

4083



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: Richard Allen School
Other names/site number: CRS# S09016; Georgetown Colored School; Georgetown School #223C; East Georgetown Elementary School
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 316 Railroad Avenue
City or town: Georgetown State: DE County: Sussex 005
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

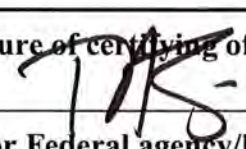
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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 X statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

DE State Historic Preservation Officer	4/24/2019
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title : DE SHPO	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

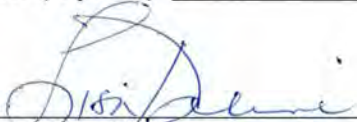
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4. National Park Service Certification

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:)


Signature of the Keeper

6/20/19
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federa

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Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>2</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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education/School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social/Civic

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Concrete, Vinyl Siding over Wood

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.)

Summary Paragraph

Located at 316 Railroad Avenue in Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware, the Richard Allen School reflects three historic periods of change in school construction reflecting the integration of the public education system over the 20th Century. Built in 1923 by the *Service Citizens of Delaware*, an organization funded by the philanthropy of Pierre S. duPont, the building was doubled in size in 1954 as part of Delaware's equalization strategy to maintain a segregated education system in compliance with the 1896 US Supreme Court Decision, Plessy V Ferguson, that affirmed the concept of "separate but equal" in providing racially segregated facilities. The building was placed on a five-acre lot just east of the site of the first post-civil war era school for African American children in Georgetown, which was located with the Mt. Prospect AME Church, located at the southeast corner of East Adams Street and Railroad Avenue. The Richard Allen School was also expanded in 1964, with the construction of a two-school room concrete block addition to the rear of the existing school which coincided with the integration of the schools across Delaware. The school is placed on a five-acre lot that served the African American community as a place for community outdoor recreation. The baseball field, located along the south side of the parcel, served as the venue for traveling segregated baseball teams to play. The playground equipment on the northern section of the property dates to the post 1964 era when the school served children from Kindergarten thru third grade.

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Narrative Description

General Description

The 1923 single story building was Colonial Revival in style with a gable roof running perpendicular to Railroad Avenue. Sided in running bond brick and set on a poured concrete foundation, the east elevation displayed a wall of tall multi-paned three sash tall windows, six lighting each classroom space. The school reflected the standard design of two room schools created in this building program across the state and these buildings were executed in either brick or frame. A projecting vestibule and front porch provided access to the two classroom spaces inside. A movable partition wall separating the two class rooms provided flexibility in the interior room arrangement. In 1954 the school was remodeled and doubled in size by the placement of a second two-room school of similar scale and design facing the existing building. The vestibule of the old building was removed and a covered hallway physically joined the two halves of the building. The west elevation mimicked the three-sash tall multi-paned window arrangement of the original building. Aerial photography illustrates an H-Shaped plan with two parallel gable roofs with a hipped connector centrally placed in the shallow pitched roof which is the width of the corridor space between them. Major interior additions included indoor plumbing, a kitchen, and office space for the teachers with its own bathroom. The front and rear entrances were configured with double leaf doors and concrete steps, according to the elevation drawings that survive in the collection of the Delaware Public Archives. In 1964, a flat roofed concrete block addition was connected with a corridor to the rear of the two buildings, providing two additional classrooms. This remodeling pulled the exterior doors to the new corridor and removed the older rear door. In 2002, the façade of the building was remodeled and the interior corridor was finished with vinyl panels, obscuring earlier details. A concrete handicap access ramp was installed and anodized aluminum doors replaced the 1950s multi-paned glass doors. A side window was obscured in the remodeling as well but the window survives and is visible in the teacher's office.

In 2002, a flat roofed two-room temporary classroom building was placed on the west side of the building, parallel to the main H-shaped section. This building was accessed via a pressure treated lumber deck with railings that connect to the rear corridor of the 1964 addition. This temporary classroom building and wooden deck addition are non-contributing. (1 non-contributing building)

Façade

The façade (North Elevation) of the Richard Allen School is divided into three sections. The eastern section, the end wall of the 1923 duPont School building, displays an exterior square chimney stack that divides the section in two. Quarter round garret windows flank the stack near the peak of the roof and they are detailed with soldier course lintels and cast sills. They are boarded up. The roof displays a Colonial Revival raking cornice and gable returns covered in vinyl siding. The brickwork of the walls is laid in running bond and the building rests upon a concrete foundation. Mechanical equipment is attached to the exterior of the elevation and a large metal tank is placed adjacent to the eastern side of the chimney stack. The central section

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of the façade is brick that has been painted white and is three-bays wide. It is surmounted by a flat and simply detailed entablature. The eastern bay has a full height door that accesses an equipment room that is attached via a pipe to the chimney stack in the eastern elevation. The central bay is accessed via poured concrete steps with decorative white stones in as the aggregate. A double leaf door of anodized aluminum is the focus of the central bay. The third bay contains a single window opening occupied by a 1/1 vinyl replacement window. The western section of the façade is blank except for a half-round blocked in attic window that has a rowlock brick arch lintel and sill. The gable end displays an expressed raking cornice and gable returns like the eastern section. The brickwork is of running bond with a soldier course laid on top of the concrete foundation that is painted white. A handicap ramp is accessed from the parking lot in front of this section and is sheltered by a concrete block wall with a brick veneer in running bond and capped with a rowlock course of brick as a cap. This ramp post-dates the addition of the central and western sections from 1954.

West Elevation

The west elevation of the 1954 section displays running bond brick with a soldier course of brick at the top of a concrete foundation with two metal vents. The elevation is two-bays wide containing six grouped windows in each bay with a narrow brick panel between the groupings and at each end. These are 1/1 vinyl replacement windows with a single panel above. A single cast sill is set below each group. The 1964 addition is attached to the south end of the elevation. The rear entrance is set back from the wall plane of the elevation and is set lower than the gable roofline. The double leaf steel doors are set under an overhang composed of a brick panel and concrete capping. The concrete steps to this door are covered by the wooden stairs and decking that connect this entrance to the two-room temporary building. The 1964 addition north wall extends beyond the wall plane of the elevation and is perpendicular to it. It is blank and faced with running bond brick and capped with a concrete coping. The west elevation of the 1964 addition is blank with two exterior roof drain pipes protruding from it. It is laid in running bond brick with concrete coping.

Rear Elevation (Facing South)

The rear elevation (south) of the 1964 addition is laid in running bond brick with a ribbon of twelve 2/2 horizontally divided aluminum windows spaced between cast concrete panels that are wider than the windows. Each window has a metal lintel, a cast sill and displays a diagonal locking grate on the outside of the window. The east wall of this addition is similarly detailed to the west elevation and the entrance on the west elevation displays a similar recessed entry to the west elevation, complete with a pair of steel doors accessed by two concrete steps, and a running bond wall with concrete coping above. The rear elevation (south) of the former duPont School (east section of the building) displays a projecting chimney centered on the elevation flanked by quarter round garret windows with rowlock lintels and cast sills that are blocked in. The roofline displays a similar raking cornice and gable returns to the façade. These are covered in vinyl siding.

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East Elevation

The east elevation of the former duPont School (east section of the building) section displays running bond brick with a soldier course of brick at the top of a concrete foundation with a metal vents under each window grouping. The elevation is two-bays wide containing six grouped windows in each bay with a narrow brick panel between the groupings and at each end. These are 1/1 vinyl replacement windows with a single vinyl panel above. A single-cast sill is set below each group.

Interior

The interior of the building is arranged around three corridors, the central corridor that divides the 1923 building from the 1954 building, and two perpendicular corridors, one at the openings to the classrooms in the middle of the central corridor, and the rear corridor that provides access across the back of the building to the two classrooms in the 1964 addition and the rear exits at either end. The central corridor is lined with vinyl wall panels that unifies the appearance.

Immediately to the right upon entering through the façade (north elevation) is the principal and teacher's office. There were trophy cases and bookshelves that were open to view but are now obscured by the vinyl wall panels. The original finish for the space was knotty pine which is evident on the display cases, which are in disrepair and the boarded up former exterior window. The principal's office retains pine floors, simple baseboards and window surrounds, and has a small bathroom that retains black and white lattice pattern floor tiles, and black and white 6" square wall tiles in a design of black tiles as a base, a white base, and a narrow black molding below white capping tiles. A small radiator also survives. The original five horizontal paneled door survives with the bottom panel which was replaced with a louvered panel.

At the cross corridor at the main entrance to the four classroom spaces are other spaces that access this corridor as well. The boy's and girl's lavatories are placed there and each retains their original 1954 lattice black and white floor and wall tiles and fixtures. On the northeast side of the corridor is the boy's lavatory which is accessed through a remodeled vestibule and has the original location of the doorway visible. The girl's room retains its original five horizontal paneled door with "GIRLS" stenciled on the outside. The janitor's closet is located across the hallway from the boy's lavatory. It retains two original access doors and the original sink. The access doors have a single pane of glass above and a wood panel and a louvered panel below.

The four classroom doors located at this intersection are identically detailed nine glass pane panels over two horizontal wood panels. The duPont School side (east side) has two large classroom spaces. The north classroom retains its original dimensions. It retains the wood flooring and moldings around the room including baseboards, door surrounds with a simple entablature, and original blackboard. The west wall of this room is arranged with two doors flanking a slate blackboard that retains its chalk rail. The closet to the left of the blackboard retains 1950s built-in shelving. The cloak closet to the right of the chalkboard is larger and retains its three-pronged hardware for hanging coats. The north wall of the room has electrical panels placed on it. The east wall retains the six windows, with the 1/1 vinyl replacement windows. Above the dropped ceiling, the upper sash of the windows remain encapsulated above

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the vinyl windows. The wood interior sill remains. The wide mullions between the windows are also original. Radiators from the 1954 remodeling survive in this room as well. The original movable partition wall remains fixed in place. The simple surround for the opening, including its entablature survives as well.

The south classroom on the duPont School side of the building retains many of the same features as the north side but the space has been divided into four smaller rooms. These new partitions incorporate features like the chalk rails for the two slate blackboards instead of cutting through them. The slate chalkboard on the western wall is flanked by a storage closet on the north side and a coat closet on the south that retains its coat hooks and shelving. At the southwest corner of the room is an additional door that housed the original heating equipment. The room appears to not have been finished originally and the removal of the equipment exposes the unfinished walls and floor of the space. A slate chalkboard remains on the south wall of the room complete with the chalk rail and moldings. The six windows of the east wall were changed out and replaced with 1/1 vinyl windows and the upper sashes remain encapsulated above. The radiators survive in this space too. The wooden sills and wide mullions also survive for these windows.

The north classroom in the 1954 section retains the volume of the original classroom. The room retains original simple wood baseboards and door surrounds. On the east wall, a closet with built-in shelving and rod for the teacher's coat survives. The second closet on this wall, the student's coat closet, is larger and retains its original hangers and shelving. It also retains a hallway access door that was blocked by the placement of the vinyl wall panels in the hall. The chalkboard is placed along the north wall and is configured differently from the 1920's section. The slates are flanked by cork board panels on either end. The chalk rails survive as well. The west wall displays the group of six 1/1 replacement vinyl windows separated by wide mullions and with the surviving wooden upper sash encapsulated in the space above. The wood sills survive as well. The radiators have been removed from this room. A small chalkboard is placed at the intersection of the west wall and the south wall. The south wall is also a moveable partition wall that has been fixed in place. The ceiling has been lowered with acoustical tile and lighting fixtures to cover heating and air conditioning ducts above.

The south classroom has been divided into four spaces as well. Three offices and a corridor space. The office that encloses the south wall retains a chalkboard and a cork bulletin board survives along the east wall near the intersection of the south wall. The windows survive in similar configuration and detail on the west wall within these office spaces.

A large room, noted on the 1954 plans as the kitchen and lunch room, is accessed from both the classroom side and the corridor. There are no historic finishes in the space but the pantry closet retains built-in wood shelving. The corridor entrance to this space was formerly an exterior door. The main corridor narrows on the south end where the rear door of the 1954 addition was placed. Parts of the door surround and the door hinges are still visible on the west side of the space. The east side was obscured by the construction of a closet. The corridor of the 1964 concrete block addition is attached at this point. The south wall of the corridor is of exposed and painted concrete block. The north wall contains the formerly exposed exterior brick rear elevations of the 1923 and 1954 sections. The rear of the 1923 section displays running bond brick and a

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blocked-in window complete with jack arch lintel that was modified into a cabinet space to hold fire suppression equipment. A curved top radiator was placed below this window to help heat the corridor. The exterior wall of the 1954 section is a blank running bond brick wall.

The entrances to the two classrooms address the corridor at an angle. The entry doors are similar in detail, with a glass in the upper section of a wooden door with a stainless steel kickplate. The two classrooms were identical in finish at the start. Each classroom has two chalkboards with flanking cork bulletin boards, one placed on the end wall of the space and the other along the north wall. Each room has a kitchen space that includes Formica countertops, a stainless-steel sink, and wooden cupboards above and below and built-in wood coat closets sized for the youngest children, as well as a narrow closet sized for the adult's coats. The kitchen areas in both rooms were partitioned off from the rest of the room in later years. In the west classroom, an additional range of cabinets were placed in the corner of the divided-off kitchen space.

The Site

The five-acre site of the Richard Allen School is bounded on the north by Railroad Avenue, on the west by Stevenson Lane, and on the south and west by woods on adjoining properties. The site retains features from the period of use of the building as well. The building is placed on the west side of the property. An asphalt parking lot is placed between the building and Railroad Avenue. The parking lot and perimeter of the entire site is edged in chain linked fencing of differing height with gates located to limit access. The smaller yard located west of the main school building is fenced and locked. It limits access to the temporary building and wooden deck. A concrete side walk, formerly providing access to the rear door of the school, disappears under the deck. A non-contributing single bay square modern greenhouse building is placed near the parking lot behind the fence. A small, formerly cultivated garden plot is located within this enclosed space as well. The flagpole is also placed in this enclosure.

The larger, recreational spaces on the parcel are located to the rear and east of the building. Playground equipment dating from the 1964 expansion dominates the yard to the east side of the school. Surviving playground equipment includes metal rocking toys embedded in concrete, a four-child rocking apparatus, a decorated slide and a climbing apparatus in the shape of a sailing vessel are located in this section. These pieces are detailed with painted metal panels and shapes designed to appeal to young children. There are swing sets, a large climbing apparatus, and a basketball court which also date from the post-1964 era. The rear of the schoolyard has a baseball diamond and backstop placed behind the school. The chain linked backstop is quite rusted and may date from earliest use of the space for community baseball games in the pre-integration era. Other landscape features include a small grassed drainage swale that divides the open field from the playground section and runs parallel to Railroad Avenue. Four specimen trees are places in this area, two next to the building, one in the playground area and one at the far end of the open space near the drainage swale. The majority of the lot is open grassy field. The area beyond the property boundary is wooded on the south and east sides. There is a small, irregularly shaped concrete pad placed outside the rear door on the east elevation with steps leading up to the school building.

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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

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education
Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance

1923-1964

Significant Dates

1923-1925
1954
1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

1923-25: Guilbert and Betelle, Architects, Newark, New Jersey
1954: Stanhope and Manning, Wilmington, Delaware
1964: Whiteside, Moeckel & Carbonell, Wilmington, Delaware

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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.)

Built from 1923-1925, and expanded in 1954 and again in 1964, the Richard Allen School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.¹ The building retains its physical integrity that reflects its history of construction and is significant in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black. This very important building illustrates the important story of the struggles overcome by the African American community in Georgetown, Delaware to educate their children. Built during the consolidation and expansion of post-Civil War schools for African Americans in the 1920s, by the Service Citizens of Delaware, an organization funded and directed by Pierre S. duPont, this building was replacing an existing building called the “Georgetown Colored School”, or #223C² in school district records. The 1923 building was placed on a five-acre parcel of land near the nucleus of Georgetown’s African American community on Railroad Avenue in the southeast section of the Sussex County seat. Built as a two-room school of brick construction, and designed by the nationally renowned architectural firm of Guilbert and Betelle of New Jersey, this school building reflects important changes in the history of education in Sussex County through its additions and changes over time. In 1946, during an effort to name schools for African American children for important historical figures in Black history, the school was named for Richard Allen, first Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.³ In reaction to the 1954 Supreme Court Case, Brown V Board of Education in 1954, Richard Allen School was expanded to better accommodate the students attending there as part of an equalization strategy to improve the facilities for African American children across the state. The building was doubled in size with a replica of the original design of the building constructed facing the original building. In 1964, as the end of segregated education in Sussex County was approaching, a concrete block addition of two classrooms were added to the rear (south elevation) of the building. Renamed in 1966 as the East Georgetown Elementary School, the school’s first integrated mission was to house kindergarten through third graders. In 1974, the school did not appear in the State Education Directories but reappeared in 2002 with teachers assigned there. At this time the building regained the name, “the Richard Allen School.” The building housed a program serving older children in sufficient number that expansion was again required, resulting the placement of a two-room temporary classroom building and the wooden connecting walkways placed on the western side of the building. The expanded Richard Allen School served until 2008 when the school was closed for the final time. In 2010 the building

¹ The physical changes to the building over time that are so important to illustrate the significance of the building under Criterion A, diminish the architectural significance of the property under Criterion C so this nomination does not reference that significance criterion. The building does retain physical integrity.

² Delaware maintained a segregated education system into the third quarter of the 20th century. Numbered school that included the letter “C” in their name indicated it was an African American, or “colored” school.

³ All larger communities in Sussex County had schools for African American children built during the 1920s. In the 1940s the smaller, more rural schools tended to keep their town name in the name of the school. But in the larger communities the names changed to honor important African Americans. In Seaford, the school was renamed for Frederick Douglass, in Laurel the school was named for Paul Lawrence Dunbar, and in Bridgeville the school was named for Phillis Wheatley.

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was given to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware by the Delaware General Assembly. The Richard Allen Coalition obtained the building in 2015 with the goal of bringing the building back to the service of the community.

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

Background

African American Education in Georgetown

Delaware was a slave state before the Civil War and although there was divided sentiment in the state about maintaining that institution, Sussex County was a strong bastion support for slaveholding interests. On October 20, 1848, Frederick Douglass' abolitionist newspaper, *The North Star*, published an article from the Wilmington paper, *The Blue Hen's Chicken*. Titled, "Outrageous If True:"

We learn that a few months ago, a colored man who had received some education, commenced teaching a school for free colored children, near Georgetown, Sussex county, Del., when a number of white rowdies, went to the schoolmaster and threatened him that they would take him to the public "whipping post," if he did not cease teaching his school; the man remonstrated, stating that it was a lawful calling, and he was not willing to abandon it, however, in a few days these said rowdies went to the school-house, took the teacher out of the school, carried him to the public "whipping post" at Georgetown, and unmercifully lacerated the poor fellow's back, and only let him escape upon a promise to teach no more.⁴

More details about that pre-Civil War school for free African American children are to be uncovered, but the reception for the first post-Civil War teacher was not much different. Nationally there was an effort to support the education of African Americans in slave states after the Civil War and there was much philanthropic effort, especially from the north, to build schools and staff them with teachers. Most of the financial support was directed toward the states who had seceded from the Union. Delaware, a slave state that did not secede from the Union, established an organization called "The Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the Colored People." Led by Bishop Alfred Lee of the Episcopal Church in Wilmington, the organization marshalled local resources and those of the American Freedman's Union Commission and the Army Bureau of Refugees, Freedman, and Abandoned Lands, to support the local African American communities' efforts to establish schools in the Delaware. In all, over eighty schools were built across the state.

Georgetown, as the seat of Sussex County, was among the first to receive the assistance of the Delaware Association and its number in the list of schools supported by the Association was #12. The school for African American children was placed at Prospect AME Church, located at the

⁴ *The North Star*, October 20, 1848. "Outrageous if True." Page 3 Column 3. Accessed through Accessible Archives, August 10, 2017.

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intersection of Adams Street and Railroad Avenue. Prospect AME Church was built in 1866, the property was likely purchased from surrounding property owner, Thomas W. Hatfield, an undertaker and cabinetmaker in Georgetown who lived nearby.⁵ The school had trustees who owned the building and called it Progress School.⁶

Detailed minutes of the first two years of meetings of the Delaware Association survive in the collection of the Delaware Historical Society. These minutes provide few specific details but obliquely referred to the difficulty the teachers faced in establishing and running schools for African American children in Sussex County. The teachers assigned to Sussex County schools were all African American women. Incidents were reported to the Association that occurred in Seaford, Milton, Laurel, and Georgetown that the women were “repeatedly assaulted,” “grossly insulted,” and endured “several rudenesses” from local white citizens. In Georgetown, the reception was exceptionally poor and it was reported that: “On Sunday and Monday last, the teacher at Georgetown, Sarah A. Owens, was mobbed and driven from the place.”⁷ The minutes continued with a resolution that the school at Georgetown be reopened as soon as a suitable teacher could be obtained. On June 8th, the Delaware Association Acting Committee passed a motion that “a colored male teacher be procured for Georgetown.” Joseph S. Thompson, a graduate from Lincoln Institute in Oxford, Pennsylvania accepted the position and he reopened the school on June 21st.⁸ Sarah A. Owens left the state but continued her work as a teacher. By April 1868 she was teaching in Annapolis, MD.⁹

Georgetown continued to be an unfavorable location to work as a teacher. In the 1868-69 school year, Emma L. Davis served as the teacher in Georgetown and in her monthly reports noted that public sentiment continued to be unfavorable toward the school in January and February, with improvement in March. The next year, Mary L. Boyer took over as teacher for the 1869-70 school year.¹⁰ In her submission of the *Teacher's Monthly School Report* of January 1870 as required by the Freedman's Bureau, Mary Boyer noted there were twenty-nine students who attended her school and each paid a fee to support the room and board of the teacher. It also stated that she was African American and the only regular teacher. Her reports were silent on the

⁵ The church's parsonage was purchased from Hatfield in a deed that was dated December 12, 1885. Trustees for the region's AME Churches identified in that deed included: Robert Wolford, Silas Little, Moses Drake, Wright Shuzels, Isaac Hall, George Wolford, John Short, William Ingram, Harris Ingram, Noah W. Moore, John H. Roberts, Riley Roberts, Abraham Ingram, and George Ingram. (Delaware Land Records, 1677-1947, Recorder of Deeds, Sussex County, RG 4555, Subgroup 000, Series 030. Delaware Public Archives, Dover, DE. Roll 83, v. 106, pp 157-58.) Date of construction noted in Frank Zebley's, *Churches of Delaware*, Self-Published, 1947, p. 293. Accessed via Delaware Public Archives, <http://archives.delaware.gov/eBooks/ZebleyChurches.pdf>, August 10, 2017.

⁶ The school was also referred to as Georgetown or as #12 in the Delaware records submitted to Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands (The Freedman's Bureau) by Samuel Woolman of the Delaware Association.

⁷ Minutes of the Acting Committee of the Delaware Association for the Moral Improvement and Education of the Colored People. 6/1/1867. Collection of the Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, Delaware.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ "United States, Freedmen's Bureau, Records of the Superintendent of Education and of the Division of Education, 1865-1872," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2QP-8LGR> : accessed 11 August 2017), Sarah A Owens, Apr 1868; citing Residence, Anne Arundel, Maryland, United States, NARA microfilm publications M1056. Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1861 - 1880, RG 105. (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1969-1978); roll 19; FHL microfilm 1,617,668.

¹⁰ The issue of public sentiment about these schools must have been of issue across the South. The monthly questionnaire filled out by all teachers who reported to the Freedman's Bureau in the 1868-1872 period contained line "#5: State the public sentiment towards Colored Schools."

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issue of public sentiment.¹¹ Throughout the period covered in the monthly reports, it was noted that the school also was the location for an active Sabbath School, serving a larger number of students than attended regular classes and with other community members serving as teachers.

Rebuilding Delaware's Segregated Education System: P.S. duPont and the Service Citizens of Delaware

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, school facilities across the state suffered from lack of government support and investment in public education. In 1918, after a national study ranked Delaware 35th in the nation in public education, Pierre S. duPont¹² became interested in modernizing the educational system for all of Delaware's children. His major objective was to provide a modern schoolhouse for all children in Delaware so that they might have an opportunity to succeed in a society made more mobile by economic change.¹³ He founded an organization called The Service Citizens of Delaware to advocate for improving Delaware's schools. Continued lack of support for investing in education from the Delaware General Assembly led duPont to begin the effort to upgrade Delaware's schools himself. His philanthropy focused on rebuilding schools for African American children and those for the poorest communities across the state to serve as a model. He contracted with nationally renowned architectural firm of Guilbert and Betelle of Newark, New Jersey to design up-to-date school facilities at a reasonable cost. Rural schools were of one and two-room designs executed in wood. Schools in larger communities were built of brick with standard designs to four-school rooms in size. These buildings were a major investment and an appreciated community amenity. Despite no electricity or indoor plumbing, the schools quickly became community centers as well as educational facilities.

"The Georgetown School #223C"¹⁴ was the official name of this school before the name Richard Allen School was adopted in 1946. Begun in 1923 during the initial wave of buildings under the auspices of the Service Citizens of Delaware and Pierre S. duPont, the school first admitted children in the school year 1925-26. A standard design two-room school executed in brick, the building was oriented perpendicular to Railroad Avenue, facing west. That first year, Margaret

¹¹ Each teacher in each school in formerly slave states reported monthly to the Army's Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands during the years 1868-1872. Not all reports survive but many are available on line through the website www.familysearch.org. United States, Freedmen's Bureau, Records of the Superintendent of Education and of the Division of Education, 1865-1872," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2QP-8TCR> : accessed 12 August 2017), Mary L Boyer, Dec 1869; citing Residence, Sussex, Delaware, United States, NARA microfilm publications M1056. Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1861 - 1880, RG 105. (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1969-1978); roll 21; FHL microfilm 1,617,670.

¹² Pierre Samuel du Pont (1870-1954) was a member of the Delaware gunpowder manufacturing company that dominated business and politics in the First State in the 19th and 20th centuries. A businessman, P.S. was at the forefront of bringing the DuPont Company from a family-owned business into a corporation run on modern business practices when he and two cousins purchased the company from the previous generation and remade it. He became company president in 1915 then moved to the Board of Directors in 1920 when he became president of General Motors Corporation. His investments in that company led him to a seat on the Board of Directors and then a term as President through the 1920s. More detailed information about the life and philanthropy of P.S. du Pont can be found in *Private Philanthropy and Public Education: Pierre S. du Pont and Delaware Schools 1890-1940*. (Newark, Delaware: University of Delaware Press) 1988 by Robert J. Taggart.

¹³ Robert J. Taggart, *Private Philanthropy and Public Education: Pierre S. du Pont and Delaware Schools 1890-1940*. (Newark, Delaware: University of Delaware Press) 1988. P.167. It was not just building improvement that du Pont supported. In addition, his reform agenda included: "teacher training, expanded secondary and higher education, bus transport to consolidated town schools, standardized curricula, adult education, and a small state bureaucracy to secure proper management of the system." (Ibid). It also had the consequence of reinforcing the racially segregated education system in the state.

¹⁴ The letter "C" after the number denoted "Colored."

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Washington taught the first through fourth grades in one room and Rebecca Eaton, the school's principal, taught the fifth through eighth grade students in the other.

Georgetown's African American community utilized the facility outside of school hours. The grounds were especially valued as a public gathering place and as a location for recreational activities denied to African Americans in this segregated state. The grounds contained a baseball diamond and grandstand that was used by the community and the local Negro League teams that traveled through Georgetown playing exhibition baseball games. Community members were very interested in the upkeep of the building and maintained the grounds.

Inequality

As P.S. duPont's-supported school reforms were being adopted in the state, schools were being rebuilt to serve the white population's children in the late 1920s and 1930s. These new buildings had better facilities and more amenities than those for the African American population, as well as a curriculum that completed the twelfth grade. Secondary education was very difficult to obtain for African Americans in Delaware in general but in Sussex County particularly. Students had to travel to Wilmington to receive a high school education. The first high school for African American children to attend was Howard High School in Wilmington. Built in 1868, the school was named for Union General and Commissioner of the Army's Bureau for Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, Oliver Otis Howard. In 1916, Delaware College for Colored Students, now Delaware State University, began a practice school program and provided free eleventh and twelfth grade curriculum to any who would attend at their campus in Dover. Howard High School in Wilmington received a new building in 1929 by the Service Citizens of Delaware.¹⁵ Families sent their children to live with relatives in Wilmington or paid to have them to board at the college campus, when they could.

Over time the academic offerings diversified and expanded at the Georgetown School #223C, with an expanded workforce of teachers assigned to the school who specialized in agriculture, home economics, mathematics, music, English, and science. This curriculum was designed to offer students up to an eleventh grade education. A group of photographs taken in 1943 behind the school with the long range of tall windows in the background show groups of young women posing with the canned goods they produced in their home economics class. These canned goods were likely produced under the supervision of Mrs. Virginia Brown Hobson who served as the Home Economics teacher at the school from 1938-1943.¹⁶

¹⁵ This 1929 building was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2005 for its association with the Brown V Board of Education Supreme Court Decision.

¹⁶ The field of Home Economics was important in integration of the State Board of Education. Mrs. Ruth M. Laws (1912-2010) began her career in 1952 with the State Board of Education as the Assistant Supervisor for Home Economics for Colored Schools, the first position with the State Board to focus on education issues for African American schools under the segregated system. Mrs. Laws earned her BA from Hampton Institute, her Master of Arts in Teacher Education from Cornell University, and by 1956, her PhD in Education and Administration from Columbia University. Dr. Laws was a nationally prominent figure and had a long and prominent career in higher education in Delaware at Delaware State College and Delaware Technical College. Dr. Laws died in 2010 at the age of 97. (Bureau of Public Instruction Annual Reports, 1952-1956; Obituary of Dr. Ruth Laws, *Dover Post*, 2/22/2010. <http://www.doverpost.com/article/20100222/NEWS/302229997>. Accessed 8/24/2017; "An Evening With Dr. Ruth Mitchell Laws" by Eloise Richardson. *Washington Afro American*. 3/28/1978.) <https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2238&dat=19780328&id=IHSIAAAAIBAJ&sjid=LPUFAAAAIBA&pg=3494,1321349> Accessed 8/24/2017.

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The largest annual complements of teachers to serve at Richard Allen School were assigned there during the school years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49. Six teachers covering various grade levels and subjects were working in this two-room school and in a frame temporary classroom building constructed behind it.

Comparison of Facilities in Georgetown

In 1929, the Georgetown Public School was constructed for white children with a curriculum that provided all grades from first through twelfth. In 1941, the State of Delaware conducted an inventory of all state-owned buildings to determine value for insurance purposes and the distinction between the schools for the white and African American children is striking. The “Georgetown Colored School” was described as “. . . a one and one-half story, no basement, two room brick building, peaked wood shingle roof, interior finish [of] wood lath and plaster sidewalls and ceiling, wood floors, trim and doors, chairs and desks attached; heat furnished by drum stoves and electric lights.” A portable school on the site was described as “. . . a one and one-half story building composed of two sections with no basement construct of frame clapboard with a wood shingle roof; interior finish [of] beaverboard walls and ceiling, wood floors, trim and doors, heat is furnished by an oil stove, electric lights; desks and seats attached.” Also on the property were three sheds and three outhouses.

The description for the larger “Georgetown Public School” in comparison notes interior features like offices and waiting rooms, gymnasiums, a cafeteria, auditorium, and toilet and shower rooms. The estimated value of the “public school” was \$498,599.35 compared to \$9,858.04 for all buildings on the grounds of the “colored school,” which included a valuation of \$75 for the three outhouses.¹⁷

Challenging Inequality and the Brown V Board of Education: Delaware’s Role on the National Stage

This type of inequity in facilities for African American students was commonplace throughout the state of Delaware, as well as across the southern United States. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (the NAACP) was founded in 1909 with a goal to challenge the system and promote civil and political rights for African Americans. In the 1930s the efforts shifted from protesting and lobbying to legally challenging state-sponsored inequities through a long term legal strategy that culminated in the United States Supreme Court Decision, Brown V Board of Education of 1954 that outlawed segregation in public schools.¹⁸

Delaware’s first African American lawyer, Louis L. Redding (1901-1998), was actively engaged with the NAACP from the beginning of the emphasis on a legal strategy. Born in Wilmington,

¹⁷ Insurance Evaluations, RG 1305.000.005, Delaware Public Archives. Digital Archives, Photo Collections. Accessed through the Delaware Public Archives website: <http://archives.delaware.gov/exhibits/exhibits-toc.shtml> with specific reference to this collection at <http://delaware.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p15323coll6/searchterm/Insurance%20Evaluation%20Report/order/nosort>. Accessed August 11, 2017.

¹⁸ Leland Ware, “Louis Redding’s Civil Rights Legacy.” *Delaware Law Review*, Vol 4, #2. 2001. Pp. 137-151.

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Delaware, Redding graduated from Howard High School and went on to colleges in New England. He graduated from Brown University and then, Harvard Law School in 1928. After passing the exam to be admitted to the Delaware Bar in 1929, Redding went in to private legal practice. He joined the legal committee of the NAACP in 1932.

In 1950, he began bringing segregation cases to Delaware courts, starting with *Parker V the University of Delaware*. He represented thirty African American students from Delaware State College for Colored Students who requested admission at the University of Delaware. The case was filed in the Court of Chancery, and was heard by Chancellor Collins J. Seitz. After considering the evidence presented by both sides, Judge Seitz ruled in favor of Lawyer Redding's clients and ordered the admission of African American students to the University of Delaware. Following this success, Redding, assisted by NAACP attorney Jack Greenberg, decided to challenge segregation at the primary and secondary school levels in Delaware. The two cases involved students in the Hockessin and Claymont school districts, and the hardships they faced to get to school when white schools were closer and more easily accessible. Again, taken before the Court of Chancery, Chancellor Seitz considered the evidence and ruled in favor of integrating the schools. These two cases, *Bulah V Gebhart*¹⁹ and *Belton V Gebhart*, were appealed by the State of Delaware to the U.S. Supreme Court and were heard as part of the group of cases that were decided in the *Brown V Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas Decision* in 1954, ending segregation in public education.²⁰

The State of Delaware's Equalization Strategy

The work of attorney Louis L. Redding and the NAACP was putting pressure on the State Education Department to integrate Delaware's public education system at all levels. A review of the annual reports of the Department of Public Instruction during the years 1948-1959 illustrate that the Delaware State Board of Education was not ready to integrate Delaware's public schools. Like other southern states, they employed strategies to stave off integration of schools at all levels. The results were to provide better access to better equipped but still segregated facilities. During the school year 1951-52 the William C. Jason Comprehensive High School opened just west of Georgetown and for the first time a complete high school education was readily available to the students from Richard Allen School.²¹ Comprehensive high schools were also opened in Dover and the Middletown in the next two years.

Unlike other states, the State Board of Education had to contend with state court rulings supporting integration that they were not prepared to immediately enforce. In 1954 there was a disastrous integration experiment at Milford High School when eleven African American students were enrolled there without preparation or notification to the community.²² The issue of segregation was a topic of discussion at several called meetings of the State Board of Education on the subject. Even the judgement of the Court of Chancery in the *Bulah V Gebhart* case from

¹⁹ Francis B. Gebhart was a member of the State Board of Education.

²⁰ Leland Ware, "Louis Redding's Civil Rights Legacy." *Delaware Law Review*, Vol 4, #2. 2001. Pp. 137-151.

²¹ Roger C. Mowrey, *Delaware School District Organization and Boundaries*. Dover, Delaware: Delaware State Department of Public Instruction. P. 6. <http://archives.delaware.gov/eBooks/DelawareSchoolDistricts-1974.pdf>, accessed 8/12/2017.

²² For a personal account of the events surrounding the Milford integration in 1954 see Orlando J. Camp and Ed Kee's book, *The Milford Eleven, Integration Robbed Hope From Eleven Black Students*. Cedar Tree Books, 2011.

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Hockessin, Delaware, was not readily complied with. The conclusion of the resolution adopted on October 15, 1953 was as follows:

“It was moved by Mr. Tunnell, seconded by Mr. Gebhart and carried, that the Secretary of the Board request the Attorney General to apply to the Chancellor for modification of the order in the Hockessin case on the basis of equalization of facilities and school bus transportation to the Absalom Jones School and that the State Superintendent supply the Attorney General with whatever evidence is necessary or advisable to support the application.”²³

This strategy of equalization of facilities is likely the basis for the expansion of the Richard Allen School in 1954, although no reference to this school was made in the Annual Reports of the Department of Public Instruction. By 1954 when the addition doubling the size of the building was constructed, the older children and their teachers were already relocated to the new William C. Jason High School. Designed by the Wilmington architectural firm of Stanhope and Manning, the addition to the Richard Allen School doubled the size of the building by constructing a similarly detailed mirror image of the existing building attached to the front of the older structure. This expansion provided improved amenities like indoor toilet facilities for boys and girls and the teachers, a teacher’s/principal’s office away from the classroom, a lunchroom, and a second classroom space that could be divided into two to create a four-room school when needed. In the 1954-55 school year, three teachers were assigned to Richard Allen School: Miss Leah Anna Mason to teach grades 1-2; Mrs. Ruth K. Moore, to teach grades 3-4; and Mr. James Evans to teach grades 5-6.

Integration

Richard Allen School continued to function as an elementary school for African American children, staffed by African American teachers until the end of the 1965-66 school year. Looking toward a new role for the building, it was expanded in 1964 with the addition of two large concrete block classrooms to the rear of the building. The 1964 addition was designed by the Wilmington architectural firm, Whiteside, Moeckel and Carbonell. In 1966-67, when integration finally happened in Sussex County and across the state, Richard Allen School was renamed the East Georgetown Elementary School and served as a school for all sixth graders in the school district that year. In 1967-68 all third graders were assigned there. By 1968 a kindergarten class was added and it continued to serve kindergarteners and third graders until 1974. After 1974, the East Georgetown Elementary school didn’t appear again in the State Education Directories.

Recent History

The old school building was renamed the Richard Allen School by the beginning of the 2002 school year. A program was placed in the building that served older children and the facility was expanded to include a temporary two classroom building placed near the west entrance at the

²³ Superintendent’s Report, *Annual Report of the State of Delaware Department of Public Instruction for the year ending June 30, 1954*. Part 1. State Board of Education. P. 43. The Absalom Jones School was the segregated school in Newport, Delaware.

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rear of the main building. This temporary building was connected by wooden walkways aligning with the rear corridor. The heating and cooling system was upgraded as well. The Indian River School District closed Richard Allen School for the final time in 2008. The Richard Allen School was transferred from State ownership to the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware as a location to build a new facility in 2011. The Boys and Girls Club was not committed to preserving the building, which was the wish of the Georgetown African American community. The Richard Allen Coalition was formed to save the school building and grounds for the future. The Richard Allen Coalition received the building in January 2015.

Teachers at Richard Allen School.

Records identifying the individual teachers in the initial years of the school are found in the records of the Delaware Association and their reports to the Freedman’s Bureau. The Delaware Association also reported in to the American Freedman’s Union Commission in New York who published their reports in their journal, *The American Freedman*.²⁴ The State of Delaware Department of Public Instruction *Educational Directories*, published between 1909 and the 2008, are the source of the others.

One Room School Teachers

Association School #12	Progress School
School Year	Teacher’s Name
1867-68	Sarah A. Owen/ Joseph S. Thompson
1868-69	Emma L. Davis
1869-70	Mary L. Boyer
Georgetown School #223C	
1913-14	Amanda E. Lewis
1914-15	Annie P. Beaden
1916-17	Naomi V. Payne
1917-18	Bertha M. Sturgis
1918-19	Mrs. Lucy Warrington
1919-20	Mrs. Lucy Warrington
1921-22	Goldey Waters
1922-23	A.T. Unthank
1923-24	A.T. Unthank

²⁴ Issues of *The American Freedman* are available on line as part of the Samuel J. May Anti-Slavery Pamphlet Collection at Cornell University: <http://dlx.library.cornell.edu/cgi/t/text/pageviewer-idx?c=mayantislavery;cc=mayantislavery;q1=American%20Freedman;rgn=full%20text;idno=34907440;didno=34907440;view=image;seq=1;nod e=34907440%3A1>. Additional teachers supported by the Delaware Association may be found in a review of the records of the Delaware Association on file at the Delaware Historical Society, Wilmington, Delaware.

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1924-25

Evelyn Brown

Teachers 1925-1965²⁵

Name	# Years	Date Range	Assignment
Bulah V. Aiken	2	1940-42	7 th -11 th , Music, English
Joseph Bedford	5	1933-38	6 th -9 th /Principal
Bessie Louise Brown	1	1926-27	1 st -4 th
Juanita Carr	2	1961-63	2 nd
Virginia Clark	3	1950-53	4 th -8 th , 4 th -6 th
Jessie Dixon	1	1946-47	Agriculture/Principal
Samuel Dodson	1	1933-34	Social Studies/ Principal
Rebecca Eaton	8	1925-33	5 th -8 th /Principal
James Evans	10	1953-63	4 th , 5 th , 6 th /Principal
William Gibbs	1	1951-52	7 th , 8 th
Betty L Henry	1	1960-61	2 nd
Matilda Herbert	4	1928-32	1 st -4 th
Allen T. Hill	2	1964-67	3 rd , 5 th , 6 th
Virginia Brown Hobson	5	1938-43	Home Economics
T. Aubrey Jeter	8	1938-46	Agriculture
Vandola King	1	1939-40	Jr. High
Leah Anna Mason	12	1954-66	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th
Pearl Maull	2	1964-66	2 nd
Robert B. Maull	3	1963-66	5 th , 6 th
Ruth K. Moore	30	1932-62	1 st -6 th
Frances Morgan	4	1943-47	Home Economics
John L. Parker	1	1942-43; 1946- 50	General HS Subjects; Math, Science
Jane Phillips	1	1955-56	3 rd
Willis E. Powell	4	1946-50	Social Studies
Anthony M. Shockley	5	1945-50	Math, English, Social Studies; Agriculture/Principal
Austin Sobers	1	1942-43	Social Studies, Math
Angeline F Stewart	1	1927-28	1 st -4 th
Chester Waller	1	1952-53	6 th , 7 th , 8 th / Principal
Margaret B Washington	1	1925-26	1 st -3 rd
Blanche Watson	2	1947-49	Home Economics
Genevieve M. Wilson	4	1946-50	Music, Art

²⁵ Delaware Department of Public Instruction. State Education Directories. 1909-1965.

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Teachers 1966-2008²⁶

Name	# Years	Date Range	Assignment
Paul E. Barker	2	1972-1974	Custodian
Richard Bell	1	2007-2008	Program Coordinator BK-12
Marion Burton	4	1970-1974	3 rd Grade
Jean Coar	4	1970-1974	Kindergarten
Rebecca Dodd	2	1969-1971	3 rd Grade
Joyce Ellingsworth	1	1973-1974	3 rd Grade
Dorothy Elliott	4	1969-1971	3 rd Grade
Marjorie Hantranft	6	1967-1973	3 rd Grade
Joan Henry	1	1972-1973	Teacher's Aide
Dawn K. Hudson	1	1972-1973	3 rd Grade
Mary Keeler	1	1966-1967	6 th Grade
Nancy Kent	1	1972-1973	Kindergarten
Dawn H. Lemos	1	1973-1974	3 rd Grade
Otelia Maull	1	1967-1968	3 rd Grade
Barbara Mawd	1	1973-1974	Kindergarten
Frank Mifflin	5	1966-1971	Custodian
Jane Phillips	1	1966-1967	6 th Grade
Bertha Smith	1	1973-1974	Teacher's Aide
Walter Smith	5	2002-2007	Program Coordinator BK-12
Madelyn Trammell	1	1969-1970	3 rd Grade
Barbara Unruh	1	1972-1973	Teacher's Aide
Helen Williams	2	1969-1971	Kindergarten
Theresa Van Pelt	1	1973-1974	3 rd Grade

School Name Changes 1867-Present

School Name	Date Range
Association School #12	1867-c. 1890
Progress School	1867-c. 1890
Georgetown Colored School	c. 1890-1946
Georgetown School #223 C	c. 1890-1946
Richard Allen School	1946-1965, 2002- Present
East Georgetown Elementary School	1966-c. 2001

²⁶ Ibid. 1966-2008. There is no reference in the Education Directories to the Richard Allen School or East Georgetown Elementary during the years 1974-2002.

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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United States, Freedmen's Bureau, Records of the Superintendent of Education and of the Division of Education, 1865-1872," database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2QP-8TCR> : accessed 12 August 2017), Mary L Boyer, Dec 1869; citing Residence, Sussex, Delaware, United States, NARA microfilm publications M1056. Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, 1861 - 1880, RG 105. (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1969-1978); roll 21; FHL microfilm 1,617,670.

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<http://archives.delaware.gov/eBooks/DelawareSchoolDistricts-1974.pdf>, accessed 8/12/2017.

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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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Delaware Public Archives, Delaware Historical Society, National Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CRS# S09016

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 Acres

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.68999 | Longitude: -75.3758 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 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 Richard Allen School is bounded on the north by Railroad Avenue, on the west by Stevenson Street, and on the south and east by adjoining property lines. (Sussex County Tax Parcel: 135-20.00-70.00)

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with the Richard Allen School and within the current Sussex County tax parcel records.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Robin L. Krawitz
organization: Delaware State University and the Richard Allen Coalition
street & number: 1200 N. DuPont Highway
city or town: Dover state: DE zip code: 19901
e-mail rkrawitz@desu.edu
telephone: 302-857-7139
date: 8/29/2018

Photographs

- 1 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0001
Façade, facing south
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz
- 2 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0002
Façade and West Elevation, facing southeast
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz
- 3 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0003
Façade Detail, East Section, Facing Southeast
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

Photographs (Cont.)

4 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0004
Façade Detail, Central Section, Facing South

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

5 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0005
Façade Detail, West Section, Facing South

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 8/17/2018
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

6 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0006
East Elevation Detail, Facing West

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 8/17/2018
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

7 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0007
Rear Corridor Entry, East Elevation Detail, Facing Northwest

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 8/17/2018
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

8 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0008
Rear Addition, East Elevation Detail, Facing Southwest

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 8/17/2018
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

Photographs (cont.):

9 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0009
Rear Elevation Detail, Facing North

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 8/17/2018
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

10 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0010
Interior, Central Corridor, Facing South

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

10a of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0010a)
Interior, Display Case in Principal's Office

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

11 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0011
Interior, 1954 Façade Window Enclosed from the exterior and door into Principal's Office

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

12 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0012
Principal's Office Bathroom

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

Photographs (Cont.):

13 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0013

Central Corridor, eastern section

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

14 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0014

1925 Wing, North Classroom, facing west

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

15 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0015

1925 Wing, North Classroom, facing northeast

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

16 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0016

1925 Wing, South Classroom, facing southwest

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

17 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0017

1925 Wing, South Classroom, facing northwest

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

Photographs (Cont.):

18 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0018
1925 Wing, South Classroom, facing southwest

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

19 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0019
Central Corridor, western section

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

20 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0020
Interior, Girl's Bathroom, Sinks

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

21 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0021
Interior, Girl's Bathroom, Floor and Wall details

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

22 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0022
Interior, Rear Corridor, Former Exterior Rear Wall of 1954 Addition

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

Photographs (Cont.):

23 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0023

Interior, Rear Corridor, Former Exterior Rear Wall of 1925 Addition

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

24 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0024

Rear Corridor Facing West

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

25 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0025

Interior, 1964 East Classroom, east wall

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

26 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0026

Interior, 1964 East Classroom, south and west wall details

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

27 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0027

Interior, 1964 West Classroom, enclosed kitchen wall, east and south wall details

Richard Allen School

316 Railroad Avenue

Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware

Photographer: Robin Krawitz

Photo Date: 10/13/2017

Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

Photographs (Cont.):

28 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0028
Non-Contributing Temporary Classroom Building
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

29 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0029
Non-Contributing Greenhouse and Storage Building
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

30 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0030
Landscape, facing northeast
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

31 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0031
Landscape, facing east
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

32 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0032
Landscape, Playground Equipment, facing northeast
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Robin Krawitz
Photo Date: 10/13/2017
Location of Original Digital Files: Collection of Robin Krawitz

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

Photos (Cont.):

33 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0033
Historical Image, Delaware Public Archives Board of Education Collection,
Georgetown Colored School 1925, Rear Elevation

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Historic Photograph
Location of Original Digital Files: Delaware Public Archives

34 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0034
Historical Image, Delaware Public Archives Board of Education Collection,
Georgetown Colored School 1925, Facade Elevation

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Historic Photograph
Location of Original Digital Files: Delaware Public Archives

35 of 35 DE_Sussex County_Richard Allen School_0035
Historical Image, Delaware Public Archives Board of Education Collection,
Georgetown Colored School 1947, Canning Display

Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware
Photographer: Historic Photograph
Location of Original Digital Files: Delaware Public Archives

Supplemental Information

State Historic Preservation Context Framework:

Time Period: 1880-1940 Urbanization and Early Suburbanization
1940 – 1960 Suburbanization and Early Ex-urbanization
Geographic Zone: Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp Zone
Historic Period Themes: Education

Correlation with Delaware’s Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2018 – 2022

Goal One: Strengthen/Expand Delaware’s core Federal/State historic preservation program. **Strategy 7:** Address gaps and biases in the state’s inventory of historic properties. **Action 7a:** Encourage identification of historic properties associated with underrepresented communities or property types and guide individuals through the processes of research and writing of a nomination.

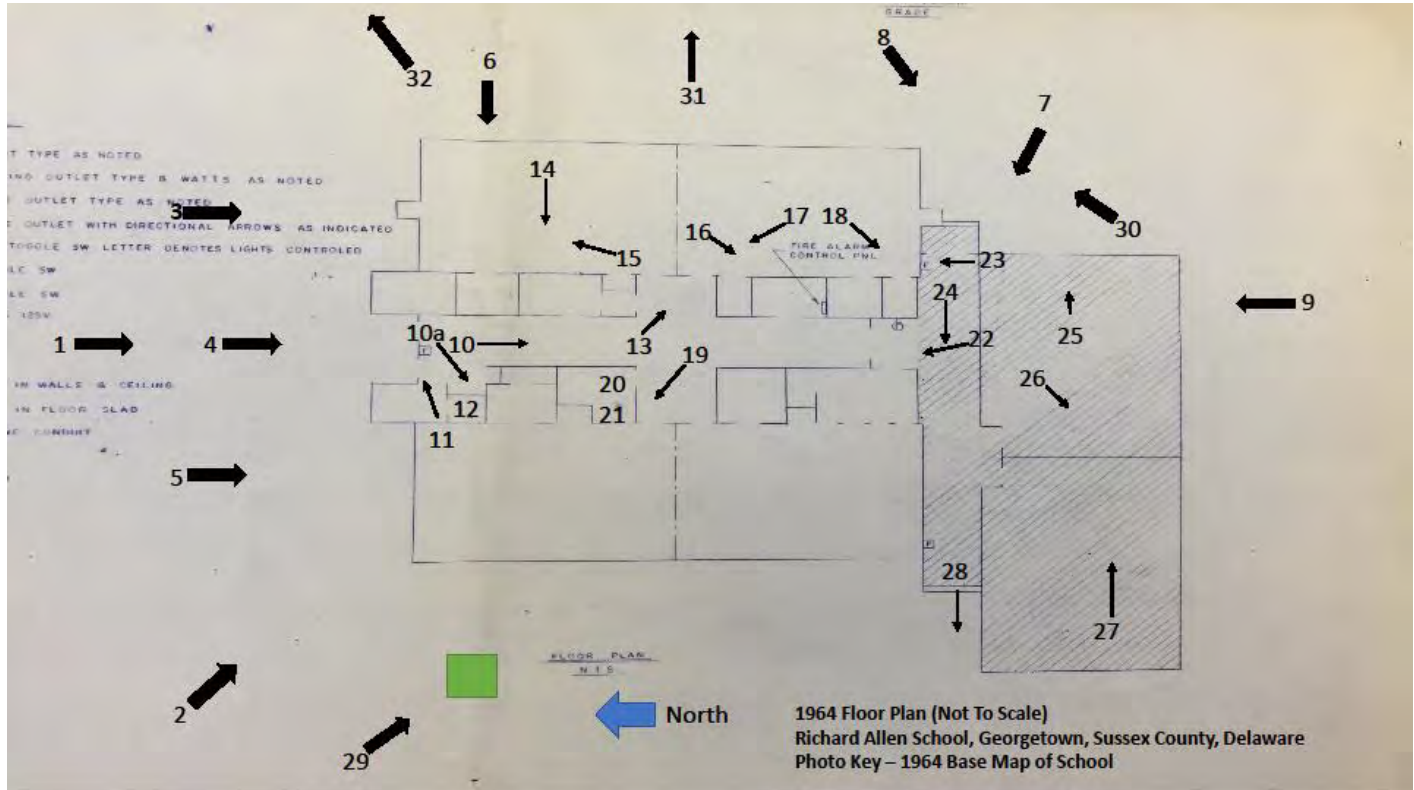
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain 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.

Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

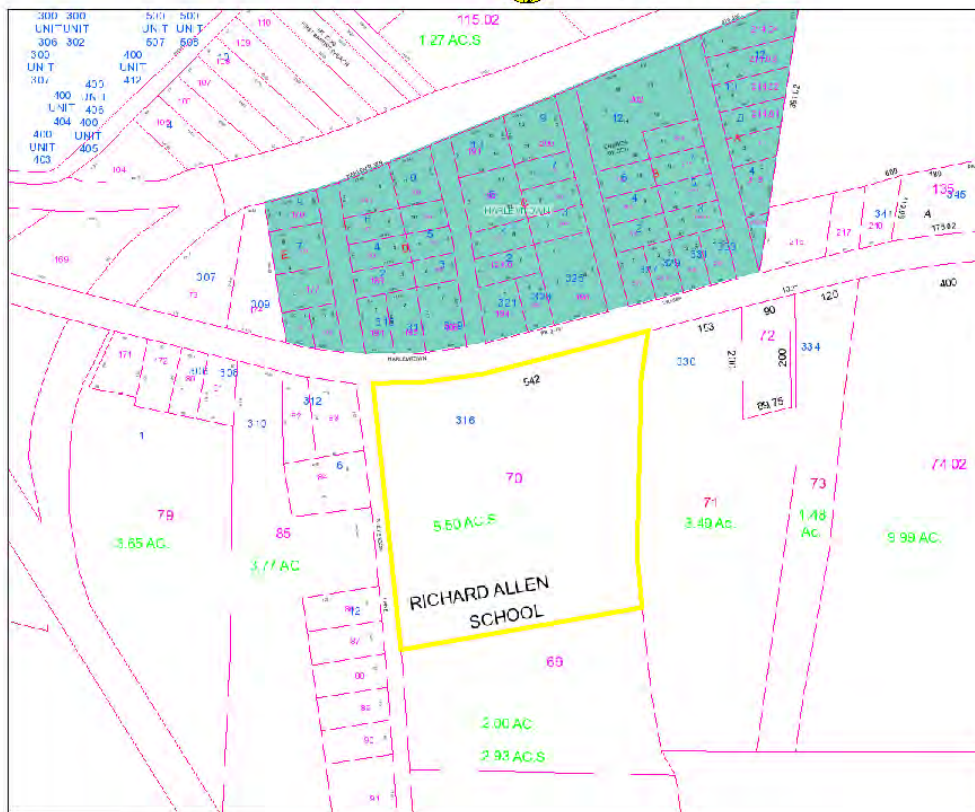
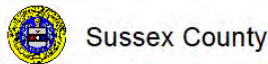
Photo Key
Richard Allen School
Georgetown, Delaware



Richard Allen School
 Name of Property

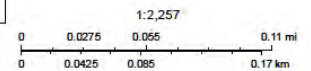
Sussex County, DE
 County and State

Sussex County, Delaware Tax Parcel Map
 Richard Allen School
 Georgetown, Delaware



PIN:	135-20.00-70.00
Owner Name	RICHARD ALLEN COALITION INC
Book	4502
Mailing Address	PO BOX 624
City	GEORGETOWN
State	DE
Description	S/R/T 319 INT
Description 2	E/STEVENSON LA
Description 3	75000
Land Code	

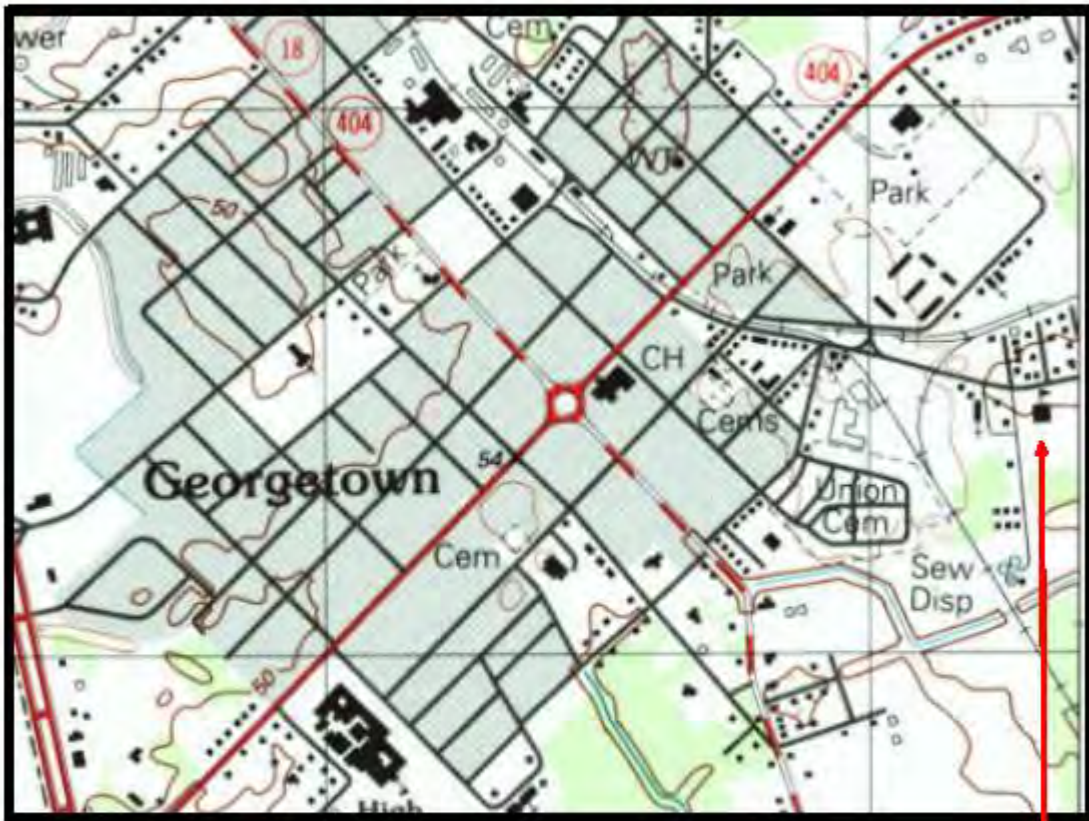
September 22, 2018



Richard Allen School
Name of Property

Sussex County, DE
County and State

1992 USGS Topographic Map
Harbeson Topographic Quadrangle
Georgetown, Delaware



Source: USGS Historical Topographic Map Explorer Esri

Richard Allen School
316 South Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, DE

38.68999, -75.3758



RICHARD ALLEN SCHOOL

CAUTION
Security - No
Access to Site

NO ACCESS
TO SCHOOL
PROPERTY
WITHOUT
PERMISSION



RICHARD ALLEN SCHOOL



RICHARD ALL

Security
Cameras in Use

NO ADULTS ALLOWED
The Plug Area
is for the LITTLE

1000
1000
1000

RICHARD ALLEN SCHOOL

Security
Cameras In Use

No ADULT SOCCER
The Play Area
is for the youth

316

NO TRESPASSING
ON THE KAMP
PROHIBIDO EL PASO
LA KAMP

TOBACCO
FREE
SCHOOL
CAMPUS

THE USE OR
DISTRIBUTION OF
TOBACCO PRODUCTS
ON SCHOOL PROPERTY
IS PROHIBITED

NO
TRESPASSING

SCHOOL



TOBACCO
FREE
SCHOOL
CAMPUS
THE USE OR
DISTRIBUTION OF
TOBACCO PRODUCTS
ON SCHOOL PROPERTY
IS PROHIBITED
**NO
TRESPASSING**















at lora

great things
GRAY MATTERS
PLEASE RETURN THIS BAG TO
ANY KOHL'S STORE FOR RECYCLING









We are going to the teacher.

7/10

Facts Opinic

15



A Winner Never Stops Trying!

Handwritten text on the chalkboard: "Practice starts" and some illegible scribbles.

PO# 53204632
Style# 88-0179-7
Qty - 1PC
Made in China





Handwritten text on a chalkboard, including the word "Rader's" and other illegible scribbles.





GIRLS













EXIT

30

Ready
Responsible
Respectful

Mrs. Morris
List out to make links

Raniah MORRIS Mrs. T.B.
Scienc

Wants	Needs
① Candy	① Water

Teach

- ① Scienc
- ② Math

① Ready

② Responsible

③ Respectful

Follow Rules

Teacher's desk with computer monitor, hand sanitizer, and other supplies.

Student desk with two blue chairs.

Student desk with two blue chairs.

Teacher's desk with computer monitor and supplies near a window.



EXIT







Everlasting Hope Ministries
CHURCH OF GOD
BOOKER ST. GEORGETOWN DEL.
856-9097













UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Allen, Richard, School
Multiple Name: _____
State & County: DELAWARE, Sussex

Date Received: 5/6/2019 Date of Pending List: 5/28/2019 Date of 16th Day: 6/12/2019 Date of 45th Day: 6/20/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004083
Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 6/20/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian
Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 6/20/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Nomination Synopsis
Richard Allen School
316 Railroad Avenue
Georgetown, DE 19947

Level of Significance: State

Period of Significance: 1923 – 1964

The Richard Allen School embodies three historic periods of change representing school construction reflective of the practices associated with segregation and integration issues in Delaware's public education system during the 20th century (e.g. **1923** construction funded by Service Citizens of Delaware as a segregated facility, its **1954** expansion doubling of its size as a part of Delaware's equalization strategy to maintain a segregated education system, and a third expansion in **1964** coinciding with the integration of schools across the state).

Areas of Significance: Education; Ethnic Heritage (African American)

Criterion: A

The Richard Allen School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The documented history of this historic property chronicles the evolution of African American education in Delaware with a specific emphasis on Sussex County, especially Georgetown, the seat of Sussex County government. Racial prejudices, segregation, desegregation, religious and private involvement, federal and state government activities, as well as oral history accounts showcase the evolution of educational practices in Delaware from the nineteenth century through the mid-1960s.

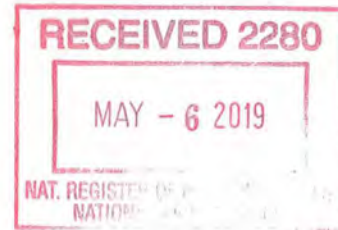
Miscellaneous Information:

- In 1946, the school was officially renamed the Richard Allen School in honor of Richard Allen, an African American minister and founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia in 1816. Prior to that time, it was identified in school records as the "Georgetown School #23C" ("C" designated it as a colored school).
- As part of the Indian River School District the building and grounds continued to be used for educational purposes until 2008. In 2011, the Delaware General Assembly transferred the building and property to the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware. However, plans for its preservation were not guaranteed. Therefore, the Georgetown African American community organized the Richard Allen Coalition, a private, non-profit organization in order to preserve the building and became its official owners in 2015.
- Correlation with Delaware's Statewide Historic Preservation Plan 2018 – 2022:

Goal One: Strengthen/Expand Delaware's core Federal/State historic preservation program. **Strategy 7:** Address gaps and biases in the state's inventory of historic properties. **Action 7a:** Encourage identification of historic properties associated with underrepresented communities or property types and guide individuals through the processes of research and writing of a nomination.

April 24, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
National Register Program
1849 C St. NW (Mail Stop 7228)
Washington, D.C. 20240



Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copy of the **Richard Allen School** nomination for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This historic property is located in Georgetown, Sussex County, Delaware and is being nominated under Criterion A with a state level of significance as well as the following areas of significance: education and ethnic heritage (African American).

If there are any questions regarding this nomination, please contact Madeline E. Dunn, National Register Coordinator-Historian for the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office at madeline.dunn@delaware.gov or 302-736-7417.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Slavin, State Historic Preservation Officer and
Director – Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs