

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

H. B. Sugg School

Farmville, Pitt County, PT3323, Listed 11/9/2020

Nomination by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Hanbury Preservation Consultants

Photographs by Mary Ruffin Hanbury, June and November 2018, January 2019, March 2020



Exterior, facade, view to Northwest.



Exterior, earliest part of building, view to 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: H. B. Sugg School

Other names/site number: Farmville Colored School; H. B. Sugg High School

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 3632 South George Street

City or town: Farmville State: NC County: Pitt

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

 national statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A B C D



09-23-2020

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

Contributing <u>2</u>	Noncontributing <u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

EDUCATION:school__

Current Functions

SOCIAL:civic_____

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:
foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The H. B. Sugg School complex, variously known as the Farmville Colored School and H. B. Sugg High School, consists of an evolved, brick-clad, main school building and a concrete block home economics building, both contributing, and a non-contributing concrete block outbuilding/shed (ca. 1980), set on two parcels with large open play areas in a dense residential area of south Farmville. The 1949 main section of the building dominates the campus and defines the street edge along South George Street and screens the smaller 1936 section from the street. The gym added in 1956 is a typical mid-century school athletic facility. The home economics building (ca. 1950) sits apart from the main campus building to the north and retains some Craftsman style detailing, notably exposed raftertails. All buildings are masonry with sparse detailing but reflect trends in campus construction from the first half of the twentieth century in terms of form and design.

Narrative Description

The H. B. Sugg School consists of two parcels located in a residential area dating to at least 1915 in the southern section of the town of Farmville.¹ Though not formally designated as such, given the number of African-American institutions in the area and the Jim Crow laws of the era, one

¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map of Farmville, NC 1915

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can assume this was a largely African-American community. The current housing stock is largely modest, one-story, frame homes dating from the 1920s to the 1950s. The larger of the two school parcels faces South George Street to the east and extends along West Hines Street at the north. Its western boundary ends at a line of trees and its southern boundary is irregular, some portions are at the rear lot lines of residential parcels, but one portion does extend south to West Perry Street. The second parcel sits north of West Hines Street, east of Fred Graham Drive, but does not extend as far east as South George Street. West Hines Street has been partially abandoned, giving the impression that the two parcels are connected.

There are play areas west of the main campus buildings, between the main campus and the home economics building, and west of the home economics building. The area west of the main building contains playground equipment of indeterminate age, including a sliding board and climbers. The area west of the home economics building has a blacktop of indeterminate age. It has been adapted to surface parking. West of the gym is a small storage shed (ca. 1980) which stands near a baseball field that was built between 2013 and 2015. The main building has some modest foundation plantings. There are a few mature trees on the campus, notably along the eastern and southern boundaries. A chain link fence marks portions of the boundaries, notable along the sidewalk along South George Street, Fred Graham Drive, West Perry Street, and portions of West Hines Street.

The larger parcel contains the main school which is an evolved complex. At its center is a one-story gable-roofed building, the earliest extant resource on campus, dating to 1936. A larger, 1949, one-story school, "T" shaped in footprint, lies to the east and north and is connected to the earlier building by a hyphen extending south. A later gym and cafeteria addition (1956 and ca. 1960) at the far west is connected to the "T" shaped building. The layout of the evolved building creates courtyards to the east and west of the oldest, gable-roofed section of the building and there is ample open space to the west. The northern parcel contains an agricultural building (ca. 1950) to the east, and an asphalt blacktop playground at the west.

The school's campus grew from 1922 when the county board of education bought a 3-acre parcel that extended west from South George Street to a railroad right of way.² In 1947 the board purchased an additional 2.29 acres that extended the lot west beyond the right of way, bringing the total acreage to 5.29 acres.³ In 1949 the school acquired two small parcels of indeterminate acreage on the south side of Wallace Street; both reference a map that is not indexed at the country.⁴ A 1953 deed of indeterminate acreage added more land near Hines Street and the railroad right of way. This deed references the "Colored School Home Economics Lot" implying that the land for this building had already been purchased and the building erected by this point.⁵ In 1959 the school picked up an additional 1/4 acre west of George St.⁶ In 1960 and 1961 the school added parcels at the south toward Perry Street and an additional parcel on the north side

² Pitt County Deed Book E-14, p. 213.

³ Pitt County Deed Book W-24, p. 383.

⁴ Pitt County Deed Book M-25, p. 420 and p. 501.

⁵ Pitt County Deed Book X-26, p. 358.

⁶ Pitt County Deed Book C-31, p. 417.

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of the campus.⁷ Additional small purchases were made in 1966.⁸ A quitclaim deed for the railroad right-of-way was recorded in 1972.⁹

H.B. Sugg School, Contributing Building, 1936-1960

The oldest section of the school (1936) is a one-story, gable roofed building with a double-loaded central corridor. The walls are laid in a five-course American bond with a soldier course marking the water table. Its east and west elevations both have three banks of windows sharing a common, canted rowlock sill. Each bank has five, two-over-two, horizontal-light, metal, double-hung sash windows with a fixed pane above. Historic photographs show that the windows were originally nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows. The date of their replacement is unknown. Aligned roughly above each bank of windows is an eyebrow dormer with a triangular louvered vent. The school has two sets of paired interior brick chimneys that straddle the gable ridge. Its south exterior entrance is by a recessed alcove housing double-leaf, six-light, two-panel doors with a 14-light transom above, arrayed in 2 rows of seven lights. The only fenestration on the south elevation has been boarded--a round masonry opening centered in the gable framed by a soldier course. The north elevation is partially exposed but connected by a hyphen to the larger, later school building. It appears that the original north elevation remains in situ. The hyphen dates to the 1949 construction of the second building, as seen in an undated photograph in the collections of East Carolina University.¹⁰

The interior of the oldest section has three rooms on either side of the central hall. The original ceilings are obscured by suspended acoustical "drop" ceilings. Floors have been covered by vinyl tile. Most original, wooden, two-panel, nine-light doors remain and each classroom door has its original frame with a three-light transom above. Some original blackboard and wall trim are also extant as are cased flues that likely serviced stove heat. Original exterior doors for the north elevation have been removed, though a fourteen-light transom, matching that on the south elevation remains. The cased opening leads to a small vestibule where double-leaf metal doors with a transom above that is now boarded, leads to a small crossing where there are metal, double-leaf exterior doors at the east and west, each with five-light wooden transoms and a hall continues to the north.

The later school building (1949) is organized around two, double-loaded, intersecting corridors. The eastern corridor runs north/south with an exterior entrance at each end, consisting of wooden, double-leaf, three-light, one-panel doors with a five-light wooden transom above. The northern corridor runs east/west and has at its east end the main entrance of the school flanked by office and administrative areas, and at its west, the gym and cafeteria additions (1956 and ca 1960). The exterior of this building is brick, laid in 6-course American bond. It has a flat roof with recent metal coping. Windows on the facade are replacements, but are housed in the

⁷ Pitt County Deed Book I-31 pages 16 and 20; Pitt County Deed Book F-32, p. 695; Pitt County Deed Book T-31, p. 470; Pitt County Deed Book V-31, p. 302; Pitt County Deed Book x-31, pages 701 and 187

⁸ Pitt County Deed Book G-36, p.425, and p. 452.

⁹ Pitt County Deed Book T-40, p. 761.

¹⁰ Unknown School photograph, undated, call no 0730-s2-b3-fe-i66, East Carolina University
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56512>

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original masonry openings with canted rowlock sills and soldier course lintels. The original windows were grouped in sets of three with a central grouping of three, five-horizontal-light, metal windows that included a pivot section, flanked by a matching single window.¹¹ The current configuration has three-horizontal-light, fixed, metal windows flanking a central assemblage with two metal casements flanking a fixed window with a window air conditioning unit, each of which having a fixed light above. The date of the replacement is unknown. Windows on the west elevation, north of the stem of the "T" have also been replaced, however the rest of the original windows remain in this section of the building.

The main entrance to the school is marked by a projecting gabled parapet flanked by slightly projecting, and slightly shorter, rusticated brick piers. The parapet has a circular masonry opening framed by a rowlock course with stone keystone accents. Three-light replacement windows in the parapet wall flank the entrance portico. The portico extends east from the parapet wall. Its flat-roof is supported by brick piers with interior wooden posts. Concrete steps with brick cheek walls descend east to grade. A ramp (date unknown) extends from the portico to the north and turns south to grade. The portico shelters double-leaf, single-light replacement metal doors with four light side lights. Above the sidelights are single transoms with an "X" pattern, and a transom with 2 "X" s sits over the doors.

A 1955 photograph of the school shows that the sidelights flanking the doors were originally, three-light, one-panel single-leaf doors and that the existing doors similarly were three-light, one-panel doors, but that the transoms are original.¹² The wooden posts may be replacements but they match those in the 1955 photograph in terms of size, scale and placement.¹³ The cornice seen in early photos may remain under the current band of synthetic siding. Originally concrete steps ascended to the porch on three sides. The southern side may have been closed and the cheek walls added when the ramp was built.

The main entrance leads to a shallow vestibule that retains a door and transom arrangement that mirrors what was the original main entrance configuration with single-leaf doors flanking double-leaf doors with transoms above. Beyond the vestibule is a hall with offices to the north, a conference room to the south, and a glazed wall with double-leaf glass doors the to the west. The office suite and conference room are separated from the hall by glazed walls with single-leaf glass doors. Floors in both are commercial grade carpet and ceilings are suspended acoustical tile with inset fluorescent lighting.

The classrooms in the 1949 part of the building retain the majority of their original three-light, three-panel wooden doors, and as with the original section of the building, have wooden transoms. The transoms have six lights and the classrooms also have six-light wooden windows set high on the interior wall providing light and circulation. Many original chalkboards remain as do some class cloakrooms, which are small areas partitioned off with partial height wooden

¹¹ H. B. Sugg High School photograph February 1955 call no. 0741-b6-fc-v6.c.61, East Carolina University <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/2485>

¹² H. B. Sugg High School photograph February 1955 call no. 0741-b6-fc-v6.c.61, East Carolina University <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/2485>

¹³ IBID

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walls, some retaining paired, four-panel double doors. Floors are generally square tiles, likely vinyl. Ceilings finishes are suspended acoustical ceiling tiles though some plaster ceilings are exposed. The north hall includes a janitor's closet and the south hall contains restrooms.

Though not documented in the written record, building fabric suggests that the south wing of the building may have been smaller at one point and later expanded. A seam in the exterior brick work as well as an interruption in the hall and ceiling planes at roughly the same point indicate some discontinuity. There is at this juncture an exterior exit to the west with paired wooden three-light, one-panel wooden doors with a five-light transom. Had the south wing terminated at that point, the facade would be symmetrical with the equivalence of two classrooms on either side of the entrance. That said, the addition of three additional room-lengths to the south was completed prior to 1959 based on a photograph in the collection of East Carolina University.¹⁴ Interior and exterior finishes are consistent throughout however.

The gymnasium (1956) with its curved roof, originally had a small brick vestibule to the north with three openings. A historic photograph suggests that the vestibule extended to the east to attach to the main school building.¹⁵ That extension was later augmented (date unknown) to the north, so that a portion of it would be flush with the exterior wall plane of the 1949 building. A low cafeteria addition (ca. 1960) extends west from the vestibule and then turns south wrapping along a portion of the gym's west elevation. The gym originally had a one-story volume at its south. It was extended to wrap along the south side of the west elevation, perhaps concurrent with the cafeteria wing construction.

The primary exterior entrance to the gym is on its north elevation where there are three masonry openings in the vestibule. The south and west openings each have a three-light transom. The center opening appears to have a transom as well, if so however, it is boarded. Each opening has three single-leaf doors. Original doors appear to have a single square light, and one of each of these doors is found in the center and the east opening. The west opening has a six panel door. Remaining doors are flush.

The gymnasium has suffered from roof failure. The bowstring trusses, however, remain as does a raised proscenium stage at the far south of the room. The original wooden floors remain but are significantly deteriorated due to water damage. The main portion of the gym is divided into seven bays, marked on the exterior by projecting brick pilasters. The five northern bays have windows set high on the wall (so as on the interior to be above the wooden, fold-out bleachers). These original metal windows share common rowlock sills. They are arranged in three columns of six lights, some of which are operable hopper, pivot, or awning panes.

The cafeteria addition was built ca. 1960. It is a one-story, flat-roofed addition along the west side of the gymnasium. It is thought by the current owners that the addition at the southwest of

¹⁴ Unknown School Building, photograph, 1950-1959, call no 0730-s2-b3-fe-i67, East Carolina University
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56513>

¹⁵ Farmville Gymnasium, photograph March -July 1956 Daily Reflector Collection call no 0741-b10-fe-v10.e.8
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/2799>

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the building was built contemporaneously. The cafeteria has a brick veneer laid in six-course American bond. Five of the six bays along its west elevation contain oversized nine-light windows with canted rowlock sills. The windows bear a resemblance to the replacement windows on the facade of the building and thus may be replacements. The northern most bay has a frame shed-roofed addition extending to the west. The interior has exposed concrete block walls and vinyl tile flooring. The cooking area at the north has suspended acoustical tile ceilings, and an open dining area stretching to the south has an exposed metal truss ceiling, and double-leaf, flush, metal exterior doors at its south end.

The addition the southwest of the gym is an extension of the low volume at the south of the gymnasium. Though it also has a six-course American bond brick exterior, a seam in the building's south elevation shows where the addition meets the original fabric. It appears to have had an exterior entrance on its south elevation that has been bricked in. Its west elevation retains a bank of four-light, horizontal pane windows. The interior of the low, one-story spaces at the south and southwest of the gymnasium space were inaccessible.

Home Economics Building, Contributing Building, ca. 1950

The home economics building was built ca. 1950. It is a one story, side-gabled building with a projecting gabled entrance vestibule centered on the south elevation. The exterior is concrete block. The roof has exposed rafter tails. The gable ends are frame with asbestos shingles. Most windows are boarded but those exposed are 6/6 wooden, double-hung sash. The north elevation has a projecting, cross-gabled wing on axis with the entrance vestibule. There is an exterior end brick chimney on the east elevation and an interior end chimney on the west. The interior is currently inaccessible.

Storage Shed, Non-Contributing Building, ca. 1980

A ca. 1980 storage shed is west of the gym. It is made of concrete block and has a shed roof.

Road Rights of Way, Two Contributing Structures, ca. 1945, ca. 1955

The nominated property includes two rights of way. The portion of Hines Street that encroaches on the property is seen as a small stub (not a through street) in a 1945 Sanborn map. Historic photographs from ca. 1949 show it as an unpaved road or drive. The western portion of this is paved, the rest is unimproved. It is indicated in a 2002 survey of the school property as "30 ft R/W unimproved.

The date of Fred Graham Drive, also referred to on some maps as School Road, is unknown. It does not appear on the 1945 Sanborn map. What is now noted on the county's GIS system as Fred Graham Drive is seen in the 2002 property survey as "To Hines Street" suggesting it was a vehicular drive. It is paved. In that it is on axis with the gymnasium, it may have been paved around the time the gym was built.

Integrity Statement

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The school retains integrity of location, remaining on its original site. It retains integrity of design given a period of significance through 1966. Its setting has changed very little, continuing to be located in a dense residential area. There have been some changes to materials with a few replacement windows. However, overall there is a large amount of historic fabric remaining. Likewise, its integrity of workmanship is high. All of these factors result in a high degree of integrity of feeling. Its current use as a day care facility and outreach center continue to use historic interior and exterior spaces for compatible uses resulting in a high degree of integrity of association.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

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

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Areas of Significance

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE:BLACK

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Period of Significance

1936-1966

Significant Dates

1936

1949

ca. 1950

1956

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Maxwell, Jr., A. J.

Statement of Significance Summary

The H. B. Sugg School is significant under Criterion A at the local level as a property associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black. The school complex has evolved on site from 1922 to the 1960s prior to its closure in 1999. The H. B. Sugg School's history reflects many themes common to African American education in North Carolina. These themes include white philanthropy, the initiative taken by the community to procure the resources needed for a good education during the Jim Crow era, the investment in facilities during the equalization period through integration, and ultimately the closure of the school. African American educator Herman Bryan Sugg's leadership from 1918 when he began teaching in a predecessor building to his retirement in 1959, was largely responsible for the continued investment in the school and the high quality of education provided. The period of significance runs from 1936 the construction date of the earliest extant portion of the main school building resource to the integration of the Farmville schools in 1966, including H.B. Sugg School. This period of significance captures all of the major elements of the campus.

The complex is now owned by a religious institution. However, it meets the standard for Criteria Consideration A in that the significance is not associated with a religious doctrine, but for secular considerations in local history.

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Education and Ethnic Heritage: Black Contexts

Herman Bryan "H. B." Sugg (1885-1980), for whom the H. B. Sugg High School was named, was born in 1885 to parents who had been enslaved in North Carolina. One of thirteen children, Sugg balanced his farming responsibilities with schooling. He was committed to his own education which he worked hard to achieve. In an article at his retirement, he remembered "I've picked cotton many a time by moonlight so I'd be free to go to school the next day."¹⁶

As a young man he taught in a one room schoolhouse called Patrick's Chapel in Greene County before raising the money to attend the Mary Potter School in Oxford, North Carolina in his mid-20s.¹⁷ From the Mary Potter School he proceeded to Lincoln University. After his graduation, Sugg worked as a teacher in Lillington, North Carolina before moving to Farmville in 1918. A school for African American children had existed in the town of Farmville from at least 1903 when a school that had operated in a rural area of the county moved to a four room facility at an Odd Fellows Hall. In 1908, the school moved to a building on George Street known as the Harper Hotel. H. B. Sugg joined the faculty at the Harper Hotel in 1918 at a school that ended with seventh grade. At this time most of the schools in the county that taught African Americans were small frame shacks.¹⁸

About the time that Sugg arrived in Farmville, the State Superintendent of Schools, Eugene Brooks, convened a statewide meeting to develop a policy regarding African American education. The policy itself was a careful proclamation that reinforced segregation but offered inducements of funding and opportunities for African Americans who worked within parameters that discouraged agitation and rewarded good citizenship.¹⁹ Much of the struggle for equal education in the south can be viewed as finding the most effective route for improvement either by confrontation or by cooperation. H. B. Sugg walked a fine line but found success for his school by avoiding much of the statewide politics and controversy and focusing on building relationships within his own community, contributing his own resources, and working with students and faculty to develop the academic excellence that won admiration and support. Sugg persisted in the early twentieth century when support for African American education in Farmville and surrounding Pitt County was limited, however he noted "after the first few years, good and then better cooperation from everybody, both white and Colored began to show as the people realized that high quality citizenship was vitally important."²⁰ In 1921, the school received from the state an A-1 rating, the second highest school rating available. Sugg gives liberal credit to the entire community for this achievement "The administration declares without

¹⁶ "He Loved Learning and He Shared It." *The Daily Reflector* January 27, 1976 (clipping, date illegible).

¹⁷ "He Loved Learning and He Shared It." *The Daily Reflector* January 27, 1976 (clipping, date illegible).

¹⁸ Howard, Henry. "Sugg Watched, Helped School Growth." *The Daily Reflector* clipping, nd.

¹⁹ Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater Than Equal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. p20.

²⁰ Howard, Henry. "Sugg Watched, Helped School Growth." *The Daily Reflector* clipping, nd.

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hesitation that the school is indebted to the friendly interest and support of its white citizenship for this achievement. Without which, it could not have made this progress."²¹

North Carolina laws gave discretion for school spending to local school boards which were largely white.²² During the Jim Crow era in North Carolina "separate but equal" policies for schools measured equality in terms of length of school terms and number of teachers, not in terms of physical facilities.²³ Although there was a boom in school construction in North Carolina in the 1920s, only a small portion of it was directed towards schools for African Americans.²⁴

To address the disparity in capital funding, often African American communities relied on philanthropy and sweat equity to secure good quality buildings. In the early 1920s Sugg was instrumental in recruiting young men to help clear a 3-acre site, a block from the school's then location, where a new school was to be built and is reported to have paid for the dynamite to remove stumps from the site himself.²⁵

The new school was a result of the Rosenwald building program. This program which emerged from a partnership of Booker T. Washington, the African American educator, and Julius Rosenwald, the Jewish businessman and philanthropist, resulted in the construction of over 4900 schools for African Americans built in the American South between 1917 and 1948. The Rosenwald fund provided \$1,500 in the 1922-23 budget year to build a six-teacher type school in Farmville.²⁶ The African-American community raised \$500, reportedly with assistance from the Odd Fellows Benevolent Society, and the public contributed \$11,500. The application (23-B) was to build the school on a 3 acre lot. The school was a ten-room, two-story, frame building. constructed with lumber was salvaged from the local white school which was slated for replacement.²⁷

The Rosenwald School program required contributions from the local African American population and this cooperative approach was the hallmark of Sugg's leadership in procuring resources and opportunities for his students. However, while the African American community provided financial and sweat equity contributions, the school would be a public school under the direction of a white school board. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps of 1923 and 1929 show this building labeled Farmville Graded School (Colored).²⁸ An undated photograph from a scrapbook of African American schools in the collection of East Carolina University shows this building and notes in the scrapbook state "District Eleven. Farmville School. Seventeen teachers

²¹ "Local Colored School Accorded A-1 Rating." *Farmville Enterprise* October 17, 1941.

²² Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater Than Equal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. p6.

²³ Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater Than Equal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. p8.

²⁴ Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater Than Equal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. p31.

²⁵ Howard, Henry. "Sugg Watched, Helped School Growth." *The Daily Reflector clipping*, nd.

²⁶ Farmville School File, Fisk University Archives.

http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9MjIxMA==&school_county=pitt&school_state=NC&button=Search&o=0

²⁷ "Board Probes Possibility New Colored School." *Farmville Enterprise* April 11, 1946.

²⁸ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps of Farmville, NC.

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in school, condition of building unknown, enrollment 704, average attendance 573, size of grounds unknown, seventeen rooms, "Dismantled for newer building."²⁹

School reports to the State Department of Education provide some insight as to the evolution of the school.³⁰ From 1921-23 the school was only an elementary school. However by 1928, high school classes were being taught. Through 1935 high school and elementary classes were being offered in a single building dating from 1922 on a three acre site. In 1928-29 the building had 10 rooms; in 1932-3 11 rooms; and 1933-36 14 rooms. This may have been a result of partitioning classrooms.³¹ In 1934 the state Department of Education granted the school high school accreditation. In the same year the Pitt County School Board requested funding from the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration funding for repairs of African American schools including the Farmville School.³²

In 1936, a six-room, brick building was added to the campus, constructed with Works Progress Administration (WPA) funding. An estimated \$20 million dollars of federal New Deal funding was used on capital projects for schools in North Carolina and while most of it was spent on schools for white children, the Farmville Colored School did get their high school annex.³³ In the 1936-37 report of the school to the State Department of Instruction the school was reported to have 17 rooms.³⁴ The 1945 Sanborn map shows a new, one-story building labeled High School (Colored) and notes, likely erroneously, it was built in 1935.³⁵ A 1947 article considered this brick, six-room building as an annex. The "annex at the Negro school was constructed several years ago with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration. The main building was constructed partially of lumber that was salvaged when the white school was built."³⁶ This suggests that two buildings, the Rosenwald School and the brick WPA-funded school may have co-existed for a period. Though Sanborn maps suggest otherwise, a photograph in the collection at East Carolina University shows the two buildings though it is unknown if they were in use concurrently.³⁷

Local records are incomplete but a document entitled *County Surveys and the Provision of High School Facilities for Negroes* dated 1939 found in the collections of the State Archives of North Carolina shows that in 1937 there was only one accredited high school for African Americans in Farmville (the school that became H. B. Sugg) with five additional schools in other parts of the

²⁹ Farmville School photograph, undated, call no 0730-s2-b3-fd-i52, East Carolina University
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56498>

³⁰ Not every year is available.

³¹ State of North Carolina, Department of Public Instruction, Principal's Annual Reports.

³² North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Records, State Archives of North Carolina.

³³ Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater Than Equal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. p167.

³⁴ State of North Carolina, Department of Public Instruction, Principal's Annual Reports.

³⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps of Farmville, NC.

³⁶ "Board Probes Possibility New Colored School." *Farmville Enterprise* April 11, 1947.

³⁷ Farmville School photograph, undated, call no 0730-s2-b3-fd-i53, East Carolina University
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56499>

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county.³⁸ In 1936 there were only 127 accredited high schools serving African Americans in the entire state of North Carolina.

Throughout the 1930s Sugg pressed for a shop/home economics building for the school. As expressed in a local newspaper,

The present objectives of the school which will fill a pressing need is a manual training shop for boys and an economic department for girls, which, as expressed by principal Sugg, 'will equip the Negro youth to work skillfully with his hands. To give an individual a cultural education and not teach him how to make a living, is to teach one how to spend his money without instructing him how to make any to spend.'³⁹

In so doing, Sugg successfully balanced the two major schools of thought about African American education, the desire to have a liberal arts, college prep program while never abandoning the vocational education advocated by Booker T. Washington and others that would equip young people for the jobs they would like be able to procure in the Jim Crow south. A 1939 article in the *Farmville Enterprise* states this divide succinctly in an article about the school, "While those who show special abilities are encouraged to further their preparation by attending a college adapted to their needs, yet the chief end of the school is to train the boys and girls of to day (sic) to become useful and desirable citizens of tomorrow."⁴⁰ Despite being a highly rated accredited high school for African Americans, the desire for vocational education remained a constant concern.

In the 1940s and 1950s there was an increased demand to fund African American schools in North Carolina, however the impetus was largely to avoid integration by creating "more equal" facilities.⁴¹ In 1948, a local \$200,000 bond issue raised funds for a new building at the Farmville Colored School.⁴² The "T" shaped building was constructed in 1949. The architect was A. J. Maxwell, Jr. of Goldsboro, and the contractor was P. S. West Company.⁴³ Of the \$200,000 bond, \$180,000 was allocated for this school.⁴⁴

³⁸ *County Surveys and the Provision of High School Facilities for Negroes 1939* a report in the files of the Department of Public Instruction, State Archives of North Carolina.

³⁹ "Farmville Colored School has Successful Year." *Farmville Enterprise, Spotlight Supplement* September 21, 1934.

⁴⁰ "Colored School Stepping Forward Under Present Administration." *Farmville Enterprise Tobacco Edition* August 18, 1939.

⁴¹ Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater Than Equal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. p167.

⁴² Carraway, Grace and Gene Oglesby, eds. *Farmville's 100th Anniversary*. Farmville: MorMac Printing, 1972. p. 26.

⁴³ "West Contracts for New School." *Statesville Daily Record* February 2, 1949.

⁴⁴ Carraway, Grace and Gene Oglesby, eds. *Farmville's 100th Anniversary*. Farmville: MorMac Printing, 1972. p. 26.

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Around 1950, Sugg got his home economics building largely a result of the largesse of local tobacco magnate A. C. Monk.⁴⁵ In 1945, it was reported his company donated \$2,500 to the school board for this cause. The *Farmville Enterprise* noted,

In expressing appreciation from the colored citizens as a whole, H. B. Sugg, Principal of (sic) Colored School says: 'The A. C. Monk & Co., has long been a great benefactor to this community. During the darkest days of the depression, this company never forgot the plight of the less fortunate element. Its president was constantly thinking in terms of how his company might provide employment for the laboring classes without regard for color or creed. There is every reason to believe that he often went out of his way to do this, without which suffering would have been intense. We should never forget this.'⁴⁶

Additional equalization spending in the 1950s provided funding for a new gymnasium in 1954 at the cost of \$170,000.⁴⁷ In the 1953-54 school year, the Farmville Colored School was renamed the H. B. Sugg School. By 1957, it was the largest school in Pitt County, North Carolina with 1049 students in grades 1-12, which represented 8% of all students in the county and 15% of all African American students.⁴⁸ H. B. Sugg retired from the eponymous school on June 8, 1959, having taught in Farmville since 1918 and on this campus since its inception in 1922.⁴⁹ Though official records are scarce, it is documented that Sugg was the principal as early as 1928 and community members claim he served as principal from his arrival in 1918.⁵⁰

In 1965, H. B. Sugg joined the Farmville School Board, the first African American to serve. He was a member for two terms. The 1966-7 school year marked the beginning of integrated schools in the county. In 1971 the last senior class graduated from H.B. Sugg. The Sugg School became an integrated elementary school from 1971 -1999. The town of Farmville bought the property from the school board to avoid demolition and held it until it was purchased by its current owner, which operates day care and outreach activities on the campus.

H. B. Sugg died in 1980. His impact on the school that bears his name and on education in the Town of Farmville was profound. Throughout the Jim Crow era, he worked tirelessly to provide resources and access to education for African Americans. Sugg biographer Steven Hill characterizes the times and Sugg's work "The racially divided power structure placed leaders like Sugg in a delicate position. Sugg's actions as a leader speak to his adroit navigation of potentially dangerous realities to achieve tangible progress for African Americans while not compromising or losing the support of neither the white nor black communities."⁵¹

⁴⁵ Carraway, Grace and Gene Oglesby, ed. *Farmville's 100th Anniversary*. Farmville: MorMac Printing, 1972. p. 26.

⁴⁶ "A. C. Monk & Co Makes Contribution to Colored School." *Farmville Enterprise* July 13, 1945.

⁴⁷ Carraway, Grace and Gene Oglesby, eds. *Farmville's 100th Anniversary*. Farmville: MorMac Printing, 1972. 26.

⁴⁸ "School Figures Given for Pitt." *Rocky Mount Telegram* September 20, 1957.

⁴⁹ Carraway, Grace and Gene Oglesby, eds. *Farmville's 100th Anniversary*. Farmville: MorMac Printing, 1972. p. 27.

⁵⁰ Department of Public Instruction, Annual Principal's reports in the files of the Department of Public Instruction, State Archives of North Carolina.

⁵¹ Hill, Steven A. "Herman Bryan (H. B.) Sugg" NCPedia <https://www.ncpedia.org/sugg-herman-bryan>

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The H. B. Sugg High School is significant for its role in African American education in Farmville. It represented numerous trends in African American education in North Carolina including self-help by Sugg and others, philanthropy through national and local donors, federal assistance during the WPA, equalization investments, integration and ultimately closure. The physical plant and the curriculum demonstrate the dueling philosophies of vocational versus classical education, both of which were integrated at the school. And it is a testimony to H. B. Sugg who devoted his life to learning and teaching. Through sacrifice and partnership, he worked tirelessly to provide opportunities to African American students in Farmville.

H. B. Sugg School
Name of Property

Pitt, NC
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9. Major Bibliographical References

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"Board Probes Possibility New Colored School." *Farmville Enterprise* April 11, 1947

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"Colored School Stepping Forward Under Present Administration." *Farmville Enterprise Tobacco Edition* August 18, 1939.

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Department of Public Instruction, Annual Principal's reports in the files of the Department of Public Instruction, State Archives of North Carolina.

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"Farmville District Approves Bond Issue and Tax Levy For Improvements to Schools." *Farmville Enterprise* October 24, 1947.

"Farmville District Will Vote Saturday on School Bonds and Added Tax Levy." *Farmville Enterprise* October 17, 1947.

Farmville Gymnasium, photograph March -July 1956 Daily Reflector Collection call no 0741-b10-fe-v10.e.8 <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/2799>

Farmville School File, Fisk University Archives
http://rosenwald.fisk.edu/?module=search.details&set_v=aWQ9MjlxMA==&school_county=pitt&school_state=NC&button=Search&o=0

Farmville School photograph, undated, call no 0730-s2-b3-fd-i52, East Carolina University
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56498>

Farmville School photograph, undated, call no 0730-s2-b3-fd-i53, East Carolina University
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56499>

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"Farmville Schools Reflect The March of Progress In This Community." *Farmville Enterprise Tobacco Edition* August 18, 1939.

H. B. Sugg High School photograph February 1955 call no. 0741-b6-fc-v6.c.61, East Carolina University <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/2485>

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Hill, Steven A. "Herman Bryan (H. B.) Sugg" NCPedia <https://www.ncpedia.org/sugg-herman-bryan>

Howard, Henry. "Sugg Watched, Helped School Growth." *The Daily Reflector* clipping, nd

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North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration Records, State Archives of North Carolina

Pit County Deed Books

Pitt County Map Books

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps of Farmville, NC

"School Figures Given for Pitt." *Rocky Mount Telegram* September 20, 1957

State of North Carolina, Department of Public Instruction, Principal's Annual Reports

Thuesen, Sarah Caroline. *Greater Than Equal*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013.

Unknown School photograph, undated, call no 0730-s2-b3-fe-i66, East Carolina University <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56512>

Unknown School Building, photograph, 1950-1959, call no 0730-s2-b3-fe-i67, East Carolina University <http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/56513>

"West Contracts for New School." *Statesville Daily Record* February 2, 1949.

H. B. Sugg School
Name of Property

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PT3323

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 9.38

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Latitude: 35.591307° Longitude: -77.594430°

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is show in the map entitled *H. B. Sugg School 3632 South George Street Farmville, Pitt County, NC Boundary Map*, which includes a survey of the property by McDavid Associates.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all the property historically associated with the school through its period of significance.

H. B. Sugg School
Name of Property

Pitt, NC
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury
organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting
street & number: PO Box 6049
city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628
e-mail: maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com
telephone: 919 828 1905
date: February 1, 2019

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.)

Photo Log

All photographs are of the H. B. Sugg School, Farmville, Pitt County, North Carolina, taken by Mary Ruffin Hanbury. Dates and view are noted in the inventory.

- 1 of 12 Exterior, Facade, View to Northwest, photographed June 2018
- 2 of 12 Exterior, Facade, Primary Entrance, View to West, photographed January 2019
- 3 of 12, Exterior, North Elevation, View to South, photographed June 2018
- 4 of 12 Exterior, Gymnasium Facade, View to Southwest, photographed June 2018
- 5 of 12 Exterior, West Elevation, View to Northeast, photographed June 2018
- 6 of 12 Exterior, Earliest Part of Building, View to Northeast, photographed June 2018
- 7 of 12 Interior, Hall, View to South photographed January 2019
- 8 of 12 Interior, Classroom, View to East photographed June 2018

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9 of 12 Interior, Classroom, Window Detail, View to Northeast photographed June 2018

10 of 12 Interior, Gymnasium, View to Southwest, photographed June 2018

11 of 12 Exterior, Home Economics Building, View to North, photographed November 2018

12 of 12 Exterior, Shed, View to West photographed March 2020

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

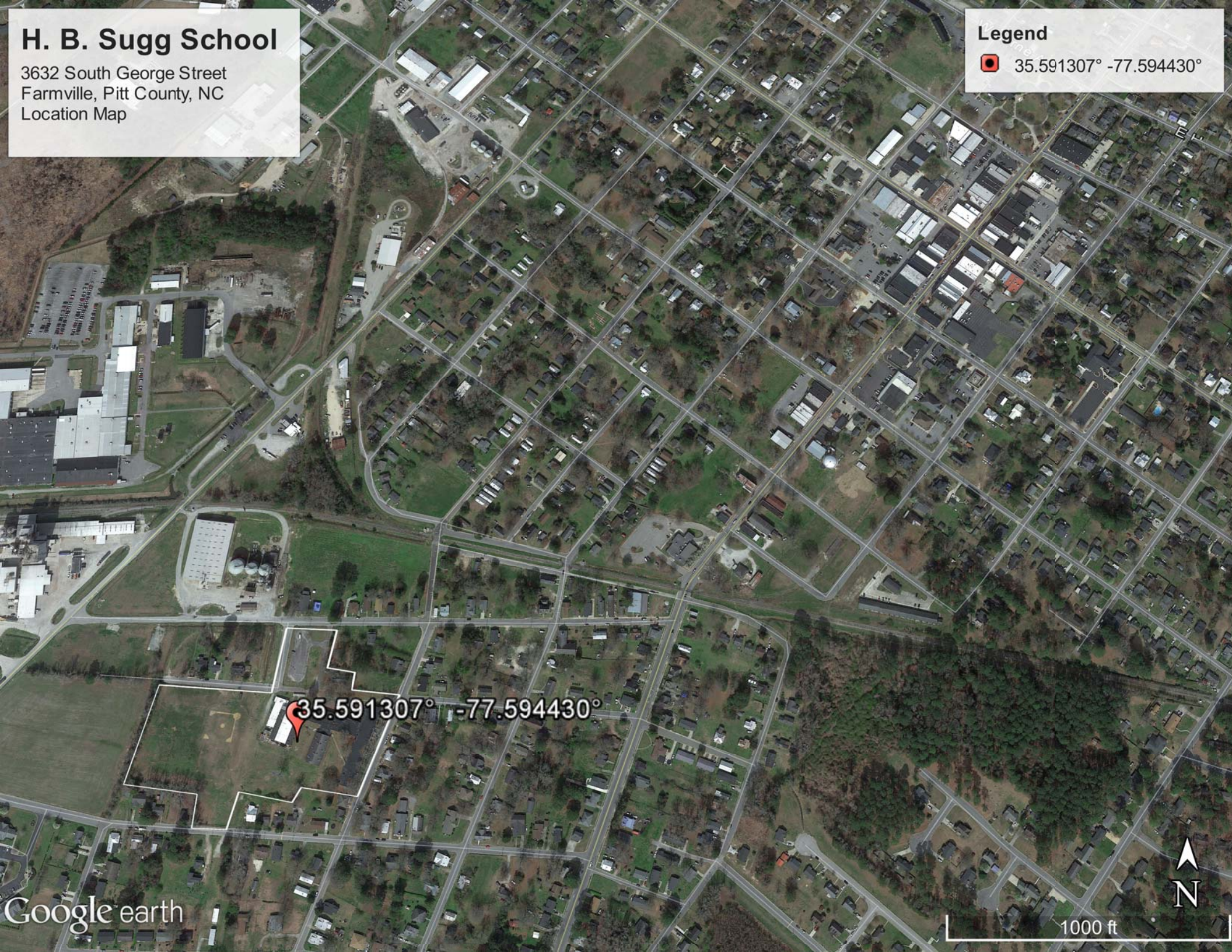
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

H. B. Sugg School

3632 South George Street
Farmville, Pitt County, NC
Location Map

Legend

 35.591307° -77.594430°





VICINITY MAP

CENTROID: N= 673100
E=2417800

NOTE: DISTANCES SHOWN ARE HORIZONTAL GROUND MEASUREMENTS.

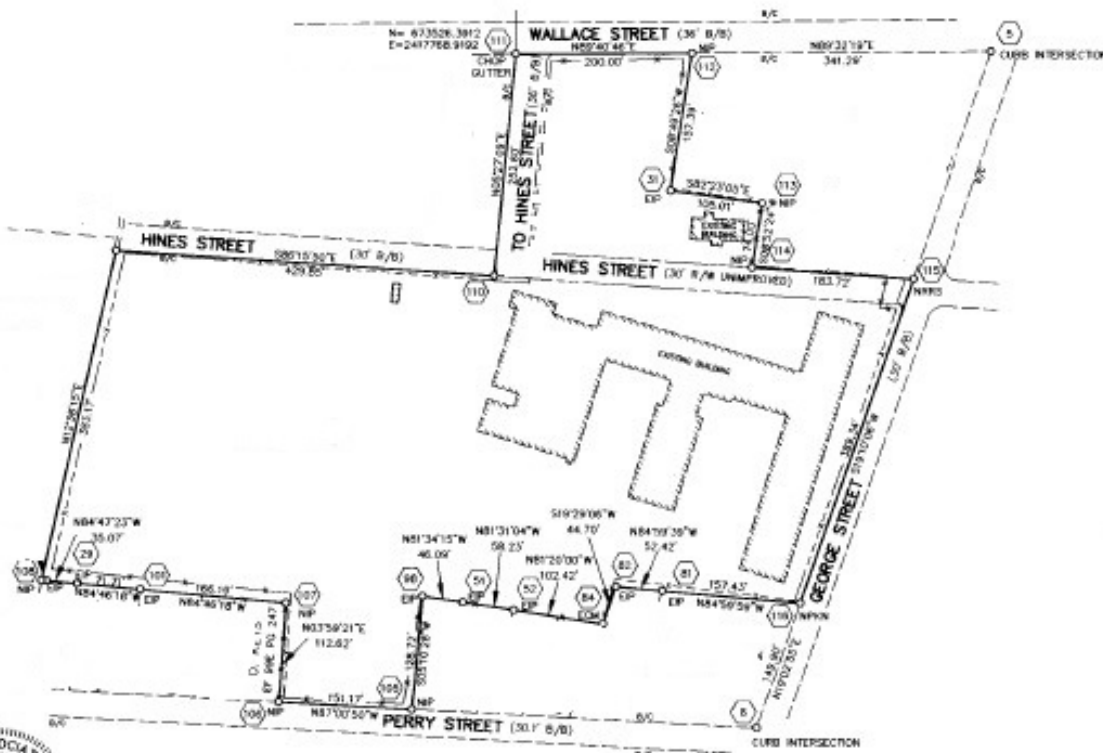
REVISIONS		
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

BOOK 57 PAGE 16

LEGEND

EP = EXISTING 2" IRON PIPE
NP = NEW 2" IRON PIPE
NPNH = NEW PAPER HAZARD MASONRY HAIL
COM = EXISTING CONCRETE MONUMENT
+ = EXISTING CHAIN LINK FENCE
B/C = BACK OF CURB
NRHS = NEW RAILROAD SPINE SET

H. B. Sugg School
3632 South George Street
Farmville, Pitt County, NC
Boundary Map



I, SIMON R. COX
Professional Land Surveyor No. L-4215
certify that this survey is of an
existing parcel or parcels of land and
does not create a new street or
change an existing street.

Simon R. Cox
SIMON R. COX
L-4215

I, SIMON R. COX
certify that this plot was drawn
under my supervision from an actual
survey made under my supervision
(see description recorded in
Book MAP 9, page 147,
etc.) (other); that the boundaries
not surveyed are clearly indicated as
drawn from information found in
Book H/A, page N/A,
that the ratio of precision as calculated
is 1:10,000 ± 100; that
this plot was prepared in accordance
with G.S. 47-30 as amended,
witness my original signature,
registration number and seal this
10th day of DECEMBER, A.D. 2001

Simon R. Cox
SIMON R. COX
L-4215

Surveyed by: TRC
Drawn by: SPC



Filed for registration this 19 day of January
2002 at 10:47 o'clock A.M.
JUDY T. TART, Register of Deeds
Deborah S. Sasser
Deputy Register of Deeds



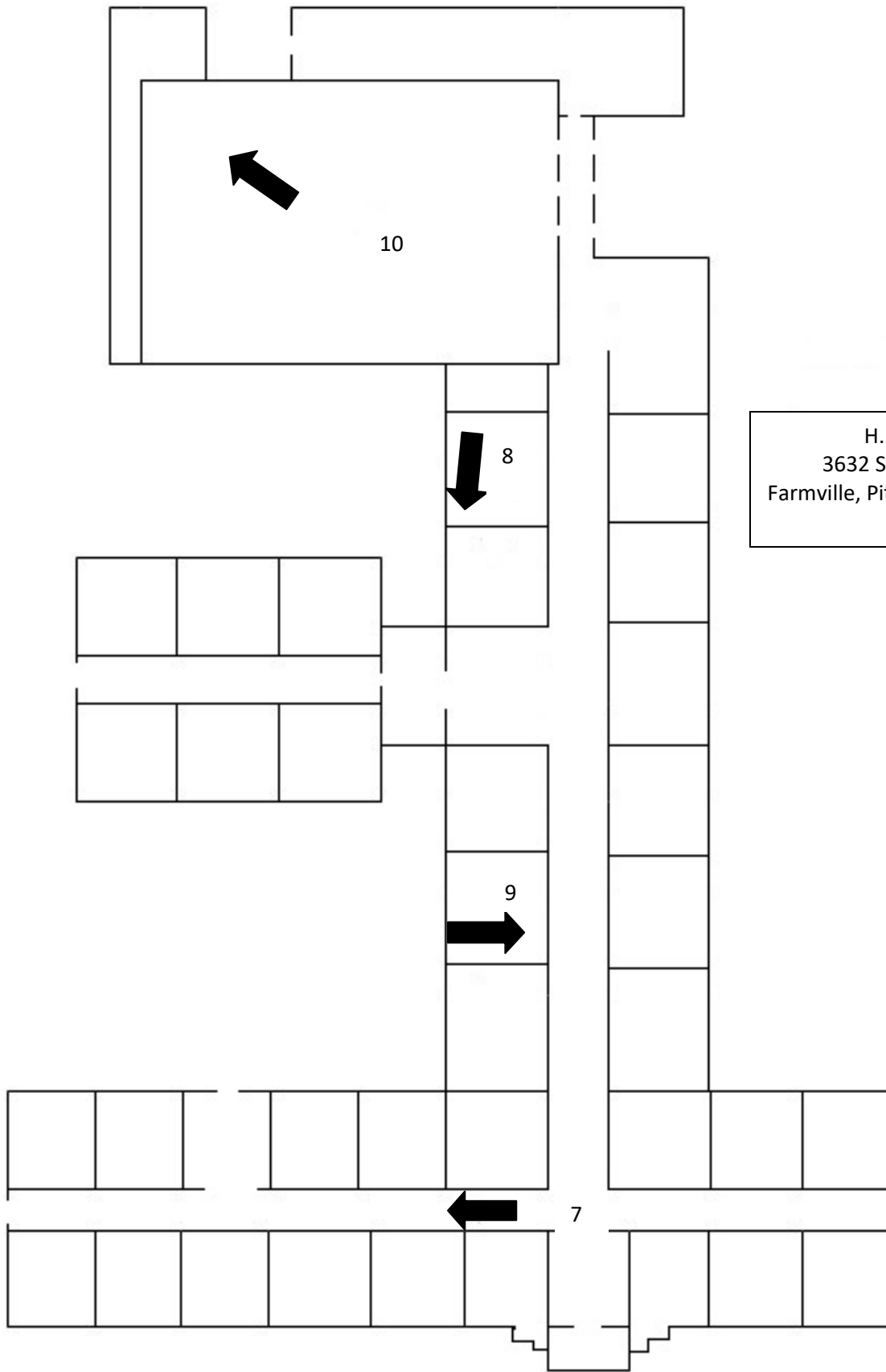
SURVEY FOR
TOWN OF FARMVILLE
BEING THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TRACT
H.B. SUGG SCHOOL SITE
MAP BOOK 9 PAGE 147
FARMVILLE, FARMVILLE TOWNSHIP, PITT COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
DECEMBER 10, 2001 SCALE 1"=100'
SCALE IN FEET: 1" = 100'
100 0 100 200
McDAVID ASSOCIATES, INC.
Engineers • Planners • Land Surveyors
120 North Main Street, Farmville, NC 27828
Telephone: (252) 753-2130



H. B. Sugg School
 3632 South George Street
 Farmville, Pitt County, North Carolina
 Site Plan



H. B. Sugg School
3632 South George Street
Farmville, Pitt County, North Carolina
Photo Key



H. B. Sugg School
3632 South George Street
Farmville, Pitt County, North Carolina
Photo key