7, 1932, and October 4, 1937.

<sup>42</sup> J.F. Foxx, "High School Annual Report," 1956-1957, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services, Supervision and Curriculum Section, High School Principals' Annual and Preliminary Reports, Wayne-Wilkes, 1955-1960, Box 56, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC; Personal Communication with B. Speaks, Wilkes County Schools, by Annie McDonald, NC State Historic Preservation Office, 2017.

<sup>43</sup> J.F. Foxx, "High School Annual Report," 1956-1957, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services, Supervision and Curriculum Section, High School Principals' Annual and Preliminary Reports, Wayne-Wilkes, 1955-1960, Box 56, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC; Board of Education Minutes, July 5, 1956, November 27, 1956, and December 3, 1956.

<sup>44</sup> C.A. Merritt, "High School Annual Report," 1959-1960, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services, Supervision and Curriculum Section, High School Principals' Annual and Preliminary Reports, Wayne-Wilkes, 1955-1960, Box 56, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC; Personal Communication with B. Speaks, Wilkes County Schools, by Annie McDonald, NC State Historic Preservation Office, 2017; Board of Education Minutes, August 3, 1959, September 15, 1959, October 5, 1959.

<sup>45</sup> Personal Communication with B. Speaks, Wilkes County Schools, by Annie McDonald, NC State Historic Preservation Office, 2017; Board of Education Minutes, December 14, 1962 and January 7, 1963.

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next went to People's Drugstore across the street from the theater, and the proprietor told them they could sit wherever they liked, indicating that attitudes toward desegregation were mixed by that time in Wilkes County.<sup>46</sup>

The school was closed in 1968 as a result of the desegregation of schools in Wilkes County. In 1955, the Board of Education took a proactive position, hoping "to meet the varied local problems arising as the result of the recent decisions of the Supreme Court... and in order to secure the factual information necessary to the elucidating, assessing, and solving these problems [...]." <sup>47</sup> To that end, they formed a committee to prepare "a thorough study of the matter of integration."<sup>48</sup> Although it is unclear if the study was actually completed, or what the results may have been, the Freedom of Choice Plan was adopted in 1965. The result of this form of desegregation was that a handful of African American students were sent to white schools, but the reverse was not true. This program only lasted two years, ending in 1967 when desegregation began in earnest in Wilkes County. The high school closed after the 1966-1967 school year and the students were integrated into East Wilkes High School. Meanwhile, the elementary school grades were moved to the high school building for the 1967-1968 school year, after which the elementary school closed as well, and the students were sent to Roaring River Elementary School.

After Lincoln Heights closed, the campus remained in use for a variety of education-related purposes. The elementary building (the original Rosenwald school) was used for a day care from 1967 until 1983. The high school building and agricultural shop were used for the Wilkes Vocational Center (later named the Wilkes Career Vocational Center), an integrated industrial school.<sup>49</sup> The Wilkes County Community College, which opened in 1969, used the gymnasium.<sup>50</sup> A new classroom building was constructed on the south end of the campus between 1976 and 1980.<sup>51</sup> By the mid-1980s, the original Rosenwald school building was scheduled for demolition to add parking for the vocational center. However, the local community rallied to save the school, led by Elizabeth Grinton, a former teacher at Lincoln Heights.<sup>52</sup> As part of these efforts, Preservation North Carolina placed protective covenants on the building, protecting the building from future demolition threats, and the Rosenwald school was parceled off from the rest of the school campus and deeded to the Lincoln Heights Recreation Corporation.<sup>53</sup> The vocational center closed in 1988, and the campus housed a charter school through the 1990s. The high school building and gymnasium, still owned by the Wilkes County Board of Education, again serves as a day care center, while the original Rosenwald building,

<sup>46</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>47</sup> Board of Education Minutes, July 22, 1955.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>50</sup> Peña and Hayes, *Wilkes County*, 111; Anderson, "Lincoln Heights Served Many Children."

<sup>51</sup> Personal Communication with B. Speaks, Wilkes County Schools, by Annie McDonald, NC State Historic Preservation Office, 2017; This building is not included within the National Register Boundary due to age.

<sup>52</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>53</sup> "Local Property Received Plaque," Preservation North Carolina Files, Raleigh, NC; "Historic Preservation Agreement," Deed Book 642, Page 308, July 16, 1986, Wilkes County Register of Deeds, Wilkesboro, NC. Note: The remainder of the school campus remains under the ownership of the Wilkes County Board of Education.

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owned by the Lincoln Heights Recreation Corporation, is a community center offering tutorial programs, meeting and event space, bingo, youth group and church meetings, and family reunions. The Lincoln Heights Recreation Corporation also hosts an annual alumni reunion, as well as fish fry, spaghetti, and pinto bean supper fundraisers. The cafeteria and agricultural shop, also owned by the Wilkes County Board of Education, are vacant.<sup>54</sup>

### Architecture of Lincoln Heights School

The design of Lincoln Heights School embodies the character-defining elements of the Rosenwald Fund's standardized plans. Samuel Leonard Smith, Director of Schoolhouse Planning for the Rosenwald Fund, developed a set of school plans that minimized construction costs, maximized classroom space, and capitalized on natural features of the school's site. Lincoln Heights School was constructed using Smith's Floor Plan No. 6-A from *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3*, which included five classrooms, an industrial classroom, an auditorium, a library, an office, and six cloakrooms.<sup>55</sup> Three additional classrooms were funded by the Rosenwald Fund in 1926, although the Board of Education actually built four classrooms at that time, and another four classrooms were added in 1950. Both additions are two-story classroom blocks built onto the south side of the school extending each side of the H-shaped building.

Six schools were constructed in Wilkes County with the assistance of the Rosenwald Fund. Of these, Lincoln Heights is the only one known to be extant. Green Hill (c.1921), Knottville (c.1920), Rhonda (c.1920), Wilkesboro (c.1915), and Yadkin Valley (c.1915) have been demolished.

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<sup>54</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>55</sup> S.L. Smith, "Floor Plan No 6-A, Six Teacher Community School, to Face North or South Only," *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3* (The Julius Rosenwald Fund: Nashville, TN), 17; Hoffschwelle, *The Rosenwald Schools*, 56-57, 94-111; Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 400-405.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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- NC Department of Public Instruction. Division of Negro Education. High School Principals' Annual Reports. Box 6: 1934-1935. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.
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- Personal interview with Lincoln Heights Alumni (James Adams, Floyd Barber, Brenda Dobbins, Morris S., Brenda Sales, Paulette Turner, and Jane Wilborn) by Heather Wagner Slane and Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski. Lincoln Heights School. August 10, 2017.
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- Wilkes County Board of Education Minutes. Volumes 4-6. Microfilm Reels C.104.94004 and C.104.94005. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

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**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** WK0314

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acres of Property** approximately 9 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 36.149290 | Longitude: -81.131337 |
| 2. Latitude: 36.149273 | Longitude: -81.130570 |
| 3. Latitude: 36.148517 | Longitude: -81.128650 |
| 4. Latitude: 36.148410 | Longitude: -81.128649 |
| 5. Latitude: 36.147750 | Longitude: -81.129297 |
| 6. Latitude: 36.147512 | Longitude: -81.129307 |
| 7. Latitude: 36.147403 | Longitude: -81.131258 |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐

NAD 1927

or

☐

NAD 1983

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- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary is shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn at a 1"=200' scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary includes approximately 9 acres of the 14 acre parcels currently associated with the school. The boundary includes the three historic school buildings, three later buildings on the site, and adequate acreage to provide appropriate context.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Heather Slane, Architectural Historian  
name/title: Cheri Szcodronski, Architectural Historian  
organization: hmvPreservation  
street & number: P.O. Box 355  
city or town: Durham state: NC zip code: 27701  
e-mail: heather@hmvpreservation.com  
telephone: 336-207-1502  
date: January 2018

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs

Lincoln Heights School  
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to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Property Name: Lincoln Heights School

County and State: Wilkes County, North Carolina

Photographer: Heather M. Slane

Date: August 2017

Location of Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

1. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
facing south
2. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
facing southwest
3. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
facing northeast
4. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
facing north
5. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
facing northeast
6. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
auditorium - facing northwest
7. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
typical classroom
8. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
typical classroom
9. Lincoln Heights School – Main Building  
typical classroom
10. Lincoln Heights School – High School/Gymnasium  
facing southeast

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11. Lincoln Heights School – High School/Gymnasium  
facing southwest
12. Lincoln Heights School – High School/Gymnasium  
facing northeast
13. Lincoln Heights School – High School/Gymnasium  
facing west
14. Lincoln Heights School – High School/Gymnasium  
hallway – facing east
15. Lincoln Heights School – High School/Gymnasium  
typical 1963 classroom
16. Lincoln Heights School – High School/Gymnasium  
gymnasium – facing northwest
17. Lincoln Heights School – Agricultural Shop/Cafeteria  
cafeteria - facing southwest
18. Lincoln Heights School – Agricultural Shop/Cafeteria  
cafeteria - facing east
19. Lincoln Heights School – Agricultural Shop/Cafeteria  
shop - facing southwest
20. Lincoln Heights School – Agricultural Shop/Cafeteria  
shop - facing northwest
21. Lincoln Heights School – Day Care  
facing southwest
22. Lincoln Heights School – Garage  
facing south
23. Lincoln Heights School – Garage  
facing southwest

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property \_\_\_\_\_

County and State \_\_\_\_\_

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100002932

Date Listed: 9/11/2018

Property Name: Lincoln Heights School

County: Wilkes

State: NC

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper9-11-2018  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8: Cultural Affiliation

African American is hereby deleted as a Cultural Affiliation. Criterion D is not cited

The North Carolina SHPO has been notified of this amendment.



**DISTRIBUTION:****National Register property file****Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**



Image from NC-HPOweb

Lincoln Heights School  
197 Lincoln Heights Road  
Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, NC

Site Map with National Register Boundary

 National Register Boundary  
 Parcel Boundaries

A. Rosenwald School (C)  
 B. High School/Gymnasium (C)  
 C. Agriculture Shop/Cafeteria (C)  
 D. Day Care (NC)  
 E. Garage (NC)  
 F. Garage (NC)

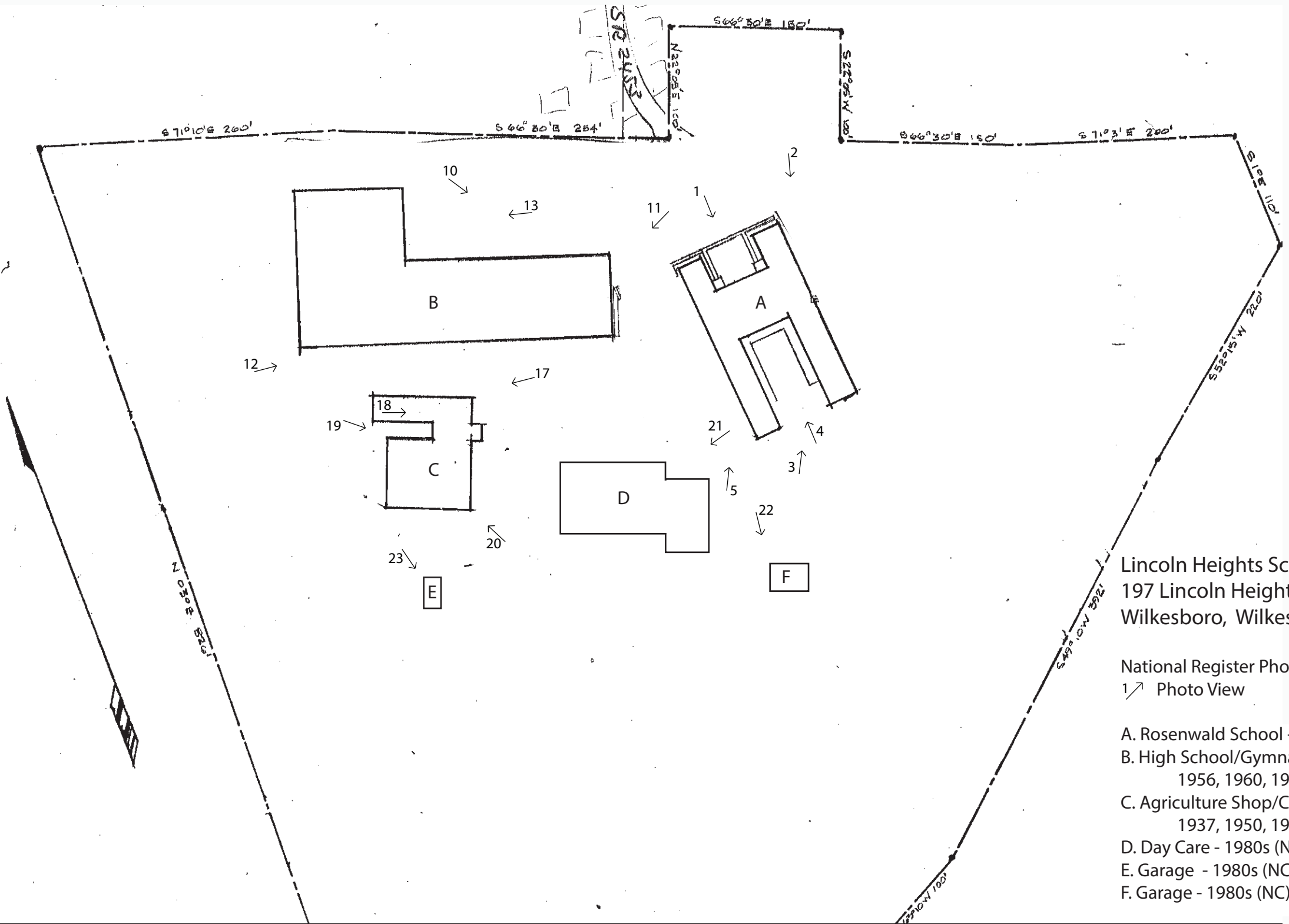
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 2. 36.149273, -81.130570  
 3. 36.148517, -81.128650  
 4. 36.148410, -81.128649  
 5. 36.147750, -81.129297  
 6. 36.147512, -81.129307  
 7. 36.147403, -81.131258



Scale: 1" = 200'

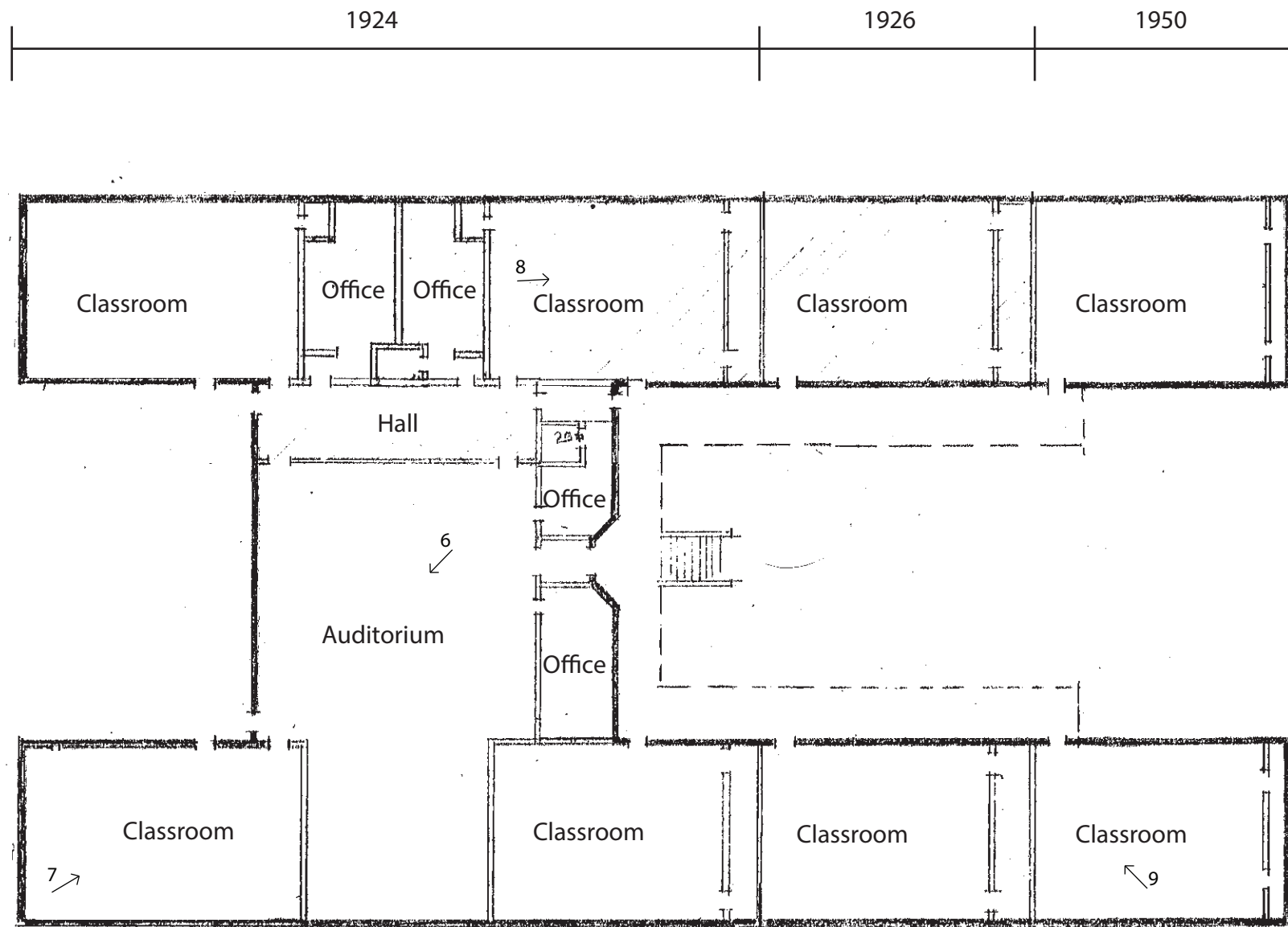




Lincoln Heights School  
 197 Lincoln Heights Road  
 Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, NC

National Register Photo Key  
 1 ↗ Photo View

- A. Rosenwald School - 1924, 1926, 1950 (C)
- B. High School/Gymnasium - 1956, 1960, 1963 (C)
- C. Agriculture Shop/Cafeteria - 1937, 1950, 1957 (C)
- D. Day Care - 1980s (NC)
- E. Garage - 1980s (NC)
- F. Garage - 1980s (NC)



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197 Lincoln Heights Road  
Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, NC

National Register Photo Key  
Rosenwald School Building  
1 ↗ Photo View

Lincoln Heights School  
197 Lincoln Heights Road  
Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, NC

National Register Photo Key  
HighSchool/Gymnasium Building  
1 ↗ Photo View

