

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Norwood School**

Statesville vicinity, Iredell County, ID0909, Listed 12/9/2021  
Nomination by Davyd Foard Hood  
Photographs by Davyd Foard Hood, May 2018



West front elevation, looking east



Landscape view in the cemetery looking north/northeast

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 Property

Historic name: Norwood School

Other names/site number: Troutman Graveyard School, Troutman School No. 7, Troutman Family Historical Association Building

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 349 Troutman Farm Road

City or town: Statesville State: NC County: Iredell

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A \_\_\_ B X C \_\_\_ D

 <hr/> <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	<u>11/4/21</u> <hr/> <b>Date</b>
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Title:</b> <u>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</u>	

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION/school  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL/meeting hall  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Wood

Roof: Metal

Other: Wood

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

#### Overview

The Norwood School, known equally well since its construction in 1906 as the Troutman Graveyard School, is a remarkably intact, well-preserved, one-room, gable-front weatherboard frame schoolhouse standing on the immediate north side of the Troutman Family Cemetery in a rural area of western Iredell County. The antebellum, stone-walled burying ground, with marked, named interments dating to 1821, had become a recognized local landmark by the time John McFadden Plott began building the school in fall 1906. Comprising about one-third (0.620 acres) of the partially shaded, grass-covered, 1.735-acre grounds forming the historic setting of the school building and the nominated acreage, the cemetery is a critical character-defining feature of the landscape and the tangible feeling of quiet and apartness that prevails here. The location of the school also contributes to these qualities. It stands with the cemetery on the east side of Troutman Farm Road (SR 1334), a dead-end paved road that carries southwest, on an elevated ridge between the runs of Bass Creek and Powder Spring Branch, off the south side of Old Mountain Road. The heavily-traveled Old Mountain Road (SR 1005) links the town of Troutman with Hiddenite in neighboring Alexander County and incorporates portions of an earlier roadway leading northwest toward the Brushy Mountains. As the crow flies the Norwood

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

School is located about three miles northwest of Troutman, whose historic small, railroad-town character is being lost to low-cost commercial development. Norwood School, however, survives in a historic landscape defined by agricultural fields, pastures, and woodlands. Except for the presence of the incongruous nineteenth-century railroad station relocated to the south side of the cemetery in 1976, the principal buildings clearly visible from these historic school grounds are an appealing Craftsman-style frame house and its four small outbuildings. The one-and-a-half story house was erected in the early to mid 1930s by Espy Tays Troutman Sr. (1898-1984) and stands some eight hundred feet to the north, facing east, on the west side of Troutman Farm Road. It remains the seasonal residence of his youngest daughter, Eleanor Jane Troutman Hyde (b. 1936).

As one in a number of public school buildings erected in Iredell County in the opening decade of the twentieth century, in the upbuilding of public education facilities throughout North Carolina, Norwood School was built to the plan and guidelines published in 1903 in *Plans for Public School Houses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost* and issued by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (hereinafter cited as *PPSH*). Its location on the acreage donated by members of the Troutman family, honored an important recommendation in the architectural guidebook. "The first point to be considered in the erection of the building is the site. This should be naturally as attractive as can be found without going outside the prescribed limits. A knoll or rising ground, sloping in all directions, is preferable (*PPSH*, 7)." This concern for good drainage had been a paramount consideration a century earlier when Jacob Troutman designated grounds for use as a cemetery. They were one of the highest points in elevation on his 3,000 acres. On 3 September 1906, with the same consideration, his descendants set apart the adjoining two acres on the immediate north side of the burying ground as the site for this new school.

In 1906, when a new district school was approved for Fallstown Township and John McFadden Plott built the schoolhouse that survives on site, the contiguous burying ground had been in use by members of the Troutman family, their kinsmen, and neighbors for almost a century. The school was first identified as the Troutman Graveyard School and equally if not more often noted by that name, in the press and public reference, through the course of its operation into 1927. The first interment, one acknowledged by tradition, is said to have been that of Sarah Bustle (ca. 1805-1813), a daughter of Henry Bustle and the eight-year old victim of a log rolling accident during a barn raising in 1813. Henry Bustle acquired acreage on the waters of Norwood Creek in 1798, 1799, and in 1805 when Jacob Troutman conveyed to him a tract of 200 acres on the waters of Norwood Creek and described as adjoining both Mr. Troutman and Mr. Bustle. Her interment is memorialized by an upright fieldstone with a modern inscription of "First Grave 1813." Since 1821, when John Lippard died and his grave was marked by an inscribed, surviving headstone, interments have been marked by stone, marble, or granite markers reflecting their date and the status of the deceased. That practice has continued to the present.

The grounds comprising the site and setting of Norwood School, including the Troutman Graveyard, being grass-covered and partially shaded by volunteer deciduous trees, mostly native oaks, have enjoyed little landscape enhancement. Native dogwoods and other small trees,

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

growing immediately inside and or along the cemetery walls, form a valuable understory. Plantings of recent years along the outside edges of the stone walls, largely on the west front and westernmost parts of the north and south walls, feature daylilies and chrysanthemums, with some periwinkle, together with butterfly bushes, an everblooming rose, azaleas, and dwarf nandinas. Two native cedars, appropriate in a cemetery landscape, are growing at the immediate outside edge of the south wall and gaining welcome presence.

**Norwood School**  
**1906, 1914**  
**Contributing Building**

Barrett & Thomson, the architectural partnership that prepared *Plans for Public School Houses* . . . , also gave specific instructions for a building such as this. “Where a one-room building is required, build Room A, Plan No. 1, with accompanying coat room, vestibule and porch, shown by heavy black lines (Appendix 1). When a second room is required, build Room B, with coat room, vestibule and porch, shown in light outline. If strict economy must be practiced, leave off the tower, the small gable ventilator on the main roof, and the porches shown on the Perspective No. 1 (*PPSH*, 7).” John McFadden Plott, under the direction of the district committeemen, honored the plan and followed this dictate with but one principal exception. The “Room A” plan depicted a rectangular schoolroom measuring twenty-six feet in width and thirty-two feet in depth (*PPSH*, 6). The exterior width of Norwood School is just over twenty-six feet while the depth is increased to forty feet (and inches). The position and dimensions of the vestibule and coat room at the front of the building are effectively those shown on “Plan No. 1” as are the four window openings symmetrically positioned in the building’s south elevation and the paired window openings on the rear, east elevation (Appendix 2). (The northernmost of these two openings was refitted, probably ca. 1921, as a door.) A second variation from the architects’ published advice is the use of stone piers for the school’s foundation supports rather than the prescribed “solid brick foundation” or “brick piers” with “tightly boarded up” intervening spaces (*PPSH*, 5). This reflected both economy and a local practice for rural buildings at that time. The school bell was located originally in a low, hip roof belfry positioned on the ridge of the gable-front pediment above the entrance.

Norwood School embodies the classic appearance and character of an early-twentieth century one-room weatherboard frame schoolhouse enhanced by the simple design features illustrated by Barrett & Thomson in *Plans for Public School Houses* . . . and representing the skilled craftsmanship of its builder in 1906, John McFadden Plott, and that of the as yet anonymous carpenter who added the porch and tower in 1914. The schoolhouse stands on piers of local stone of a generally regular, sometimes shaped appearance and spaced with an apparent symmetry to support the sills. Seven stone piers are aligned under the north and south elevations, with those at the respective northeast and southeast corners of the building being among the five under the east elevation. With the slight difference in grade, the vestibule, coat room, and porch stand on low stones. The elevations are sheathed with weatherboards and finished with plain cornerboards and simply-molded eaves. The present roofing is silver-colored 5-V sheet metal that dates to 2007, when the then existing traditional 5-V sheet tin was replaced.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

The building is not fitted with gutters and downspouts to channel water from rains and melting snow away from its supporting piers. To mitigate against any effects of possible erosion and discoloring back-splash on the elevations, the perimeter of the former schoolhouse, excepting only the widths of the front and rear steps, is covered with an encircling band of small white gravel, about thirty-six inches in width and retained by a board border.

The principal architectural development appears on the symmetrical, west-facing front elevation. Here the porch's sheathed gable front and the bolder gable front of the schoolroom block, both finished with a shallow pent at their bases, are linked by a dominant two-stage tower. It rises at the back of the porch roof, above the vestibule and coat room block, and features paired, vertically-oriented ventilators conjoined in a simply-framed opening on both levels. This feature, common to the period, appears on the belfry of the "Public School-House at Conetoe, Edgecombe County" in a photograph in the 1903 guidebook (*PPSH*, between pps. 12 and 13). Both the Conetoe School belfry and the more imposing Norwood School tower are covered with a hip roof. The ventilator feature occurs only on the west face of the lower level of the tower, in the center of the schoolhouse's gable front, while it appears on the upper north, west, and south elevations of the tower, in symmetrical fashion, above the ridge of the school's roof. With the completion of the tower in 1914 the school bell was relocated to the tower where it remains to the present.

The school's front porch is the same width as the 1906 vestibule and coat-room block and the two are covered by a gable-front roof finished with simply-molded eaves. It stands on low stones. Tapering, square-in-plan wood columns, rise in the front corners from simply-molded bases to similarly-molded caps. The porch ceiling is sheathed with molded flush boards. A rectangular ventilator in the porch's gable face is axially positioned to complement those in the tower. The porch flooring, comprising gray-painted, two-by-six boards, is a replacement of ca. 2006-2007. Low, paired steps, of concrete block with a mortared stone veneer, carry the near full width of the porch, between the columns, and date to 2007. They are fitted with simple metal handrails at their north and south ends.

The two-bay west front of the vestibule and coat room block remains as built in 1906. A tall doorway in the south bay, with its plain-board architrave, holds paired five-panel wood doors opening into the vestibule below a two-pane transom. The smaller pendant window opening to the north holds four-over-four wood sash in a like plain-board surround with a projecting wood sill and a simple drip cap. It provided light and ventilation for the coat room and is fitted with operable, louvered shutters which, if not original, are of early date. The shutters are closed and clearly visible in a photograph of the school and its students, made between its construction in 1906 and the 1914 addition of the porch and tower: they and others on the south and east windows, whether original or early additions (or good replacements) are in good condition. All of these shutters, when open, can be secured in place by simple, paired metal latches positioned in the weatherboards near the bottom of each window opening. The north end of the coatroom and vestibule block is blind while the south elevation holds a centered window opening providing light and ventilation for the vestibule.

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

As seen on the illustration of “Room A, Plan No. 1” in the 1903 publication (*PPSH*, 6), the south elevation of Norwood School has four symmetrically-spaced window openings that illuminated and vented the single classroom. This fenestration and that on the east elevation also responded to the written recommendations that “The light, according to the best authorities, should come from the rear and left side, or the left side of the scholar only . . . (*PPSH*, 10).” In the Norwood School classroom the students faced west to their teacher who sat or stood at a desk centered in front of the schoolroom’s west wall. These openings have shallow projecting wood sills, four-over-four wood sash, and plain-board surrounds with drip caps. They, too, are fitted with operable, louvered wood shutters.

The school’s east elevation originally held like windows in two symmetrically-positioned openings, an arrangement also seen in the 1903 publication. While the south bay retains its original window the north opening was altered to a doorway, probably ca. 1921, and the area above the door infilled with weatherboards. The opening is fitted with a reused, molded four-panel door in a frame of plain boards and a drip cap that is a partial reuse of the original window surround elements. The date of this alteration is believed to be coincident with the addition of a partition wall in the classroom in late 1921. A precast concrete, four-step stair provides access to the former school. It is complemented by simple metal-pipe railings on each side. The tall, broad pent gable end spanning the east elevation is centered by a ventilator with paired louvered sections that is original to the 1906 construction. The single known image of the school made prior to the addition of the porch and tower in 1914 shows the same feature in the center of the building’s west gable front.

On the 1903 plan the north wall of “Room A” was blind and in part a partition wall with “Room B” of a two-room schoolhouse. The north elevation of the Norwood School is blind.

While undertaking the construction of this building the district committeemen and John McFadden Plott had also followed other important practical advice that the architects had provided prospective builders in *Plans for Public School Houses . . .* in 1903. “Each building should be provided with an entrance vestibule, as a protection against cold draughts in the school rooms. The school rooms should each have an ample coat room, with a door from vestibule or hall, and also one from the school room, so that the teacher can have perfect control of the room at all times (*PPSH*, 5).” This recommendation was illustrated in the published plan for “Room A, Plan No. 1 (Appendix 1).”

John McFadden Plott honored the plan and the text when he sheathed the walls and ceilings of the new building and completed its interior finish. Doing so he created the vestibule, coat room, and schoolroom that students and their teachers used from January 1907 through the spring term of 1927. His work remains intact except in one instance. At an unconfirmed date, post 1927, the lower part of the partition wall forming the schoolroom’s west elevation, between the symmetrically-positioned door openings, respectively, from the vestibule and the coat room, was removed. In this removal any possible evidence of a shallow “teacher’s cupboard (*PPSH*, 6),” recessed in the wall behind the teacher’s desk, was lost. The partition wall between the vestibule and the coat room remains in place with the original threshold in the doorway linking the spaces.

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

The then enlarged openings, incorporating the former doorways from the vestibule and coat room, received full-width replacement thresholds. The finish of the three rooms is identical with random width (three-plus to nearly five inches) unpainted pine floor boards laid on an east/west axis. The walls and ceilings are sheathed with flush, plain wood boards painted a dull tan color. The plain-board window and door surrounds are painted white.

The vestibule, entered through paired doors opening from the porch, had a conventional doorway on axis in its east wall, opening into the schoolroom, and a like doorway positioned off-center to the east in its north wall, opening into the coat room. The original doors in these openings have been removed as has the door opening from the coat room into the classroom. The hinge mounts for all three remain in place in the respective reveals. In the coat room paired shelves carrying the full width of its north wall, intended for student lunch bags or cans, remain in place. They were an inexpensive alternative to "A lunch closet, with lock and key (*PPSH*, 5)" recommended by Barrett & Thomson. A cut in the coat room ceiling, centered above the door from the vestibule and fitted with a lift cover, provides access to the attic. The rope bellpull hangs from the ceiling in the coat room's southeast corner.

Barrett & Thomson made further recommendations for the finish of classrooms that John McFadden Plott honored when he finished the interior of Norwood School's large rectangular schoolroom. "The blank walls on one or more sides of the school rooms should be fitted with slate or good composition black boards with chalk trough at base. The boards should be from 3 to 4 1-2 feet high, and set from 2 feet 1 inch to 2 feet 4 inches above floor for primary scholars, and 2 feet 6 inches above floor for intermediate scholars (*PPSH*, 13)." A molded chalk trough, mounted at a height of about two feet and six inches carries the full length of the north wall where one section of a black-painted blackboard remains in place at its east end. It measures three feet and six inches in height and ten feet and two inches in length. Mr. Plott also rounded the projecting front corners of the window sills to mitigate any possible student injuries. Faint, barely discernible evidence of the partition wall, added in late 1921 and long since removed, exists between the center windows in the classroom's south elevation and on the ceiling, while the pendant cut in the chalk trough is clearly visible on the classroom's north wall.

Fittings and furnishings added by the Troutman family include a chart illustrating the Troutman family tree and the original iron cemetery gate, said to have been made in 1880 by John Jefferson Troutman (1815-1884), the seventh known child of Jacob Troutman, which are both mounted on the north wall. The room is now furnished with former church pews of three designs and chairs, facing east and arranged along a centered walkway, for reunion seating, together with a piano and pump organ. Two white glass globe lights, suspended on metal chains from ceiling mounts and said to have earlier illuminated Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Troutman, together with three suspended ceiling fans are aligned in a row on the ceiling, on a centered east/west axis that also includes the schoolroom's original ceiling-mounted flue opening and its cover.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

## **The Site and Setting of Norwood School: the Troutman Graveyard, Its Development and Description**

### **ca. 1813 to present**

#### **Contributing site**

Although interments here are said to date to that of Sarah Bustle in 1813, the earliest interment marked by a surviving headstone bearing the name of the deceased is that of John Lippard, who died on 26 February 1821 at fifty-one years of age. It, like several other early Lippard family headstones, represents local craftsmanship and is hand-lettered. Whether, as likely, any of the many fieldstones remaining in the cemetery earlier marked graves of persons who died in the years between 1813 and 1821 is not known. Some could also have been marked graves of persons who died in the years after 1821. The earliest interment of a person bearing the Troutman surname, marked by a surviving inscribed gravestone, is that of Margaret E(lizabeth) Troutman (1830-1836), the second-born daughter of Henry Troutman (1797-1876) and Margaret Elizabeth Leonard Troutman (1802-1874), who died in February 1836. Four years later, following her death on 8 December 1840, the body of Margaret Fesperman Troutman (17\_\_-1840), the wife of Jacob Troutman and the mother of eight children whose descendants fill the pages of *Descending Jacob's Ladder*, was interred here. The body of Jacob Troutman, the progenitor of this large family, was buried nearby following his death on 18 July 1846.

When Norwood School was built, and through the years of its operation, the cemetery was a smaller rectangular graveyard fully enclosed by continuous stone walls with the entrance, as now, on its west side. According to family tradition, Jacob Troutman, his seven sons, and their neighbors hauled stone to the site and laid the dry wall, depending on gravity rather than mortar as was the custom in rural areas in the opening decades of the nineteenth century. While the date(s) of this work is not documented, the long west wall, centered by the entrance and carrying a length of about 168 feet, remains intact as do the original lengths of the north and south walls.

With the cemetery filling up in the 1930s, a decision was made to expand the graveyard by removing the rear, east wall and reusing the stones to extend the side walls. As recounted in an undated two-page typescript account attributed to Jacob Guy Troutman (1905-1993), "This project was instigated by John I. Troutman, who secured the services of the C. C. Camp boys during the depression of the 1930s." The north and south walls of the cemetery now extend for about 163 feet and have unequal returns along its east side, of about twenty and forty feet, respectively, which form the northeast and southeast corners of the graveyard. By calculation its original north and south walls were about 109 feet in length. This change would have occurred after August 1935 when Civilian Conservation Corps Company 3420 was established in Iredell County. In 1940, when the first record of interments in the Troutman graveyard was made by Walter Davidson Pharr (1874-1953), under the aegis of the Historical Records Survey of North Carolina, his four-page typescript roster comprised ninety-one entries marked by inscribed gravestones. He made no mention of the number of graves marked by fieldstones.

A second notable alteration to the cemetery occurred ca. early-1970s that had the effect of compromising the historic character of the cemetery and its long-established burial patterns,

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

which then spanned 150 years of interments marked by inscribed gravestones. Victor Eugene Troutman (1906-1994) is said to have overseen a systematic realignment of the many unmarked fieldstones and inscribed headstones in the oldest, western part of the cemetery into the regimented rows, flanking a newly-created walkway, that define this area of the cemetery to the present. The walkway, while not physically delineated in the cemetery's grass cover, is discernible to the eye and carries from the west entrance, now marked by an iron archway, erected in 1981 and featuring "TROUTMAN FAMILY CEMETERY" in bold letters, and a ca. 2008 replacement iron gate, to the near center of the cemetery. Here a flagpole, now centered in a board-enclosed, ground level square of white gravel, was erected. During this work the realigned fieldstones and headstones were set in ground-level concrete collars or pads and the footstones that originally complemented the headstones were removed and stored in stacks under the schoolhouse. The question of what number of the surviving fieldstones, now fixed as "headstones" in poured concrete collars or pads in the realignment, might originally have been placed at the foot of graves as "footstones" and separated through time or during the realignment, cannot be answered. At a later date sizeable boxwoods, visible in a photograph of the cemetery made by Mac Lackey Jr. and printed in the Iredell Neighbors edition of the *Charlotte Observer* on 5 October 1988, were removed. Ground-level poured-concrete collars have continued to be placed around gravestones erected since the realignment.

The gravestones in the Troutman cemetery reflect the conventions in style and materials common to their place and period, through the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to the present. The headstones in the older west section of the cemetery also reflect the cultural practice of burial by date of death, in sequence one after another irrespective of kinship, rather than in family pairings or groups. Fieldstone, shaped local surface or quarried stone, marble and granite are utilized here, with grey granite being favored from the 1920s onward. Metal is largely confined to plaques for members of the United States armed services and mounted on low granite blocks or poured concrete pads. Graves for those who died in the 1820s through the Civil War and afterward, are largely marked by modest, individual headstones with discoid, rectangular, pointed arch or segmental arch tops and inscriptions of varying lettering. In the later nineteenth century single gravestones for married couples were erected by the surviving spouse. This practice has continued here as elsewhere through the twentieth century in parallel with the erection of sizable markers bearing only the surname of a couple and the individual graves of the husband and wife marked by footstones of like character.

The gravestones in the Troutman Graveyard reflect the sequence of styles seen throughout the North Carolina Piedmont, but with few highly-developed classical or Victorian monuments. A small number of impressive obelisk-form gravemarkers draw admiration. Those marking the graves of John Holshouser (1807-1891) and his wife, Mary Holshouser (1808-1891), a stepped, multi-stage square-in-plan marble obelisk, and that of their daughter, Annie Holshouser Hammonds (1837-1891), marked by a marble Tuscan column on a three-stage square-in-plan base, memorialize the lives of three members of a family who died within the space of two months, 21 January to 23 March 1891. A century later, following his death on 14 April 1992, a variant form of the obelisk in rose-colored granite was selected to mark the grave of Joel Franklin Martin (1939-1992).

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

Gravemarkers of Craftsman-style appearance, with steeled, polished, or rock-pitched finishes and simple, appealing flourishes in their lettering or decorative carving, are predominant through the twentieth century, with a final important pair erected in 2000 for Edwin Lowe (1916-2000) and Beryl Pittman Banner (1924-2017) and Brent Leslie (b. 1956) and Carolyn Banner Warren (b. 1956) by Triplett's Marble & Granite Company of Statesville. Noteworthy examples include those at the graves of Robert Victor Troutman (1874-1904), John Troy Troutman (1890-1918), and Junius Love (1873-1937) and Coretta E. "Bettie" Arney Troutman (1875-1944).

A second compilation of interments in the Troutman Family Cemetery was made by Russell C. Black Jr. and Irene Clanton Black and self-published in Volume Three of *Iredell County North Carolina Cemeteries* in 1999. They recorded 267 interments marked by inscribed gravestones together with four unmarked interments identified from death notices in *The Landmark* and that of the infant son of C. A. and Ola Litten which appeared in the 1940 roster and was since lost. As of 1 September 2021 the cemetery contains about 340 interments marked by inscribed gravestones, with that of Arthur Lee Gunn (1931-2021), who died on 11 August 2021, being the most recent.

### **Integrity Statement**

As noted in the "Overview" introducing the Narrative Description of this property, the Norwood School, standing beside the family cemetery that is the source of its often-cited alternative name, "Troutman Graveyard School," is distinguished by a remarkably high degree of integrity. In this exemplary state of preservation it embodies qualities, namely integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, which support this nomination and set it apart among contemporary buildings in Iredell County and the State of North Carolina. In the matter of location and setting, the school building stands now, in a rural agricultural landscape, as it did when built in late 1906 and placed in service in January 1907, on the north side of the Troutman burying ground, and immediately beside the cemetery's historic, nineteenth-century stone wall.

While the nearby Norwood Creek was known to Iredell County citizens and residents of this community, and the Norwood name was chosen by the school board for the school, the family graveyard was a better known landmark and, in consequence, the school was as often identified in the press as the "Troutman Graveyard School" as by its formal name. Thus, the association of family with the school building, which was built on land donated for educational purposes by members of the Troutman family, was in common parlance during its years of use (1907-1927) as a public school building. The close relationship of the Norwood School with the Troutman family has continued to the present in its use, since 1909, as the meeting place of an annual family reunion, in its post-1927 ownership by members of the Troutman family, and since 1972 in the ownership of the Troutman Historical Association, Incorporated, today's Troutman Family Historical Association, Incorporated.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

Through this period, since its construction in 1906, the Norwood School has retained an appearance and feeling, embodied in its standardized design, high quality local materials, and workmanship by its builder, John McFadden Plott, all noted in the preceding description, that distinguish it as an iconic one-room rural schoolhouse in North Carolina. Although the building ceased to be used as a public school in 1927, the plan, directives, and recommendations published in 1903 in *Plans for Public School Houses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost*, which were honored by Mr. Plott in the construction and finish of the Norwood School, a.k.a. Troutman Graveyard School, remain visible, intact, and evident today.

Since its completion in 1906, the Norwood School has seen architectural changes, two within the period of significance (1906-1927) and two others believed to postdate 1927, that are noteworthy but do not negatively affect the remarkable integrity of the small, frame public school building, now 115 years old, nor its statewide architectural significance.

The addition of the gable-front porch and tower in 1914 answered the need for shelter and protection in inclement weather. Occupying the full width of the vestibule and coat room block, it represents an enhanced addition to the school of a larger presence than the single-bay (vestibule fronting) porch delineated on the image of "Room A, Plan No. 1." As appealing embellishments, the porch and tower likely became a point of pride for students and the community at large. The refitting of the northernmost window opening on the building's east elevation as a doorway, and fitted then with a period door, is believed to have occurred coincident with the addition of a partition in 1921 forming two smaller classrooms from the single original classroom. While the partition has long since been removed, with little remaining visible evidence of its short-lived existence, the door in the east elevation of the former school continues to provide a valuable second entrance and exit for the building.

For now, the date at which a metal roof of 5-V sheet metal replaced the original wood shingles (PPSH, 21) is not known, but altogether representative of a well-known sequence of changes in roofing in rural North Carolina in the opening decades of the twentieth century, when metal roofing, whether as impressed shingles or 5-V sheets, became standard. The present roof of 5-V sheet metal was added in 2007 and replaced the earlier roof of like material and appearance. Likewise unknown is the date at which the lower, center part of the classroom's sheathed west wall, the portion between the doors opening from the vestibule and coat room into the classroom, was removed, together with the two doors. In retrospect, these changes surely occurred after 1927 when the building came to be used almost exclusively for the annual Troutman family reunion and were made to facilitate the entrance and exit of attendees through the paired front doors and for the accommodation of overflow sitting or standing in the coat room. Fortunately the partition wall between the vestibule and coat room remains intact as do the classroom's lower west wall sections to the north and south, respectively, of the doorways into the coat room and vestibule and the respective reveals of both, together with the surviving doorway surrounds and the sheathed wall above carrying to the ceiling. This stated, the larger part of the classroom's west elevation remains intact and the volume of the original large classroom is visually and architecturally retained.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

In its present appearance, the Troutman family cemetery retains its critical supporting role as the defining feature of the site and setting of the Norwood School, however, changes made to it in the 1930s and the 1970s have affected its character and integrity as an important individual, local example of a family burying ground. In neither instance do the changes affect the essential physical relationship of the Norwood School to the stone-walled cemetery nor the historic, parallel kinship of the school's south wall and the north wall of the cemetery. The decision to engage the CCC workers to dismantle the cemetery's east wall and relocate the stones as extensions of the north and south side walls and returns on the east side can be appreciated for its intention but regretted for its effect. (And the question arises as to whether consideration was given at the time to the possibility of engaging these same workers to gather stones of like, varying size on neighboring property to fill the gap on the east.) The decision in the 1970s to align the headstones into rows, flanking a center grass path, and to remove the many complementing historic footstones can be decried for the artificiality that resulted and the separation, forevermore, of the stones that marked the head and feet of the interred persons. This transgression on the memory of the deceased is a matter of larger regret, a compromise to the internal physical integrity of the cemetery as a historic site in its own right, but of a lesser impact on the cemetery's significant presence in the setting of Norwood School.

### **Statement of Archaeological Potential**

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

The Troutman Family Cemetery is an integral part of the story of this property and landscape. Archaeological features produced by construction of the original stone wall, paths, and plantings, as well as materials that have accumulated through use of the cemetery over time, can provide information valuable for understanding and interpreting the cemetery. Information concerning the early EuroAmerican inhabitants of western North Carolina, their evolving traditions, and evidence of the Troutman family's role as community founders and leaders can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the cemetery.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

Important information may be gained through archaeological analysis of cemetery features. Grave markers can provide information about the socioeconomic evolution of the Troutman community. A material culture analysis of the surviving and displaced markers, along with archaeological investigations using ground penetrating radar to identify potential unmarked or no longer marked graves can contribute a broader understanding of local and statewide funerary traditions. Such archaeological information would be especially helpful for documenting and interpreting the history of the Troutman Cemetery, considering the 1930s cemetery expansion and 1970s cemetery renovation that included the realignment of headstones and displacement of footstones. The latter of the two renovations has affected the integrity of the cemetery's above ground features. A subsurface geophysical survey could reveal original grave orientation and grave groupings, information which could be used to assess the accuracy of the relocated markers.

In addition to having the potential to yield important information about the past, cemeteries and unmarked graves are protected by North Carolina General Statutes 65 and 70, and this should be considered in any future archaeological research, landscaping, or restoration activities in the cemetery.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Education

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1906-1927

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1906

1907

1927

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Plott, John McFadden - Builder

\_\_\_\_\_

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

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

The Norwood School, a remarkably intact, weatherboard frame one-room school building in rural Iredell County, satisfies National Register criteria A and C and holds an inseparable statewide significance in the areas of architecture and education through the circumstances of its construction in 1906, its history of use as public school from 1907 to 1927, and the subsequent ownership and stewardship that have preserved its integrity to the present. Built in the closing months of 1906 by John McFadden Plott (1858-1941), a local carpenter and builder, it was placed in service in January 1907 with Thomas Addison Rimmer (1882-1984) as the teacher for a three-month session that ended on 29 March 1907. Built in response to a local initiative and the seventh of the seven district schools erected in Fallstown Township for the education of white children, it is also associated with a statewide upbuilding of public schools and statewide improvements in public education advocated by Governor Charles Brantley Aycock and effected during his term of office (1901-1905) and that (1905-1909) of Robert Broadnax Glenn, who succeeded him as governor. The Norwood School was built to the design of "Room A, Plan No. 1" in *Plans for Public School Houses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost*, which was "Prepared for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction by Barrett & Thomson, Architects, Raleigh, N.C." and published in 1903 by Edwards & Broughton, State Printers.

The end of the building's use as a public school came as a result of the second major initiative in North Carolina public education in the twentieth century, the school consolidation movement of the 1920s, which saw its fruition during the successive terms of governors Cameron A. Morrison (1921-1925) and Angus Wilton McLean (1925-1929). In 1924 the Iredell County Board of Education adopted a county-wide plan of consolidation created by Dr. George Howard Jr. (1893-1988) and staff of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. In February 1927 the county board approved the consolidation of Norwood School with the Troutman School in the nearby village of the same name, a decision to take effect with the opening of the fall term that year. The period of significance embraces the years from 1906 to 1927, comprising the year of its construction and the period of the building's use as the Norwood School.

Throughout its existence the Norwood School has enjoyed the strongest association with the Troutman family, whose surname was adopted for the railroad stop that grew into a village and then a town in south Iredell County. When notice of the newly-proposed school district, Number 7, in Fallstown Township, was made in *The Landmark* (Statesville) on 8 June 1906, in its recount of the 4 June meeting of the Iredell County Board of Education, readers learned "The school house is to be located near Troutman's graveyard, . . ." Thereafter, and for the entire period of its existence the school was as likely to be identified as the "Troutman Graveyard School" as by its official name, Norwood School, which derived from the name of a nearby creek. The stone-walled cemetery, with its earliest surviving, inscribed headstone being that of

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

John Lippard (ca. 1770-1821), is said to have become a burial place in 1813. In 1906, a near century later, it was a well-known local landmark.

The two-acre lot on which the school was built, donated by Jacob Caldwell Troutman (1851-1929) and Henry Allison Troutman (1856-1924), and their wives, lay on the immediate north side of the stone-walled burying ground. With the closing of the school in 1927 the lot reverted to Troutman ownership. Beginning in 1909, and for most years to the present, last on Saturday, 12 October 2019, the former school building and the cemetery have been the site of an annual reunion of the descendants of John Jacob Troutman (1767-1846), the patriarch of large Piedmont North Carolina family. Organized in 1909 and legally incorporated in 1972, the Troutman Historical Association, Incorporated, received title to the acreage on which the cemetery and school building are located in 1972 from members of the Troutman family. The simple, knowing stewardship of the building, exercised privately by family members from 1927 to 1972, has been continued in corporate fashion by the family association. A landmark in North Carolina educational and architectural history, the Norwood School, a.k.a. Troutman Graveyard School, stands beside the family cemetery on a fractional part of the 3,000-plus acre farm and woodland estate assembled by John Jacob Troutman 200 years ago. Its remarkable survival and integrity reflect the bonds of kinship and pride among his descendants.<sup>1</sup>

### **Significance in the Areas of Architecture and Education**

When built in 1906 and placed in service in January 1907, as the first and only school building erected in the newly created Fallstown District Number 7 in Iredell County, the Norwood School was an object of community pride: it likewise was part of the dramatic upbuilding of public schools in Iredell County in the opening years of the twentieth century, overseen by James Augustus Butler (1863-1908) and Lawrence Oxford White, who served successively from ca. 1897 to 1912 as superintendents of the Iredell County Schools under the direction of the County Board of Education, which was chaired from 1900 to 1917 by Professor James Henry Hill (1832-1919).<sup>2</sup> This local achievement was first reflected in *The Public Schools of Iredell County For Year Ending July 10, 1910*, an annual report compiled and published in an unprecedented pamphlet form by Mr. White. The 1910 report represented ninety-two white school districts and thirty-two “colored” schools in Iredell County. Superintendent White began his report with an overview of recent progress.

In trying to improve the public school system of Iredell County we have within the last three years striven to increase the usefulness of the schools in every possible way, but we have considered it of prime importance to secure a more efficient corps of teachers, better houses and equipment, and longer terms.

Three years ago there was but a single school building in Iredell County outside of Statesville and Mooresville that had more than one recitation room. Realizing the importance of securing more adequate buildings and equipment the school authorities did all in their power to remedy the existing conditions.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

What we have accomplished speaks for itself. The value of the school property of the county has been more than doubled within the past three years. We now have seven rural school houses with three or more recitation rooms, besides quite a number with two rooms. We now have about 45 school houses comfortably seated with patent desks. All this progress has been made possible by districts voting special taxes, and liberal subscriptions by the people.<sup>3</sup>

The Norwood School was also one of more than 3,450 new school houses built in North Carolina between 1902 and 1910 in direct response to the efforts of "The Central Campaign Committee for the Promotion of Public Education in North Carolina." The formation of this committee and its objectives were the product of a convention of educators and administrators in North Carolina, called at the suggestion of Dr. Charles Duncan McIver (1860-1906), held on 13 February 1902 in Raleigh, and chaired by Governor Charles Brantley Aycock. The goals of the committee and the period are addressed by Edgar Wallace Knight (1886-1953) in "Aycock and the Revival (1900-1910)," a chapter in his *Public School Education in North Carolina*, published in 1916.<sup>4</sup>

The work of the committee, which was composed of Governor Aycock, Superintendent Toon, and Dr. McIver, was to plan systematic campaigns for local taxation, for the consolidation of school districts, for building and equipping better schoolhouses, and for longer school terms and larger salaries for teachers. Provision was also made for committees to collect, write, and distribute to every newspaper in the State weekly articles bearing on the matter of better schools, and to write to every minister in the State requesting him to preach a sermon on public education at least once a year. A few days later (February 19, 1902) Superintendent Toon died of an illness contracted while canvassing the State in behalf of improved educational facilities, and James Y. Joyner, Professor of English in the State Normal and Industrial College, was appointed as his successor. Dr. Joyner was eminently qualified by nature and training to direct the public-school system of the State, and its growth since 1902 has in great part been due to his wise leadership.<sup>5</sup>

Mr. Knight continued his essentially contemporary historical account with acknowledgment of speeches made and rallies held throughout the state in support of these goals and the accomplishments made during the governorships of Mr. Aycock (1901-1905), Robert Broadnax Glenn (1905-1909), and William Walton Kitchin (1909-1913). Legislative action followed suit.

Until 1903 the superintendency of public education in North Carolina was little more than a poorly paid clerkship, and had been so since the early seventies. This unfortunate condition was produced by the reaction to fraud and extravagance practiced in the name of education during the Reconstruction period. But in 1903 the salary of the superintendent was increased and appropriations were made to make his department equal in dignity and equipment to the other departments of the state government. Unlimited authority was given the superintendent to issue

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

at public expense bulletins on educational topics, such as local taxation, consolidation of districts, improvement of schoolhouses, and like subjects. These bulletins have been distributed in large quantities and sent into every district in the State, and have rendered incalculable educational service.<sup>6</sup>

*Plans for Public School Houses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost* is arguably the most important of the bulletins issued by Superintendent Joyner. The thirty-eight-page building guide was prepared by the Raleigh-based firm of Barrett & Thomson, a partnership of Charles Wanton Barrett (1869-1947) and Frank Kingsbury Thomson (1872-1961). Superintendent Joyner addressed the value of the bulletin in his "Preface."

To suggest better plans for school houses, to prevent waste of money on improperly constructed houses, when properly constructed houses can be erected in many cases at the same or slightly increased cost, to make it easy and inexpensive for school officers to secure these better plans, I have had prepared by Messrs. Barrett & Thomson, well-known architects, the subjoined plans for one, two, three, four and six-room school houses. Accompanying the plans will be found full printed specifications and carefully prepared bills of material for each house, together with cuts and floor plans of the same. If larger working plans for these buildings are desired, blue prints can be procured at small cost from Messrs. Barrett & Thomson, Raleigh, N.C.

These plans have been prepared in accordance with modern principles of ventilation, light and sanitation. Full explanations of each plan by the architects will be found in this pamphlet. It will be seen that the plans have been so arranged that larger houses can be evolved from the one-room house if the enlargement of the district or increased population and attendance should later require the enlargement of the school house.<sup>7</sup>

Among their opening directives, Messrs. Barrett and Thomson wrote "Where a one-room building is required, build Room A, Plan No. 1, with accompanying coat room, vestibule and porch, shown by heavy black lines. When a second room is required, build Room B, with coat room, vestibule and porch, shown in light outline. If strict economy must be practiced, leave off the tower, the small gable ventilator on the main roof, and the porches shown on the Perspective No. 1."<sup>8</sup> John McFadden Plott followed this charge with but one important exception, a larger classroom, that benefitted the students and their teacher(s). "Plan No. 1" showed two classrooms, both twenty-six by thirty-two feet in size. The width of the classroom in Norwood School, a gable-front building, is about twenty-six feet, however, the depth was increased to about forty feet, a decision that proved advantageous when two teachers were employed. The vestibule and coat room were then covered with a shed roof. Mr. Plott enhanced the building's façade with a simple pediment above the vestibule entrance and crowned the composition with a hip-roof belfry for the school bell centered on its gable-front roof. He also provided ventilators in the broad east and west gable ends of the schoolhouse. The present porch and tower are

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

believed to be unnamed improvements made to the building in 1914. The stone piers supporting the building reflect a variation from a brick foundation or brick piers advised for new school buildings. Such stone or fieldstone piers were commonly used in the western Piedmont into the twentieth century for houses and smaller buildings. The interior plan and the provision of blackboards and a chalk trough also reflected Barrett & Thomson's recommendations.

As now understood the Norwood School is the earliest surviving, documented, and well-preserved school building based on the important and influential 1903 publication. There is not at present a known tabulation of the number of schoolhouses built in North Carolina to the plans published in 1903, however, the issuance of a much expanded, well-illustrated edition in 1908 indicates its value to school authorities in the state. Its title was essentially the same, *Plans for Public Schoolhouses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost*, except that school and house became one word in the title of the 1908 edition. James Y. Joyner's "Preface" in the new, expanded work by Barrett & Thomson is dated January 1908.

To suggest better plans for schoolhouses, to prevent waste of money on improperly constructed houses, when properly constructed houses can be erected in many cases at the same or slightly increased cost, to make it easy and inexpensive for school officers to secure these better plans, I have had prepared by Messrs. Barrett & Thomson, well-known architects, the subjoined revised, enlarged and improved plans for one, two, three, four and six room schoolhouses. The first pamphlet of plans for schoolhouses was issued in 1903. This pamphlet contains changes and improvements suggested by five years' experience.<sup>9</sup>

Further editions of the work with amended titles appeared in 1911 and 1914. *Plans for Public Schoolhouses Approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material, Estimates of Cost* featured an amended preface, dated January 1911, in which Superintendent Joyner noted "This pamphlet contains changes and improvements suggested by eight years' experience." Reflective of other needs he further noted "In this revised edition will be found also plans for dormitory buildings suitable for rural high schools and farm-life schools, also plans for sanitary toilets."<sup>10</sup> The 1911 plan book was the last of three produced by Barrett & Thomson: the partnership was dissolved ca. 1911. Frank K. Thomson continued to practice in Raleigh, and he alone was cited as the architect in Superintendent Joyner's preface to the 1914 edition. The title of this "Third Edition, Revised and Enlarged" was amended to reflect the addition of important new material. *Plans for Public Schoolhouses Approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, School Grounds and Suggestions for the Improvement of School Property*, represented "eleven years experience" and the contributions of colleagues, who Mr. Joyner named in his preface. Notable among them was Joshua Plummer Pillsbury (1873-1952), a landscape architect and the author of a chapter titled "Planning and Planting the School Grounds."<sup>11</sup> This was the last such building guide issued by the superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina. Attention soon turned to new initiatives in educational policy, school administration and consolidation that prompted the closing of this school in 1927.

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

The survival of the Norwood School, with its high degree of integrity, reflects the particular circumstances of its history and ownership. Since 1906, when three members of the Troutman family were named as committeemen of Fallstown Township District Number 7 school and two of those three, together with their wives, donated the tract beside the Troutman graveyard on which it was built and stands to the present, members of the Troutman family have held the schoolhouse in a close regard that approaches affection. This feeling governed its stewardship after the school closed permanently in 1927, ownership of the property reverted to members of the family, and the building was acquired for family use by John Isaiah Troutman. The exercise of a simple, respectful maintenance was continued by the Troutman Historical Association, Incorporated, from the conveyance in 1972, through its renaming as the Troutman Family Historical Association, Incorporated, in 2003, to the present.

This sympathetic treatment was altogether different from that given to the other schools that were abandoned by the Iredell County Board of Education as consolidation was implemented in the 1920s and 1930s. School property that had been donated by individuals for educational usage with reversion provisions reverted to the donors or their descendants. Property purchased by the board of education for educational purposes was sold at public auction when the property was no longer needed. Former schoolhouses were adapted, remodeled, and enlarged as private residences, as was the Ostwalt School, also in Fallstown Township and standing at 531 East Monbo Road, or used for a variety of purposes either on site or after removal to a more convenient location, where their survival and integrity were threatened by alterations, deterioration, fire, and finally demolition.

With these patterns seen throughout North Carolina, the Norwood School, enjoying the particulars of its history, is almost unique in its status as a one-room schoolhouse of its day. It stands among rare survivals of the usual fate of similar such schools. The Bellview School, a one-room frame, gable-front schoolhouse originally built in northwest Moore County in about the early-twentieth century, was relocated by the Moore County Board of Education to its administrative grounds near Carthage, the county seat, where the building was restored, furnished, and opened as a museum in 1974. Its design cannot be traced to any of those in the 1903 planbook, however, the fenestration on its long side elevation comprises a grouped quartet of six-over-six sash windows below corresponding three-pane transoms, which appear as conventional single windows in symmetrically-spaced openings in school elevations in the 1903 publication. The McCray School, a small one-room frame schoolhouse built in 1915-1916 for black students in Alamance County, has also been refitted as a museum. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, it represents a close adaptation of Design No. 1 in the 1908 edition of *Plans for Public Schoolhouses*. The Woodlawn School, also in Alamance County and said to have begun as a one-room school, was enlarged with the addition of a second room and represents a free, local adaptation of recommended models.

The published literature on one-room schoolhouses in North Carolina is as yet thin. Color photographs of the exteriors and interiors of both the Bellview and McCray schools by Paul Rocheleau were published in his monograph *The One-Room Schoolhouse*, in 2003. The Bellview, McCray, and Woodlawn schools were also published in *A Guide to the Historic*

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

*Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* in 2003 which, inexplicably, did not include Norwood School among the important buildings of Iredell County.<sup>12</sup>

In *An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Iredell County, North Carolina*, published in 1978, Ruth Little-Stokes had included a photograph of Norwood School and a short account of it and the adjoining family cemetery. “Of the 90 public schools built in the county in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century during the Aycok era,” she wrote, “this is the most architecturally significant of the few which still stand.”<sup>13</sup> That was her assessment in 1978. On 26 November 2019, Brett C. Sturm, a restoration specialist in the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, paid a site visit to the property at the request of officers of the Troutman Family Historical Association, Incorporated. In his follow-up e-mail communication to Brent L. Warren, president of the association, on 9 December 2019, he provided “detailed notes on the building’s current condition” and “some recommendations for future maintenance which you can share with your colleagues . . . .” He prefaced his report with a valuable assessment of the property, a critical appreciation which validates Ms. Little-Stokes’ conclusion and expands on the building’s larger area of significance.

To start I would like to reiterate my enthusiasm with regard to the site’s overall condition and integrity. In my two-plus years serving as the state restoration specialist for Iredell and sixteen other counties in the central Piedmont, I have only very rarely encountered historic buildings exhibiting a level of architectural wholeness on par with the Norwood School. In other words, the school has not experienced any of the common alterations to which many vernacular buildings of its type and vintage are typically subjected—i.e., the enclosure of an open crawlspace; the introduction of HVAC systems, window and door replacement, siding replacement, et cetera. And not only does the school retain many of its original architectural features—these features are generally in a stable, if not excellent, state of physical repair. It is evident to me that this building has long been under the careful watch of stewards who recognize and value its historical significance. As a result, the building survives as an emblem of the time in which it was erected. As a physical artifact, it represents an excellent opportunity for communicating to modern North Carolinians the social, educational, and architectural practices of past North Carolinians living under very different circumstances.<sup>14</sup>

### **Historical Background**

The history of public and private education in Iredell County has been addressed in degree in two principal works among other writings. The first of these, “The Growth and Development of Education in Iredell County,” was a thesis written by Clarence Reid McLain (1896-1966) in 1928, while a graduate student at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Homer Maxwell Keever (1905-1979) treated the subject in his bicentennial history, *Iredell-Piedmont County*, published in 1976. Both looked back to the Public School Act of 1839, with funding through the Literary Fund, and Iredell County’s decision that year to participate with the

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

provision of local financial support. By August 1839 ten local men were appointed as school commissioners, comprising a committee akin to later boards of education. Two of the ten, George Franklin Davidson (1805-1893) and John Augustus Young (1814-1889), were serving as representatives, as a senator and a member of the House of Commons, respectively, of Iredell County in the North Carolina General Assembly when the act was enacted. Another of the ten, Milton Campbell (1793-1860), was appointed chairman by the county court in 1841. Mr. Campbell "became the father of the Iredell Public School system, organizing it and running it as nearest thing to a county superintendent until his death in 1860. He is credited with laying out the county into districts, originally 95 small ones, none over three miles square. When western Iredell was put into the new county of Alexander in 1847, the number was reduced to 77."<sup>15</sup> Poll and property taxes were levied to provide local financing. Private schools and academies continued in operation, in parallel fashion, up to and during the Civil War.

Later in *Iredell-Piedmont County* Mr. Keever describes the status of education at the end of the war and the laws and policies that were subsequently enacted.

In 1865 there were 18 public school districts still operating schools in Iredell, but the war destroyed the Literary Fund to all practical purposes, because the money was loaned to fight the war and could not be paid back. The constitution of 1868 provided for a system of public schools to run for four months each year, to be financed by tax money collected locally rather than by an endowment from the state, but authorities were reluctant to lay those taxes. In 1890, out of a tax levy of 66 and two-thirds cents on the \$100 valuation of property, they gave only 12 and one-half cents to education. In contrast 20 cents went to caring for the poor.

The 1868 constitution also provided that more than 66 and two-thirds cents on the \$100 for all purposes could not be laid without a vote of the people, and the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled that provision took precedence over the provision for four months school. As late as 1907 L. O. White, county superintendent, protested to the county commissioners that, because of their failure to lay all the taxes allowed, the county could not participate in money made available by the state to those counties which were taxing themselves to the limit. The people, too, were reluctant to tax themselves more. In 1891 Statesville finally voted to tax themselves to establish a graded school, but it was 1905 before any other school districts voted a special tax.<sup>16</sup>

The reluctance of county commissioners to levy supplemental taxes and that of citizens in individual districts to vote to tax themselves for public school improvements stymied progress. Nevertheless, important advances occurred. Legislation enacted in Raleigh in 1881 giving county superintendents enhanced powers in school affairs and the supervision of teachers was followed in 1885 by another act creating county boards of education to effect and enforce educational policy. These newly-created boards were an important administrative change, one that elevated decision making, and remains operative today. As Homer Keever acknowledges, Augustus Leazer (1843-1905), an Iredell County representative in the legislature, was a key

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

figure in the passage of the 1885 bill. In Iredell County, James Henry Hill (1832-1919), John Chapman Turner (1855-1941), and Amos Dempsey Kestler (1842-1913) were appointed to the board of education. All brought a degree of professional involvement in education to their post, none more so than James Henry Hill, who Mr. Keever cites as being known in Iredell County as “Mr. Education” for a half century. Mr. Hill served as chairman of the county’s first board of education and he returned to the role in 1900 and served until retiring in 1917. The board’s efforts in defining and refining the boundaries of the county’s many school districts was furthered in the 1890s when the existing county-wide numbering system was replaced by one with schools numbered within each of the county’s sixteen townships.<sup>17</sup>

In the opening years of the twentieth century, when local discussions advanced to the election in 1905 approving a special tax to support a school in the community around the Troutman burying ground, Fallstown Township had six named schools for white children, in their respective numbered districts, and two schools for black children. “Leonard” stood in district one, with “Clark” in district two, “Ostwalt” in district three, “Troutman” in district four, being the village of Troutman, “Bells Cross Roads” in district five, and “Browns” in district six. These school names were the surnames of leading families or local landmarks in the respective districts. The two “colored” schools were named for their locality or location with the district one school in Troutman named “Troutman” and “River” being the name of the district two school that was probably located in or near East Monbo on the east side of the Catawba River.<sup>18</sup>

Events occurred quickly in the summer and autumn of 1906. On 8 June 1906 The *Landmark* reported the organization of a new school district in Fallstown Township in its paragraphs recounting the board of education meeting on 4 June. “The board decided to establish a new school district, to be formed from parts of districts Nos. 1 and 3, Fallstown, and No. 4, Statesville, to be known as No. 7. The school house is to be located near Troutman’s graveyard, in Fallstown, and the patrons are to bear one-half of the expense incurred.”

Two months later, on 7 September 1906, The *Landmark* reported the appointment of Jesse Monroe Lippard (1862-1961), Jacob Caldwell Troutman (1851-1929), and Henry Allison Troutman (1856-1924) as committeemen for Fallstown district seven. That appointment was made by the board of education on 3 September 1906.<sup>19</sup> That same day Jacob Caldwell and Henry Allison Troutman and their wives conveyed a two-acre lot on the immediate north side of the Troutman graveyard to the County Board of Education.<sup>20</sup> Jacob C. Troutman’s wife, Margaret Louise Troutman (1854-1927), was an elder sister of Henry A. Troutman, and the second of four daughters born to Henry Martin Troutman (1825-1904) and Katherine (Clodfelter) Troutman (1827-1865). This sibling kinship gives rise to the likelihood that the acreage on which the Norwood School stands was a part of the Henry Martin Troutman lands inherited by his children. A family gathering to celebrate Henry M. Troutman’s 79<sup>th</sup> birthday, 14 September 1904, is acknowledged as the genesis of the annual Troutman family reunions.

Both the board’s approval for the contract to build the school and its actual construction occurred in the last three months of 1906. As reported in The *Landmark* on 5 October 1906, the board took the necessary action at its meeting on 1 October. “The committee of No. 7, white district,

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

Fallstown township, was authorized to let the contract and superintend the erection of the new school house to be built in that district – in accordance with the plans and specifications agreed upon.” While not stated in the account of the meeting, the plan and specifications utilized for the school house were those presented as “Room A, Plan No. 1” in *Plans for Public School Houses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates Of Cost*, an architectural handbook “Prepared for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction by Barrett & Thomson, Architects, Raleigh, N.C.” and printed by Edwards & Broughton, State Printers, in 1903.<sup>21</sup>

The name of the builder of the Norwood School, identified as John McFadden Plott, has not been found in contemporary accounts or school board records. The single mention of his name appears as “John Plott” in the caption of a photograph of the school published as an illustration for an article, “Troutman Clan Led Settlement In South Iredell,” written by Eileen Brown and published in a Centennial Edition of the *Statesville Record & Landmark* on 8 April 1974. The known facts of his life support this attribution.<sup>22</sup> John McFadden Plott was born on 24 April 1858 in the Rock Cut community of southwest Iredell County, later and now known as Eufola, the son of Rudolph Conrad Plott (1814-1906) and his wife, Sarah McFadden Plott (1831-1910), and a grandson of Elias Plott (1772-1845). Rudolph C. Plott died on 12 December 1906 and his body was interred in the Troutman graveyard near those of his two eldest daughters, Emily E. Plott (1851-1902) and Ellen C. Plott (1854-1861). Their burial followed on that of Margaret Plott (1795-1855), the second wife of Elias Plott, and the stepmother of Rudolph C. Plott.<sup>23</sup>

The documentation of John McF. Plott’s youth, education, and young adulthood remains an ongoing effort. Born in 1858 he was the fifth child and second-born son in a large family of at least eleven known children. In the 1860, 1870, and 1880 Federal Censuses, he is listed among his siblings in the household headed by his father, a farmer, with Mrs. Plott. In 1870 John Plott is identified as a “farm hand” and in 1880 as a “farm worker.” The circumstances of his meeting Annie J. Baker (1871-1955), the daughter of Alfred Baker (1844-1928), a carpenter residing in Catawba County with his wife, Margaret Jane Hill Baker (1839-1923), remain unconfirmed. On 30 March 1889 John M. Plott and Annie J. Baker were married in Catawba County, and probably at the home of her parents. It stood in the community known as Jugtown, in southwest Catawba County, anchored by Sardis Lutheran and Corinth Baptist churches. Absent reference to the 1890 Census, evidence suggests that the couple may have remained in Catawba County, living with or near her parents, and that John Plott learned the skills of carpentry through work with Alfred Baker. Surviving records at Corinth Church indicate “J. M. Plott and G. W. Hood were elected as delegates to the Association, with John Sharp as alternate” in 1897. In 1898 “During May, J. M. Plott was elected as treasurer.” He was also the alternate delegate to the unidentified Baptist association that year.<sup>24</sup> Next, on 7 February 1899, The *Landmark* published news items communicated from Rock Cut concluding with a mention that “Misses Esther and Effie Plott are visiting their brother, Mr. John Plott, of Jugtown, Catawba county.”

Within weeks John McFadden Plott returned with his family to Rock Cut, Iredell County, to take up carpentry and the farming necessary to support his family. On 24 March 1899 The *Landmark* published another short column of “Rock Cut News.” Readers learned “Mr. John Plott has his new dwelling framed. It will be the first two-story building in this place.” But in 1900 Mr. Plott,

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

his wife and five children are recorded in the Twelfth Census of the United States as residents of Cleveland, Rowan County, North Carolina. "Carpenter" is listed as his trade. He and his family had returned to Iredell County and Eufola in or by 1906 when he and two of his surviving brothers, "who live in the neighborhood," are named in their father's obituary published in *The Landmark* on 14 December 1906. John McF. Plott was seeing the new schoolhouse for Fallstown's district seven to completion beside the cemetery where his father's body was buried.

John McF. Plott remained in the Eufola area through the enumeration for the 1910 census, when he is identified as a farmer and the head of a household including his wife and the couple's nine children. In 1913 he relocated with his family to Lumber Bridge in Robeson County, North Carolina. After about two years, the Plott family moved to the St. Paul's community, also in Robeson County, where Mr. Plott continued to farm, and where he was living when he died on 16 February 1941. An article recounting the Plotts' golden wedding anniversary celebration, published in *The Robesonian* (Lumberton) and reprinted in *The Landmark* on 13 April 1939, noted "Prior to 1925, he also was engaged in carpentry." To date, including research for this nomination, the Norwood School is the only known surviving building attributed to John McFadden Plott.<sup>25</sup>

The operation of the Norwood School, from January 1907 through the spring session of 1927, is recorded in both primary and secondary records. The actions taken at monthly meetings of the Iredell County Board of Education were recounted in this period for citizens of Iredell County in columns in *The Landmark*, usually in the Friday edition following the board meeting on the first Monday of each month. The surviving records of the Iredell County Board of Education include ledgers for the period from 1902 to 1910 that record the apportionments and expenses at Norwood School for four years, 1907-1910. In rare instances the annual report of the County Superintendent of Schools to the Iredell County Board of Education was compiled and presented in pamphlet form. *The Public Schools of Iredell County for Year Ending July 10, 1910*, prepared by Superintendent Lawrence Oxford White (1878-1951) appears to be the earliest of these and acknowledges "the growth of the school work in Iredell County, during the last several years." Mr. White's tenure as superintendent extended from 1907 to 1912 and included the years of dramatic upbuilding of schools following the 1905 tax election.<sup>26</sup>

The principal secondary resource for the history of the school is "Norwood School (Troutman Graveyard School), Iredell County, North Carolina" compiled in 2007 by Thelma Wagner Dulin (1926-2014). Comprising photocopies of deeds, newspaper articles, photographs of the school, teachers, students, and school events, a list of teachers, and the text of mentions of the school published in *The Landmark*, along with other items of pertinence, it is one of a series of such compilations she made for "23 one-two room schools in the Central Iredell County area" as noted in her obituary.<sup>27</sup>

The first appearance of the District Number 7 school, Fallstown Township, in the Iredell County Board of Education ledger is in 1907 with "Created 1906" as a notation in the heading. The apportionment was \$124. The expense entries record four payments. On 4 February Jesse Monroe Lippard was paid \$1.28 for "taking census 1906" of students in the district boundaries.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

On 26 February Isaac York was paid \$12.00 for “painting School house.” Mr. Lippard was paid \$10.72 on 1 April for “material for new house.” Mr. Rimmer was paid \$90 on 8 April for his three-month employment as the first teacher in the new school.<sup>28</sup> The community’s pride in this first term was reflected in an account penned by “A Friend To Education” and published in *The Landmark* on 12 April 1907 under the heading, “Close Of A District School.”

The ‘Troutman Graveyard School’ (which is district No. 7, Fallstown township), taught by Mr. T. A. Rimmer, closed Friday, March 29, with appropriate exercises. We believe we had one of the most successful schools in the county. The attendance was especially good, and the children made rapid progress in all departments . . . .

At the noon hour a sumptuous dinner was spread and all partook of the good things that the kind ladies of the community had prepared for this occasion. In the afternoon we had a few songs by the school, and short addresses by Mr. M. F. P. Troutman and the teacher, Mr. T. A. Rimmer, but we wish to make especial mention of the address of Mr. Z. V. Long, our State Senator. He called it ‘A Plea for Childhood,’ and we believe that it was the most earnest plea for the cause of education that we have heard in a long time . . . .

The day was an ideal one for the occasion and the best of order prevailed throughout all the exercises.

The people of this community, by their united efforts, have recently built one of the nicest school houses in the county, which not only reflects credit upon their community, but shows that the cause of public education has the hearty and substantial support of the people.

The second term of the Troutman Graveyard School began on Monday, 25 November 1907. Oscar P. Campbell, who succeeded Mr. Rimmer, was the lone teacher for the first month, with a salary of \$35, after which he was assisted in the classroom by Miss Callie Ostwalt for the next three and one-quarter months. They received compensation of \$104.00 and \$73.25, respectively, for their services in spring 1908. Although the purchase of desks for the school had been approved by the board of education in principal on 4 November 1907 they were not in place until the third term began in autumn 1908. Instruction was provided by two young women, the Misses Eva Dotson and Bessie Campbell, who oversaw the closing exercises on Friday, \_\_\_\_ April 1909, reported in *The Enterprise*, the Mooresville newspaper, on 22 April 1909. During the 1909-1910 school session, fifty-seven students were enrolled with (average) attendance of forty-six: J. Claude Troutman was assisted in the classroom by Miss Annie Lazenby. The Misses Addie Phifer and Sudie Steele were teachers for the following session in 1910-1911, and they in turn were succeeded by Misses Ruth Wharton and Grace Troutman in 1911-1912. Similar, successive pairings of teachers, with one identified as “principal” and the second as “assistant,” in male-female pairings or with both being female, continued through the duration of the school’s operation.<sup>29</sup>

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

The school stood as built until autumn 1914 when the board of education authorized the expenditure of \$25 for an unidentified building improvement at its meeting on 7 September 1914. At its next meeting, on 5 October 1914, the board authorized the committeemen of Fallstown District Number 7 “to draw in advance \$25 of its local tax money for improving the school building.” The work was completed by the board’s meeting on 7 December 1914 when it approved “\$44.20 for improving building” at Fallstown District Number 7.<sup>30</sup> What this improvement comprised remained unnamed. However, it possibly represented construction of the tower and present pedimented, gable-front porch that shelters the building’s two-bay west elevation. The earliest known documentary image of the front of the school, undated and reproduced in Mrs. Dulin’s “Norwood School,” shows a gable-front main block with a shed roof, incorporating a dominant pedimented gable above the school’s entrance, covering the inset block containing the vestibule and coat room. The school bell then hung in a small, hip-roof belfry centered above the pedimented gable on its shallow roof. The image was reproduced in 2004 as an illustration in *100 Years of Recipes, Reunions and Remembrances*. The matter of when the northernmost of two window openings on the school’s east elevation was lengthened and fitted with a door remains to be confirmed.

The only other, presently-known improvements that gained notice were on the interior and came in 1922. On 24 November 1921 The *Landmark* carried a short notice under the heading, “Pie Supper at Troutman Graveyard School.”

There will be a pie supper at Troutman school No. 7, better known throughout the county as Troutman Graveyard school, Saturday night, November 26. The public is cordially invited. Each girl is asked to bring a pie or box while the boys bring a well-filled pocket of change. The doors will be thrown upon (*sic*) to the enjoyment of the crowd to the fullest extent. A large crowd is hoped for. The proceeds will go for the benefit of the school building.

A follow-up article appeared in The *Landmark* on 5 December 1921. Readers learned “The box supper held at this place last Saturday night, November 26<sup>th</sup>, was a success. The proceeds amounted to \$38.50, which will be used for the improvement of the school building.” A month later, on 9 January 1922, those improvements were described in an account titled “News of Troutman School No. 7” featured in “News Items From The County Schools” in The *Landmark*. “We have also made a few improvements in our school. Put in a new partition, oiled the floors, purchased two new blackboards, some new desks, window shades, maps and several other useful articles. We hope to be able to paint the inside of the building before the end of the term.”

Lengths of faint, barely discernible, shallow, and parallel paint lines survive on the classroom’s south wall, between the center two windows in the building’s south elevation, and like parallel lines and some evidence of nailing on the ceiling, east of the flue mount, together with a pendant cut in the chalk trough on the classroom’s north elevation are evidence of the location of this partition. Its appearance and the consideration made for the school’s single stove remain unknown. The partition wall effectively divided the single large classroom into two smaller,

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

equal-sized classrooms. The refitting of the window opening in the building's east elevation as a doorway may date to this time, as it would have provided a separate, secondary entrance and exit for the students being taught in the classroom in the east half of the building, without interruption to instruction and study in the west classroom.

Simultaneously, the matter of school consolidation was gaining currency in private conversations and in gatherings of school officials at every level from the local committee for Norwood School through the County Board of Education to the state department offices and legislative chambers in Raleigh. On 9 July 1923 the Iredell County Board of Education unanimously approved a motion "that this County adopt the County Wide Plan of Organization for this County and that a map be made as soon as possible showing the boundaries of districts, locations of roads, streams, etc., and get all necessary data so that we may carry out the new law." This work was accomplished in the space of ten months and at its meeting on 5 May 1924 the board approved the newly-devised plan and map. "BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Iredell County In Regular Session held on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1924 that the County-Wide Plan of Consolidation of the Schools od (*sic*) Iredell County as recommended by Dr. George Howard Jr. be and the same is hereby adopted as shown on map drawn by W. S. Moore, March 1924 except, . . ." The board's four stated exceptions reflected its understanding of particular local circumstances and, possibly, citizen responses to the plan. None concerned schools in Fallstown Township.<sup>31</sup>

The work of consolidation in Iredell County proceeded incrementally as funds became available and new, larger buildings were erected for the combined schools. The plan called for Norwood School, together with Ostwalt School, and other schools in the countryside surrounding the town of Troutman to be consolidated with the Troutman High School in town. In the event Norwood School was consolidated in fall 1927: Ostwalt School was not consolidated until fall 1933. The process of consolidation for Norwood was begun in the winter of 1925-1926 and advanced on 1 March 1926 when a delegation representing Norwood and Eureka schools presented petitions asking for a special tax election to consolidate with Troutman High School. The petitions were approved, along with three others of similar intent, and registrars and judges for the respective elections were appointed. Jesse Monroe Lippard was named registrar for the Norwood election with A. L. Collins and J. B. Troutman named as judges. The Norwood election was held on 20 April 1926. The special tax was adopted with eighteen votes in favor and nine votes against the special tax. In May 1926 the Iredell County Board of Education advanced its consideration of the design and construction of a new school building in Troutman.<sup>32</sup>

Norwood School effectively appears for the last time in the Iredell County Board of Education minutes for the meeting of 7 February 1927 when Miss Celeste Henkel (1882-1935), the county superintendent, read an extended report on the progress of the Iredell County schools since 1 July 1925. Among the consolidations she noted were those of Eureka and Norwood schools with Troutman High School. The consolidation was effected when the 1927-1928 school year began in the late summer of 1927. As the deed of gift in 1906 stated, the acreage on which the Norwood School stood reverted to "the said grantees their heirs and assigns." According to family tradition the abandoned school building was purchased at auction for \$60 by John Isaiah Troutman (1864-1952), the first-born son of Jacob Troutman (1821-1891) and his second wife,

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

Sarah Susannah Collins (1840-1909), with the intent that it remain on its site and continue to be used for family reunions. Although extensive research into school board minutes and the surviving records of the sale of school property abandoned for educational purposes following on consolidation do not confirm this tradition, neither is there reason to doubt its veracity. John I. Troutman's third-born son, Espy Tays Troutman (1898-1984) was a teacher at the Norwood School in the early 1920s, at or about the beginning of his forty-three year career as a public school teacher, and a benefactor fifty years later of the Troutman Historical Association.<sup>33</sup>

In the event the former school building remained a gathering place for family reunions and community events. In August 1932 The *Landmark* featured articles on a Sunday School held on Sunday afternoons in the Troutman Graveyard School and the twenty-eighty annual reunion of the Troutman family on Saturday, 19 August. The reunion article, published on 16 August, informed readers "The meeting is to be at the usual place--the old Troutman Graveyard school building, now owned by the Troutman Historical Association. Refreshments will be sold for the benefit of the association, proceeds to be used to improve the grounds." A final known family use of the former school building in 1932 occurred in December. Lethia Clementine (Troutman) Troutman (1864-1932), the wife of John I. Troutman died on 11 December 1932. With rains precluding prayers over her grave in the family cemetery, her funeral was held in the schoolhouse. A particular poignancy attended the services: as the youngest child of Henry Martin Troutman, she was a sister to two of the donors of the land on which the school was built in 1906, four of her children had attended classes here, and she and her husband had provided room and board to (at least) seven of the school's female teachers, one of whom, Jamie Leigh Atwell (1894-1992), would later marry her eldest son, Coit Ray Troutman (1892-1963). John I. Troutman's subsequent role in the enlargement of the family cemetery was later recalled in an undated two-page typescript account attributed to his son, Jacob Guy Troutman (1905-1993). "To enlarge the graveyard the back wall of rock was removed and used to extend the side walls. This project was instigated by John I. Troutman, who secured the services of the C. C. Camp boys during the depression of the 1930's." This would have occurred in the period after August 1935 when Civilian Conservation Corps Company 3420 was established in Iredell County with its camp located about a mile northwest of Statesville.<sup>34</sup>

With the account of the 1909 family gathering, "The Troutman Reunion," published in The *Landmark* on 10 September 1909, in which the writer also detailed the organization of the Troutman Historical Association and the election of its officers, history confirms the building to have enjoyed a longer use as a meeting place for the family reunions than its original purpose as a community school. The factor in common to both, over the course of 115 years is the role of the Troutman family in the school's history and their committed stewardship of the building and property. The Norwood School and the family burying ground are inseparable from their identity as a family. Tradition and published accounts cite the birthday dinner honoring Henry Martin Troutman, held in August 1904 in advance of his seventy-ninth birthday on 14 September, as the genesis of these gatherings. The earliest known written account of a Troutman family reunion, that of 24 September 1908, was penned by an unidentified member of the family on 25 September and submitted to The *Landmark*. It was published under the heading, "Home-Coming of Troutmans," on 2 October 1908. "There was a notable home-coming yesterday of

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

the Troutman family. They gathered at the old, old home place where 150 years ago the first patriarchal father settled when he wandered off from civilization, hunted him a clear, strong spring near which he built a house, . . .and began life as a farmer.” The family’s first reunion in 1905, following the 1904 birthday dinner, had been held at the home place and probably so, too, those held in 1906 and 1907. The reunion held on 24 September 1908 was apparently the last such important family gathering at the ancestral home. The weatherboarded log house ceased to be a residence of the Troutman family, became a rental dwelling, was abandoned for that use in about the mid-twentieth century, and is now a ruin marked by the remains of its stone chimney and remnant sections of its collapsed log fabric.<sup>35</sup>

Another important, later account of a reunion held in the school building was written by Dessie Troutman Malcolm (1894-1979), the first-born daughter of Elliott Jay Troutman (1868-1958) and the wife of Zebulon Vance Malcolm (1892-1964), and published in *The Landmark* on 28 August 1922. Its heading, “The Troutman Reunion,” was followed by a sub-heading, “The Troutman Clan Holds Enjoyable Reunion at Troutman Graveyard School House--The Speakers.” Her account describes a schedule for the day, Friday, 18 August 1922, which has held with but little variation to the present except that the reunions came to be held on Saturdays, and later in the year. “Devotional exercises” were followed by an address, a recitation, musical offerings, and a business meeting. “After much discussion the meeting adjourned. Then another important feature of the day was the dinner, and, as usual, there was plenty of dinner left after all did eat and were filled.” The matter prompting extended discussion was “plans. . .as to removing the slab that marks the grave of our first ancestor to this country, ‘Father Jacob,’ and erecting a monument instead. This failed to meet agreement and the erection of a memorial stone arch was next suggested.” This idea also failed to gain approval. The reunion concluded on a positive note with the announcement of the next reunion to be held “On the Friday before the third Sunday in August, 1923 . . .”<sup>36</sup>

Whether such appreciative accounts of the annual reunions were published thereafter is uncertain, but likely, and remains to be confirmed. Research for this nomination identified an additional dozen or so with the next being for the forty-seventh reunion in August 1951. It, too, was held “at the cherished spot so dear to each of us, namely the Troutman Historical Building, which is located 3 miles west of Troutman.” Written by Dorothy Troutman Ingram (1914-1993), the youngest of Elliott Jay Troutman’s eight children, and published in *The Landmark* on 27 August 1951 under the heading, “Troutman Clan Enjoys A Very Happy Occasion,” her account was also thorough in its detail. Mrs. Ingram noted Espy Tays Troutman’s announcement of his gift of acreage adjoining the cemetery and his presentation of the deed. She next acknowledged a gift of acreage in 1950 by Margaret Irene McNeely Troutman (1889-1964) in memory of her late husband, Martin Furches Pressly Troutman (1877-1949).<sup>37</sup> Mrs. Ingram also noted “the famous ‘T’ shaped table,” actually an assembly of tables in a “T” shape, on which the covered dishes were laid out. This practice continues to the present. At the fiftieth reunion, held on Saturday, 21 August 1954, “Recognition for perfect attendance at all 50 Troutman reunions was given to Ollie Troutman and Mrs. Vera Compton” and repeated in the unsigned article published in the *Statesville Record & Landmark* on 24 August 1954 under the heading “300 Troutmans Are Reunited.”

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

The Troutman family continued to gather annually at reunions in the 1950s and 1960s and into the early 1970s, when a series of legal actions advanced in tandem and placed the ownership of the former school building and family cemetery on a sound corporate footing. Espy Tays Troutman Sr. (1898-1984), Espy T. Troutman Jr. (1934-1992), Henry Lester Troutman (1933-2007), and members of the Martin F. P. Troutman family were leaders in a coordinated effort. Their actions coincided with those of other family members. About 1970 Victor Eugene Troutman (1906-1994) oversaw a group of family members who effected a realignment of many of the unmarked fieldstones and inscribed headstones in the oldest, western part of the cemetery into regimented rows. They then encircled the grave markers with ground-level, poured concrete collars and removed virtually all of the complementing, companion upright footstones from the cemetery. Many, including a group inscribed with the initials of the deceased, survive in stacks under the schoolhouse. The newly-ordered rows flank a then-opened center path leading east from the west gate into the approximate center of the cemetery where a flagpole was erected. The historic patterns of burial and exact places of interment, defined here by generations of the Troutman family and their friends through a century and a half, were effectively compromised in an important part of the cemetery. In June 1971 a survey of the school and cemetery property, then still privately held, was made by Robert Buford Kestler Jr. (1922-2001), a surveyor employed by John V. Barger & Company of Mooresville. It showed a common property line, shared by Espy Tays Troutman Sr. and the heirs of Martin F. P. Troutman, carrying in a straight line, on a generally north/south axis, through the near center of the school building and the cemetery.<sup>38</sup> The situation required remedy and prompted the creation of a corporate body to hold the property.

The Troutman Historical Association had existed as a society of family members since its organization in 1909 and the election of officers, including Martin Furches Pressly Troutman (1877-1949) as president. In 1972 Articles of Incorporation for the Troutman Historical Association, Inc., were filed with the North Carolina Secretary of State: the incorporation was certified on 31 July 1972. Henry Lester Troutman (1933-2007), a grandson of Henry Allison Troutman, was the registered agent of the corporation.<sup>39</sup>

Through three deeds in 1972 the site and setting of the former school building and family cemetery were conveyed to the Troutman Historical Association, Incorporated. The heirs of Martin F. P. Troutman deeded the larger (1.84-acre) western portion of the historical acreage, bordered on the west by the path of Troutman Farm Road, to the association on 17 March 1972.<sup>40</sup> Espy Tays Troutman Sr. and his wife conveyed the smaller fractional part of the grounds on the east by a deed dated 9 August 1972.<sup>41</sup> On 19 August 1972, in a duplicate deed with a reordered description, Mr. and Mrs. Troutman again conveyed this 0.64-acre tract to the family association.<sup>42</sup> The acreage comprising these parcels remained intact until further donations in 2009 and 2014, when John William Troutman (b. 1938), a son of Espy T. Troutman Sr., and his wife deeded parcels on the east and southeast, respectively, of the school and cemetery grounds to the Troutman Family Historical Association, Incorporated.<sup>43</sup>

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

In retrospect the legal incorporation of Troutman Historical Association had a galvanizing effect among family members. On 18 August 1973 Dessie Troutman Farnsworth (1894-1979), a graduate of Fallstown Township's Ostwalt School and a long-time resident of New York City, hosted a reunion of former students at Ostwalt School, with those of Clark and Troutman Graveyard schools as guests, with her kinswoman, Banie Lee Lytton Loftin (1892-1981), as a co-hostess.<sup>44</sup> With a strong loyalty to family, she had written an account of the 1922 Troutman reunion as the wife of her first husband, Zebulon Vance Malcolm, and penned an account of the 1977 reunion as a widow of John Semer Farnsworth (1893-1952). In 1975 the Troutmans became one of the first families in North Carolina to publish a cookbook, *Favorite Recipes of the Troutman Family*, which had its seventh printing in 1980. In 1976 the family association had the former nineteenth-century railroad station erected in Troutman by the Atlantic, Tennessee & Ohio Railroad, then threatened by demolition, moved from its location to a new site on its acreage immediately south of the cemetery. Family members foresaw its rehabilitation and adaptation as a museum and family heritage center.<sup>45</sup> A rising interest in family history among an informal group coincided with these events but failed to advance to publication until the effort was placed in the hands of Thomas Leon Troutman (b. 1952) in 1988. He served as the editor of *Descending Jacob's Ladder: The Descendants of Johann Jacob Troutman of Iredell County, NC (1767-1846)* which was published in 1993. The 628-page genealogy comprises the life of Johann Jacob Troutman and eight generations of his descendants, together with related historical and genealogical information.<sup>46</sup>

While acknowledging the National Register significance of the Norwood School in the areas of architecture and education, cultural historians in the future may also define its significance in ethnic and social history as a place where members of an American family of German ancestry gathered annually for a century to honor their ancestors and celebrate the bonds of kinship. It has served this purpose, since 1909, for a period far longer than the twenty-one years it housed a community school, from 1907 to 1927. As now understood, the Troutman family is among the earliest, if not the first, of a small number of families in Piedmont North Carolina to gather--and to continue gathering--at annual reunions. Their first assembly, following on the 1904 birthday dinner for Henry Martin Troutman, was a reunion in 1905 at the now-lost home of their patriarch, Jacob Troutman. The Troutman reunion antedates by a score of years the well-known Brown and Fisher Reunion, in neighboring Rowan County, that was first held on Thursday, 30 July 1925, at the "Graded School Building, Granite Quarry," by the intermarried descendants of Michael Brown (ca. 1722-1807) and Jacob Fisher (17\_\_-1804). They, like Jacob Troutman, were pioneer settlers of their surname in their place in the eighteenth century, and also of German ancestry.<sup>47</sup>

A pride in family and heritage was apparent in the language of accounts published in *The Landmark* from 1908 onward. So, too was the honor felt by those who faithfully attended reunions year after year. As she closed her account of the reunion in 1951, published in *The Landmark* on 27 August 1951, Dorothy Troutman Ingram wrote "The day activities was (*sic*) closed by all praying the Lord's Prayer as a benediction to such a grand and glorious day and for all to leave with the feeling that it was good to have been there. We proudly boast of the fact that

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

we feel we are the oldest and largest family to have such an occasion, and if you are in doubt just be with us next year.”

The announcement of the sixty-first reunion in 1965 was written by Espy Tays Troutman Sr. and published on 20 August 1965 in the *Statesville Record & Landmark* under the heading “History of Troutman Reunion is Recalled.” Mr. Troutman, one of the family members who had begun gathering family history, shared his knowledge with readers.

The beginning of the Troutman Reunion was the outcome of an event in the summer of 1904, in August of that same year, celebrating the birthday of a grandson of Jacob Troutman. He was Henry Martin Troutman, loved by all who knew him. This was a time when a granddaughter of Jacob Troutman, Mrs. Sini Sherrill, and her husband, Thomas Sherrill were living in Colton, Calif. They were visiting friends and relatives in Iredell County and Catawba County. So that this couple could have a better opportunity to see these relatives at one place, a birthday celebration was held.

This occasion was such an enjoyable event that the older heads of the Troutman family, who were present, decided to make it an annual event, thus the beginning of the Troutman Reunion. The next year in August, 1905, the Troutmans gathered at the original home site where Jacob Troutman and his wife established their home, which is only a short distance west of the cemetery near the headwaters of Nords (*sic*) and Bass Creek.

The writer of this article was present at this first Troutman reunion as a very young lad. He remembers well that most families who came to this first reunion drove in wagons bringing all their families, except those who were near enough to walk. He also remembers well the good times he had playing with other youngsters of his own age in the clear sparkling stream running from the big spring until the picnic dinner was spread beneath the large shade trees of the old home site.

Thereafter, and particularly following Dessie Troutman Farnsworth’s valedictory account of the reunion of 1977, written when she was eighty-two and appearing in the *Statesville Record & Landmark* on 22 August 1977, published announcements and recounts of reunions were written usually by journalists or staff writers at the *Statesville Record & Landmark* and other newspapers. The most appealing of these was the coverage of the 2013 reunion, written by Tommy Tomlinson, photographed by Bill Lusk and Brent Clark, and published in *Our State* in March 2014.<sup>48</sup> Meanwhile, in 2004, the Troutman Family Historical Association, Incorporated, published an illustrated centennial cookbook, *100 Years of Recipes, Reunions and Remembrances*.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

## Endnotes

1. This author gratefully acknowledges the knowing and generous assistance of two history and genealogy librarians whose consideration and interest in this nomination greatly facilitated its preparation. Joel Reese, on the staff of the Iredell County Public Library in Statesville, directed me to holdings in his collection including photocopies of the 1910 and 1917 published reports on Iredell County schools, Clarence Reid McLain's master's thesis, copies of the histories of Iredell County schools compiled by Thelma Lorene Wagner Dulin (1926-2014), and vertical files of mostly newspaper clippings for schools, Troutman reunions, and the Troutman family, together with other valuable materials in the library's reference collection. Alex Floyd, at the Catawba County Public Library in Newton, assisted my research when in the library and kindly responded to telephone inquiries about figures important in the history of Norwood School, notably John McFadden Plott, and that of education in Iredell County and North Carolina. This mostly online research also provided access to the 1903, 1908, and 1911 plan books for public schools prepared by Barrett & Thomson for the Superintendent of Public Instruction and that of 1914. Brent Leslie Warren (b. 1956), president of the Troutman Historical Association, Incorporated, and a great-great-great-grandson of Johann Jacob Troutman, provided photocopies of Mrs. Dulin's works on the Norwood and Ostwalt schools, and other useful materials. Samuel Max Parker (b. 1940), also a great-great-great-grandson of Johann Jacob Troutman, who first approached me for the preparation of this nomination and next offered me the opportunity to undertake the project, kindly lent me his copy of *Descending Jacob's Ladder*. This 600-plus page genealogy of the Johann Jacob Troutman family has been invaluable: rare was the day I did not turn to it during the successive stages of my work.
2. Keever, Homer M. *Iredell-Piedmont County* (Statesville, NC: Brady Printing Company, 1976), 489. Hereinafter cited as Keever.
3. White, L. O., compiler, *The Public Schools of Iredell County For Year Ending July 10, 1910* (N. p.: n. p., 1910), 9. Hereinafter cited as *The Public Schools . . . 1910*.
4. Knight, Edgar W., *Public School Education in North Carolina* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916), 329-44. Hereinafter cited as Knight.
5. Knight, 333.
6. Knight, 339.
7. *Plans for Public School Houses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, State Printers, 1903), "Preface." Hereinafter cited as *Plans for Public School Houses* (1903).
8. *Plans for Public School Houses* (1903), 7.
9. *Plans for Public Schoolhouses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost* (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell & Co., State Printers and Binders, 1908), "Preface."
10. *Plans for Public Schoolhouses Approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction With Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material, Estimates of Cost* (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell & Co., State Printers and Binders, 1911), "Preface."

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

11. *Plans for Public Schoolhouses Approved by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, School Grounds and Suggestions for the Improvement of School Property* (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell & Co., Printers and Binders, 1914), “Preface.” Joshua Plummer Pillsbury, a native of Ohio, was a 1910 graduate of Pennsylvania State College who enjoyed a long tenure at the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering (now North Carolina State University). He was professor of horticulture from 1911 to 1940, professor of landscape architecture from 1940 to 1946, and the school’s landscape architect from 1925 to 1946. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Raleigh, NC.
12. Rocheleau, Paul, *The One-Room Schoolhouse* (New York: Universe Publishing, 2003), 145-49. Catherine W. Bishir and Michael Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 248-49, 270. See also files for these properties in the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Taylor School House, a one-room school said to have been built ca. 1905-06 on West Pleasant Hill Road near Pink Hill in Lenoir County, also figures among the surviving one-room schoolhouses in North Carolina.
13. Little-Stokes, Ruth, *An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Iredell County, North Carolina* (Statesville, NC: Iredell County, City of Statesville, Town of Mooresville, Division of Archives & History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1978), 35.
14. Brett C. Sturm, email letter to Brent L. Warren, 9 December 2019. Mr. Warren provided a photocopy of the correspondence to this author.
15. Keever, 202-03.
16. Keever, 339.
17. Keever, 340-41.
18. Iredell County Board of Education Records, Iredell-Statesville Schools Facilities and Planning Offices, Troutman, NC. Hereinafter cited as Board of Education Records.
19. Jesse Monroe Lippard was the husband of Florence Augusta Troutman Lippard (1879-1970), a great-granddaughter of Johann Jacob Troutman. They are buried in St. Martin’s Cemetery, Troutman. Jacob Caldwell Troutman was a grandson of Johann Jacob Troutman. Henry Allison Troutman was a great-grandson of the patriarch. Messrs. Troutman and their wives are interred in the Troutman Family Cemetery.
20. Iredell County Deeds, 35/594.
21. *Plans for Public School Houses* . . . was the first of four such works issued by James Yadkin Joyner (1862-1954) during his now legendary tenure as state superintendent of public instruction from 1902 to 1919.
22. Efforts to confirm the source of this attribution have been fruitless to date but do not negate its likely factualness. The author, Daryle Eileen Brown (b. 1950), was the daughter of James Hamilton Brown and his wife, of Troutman. She was a journalism student at the University of South Carolina at Columbia, South Carolina, where she was married on 17 October 1970 to Robert Gray Brown, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Z. Banks Brown, also of Troutman. The couple were divorced in 1973. The details of her life and career after the publication of this article are not known.
23. Biographical file for John McFadden Plott compiled and held by this author, Vale, NC. Hereinafter cited as Plott biographical file.

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

24. Plott biographical file. One of the three recorded witnesses at the wedding was Dr. Frederick Theophilus Foard (1855-1933), a well known county doctor and a neighbor of the Bakers. The long-lost Baker residence is believed to have stood in the vicinity of the junction of today's Providence Church Road (SR 1116) and NC 10. Dr. Foard's residence and office stood on spacious grounds here on the south side of NC 10: today only an aged magnolia and the concrete base of his elevated water tank mark the site. Alfred Baker and his wife are buried at Corinth Church. G. W. Hood was George Washington Hood (1849-1933), this author's paternal great-grandfather. Irene Martin, JoAnne Petty, and Rebecca Amedio, compilers, *Corinth Baptist Church History* (Self-published, 2006). This stapled, paper-bound booklet incorporates the records and materials compiled by the Church History Committee in 1970. The pottery history of the Jugtown community is recognized by a North Carolina Highway Historical Marker (0 74) titled "Pottery Industry" and erected in 1988 on the south side of NC 10 in Catawba County.
25. Plott biographical file.
26. Biographical file for Lawrence Oxford White compiled and held by this author, Vale, NC. Mr. White served as superintendent to 1912. He was succeeded as superintendent of the Iredell County Schools by Robert Mac Gray (1879-1941), who saw *Report of Iredell County Public Schools 1917* into print by Brady Printing Company of Statesville.
27. These compilations are an invaluable resource for Iredell County public school history in themselves and for the references they provide to additional materials.
28. Board of Education Records. This record was photocopied and is included, along with photocopies of other pertinent documents, in the property file submitted to and held by the State Historic Preservation Office.
29. Board of Education Records. Dulin, Thelma Wagner, "Norwood School (Troutman Graveyard School)." Unpaginated, undated, typescript and photocopy compilation held in Iredell County Public Library. Hereinafter cited as Dulin, "Norwood School."
30. Board of Education Records.
31. Board of Education Records. Dr. George Howard Jr. (1893-1988), a native of Tarboro, Edgcombe County, NC, was educated at Davidson College and Teachers' College, Columbia University, whence he received a Master of Arts degree in 1922 and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in 1924. A biographical account published in *North Carolina: Rebuilding an Ancient Commonwealth*, Volume IV, pp. 11-12, provides a full narrative of his life up to its publication in 1928 and reveals "During the period of 1923-25 he was director of school organization in the North Carolina Department of Education at Raleigh, and in July, 1925, he assumed his present office, that of county superintendent of schools for Rowan County."
32. Board of Education Records. Dulin, "Norwood School" and "Ostwalt School."
33. Board of Education Records. Dulin, "Norwood School." Thomas L. Troutman, ed., *Descending Jacob's Ladder: The Descendents of Johann Jacob Troutman of Iredell County, NC (1767-1846)* (Pasadena, Texas: n. p., 1993), 19, 91, 163-66. Hereinafter cited as *Descending Jacob's Ladder*.
34. *Descending Jacob's Ladder*, 90-92, 96-97. John Isaiah Troutman and his wife, Lethia Clementine Troutman, emerge in the pages of *Descending Jacob's Ladder* as kind,

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

intelligent, generous, and altogether admirable members of the Troutman family, as does their son Espy Tays Troutman Sr. The couple lived in a house that still stands, a short-distance to the east/northeast as the crow flies, which was the nearest residence to the school during the years of its operation. Jacob Guy Troutman, the fifth of six sons born to John I. and Lethia Troutman, prepared a warmly-remembered appreciation of his mother that was published in *Descending Jacob's Ladder*. He, too, was well remembered in a tribute written by Ray Kent Troutman (1930-2019), his nephew and the eldest child of Espy Tays Troutman Sr., also published in *Descending Jacob's Ladder*. Charles Weeks Troutman (b. 1941) provided a photocopy of the undated two-page typescript account attributed to Jacob Guy Troutman to this author on 26 May 2020.

35. The site of Johann Jacob Troutman's house is about 1,200 to 1,300 feet west/northwest of the Norwood School, as the crow flies, and enjoys an elevated position above Bass Creek, which flows south, between the former schoolhouse and the house site, to join Norwood Creek and on to the Catawba River. The Troutman lands of over 3,000 acres were watered by those creeks and Powder Spring Branch that flows in a generally parallel north/south course on the east side of the schoolhouse and cemetery. The house became a rental dwelling in or by the later 1930s. In 1940 Joseph Edmond Martin (1893-1970), his wife, Rose Lee Harrison Martin (1896-1990), their eldest son Basil Burdus Martin (1919-1958) and his wife, Nancy Rebecca Rash Martin (1917-1999), and their son Joel Franklin Martin (1939-1992), comprised a household of eight, including Joseph E. Martin's three younger, unmarried sons, believed to have been then occupying the ancestral Troutman house. Born on 5 August 1939, Joel Franklin Martin is said to have been the last person born in the house. He, his parents, and other members of the Martin family are buried in the Troutman Family Cemetery. The Johann Jacob Troutman homeplace and some fifty-two surrounding acres are now the property of John Samuel Troutman (b. 1951), a son of John Morrison Troutman Jr. (1921-1996) and a great-great-great-great-grandson of the patriarch.
36. A near half century later, ca. 1970, memorials with biographical inscriptions were placed at the graves of the patriarch and his wife, Margaret Fesperman Troutman, mounted on the ground-level concrete pads that also encircle their original headstones. In 1981 an iron archway bearing the inscription "TROUTMAN FAMILY CEMETERY," was erected at the original west entrance. It was crafted by and the gift of Fred Shelton Troutman (1918-2006), a blacksmith, and his three children. The original iron gate created by his great-grandfather, John Jefferson Troutman (1815-1884), remained in place until ca. 2008, when it was removed, mounted on the north wall of the former classroom, and replaced by the present iron gate.
37. The deeds for these gifted tracts were not located during research for this nomination.
38. Victor Eugene Troutman's role in the realignment of fieldstones and inscribed gravestones and related efforts in the cemetery was noted in the undated two-page typescript account attributed to Jacob Guy Troutman. See endnote 21. A large number of the footstones removed from the cemetery were then laid in a stack under the schoolhouse, where they remain today, together with three others and a damaged memorial immediately inside and under the southeast corner of the building. These three footstones and a number of those in stacks under the schoolhouse are inscribed with the

Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

initials of the person whose grave they originally marked. On site visits to the property on 17 and 18 June 2020 this author examined some of these footstones. A footstone with the initials L. V. T. originally stood at the grave of Lavina Victoria Holshouser Troutman (1851-1893), the first wife of John Davidson Troutman (1852-1927). The footstone removed from the grave of Henry Melmouth Troutman (1851-1893) and inscribed with his initials is among the three under the corner of the schoolhouse. Iredell County Deeds, 541/308. This plat reflects the fact that the Troutman graveyard, while enclosed within a stone wall and in use as a family and community burying ground since 1813, had never been set apart legally for that purpose as a defined tract by Jacob Troutman, during his lifetime or during the division of his estate lands among his heirs in 1847, or by any of his descendants who owned the acreage as individuals until 1972. Nor has it held such a legal distinction to the present although the family association has established regulations for interments in the cemetery.

39. Iredell County Record of Corporations, 14/323-27. In 2003 the association's name was changed, by application to and approval of the North Carolina Secretary of State, to Troutman Family Historical Association, Inc. In 2019 the Troutman Family Historical Association, Inc., gained the status of a 501(c)(3) organization.
40. Iredell County Deeds, 541/305-08.
41. Iredell County Deeds, 541/309-10.
42. Iredell County Deeds, 526/214-16.
43. Iredell County Deeds, 2019/1426-27 and 2288/589-92.
44. "Former Students to Be Honored," *Statesville Record & Landmark*, 13 August 1973, and "Former Classmates Reunited," *Statesville Record & Landmark*, 20 August 1973.
45. "Old Railroad Station Moved To Third Location," *Statesville Record & Landmark*, 20 April 1976. This was the second move of the station to its third site by Huffman Brothers, Incorporated, of Hickory, NC. After Southern Railway discontinued freight service in Troutman and ended use of the station it was acquired by T. S. Compton, moved to his farm in 1967, and used for agricultural storage. The farm was sold and the property subdivided for development.
46. *Descending Jacob's Ladder*, i.
47. John Burgess Fisher and Roscoe Brown Fisher, eds., *The Jacob Fisher Family, 1959-1979*, Volume II (Charlotte: Delmar Publishers & Printers, 1979), 22. The printed program for the reunion is reproduced here. In a coincidence of history Dr. George Howard Jr., newly arrived in Salisbury as the Rowan County superintendent of schools, was the second of two featured speakers at the reunion.
48. Tommy Tomlinson, "Troutman Homecoming," *Our State* 81 (March 2014): 92-94, 96, 98-100, 102.

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

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Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

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Norwood School

Name of Property

Iredell County, NC

County and State

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Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.735 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.714595 Longitude: - 80.933732

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

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

The boundary of Norwood School and the 1.735 acres comprising its site and setting, including the Troutman family cemetery, are outlined in bold on the plat titled “Norwood School” prepared on 4 September 2021 by Jordan Grant & Associates, PLLC, at the request of the property owner, Troutman Family Historical Association, Incorporated, to constitute a necessary and valuable part of the nomination documentation.

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

The boundaries of Norwood School are drawn to include the site of the historic one-room frame school, its setting—namely the Troutman family cemetery, and the partially shaded grass-covered grounds surrounding both, which are held by the property owner and retain integrity and historical associations with Norwood School. This boundary includes all or pertinent parts of four tracts conveyed by members of the Troutman family to the family

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

historical association in 1972 (tracts 1 and 2), in 2009 (tract 3), and in 2014 (tract 4). These tracts are delineated and identified on the plat. As shown thereon the west/northwest, northeast, and east boundaries of the nominated acreage follow and lie atop the extent or an appropriate length of the outside edges of the four tracts cited in the respective deeds. The south/southwest boundary is drawn to include the grounds along the cemetery's south wall, where some stones have eased beyond their original alignment and native oaks and cedars are valuable features in the landscape, and to exclude the former Troutman Depot that was moved onto the association-held acreage in 1976 and the modern burying ground since developed behind the depot. By necessity the south/southwest boundary includes the short two-part north end of a plain, lightweight metal fence defining the west/northwest border of this new burying ground which is open and grass-covered.

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Davyd Foard Hood  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: Isinglass, 6907 Old Shelby Road  
city or town: Vale state: NC zip code: 28168  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone: 704-462-1847  
date: 31 August 2021

---

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered, and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

The following information pertains to all photographs listed below:

Name of Property: Norwood School

City or Vicinity: Statesville

County: Iredell

State: NC

Photographer: Davyd Foard Hood

Dates of Photographs: 23 May 2018

Location of Original Digital Files: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1. Overall property view, looking northeast from west side of Troutman Farm Road, with Norwood School in center, and Espy Tays Troutman Sr. House visible in center left
2. West front elevation, looking east
3. North elevation, looking south
4. Oblique view of east rear and south elevations, looking west/northwest
5. Entrance under porch on front elevation, showing original paired five-panel doors and two-pane transom
6. View in classroom, looking west to west wall and into vestibule (left) and coat room (right), showing loss of partition wall between doors into those rooms and the doors themselves
7. Oblique view looking northwest into vestibule and coat room, showing surviving partition wall between same and open shelves on north wall of coat room
8. Oblique view looking northeast from coat room, through opening to north classroom wall with chalk trough and original iron cemetery gate
9. Oblique view looking northeast to blind north wall of classroom with surviving blackboard and chalk trough and east wall with door in refitted window opening
10. Oblique view looking southeast onto south and east walls of classroom
11. View in classroom, looking east to east wall, showing original fabric and finishes and furnishings used during annual Troutman family reunions
12. Cemetery view looking east/northeast, showing iron archway of 1981, ca. 2008 replacement gate, and undated commemorative stone inset in wall

Norwood School  
Name of Property

Iredell County, NC  
County and State

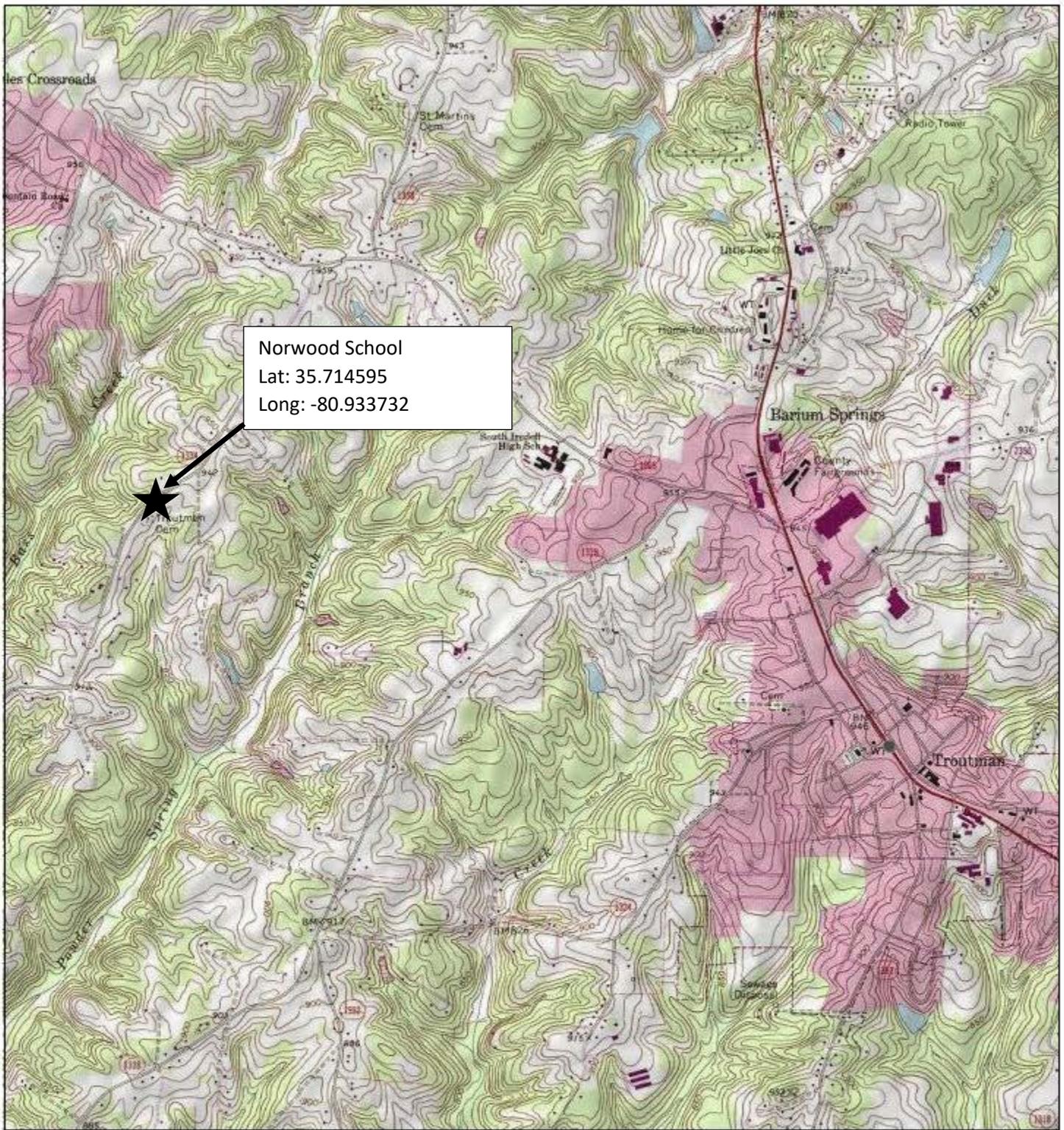
13. Landscape view in cemetery looking east along center grass path to the fenced pasture and woodland on the east
14. Landscape view in the cemetery looking north/northeast, showing realignment of fieldstone and inscribed grave markers, cemetery wall, and Norwood School
15. Original headstone marking grave of John Lippard, erected after his burial in 1821, and later commemorative marker
16. Original headstone marking grave of family patriarch Jacob Troutman (1768-1846) and later commemorative marker
17. View looking northwest in the northwest section of the cemetery, showing representative grave markers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries
18. View of south cemetery wall, looking northeast
19. View looking east in southeast section of the cemetery. showing representative, later-twentieth century gravestones, the east end of the cemetery's south wall, and the short, partial return of the wall on the east
20. Landscape view of the cemetery from east boundary of nominated acreage, showing southeast corner of cemetery wall, short return to the east, granite obelisk marking the grave of Joel Franklin Martin (1939-1992) (near center), and Norwood School with the shutters closed

**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:

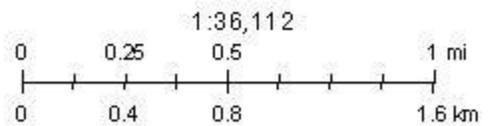
- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

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.



Norwood School  
 Lat: 35.714595  
 Long: -80.933732

**Norwood School**  
 349 Troutman Farm Road  
 Statesville vicinity, Iredell County  
 North Carolina  
**National Register Location Map**



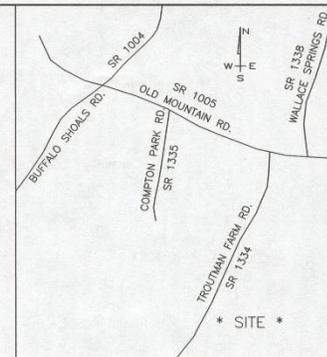
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PIN: 4722-61-3437  
ELEANOR HYDE  
W.B. 04E, PG. 203  
D.B. 1010, PG. 204  
ZONED: R-20  
IPF  
N=720,756.78  
E=1,426,006.53

**NOTES:**

- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO ANY FACTS THAT MAY BE DISCLOSED BY A FULL AND ACCURATE TITLE SEARCH.
- PROPERTY SUBJECT TO EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF WAY OF RECORD AND THOSE NOT OF RECORD, IF ANY EXIST.
- AREA BY COORDINATE COMPUTATION.
- PROPERTY MAY BE SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENTAL ORDINANCES, ZONING AND OTHER REGULATIONS CONCERNING THE DIVISION AND DEVELOPMENT OF REAL ESTATE.
- NO SUBTERRANEAN SURVEY PERFORMED AT THIS SITE.



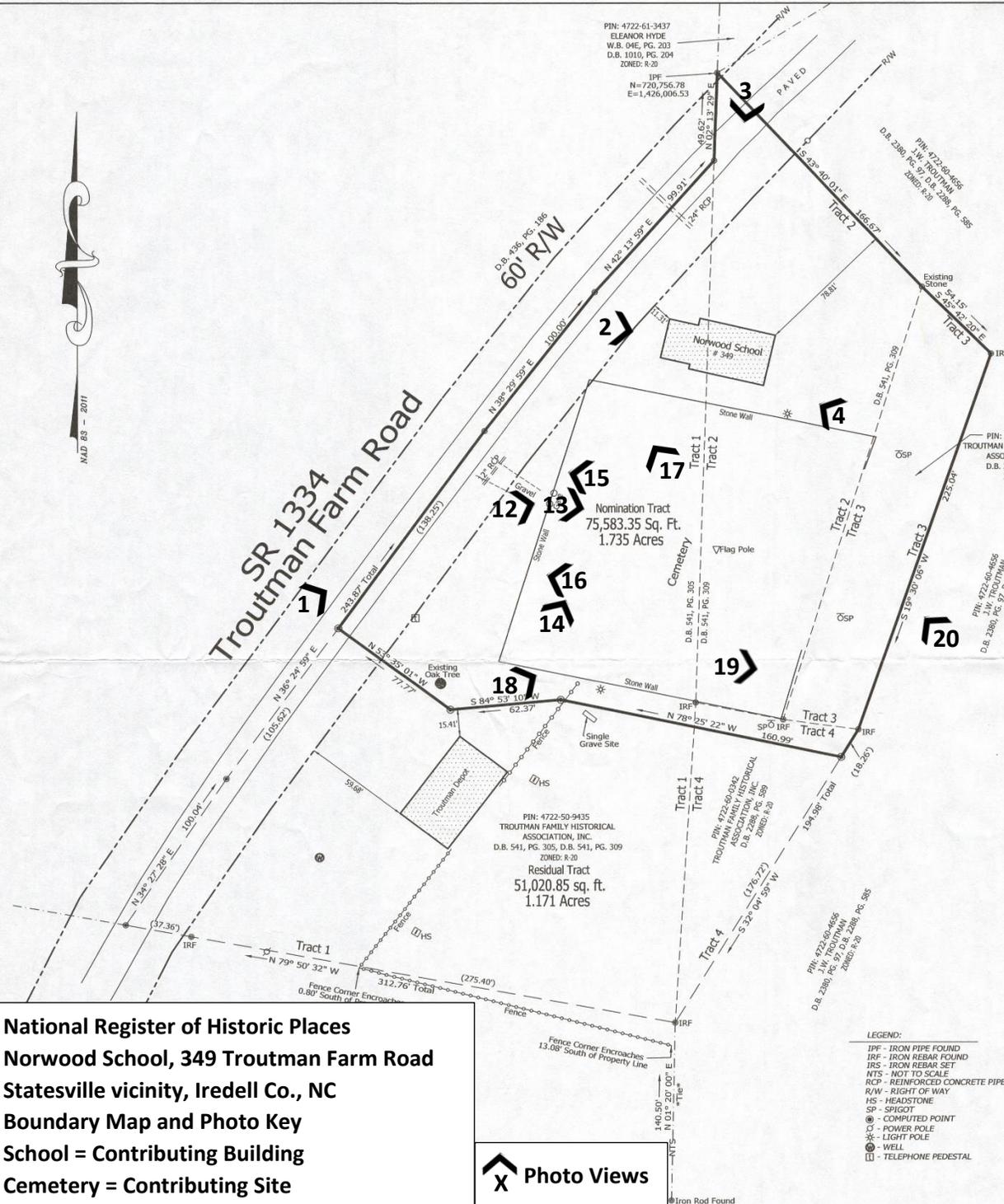
Vicinity Map - Not to Scale

I, MATTHEW I. GRANT, CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT WAS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION FROM AN ACTUAL FIELD SURVEY OF DESCRIPTION(S) AS RECORDED IN DEED BOOK 541, PAGE 309, BOOK 2019, PAGE 1426 & BOOK 2288, PAGE 589; THAT THE BOUNDARIES NOT SURVEYED ARE CLEARLY INDICATED AS SUCH AND WERE PLOTTED FROM INFORMATION AS REFERENCED HEREON; THAT THE RATIO OF PRECISION AS CALCULATED WAS 1:10,000 AND THAT THE GLOBAL NAVIGATION SATELLITE SYSTEM (GNSS) WAS USED TO PERFORM A PORTION OF THIS SURVEY AND THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS USED:  
CLASS OF SURVEY: CLASS A  
POSITIONAL ACCURACY: 0.01'  
TYPE OF GPS FIELD PROCEDURE: RTK  
DATES OF SURVEY: 11-13-20  
DATUM/EPOCH: NAD83(2011)  
PUBLISHED/FIXED CONTROL USE: VRS  
GEOID MODEL: 2012B  
COMBINED GRID FACTOR: 0.9997886  
UNITS: US SURVEY FEET  
I FURTHER CERTIFY THIS IS A SURVEY OF AN EXISTING PARCEL OR PARCELS OF LAND OR ONE OR MORE EXISTING EASEMENTS AND DOES NOT CREATE A NEW STREET OR CHANGE AN EXISTING STREET. THAT THIS PLAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR LAND SURVEYING IN NORTH CAROLINA (21 NCAC 56.1600) AND THAT THIS PLAT WAS PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S. 47-30 AS AMENDED. WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL THIS 7th DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2021.

*Matthew I. Grant*  
PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR L-5208  
MATTHEW I. GRANT



**SR 1334 Troutman Farm Road**



**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Norwood School, 349 Troutman Farm Road**  
Statesville vicinity, Iredell Co., NC  
Boundary Map and Photo Key  
School = Contributing Building  
Cemetery = Contributing Site



- LEGEND:**
- IPF - IRON PIPE FOUND
  - IRF - IRON REBAR FOUND
  - IRS - IRON REBAR SET
  - NTS - NOT TO SCALE
  - RCP - REINFORCED CONCRETE PIPE
  - R/W - RIGHT-OF-WAY
  - HS - HEADSTONE
  - SP - SPIGOT
  - ⊙ - COMPLETED POINT
  - ⊖ - POWER POLE
  - ⊕ - LIGHT POLE
  - ⊗ - WELL
  - ⊠ - TELEPHONE PEDESTAL

**Existing Parcel Data**

PIN: 4722-50-9435 TROUTMAN FAMILY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. D.B. 541, PG. 309 ZONED: R-20 <b>Tract 1</b> 1.831 Acres 79,752.60 sq. ft.	PIN: 4722-50-9435 TROUTMAN FAMILY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. D.B. 541, PG. 309 ZONED: R-20 <b>Tract 2</b> 0.634 Acre 27,628.54 sq. ft.
PIN: 4722-60-1512 TROUTMAN FAMILY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. D.B. 2019, PG. 1426 ZONED: R-20 <b>Tract 3</b> 0.251 Acre 10,938.16 sq. ft.	PIN: 4722-60-0342 TROUTMAN FAMILY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC. D.B. 2288, PG. 589 ZONED: R-20 <b>Tract 4</b> 0.190 Acre 8,284.90 sq. ft.

**Norwood School**  
Nomination Acreage (In Bold):  
**1.735 Acres**  
**75,583.35 Sq. Ft.**

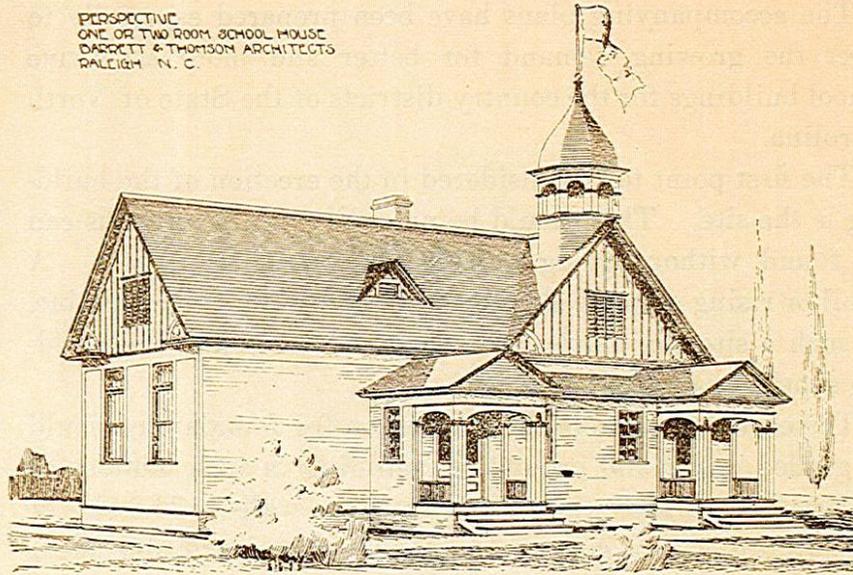


**JORDAN GRANT**  
ENGINEERING • SURVEYING • PLANNING  
JORDAN GRANT & ASSOCIATES, PLLC  
P.O. BOX 151 • STATESVILLE, NC 28687  
matt@jordan-grant.com (704) 928-7919  
FIRM # P-1227

**SURVEY FOR:**  
*Troutman Family Historical Association, Inc.*

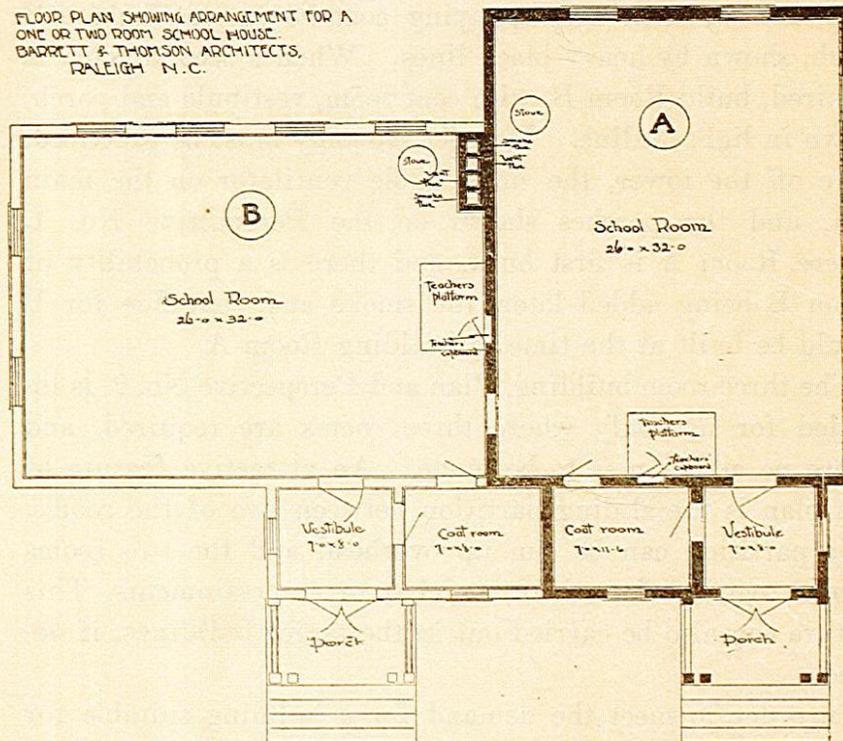
DRAWN BY: SMS	CHECKED BY: MIG
SCALE: 1"=40'	
DEED REF: ILLUSTRATED	PIN NO: ILLUSTRATED
DATE OF MAP: 09-04-21	SURVEY DATE: 11-13-20
REVISION:	DRAWING FILE: 20201063-HS2
349 TROUTMAN FARM ROAD - STATESVILLE, N.C. 28677 TOWNSHIP --- IREDELL COUNTY --- NORTH CAROLINA	

PERSPECTIVE  
ONE OR TWO ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE  
BARRETT & THOMSON ARCHITECTS  
RALEIGH N. C.



PERSPECTIVE PLAN NO. 1.

FLOOR PLAN SHOWING ARRANGEMENT FOR A  
ONE OR TWO ROOM SCHOOL HOUSE.  
BARRETT & THOMSON ARCHITECTS,  
RALEIGH N. C.



PLAN NO. 1.

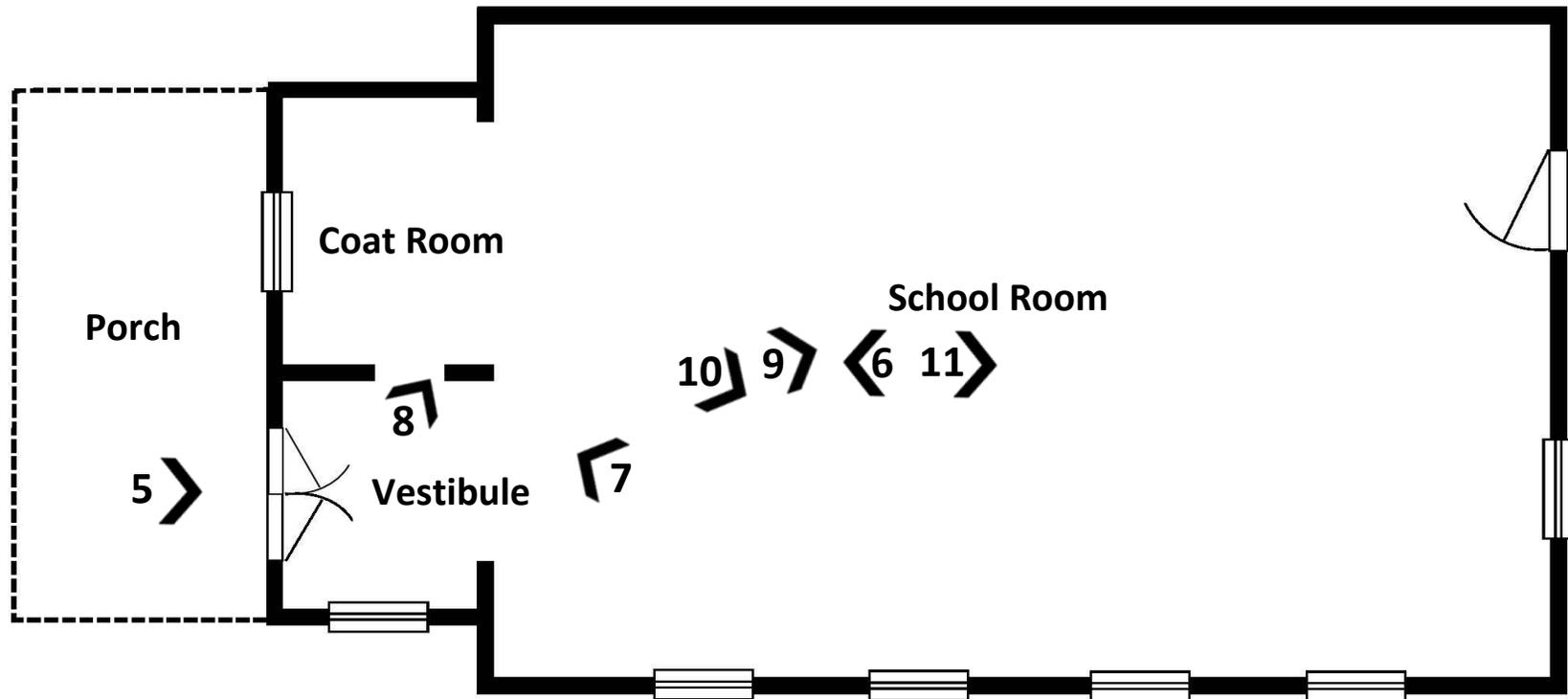
**National Register of Historic Places**

**Norwood School, 349 Troutman Farm Road**

**Statesville vicinity, Iredell Co., NC**

**Appendix 1: Room A, Plan No. 1**

from Barrett & Thomson. *Plans for Public School Houses with Explanations, Specifications, Bills of Material and Estimates of Cost.* Raleigh, NC: E. M. Uzzell & Co., State Printers and Binders, 1903.



**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Norwood School, 349 Troutman Farm Road**  
**Statesville vicinity, Iredell Co., NC**  
**Appendix 2: Floor Plan and Photo Key**

Not to Scale

Created by Hannah Beckman-Black 9-21-2021

