



# 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: Castalia School

Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina

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

## 2. Location

Street & number: 10445 Lancaster Store Road

City or town: Castalia State: NC County: Nash

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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


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

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

	<u>4/27/2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

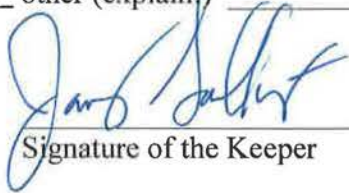
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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

6-18-2018  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

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

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL - meeting hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER – three-teacher Rosenwald school, plan no. 3-B

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION - brick

WALLS – wood – weatherboard

ROOF – metal

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### 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.)

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### Narrative Description

#### Setting

Castalia School is located in a rural area in the northwest corner of Nash County, very near the Franklin County line. It stands approximately a mile west of Castalia and ten miles northwest of Nashville, the county seat of Nash County. The school stands on the south side of Lancaster Store Road, immediately opposite Castalia Missionary Baptist Church, between Inscoe Road and Richardson Street.

The building stands at the north end of an irregularly shaped 2.33-acre parcel, very near to and parallel with Lancaster Store Road. This part of the county features farm fields interspersed with wooded areas, and the school site has been cleared of trees only in the area immediately surrounding the school and to create a gravel parking area east of the school. Mature trees to the

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west and south obscure the view of neighboring residential development, reinforcing the rural context of the school.

### Exterior Description

Castalia School was initially constructed as a three-room, frame Rosenwald School built in 1921, following a modification of Floor Plan No. 3-B for a "Three Teacher Community School to Face North or South Only" from Samuel L. Smith's *Community Schools Plans, Bulletin No. 3*, that substituted a smaller porch and included a flush façade and slight alterations to the overall dimensions of the rooms. The school features a hall just west of center with two classrooms, each measuring approximately twenty feet by twenty-nine feet, aligned along the east elevation, and a third classroom at the southwest, measuring approximately twenty-three feet by twenty-four feet. The industrial room and cloakrooms prescribed by Floor Plan No. 3-B were modified in the early 1940s to accommodate the construction of a side-gabled wing on the east elevation that contained two classrooms, each measuring approximately nineteen feet by twenty-nine feet. That wing connects to a 1949-1950 single, front-gabled classroom at the east end of the building that measures approximately nineteen feet by thirty feet.

The original one-story, front-gabled frame schoolhouse features a brick pier foundation infilled with brick in the late 1990s, plain weatherboards, and rectangular louvered vents in the gables. It has a standing-seam metal roof with boxed eaves and two interior brick chimneys. The original five-panel door is located just west of center on the façade with a single nine-over-nine wood-sash window to its right, lighting the former industrial room. The entrance is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch with standing-seam metal roofing, vertical tongue-and-groove sheathing on the sides, and is supported by diagonal braces. The original entrance stoop has been replaced and new wood railings have been installed at the steps and along a 1990s accessible ramp east of the entrance.

Windows on the east elevation are nine-over-nine wood-sash windows, in groups of four, with flat-board wood surrounds and a continuous shallow dripcap. The rear (south) elevation is without fenestration. The principal's office, on the west elevation, has paired nine-over-nine windows, matching those on the east elevation, but the southwest classroom has a group of four six-over-six wood-sash windows that are slightly shorter than their nine-over-nine counterparts. The six-over-six windows match those on the 1940s classrooms, indicating that they were likely replaced at that time.

Two additional classrooms constructed in the early 1940s extend west of the original school in a side-gabled wing that is flush with the façade. Materials and details are similar to those of the original school with a brick pier foundation, infilled in the late 1990s, plain weatherboards, and a standing-seam metal roof. It has two five-panel doors on the north elevation that open to a wide, shed-roofed porch supported by metal posts with metal pipe railings. The porch has a standing-seam metal roof and vertical tongue-and-groove sheathing on the east end. There are groups of four six-over-six wood-sash windows on the south elevation of each classroom, a shared interior brick chimney.

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A third, front-gabled classroom, constructed during the 1949-1950 school year, stands at the west end of the side-gabled wing with matching features and finishes. It projects slightly beyond the façade and rear elevations of the earlier wing and features a five-panel door on its east elevation that opens to the front, shed-roofed porch. The façade is without fenestration and the west elevation originally featured a group of four six-over-six wood-sash windows, but the center two windows were removed by the mid-1990s and the space filled with weatherboards. A basement-level cafeteria beneath this westernmost classroom, completed in the mid-1950s, is slightly below grade and accessed by a one-light-over-two-panel door on the south elevation, which is otherwise blind. Concrete steps lead down to the door and are sheltered by gabled metal roof on square posts. The cafeteria is lit by fixed metal-frame windows with concrete sills on the south and west elevations. There is an interior brick chimney in the southeast corner of this classroom and an exterior brick chimney at the rear of the east elevation, which is without fenestration.

### **Interior Description**

The interior of the 1921 building features original wood floors, wood wainscoting on the lower one-fourth of the walls, plaster on the upper part of the walls, and beaded-board ceilings. Classrooms retain original chalkboards with wood trim and plaster-covered corner chimneys with replacement wood stoves installed in the east two classrooms. Doors and windows all retain three-part, post-and-lintel trim and there is quarter-round shoe molding at the base of the wainscot. A moveable partition between the east classrooms has been removed and the opening filled in, though the trim around the former opening remains. The northeast classroom retains overhead lights installed by the 1950s, while the rest of the building has modern fluorescent lighting added in the 1990s. Interior doors have been replaced with modern six-panel doors throughout, likely as part of renovation work in the late 1990s.

The northwest part of the building appears to have been reconfigured in the 1940s when a number of original windows on the west elevation were removed for the construction of the side-gabled classroom wing. The south wall of the southernmost cloakroom was removed and that space incorporated into the southwest classroom. The entrance to that classroom was then relocated from the south end of the hallway to the west side of the hallway, into the former cloakroom space.

The northern two cloakrooms became a principal's office accessed through the original door to the center cloakroom. The entrance to the north cloakroom was removed and the opening infilled with wainscot with a bulletin board above. The interior of the principal's office, now a kitchen, retains wainscot on the east, south, and west walls with painted plywood on the upper part of the walls and on the ceiling. The north wall was shifted to the south (as it now intersects the enclosed doorway to the north cloakroom) and is covered with painted plywood. Two nine-over-nine wood-sash windows on the west elevation may have been relocated from the original industrial room to the north, as single shorter windows were prescribed for the original cloakrooms.

The industrial room at the northwest corner of the building was converted to a cloakroom in the 1940s. With entrances from both the main hallway and the classroom addition to its west, the

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new cloakroom had interior partitions that extended north to south, but no longer contained separate rooms for each classroom. The cloakroom was further altered after the school closed in 1961 in order to create interior restrooms, and thus some of the original materials have been removed or covered. The space features an open room on the north, with a single window on the façade of the school, and two bathrooms along the south wall, abutting the former principal's office. The north room retains wood wainscot on the north, west, and east walls with plaster above and a beaded-board ceiling. Carpet has been installed over the wood floors. The two bathrooms have vinyl flooring, drywall walls, and dropped ceilings, though original wainscot remains on the east wall of the east bathroom.

The three 1940s classrooms on the west end of the building each have wood floors, plaster walls, beaded-board ceilings and corner, plaster-covered chimneys. Each originally had a group of four six-over-six windows, though the center two windows on the west classroom have been removed. Doors and windows have flat-board mitered trim with applied molding at the outer edge and baseboards are wide with sawn molding at the top and quarter-round shoe molding at the bottom. Original chalkboards with wood frames remain on the north wall of each room. A moveable partition between the east two rooms features an original wood-framed chalkboard that slides up into the wall to open the two spaces to one another. A chalkboard on the east wall of the west classroom was removed to accommodate the opening of the wall between the west two classrooms, likely after the school was closed, and a portion of the wood flooring in the west classroom has been replaced with plywood.

A below-grade, basement-level cafeteria is located beneath the westernmost classroom and was finished in the mid-1950s. It features a concrete floor and plaster-covered brick walls with pilasters, the lower half of which aligns with the exterior grade and projects slightly into the room. The cafeteria has a structural metal post in the center of the room, fixed metal-framed windows, and beaded-board ceilings. A chimney in the southeast corner originally vented a wood stove. A narrow room to the east, below the middle of the 1940s classrooms, served as a pantry and storage space.

**Wellhouse**  
**Contributing Structure**  
**1940s**

Located west of the school, just inside the treeline is a shed-roofed brick wellhouse with metal roof and batten wood door on its east elevation, facing the school.

**Integrity Statement**

Castalia School retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It stands on its original, approximate two-acre tract and retains its rural setting with trees west and south of the school, a parking area to the east, and the Castalia Missionary Baptist Church across the street.

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The construction of additional classrooms in the 1940s led to the inversion of the industrial room (later the principal's office) and cloakrooms, the alteration and removal of windows on the west elevation, and the removal of door from the hallway and the relocation of another. However, the majority of the original floor plan remains intact along with the original siding, windows, exterior doors, roofing, flooring, ceilings, wainscot, and some chalkboards. Further, the design and construction of the 1940s additions are in keeping with the design and materials of the original school and all together the school retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to convey the property's historic feeling and association.

### **Archaeological Potential**

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



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### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

#### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
EDUCATION  
ETHNIC HERITAGE - BLACK

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**Period of Significance**

1921-1961  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1921  
1940s  
1949-50  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)  
N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

African American  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Bartholomew, S. J.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Castalia School meets National Register Criterion A for Education and African American Ethnic Heritage. It is locally significant for its association with African American education in Nash County from 1921 until 1961. This school was one of seventeen schools in the county financed and constructed with the assistance of the Rosenwald fund and one of only six remaining extant. It served African American elementary students who lived within about a five-mile radius of the school. The period of significance begins in 1921, when the original three-

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classroom Rosenwald school was constructed, and ends in 1961, when the school was closed and students were transferred to Cedar Grove Elementary School in downtown Castalia. The Castalia School is also eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. It is locally significant as an example of Floor Plan No. 3-B from Samuel L. Smith's *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3*. Despite later additions, the distinctive characteristics of the three-teacher school plan, building form, and architectural details have remained largely unaltered since the school was constructed in 1921, and the school retains a high degree of material integrity.

The historic and architectural context for the Castalia School is provided in the related Multiple Property Documentation Form "Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina," context pages E3-51, "The Rosenwald School Building Program in North Carolina, 1915-1932." The school building falls under property type Rosenwald School Subtype II, pages F52-55, and meets the registration requirements for the school subtype, pages F56-57. Specifically, the school was built between 1915 and 1932 utilizing funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund; retains good architectural integrity including an intact design, floor plan, workmanship, and materials; and retains its original location in a rural setting.

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

**Historic Context: Education and African American Heritage**

Nash County is located on the border of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions of North Carolina. It was formed in 1877 from Edgecombe County and named for Francis Nash, a Revolutionary War general. The county seat is Nashville, established in 1815. The county is primarily agricultural, made up small family farms producing tobacco, cotton, sweet potatoes, cucumbers, soybeans, corn, peanuts, beef and dairy cows, and chickens. Castalia is a small town of a few hundred people in the northwestern part of the county. The area west of Castalia, along Lancaster Store Road, was an African American community that developed around the Castalia Missionary Baptist Church, which formed in the late 1800s.<sup>1</sup>

In the early twentieth century, Nash County had one-room and two-room schools for both white and African American children, although it is unknown exactly how many existed or where they were located. In the 1920s, these small schools began to be consolidated into larger ones. For African American schools, this was accomplished largely using grants from the Rosenwald Fund.<sup>2</sup> L.S. Inscoc served as the superintendent of schools for the county from 1919 to 1962, and he worked with the Rosenwald Fund to establish all seventeen Rosenwald schools in Nash County, six of which remain extant.<sup>3</sup> Two-teacher Rosenwald schools included Avent School (c.1923), Bailey School (c.1925), Evans School (c.1919), Mackin School (c.1925), Morgan School (c.1925), and Taybron School (c.1928). Three-teacher schools included the Castalia

<sup>1</sup> Jay Mazzocchi, "Nash County," *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, edited by William S. Powell, <http://www.ncpedia.org/geography/nash> (accessed August 2017); Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County*, 6.

<sup>2</sup> Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County*, 33; L.S. Inscoc, "Brief History of Nash County Schools," *Nash County Historical Notes: A Bicentennial Tribute*, Edited by T.E. Ricks (The Nash County Historical Association, 1976), 186-192.

<sup>3</sup> Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County*, 34.

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School (1921), which replaced a one-room schoolhouse nearby, Easonburg School (c.1926), Lewis Ricks School (c.1927), and Taylor-Shiloh School (c.1926).<sup>4</sup> Four-teacher schools included Little Raleigh School (c.1926), Middlesex School (c.1922), Rawlins School (c.1924, also known as Maude C. Hubbard School), and Whitakers School (c.1923). Larger Rosenwald schools in Nash County included the five-teacher Jeffreys School (c.1923, c.1928), the six-teacher Spring Hope School (c.1922), and the eight-teacher Nashville School (c.1923, c.1928).<sup>5</sup>

Castalia School was completed in 1921 at a total cost of \$3,200, of which the Rosenwald Fund provided \$1,000, the school board provided \$1,200, and the community provided \$1,000.<sup>6</sup> Rural black communities in North Carolina were typically dominated by tobacco and cotton tenant farmers and sharecroppers, so their economy was often based on trade rather than cash. Raising funds for Rosenwald schools was a challenge, but the families in Castalia held fundraisers and offered labor and materials to match the grant.<sup>7</sup> The parcel on which the school stands is comprised of two tracts. Tract 1 was 2.25-acres forming the nearly square eastern portion of the parcel. Tract 2 to the west, on which the school is physically located, was a 0.7-acre tract with a triangular shape.<sup>8</sup> In 1920, the Board of Education acquired a two-acre tract of land, roughly the boundaries of tract 1, adjacent to an existing school for African American students. The board then appropriated funds for the construction of a Rosenwald school on the site of the earlier school. John T. Inscoe surveyed tract 2, on which the school stands, in October of 1922 and joined tract 1 to become one parcel.<sup>9</sup> S.J. Bartholomew was awarded the building contract, but he failed to follow the specifications of the standard plan. After completing the school, it was inspected by George Edward Davis, the North Carolina Supervisor of Rosenwald Buildings, who required Bartholomew to rotate the school to achieve the appropriate north-facing orientation.<sup>10</sup>

The Castalia School initially served grades one to six, with each classroom holding two grades and students in each grade sitting together. During its forty years in operation, the school was heated by coal stoves and only had an outdoor privy, which is no longer extant. An outdoor well with a manual pump provided drinking water, but an electric pump was added by the 1950s. However, the electric pump did not work properly and alumni recall receiving a slight electric

<sup>4</sup> Personal Interview with Castalia School Alumni (Delores Pudden Mitchell-Harris, Cleveland Harris, Jr., Ernestine Mann Cannon, Paulette Walton Crudup, Samuel Taylor, Clara Holland Pierce, and Charles Franklin Jones) by North Carolina State Historic Preservation office, June 20, 2016, (hereafter referred to as "Interview with alumni, 2016").

<sup>5</sup> Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 438.

<sup>6</sup> Fisk University, "Rosenwald Database," <http://rosenwald.fisk.edu> (accessed August 2017).

<sup>7</sup> Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 415; Personal Interview with Castalia School Alumni (Jeanette R. Branch, Ernestine Cannon, Hattie Cooper, Cleveland Harris Jr., Elaine Avent-Johnson, Willis Johnson, Minnie Massenburg, Sorell Massenburg, Samuel Taylor, Paulette Walton, and Alexander Williams) by Heather Slane and Cheri Szcodoski. Castalia School, Castalia, NC. August 16, 2017. (hereafter referred to as "Interview with alumni, 2017").

<sup>8</sup> At an unknown time, the ½ acre west end of Tract 2 was truncated and the total acreage for the parcel is currently approximately 2.3 acres.

<sup>9</sup> Deed to Castalia Community Development Club, November 18, 1968, Deed Book 861, Page 360, Nash County Register of Deeds.; North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, "Castalia School, Nash County: Board of Education Minutes, June 7, 1920 (p. 485)," File NS0407, Raleigh, North Carolina.

<sup>10</sup> Rick Mattson, "(Former) Castalia Rosenwald School," File NS0407, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC; Richard L. Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina* (Nash County Planning Department, 1987), 34, 148; Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 409.

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shock if they drank from it for too long.<sup>11</sup> Originally, the school had no electricity, but lights were added in the 1950s.

The school's principals were Sally Mae Arrington, Sarah Francis Lamb, Reverend Cleveland Harris, Sr., and Frederick Wilkins.<sup>12</sup> In addition to administrative duties, the principals also typically taught seventh and eighth grades, which were added to the school in the 1940s. Most of the teachers lived in Elizabeth City and stayed at a boarding house in Castalia during the school week, while others commuted from Rocky Mount. Alumni recall the teachers being quite strict, disciplining students with "a ruler on your knuckle or a switch on your backside." By the 1950s, the school also employed a janitor, who offered a piece of gum to the student who helped sweep the school and empty the trash bins. Alumni recall racing each other to fetch the broom and claim the coveted reward.<sup>13</sup>

In the early 1940s, two classrooms were added to the west elevation, the industrial room was converted to cloakrooms, and the original cloakrooms were converted to a principal's office. During the 1949-1950 school year, a sixth classroom was added and a basement cafeteria was completed in the mid-1950s. The new classrooms accommodated the addition of the seventh and eighth grades, and each of the school's six classrooms held multiple grades, depending on the specific enrollment each year. After completing eighth grade at Castalia School, students went to the Nash County Training School in Rocky Mount (later called Nash Central High School).<sup>14</sup>

A typical school day began at 8:00 with devotion, reciting bible verses, and singing "Good morning to you, good morning to you, we're all in our places, with bright shiny faces, and this is the way, to start a new day!" Students studied reading, math, history, spelling, handwriting, and geography using books that had first passed through the white schools in both Nashville and Castalia. Students brought biscuits for lunch, sometimes with ham or sausage. The cafeteria could only be accessed from the exterior entrance at the rear of the building and was too small for all the students to fit, so most ate lunch in their classrooms. Students could buy soup or beans with biscuits for twenty-five cents, milk for four cents, and chips or cookies for a penny, and lunches were cooked and served by women in the community. School activities included art classes, glee club, 4-H, plays, movies, concerts, dancing, and spelling bees. They celebrated holidays with special events, including Easter, May Day, and Halloween. Recess was held in the small open spaces around the school, where they played jump rope, marbles, hide-and-seek, baseball and softball, or "cowboys and Indians," and they sometimes climbed trees in the woods behind the school.<sup>15</sup>

Students walked as far as five miles to and from school until the 1950s when a bus route became available and the school's radius expanded to include students within ten miles. The bus drivers

<sup>11</sup> Interview with alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>12</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017. Dates of the principals' service and the order in which they served is unknown.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017.

<sup>14</sup> Interview with alumni, 2016, 2017; Sarah F. Lamb, "Principal's Annual Elementary School Report," 1949-1950, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>15</sup> Interview with alumni, 2016, 2017.

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were also farmers, so they arrived in the afternoon at variable times of day to drive the students home, based on the demands of the farming seasons. Students played in the schoolyard after dismissal at 3:00 while they waited for the bus.<sup>16</sup>

Although education was viewed as a route to a better life, few opportunities existed for African Americans in the south, and especially in rural Nash County.<sup>17</sup> Castalia was an agricultural area with no manufacturing, so African Americans worked as farmers and sharecroppers. Alumni recall missing a lot of school during the spring when they helped plant tobacco and during the fall when they helped pick cotton. They were only required to attend school one day per month to meet compulsory attendance requirements, but students hoped for rain so that they could attend school rather than working in the fields. Parents often encouraged children to get an education so they could leave Nash County for better opportunities. Although some alumni did not attend high school, many followed their parents' advice and left Castalia to seek college degrees or manufacturing jobs.<sup>18</sup>

The school closed after the 1960-61 school year when it was consolidated with the more modern Cedar Grove Elementary School, located east of Castalia and built in 1950.<sup>19</sup> The Castalia Community Development Club used the building for family reunions, quilting clubs, cooking and canning events, and other community activities after the school closed.<sup>20</sup> The building also served as a fellowship hall for Castalia Missionary Baptist Church, which is located directly across the street, until their building was expanded in the 1990s.<sup>21</sup> The Board of Education of Nash County sold the building at auction to the club in 1968.<sup>22</sup> They updated the building's lights, heating and air conditioning systems, accessibility, and bathrooms in the 1990s. The building was also restored, including uncovering the characteristic windows that had been boarded by the 1980s.<sup>23</sup> The group continues to offer community services at the school, including annual alumni reunions, exercise classes, tours, and heritage events, as well as their own board meetings.

### **Architecture of Castalia School**

Castalia School's design embodies the character-defining elements of the Rosenwald Fund's standardized plans. Samuel Leonard Smith, Director of Schoolhouse Planning for the Rosenwald Fund, developed a set of school plans that minimized construction costs, maximized classroom space, and capitalized on natural features of the school's site. Castalia School was constructed using Smith's Floor Plan No. 3-B from *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3*, which included

<sup>16</sup> Interview with alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>17</sup> Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 421.

<sup>18</sup> Interview with alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>19</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017. Cedar Grove Elementary School remains extant.

<sup>20</sup> Interview with alumni, 2016, 2017; *Castalia Rosenwald School Newsletter*, Volume 1, Edition 1, November 2014, File NS0407, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>21</sup> Interview with alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>22</sup> "Board of Education of Nash County to Castalia Community Development Club," December 3, 1968, Deed Book 861, Page 360, Castalia Community Development Club Records.

<sup>23</sup> Interview with alumni, 2017; File NS0407, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC.

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three classrooms, three cloak closets, and an industrial room.<sup>24</sup> The plan was altered at the Castalia school to make the front of the building flush, rather than to feature a slightly recessed porch, and builder S.J. Bartholomew had to turn the building ninety degrees upon completion in order to achieve the appropriate north-facing orientation.<sup>25</sup>

Of the seventeen schools funded by the Rosenwald program in Nash County, only five remain extant in addition to the Castalia School. Avent School (c.1923), located at 12990 Cooper Road east of Castalia, is a two-teacher school that has been altered to serve as a private residence, including significant changes to the windows. Evans School (c.1919), located at 3828 Red Road north of Nashville, is a two-teacher school that has been altered with two large additions, new siding, and sheathing over some of the windows. Jeffreys School (c.1923, c.1928), located at 3075 Benvenue Road north of Rocky Mount, is a five-teacher school that is now abandoned, overgrown, and deteriorating. Morgan School (c.1925), located at 7427 Winters Road north of Bailey, is a two-teacher school listed to the National Register in 2006. It is remarkably unaltered despite being used as a private residence, although the windows have been sheathed over or removed in some places. It is currently unoccupied and in fair condition.<sup>26</sup> Whitakers School (c.1923), located at 10065 US 301 North in Whitakers, is a four-teacher school that has been adapted for use as a medical clinic, including removal of the original windows, although it remains in good condition. The other eleven schools have been demolished. Of the surviving schools, Castalia School is the only school that retains both high material integrity and good physical condition.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Department of Public Instruction. Office of the Superintendent. General Correspondence. Julius Rosenwald Fund, 1921-1923. Box 86. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

Department of Public Instruction. Principal's Annual Elementary School Report. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC.

File NS0407. North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>24</sup> S.L. Smith, "Floor Plan No 3-B, Three Teacher Community School, to Face North or South Only," *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3* (The Julius Rosenwald Fund: Nashville, TN), 9; Hoffschwelle, *The Rosenwald Schools*, 56-57, 94-111; Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 400-405.

<sup>25</sup> Rick Mattson, "(Former) Castalia Rosenwald School," File NS0407, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC; Mattson, *The History and Architecture of Nash County*, 34, 148.

<sup>26</sup> Russ Stephenson, "Morgan School," Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, 2006.

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- Fisk University. "Rosenwald Fund Card File Database." [www.rosenwald.fisk.edu](http://www.rosenwald.fisk.edu) (accessed August 2017).
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- Hoffschwelle, Mary. *The Rosenwald Schools of the American South*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2006.
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- Mattson, Richard L. *The History and Architecture of Nash County, North Carolina*. Nash County Planning Department, 1987.
- Nash County Register of Deeds, <https://www.co.nash.nc.us/243/Register-of-Deeds>, (accessed March 2018).
- Personal Interview with Castalia School Alumni (Delores Pudden Mitchell-Harris, Cleveland Harris, Jr., Ernestine Mann Cannon, Paulette Walton Crudup, Samuel Taylor, Clara Holland Pierce, and Charles Franklin Jones) by North Carolina State Historic Preservation office, June 20, 2016.
- Personal Interview with Castalia School Alumni (Jeanette R. Branch, Ernestine Cannon, Hattie Cooper, Cleveland Harris Jr., Elaine Avent-Johnson, Willis Johnson, Minnie Massenburg, Sorell Massenburg, Samuel Taylor, Paulette Walton, and Alexander Williams) by Heather Slane and Cheri Szcodroski. Castalia School, Castalia, NC. August 16, 2017.
- Smith, S.L. "Floor Plan No 3-B, Three Teacher Community School, to Face North or South Only." *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3*. Nashville: The Julius Rosenwald Fund, 1924.



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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: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** NS0407

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 2.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.077794                      Longitude: -78.068675

**Or**  
**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927    or     NAD 1983

1. Zone:                      Easting:                      Northing:

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

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

The National Register boundary is shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn at a 1"=200' scale, and in alignment with the tax boundary (parcel #000156).

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

The nominated boundary includes most of the two tracts deeded to the school in 1920 and 1922. Originally the two tracts encompassed a total of 2.95 acres, but at some unknown date the approximately 1/2-acre west end portion was subdivided and removed from the parcel. The boundary now includes the remaining 2.3 acres historically associated with the school.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Heather Slane, Architectural Historian  
name/title: Cheri Szcodronski, Architectural Historian  
organization: hmwPreservation  
street & number: P.O. Box 355  
city or town: Durham state: NC zip code: 27701  
e-mail: heather@hmwpreservation.com  
telephone: 336-207-1502  
date: August 2017

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer,

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photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### **Photo Log**

Property Name: Castalia School

County and State: Nash County, North Carolina

Photographer: Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski

Date: August 2017

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

1. Castalia School, front (north) façade at east elevation  
camera facing southwest
2. Castalia School, south elevation  
camera facing northwest
3. Castalia School, west and south elevations  
camera facing northeast
4. Castalia School, front (north) façade and west elevation  
camera facing southeast
5. Castalia School - center hall,  
camera facing north
6. Castalia School – classroom 1,  
camera facing southeast
7. Castalia School – classroom 1  
camera facing northwest
8. Castalia School – classroom 2  
camera facing southeast
9. Castalia School – classroom 3  
camera facing southeast
10. Castalia School – classroom 3  
camera facing northwest
11. Castalia School – kitchen  
camera facing west

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12. Castalia School – classroom 4  
camera facing northwest
13. Castalia School – classroom 5  
camera facing southeast
14. Castalia School – classroom 6  
camera facing northwest
15. Castalia School – cafeteria  
camera facing northwest

**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.



Image from NC-HPOweb

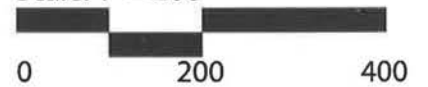
Castalia School  
10445 Lancaster Store Road  
Castalia, Nash County, NC

Lat/Long Coordinates:  
36.077794, -78.068675

1. Castalia School
2. Wellhouse



Scale: 1" = 200'



Tax Map with National Register Boundary  
National Register Boundary  
Boundary Follows Tax Parcel #000156







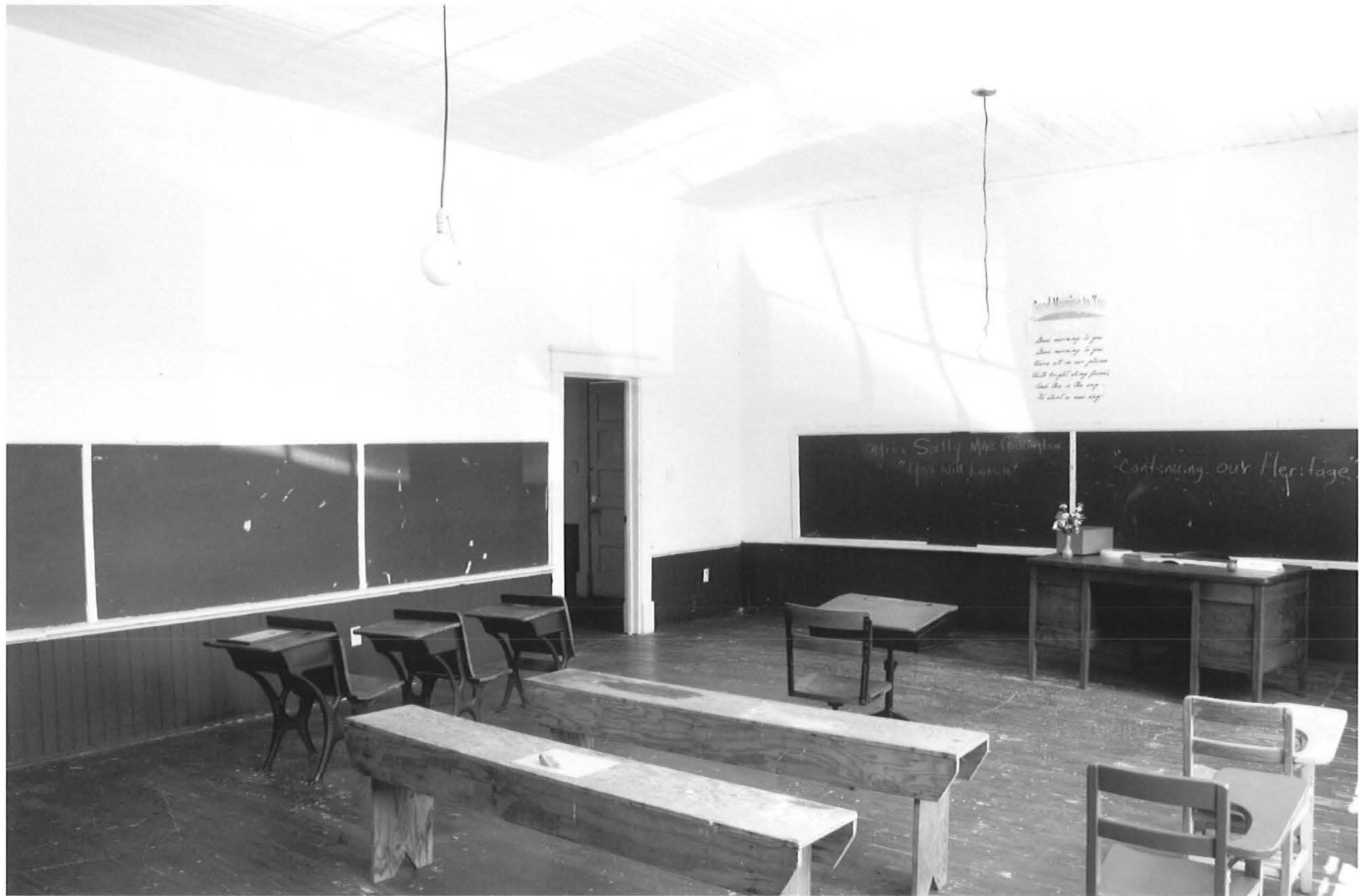












And morning to you

And morning to you  
And morning to you  
There will be no future  
With bright day flowers  
And this is the way  
To what is our day!

Stella Mae Robinson  
"Our Will Learn"

Continuing our Heritage



















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 5/9/2018      Date of Pending List: 5/30/2018      Date of 16th Day: 6/14/2018      Date of 45th Day: 6/25/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept       Return       Reject      6/18/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

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.



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

May 4, 2018

Paul Loether, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Mail Stop 7228  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Haywood County Hospital – Haywood County  
Castalia School – Nash County  
**Resubmittal:** Green Hill Cemetery – Haywood County  
Reference Number: 100000897

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed are the nominations for the above-referenced properties to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These nominations include the resubmitted nomination for Green Hill Cemetery. The original nomination for Green Hill Cemetery was returned to us for substantial revision on April 18, 2017. Photographs, with the exception of seven additional photographs enclosed, remain unchanged from the initial nomination. As such, we request that those sent to you with the original nomination should remain with the resubmittal.

We trust you will find the nomination to be in order. If you have any questions please call Jennifer Brosz, 919.807.6587.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin Cherry".

Dr. Kevin Cherry  
State Historic Preservation Officer

KC/bw: enclosures