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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Davis School

Engelhard, Hyde County, HY0907, Listed 4/17/2023
Nomination by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc.
Photographs by Andy Holloway, September 2020; and Heather Fearnbach, March 2022

Looking northwest from parcel's southeast corner

Davis School, 1953, west elevation, looking southeast

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Davis School

other names/site number Davis High School

2. Location

street & number 33460 and 33478 US Highway 264 **N/A** not for publication

city or town Engelhard **N/A** vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Hyde code 095 zip code 27824

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 for 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 ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date: 2/21/23

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other,(explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — 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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
1	2	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
3	3	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: School
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Sports Facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: Business
RECREATION AND CULTURE: Sports Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof SYNTHETICS: Rubber
ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

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

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Education
Ethnic Heritage: Black
Civil Rights

Period of Significance
1953-1970

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

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates
1953
1964
1970

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
African American

Architect/Builder
Stephens, Burrett H. and Robert H., architects, 1953
C. C. Haynes Jr. Construction Company, contractor, 1953
Skinner, B. Atwood, Jr., architect, 1964

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State Agency
☐ Federal Agency
☐ Local Government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository: Hyde County Schools Office, Swan Quarter
State Library, Raleigh

Davis School
Name of Property

Hyde County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 8 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)
See Latitude/Longitude coordinates continuation sheet.

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1				3			
2				4			

See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather Fearnbach
organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 12/15/2022
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-765-2661
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name County of Hyde, Kris Noble, County Manager
street & number 30 Oyster Creek Road, PO Box 188 telephone 252-926-4178
city or town Swan Quarter state NC zip code 27885

Section 7. Narrative Description

Setting

Davis School stands on US Highway 264's east side approximately one- and one-half miles southwest of Engelhard's commercial center. The small rural Hyde County fishing community on the Pamlico Sound is surrounded by farms flanking US Highway 264 and intersecting secondary roads. The area is known for its rich black soil. Drainage canals border roads and fields in an effort to ameliorate the flat terrain's regular flooding. Lake Mattamuskeet, North Carolina's largest natural lake, occupies much of the area between Engelhard and Swan Quarter, the county seat to the southwest.

The Davis School campus encompasses two buildings. The one-story, gable-roofed, redbrick and concrete block, roughly rectangular 1953 high school occupies the central north portion of the irregularly shaped 8.662-acre lot owned by Hyde County. The tall one-story, flat-roofed, rectangular 1964 gymnasium/auditorium and locker room addition extends from the 1953 building's southeast corner. The southeast classroom was expanded to the east in 1971 to create the gable-roofed cafeteria and kitchen wing north of the gymnasium/auditorium. A 1964 elementary classroom building is situated forty-two feet west of the 1953/1964/1971 building.

The grass lawn is punctuated by a few evergreen shrubs lining the 1953 school's west elevation and the 1964 classroom building's north and west walls. Concrete sidewalks extend from the asphalt-paved parking lot at the parcel's northwest corner to the primary entrances at the south end of the 1953 building's west elevation and the center of the 1964 building's east elevation. A tall flagpole rises from the lawn north of the 1964 building. South of the south sidewalk between the 1953 and 1964 buildings, a shallow concrete north-south culvert channels water into the storm drain. The area between the buildings and parking lot was graded and the sidewalks were installed in 1964.[1] The flag pole and culvert likely followed soon after.

The approximately 0.7-acre northeast corner of the tax parcel, which contains a one-story, low-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided, modular 1994 building that serves as a child care center and the chain-link-fenced enclosed playground west of the building, is excluded from the National Register boundary since the area no longer contributes to the school's significance. The three-foot-tall painted-wood fence with square posts spanned by upper and central horizontal board rails at the north end of the lawn east of the school and was erected in conjunction with the modular building, which occupies the site of the 1925

[1] B. Atwood Skinner Jr., "Addition to Davis School," October 1963. All referenced architectural drawings are in the possession of Davis High Ventures Corporation, Engelhard, N. C

Engelhard Ridge School that was demolished in the late 1970s or early 1980s.[2] The fence runs east-west on the south side of the access drive that extends from US Highway 264 to the paved parking lot, continues east to wrap around the child care center, and terminates at the unpaved parking area east of the gymnasium/auditorium.

With the exception of the ball field, recreational amenities south of the school were added by Hyde County in the early 2000s to create Engelhard Community Park. A cluster of deciduous and evergreen trees shades the one-story gable-roofed picnic pavilion with restrooms at the lot's southwest corner. The playground, fitness stations, and basketball court are located between the pavilion and ball field on the south side of the walking trail that bisects the parcel and borders its east and south edges.

Inventory List

Davis School, 1953, 1964, 1971, contributing building
Classroom Building, 1964, contributing building
Engelhard Community Park
- Ball Field, 1953, contributing site
- Basketball Court, early 2000s, noncontributing site
- Picnic Pavilion, early 2000s, noncontributing structure
- Playground, early 2000s, noncontributing site

Davis School, 1953, 1964, 1971, contributing building

Exterior

The one-story, redbrick and concrete block, roughly rectangular, 1953 Davis School epitomizes the functional Modernism often manifested in mid-twentieth-century educational buildings. Large steel-frame windows, a central flat-roofed rectangular monitor, and glazed openings in corridor walls provided ample light. The original flat roof and the monitor with groups of multi-pane wood sash spanning its east and west walls were encapsulated in a newly created attic during the 1982 construction of the asphalt-shingled gabled roof and remain substantially intact.[3] Vinyl siding sheathes the gables and the south portion of the monitor's west wall.

[2] The precise date of the 1925 school's demolition has not been determined. It functioned as a storage building for the Hyde County school system following completion of the 1971 cafeteria and had been demolished by 1984, perhaps in conjunction with the 1982 renovation of the 1953 and 1964 buildings. Hyde County Plat Book 1, p. 10; North Carolina Department of Transportation Historical Aerial Imagery, Hyde County, 1984, https://www.arcgis.com/apps/mapviewer/index.html (accessed December 2022).

[3] Hyde County Board of Education Meeting Minutes (hereafter abbreviated HCBEMM), 1982.

The north and south walls and the south portion of the west elevation are veneered with red brick laid in five-to-one common bond. On the east and west elevations, groups of steel-frame windows illuminate classrooms and offices. Each classroom bay contains three eight-horizontal-pane sash, each with a four-pane central hopper, flanked by two four-horizontal-pane sash with two-pane central hoppers. The windows are framed by painted concrete-block kneewalls capped with slightly projecting painted brick sills and tall, painted, smooth cast-concrete lintels. Concrete-block pilasters with stepped bases separate the window bays. The concrete coping of the original flat roof is visible beneath the projecting soffit of the 1982 roof.

The north portion of the west elevation, which encompasses four bays of classroom windows, extends further west than the redbrick-veneered south portion, where two entrances containing double-leaf steel doors flank high two- and four-horizontal-pane office windows with slightly projecting redbrick sills. Steel-frame sidelights border the north entrance. The south door is recessed. The painted cast-concrete lintel above the doors and windows has a smooth finish. A string course of vertical painted concrete block continues south from the lintel to the wall's south end. Above the lintel and string course, vinyl siding covers the south portion of the roof monitor's west wall.

Painted plywood encloses the high two-horizontal-pane restroom window near the 1953 south elevation's west end. Above the window, a string course of vertical unpainted concrete block tops the wall beneath the vinyl-sided gable. East of the window, the shed-roofed redbrick-veneered mechanical room spans the rest of the wall. A high two-horizontal-pane sash pierces the mechanical room's west wall. On its south elevation, the concrete coping of the original flat roof is visible beneath the projecting soffit of the 1982 roof. The double-leaf louvered-steel door in the south wall's west bay is in poor condition. To the east, beneath the coal chute, a single-leaf unpainted plywood door was installed during the 1990s. The tall, square, painted-concrete-block chimney that vented the boiler rises from the main block's gabled roof at the boiler room's northeast corner.

The 1964 addition comprises the tall one-story flat-roofed gymnasium/auditorium at the school's southeast corner and the locker rooms that span the space between the 1953 building's south end and the gymnasium/auditorium's northwest corner. The brick-veneered locker room's south wall is blind. The shed roofed, T1-11-sided storage room that extends from that wall was built by Hyde County Schools facilities staff during the 1990s.[4]

The windowless variegated redbrick gymnasium walls are punctuated by full-height white-painted concrete-block pilasters on the east and west elevations and brick pilasters on the north and south elevations. The pilasters buttress the walls and support the metal truss roof system and shallow soffits. Original metal louvers that provide ventilation fill two openings in the upper portion of the second and

[4] Richard Spencer, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 17, 2022.

fourth bays from the west elevation's north end. A single-leaf steel door remains in the third bay from the wall's south end. In two intermediary bays on the south elevation and the fourth bay from the east elevation's south end, tall rectangular openings with slightly projecting brick sills contain metal louvers. The double-leaf steel doors in the third bay from the east wall's south end and second bay from the north end were hung in original openings in 2005.[5]

North of the gymnasium, the shed roof extending above the east-west corridor to the concrete-block cafeteria/kitchen wing was erected in 1982. At the same time, a low-pitched gable roof was constructed above the wing's flat roof. Painted plywood sheathes the soffit and gable. The east corridor wall contains a double-leaf steel door. The single-leaf steel door on the wing's south elevation provides access to the kitchen. A small shed-roofed, vertical-board-sided, 1990s storage room projects from the south bay of the wing's east elevation. Two pairs of eight-horizontal-pane sash with four-pane central hoppers pierce the north wall. North of the wing, the main block's east elevation contains five bays of three eight-horizontal-pane sash, each with a four-pane central hopper, flanked by two four-horizontal-pane sash with two-pane central hoppers. The roof has collapsed at the intersection of the main block and wing.

The recessed double-leaf steel door at the north elevation's center is surmounted by tall metal-louver panels that replaced a steel-frame sixteen-pane transom.[6] The string course of vertical painted-concrete block topping the redbrick walls delineates the original flat roof and monitor configuration.

Interior

The school has a double-loaded corridor plan. Entrances at the center of the north and west elevations provide access to the north-south corridor, which intersects the east-west corridor at its south end. The west half of the east-west corridor is original, while the east half was created by the 1971 enclosure of the area between the 1953 building, 1964 gymnasium, and 1971 wing. Exterior egress is possible at both ends of the east-west corridor. Traub Architecture + Design, headed by architect Gerald P. Traub, guided the phased interior renovation executed between 2000 and 2007.

The primary entrance is at the west elevation's center. South of the lobby, three offices and four storage rooms are situated west of the corridor. At the 1953 building's south end, restrooms flank the boiler room. Ten equally sized classrooms initially lined the north-south corridor. The southeast

[5] Michael Adams of Davis High Ventures Corporation, which leases the 1953/1964/1971 school, and Margie Brooks delineated the scope of 2005 and 2007 modifications in a series of conversations with Heather Fearnbach from March to June 2022.

[6] The only two sheets of 1953 Davis School drawings rendered by New Bern architects Burrett H. and Robert H. Stephens's firm that have been located are almost illegible scans. However, features such as the north transom are discernable.

classroom was extended to the east in 1971 to create a cafeteria, kitchen, and storage room wing. Later in the twentieth century, the entire wall between two southeast classrooms was demolished to make a large library. In 2005, a portion of the wall separating the two northwest classrooms was removed to create a fitness center. The kitchen was updated to meet commercial standards and the cafeteria was remodeled to serve as a dining room in 2007.[7] Fluorescent lighting, electrical, mechanical, and HVAC systems were replaced and added in phases throughout the building.

Original 1953 finishes include painted concrete-block walls, concrete ceiling beams, and painted V-groove ceiling boards. Although the wood ceilings are not exposed, they remain in good condition above the large rectangular Celotex-tile classroom ceilings and textured gypsum-board corridor ceilings installed in 1982 when the roof monitor was encapsulated. The dropped-acoustical-tile ceiling with integral light panels in the fitness room was installed in 2005. Classrooms with the exception of the library have dual-height ceilings, with canted interior sections that rise toward the monitor roof and flat sections that abut the exterior walls. The suspended ceilings hide HVAC systems in rooms other than the library, in which square painted-metal ductwork is exposed beneath a flat ceiling. They also obscure the monitor windows and the square openings in the upper portions of corridor walls that facilitated light transference between the corridor and flanking rooms. The type of sash in those openings is unknown, as all were removed to facilitate HVAC ductwork installation. The gypsum-board corridor ceiling is approximately three feet lower than its original height, while acoustical-tile classroom ceilings are dropped about twelve inches.

The floors—terrazzo in the corridors and vinyl-composition tile elsewhere—were covered in 1982 with larger vinyl-composition tile that remains in the corridors. In 2005, commercial-grade carpeting was installed in most classrooms and the offices. The northeast classroom that serves as an auxiliary kitchen received a sheet-vinyl floor. Plywood cabinets with double-leaf flat-panel doors, a white laminate countertop, and open upper shelves line the kitchen's west wall. The cafeteria was carpeted in 2007.

Original flat-panel wood-veneer doors with two-horizontal-pane upper sections hang in simple wood frames at the north office, gymnasium corridor, and classroom entrances. The aluminum-frame single-leaf door flanked by two-pane sidelights on the central office's east wall was added during the late twentieth century. Single-leaf five-horizontal-panel wood doors secure storage room entrances. Supplies were dispensed from the long closet lined with shelves at the office suite's northeast corner via a small square opening in its corridor wall. Wood-trimmed blackboards (now whiteboards) and bulletin boards remain in four classrooms. Built-in bookshelves flank the blackboards above the chalk and eraser ledge. The wood-trimmed bulletin board on the north-south corridor's east wall opposite the primary entrance is also original.

[7] Traub Architecture + Design, Davis Ventures kitchen renovation, May 7, 2007.

The cafeteria is accessible from the corridor entrance as well as two single-leaf five-horizontal-panel wood doors on the southeast classroom's south wall. The lower half of each plastered cafeteria wall was sheathed with beaded four-by-eight-foot wood-panel wainscoting in 2007. Concurrently, HVAC ductwork was installed and enclosed in the soffit that spans the south wall. A portion of the 2007 dropped-acoustical-tile ceiling at the room's west end collapsed as a result of roof damage. Concrete ceiling beams and painted V-groove ceiling boards are visible in the east portion of the room. The 2007 commercial-grade carpeting was removed following water infiltration, exposing the concrete floor.

The commercial kitchen and storage room to the east have cracked sheet vinyl floors and dropped-acoustical-tile ceilings. Fiberglass-reinforced panels sheathe the kitchen walls, while the storage room has painted-concrete-block walls. Two original single-leaf six-panel wood doors on the kitchen's west wall provide dining room egress. The storage room door at the east wall's center is identical.

The multi-stall restrooms on the east-west corridor's south side were remodeled in 2005. Original finishes include painted-concrete-block walls above parged wainscoting and square red terra-cotta-tile floors. Dropped-acoustical-tile ceilings, laminate stall partitions, laminate counters with drop-in sinks, and white porcelain lavatories were installed during the update.[8]

In the 1971 portion of the east-west corridor, the enclosed portion of the gymnasium/auditorium's west brick wall and the 1953 school southeast wall have been painted. The gypsum board sheathing on the 1971 wing's south wall was embellished in 2005 with a mural depicting recreational activities such as fishing, picnics, and playing games. The corridor has a vinyl-composition-tile floor and dropped-acoustical-tile ceiling.

The 1964 gymnasium/auditorium has painted concrete-block walls, a hardwood floor, and exposed steel roof trusses. Insulated ceiling panels above the trusses ameliorate noise during athletic events. The roof and floor were replaced in 2004 following complete destruction in September 2003 during Hurricane Isabel. In September 2019, rain from Hurricane Dorian penetrated the wall vents and again destroyed the floor, which will be replaced. At the gymnasium's northwest corner, two small locker rooms with showers flank the athletic equipment storage room. These rooms, located between the 1953 building and gymnasium, have sustained extensive ceiling damage due to roof failure. The restrooms have plaster ceilings. The storage room's roof structure—trusses and insulated ceiling panels—have always been exposed. Faux-wood paneling covers a portion of the north locker room walls.

[8] Traub Architecture + Design, Davis Ventures restroom renovation, January 1, 2005.

When in use as an auditorium, former students remember that a folding platform and full-height curtains were employed to create a stage at the room's south end and sawdust was scattered on the highly polished wood floor to diminish its slipperiness. Folding chairs flanked aisles for ceremonies, performances, and meetings and lined the walls during basketball games, sock hops, and dances. As the gymnasium/auditorium was the community's largest recreational venue, the building hosted myriad civic gatherings as well as school events.[9]

Classroom Building, 1964, contributing building

Exterior

The Modernist 1964 classroom building is characterized by an exposed structural system. Canted white-painted cast-concrete posts and rafters extend to support the low-pitched gable roof's deep eaves. Running-bond variegated-redbrick veneer sheathes concrete-block walls. On each of the north and south elevations, original nine-section aluminum-frame sash fill six bays above brick kneewalls capped with slightly projecting brick sills. The east and west elevations are blind with the exception of narrow steel-frame sidelights framing the single-leaf steel door at each wall's center. A tall metal-louver panel surmounts each door.

Interior

The building, which initially contained six classrooms flanking a central corridor, was renovated in phases executed between 2000 and 2009 per plans rendered by Traub Architecture + Design. Despite modifications, most original partition walls are intact and the durable finishes are in keeping with the original design. The concrete-block walls have been repainted and single-leaf flat-panel steel corridor doors with rectangular single-pane transoms and steel surrounds are intact. Vinyl-composition floor tile installed in 1982 covers corridor and restroom floors. The 1982 dropped gypsum-board corridor ceiling has a textured finish. In 2007, partition walls, commercial-grade carpeting, and dropped-acoustical-tile ceilings were installed within most classrooms to create offices, smaller classrooms, a conference room, a health care clinic, and restrooms with gypsum-board-sheathed partition walls. The central south classroom, which serves as the Hyde County Public Library, retains an open plan. New doors within divided rooms emulate the original doors. Accessible fixtures were installed in each restroom. Fluorescent lighting, electrical, mechanical, HVAC, and internet technology systems were replaced and added throughout the building.[10]

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[9] Azalea Mackey (entered Davis School as a first-grader in fall 1964), telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 13, 2022; Alice Spencer Mackey (1970 Davis High School graduate) and Erskine Mackey (1959 Davis High School graduate), telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 24, 2022.

[10] The original finishes were smaller vinyl-composition floor tile and tectum ceiling tile. B. Atwood Skinner Jr., "Addition to Davis School," October 1963; Traub Architecture + Design, "Hyde-Davis BEC," Sheet A1.0, May 21, 2007.

Engelhard Community Park

Ball Field, 1953, contributing site

The baseball/softball field at the parcel's southeast corner is enclosed with a chain-link fence erected in 2000.

Basketball Court, early 2000s, noncontributing site

The basketball court situated south of the playground has a concrete surface.

Picnic Pavilion, early 2000s, noncontributing structure

The gable-roofed picnic pavilion at the parcel's southwest corner is supported by square wood posts. In the west two-thirds of the structure, wood-topped tubular-steel picnic tables stand on the poured-concrete floor. T1-11 siding sheathes the restroom enclosure at the east end. Water fountains are mounted on the west wall between the restroom entrances. An unpaved parking area is located north of the pavilion.

Playground and fitness stations, early 2000s, noncontributing site

The playground lies between the picnic pavilion and ball field and contains climbing equipment and a central structure with chutes and ladders. The fitness stations north of the playground comprise a linear array of equipment including benches, parallel and pull-up bars, and steps.

Integrity Statement

Davis School retains integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association as it occupies its original site and continues to serve as an educational venue and community gathering place. The campus also possesses integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to the retention of character-defining features of mid-twentieth-century institutional architecture including building form, finish, plan, and circulation patterns. Brick and concrete-block walls are intact. Fenestration clearly indicates original spatial function. Tall, rectangular, grouped, metal-frame, multi-pane sash illuminate classrooms in the 1953 and 1964 buildings, while the 1964 gymnasium/auditorium is windowless. Although the 1982 asphalt-shingled gable roof encapsulates the 1953 flat roof and central flat-roofed rectangular monitor, those elements are viewable from the attic and in good condition. Groups of multi-pane wood sash span the monitor's east and west walls.

The 1953 school's double-loaded corridor plan is intact, preserving historic relationships between corridors and flanking rooms. Modifications include the 1971 expansion of the southeast classroom to create a cafeteria, kitchen, and storage room; late-twentieth-century demolition of the entire wall between two southeast classrooms; and 2005 removal of a portion of the wall separating the two northwest classrooms. Original interior features include painted concrete-block walls, flat-panel wood-veneer doors with two-horizontal-pane upper sections, single-leaf five-horizontal-panel wood doors, wood-trimmed blackboards (now whiteboards) and bulletin boards in four classrooms, concrete ceiling beams, and painted V-groove ceiling boards. Although the ceiling boards are not visible, they remain in good condition above large rectangular Celotex-tile classroom ceilings and textured gypsum-board corridor ceilings installed in 1982 when the roof monitor was encapsulated. The acoustical-tile fitness room ceiling was installed in 2005. The suspended ceilings obscure the monitor windows as well as square openings in the upper portions of corridor walls that facilitated light transference between the corridor and flanking rooms, those features remain in good condition. Original floors—terrazzo in the corridor and vinyl-composition tile in classrooms and offices—were covered in 1982 with the larger vinyl-composition tile that remains in the corridors. The tile was removed and commercial-grade carpeting installed in classrooms and offices in 2005 and the cafeteria in 2007.

The 1964 gymnasium/auditorium's painted concrete-block wall finish and exposed steel roof trusses are intact. The hardwood floor installed in 2004 after storm damage replaced the original hardwood floor. In September 2019, rain from Hurricane Dorian penetrated the wall vents and again destroyed the floor, which will be replaced. Roof destruction has resulted in significant water damage throughout the gymnasium/auditorium, locker rooms, and 1971 cafeteria/kitchen wing and finish degradation elsewhere.

The 1964 classroom building retains its original double-loaded corridor plan, painted concrete-block wall finish, and single-leaf flat-panel steel corridor doors with rectangular single-pane transoms and steel surrounds. The vinyl-composition corridor and restroom floor tile replaced smaller similar tile in 1982. When the building was remodeled in 2007, partition walls, commercial-grade carpeting, and dropped-acoustical-tile ceilings were installed within most classrooms to create offices, smaller classrooms, a conference room, and a health care clinic with gypsum-board-sheathed partition walls. The central south classroom, which serves as the Hyde County Public Library, retains an open plan.

Archaeological Potential Statement

Davis School is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains such as trash pits, privies, wells, and other structural remains which may be present can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the contributing structures. Information concerning land-use patterns, the structural evolution of African American school buildings, social standing and social mobility, as well as structural details, is often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the property's significance. 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.

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Davis School possesses significance at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of education, Black ethnic heritage, and civil rights. The campus, one of two in Hyde County that served first- through twelfth-grade African American youth during the mid-twentieth century, is the product of a statewide mid-twentieth-century campus improvement and consolidation campaign. The complex comprises a 1953 school with a 1964 gymnasium/auditorium and locker rooms and 1971 cafeteria/kitchen wing as well as a freestanding 1964 classroom. The 1953 building was constructed to supplement classrooms in the one-story, weatherboarded, 1925 Engelhard Ridge School that stood to the northeast. The 1964 gymnasium/auditorium and classroom building were erected as the Hyde County Board of Education (HCBE) attempted to "equalize" facilities for Black and white youth rather than desegregate them in compliance with federal integration mandates.

Davis School students and their families played a significant role in the African American community's 1968-1969 public school boycott in response to the HCBE's May 1968 plan to close Davis and O. A. Peay schools, consolidate all mainland Hyde County students at Mattamuskeet School, and terminate many African American faculty and staff. The plan, developed without consulting Black citizens, garnered immediate resistance. African American residents supported integration but decried the HCBE's discriminatory plan that decimated important social and cultural institutions. The "Committee of 14," a coalition of Black community leaders, enlisted the assistance of civil rights activists including Edenton-based Golden Frinks, state field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to coordinate acts of civil disobedience including demonstrations, marches, and sit-ins. The effort, dubbed the "Movement," garnered national attention as protestors, most of whom were children, were arrested and jailed from fall 1968 through summer 1969. Although all Hyde County schools remained open during the 1968-1969 term, most African American youth studied at home or "Movement schools" in seven churches. Black activism was met with fierce opposition, as white creditors, employers, and landlords threatened economic and social retaliation and the Hyde County Ku Klux Klan Klavern rallied.

After a year of debate and dissension, the HCBE, Black community leaders, and U. S. Office of Health, Education, and Welfare concurred that return to a freedom-of-choice integration approach would suffice for the 1969-1970 term while negotiations regarding an equitable plan continued. Due to the highly charged political environment and the necessity of taxpayer support for the May 1968 proposal, the HCBE deferred integration plan selection until after the November 1969 election. When Hyde County voters rejected the $500,000 bond referendum to fund Mattamuskeet School's enlargement by a four-to-one margin, the HCBE agreed to utilize all three schools and retain Black faculty and staff. Beginning in fall 1970, all seventh- through twelfth-grade youth were assigned to Mattamuskeet School and Davis and O. A. Peay schools served first- through sixth-grade children. The "Movement," deemed one of the most sustained and successful civil rights protests in America by

historian David S. Cecelski, had achieved its goals. The effort also inspired Hyde County's African American residents to advocate for social and economic parity in other arenas.

Davis and O. A. Peay schools closed at the conclusion of the 1998-1999 term following Mattamuskeet School's expansion to accommodate first through sixth grades. Hyde County still owns both schools. The Davis campus serves as the Hyde Davis Business Enterprise Center and Davis Youth Recreation and Community Center, while Hyde County Schools' administrative offices occupy the O. A. Peay campus. The period of significance for Davis School begins with the 1953 building's completion and ends in 1970, when full integration was finally achieved in Hyde County. Although the school continued to serve many of Hyde County's elementary-grade students until June 1999, its function after 1970 is not of exceptional significance.

African American Education in Hyde County and Davis School Historical Background

North Carolina's African American children were afforded limited educational opportunities during the nineteenth century. Religious groups including Moravians and the Society of Friends, known as Quakers, provided basic literacy lessons for free Blacks and enslaved people, and according to oral tradition, continued even after the General Assembly enacted legislation forbidding the education of North Carolina's enslaved population in 1830. Public schools served only white children in some urban and rural areas beginning in 1840. Terms were short and facilities primitive. In Hyde County, the Board of Superintendents of Common Schools, organized in 1841, delineated fourteen school districts that year and subsidized sixteen schools attended by 691 youth in 1850. Private academies provided more comprehensive courses of study for white students but charged tuition that was cost-prohibitive for the average family. Hyde County private schools established during the nineteenth-century included Rush Academy in Nebraska, Chapel Hill Academy in Lake Landing, and Fairfield Academy in the community of that name. In rare instances, free Black youth attended private North Carolina schools, but that was not the case in Hyde County.[11]

Reconstruction policies included the promise of universal access to quality academic instruction. However, the North Carolina General Assembly, mandated by the state's 1868 constitution to provide free public education for all children, adopted in 1875 an amendment that allowed for the creation of "separate but equal" schools. As educational facilities relied on inequitably distributed local funding,

[11] Emma King, "Some Aspects of the Works of the Society of Friends for Negro Education in North Carolina," *The North Carolina Historical Review*, Volume I, Number 4, October 1924, 403; Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott and Flora J. Hatley, *A History of African Americans in North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992), 153; Levi Branson, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1869* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1869), 80; Richard B. Lupton, *Olde Wickham, Little Kingdom by the Sea* (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers Malloy, Inc., 2017), 137-140; Morgan Harris, "Hyde's Schools," pp. 1-3, unpublished circa 1989 manuscript in the collection of the Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society.

this policy left Black students with inferior buildings and supplies, shorter terms, and fewer instructors. Despite these challenges, African American leaders promoted education as a means of realizing individual potential and strengthening communities by facilitating access to future opportunities. The State Colored Education Convention, composed of 140 delegates from forty counties, met in Raleigh in 1877 to plan systemic educational improvements. Politicians in Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, Washington, and Winston soon sponsored initiatives to create the state's first Black graded schools. Aspiring African American teachers undertook advanced studies at normal schools established by religious denominations and private entities in Charlotte, Concord, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Franklinton, Greensboro, Goldsboro, Plymouth, Raleigh, Salisbury, and Winston.[12]

The Hyde County Board of Education (HCBE), constituted in 1872, delineated twenty white school districts in September 1877 and named committees of local residents to oversee each district. Twenty African American school districts with the same boundaries were created in September 1880. District boundaries were regularly redrawn and district quantity fluctuated. Students received instruction in small, frame, purpose-built, publicly owned schools as well as in churches, homes, and other buildings on private property. Funding was apportioned based upon census data rather than enrollment, an important distinction in rural areas where enrollment was low and attendance was sporadic, particularly during planting and harvest seasons when children worked longer hours on family farms. In 1884, the HCBE disbursed $2,216 for teacher salaries and supplies to eleven schools in twenty districts containing 1,259 enumerated Black youth ages six to twenty-one. Eleven schools in twenty-two districts with 1,410 enumerated white children received $2,288. Public schools were more uniformly operated after North Carolina legislators established standards for county boards of education in 1885. In November of that year, a census conducted by Hyde County school district committees calculated that 1329 Black and 1392 white youth resided in the county. However, school superintendent Joseph M. Watson reported that only about 642 of 747 African American youth enrolled in seventeen schools and 597 of 823 white children at twenty schools regularly attended classes. Enrollment and attendance gradually increased through the 1890s.[13]

When state subsidies for public education became available in 1897, legislators did not apportion funds to Black schools. Local taxes and citizen contributions continued to make school operation possible. In 1898, the HCBE administered seventeen schools where attendance averaged around 828 of 1,200 enrolled African American youth and twenty-four schools that typically served approximately 808 of 1,202 white children. In January 1899, the HCBE allocated $162.80 for Black schools and $204.68 for

[12] Crow, et. al., *A History of African-Americans in North Carolina*, 79, 81, 100-102, 153-155; Hugh Victor Brown, *A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina* (Raleigh: Irving Swain Press, Inc., 1961), 32-34.

[13] HCBEMM, Book 1, March 7, 1872, p. 1; Book 2, December 7, 1885, pp. 10-15; December 6, 1886, pp. 30-35; December 6, 1887, p. 53; January 5, 1891, pp. 92-93; January 1, 1893, pp. 105-106; "The New School Law," *Carolina Watchman* (Salisbury), March 19, 1885, p. 2; Harris, "Hyde's Schools," 3-13; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 142-149.

white schools. Hyde County residents often contributed money, building materials, and labor toward school construction. The 1904 Swan Quarter school for African American children was erected by a coalition of Black and white residents. More state funding became available in the early 1910s when the general assembly designated capital for extensive improvements to all public schools. Municipal and county boards of education implemented more stringent teacher qualification standards, undertook building renovation and construction, and consolidated smaller schools. Between 1910 and 1912, rural North Carolina communities erected 132 African American and 574 white schools, many using plans distributed by the Department of Public Instruction. The HCBE commissioned the construction of schools for white students in Sladesville and Engelhard, both completed in 1911. The following year, the state enumerated 2,226 rural and 105 urban Black schools and 5,265 rural and 181 urban white schools. A Sladesville school for African American youth was erected in 1913.[14]

Despite some progress, inherent disparities between Black and white educational facilities prevailed. Prominent educators including Nathan C. Newbold, James B. Dudley, and Charles H. Moore thus began addressing the appalling condition of African American schools. Newbold, appointed Agent for Rural Black Schools in 1913, remained in that role until becoming the state's first Director of the Division of Negro Education upon its 1921 creation. With the aid of philanthropic concerns such as the Jeanes, Peabody, Rosenwald, and Slater Funds, he hired supervisors and teachers for rural schools and orchestrated building upgrades. In April 1917, Newbold, who regularly traveled throughout the state to promote Black education, delivered an address at the first collective commencement ceremony for Hyde County's African American students. At that time, Rhoda A. Warren, trained at Tuskegee Institute, was Hyde County's Black school supervisor. Her duties included grant and donation solicitation for the establishment of an African American high school and summer work as a home demonstration agent.[15]

Beginning around 1918, North Carolina's first public secondary schools for Black youth, located in highly populated counties such as Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg, and Wake, offered a few years of high school coursework. Earlier private schools including Palmer Memorial Institute in

[14] State legislators first allocated funds for black elementary schools in 1910. HCBEMM, Book 2, July 10, 1899, pp. 178-179, April 3, 1911, pp. 399-400; Harris, "Hyde's Schools," 15-16; Jim Sumner, "The Development of North Carolina's Public School System through 1940," context essay prepared for the Survey and Planning Branch of the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, 1990, 5-6; William S. Powell, *North Carolina through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 445-447; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to Governor W. W. Kitchin for the Scholastic Years 1910-11 and 1911-12* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1912), 8-9; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 149, 157-158.

[15] "Attends Commencement," *News and Observer* (Raleigh), April 6, 1917, p. 17; Crow, et. al., *A History of African Americans in North Carolina*, 155-158; Brown, *A History of the Education of Negroes in North Carolina*, 61, 64; James D. Anderson, *The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 204; Hugh Victor Brown, *E-Qual-ity Education in North Carolina Among Negroes* (Raleigh: Irving Swain Press, Inc., 1964), 129-130; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 158-159.

Guilford County, established in 1902 by African American educator Charlotte Hawkins Brown, and Laurinburg Institute in Scotland County, created in 1904 by Emmanuel Monty and Tinny McDuffie, remained alternatives for black children from counties such as Hyde in which public secondary education was not available.[16]

North Carolina strengthened compulsory school attendance legislation in 1919, resulting in escalated enrollment that could not be contained on existing campuses. The Department of Public Instruction's 1921 inventory of 7,467 public schools revealed that 3,698 one-room and 2,460 two-room schools served the state's children. The vast majority of those buildings were frame, but eighty-one log and 248 brick structures remained in use. Most housed first through seventh grades; only seventy of one hundred counties, including Hyde, operated at least one rural high school.[17] County school superintendents and boards of education subsequently oversaw widespread building enhancements, new school construction, and a consequent reduction in the total number of campuses and school districts. Statewide road improvements facilitated school consolidation by allowing for more efficient busing.

School curriculums changed in 1920 after the Department of Public Instruction implemented academic benchmarks and high school ratings. The school system mandated that institutions interested in standard high school classification offer seventh- through eleventh-grade courses during school sessions of at least 160 days, possess a minimum of three certified teachers and forty-five pupils in average daily attendance, and execute a department-approved study program utilizing appropriate materials. To improve deficient facilities and instructor caliber, North Carolina disbursed eighteen million dollars in operational funds to public African American elementary and high schools, summer programs, normal schools, and colleges between 1921 and 1925. Of that amount, teacher salaries totaled around ten million dollars, new buildings and equipment five million dollars, and teacher training and higher education almost three million dollars. By the end of the 1920-1921 term, 116 public high schools for white students had attained accreditation. In 1924, the state certified twenty-one Black campuses: four normal, three rural, and fourteen urban schools. At the close of the 1929-1930 academic year, the Department of Public Instruction enumerated sixty white and sixty-eight black accredited high schools.[18]

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[16] Crow, et, al., *A History of African Americans in North Carolina*, 155-158.

[17] HCBEMM, Book 3, November 1, 1920, pp. 73-76; Jim Sumner, "The Development of North Carolina's Public School System through 1940," p. 7, appendices.

[18] Sumner, "The Development of North Carolina's Public School System through 1940," pp. 17-18, appendices; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, "Biennial Reports of the Superintendent of Public Instruction," 1921-1930, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh; North Carolina State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, "North Carolina's Social Welfare Program for Negroes," Special Bulletin Number 8, Raleigh, N. C., 1926, 42.

Hyde County's public educational system manifested statewide trends as the HCBE consolidated schools and initiated campus improvement projects. In 1920, African American youth attended eighteen schools, while white children were assigned to twenty-seven schools. The Lake Landing District had the largest number of Black schools—California, Engelhard, Ridge, Middleton, Nebraska, Slocum, and Saint Lydia—all of which served first- through seventh-grade students. The HCBE employed seventy-four teachers, twenty-four of whom were African American. A 1923 county-wide facility assessment concluded that all but three Black schools required significant repair.[19]

As school administrators sought to construct new buildings, they solicited funding from philanthropic concerns, the state, and community members. The Rosenwald Fund, Slater Fund, and General Education Board, all organizations devoted to improving educational opportunities for southern African American children, provided critical support for the construction and operation of Hyde County's Black schools. Between 1915 and 1932, the Rosenwald Fund, in collaboration with local and state boards of education and private citizens, facilitated the completion of 813 North Carolina buildings, including schools, teachers' residences, and industrial education shops, more than in any other state. In addition to financial contributions, the foundation provided architectural drawings for buildings of various types and sizes. The two-story, hip-roofed, weatherboarded, 1921 Hyde County Training School, which had a six-classroom plan, was erected in Sladesville at a cost of $7,600, $2,000 of which was contributed by African American community members, $1,600 by the Rosenwald Fund, and $4,000 by the HCBE and State Literary Fund. Between 1918 and 1923, the Slater Fund and General Education Board respectively contributed $2,883 and $1,790 toward the training school's construction, furnishings, and teacher salaries. Local contractor S. D. Cox built the one-story, side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded, three-classroom Engelhard Ridge School west of Engelhard in 1925 at a cost of $3,700. African American residents raised $1,000, the Rosenwald Fund contributed $900, and the State Literary Fund provided $2,300. Neither school is extant.[20]

In 1927, seventeen schools served the county's African American children. In addition to Engelhard Ridge School, four schools—Carmur, Green Hill, Lake Road, and Saint Lydia—had been erected since 1924, replacing obsolete buildings. Children typically walked to schools. However, as high school courses were only offered at the training school in west Hyde County, which was a considerable distance from many homes, teenagers often boarded with families in Sladesville during the week. The teacherage provided lodging for some educators, while the principal resided in a modest dwelling near

[19] HCBEMM, Book 3, August 6, 1923, p. 204; August 11, 1923, p. 207; September 3, 1923, pp. 207-211; Harris, "Hyde's Schools," 17-19; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 158-159.

[20] Although Hyde County Training School was in Sladesville, its mailing address reflected the location of the closest U. S. Post Office in Scranton. HCBEMM, Book 3, January 7, 1924, p. 230; March 3, 1924, p. 236; August 4, 1924, p. 237; "Hyde County Schools," Fisk University Rosenwald Fund Card File Database, Julius Rosenwald Fund Archives, 1917-1948, John Hope and Aurelia E. Franklin Library, Special Collections, Fisk University, http://rosenwald.fisk.edu (accessed in May 2022).

the school. Lancaster, South Carolina native Oscar A. Peay became Hyde County Training School's principal in March 1930, commencing what would be a thirty-one-year tenure in that role. During the 1930-1931 term, four teachers instructed 175 children enrolled in first through seventh grades. Peay and his wife Rosalie Hill Peay, both Atlanta University alumni, taught thirty-seven eighth- through eleventh-grade students. After twelfth-grade courses were added in fall 1934, O. A. Peay successfully petitioned the State Board of Education for the school's accreditation, which was awarded in 1935.[21]

The economic challenges that ensued from the Great Depression limited facility improvements during the 1930s. The HBCE's cost-savings measures included the 1931 relocation of Lake View School, which had been erected for white children, to Saint Lydia to accommodate African American youth. Between 1932 and 1935 the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state's first New Deal program that created jobs for unemployed citizens, subsidized education-related projects in Hyde County including well pump installation at Saint Lydia, Slocum, and Swan Quarter schools for African American youth, Slocum School building repair, and playground construction at Swan Quarter High School, which served white children. NCERA also provided funds for school nurse training, lunchroom operation, and privy construction countywide.[22]

As the economy recovered in the late 1930s, the HCBE benefited from federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) grants that facilitated educational building renovation and construction as well as lunch room and library operation from 1935 through 1943. The program also sponsored adult academic instruction and vocational training, much of which took place at public schools. WPA, state, and local funds were utilized to erect seventy-nine and repair twenty North Carolina gymnasiums by 1940. In Hyde County, WPA grants enabled the 1937 dismantling of Lake Landing School and use of the materials to build a gymnasium and agriculture building at Engelhard School as well as the 1940 construction of a frame gymnasium at Sladesville School at a cost of $9,996. Both campuses served white students.[23]

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[21] "History of Hyde County Training School," Hyde County Schools scrapbook, Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 158-159; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Division of Instructional Services (hereafter abbreviated NCDPI, DIS) "Hyde County Training School," Principal's Annual High School Reports, 1930-1931 and 1935-1936, State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh..

[22] J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse, eds. *Emergency Relief in North Carolina: A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935* (Raleigh: North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), 489-490.

[23] North Carolina Works Progress Administration, *North Carolina WPA: Its Story* (Raleigh: North Carolina Works Progress Administration, 1940), 14-16, 33; Fred J. Cohn, "29,449 Adults Now In School Under Program," *Citizen-Times* (Asheville), October 23, 1938; "WPA Program Touches Thousands," *Greensboro Daily News*, October 23, 1938; "WPA Plans Fight on Blister Rust," *News and Observer*, November 11, 1939, p. 3; "At Hyde Dedication," *News and Observer*, December 4, 1940, p. 5; HCBEMM, Book 4, November 4, 1940, p. 140; Harris, "Hyde's Schools," 20; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 156.

The African American community supported Engelhard Ridge and Hyde County Training schools by establishing Parent-Teachers Associations to assist with fundraising, student programs, and events such as holiday celebrations, talent contests, festivals, and fairs. The schools hosted educational and recreational events and clinics for myriad civic groups, churches, and government agencies such as the agricultural extension service and health department. As measles, mumps, chicken pox, pneumonia, and scarlet fever annually reduced attendance in the winter and early spring health care providers inoculated youth for the aforementioned diseases and others such as typhoid. During World War II, students and faculty purchased defense stamps, collected donations for the Red Cross, and collaborated with the Agricultural Workers Council to plant Victory Gardens. Engelhard Ridge School's garden won a first-place award in May 1943. African American farmers throughout Hyde County increased vegetable and poultry production in conjunction with the "Food for Freedom" program.[24]

Following World War II, the HCBE began to undertake school construction and maintenance that had been deferred due to material and labor shortages. School consolidation continued as buildings were erected from the late 1940s through the 1960s to remedy overcrowded conditions and replace obsolete structures. In 1945, white students attended five consolidated schools, while Black students were assigned to thirteen schools, twelve of which were small frame buildings with three or fewer teachers. Hyde County Training School, with ten faculty including principal O. A. Peay, remained the only campus offering first- through twelfth-grade instruction. Between 1946 and 1949, Hyde County school superintendent Nollie W. Shelton budgeted $26,500 for repairs, new construction, and furnishings at African American campuses. However, as most facilities remained inadequate despite improvements and steadily declining enrollment necessitated fewer campuses; four African American schools were closed. Engelhard Ridge School was enlarged in 1948 with two classrooms to facilitate the addition of high-school level instruction. During the 1949-1950 term, the school accommodated first- through eleventh-grade youth in seven classrooms, one of which also functioned as the lunchroom. Five teachers instructed 149 elementary-grade students, who participated in glee, choral, and book clubs; played basketball, baseball, and softball; and enjoyed slides and swings installed that year. Principal Alonzo V. Slade and C. H. Rogers taught forty-six high school students in two classrooms. All seniors attended Hyde Training School, which offered a broader curriculum including agriculture and Spanish courses. Fifteen youth graduated in spring 1950.[25]

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[24] "Community Fair on Thanksgiving Day," *The Training School Banner*, December 15, 1938; "Engelhard School Closed," *News and Observer*, January 25, 1940, p. 2; S. M. Sheppard, "Negro Teachers Meet at Swan Quarter School," *Hyde County Herald* (Swan Quarter), October 23, 1941, p. 4; B. W. Barnes, "Hyde Negroes Growing Food for Freedom," *Hyde County Herald* (June 4, 1942, p. 4; "Garden Contest Staged in Hyde," *News and Observer*, May 10, 1943, p. 8; David S. Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road: Hyde County, North Carolina, and the Fate of Black Schools in the South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000), 64.

[25] HCBEMM, Book 4, November 4, 1940, pp. 140-141; January 16, 1947, pp. 181-182; July 7, 1947, pp. 185-186; January 5, 1948, p. 188; April 5, 1948, p. 190; July 8, 198, p. 193; January 3, 1949, pp. 193-194; North Carolina Department of Public Instruction., *Educational Directory of North Carolina,* 1945-1946 (Raleigh, 1945), 64; *Educational*

In July 1950, the HCBE adopted a plan proposed by the State Board of Education to further consolidate instruction at a small number of existing and new campuses. Although building material scarcity and increased cost during the Korean War slowed the plan's implementation, a campus improvement program subsidized by the state was soon underway. African American students benefited from two new facilities: the twelve-classroom Hyde County Training School in Swan Quarter, which replaced the campus in Sladesville, and Davis School, a ten-classroom building in Engelhard. When the $81,649 Davis School was placed into service in September 1953, the 1925 Engelhard Ridge School to its northeast remained in use, housing elementary classrooms and the lunchroom. However, the entire campus was known as Davis School. Hyde County Training School was completed in December 1953 at a cost of $112,533. New Bern architects Burrett H. and Robert H. Stephens's firm rendered plans for both buildings as well as improvements at white campuses including a five-room addition at Swan Quarter School, which became West Hyde High School in 1955, and a cafeteria and home economics classroom at Engelhard School, renamed East Hyde High School in 1955. The HCBE awarded contracts for all four projects to general contractor C. C. Haynes Jr. Construction Company and Lloyd and Copeland (plumbing) of Durham, McGirt's Plumbing and Heating Company of Maxton, and Robbins Electrical of Rocky Mount.[26]

North Carolina school superintendent N. W. Shelton gave the keynote address at Davis School's October 1953 dedication. Other speakers included the school's new principal Johnson E. Spruill, P. T. A. president D. A. Brown, and Reverend J. A. Mackey, pastor of Zion Temple Baptist Church in Sladesville. A large crowd gathered to celebrate the occasion and the legacy of Davis School's namesake, white general store proprietor, farmer, and HCBE member William Calvin Davis (1868-1948), whose support for African American education included a $1,000 donation for the 1948 addition to Engelhard Ridge School.[27]

Nine teachers taught 296 first- through eighth-grade students during the 1954-1955 term. There were two first-grade classes that year. Principal J. E. Spruill, Christine V. Britt, and G. W. McMillan instructed sixty-eight high school students, fourteen of whom graduated. Spruill taught history and general math and monitored study hall, Britt was the English and health teacher, and McMillan taught

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Directory of North Carolina, 1950-1951, 66-67; "Engelhard Ridge School," Principal's Annual Elementary and High School Reports, 1949-1950; Harris, "Hyde's Schools," 21; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 163-165.

[26] The HCBE received a $140,000 state appropriation to subsidize campus improvements in May 1951. "Funds Marked by N. C. Board for Schools," *News and Observer, August 8, 1952*, p. 27; HCBEMM, Book 4, October 2, 1950, p. 212; May 9, 1951, pp. 217-218; July 24, 1951, p. 228; November 20, 1951, p. 233; April 22, 1952, pp. 240-241; July 7, 1952, pp. 244-245; April 6, 1953, pp. 253-254; January 4, 1954, p. 268; Harris, "Hyde's Schools, 21-22; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 162-164.

[27] *Davis High Echo* (student newspaper), Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1954; U. S. Census, Population Schedules, 1900-1940; death certificate; HCBEMM, Book 4, January 1, 1953, pp. 251-252; April 6, 1953, pp. 254-255.

advanced math, science, and citizenship, and supervised physical education. He coached the school's first basketball team, organized in fall 1953, as well as the softball team. The basketball court was located between the 1953 and 1925 buildings and the ball field was southeast of the school. Students published the initial issue of the *Davis High Echo* in May 1954. Campus improvements in 1954-1955 included construction of an arch over the walkway leading to the 1953 building's primary entrance and a U-shaped driveway with brick posts flanking its entrances, neither of which are extant. The P. T. A. raised funds for playground equipment and a stove, tables, and chairs for the lunchroom.[28]

Students from Fairfield (Carmur) School, the last elementary school for African American children to be consolidated, were assigned to Davis and Hyde County Training schools in fall 1955. Although the HCBE began requesting state funds for the construction of two classrooms and a lunchroom at Davis School in 1955, it would be almost a decade before an appropriation allowed for campus improvements. In the meantime, enrollment steadily grew, at times exceeding that of Hyde County Training School. In fall 1956, approximately 293 elementary and seventy-five high school youth regularly attended classes at Davis School, compared with 246 primary and fifty-three secondary-level children at Hyde County Training School. During the 1957-1958 term, 279 primary and eighty-three secondary Davis School youth were instructed by principal Spruill and eleven other teachers including his wife Lillian H. Spruill. Enrollment was comparable in 1959-1960, when 298 elementary-grade children studied in nine classrooms, five of which were in the 1925 building. Sixteen of eighty-two high school students graduated.[29]

In addition to their primary function, Davis and Hyde County Training schools continued to serve as community gathering places. Student plays, recitals, ceremonies, and other programs were open to the public. Area residents also gathered to support youth sports and attend events such as banquets, choir rehearsals, concerts, dances, and alumni homecomings. May Day, a celebration that involved students dancing around a tall Maypole while wrapping it with colorful ribbons, drew large crowds. Hyde County Training School celebrated Founder's Day each year on March 4th, the date of O. A. Peay's 1930 arrival to serve as the institution's principal. The Hyde County Training School Alumni Association, organized in June 1949, coordinated annual Memorial Day weekend gatherings with hundreds of attendees, many returning to Hyde County from Brooklyn, Norfolk, Philadelphia, and Washington, D. C., where large contingents of graduates found work. Alumni raised funds to subsidize student scholarships and campus improvements. Prior to the 1964 construction of a

[28] "Davis High School," Principal's Annual Elementary and High School Reports, 1954-1955; *Davis High Echo* (student newspaper), Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1954; HCBEMM, Book 4, April 20,1954, pp. 273-274; Alice Spencer Mackey and Erskine Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 24, 2022.

[29] HCBEMM, Book 5, August 26, 1955, p. 6; December 20, 1956, p. 43; January 7, 1957, p. 44; June 4, 1957, p. 55; July 30, 1957, p. 58; April 7, 1958, pp. 76-78; June 11, 1958, p. 80; "Chairman Berry Offers Figures on Enrollment," Belhaven Pilot, April 19, 1956, p. 2; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 162-163; Harris, "Hyde's Schools," 21-23; "Davis High School," Principal's Annual Elementary and High School Reports, 1959-1960.

gymnasium/auditorium at each school, classrooms and libraries were utilized for some events and meetings while others were held on the grounds.[30]

Davis and Hyde County Training schools' principals and teachers were respected leaders with deep community connections. Faculty boarded with local families, attended church services, joined civic organizations, and frequented local businesses, building relationships that contributed to a nurturing school environment in which students were inspired to achieve and held to high standards. The pedagogical approach espoused by principals and faculty facilitated development of academic, leadership, and teamwork skills and fostered personal growth, thus empowering youth to pursue higher education and realize community uplift. Many graduates attended college and became business owners, educators, lawyers, judges, physicians, writers, and community leaders actively engaged in social and political advocacy, often far from Hyde County.[31]

School Integration in Hyde County

Although the U. S. Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* decreed that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, most municipalities integrated slowly. The court addressed this recalcitrance in its May 1955 *Brown v. Board of Education II* opinion by mandating expedient desegregation. North Carolina's state legislature subverted the process by passing the 1955 Pupil Assignment Act, which afforded local school districts complete latitude in delineating student placement and thus perpetuated segregation. Governor Luther H. Hodges' administration also crafted the Pearsall Plan, enacted in September 1956, which codified integration avoidance mechanisms including school closure and provided state tuition subsidies for white students to attend private schools. The HCBE adopted both measures.[32]

The Charlotte, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem school boards were the first in the state to allow African American students to apply for admission to white schools in the summer of 1957. The few Black Hyde County parents who petitioned to obtain placements for their children at white schools between 1955 and 1965 were unsuccessful, as the HCBE rejected all applications for school transfers during that time. The Hyde County chapter of the NAACP, organized in the mid-1950s, began pressing for school integration in the early 1960s.[33]

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[30] Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 68; Azalea Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 13, 2022; Archie Green, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 16, 2022; Alice Spencer Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 24, 2022.

[31] Ibid.

[32] "Supreme Court Orders Local Officials to End School Segregation 'as Soon as Practicable,' " *Winston-Salem Journal*, June 1, 1955, p. 1; Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 24-26.

[33] Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 33-37; Jeffrey J. Crow, Paul D. Escott, and Flora J. Hatley, *A History of African Americans in North Carolina* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992), 171-173.

In an attempt to appease African American residents by "equalizing" facilities, the HCBE undertook improvements at Hyde County Training and Davis schools during the late 1950s and early 1960s. Architect Robert H. Stephens rendered plans for the four-classroom Hyde County Training School addition erected in fall 1957 by general contractor Kellog-Cuthrell, Inc., Corey Plumbing Company, and DeMers Electric Company at a cost of $39,950. After longtime principal O. A. Peay died in August 1961, the HCBE finally agreed to rename the campus in his memory. The Hyde County Training School P. T. A., alumni association, and other community members had been petitioning for the name change since April 7, 1958. In November 1963, Hyde County residents approved issuance of a $340,000 bond to subsidize the 1964 construction of three buildings designed by Wilson architect B. Atwood Skinner Jr.: almost identical gymnasium/auditoriums on each campus, a vocational building at O. A. Peay School, and a freestanding elementary classroom building at Davis School that supplemented the woefully inadequate 1925 Engelhard Ridge School. The 1925 building remained in use as it contained the lunchroom, a few classrooms, and storage rooms. Charles E. Boone, a Davis High School teacher who became principal in fall 1963, oversaw the 1964 projects' completion and the expansion of the high school curriculum to include home economics, typing, shorthand, and French courses. Eighty-six ninth- through twelfth-grade students regularly attended classes during the 1964-1965 term. Thirteen of fifteen seniors graduated in May 1965. During the 1965-1966 term, thirteen educators instructed 336 first- through eighth-grade youth. Extracurricular activities included a trip to the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh.[34]

Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 mandated school integration as a prerequisite for federal funding eligibility, it was not until the late 1960s that the HCBE, like most North Carolina school systems, initiated efforts to completely integrate school districts. The freedom of choice plan, enacted in 1965, would presumptively allow parents to choose which schools their children would attend. However, few Hyde County citizens took advantage of this opportunity due to the social and economic ramifications of challenging the entrenched Jim Crow system. In summer 1965, the HCBE granted the requests of twenty-one African American students including Ronald Blunt, Nancy Owens, Nora Lee Spencer, and Linda Weston to transfer from Davis and O. A. Peay schools to the newly constructed Mattamuskeet School that fall. The aforementioned youth became the first Black graduates of an integrated Hyde County high school. Black students struggled in a predominantly white environment without the comradery and support they had enjoyed at Davis and O. A. Peay schools, and transfers quickly diminished to seven in fall 1966 and three in fall 1967. No white students requested transfer to

[34] HCBEMM, Book 4, March 21, 1955, pp. 295-286; Book 5, December 14, 1955, p. 10; December 20, 1956, pp. 43; January 7, 1957, p. 44; May 28, 1957, pp. 53-54; January 9, 1958, p. 72; March 25, 1958, p. 74; April 7, 1958, p. 76, 78;"Hyde School Annex Dedicated," News and Observer, February 19, 1958, p. 10; "O. A. Peay," *News and Observer*, August 9, 1961, p. 3; "Davis High School," Principal's Annual Elementary and High School Reports, 1964-1965 and 1965-1966; B. Atwood Skinner Jr., "Addition to Davis School," October 1963; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 166-167.

Davis or O. A. Peay schools. Hyde County's public schools were the most segregated in North Carolina during this period. The U. S. Office of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) addressed the disparity in April 1967; informing the HCBE that the freedom of choice plan was not resulting in sufficient integration. A federal court judge ruled the plan unconstitutional and an invalid means of desegregating schools in 1968. That finding encouraged student busing to achieve racial integration, a practice that soon became widespread.[35]

Without consulting Black citizens, the HCBE adopted an integration plan approved by the HEW in May 1968 that would have closed Davis and O. A. Peay schools and terminated many African American faculty and staff. All 1,400 youth residing in Hyde County, 850 of whom were Black, would attend the centrally located Mattamuskeet School. The campus, which had since its fall 1964 completion served all of Hyde County's white elementary and high school students and a few African American youth, was already overcrowded. The proposed approach garnered immediate resistance from Black residents, who supported integration but decried the discriminatory plan that decimated important social and cultural institutions. The community designated the "Committee of 14," six men and eight women representing seven Black congregations, to negotiate with the HCBE for involvement in desegregation planning, African American faculty and staff retention, and ongoing utilization of Davis and Peay schools as integrated campuses. A broad coalition of Hyde County residents regularly gathered that summer to debate resistance strategies.[36]

In late August 1968, the Committee of 14, thwarted in their efforts to negotiate an equitable integration approach with the HCBE, enlisted the assistance of civil rights activists including Edenton-based Golden Frinks, state field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, to coordinate acts of civil disobedience including a public school boycott, demonstrations, marches, and sit-ins. The effort, dubbed the "Movement," garnered national attention as protestors, many of whom were children, were arrested and jailed from fall 1968 through summer 1969 for actions including playing basketball and releasing chickens in the streets of Swan Quarter. Participant Azalea Mackey, who was nine at the time, remembers that children were centrally clustered at marches for their protection. She assisted her grandmother and other elders as they made quilts to sell to raise funds for the movement. Alice Spencer, a rising high school junior, kept financial records, wrote press releases, recruited speakers, and planned events. Activists met in churches each evening to determine the following day's schedule. As demonstrations continued, youth refused to return to public schools, and racial tension escalated, Hyde County sheriff Charles Cahoon requested support from the state highway patrol. By November 22nd, approximately 125 demonstrators had been arrested, typically for blocking traffic, and jailed in Hyde and neighboring counties. State and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents were

[35] Crow, et. al., *A History of African Americans in North Carolina,* 171-173; Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 33-37, 41, 50-51; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 167-168.

[36] Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 36-37, 57, 59, 74-76.

dispatched to Hyde County to prevent violence. On February 9, 1969, approximately 125 activists began a 184-mile march from Job's Chapel in Swan Quarter to Raleigh. The group rode buses between the municipalities in which they demonstrated. Supporters joined the group during the six-day trip, resulting in an almost six-hundred-person contingent by the time activists arrived in Raleigh.[37]

Although the majority of Hyde County's African American youth refused to attend public schools during the 1968-1969 term, all three schools remained open. Black enrollment was negligible, ranging from eighteen at Davis, thirteen at O. A. Peay, and seven at Mattamuskeet schools in September 1968 to seventy, seventy-four, and twenty-two students at the respective schools in February 1969. Faculty and staff were placed in the untenable position of being required to report to campus or face job loss. Most refrained from overtly participating in boycott activities, but supported the effort in myriad ways. Teachers attended evening planning events and assisted parents and coordinators of the Movement schools in seven churches develop study programs.[38]

Some white Hyde County residents responded aggressively to Black activism. The most violent altercation took place on July 4, 1969, after a sniper fired into a car occupied by four African American youth near a Ku Klux Klan meeting in Middleton, southeast of Engelhard. In response, 125 Black citizens surrounded the hall where eighty Klansmen had gathered. Sheriff Cahoon and state troopers were unable to disperse the groups for hours, during which time Klan members' attempt to burn a cross resulted in an exchange of gunfire that wounded Debra Collins, a twelve-year-old African American Engelhard resident, as well as several policemen. Seventeen Klansmen were arrested at the scene and seven Black participants were later fined. The event epitomized the racial discord that roiled Hyde County in 1968 and 1969 as African American attempts to negotiate integration were met with covert and overt oppression.[39]

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[37] Roy Hardee, "Youths Arrested in Swan Quarter," *News and Observer*, November 13, 1968, pp. 1-2; Roy Hardee, "238 March to Hyde Co. Courthouse," *News and Observer*, December 1, 1968;"March on Raleigh to Begin Today," February 7, 1969; Roy Hardee, "18 Negroes Apologize; Get Release," *News and Observer*, January 12, 1969; Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 78-82, 86-93, 100-101; Azalea Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 13, 2022; "How One Rural North Carolina County Made Civil Rights History," WUNC interview with David Cecelski, Alice Spencer Mackey, and Azalea Mackey, May 28, 2019; Goldie Frinks Wells and Crystal Sanders, *Golden AsroFinks: Telling the Unsung Song* (Salt Lake City: Aardvark Global Publishing, 2009), 112-119.

[38] Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 120-123; Azalea Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 13, 2022; Lupton, *Olde Wickham*, 167-168.

[39] Although the Hyde County Klavern, organized in mid-1965, had less than fifty members, some large Klan rallies drew several hundred spectators. "James Earl Ray's Lawyer Hired" and "Seven Negroes Arrested for Klan Klashing," undated July 1969 clipping from unidentified newspaper in scrapbook in the possession of Michael Adams; Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 39-41, 145-146; Azalea Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 13, 2022.

To avoid another year of demonstrations, the HCBE presented two integration options that summer. The first reiterated the May 1968 plan that had triggered the boycott: closing Davis and O. A. Peay schools and consolidating all mainland Hyde County students at Mattamuskeet School, which would have to be significantly expanded at a cost of approximately $500,000 subsidized by municipal bond issue and a correlated tax increase. The second plan would utilize Davis and O. A. Peay as elementary schools and Mattamuskeet as the high school. This plan was by far the most pragmatic, as few facility modifications would be necessary, younger students would have shorter commutes, and elementary and high school students would be separated. Due to the highly charged political environment and the necessity of taxpayer support for the first option, the HCBE deferred plan selection until after the November 1969 election. As the issue could not be resolved before classes began in September, the HEW, HCBE, and African American community agreed that a return to the freedom of choice integration approach would suffice for the 1969-1970 term. In November, the bond referendum was defeated by a four-to-one margin and the second plan was adopted. The "Movement," deemed one of the most sustained and successful civil rights protests in America by historian David S. Cecelski, had achieved its goals. Hyde County's African American residents continued advocating for social and economic parity in arenas such as voter rights, compensation, business and public facility access, local government representation, and employment opportunity.[40]

Black youth returning to school in fall 1969 did not receive credit for their education at home and at "movement schools" led by retired teachers, college and high school students, parents, and other volunteers at seven Black churches. However, Alice Spencer Mackey and Azalea Mackey both felt that they received ample instruction and were more motivated and higher achieving students when they resumed classes at Davis School. Azalea remembered Black faculty members and progressive young white educators collaborated to ease the transition. In 1969-1970, principal Charles E. Boone and twelve teachers instructed 193 first- through eighth-grade and 115 ninth- through twelfth-grade students. Sixteen youth including Alice Spencer graduated. Bookkeeping and industrial arts had been added to the curriculum and French was dropped. Beginning in fall 1970, when full integration was finally achieved, Davis and O. A. Peay schools served first- through sixth-grade children, while seventh- through twelfth-grade youth were assigned to Mattamuskeet School.[41]

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[40] Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 98-99, 152-153, 159-162, 168; "How One Rural North Carolina County Made Civil Rights History," WUNC interview.

[41] "Davis High School," "Principal's Annual Elementary and High School Reports," 1969-1970; Roy Hardee, "HEW Oks Hyde School Plan," *News and Observer*, July 23, 1969, p. 3; *Educational Directory of North Carolina*, 1969-1970, 58; Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 101; Azalea Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 13, 2022; Alice Spencer Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 24, 2022.

Older students proactively organized a biracial planning committee to delineate protocol for merging aspects of campus life including athletics, clubs, extracurricular activities, student government, homecoming, prom, and graduation. Equal Black and white representation was required in every arena. In the process of faculty integration, Davis and O. A. Peay schools retained Black principals and some African American educators transferred to Mattamuskeet School. Young Black and white teachers brought a fresh perspective to all three campuses. O. A. Peay and North Carolina Central University graduate Archie Green of Swan Quarter was hired at Mattamuskeet School in fall 1971 after completing his student teaching there and remained until his 2001 retirement. He taught history and was the history club's faculty advisor during the 1971-1972 term. Graduation ceremonies were cancelled that spring due to controversy surrounding subject matter in a play presented by the history club that some found offensive.[42]

Davis School was enlarged with a cafeteria and kitchen wing in 1971. Fred G. Bogue headed the campus from fall 1971 until fall 1974, when Alfred Lockamy became principal. Davis and O. A. Peay schools were remodeled in a similar manner in 1982, when asphalt-shingled gable roofs were installed that encapsulate the original flat roofs and central flat-roofed rectangular monitors. At Davis School, suspended ceilings obscure the monitor windows as well as square window openings in the upper portions of corridor walls that facilitated light transference between the corridor and flanking rooms. However, these features are intact and visible from the attic. Following the cafeteria's completion, the 1925 Engelhard Ridge School functioned as a storage building until its demolition in the late 1970s or early 1980s, perhaps in conjunction with the 1982 renovation of the 1953 and 1964 buildings. Davis School closed at the conclusion of the 1998-1999 term following Mattamuskeet School's expansion to accommodate first- through sixth grades. Hyde County Schools has since operated two campuses—Mattamuskeet on the mainland and Ocracoke on the island—for kindergarten through twelfth-grade youth.

Davis School Post-1999 Renovation

After garnering public input regarding the potential function of Davis School, Hyde County pursued funding to renovate the campus for use as a business incubator and community center. A $98,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant facilitated the 1999 renovation of five classrooms in the 1964 building to serve as the Hyde Davis Business Enterprise Center (HDBEC). Davis School alumni formed the non-profit Davis High Ventures Corporation (DHV) in June 2000 and leased the 1953/1964/1971 building to house the Davis Youth Recreation and Community Center. That summer, Hyde County leased the existing baseball field to the nonprofit Engelhard Development Corporation, which utilized a 2001 North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant to construct the paved walking path that

[42] Archie Green, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 16, 2022; Azalea Mackey, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, May 13, 2022; Cecelski, *Along Freedom Road*, 160-161.

wraps around the baseball field south of the school and improve the northwest parking lot. In 2002, the nonprofit Hyde County Community Development Corporation (HCCDC) began operating the HDBEC and Hyde County was awarded a sizable Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Revitalization Strategies grant—$350,000 annually for five years—to stimulate the revitalization of Engelhard and the surrounding area. A portion of the money allowed for additional remodeling of the 1964 building and modifications to the 1953/1964/1971 building including installation of the commercial kitchen; work that was completed in 2007. Also in 2002, the Duke Endowment's Program for the Rural Carolinas granted the HCCDC $75,000 annually for two years to subsidize business development training for Hyde County residents at the HDBEC. A $201,000 2006 CDBG-Rural Initiative grant allowed Hyde County to finish renovating the 1964 building. The project, finished in 2007, resulted in the current floor plan. Traub Architecture + Design, headed by architect Gerald P. Traub, rendered plans for renovations of the 1953/1964/1971 and 1964 buildings executed betweem 2000 and 2009.[43]

Before the 1953/1964/1971 building sustained damage in 2019 during Hurricane Dorian, it hosted myriad educational and recreational programs for youth and adults; events including banquets, parties, reunions, weddings, funerals, and worship services; and served as an emergency response center. Hyde County has managed the HDBEC since the HCCDC's 2014 dissolution. The Beaufort-Hyde-Martin Regional Library system opened the Hyde County Public Library in the central north classroom on April 27, 2016. Since 2021, Beaufort County Community College's continuing education program has utilized the southeast office suite and northeast, northwest, and southwest classrooms. Courses offered at Davis Center include small business development, keyboarding, cooking, gardening, welding, and carpentry, as well as EMS/CPR, nurse aide, and notary public certification. Youth enrichment camps are held during the summer.[44]

[43] Michael Adams and Margie Brooks, conversations and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, March-June 2022; Alice Keeney, telephone conversations and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May-June 2022; Gerald P. Traub, telephone conversations and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 2022.

[44] Michael Adams and Margie Brooks, conversations and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, March-June 2022; Beaufort County Community College Small Business Center, "Class Schedule," https://www.beaufortccc.edu/ (accessed April 2022).

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Section 10. Geographical Data

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.401027 Longitude: -79.333643

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of approximately eight acres of Hyde County tax parcel # 8685-63-0956 (8.662 acres), as indicated by the heavy solid line on the enclosed map. Scale: one inch equals approximately one hundred feet.

Boundary Justification

The nominated tract encompasses most of the acreage historically associated with Davis School and provides an appropriate setting that conveys the complex's educational function. The northeast corner of the tax parcel, which contains a one-story, low-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided, modular 1994 building that serves as a child care center and the chain-link-fenced enclosed playground west of the building, is excluded from the National Register boundary since the area no longer contributes to the school's significance.

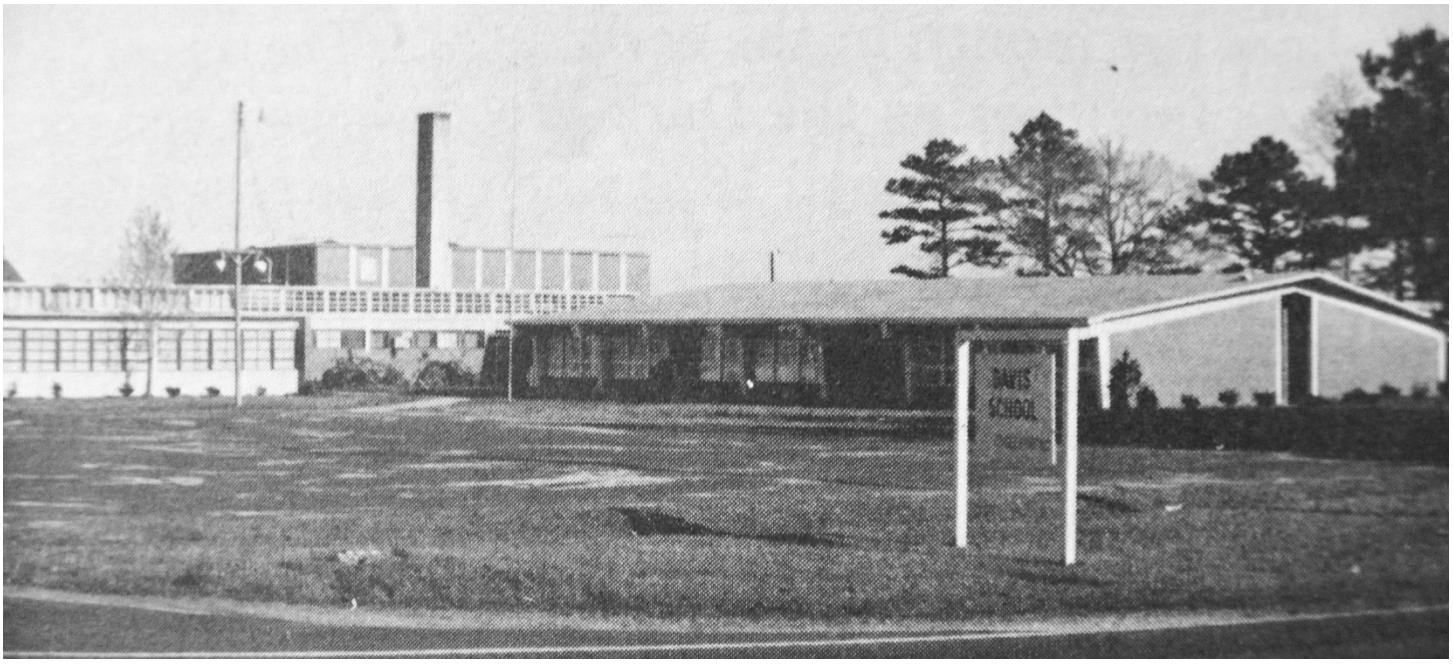
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 33

Davis School
Hyde County, NC

Historic Photograph



Looking southeast, 1976 photograph from *Hyde County History: A Hyde County Bicentennial Project* (Hyde County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1976), 54

Photographs

Photograph 1 taken by Andy Holloway, HoneyDrew Media, on September 4, 2020. Photographs 2-13 taken by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, on March 16, 2022. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. Looking northwest from parcel's southeast corner

2. Davis School, 1953, west elevation, looking southeast (above)
3. 1953 school and 1964 gymnasium, southwest oblique (below)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

4. 1953 school, east elevation (right), 1971 cafeteria/kitchen wing, 1964 gymnasium, looking south (above) and 5. 1953 west elevation, looking west (below)

6. southeast classroom, looking south (above) and 7. northeast classroom, looking south (below)

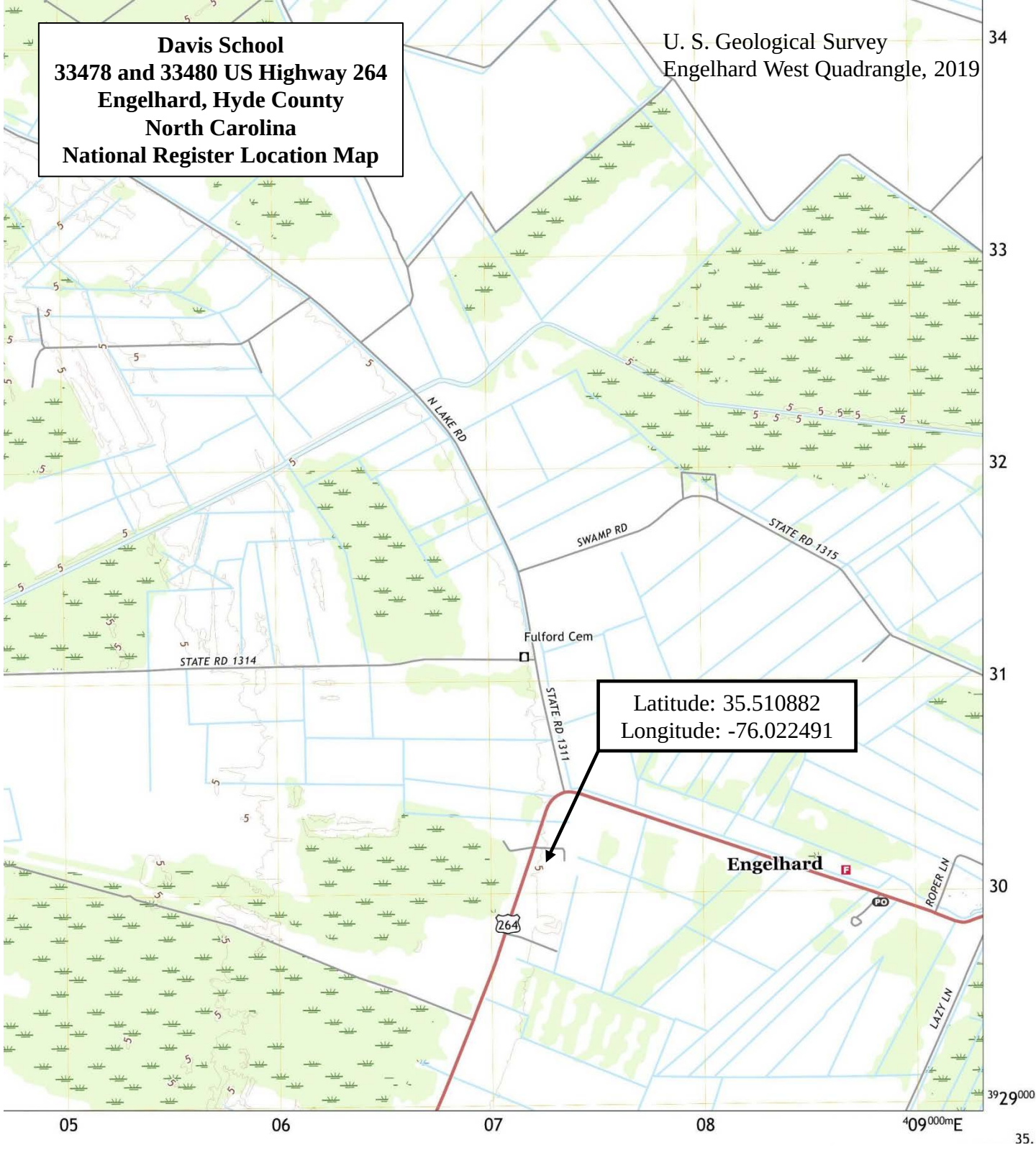
8. northwest classroom, looking west (above) and
9. gymnasium/auditorium, looking south (below)

10. 1964 classroom building, northwest oblique (above) and 11. southeast oblique (below)

12. 1964 building, south-central room (above) and 13. northwest room (below)

Davis School
33478 and 33480 US Highway 264
Engelhard, Hyde County
North Carolina
National Register Location Map

U. S. Geological Survey
Engelhard West Quadrangle, 2019



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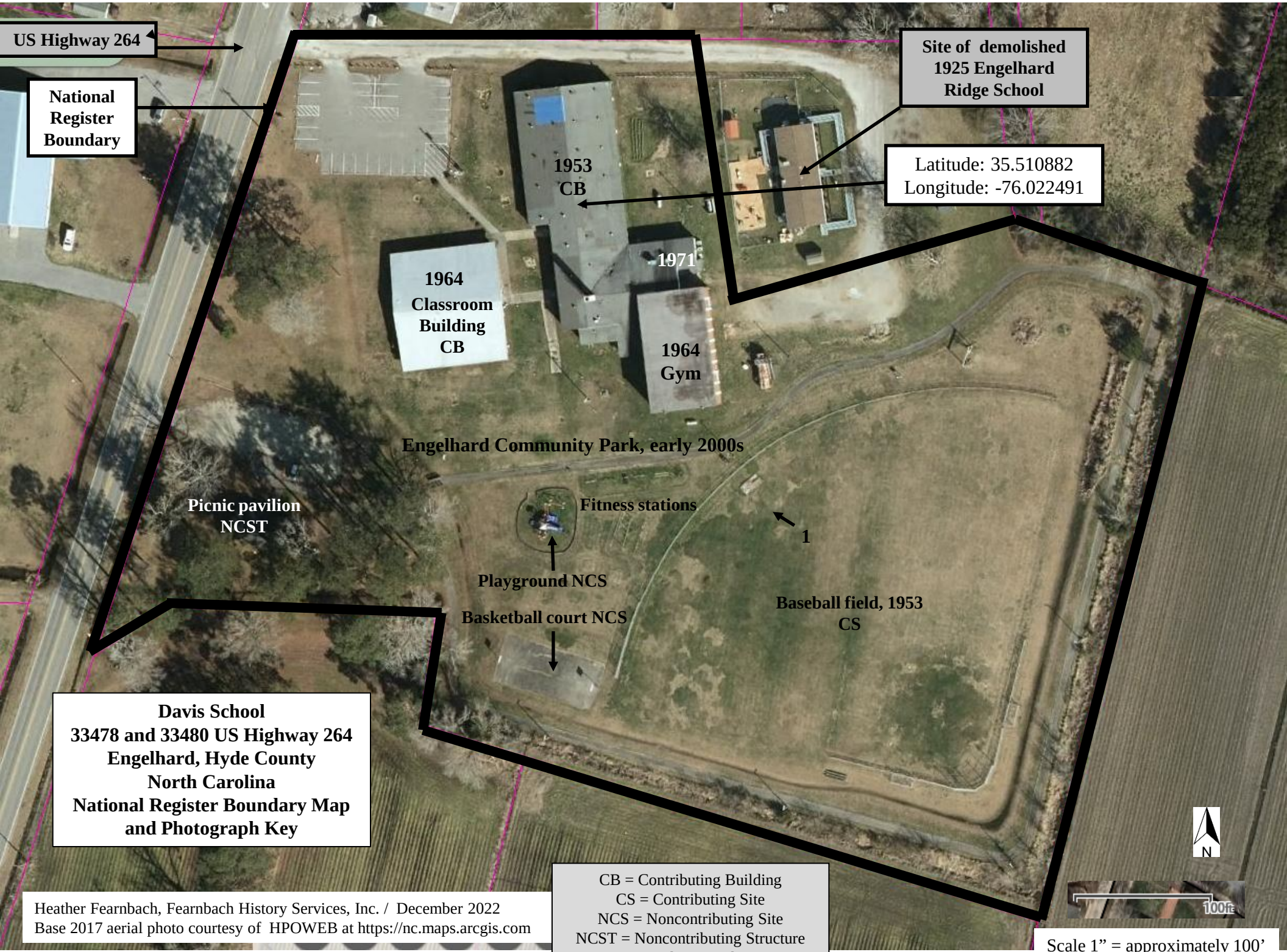
Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. / May 2022



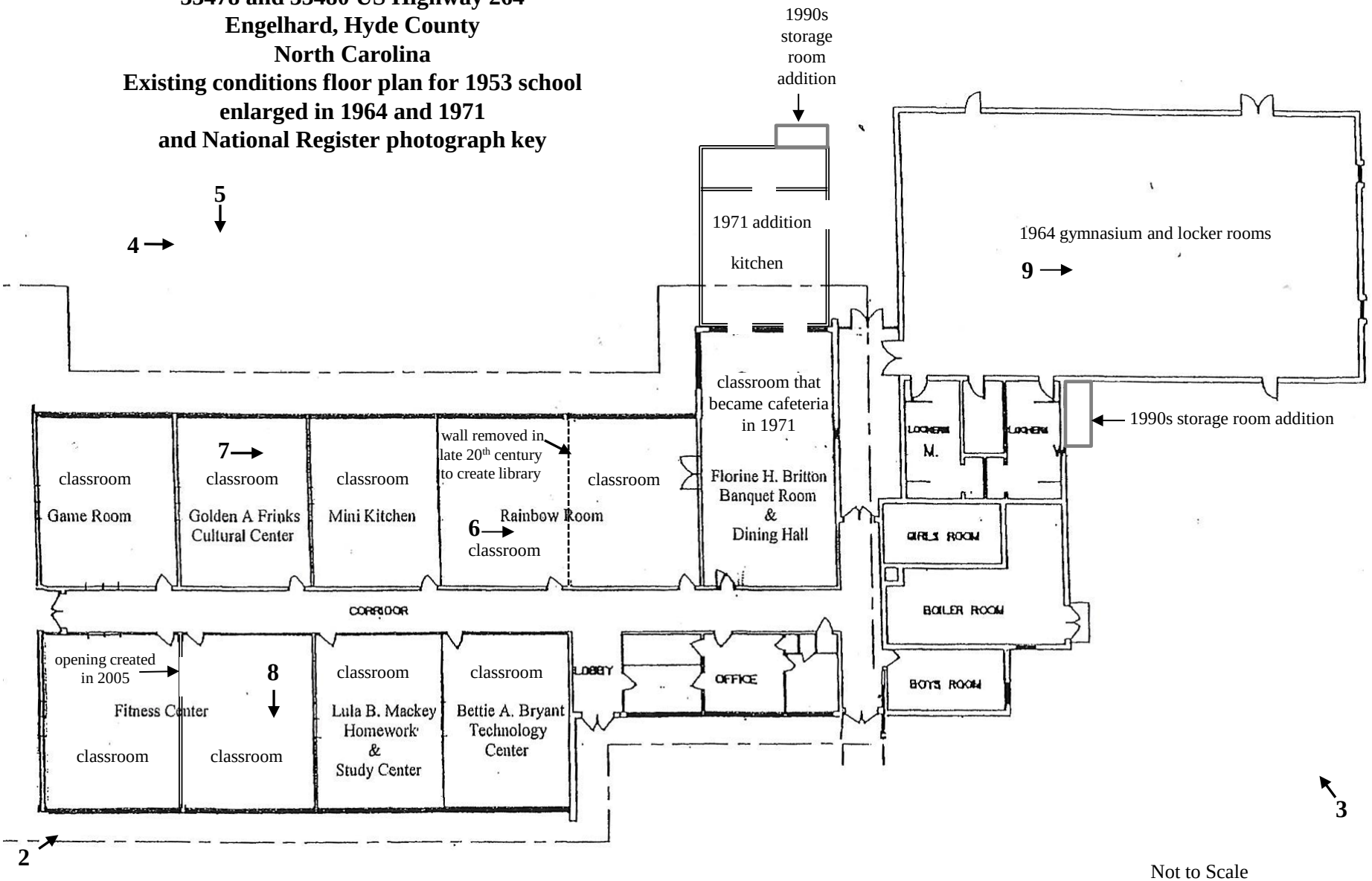
Davis School
33478 and 33480 US Highway 264
Engelhard, Hyde County
North Carolina
National Register Boundary Map and Photograph Key

CB = Contributing Building
CS = Contributing Site
NCS = Noncontributing Site
NCST = Noncontributing Structure
00 = photo number

Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. / December 2022
Base 2017 aerial photo courtesy of HPOWEB at https://nc.maps.arcgis.com

Scale 1" = approximately 100'

Davis School
33478 and 33480 US Highway 264
Engelhard, Hyde County
North Carolina
Existing conditions floor plan for 1953 school enlarged in 1964 and 1971 and National Register photograph key

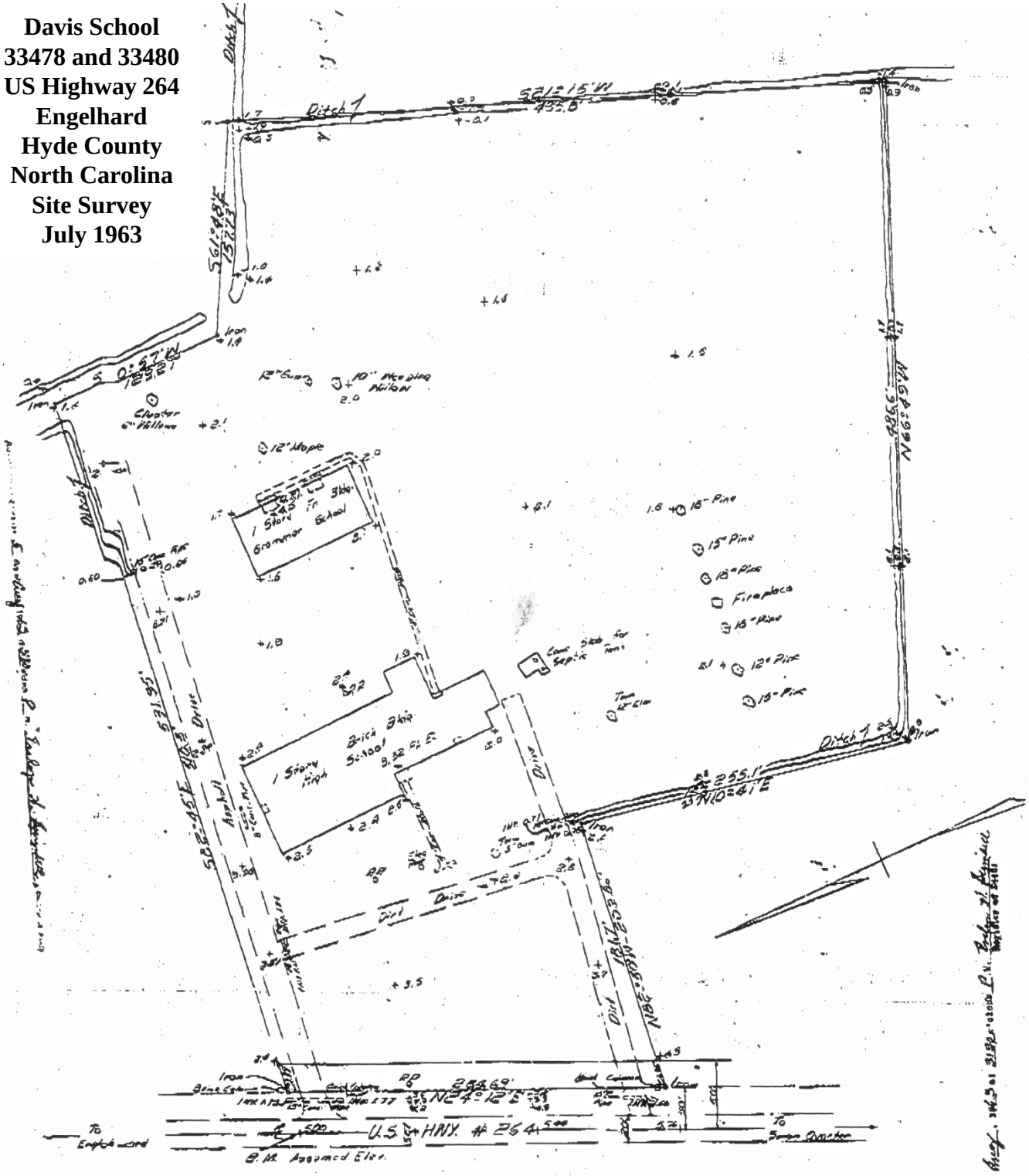


Not to Scale

N

Post-2005 floor plan provided by Davis Ventures
Annotated by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. / December 2022

Davis School
33478 and 33480
US Highway 264
Engelhard
Hyde County
North Carolina
Site Survey
July 1963

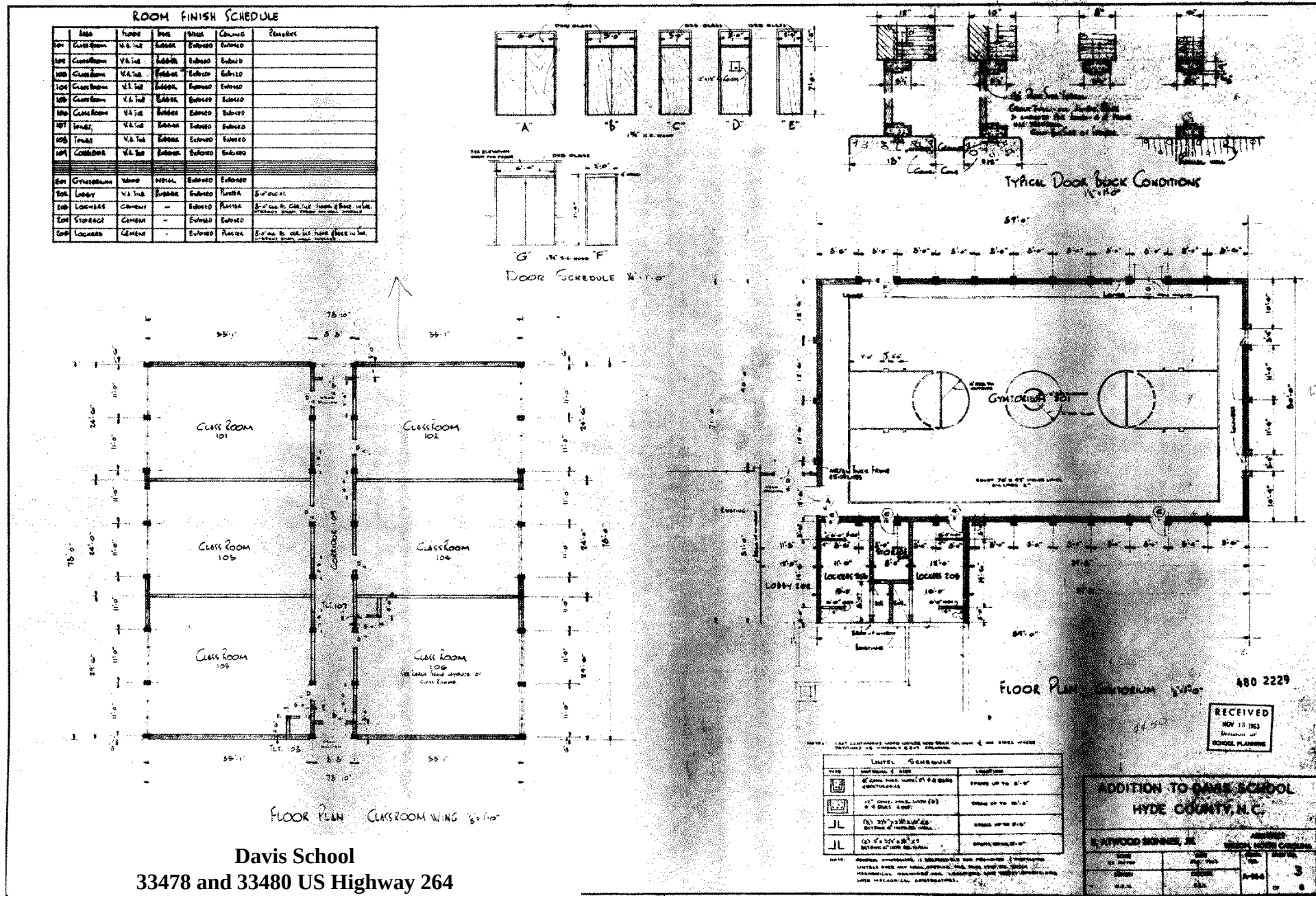


TOPO MAP
DAVIS SCHOOL
LOCATED IN
LAKE LANDING TOWNSHIP
FT. GEORGE & ASSOC. ENGRS.
JULY 1963

ENGLEHARD, N.C.
WILSON, N.C.
SCALE: 1" = 50'

Not to Scale

Map BK 1
Page 10
77B



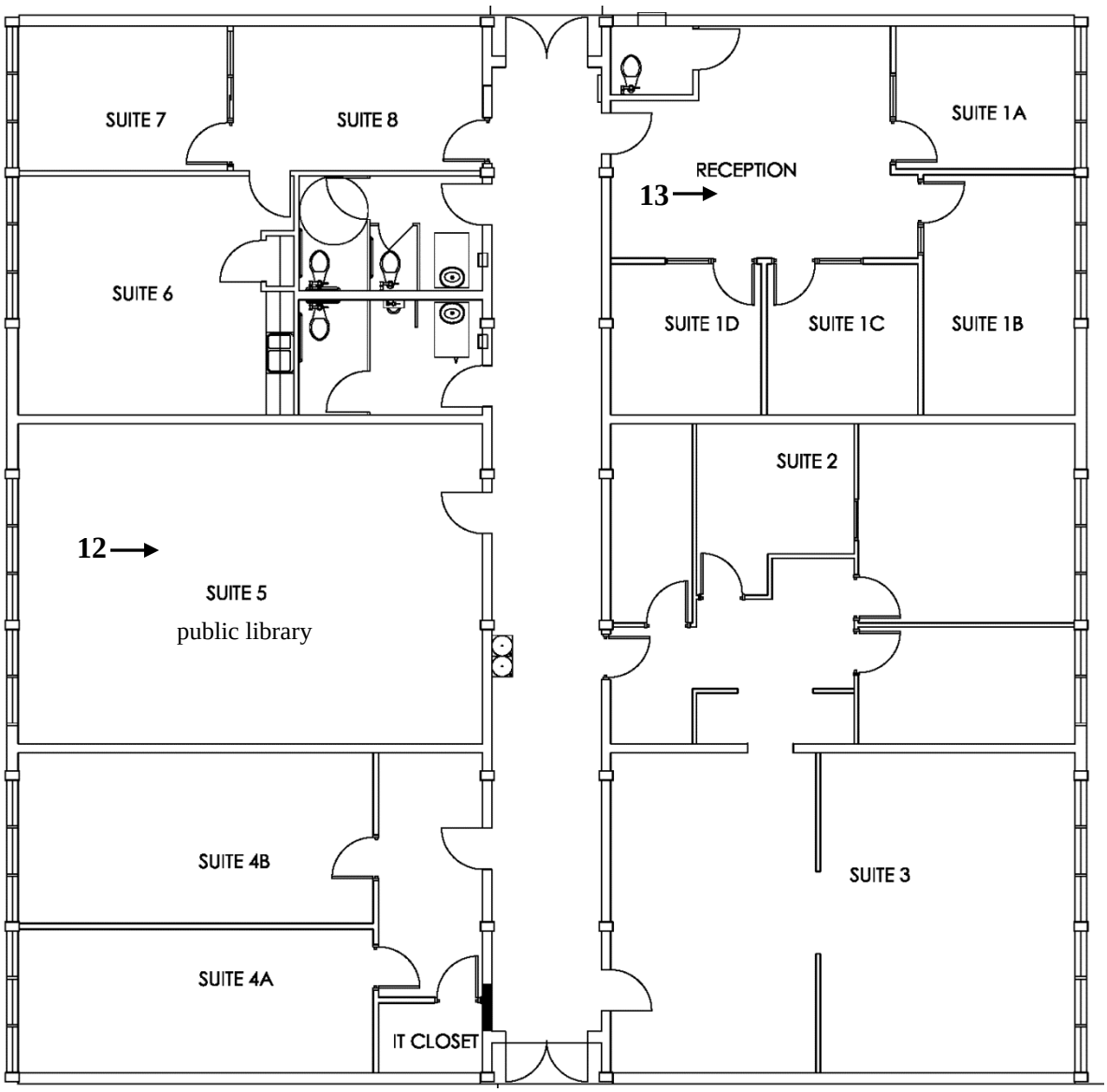
Davis School
33478 and 33480 US Highway 264
Engelhard, Hyde County, North Carolina
Original floor plans for 1964 classroom building and gymnasium/auditorium and locker room addition

Floor plan drawn by architect B. Atwood Skinner Jr. in October 1963

Not to Scale ←N

Davis School
33478 and 33480 US Highway 264
Engelhard, Hyde County, North Carolina
Existing conditions floor plan for 1964 classroom building and National Register photograph key

10



11

Not to Scale

Floor plan drawn by Traub Architecture + Design, May 21, 2007
Annotated by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. / December 2022

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