

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Pamlico County Training SchoolOther names/site number: Pamlico Central School, Pamlico Middle School

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A**2. Location**Street & number: 15526 NC Highway 55City or town: Bayboro State: NC County: PamlicoNot For Publication: Vicinity: **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A B C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

Private: ☐

Public – Local ☒

Public – State ☐

Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

Building(s) ☒

District ☐

Site ☐

Structure ☐

Object ☐

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

EDUCATION: school

Current Functions

EDUCATION: school

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials

Foundation: Concrete
Walls: Brick
Roof: Metal

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Pamlico County Training School is located at the intersection of NC 55 and McCotter Road in the Stonewall section of rural Pamlico County. The roughly 21.6-acre campus includes an interconnected series of buildings constructed in the 1950s and early 1960s, a repurposed ca. 1949 agricultural building, and recreational structures and playing fields. At least six of the primary buildings were designed by North Carolina architect Burrett H. Stephens (1878-1956) and his firm (Building A, Building B, Gym, Building C, Cafeteria, Building D-1), and it is conceivable that his firm designed Building D-2. The classroom buildings and associated walkways are generally laid out in an H-shaped configuration at the northwest portion of the school parcel. The gym and cafeteria are at the southeast, and the preexisting agricultural building to the south. Playing fields are south and east of the buildings. Most of the buildings are one story, except for the high school building (Building C), which is two stories. All of the classroom buildings share common design characteristics including large banks of windows and coordinated circulation patterns and were built in a modular component system that allowed for phased construction.

Narrative Description

The Pamlico County Training School occupies a 21.6-acre parcel southeast of the intersection of NC 55 and McCotter Road. The buildings are clustered at the northwest section of the parcel, with ballfields and outdoor recreation areas at the east. There are two semicircular drives south into the campus from North Carolina 55. The smaller one at the west services the main entrance of the school and intersects with the larger drive before exiting back onto North Carolina 55. The larger drive incorporates the former Hopkins Road and extends toward the gymnasium building. There are two triangular paved parking lots off McCotter Road and additional limited parking at

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

the main entrance to the school and near the gymnasium. Mature trees stand between the buildings and septic field, along the parcel boundary, and within the larger semicircular drive.

The campus includes a series of five brick-veneered classroom and administrative buildings, arranged roughly in an H-shaped pattern with open courtyards between them; a cross-gabled former agricultural building at the southwest; and a gym and cafeteria at the southeast. The three nodes of buildings (classrooms, former agricultural building, and gym/cafeteria) are connected by a series of covered walkways.

Evolution of the Campus

The site has evolved over time and grown from the original two-acre parcel purchased in 1910.¹ This initial purchase fronted North Carolina Hwy. 55 and included the two-story, frame Pamlico Male and Female Institute (no longer extant). In 1916 local businessman W.J. Swann platted the land surrounding the school south of N.C. 55 as a speculative subdivision called Prospect Park.² Two planned streets extended southwest from the highway on either side of the two-acre school tract. A portion of Booker Street appears to remain as the western entrance of the smaller semicircular drive. Hopkins Street is now the west leg of the larger semicircular drive. McCotter Road, which did not exist at the time Prospect Park was platted, may be the result of the Board of Education granting a right-of-way across the school holdings to Dr. S. E. McCotter in 1930, as the Board of Education continues to own additional land east of McCotter Road.³

Rosenwald Fund records suggest a teacherage was constructed there in 1920.⁴ WPA project cards suggest that in 1935-1936 a three-room, brick school was moved from Reelsboro to Stonewall.⁵ The two-acre original campus appears to have been the recipient of at least one other moved and recycled school building, as Board of Education meeting minutes note in June of 1941 that the Keys School building for African Americans had been moved to the Pamlico Training School campus.⁶ In 1948 the Board of Education purchased a roughly two-acre parcel southwest of the original holdings, between McCotter and Hopkins Roads.⁷

A photograph reproduced in a 1951 article in *The News and Observer* shows the two-story, frame building (former Pamlico Male and Female Institute) with a one-story, brick, cross-gabled building, resembling a Rosenwald design toward the west.⁸ The article continues to describe the campus as having two additional small frame buildings that, along with the brick building, were moved from other sites. The campus also had a frame teachers' dormitory and a principal's home. None of these buildings remain.

¹ *Pamlico County Deed Book 53*, 479.

² "Plan of Prospect Park" (subdivision plat), December 1916.

³ Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, June 26, 1930.

⁴ Pamlico County Training School Rosenwald Program record cards, Fisk University
<https://rosenwald.fisk.edu/s/rosenwald-fund-collection/page/home>

⁵ WPA project cards 65-32-1123, 165-32-2000, reproductions from National Archives in collection of the author.

⁶ Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, June 3, 1941.

⁷ *Pamlico County Deed Book 105*, 557.

⁸ Dallas Mallison, "Focal Point in Pamlico School Issue," *The News and Observer*, September 21, 1951.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

With the enlarged parcel, the Board of Education began its building campaign with the first phase of a multi-phased plan. Phase 1 consisted of a central heating plant and the first, one-story, eight-classroom building, completed in 1952. Drawings for this phase show an eventual buildout similar to what exists now.⁹ They also indicate six extant buildings and six smaller sheds, all of which are noted as to be removed/demolished except for one building at the southwest labelled as an agricultural shop, which would be retained (Figure 1). The first new building, referenced in this document for ease of identification as Building A, is located at the southeast quadrant of the H-shaped complex of classroom buildings.¹⁰ Also in 1952, the Board of Education purchased a number of contiguous parcels that greatly expanded the school's campus.¹¹ Notably excluded were a series of smaller subdivided parcels of Prospect Park, completely contained within what is now the eastern semicircular drive. These were eventually acquired in the early 1970s.

An April 1952 inventory of buildings on the campus includes the Pamlico County Training School (former Pamlico Male and Female Institute), an annex (likely the brick school building appended to the Institute building), an elementary school building (the new classroom building "A"), an agricultural building, a cafeteria, and a teacherage.¹² Bids for the second phase of the campus were opened in August 1952 for a six-classroom addition, and what was described variously as an auditorium or gym.¹³ The classroom addition ("B") was completed by fall of 1953, and presumably the gym as well.¹⁴

In November 1954 bids were solicited for a two-story, 16-classroom building (Building C) at the southwest quadrant of the "H" and a cafeteria addition near the gymnasium, which appear to have been completed in 1955.¹⁵ In September 1956 bids for yet another addition to the campus were let, the first part of the final northwestern section of the classroom buildings ("D-1").¹⁶

Building D-2 was constructed ca. 1962. While no architect is named in Board of Education minutes, and advertisements for bids for this building have not been discovered, it is not unreasonable to assume that B.H. Stephens's firm completed the complex, Stephens having died

⁹ Burrett H. Stephens and Robert H. Stephens, *Stonewall School* (drawings), 1951, in the collection of Paul Stephens.

¹⁰ Stephens and Stephens, *Stonewall School* (drawings); bid opening reported in Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, July 20, 1951; "Construction Slated for Pamlico School," *The News and Observer*, July 3, 1951.

¹¹ "Pamlico Buys School Site," *The News and Observer*, June 27, 1952.

¹² Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, April 7, 1952.

¹³ The classroom building was expanded to eight rooms. "Advertisement for Bids," *The News and Observer*, August 1, 1952.

¹⁴ In this document, the classroom building is referred to as Building B. Bid opening reported in Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, August 21, 1952; Burrett H. Stephens and Robert H. Stephens, *Addition to Pamlico Training School* (drawings), 1952, in the collection of Paul Stephens.

¹⁵ In this document, the classroom building is referred to as Building C; "Advertisement for Bids," *The News and Observer*, November 26, 1954.

¹⁶ In this document, the classroom building is referred to as Building D. Burrett H. Stephens and Robert H. Stephens, *Proposed Addition to Pamlico Training School* (drawings), 1956, in the collection of Paul Stephens; bid results reported in Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, November 12, 1956; "Advertisement for Bids," *The News and Observer*, September 29, 1956.

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

in 1956.¹⁷ The building continues to use the design vocabulary of the previous buildings and was anticipated in schematics by the Stephens firm.

The campus as it currently stands has a series of principal buildings that are connected by walkways both covered and enclosed. An open covered walkway extends north from the former agricultural building to intersect with a covered walkway that runs west from a point between the cafeteria and the gymnasium, across the southern elevation of Building A, to where the canopy terminates. For a short section the path is exposed before continuing in a glazed enclosure to a protected entrance and the south end of Building C. Enclosed circulation runs from the southern elevation of Building B through the original bathroom and boiler room wing, then continues between buildings C and D. An open, covered walkway extends north along the east elevation of Building D-1 before turning 90 degrees and extending west along the southern elevation of Building D-2.

Board of Education minutes note that J. W. R. Grandy III (1919-2001), a landscape architect from North Carolina A & T University, presented a landscape plan for the campus in May of 1962. No drawings have been yet discovered. There is no evidence that the plan was realized.¹⁸

INVENTORY

Building A	1952	Contributing Building
Building B	1953	Contributing Building
Building C	1955	Contributing Building
Building D-1	1957	Contributing Building
Building D-2	1962	Contributing Building
(former) Agricultural Building	ca. 1949	Noncontributing Building
Gym (Hubert L. Monk Memorial Gymnatorium)	1953	Contributing Building
Cafeteria	1955	Contributing Building
Shed	ca. 2000	Noncontributing Building
Baseball diamond/backstop	ca. 1995	Noncontributing Structure
Bleachers	ca. 1995	Noncontributing Structure
Ticket booth	ca. 2007	Noncontributing Building
Open gabled shelter	ca. 2000	Noncontributing Building
Baseball diamond/backstop	ca. 1990	Noncontributing Structure
Bleachers	ca. 1995	Noncontributing Structure
Equipment shed	ca. 2000	Noncontributing Building
Playground Equipment	ca. 1980	Noncontributing Structure

¹⁷ Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, April 3, 1962, indicate Trader Construction was awarded the bid but do not refer specifically to the architect.

¹⁸ Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, May 1, 1962.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

School Complex

The school complex was built in several phases. Each one is described separately.

Building A

1952

Contributing Building

This building is the first phase and is located as the southeast quadrant of the larger school complex.

Completed in 1952, this low-slung, one-story classroom building has a shallow gabled roof superimposed above the original flat roof. The gabled roof superstructure extends along the eaves. The exterior walls are clad in American bond brick veneer. The east and west elevations feature continuous concrete block courses above and below a series of twelve bays, which are divided by concrete “posts” that appear to be precast. Within each bay were paired, ten-light steel windows with rowlock sills. While the concrete bands and rowlock sills remain, the original fenestration in each bay has been replaced with banks of three fixed, single-pane metal windows with panels above.¹⁹

The interior features a double-loaded corridor with classrooms. Typical features and finishes include painted concrete block walls, suspended acoustical tile ceilings, and vinyl tile floors. In a dog-leg wing at the northwest corner of this building are restrooms and the original central boiler room for the complex, with a prominent central interior brick chimney (Figure 2). This building’s original north exterior door has been incorporated into a connecting hyphen with the adjacent Building B.

Exact dates of roof and window replacements are unknown. Aerial photos suggest that a gable roof was installed by 1993. Window replacement predates 2007.

Building B

1953

Contributing Building

This building is the second phase and is located as the northeast quadrant of the larger school.

Completed in 1953, this building continues with the design characteristics of its adjacent first-phase building. It is a low-slung, one-story classroom building with a shallow gabled roof superimposed above an original flat roof. The gabled superstructure extends along the eaves. The exterior walls are clad in six-course American bond brick veneer. The east and west elevations feature continuous concrete block courses above and below a series of twelve bays, that are divided by concrete “posts” that appear to be precast.²⁰ Within each bay were paired, ten-light steel windows with rowlock sills. The concrete bands and rowlock sills remain. The

¹⁹ Burrett H. Stephens and Robert H. Stephens, *Stonewall School* (drawings).

²⁰ The lower band is interrupted at four places to accommodate ventilation.

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

original fenestration has been replaced with banks of three fixed, single-pane metal windows with panels above.²¹

The concrete band that runs at the top of the windows on the east and west elevations continues on the north elevation, interrupted only by a central masonry opening that houses double-leaf glazed doors with two large fixed-light transoms above. Affixed on this elevation, east of the central doorway, are the words PAMLICO COUNTY / MIDDLE SCHOOL in metal letters with a sans-serif typeface.

The interior features a double-loaded corridor with classrooms. Typical features and finishes include painted concrete block walls, suspended acoustical tile ceilings, and vinyl tile floors. Between Buildings A and B there was a covered walkway that was subsequently enclosed. This hyphen has a low brick wall above which is a metal grid into which doors, windows, and solid-colored panels have been inserted. The hyphen is set back on its east elevation except for a single bay adjacent to the northern building (Building B), which projects slightly and has double doors and a projecting canopy supported by metal pipes.

Exact dates of roof and window replacements are unknown. Aerial photos suggest that a gable roof was installed by 1993. Window replacement predates 2007.

Building C

1955

Contributing Building

This building is the third phase and is located as the southwest quadrant of the larger school.

This is the only two-story building on campus. It has a shallow, metal, gabled, replacement roof matching those on other buildings on campus.

On the east elevation, a continuous band of precast concrete runs horizontally at grade, a second band runs horizontally just below the eaves, and a third band between them provides a visual separation between the first and second floors. The elevation is divided by precast members into 13 identical bays. In each bay, on each floor, the area bounded by precast concrete is divided into two parts. The lower part is brick veneer in six-course American bond topped by a rowlock sill, above which is a bank of three square, single-pane metal windows, each topped by a metal panel. A fourteenth bay at the north is obscured by a covered walkway.

Likewise, the west elevation is divided into fifteen bays, those fourteen at the north are identical to the pattern on the east elevation. The southernmost bay is similarly bound by precast concrete, and on the first floor an additional concrete band divides this bay in half vertically. On the second floor, a single masonry opening houses a composite window with a central metal window with metal panels below and above. This southernmost bay is clad in brick veneer in a running bond pattern.

²¹ Burrett H. Stephens and Robert H. Stephens, *Addition to Pamlico Training School* (drawings), 1952, in the collection of Paul Stephens.

Pamlico County Training School

Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina

County and State

The south elevation of the building is divided between a projecting western half clad in a running bond brick veneer, and an eastern half that is set back and obscured by a one-story, enclosed walkway. The western projecting section is divided visually into four sections by concrete bands, those at the west wider than those at the east. The upper two levels have single-pane metal windows with colored metal panels. The lower level has no masonry openings at the west, but to the east has double glazed doors flanked by sidelights and topped with a row of three metal panels. The fenestration pattern continues in the enclosed walkway, which is divided into four bays that have three metal windows with panels above set on a low brick base. The exposed upper level of the east section of the elevation has no masonry openings and is clad in six-course American bond brick veneer.

The interior of the building is organized around double-loaded corridors with classrooms. Typical features and finishes include painted concrete block walls, suspended acoustical tile ceilings, and vinyl tile or low-pile carpeted floors. Double-run stairs with landings are found at the north and south ends of the halls. The stairs have metal handrails with metal mesh panels. The stairwells are said to have originally been exterior stairs, later enclosed.

Exact dates of roof and window replacements are unknown. Aerial photos suggest that a gable roof was installed by 1993. Window replacement predates 2007. The date of the stair enclosures is unknown.

Building D-1

1957

Contributing Building

This building is the fourth phase and is located as the northwest quadrant of the larger school.

The final one-story classroom and office complex at the northwest quadrant of the campus is L-shaped in footprint, composed of Building D-1, completed in 1957, and Building D-2, completed in 1962.

Building D-1 runs on a north/south axis aligned with Building C. As with the other buildings on the campus, a shallow, metal gable roof with extended eaves has been added to the building. Its north elevation has no masonry openings and is laid in six-course American bond. Its west elevation is divided into two parts. At the north, the brick veneer continues in six-course American bond with no masonry openings. South, beyond a vertical seam in the brickwork, the veneer is laid in running bond. There are seven bays, divided by slightly projecting concrete posts and topped by a continuous concrete beam. Six of the seven bays have a thin band of three small, metal, fixed windows beneath the beam. In the fifth bay from the north, the windows are slightly larger.

At its south elevation, Building D-1 abuts Building C, though a portion of the brick end wall laid in six-course American bond is exposed at the west, adjacent to a single-bay, one-story, recessed hyphen. Its east elevation is sheltered by an exterior walkway supported by metal pipes. Similarly to the west elevation, it is divided into ten bays by vertical concrete posts that support a continuous concrete beam. The northern four bays include large trios of fixed, metal windows. The fifth, seventh and ninth bays have a thin band of three small metal fixed windows beneath

Pamlico County Training School

Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina

County and State

the beam as on the opposite elevation. The sixth, eight and tenth bays have a combination of similar window typologies combined with glazed exterior doors.

The covered walkway terminates on the south side of the east elevation at a pair of glazed doors that provide access to what appears to have been a covered walkway, now enclosed, to Buildings C, A, and B.

Exact dates of roof and window replacements are unknown. Aerial photos suggest that a gable roof was installed by 1993. Window replacement predates 2007.

Building D-2

1962²²

Contributing Building

This building is the fifth phase and is located as the northwest quadrant of the larger school, as a wing perpendicular to Building D-1.

This one-story building has a shallow, gabled, metal replacement roof like the others on campus. Its north elevation has a brick veneer laid in a pattern of six courses of running bond to a single course of Flemish bond. At its eastern end is a small, gable-roofed, glazed vestibule, an addition that appears to have been enclosed between 2013 and 2018. A small brick planter box wraps the northeast corner of the building. West of the entrance vestibule are two bays, each with small paired, square, metal windows tucked under the eaves. Extending to the west are five additional bays that are divided by vertical concrete block members, and a slightly projecting brick end wall at the far west. Each bay is slightly recessed and has a low brick wall laid in a 5:1 pattern of running bond and Flemish bond, topped by a bank of six single-light metal windows. The west elevation is a brick end wall with no fenestration or masonry openings with the same brick running and Flemish bond veneer found on the north elevation. The east elevation contains a large bank of seven, two-part, metal windows resting between brick end walls and set on a low brick wall. Each window is topped by a small metal panel.

A covered walkway between Buildings D-1 and D-2 stretches along much of Building D-2's south elevation. The western portion of the south elevation, west of Building D-1, is divided by concrete block members into five bays. Each bay has a single-leaf, metal door west of and adjacent to the concrete block members. Extending across this elevation beneath the eaves and above the doors, interrupted only by the concrete block dividers, is a continuous ribbon of smoked glass single-pane windows that terminates at the top of the easternmost exterior door. In the portion of the southern elevation of the D-2 between it and D-1, there are two additional exterior metal doors leading to restrooms. The portion of the southern elevation that extends east of the D-1 houses a single-leaf metal door on axis with the covered walkway that extends south along the side of Building D-1.

²² "Bayboro" (aerial photo), North Carolina Geological Survey, 1958; "Survey for Pamlico County Board of Education" (plat), June 1968. Pamlico County Board of Education meeting minutes, December 20, 1962, indicate the wing is completed.

Pamlico County Training School

Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina

County and State

Exact dates of roof and window replacements are unknown. Aerial photos suggest that a gable roof was installed by 1993. Window replacement predates 2007.

(former) Agricultural Building

ca. 1949²³ Noncontributing Building

This one-story building has a side-gabled original section to the north with a low, cross-gabled ell extending to the south. The entire building is clad in running bond brick veneer. The principal entrances are two glazed doors on the north elevation sheltered by a metal canopy that is an extension of a covered walkway between this building and the classroom buildings at its north. The fenestration in the core is generally paired, metal, fixed windows, while the ell generally has smaller paired, metal windows set beneath the eaves. The ell has a vehicular roll-up door on the south side of its west elevation.

The core section has two principal rooms: one used as a music room and one as a "STEM" room. The rear ell contains a wrestling room and weight room. Typical interior treatments are painted concrete block walls and suspended acoustical tile ceilings. Some evidence of earlier construction is found on the interior of the east room of the core section, including two brick flues and a framed partitioned room with horizontal plank cladding at its west wall.

The building may have originally been wood frame. The ell was completed between 1958 and 1968.²⁴ The dates of other alterations are unknown.

Gym (Hubert L. Monk Memorial Gymnatorium) 1953

Contributing Building

The gymnasium is a tall, one-story volume with a replacement metal paneled gabled roof similar to many throughout the campus. The west elevation has a one-story, shed-roofed addition clad in running bond brick, housing a lobby and offices, that spans the elevation. Similarly, the east elevation has a one-story, shed-roofed addition clad in running bond brick. There is a small concrete block addition at the building's southeast corner.

The original exterior walls are clad in six-course American bond. Two columns of glass block windows on the facade appear to be extant beneath wooden covers. The primary entrance, once centered on the facade, is now on the north elevation of the facade's shed-roofed addition. Architectural drawings show that the center of the facade between the glass block windows was to be of concrete block, which remains. The low, shed-roofed addition across the façade has four metal windows and a metal door on the west elevation.

The north and south elevations are divided into six uneven bays by concrete pilasters. Originally each of these elevations had five sets of steel windows, one set for each bay save for the

²³ The building is located on acreage purchased in 1948 and is seen in drawings dated 1951. School Board minutes of October 4, 1949, include request for reimbursement of materials used in the "colored agriculture building."

²⁴ The current building footprint was established between 1958 and 1968; Burrett H. Stephens and Robert H. Stephens, *Proposed Addition to Pamlico Training School* (drawings), 1956, in the collection of Paul Stephens; "Bayboro" (aerial photo), North Carolina Geological Survey, 1958; "Survey for Pamlico County Board of Education" (plat), June 1968.

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

westernmost bays.²⁵ On the south elevation two sets of windows have been bricked in to accommodate HVAC equipment. On the north elevation all windows remain. This elevation also has a set of double-leaf doors in its easternmost bay.

On the east elevation, the concrete block addition has two windows and a single-leaf door, all metal. The shed-roofed rear addition has one central pair of metal doors with panels above louvers. It also has a single metal window on its north and south elevations, respectively. The shed-roofed rear addition encapsulates a concrete block flue positioned on the exterior of the original wall plane and set slightly north of center. The walkway between the gym and the cafeteria is covered, and the cafeteria and walkway obscure some of the gym's north elevation.

The addition across the building's original facade contains a small lobby with a set of office suites to the south. The lobby provides access to the main gymnasium space. The interior of the gymnasium space has an exposed bow truss roof structure and a recreation space designed primarily for basketball but adaptable for other activities. Wooden expandable bleachers are positioned along the north and south walls. At the east end of this large room is a proscenium stage, flanked north and south by doors that lead to the backstage and ultimately to locker rooms in the shed-roofed rear addition. Interior finishes are utilitarian. Exposed brick and concrete walls are painted. The gymnasium floor has a synthetic overlay. The stage has wooden floors. The areas stage right and left, and the rear locker room addition have tile floors. The proscenium stage has a slight thrust that is decorated with wooden channels, giving the stage front a streamlined effect.

The exact dates of the additions and roof replacement are unknown. The addition along the facade appears to have been built between 1993 and 1998. The east and southeast additions appear clearly in aerial from 2003. The new roof was in place by 1993.

Cafeteria

1955

Contributing Building

This one-story building, clad in six-course American bond, has a low, gabled, replacement roof similar to others on campus. Generally square in footprint, it has a small shed-roofed addition on the north side of its west elevation, and a projecting, covered service bay at the north side of its east elevation. The south elevation, opposite the gym, has two entrances: a metal single-leaf door with a single light at the west side of the elevation and double doors of the same material and design as the single door, roughly centered on the elevation.²⁶

In addition to the small addition, the west elevation has four bays, each with three square, single-pane, fixed metal windows set under the eaves. Two of the panes have been replaced with ventilation ducts. On the north elevation, the shed-roofed addition at the west has a single-leaf, metal door. Immediately adjacent to it and the main core of the building are four small fixed, metal windows. Roughly centered on the elevation are two masonry openings, one of which has been infilled and the second of which houses a rectangular louver.

²⁵ Stephens and Stephens, *Addition to Pamlico Training School* (drawings).

²⁶ Though these doors appear to be original, that cannot be confirmed.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

The east elevation has three single-light metal windows at its south. They are set beneath the eaves, but brickwork repair below them suggests they may have been taller windows at one point. At the north side of the elevation are two single-leaf, metal exterior doors. The door at the far north is within a projecting service bay; the door adjacent to it is covered by a canopy.

On the interior, approximately two-thirds of the space, toward the south, is a dining area. The northern third is divided into a service area to the west and an enclosed storage and preparation area to the east. Interior walls are painted concrete block. Ceilings are suspended acoustical tile. The majority of the floor is vinyl tile, but there is some terracotta tile in the kitchen area.

The dates of the addition, roof replacement, and likely window replacement are unknown, though the new roof appears to be in place by 1993.

Shed **ca. 2000 Noncontributing Building**

West of the agricultural building is a prefabricated, gable-roofed, frame shed clad in T-111 siding.

South Ballfield complex

It consists of

- | | |
|--|---|
| baseball diamond/backstop | ca. 1995 Noncontributing Structure |
| This is a diamond-shaped pattern formed on the ground with fencing behind the home base area. | |
| bleachers | ca. 1995 Noncontributing Structure |
| This is tiered portable metal seating, currently set along the first and third base lines and behind home plate. | |
| ticket booth | ca. 2007 Noncontributing Building |
| This is a small, frame, gable-roofed building. | |
| open gabled shelter | ca. 2000 Noncontributing Building |
| This is an open, frame, gabled shelter. | |

East Ballfield complex

It consists of

- | | |
|--|---|
| baseball diamond/backstop | ca. 1990 Noncontributing Structure |
| This is a diamond-shaped pattern formed on the ground with fencing behind the home base area. | |
| bleachers | ca. 1995 Noncontributing Structure |
| This is tiered portable metal seating, currently set along the first and third base lines and behind home plate. | |
| equipment shed | ca. 2000 Noncontributing Building |

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

This is a small, frame, gable-roofed building.

Playground Equipment

ca. 1980 Noncontributing Structure

This includes various typical metal playground equipment, notably swing sets and “monkey bars.”

Integrity

The Pamlico County Training School has not been moved and thus retains its integrity of location. The surrounding context is a slightly developed, rural coastal environment that has changed little since the period of significance, giving it a high degree of integrity of setting.

The design, workmanship and materials have been impaired notably by replacement roofs and windows. The impact is mitigated by the fact that the roofs, though gabled, are very shallow and read as flat roofs. Replacement windows reflect and respect the original masonry openings for fenestration and continue to provide ample natural light and ventilation as originally intended. Glass block at the gymnasium appears to remain though covered, and many of the gym’s original metal windows remain as does its bow truss seen in the interior. B. H. Stephens’s H-shaped layout, a critical masterplan element that allowed among other things for phased construction, has been retained. Circulation patterns, both interior and exterior, remain. These include double-loaded corridors in the classroom buildings and a series of covered and enclosed walkways between the buildings

The campus is currently in use as a school, giving the property a high degree of feeling and association.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

To be provided by OSA

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Areas of Significance

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

SOCIAL HISTORY: Civil Rights

Period of Significance

1948-1969

Significant Dates

1951, 1954, 1964, 1969

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

B. H. Stephens

Schaefer Construction

Godwin Building Company

Trader Construction Company

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Pamlico County Training School is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Education, Social History: Civil Rights, and Ethnic Heritage: Black. As the Pamlico County public schools' administration and organization evolved and consolidated through the 20th century, the Pamlico County Training School emerged as the preeminent institution for public education of African Americans in the county. The campus grew during the period of significance in response to litigation and legislation for Civil Rights that shaped African American education in Pamlico County, North Carolina, and the nation. An intensive and expedited modernization campaign between 1952 and 1962 all but replaced the preexisting campus with a consolidated "equalization school" that housed nearly all of the county's African American students until the integration of the Pamlico County school system. Given the quality and extent of construction in a compressed period of time at the cusp of school integration, it was retained as a school, unlike many Black schools from the early twentieth century. Despite integration, the campus has continued to be a distinct focus of pride for the county's African American population. The Period of Significance begins in 1948, the construction date of the Agriculture Building, which is the earliest extant building on campus, ends in 1969 when the county schools were integrated.

Narrative Statement of Significance

In 1910 officers of the Pamlico Male and Female Institute, a white private school, executed a deed conveying to the Pamlico County Board of Education a two-acre parcel in the Number 2 township that included a two-story, frame school building.²⁷ The building was then reportedly briefly used as a public school for white students and vacated before being used for African American students by 1920.²⁸ Board of Education minutes reflect the complex relationships with regional, race-based educational committees. The Board loaned \$500 to the School Committee

²⁷ *Pamlico County Deed Book 53*, 479.

²⁸ Dallas Mallison, "Focal Point in Pamlico School Issue," *The News and Observer*, September 21, 1951.

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

of District Township 2 Colored Race and disbursed an additional \$100 out of the building fund for the purchase of the school building that was then titled in the county board's name, not the township committee's.²⁹

In the early twentieth century, Pamlico County Schools were organized in parallel systems divided by race, then subdivided into numerous geographical districts supported in part by local taxing districts, and then further subdivided into committees for each school. While there was a Pamlico County Board of Education, local committees wielded significant power, and their decision-making was focused and hyperlocal. Early minutes of the Pamlico County Board of Education reflect the numerous constituencies. In 1913 the county had 22 white school districts and 12 African American school districts, as well as 12 local (school) tax districts.³⁰ In the first half of the twentieth century there was a statewide push for school consolidation to achieve economies of scale and to pool resources for improved physical plants and instruction. Accordingly, by 1933 the number of school districts in Pamlico County had been reduced to five; however, there were still segregated local committees and advisory committees for specific schools.³¹

In the late 1940s, despite consolidation, the racial inequity of Pamlico schools' facilities was stark. In a sparsely populated county where the racial divide was approximately 60 percent white and 40 percent African American, the value of white school facilities was \$585,800 and of African Americans' \$31,000.³² Against this backdrop, in October 1949 the school board voted to approve a plan for a new consolidated high school near Bayboro for all the county's white students.³³ Later that month, members of the board met in Raleigh with state officials who "approved the plans of the Pamlico County Board of Education and at the same time offered his congratulations to the Board of Education of Pamlico County for its far-sighted and progressive plan."³⁴ The board budgeted \$250,000 for the white high school, largely funded from a state education bond.³⁵

The plans for the new white high school prompted action in the African American community. According to Board of Education minutes from February 1951, a "delegation made-up of colored people came before the Board to ask what the progress being made on the colored school building program. They were told that . . . the Board planned to take action at once."³⁶ Later that month the board directed B. H. Stephens, architect for the white high school, to develop preliminary plans for an African American school with a budget of \$83,000 of state funds.³⁷ The board briefly considered dividing that budget between an elementary school at Oriental and a central (African American) high school. Clyde Erwin, the State Superintendent of Public

²⁹ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, October 10, 1910.

³⁰ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, July 19, 1913.

³¹ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, July 10, 1933; May 2, 1949.

³² Sarah Caroline Thuesen, *Greater than Equal* (UNC Press, 2013), 194-195.

³³ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, October 4, 1949.

³⁴ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, October 26, 1949.

³⁵ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, October 4, 1949; Thuesen, *Greater than Equal*, 194-195.

³⁶ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, February 5, 1951.

³⁷ Pamlico County Board of Education Minutes, February 26, 1951.

Pamlico County Training School

Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina

County and State

Instruction, advised them that given the small amount of funding, it would be better spent on a single project. Erwin wrote the Board of Education, "it is my understanding that the two-story frame structure at Bayboro [Pamlico Institute building] is in a very dangerous condition. I suggest that you and your board plan to spend all of the \$83,000.00 in order to provide the maximum obtainable in the way of desirable facilities at this union school."³⁸

In April 1951 the board provided additional instructions to the architects to develop a plan for a larger "union school," of which the \$83,000 project would be a first phase. This first phase would need to be designed with heating and sewage systems that could accommodate the anticipated expanded campus.³⁹ Designs were presented at a public meeting and were advertised for bids, which were opened and awarded in July.

Despite the progress on new construction on the Pamlico County Training School campus, the Board of Education was accused of discrimination in a telegram from M. Hugh Thompson, an African American attorney of Durham, to the state's attorney general, Harry McMullen. Likely spurred by Thompson's communications, in August the Pamlico County Board of Education requested an additional \$100,000 in state school building funds to "modernize the Pamlico County Negro training school."⁴⁰

Thompson, an African American attorney and native of Goldsboro, was no stranger to school discrimination cases. In 1949, he filed a federal suit against the Durham City schools requesting equalization of facilities. In 1951, the courts found that local officials were guilty of discrimination. In 1950, he filed school discrimination suits on behalf of students in Washington County and the city of Wilson, North Carolina. Thompson advised that a group of African American parents had contacted him about discrepancies in the quality of facilities in Pamlico County. Thompson suggested that the state withhold funding until he received a response from his communication to the local Board of Education. *The News and Observer* reported that Pamlico County Board of Education member Freddie Horton, Jr. agreed the division of state money for schools had not been equitable.⁴¹

A Pamlico County Board of Education meeting on August 7, 1951 was moved to a courtroom to accommodate the large number of citizens attending. A letter from attorney Thompson to the Board of Education was read, stating he had been retained by a group of African American citizens and that he had inspected the county's school facilities. He noted "flagrant discrepancies existing between the white and colored facilities within the county in favor of the children of the white race."⁴² He closed by stating, "The children of the colored race are desirous of attending the schools provided for white children as such physical facilities and educational opportunities offered are superior to those provided for and offered colored children."⁴³

³⁸ Clyde Erwin, letter to Pamlico County Board of Education, March 8, 1951, included in Pamlico County Board of Education minutes.

³⁹ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, April 18, 1951.

⁴⁰ "Plans for School Made in Pamlico," *The News and Observer*, August 3, 1951.

⁴¹ "Racial Protest Made in Pamlico," *The News and Observer*, July 26, 1951.

⁴² "Negroes Demand Admittance," *The News and Observer*, August 17, 1951.

⁴³ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, August 7, 1951.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

In response, the Board of Education invited a group of 25-30 African American citizens to a meeting where long-range capital construction plans were discussed. *The News and Observer* reported on the meeting in an article entitled “Pamlico Negroes Endorse Segregation.” It stated that this group voted to retain the present system, supported the proposed new construction, rejected the use of any of the formerly white surplus school buildings, and asserted they did not want their children to attend the new white high school scheduled to open the following month.⁴⁴ The Board of Education wrote to Hugh Thompson about the meeting, observing that “a large group of very best colored citizens of this county had spoken.”⁴⁵ The superintendent of the Pamlico County schools’ letter to Thompson, paraphrased by the *News and Observer*, stated that “Neither the Negro nor white people of Pamlico County desire to abolish segregation in local schools, and, therefore nothing is planned to be done about it,” and that ultimately all citizens of the county “will work out advantageously their joint racial, educational and other problems.”⁴⁶

Nevertheless, a group of African American citizens proceeded with legal action in September 1951, filing suit in the U. S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina. The lawsuit noted the discrepancy in Black and white facilities. It differed from earlier legal actions in that it did not seek equal facilities as a remedy, but integrated ones at least until true equalization could be achieved. Newspaper reporting noted its similarity to a South Carolina case (*Briggs v. Elliot*), and implied the participation of the NAACP.⁴⁷ Given the county’s population was then roughly 60% white and 40% Black, and the school funding allocation ratio of 75% to white projects and 25% to black projects, the suit contended that separate but equal facilities were not possible.⁴⁸ In the wake of the filing *The Carolina Times* also reported on the suit, noting that the five schools for whites in the county were valued in the aggregate at \$380,633 and the ten schools for blacks at \$66,166 by 1950 assessments.⁴⁹ Retrospective reporting suggested the lawsuit was prompted in part by the frustration of African American parents in the Oriental area with “repeated failures of the county to do anything about their crowded and danger-ridden school building. But they were even more disgruntled, if possible, with the way Pamlico County was proceeding with its part of the new statewide Scott school building program.”⁵⁰

The October 1951 school board minutes include discussion of the suit. High attendance again forced the meeting to relocate to a courtroom. An attorney for the Board of Education explained the complaint, and there was some discussion about settlement options though no decisions were made.⁵¹ In discussions later that month, the board’s attorney reviewed the suit and referenced a decision in neighboring South Carolina by Judge John J. Parker. He advised the board “that the

⁴⁴ “Pamlico Negroes Endorse Segregation,” *The News and Observer*, August 12, 1951.

⁴⁵ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, August 7, 1951.

⁴⁶ “Negroes Demand Admittance,” *The News and Observer*, August 17, 1951.

⁴⁷ *Briggs v. Elliot* eventually became part of the U. S. Supreme Court case *Brown v Board of Education*; “55 Sign Federal Warrant,” *The News and Observer*, September 26, 1951.

⁴⁸ Dallas Mallison, “Focal Point in Pamlico School Issue,” *The News and Observer*, September 21, 1951.

⁴⁹ “Seek Permit for Negro Students to Enter White Pamlico Schools until Equality Gained,” *The Carolina Times*, September 29, 1951.

⁵⁰ Dallas Mallison, “Suit Brought Results in Pamlico,” *The News and Observer*, September 23, 1956.

⁵¹ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, October 5, 1951.

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

constitution as so far interpreted does not prohibit segregation in the schools, but it does require that facilities be equal or substantially so.”⁵²

The *News and Observer* reported on the Pamlico suit and reviewed the complaint, which asserted that

Equal opportunity is not afforded the Negro children in that the school buildings are not equal; because the building shortage results in overcrowding and heavier teacher loads; because existing recreational facilities are unequal to those provided for white children; because facilities for music, art, sciences, library, and vocational training and home economics training are unequal; because the lunch rooms, cafeterias and gymnasiums for the Negro children are not equal to those furnished white children; and because furniture, equipment, supplies and services are also unequal.⁵³

The article noted that the complaint also addressed inequities in funding of the 1949 bond and legislative grant funding. Money allocated to the new white high school was nearly triple the disbursements for Black schools.⁵⁴ Governor Scott met with plaintiffs and county education officials later in October to discuss possible settlements.⁵⁵ Though no agreement was made, options for a settlement were discussed, including a \$100,000 local bond issue. Such an issue would have to pass by a local referendum, and one county official told the *News and Observer* that “he doubted greatly that such a bond election would carry in Pamlico in view of the turn the school problem has taken.”⁵⁶ In the same article, the attorney M. Hugh Thompson emphasized that integration was not the desired end of the suit, but a means to achieving equal school facilities.⁵⁷ The County’s official response to the filing largely framed the issues with a narrow focus on a specific area of the county.⁵⁸ It countered every point in the initial complaint with denial or qualification. It also noted its consolidation plans and anticipated spending and expansion on the campus at the Pamlico County Training School.⁵⁹

In January 1952 the county Board of Education resolved to build an additional building at the Pamlico County “union school” for Negro children at a cost of \$100,000.⁶⁰ As there was no funding for this resolution, they opted to explore the possibility of debt financing as first discussed the previous year.⁶¹ The board hoped that a bond issue would provide the resources to allow for increased spending for Black schools and placate those who had filed the lawsuit.

⁵² Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, October 12, 1951; likely Hon. John J. Parker (1885-1958).

⁵³ “School Suit Complaint Cited,” *The News and Observer*, October 14, 1951.

⁵⁴ “School Suit Complaint Cited.”

⁵⁵ “Negroes Meet with Scott in School Case,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 20, 1951.

⁵⁶ “Out-of-Court Settlement Talked for Pamlico School Action,” *The News and Observer*, October 20, 1951.

⁵⁷ “Out-of-Court Settlement Talked for Pamlico School Action.”

⁵⁸ Dallas Mallison, “Pamlico County Files Lengthy Reply to School Action,” *The News and Observer*, November 18, 1951.

⁵⁹ Mallison, “Pamlico County Files Lengthy Reply to School Action.”

⁶⁰ The term “union school,” found in several instances in the board minutes, appears to mean a consolidated school; Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, January 21, 1952

⁶¹ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, January 21, 1952.

Pamlico County Training School

Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina

County and State

The *News and Observer* noted in February 1952, "The local Negro group is demanding either full equalization of their local district school or admission to the local white school. The suit has gained national attention because it is the first suit in North Carolina, and the second or third in the nation, demanding an end to school segregation in the South."⁶² The article observed that the lawsuit focused on facilities in the Oriental area and considered how closure of that school and consolidation would impact the suit. The article noted that a bond issue to be voted on in March 1952

explicitly state (d) the entire amount of the bond issue is to be spent upon a building program at the Pamlico County Negro Training School near Bayboro. In addition, county School authorities have recently announced that the local Negro school(s) will be discontinued and all local Negro elementary . . . pupils transported to the Training School when the building program is completed.⁶³

However, reporting continued, "that the bond issue will fall far short of equalization or modernization of the Negro elementary schools is freely admitted."⁶⁴

Despite the pessimism expressed by a county official the previous year, in March of 1952 the \$100,000 school bond passed. Proceeds were dedicated exclusively to African American schools.⁶⁵ The bond issue was the unprecedented in the county, as up to this point, the school board had used only annual capital outlays and state money for construction.⁶⁶ With the bond approved, in July of 1952 the board authorized B. H. Stephens to advertise for bids for a classroom addition to the training school campus, and a gymnasium.⁶⁷

In September 1952 it was reported that the federal lawsuit, having been filed a year prior, continued to be "pending." Reporter Dallas Mallison, whose work for the *News and Observer* provided a continued and comprehensive analysis of the situation, contended that "it suits the interests and purposes of all the parties concerned to let the case remain 'pending' and never come up for a hearing."⁶⁸ Creating a sort of litigation limbo, the possibility of the lawsuit was a potential threat to the school system, prompting officials to act to improve the African American schools. In light of a potential trial, funding and resources were allocated quickly to improve the African American schools. Mallison described the Board of Education's four-phase plan to build out an African American educational complex at the campus of the Pamlico County Training School. His article suggested that the completed complex at the Pamlico County Training School might have provided facilities for African Americans that were better in quality than existing facilities for white students.⁶⁹

⁶² Dallas Mallison, "Vote Effect on School Issue Considered," *The News and Observer*, February 17, 1952.

⁶³ Mallison, "Vote Effect on School Issue Considered."

⁶⁴ Mallison, "Vote Effect on School Issue Considered."

⁶⁵ Dallas Mallison, "Trial of Negro School Suit Dims," *The News and Observer*, September 28, 1952.

⁶⁶ Dallas Mallison, "Suit Brought Results in Pamlico," *The News and Observer*, September 23, 1956.

⁶⁷ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, July 22, 1952; minutes of August 21st report that Schaefer Construction was awarded the bid for construction Building B and Gym

⁶⁸ Mallison, "Trial of Negro School Suit Dims." Mallison appears to be a local stringer for the *News and Observer*.

⁶⁹ Mallison, "Trial of Negro School Suit Dims."

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Mallison reported in April of 1953 that the suit continued to be “pending.” But he noted that “the Negroes in this area are rapidly gaining the real objective of their suit, which now appears to have certainly been the improvement and equalization of their own schools.”⁷⁰ He observed that the unresolved status appeared to meet the needs of all parties involved.

What has been happening, it is now clear to local observers, is that all parties — the court, state and local school authorities and the Negroes themselves — have been observing a period of what might be called ‘watchful waiting,’ during which time it has concerned all parties to let the case stay just where it is now — still ‘pending’ in eastern federal court.⁷¹

The pending status, in essence, bought time for local authorities working to improve African American schools. Mallison reported on the master plan, noting that when completed, Pamlico County would be one of the few, if not the only county in North Carolina and perhaps the nation, where all African American children from elementary to high school would attend school at a single campus.⁷² In March of 1954 B. H. Stephens was authorized to prepare plans and specifications for the campus’ third phase to be built with proceeds from the 1953 statewide education bond. The project was let for bids in November, and a contract for roughly \$140,000 was awarded to Godwin Building Company.⁷³

In January of 1955 Dallas Mallison provided another update on the Pamlico County schools for Raleigh’s *News and Observer*.⁷⁴ At this point, two phases of construction for the segregated school had been completed and the third would be initiated soon, despite the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. According to Mallison, once the anticipated fourth phase of building at the Training School was completed, “Pamlico will be in a better position to set up any program of integrated schools which may be ordered by state and federal authorities.”⁷⁵ The federal lawsuit continued to be in a pending status, though was perhaps moot given the *Brown* decision, and the plaintiffs “did not get what they wanted but they got something much better — a modern, county wide school system for all Negro elementary schools children in this area.”⁷⁶

The *Brown* decision did prompt the Board of Education to appoint a committee to examine the decision’s potential impact on the school system.⁷⁷ However, the Board of Education continued planning for the additional consolidation of Black elementary schools at the Training School

⁷⁰ Dallas Mallison, “Pamlico Negroes Get New School,” *The News and Observer*, April 5, 1953.

⁷¹ Mallison, “Pamlico Negroes Get New School.”

⁷² Mallison, “Pamlico Negroes Get New School.”

⁷³ Building C “Advertisement for Bids,” *The News and Observer*, November 26, 1954; Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, December 16, 1954; Dallas Mallison, “Pamlico County Proceeding with School Program of ‘Separate, Equal Facilities,’” *The News and Observer*, January 9, 1955.

⁷⁴ Mallison, “Pamlico County Proceeding with School Program of ‘Separate, Equal Facilities.’”

⁷⁵ Mallison, “Pamlico County Proceeding with School Program of ‘Separate, Equal Facilities.’”

⁷⁶ Mallison, “Pamlico County Proceeding with School Program of ‘Separate, Equal Facilities.’”

⁷⁷ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, August 2, 1955.

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

campus. In December 1955 the board again authorized B. H. Stephens to prepare plans and specifications for additional classrooms.⁷⁸

Dallas Mallison's final reportage on disparities in the Pamlico County School system in September 1956, cited an untitled local study that claimed equality in educational offerings for Black and white students, and that perhaps African Americans actually had better facilities.⁷⁹ As such it was anticipated that there would be no racial tension or immediate demand for integration.⁸⁰ The building program was suggested as a model, with the article continuing that "most Southern areas could even at this late date effectively ward off the integration threat by proceeding quickly with the program of genuine public school equality."⁸¹ Mallison editorialized, "What has taken place since is really unbelievable — and certainly it was unpredictable. Nobody then would have believed Pamlico would have done what it has for its Negro schools since — and certainly no one outside the county would have thought it possible in small, backward, poverty-ridden, and politically-divided Pamlico."⁸² School spending for Black schools exceeded that for white schools between 1951 and 1956 at a rate of \$362,000 to \$326,000. Nine of twelve Black elementary schools had been absorbed into the campus by 1956. Mallison concluded that the local African American community was content with the improvements:

How long the 'separate but equal' school system in Pamlico will continue without friction or demands by the Negroes for a completely integrated system, no one, of course, can now say. But careful and discreet inquiries on a very confidential level among Negroes who are well informed and strategically located indicate that Pamlico Negroes are well pleased with what they have achieved during the past five years period. They will think long before doing anything to jeopardize what they now have.⁸³

At this point, the 1951 lawsuit was still "pending," but the *Brown* decision appeared to render it moot by declaring school segregation unconstitutional.

Although the county received bids on the next phase of the campus in October 1956, the contract was not awarded to Godwin Building Company until November, when funding was secured.⁸⁴ The community requested covered walkways in 1957, and the Board of Education agreed to build them.⁸⁵ In October 1961 a classroom addition was considered and various plans proposed, though it was not until 1962 that plans were approved.⁸⁶ Bids were opened at the end of March,

⁷⁸ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, December 12, 1955.

⁷⁹ Dallas Mallison, "Suit Brought Results in Pamlico," *The News and Observer*, September 23, 1956.

⁸⁰ Mallison, "Suit Brought Results in Pamlico."

⁸¹ Mallison, "Suit Brought Results in Pamlico."

⁸² Mallison, "Suit Brought Results in Pamlico."

⁸³ Mallison, "Suit Brought Results in Pamlico."

⁸⁴ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, October 23, 1956; October 26, 1956; November 12, 1956.

⁸⁵ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, July 2, 1957

⁸⁶ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, October 3, 1961; February 2, 1962.

Pamlico County Training School

Pamlico North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

and in April a construction contract was awarded to Trader Construction Company.⁸⁷ A change order in June increased the number of classrooms to be built.⁸⁸

As with many jurisdictions, under the guise of various programs, Pamlico County schools remained segregated despite the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v Board of Education*. It would take a decade, until the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, for there to be any serious concerted efforts to integrate public schools.

In February 1964 the Board of Education met with African American constituents including Hezekiah Jones, President of the Pamlico County Chapter of the NAACP, to discuss a December 1963 petition from several residents of Pamlico County. The document that had been submitted to the board read in part:

(we) respectfully petition the Pamlico County Board of Education, to cease operating the Pamlico County schools on a racial basis, we call to your attention, that the Pamlico County Board of Education has operated the Pamlico County schools on a racial basis, prior to and since 1954: That all initial assignments are based entirely on race, in that all white children are assigned to white schools and all Negro children are assigned to Negro schools . . . As mentioned above this has been the practice of the Board of Education, prior to and since 1954, an open disregard to the law of the land. We respectfully request that you immediately take steps to cease operating the Pamlico County schools on a racial basis and to come forth with a plan to operate the schools under your jurisdiction, without regard to race, as to teachers, students and other personnel.⁸⁹

That year a plaintiff named Ida Jones brought a civil action in federal court demanding desegregation, likely related to the petition and activity supported by the NAACP.⁹⁰

In January of 1965 the board's attorneys reported on a meeting in Raleigh concerning the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The board then voted to sign the HEW441 compliance order, a legally binding form required of any organization seeking federal financial assistance, in essence a commitment for compliance to Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.⁹¹ That and a settlement for the Jones case offered a plan. The plan advised students that for the 1965-66 school year they could be reassigned within their district at their request — a so-called “freedom of choice” plan. The settlement included language that “the plaintiffs by making this agreement do not waive rights that they have to obtain further and complete desegregation.”⁹² The Board's lawyers were to meet at the end of the calendar year to negotiate settlements for subsequent years and absent a settlement, have until the end of February 1966 for additional discovery before proceeding to trial.⁹³

⁸⁷ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, April 3, 1962.

⁸⁸ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, June 5, 1962.

⁸⁹ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, February 4, 1964.

⁹⁰ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, December 8, 1964; very little other documentation exists.

⁹¹ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, January 19, 1965.

⁹² Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, February 15, 1965.

⁹³ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, February 15, 1965.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

In March of 1965 the Board decided that teacher assignments beginning in the fall would be made without regard to race and that the current school districts would be eradicated so the county would have a single school district.⁹⁴ The Board of Education announced their intent “to have full desegregation and with all grades affected by the fall of 1967.”⁹⁵ Despite these actions, the U.S. Commissioner of Education notified the Board in the summer of 1966 that they had not made adequate progress toward desegregation.⁹⁶ In order to avoid the withdrawal of federal funds and to address the action by Ida Jones, the Board reassigned nine African American teachers and two white teachers beginning in the 1967-68 school year as part of a federal court order dated May 5, 1967. The court order, signed by the Honorable John D. Larkins, also addressed reassignment of pupils, provided for a review of progress, and required integration by the end of the 1969-70 school year.⁹⁷

Progress was apparently still not sufficient, and in April 1968 federal funds were again deferred.⁹⁸ In response, plans were made to adapt buildings to meet the needs of an integrated student body for the 1969-1970 school year. Because the facilities at the Pamlico County Training School had been constructed recently, they were in better condition than many of the other schools, including schools for white students within the county. When the schools were integrated in 1969-1970, the Pamlico County Training School campus was retained and used as an integrated school. This was atypical, as in most communities the Black schools were in poor condition and were abandoned and demolished with integration. The school now operates as an integrated middle school, Pamlico County Middle School. A new school building on a separate site is anticipated in the near future, at which point this complex would be abandoned. At least two organizations hope to purchase the campus and re-develop it for sympathetic uses.

⁹⁴ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, March 16, 1965.

⁹⁵ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, June 8, 1965.

⁹⁶ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, July 5, 1966.

⁹⁷ “Schools Integration Moves Ordered in Pamlico County,” *Herald-Sun*, May 17, 1967.

⁹⁸ Pamlico County Board of Education minutes, April 5, 1968.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

- "Advertisement for Bids." *The News and Observer*, August 1, 1952.
- "Advertisement for Bids." *The News and Observer*, November 26, 1954.
- "Advertisement for Bids." *The News and Observer*, September 29, 1956.
- "Another School Suit Brewing." *The Carolina Times*, August 4, 1951.
- "Bayboro" (aerial photo). North Carolina Geological Survey, 1958.
- Cecelski, David A. *Along Freedom Road*. UNC Press, 1994.
- Cecelski, David A. "Civil Rights Milestone—Pamlico County, 1951." 2019.
<https://davidcecelski.com/2019/03/01/a-civil-rights-milestone-pamlico-county-1951/>.
- Childs, Jack. "Closed Doors Mark End of Dual School System." *News and Observer*, September 29, 1968.
- "Construction Slated for Pamlico School." *The News and Observer*, July 3, 1951.
- Erwin, Clyde. Letter to Pamlico County Board of Education, March 8, 1951.
- "55 Sign Federal Warrant." *The News and Observer*, September 26, 1951.
- Leloudis, James L. *Schooling the New South*. University of North Carolina Press, 1996.
- Mallison, Dallas. "Focal Point in Pamlico School Issue." *The News and Observer*, September 21, 1951.
- Mallison, Dallas. "Pamlico County Files Lengthy Reply to School Action." *The News and Observer*, November 18, 1951.
- Mallison, Dallas. "Pamlico County Proceeding with School Program of 'Separate, Equal Facilities.'" *The News and Observer*, January 9, 1955.
- Mallison, Dallas. "Pamlico Negroes Get New School." *The News and Observer*, April 5, 1953.
- Mallison, Dallas. "Suit Brought Results in Pamlico." *The News and Observer*, September 23, 1956.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Mallison, Dallas. "Trial of Negro School Suit Dims." *The News and Observer*, September 28, 1952.

Mallison, Dallas. "Two Negro Schools are Consolidated in Pamlico County." *The News and Observer*, May 24, 1953.

Mallison, Dallas. "Vote Effect on School Issue Considered." *The News and Observer*, February 17, 1952.

"Negroes Demand Admittance." *The News and Observer*, August 17, 1951.

"Negroes Meet with Scott in School Case." *Asheville Citizen-Times*, October 20, 1951.

"Out-of-Court Settlement Talked for Pamlico School Action." *The News and Observer*, October 20, 1951.

"Pamlico Board to Merge Three County Schools." *New Journal and Guide*, June 6, 1953.

"Pamlico Buys School Site." *The News and Observer*, June 27, 1952.

Pamlico County Board of Education minutes.

Pamlico County Deed Books.

Pamlico County Training School Rosenwald Program record cards, Fisk University.
<https://rosenwald.fisk.edu/s/rosenwald-fund-collection/page/home>.

"Pamlico Negroes Endorse Segregation." *The News and Observer*, August 12, 1951.

"Pamlico School Building Project Nearly Completed." *New Journal and Guide*, April 18, 1953.

"Plan of Prospect Park." (subdivision plat), December 1916.

"Plans for School Made in Pamlico." *The News and Observer*, August 3, 1951.

"Racial Protest Made in Pamlico." *The News and Observer*, July 26, 1951.

"Schools Integration Moves Ordered in Pamlico County." *Herald-Sun*, May 17, 1967.

"School Suit Complaint Cited." *The News and Observer*, October 14, 1951.

"Seek Permit for Negro Students to Enter White Pamlico Schools until Equality Gained."
The Carolina Times, September 29, 1951.

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Stephens, Burrett H. and Robert H. Stephens. *Stonewall School* (drawings). 1951, in the collection of Paul Stephens.

Stephens, Burrett H. and Robert H. Stephens. *Addition to Pamlico Training School* (drawings). 1952, in the collection of Paul Stephens.

Stephens, Burrett H. and Robert H. Stephens. *Proposed Addition to Pamlico Training School* (drawings). 1956, in the collection of Paul Stephens.

"Survey for Pamlico County Board of Education." (plat), June 1968.

Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater than Equal*. UNC Press, 2013.

"Vocational Board Approves Schools." *Twin-City Sentinel*, February 19, 1918.

WPA project cards 65-32-1123, 165-32-2000. Reproductions from National Archives in collection of the author.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PM0471

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 21.5

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.139760° | Longitude: -76.763025° |
| 2. Latitude: 35.138596° | Longitude: -76.759791° |
| 3. Latitude: 35.136592° | Longitude: -76.759015° |
| 4. Latitude: 35.135920° | Longitude: -76.762687° |
| 5. Latitude: 35.137774° | Longitude: -76.763265° |

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is shown on the accompanying map, National Register Boundary Map and constitutes all of Pamlico County tax parcel H041-286.

Boundary Justification

The boundary reflects the extent of the school grounds currently. It includes all of the land associated with the campus during its Period of Significance and includes outparcels acquired shortly thereafter.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury
organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting
street & number: P O Box 6049
city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628
e-mail: maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com
telephone: (919) 828-1905
date: 1/2/2026

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Photo Log

Pamlico County Training School
Bayboro
Pamlico County, North Carolina
Mary Ruffin Hanbury
October 2025

Exterior, Buildings A & B, view to
NNW
1 of 28

Exterior, Buildings A & B, view to SW
2 of 28

Exterior, Building B, enclosed walkway,
Building C, view to SW
3 of 28

Exterior, Buildings D-1 & C, enclosed
walkway, view to S
4 of 28

Exterior, Building D-2, view to S
5 of 28

Exterior, Buildings D-2 & D-1, view to
E
6 of 28

Exterior, Buildings D-1 & C, view to S
7 of 28

Exterior, Building C, enclosed and
covered walkways, view to NNE
8 of 28

Exterior, former Agricultural Building,
view to S
9 of 28

Exterior, former Agricultural Building,
view to SE
10 of 28

Exterior, Shed, view to S
11 of 28

Exterior, former Agricultural Building &
Gym, view to N
12 of 28

Exterior, Gym, view to W
13 of 28

Exterior, Cafeteria, view to NW
14 of 28

Exterior, Gym, view to E
15 of 28

Exterior, Covered walkway, view to SE
16 of 28

Exterior, South Ballfield Complex, view
to E
17 of 28

Exterior, East Ballfield Complex, view
to NE
18 of 28

Exterior, Playground, view to E
19 of 28

Interior, Building C, view to ESE
20 of 28

Interior, Building C, view to NE
21 of 28

Pamlico County Training School

Name of Property

Interior, Building C, view to E
22 of 28

Interior, former Agricultural Building,
view to NE
23 of 28

Interior, former Agricultural Building,
view to SW
24 of 28

Pamlico North Carolina

County and State

Interior, Gym, view to E
25 of 28

Interior, Gym, view to N
26 of 28

Interior, Cafeteria, view to E
27 of 28

Exterior, Cafeteria, covered walkway,
Gym, view to E
28 of 28

Pamlico County Training School
Name of Property

Pamlico North Carolina
County and State

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.