United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 27 1982 date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Nam	ie				
historic	Brair	erd Institute	<u></u>		
and/or common	Kum1 e	er Hall (pref	ferred)	(Brainerd	Institute)
2. Loca	ation				
street & number	Lanca	ster and Cemet	tery St ree	ts.	NA not for publication
city, town	Cheste	er <u>NA</u> vi	cinity of		
state S	South Carolina	code 045	county	Chester	code 023
3. Clas	sification				
Category district _X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisitio 以A_ in process 以A_ being consider	_χ_ yes: re	upied n progress le estricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: Vacant
name Her	bert C. Lutz	Sox 1-M			
city, town	Chester		cinity of	state	South Carolina 2970
	ation of L			on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Chester Cou	unty Court	house	
street & number		Main St.			
city, town		Chester		state	South Carolina 29706
6. Rep	resentation	on in Exis	sting \$	Surveys	
	ory of Historic th Carolina	Places	has this pro	perty been determined e	ligible? yes _X_ no
date 1981				federal X_sta	ate county local
depository for su	irvey records Sout	<u>ch Carolina De</u> p	oartment o	f Archives and His	story
city, town	Columbia			state	South Carolina 2921

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent good _X fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaltered _X_ altered	X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Brainerd Institute was one of the earliest secondary institutions for black children established in Chester County, South Carolina. The institute, which opened ca. 1868, relocated on the present site, a large tract in eastern Chester, ca. 1882. Only two of the buildings constructed for Brainerd Institute are still standing: Kumler Hall, a two-story brick domitory built ca. 1916, and the Martha Tweed Administration Building, a two-story brick-veneer building constructed ca. 1900. The Administration Building is in ruinous condition and lacks integrity to convey the history of Brainerd Institute; Kumler Hall, although in poor condition, is structurally sound and retains integrity from the time of the Institute's significance.

Additional Information: Brainerd Institute relocated on the De Graffenreid lands in eastern Chester ca. 1882. Three major buildings were built between 1888 and 1904: Centennial Hall, a substantial, three-story, brick-veneer building used as a male dormitory; the Martha Tweed Administration Building, a two-story, brick-veneer building used for classrooms; and a large two-and-one-half-story frame female dormitory. Centennial Hall was destroyed by fire between 1910 and 1917 and was replaced by Kumler Hall. The female dormitory and several small supporting buildings were destroyed after 1944. The Martha Tweed Administration Building is in ruinous condition, owing to severe structural decay, and is beyond preservation. Only Kumler Hall retains sufficient integrity from Brainerd's active years to meet the National Register Criteria.

Kumler Hall is a two-story brick dormitory building located in eastern Chester on a large grassy lot. The building has a full basement and a hip roof. A one-story porch with brick piers and a hipped roof spans the breadth of the facade (south elevation.) The facade is three bays wide, with a central doorway and two-over-two sash. The side elevations are five regular bays. An auxiliary entrance with a small porch is centered on the rear elevation. The brickwork is stretcher bond. Two interior chimneys pierce the hipped roof.

Kumler Hall has a central longitudinal hallway opening onto the porch, with a central single-flight stairway and classrooms and dormitory rooms opening on either side on both floors and the basement. The floors are wooden, and the ceilings are plaster.

Kumler Hall is currently vacant. The building shows considerable superficial damage, including broken window panes, cracked plaster, and a sagging floor, but there is no evidence of structural damage. The building is located in a low-to middle-income residential section of Chester, with many small houses and a trailer park nearby. The ruins of the Martha Tweed Administration Building are located east of Kumler Hall.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1799 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications		landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	 science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	ca. 1916	Builder/Architect unk	nown	black history

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Brainerd Institute, one of the earliest and finest of the many private schools established for freedmen in South Carolina in the years just after the Civil War, was located in Chester. Brainerd was operated from ca. 1868 until 1940 by the Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church, USA and offered vocational, industrial, mechanical, classical college preparatory, and teacher training. Two vacant and rapidly deteriorating buildings are the only remnants of the once active twenty-one-acre campus. The Martha Tweed Administration Building, a two-story, brick veneer building constructed ca. 1900 and Kumler Hall, a two-story boys' dormitory constructed ca 1916. Only Kumler Hall, however retains sufficent structural and architectural integrity to meet the National Register criteria. The building is significant as the only intact physical reminder of one of the finest and most successfulelements of this unique educational system for blacks. Additional Information: In the spring of 1866 at the request of a Mr. Harris, Miss E. E. Richmond, a white, New York native, opened a school under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau at Brawley's Plantation, five miles from Chester, South Carolina. She was joined by a New Jersey native Miss Caroline I. Kent and the two moved the school into the town of Chester. The second story of a large storage building was the home of their day, night, and Sunday schools. Black ministers were also invited to preach at the school and it is said to have been very successful. 1

In 1868 the Board of Home Missions of the New York Presbyterian Church, USA sent Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Loomis to upper South Carolina to establish schools and churches at likely places among the freedmen. About this same time the Freedmen's Bureau announced its intention to close the school at Chester. Rev. Loomis, impressed by what he had seen of the northern women's work, convinced the Board of Missions, Freedmen's Division, of the Presbyterian Church USA to take over the school. The school was then known as the Chester Mission but shortly thereafter was named Brainerd Mission School and in 1873 Brainerd Institute after David Brainerd, an early Presbyterian missionary among the Indians in Massachusetts. 3

Brainerd occupied several locations before finally settling on the present site, the old DeGraffenreid land, where the mansion house was utilized as the main building. Other support buildings were constructed as well as boys' and girls' dormitories to house the capacity student body. Brainerd Institute was committed to high standards both in its academic program and in the conduct of its pupils. In addition to basic academic courses, each student fulfilled the requirements for one of the major courses of study, mechanical, industrial, vocational, business, college preparatory, or teacher training. Students also attended classes in good conduct and Bible study and were required to attend the Presbyterian church each Sunday. There were several religious organizations on campus and every student was a member of each one. The young ladies were required to wear sedate uniforms and all students lived by a strict set of regulations.

Perhaps the most important contribution of Brainerd was its role in providing public school teachers for the black community. From 1868 until the turn of the century,

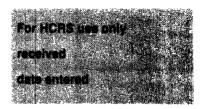
9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

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Werbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is shown bounded by line on the accompanying Chester County Tax Map #201-4, scaled at 1 inch = 200 feedary includes Kumler Hall while excluding adjacent trailer parks and the ruins of inistration Building. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries	IJ
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state NA code county NA code	
11. Form Prepared By	
Suzanne Pickens Wylie Linda VanderBroek, Catawb	ba
name/title	
organization Archives and History date August 3, 1982	
street & number 1430 Senate Street telephone (803) 758-5816	
city or town Columbia state South Carolina 29211	
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certificat	tion
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: national state local	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public L 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee	
title State Historic Preservation Officer date	7/82
For NPS use only I heraby certify that this property is included in the National Register Entered Table date 1/27/83 **Respector the National Register*	
Attents date	

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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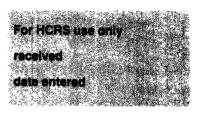
2

Brainerd provided the only schooling available for black children in Chester, and it provided the only high school until the 1920s.10 Brainerd did aspire to junior college status for a time toward the end of its career, apparently in an attempt to increase enrollment cut by the advent of more and better public schools for blacks. In actuality Brainerd was never really more than a high school; however, it was accredited by the state and its standards were so much higher than any of the public schools that most of its graduates were certified to teach public school. 12

Although Brainerd apparently always operated at full capacity, it eventually outgrew its purpose. Public school facilities for blacks in Chester slowly improved and many students preferred to take advantage of this cost free education. Throughout its career Brainerd was always in critical need of funds for expansion and repair of its campus. In later years as Brainerd ceased to be as necessary to the education of blacks in the area, funds were increasingly hard to obtain. 13 Brainerd closed between 1939 and 1941. 14 The campus was cut up into parcels and sold; the city of Chester bought the Martha Tweed Administration Building, and it was used as an elementary school for some years. 15

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- ²Catalogue, 1929-30, p. 7 and 1930-31, p. 7; Parker, p. 152; "Historical Sketch;" Boulware, p. 17; McMillan, p. 9; Scrapbook, pp. 106-107; Anne Pickens Collins, "History of Brainerd Institute;" "The Educational Efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau and Freedmen's Aid Societies in South Carolina, 1862-1872 "The Journal of Negro History 8 (January 1923): 27.
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 - ⁷Catalogue, 1931-32, pp. 8-9.
 - ⁸Catalogue, 1937-38, p. 7; 1929-30, p. 33.
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