

VLR 12/18/08  
NRHP 2/25/09

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Dry Bridge School  
other names/site number East Martinsville Grammar School; VDHR ID 120-5034

**2. Location**

street & number 1005 Jordan Street not for publication n/a  
city or town Martinsville vicinity n/a  
state Virginia code VA county Ind. City code 690 zip code 24112

**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     nationally     statewide x locally. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 1/14/09  
Signature of certifying official Date  
**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) Rosenwald Schools in Virginia, MPS

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   Education   Sub:   school  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   other   Sub:   storage  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

  Classical Revival  

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   concrete  

roof   asphalt  

walls   brick  

other   wood  

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

- x 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.
x 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 a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Education
Ethnic History: Black
Architecture

Period of Significance (A) 1927-1948; (C) 1928-1930

Significant Dates 1928-1930; 1948

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder Moore Lumber Company; Finley, McCoy and Hinskey

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.4 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
<u>17 602822 4061108</u>	2 <u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u>	3 <u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u>	4 <u>    </u> <u>    </u> <u>    </u>

     See continuation sheet.

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

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

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title John R. Kern, Historian & Michael J. Pulice, Architectural Historian

organization Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Roanoke Regional Office date     

street & number 1030 Penmar Ave. SE telephone 540-857-7585

city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24013

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

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

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

**Property Owner**

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

name MARC Workshop

street & number PO Box 3749 telephone 276-632-1018

city or town Martinsville state VA zip code 24115

**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. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions,

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**Dry Bridge School  
Martinsville, Virginia**

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## 7. Description

### Summary

The Dry Bridge School is a one-story brick building with a concrete foundation, brick walls and deck-on-hip roof. Construction began in 1928 and was finally completed in 1930. The building has a basic rectangular plan, but at the east and west ends are narrow wings, set-back from the south-facing principal elevation, with recessed entrances sheltered by brick-arched openings. The building footprint and interior plan conform almost exactly to a drawing identified as “Floor Plan No. 400 – Four Teacher Community School,” which first appeared in *Community School Plans*, a book published by the Rosenwald Fund’s Nashville office director S. L. Smith in 1924. As depicted in Smith’s drawing, inside Dry Bridge School are four classrooms and two offices. The rooms have tall ceilings treated with pressed tin squares and cornices, plaster walls above beaded vertical-board wainscoting, two-inch-wide oak flooring, and five-panel doors, all of which is original fabric. Even the blackboards remain in place.

### Detailed Description

The former Dry Bridge School building is located on the east side of Martinsville, just south of East Church Street (U.S. Highway 58 Business), and just east of Chatham Road. The building fronts onto Jordan Street, to the south. Jordan Street intersects Boden Street on the west end of the block and Geter Street on the east end of the block. The sloped lawn and concrete walkway in front of the building are part of the original schoolyard that remains undisturbed.

Immediately to the east is a school built in 1958 as the part of the East Martinsville School, which incorporated the former Dry Bridge School building in 1948. The 1958 building is not included in this nomination. Immediately behind the building is the corrugated metal Lucy Pannill Sale Building, erected in 2001 as the main facility for the MARC Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to helping Martinsville’s handicapped citizens since 1969. The new building is connected to the Dry Bridge School by means of an elevated walkway. Although the Dry Bridge School building is now being used only for storage by MARC, it continues to be protected from alteration and loss of historic integrity. Funds are being raised for its maintenance and plans are being made for its careful restoration.

The one-story building is constructed of concrete and brick and has a hipped roof with its original configuration. Diamond-shaped shingles probably made of asbestos, seen in early photographs, were the first roofing material. They have been replaced with typical asphalt shingles. The exterior appearance of the school is fairly representative of public schools from the period in Virginia, especially those built for black children and funded by the Rosenwald Foundation. Though modest in terms of scale and architectural embellishments, the school has banks of large windows for lighting and providing ventilation in each classroom. They also comprise a defining characteristic of the building. A key design feature of Rosenwald Schools specified by S. L. Smith, the windows were consciously intended to enhance learning conditions for the students. Each of Dry Bridge School’s four classrooms had one bank of five windows separated by thick wood mullions. One of the few differences between Smith’s School Plan No. 400 and the Dry Bridge School are the lack of windows on the Dry Bridge’s side elevations. This may be because Dry Bridge is not east or west facing. Although “to face west or east only” is prominently stipulated on Smith’s Plan 400 illustration, the school was instead built facing south, which meant the two front classrooms benefitted from southern exposure and probably became stiflingly hot in the warm months, while the classrooms and offices in the back of the

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in his book, were relied upon heavily, and had to be adjusted regularly throughout the day. [Smith’s recommendations for proper lighting and ventilation, among numerous other details, were quite specific.] Dry Bridge School’s windows—very large, six-over-six, double-hung wood sash—are about four feet wide and seven feet tall. In each room, they extend from the chair rail up to the pressed tin cornice. All of the operable, weighted windows are in original condition. The window sills are whitewashed concrete. The interior window and door trim consists of plain four-inch-wide boards with rounded edges.

The primary difference between Smith’s Four Teacher Community School as depicted in his book, and the Dry Bridge School as built, is the disparate use of construction materials. The book example is a weatherboarded frame structure. Masonry construction was reportedly rare for Rosenwald Schools, although other known examples exist in Virginia, such as the Lylburn Downing School in Rockbridge County. Like the Dry Bridge building, the Downing School has brick exterior walls. Dry Bridge’s bricks are laid up in a variant of Flemish bond consisting of one Flemish course to every three stretcher courses. The Flemish courses are rows of alternating stretchers (bricks laid lengthwise) and headers (bricks with only one end exposed). The headers, in this case, are dark-colored bricks that simulate fire-glazed bricks, which like the Flemish bond and arched entrances, are intended to evoke the brickwork of 18<sup>th</sup> century colonial buildings. This was a fairly common Colonial Revival motif used by bricklayers in the 1920s through the 1940s. The simple, round arches over the two front entrances are made up of two courses of common header bricks.

In the mid-late 1940s, a modern coal furnace was added to the building and the woodstoves removed from each classroom. The furnace would be housed in a new un-imposing, flat-roofed, one-story brick addition on the west end of the school building, at the back corner. It has a poured concrete foundation and two steel casement windows with concrete sills on the west elevation. The addition included a basement and a new brick chimney at the southwest corner. The central chimney on the front of the original building and two chimneys on the rear elevation were no longer needed and were soon taken down.

In the 1950s or 1960s, the arched front entrance at the west end was closed off and a bathroom installed in the space created. Later, a handicap ramp was built behind the school and a handicap-width doorway was opened in the rear elevation, which necessitated the removal of two windows.

## **8. Statement of Significance**

### **Summary**

The Dry Bridge School in Martinsville, Virginia, is a brick, four-room educational facility built from 1928 to 1930 to serve East Martinsville’s black population in Henry County. The school is eligible under the Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Submission for nomination under Criterion A at the local level of significance with the categories of Education and Ethnic Heritage, Black, for its compelling association with the School Improvement League of East Martinsville Baptist Church, a group dedicated to the advancement of the black community through better education. The school remains standing and fully intact, having served as part of the non-profit MARC Workshop since 1969. Fisk University Archives and the “Rosenwald Schools in Virginia” multiple property

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Dry Bridge School is an excellent example of the schools built under the Rosenwald Foundation's sponsorship, and according to their published specifications. As such, it is also nominated under the MPS under Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level of significance. The period of significance dates from 1927, the year that the School Improvement League began its efforts, to 1948 when annexation brought Dry Bridge School into the Martinsville School District as East Martinsville School.

**Acknowledgements**

Deepa Sanyal, while serving as a National Trust field representative in Henry County/Martinsville, persisted in bringing Dry Bridge School to the attention of the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office authors of this nomination. Dr. George L. Wallace and W. K. Putney, charter board members of MARC, Inc., provided supportive information and a helpful reading of the draft historic context for the nomination. David Draper, MARC, Inc. director, assisted in contacting graduates of Dry Bridge School and hosted the interviews. Of the school graduates interviewed, Darnell Hodge, Jr. subsequently hosted an interview with his father Darnell Hodge, Sr. who attended the school from its opening in 1929; Imogene Hodge Draper shared additional information on the school, provided an introduction to Dry Bridge School graduate Dr. James L. Wilson, and carefully read and corrected the draft historic context; Marguerite Wilson shared the School Improvement League books from East Martinsville Baptist Church, records which she saved from destruction.

**Narrative History**

The completion of the brick four-room Dry Bridge School in 1929 marked the end of years of work by blacks living east of Martinsville, Virginia, who sought better school facilities and better education for their children. By the early 1920s the first Dry Bridge Colored School, a small frame L-plan building with a shed addition, needed substantial repairs or replacement. After black supporters of the original Dry Bridge School failed to secure Henry County School Board approval for repairs of their old frame building in 1922, 1923, and 1926, they formed a School Improvement League in 1927 that began to meet at First Baptist Church of East Martinsville under the leadership of Rev. W. F. Geter.<sup>1</sup>

Minutes from the School Improvement League recorded strong support for advancement of the black community through better education. In March 1927 Prof. J. L. Hairston, principal at the original Dry Bridge School, spoke at length about the need for a new school. The School Improvement League responded to principal Hairston's remarks by calling for unity in support of a new school building and for communication with the Henry County Superintendent of Schools. George Martin closed the meeting at First Baptist with a "talk on the betterment of our race and community by the churches and schools." The April 1927 meeting of the School Improvement League repeated the call for improvement of community and race pride through better schools. When Principal J. L. Hairston spoke of the need for a new school building, Mr. G. G. Hairston supported the request with comments on the need for "better improvement for the community for the future races after we are gone." Jessie B. Hairston affirmed the importance of better education, saying that "the future child can't make it like we can, if not educated."<sup>2</sup>

United in their mission, the School Improvement League then turned to fund raising for purchase of land for the new school. In May 1927 Rev. W. F. Geter headed a committee charged with finding the best location for the school

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discuss plans for land purchase for the school. In the fall of 1927 Rev. Geter promised to get the land situation straight by January 1928. Meanwhile, fund-raising efforts began with School League benefits for the new land and the new building. Faculty and students from the old Dry Bridge School presented fund-raising entertainment. At a meeting on Christmas Day 1927, with funds in hand from school entertainment, School Improvement League dues, and donations from parents, Rev. Geter received authorization to borrow the remaining money necessary for purchase of the school lot. The final deed for the Dry Bridge School lot was recorded in the April, 1928 term of the Henry County Circuit Court as a \$250 purchase paid to the Henry County School Board.<sup>3</sup>

The Dry Bridge School Improvement Fund learned of possible Rosenwald funding for their new school as soon as they raised and borrowed the money necessary for purchase of the school lot and met with the State Superintendent of Negro Education, Mr. W. D. Gresham. In early January, 1928, Rev. Geter appointed a committee to meet with Superintendent Gresham. Two weeks later the committee reported back to the School Improvement League that Mr. Gresham spoke about the Rosenwald funds, "how helpful they were to colored people, and it would be great to take advantage of these funds." At the next School Improvement League meeting, in February 1928, George Martin reported on an article from the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper that discussed the Rosenwald Fund.<sup>4</sup>

Bryan Green's Multiple Property Submission on Rosenwald Schools in Virginia explains that Julius Rosenwald, as president of Sears and Roebuck Company, established the Rosenwald Fund to help pay for more than 5,000 schools for African Americans in 15 southern states. By 1920, administration of the Rosenwald Fund building project was transferred from the Extension Department of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to an independent Rosenwald Fund Southern Office in Nashville. The Nashville Rosenwald Office was headed by Samuel L. Smith who previously served as Tennessee's State Agent for Negro Schools. Rosenwald funding for each school was provided after the black community had raised substantial money for completion of the school. Funds were deposited in respective State Departments of Education and were to be used in cooperation with State Supervisors of Negro Education. Plans and specifications for school construction were provided by the Rosenwald program in collaboration with State Departments of Education. In all, the Rosenwald Fund helped finance 364 schools in Virginia between 1917 and 1932. Of the three Rosenwald schools built in Henry County, Virginia, only Dry Bridge School stands today.<sup>5</sup>

Then, having raised sufficient funds for purchase of a school lot, and having met with the State Superintendent of Negro Education, the Dry Bridge School Improvement League helped secure money from the Rosenwald Fund for Dry Bridge School along with plans for construction of the four-room, four-teacher school. Records from Fisk University Archives document that the Rosenwald Fund provided \$1,200 out of a total cost of \$7,800 for the school's construction. Public contributions, probably in combination from the Virginia State Department of Education and the Henry County School Board, totaled \$6,100. The Dry Bridge School Improvement League raised the final \$500 for the cost of the school.<sup>6</sup>

In March 1928 the Dry Bridge School Improvement League reported that Henry County School Superintendent Clifford Goode and State Superintendent of Negro Education W. D. Gresham "had been down to inspect the school lot and were very much pleased." In July 1928 the Henry County School Board accepted a bid from Moore Lumber Company for construction of Dry Bridge School. Construction proceeded from the summer of 1928 until April 1929,

when the original contractor could not complete the work. In May 1929 the Henry County School Board awarded a

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final contract for completion of Dry Bridge School to Finley, McCoy, and Hinskey. Virginia Department of Education School Building Service photographs show four undated pictures of Dry Bridge School under construction with heavy wooden scaffolding, followed by three photographs of the completed brick four-room Dry Bridge School without scaffolding dated August 29, 1929.<sup>7</sup>

By the fall of 1929 the handsome new brick four-room Dry Bridge School was ready for use; at least the exterior of the building was completed. The Dry Bridge School Improvement League became the Dry Bridge Parent and Teacher League of East Martinsville. The old, small, frame Dry Bridge School closed after three decades of cramped service. Professor J. L. Hairston and his other two teachers must have moved to their new school with a sense of accomplishment, even though the inequities of school segregation still dictated that they received about 25 percent less pay than white teachers of comparable experience. Despite the inequities of segregation, Rev. Geter, members of the Dry Bridge School Improvement League, and the black community of East Martinsville could take satisfaction in the outcome of their work for better facilities for better education of their children. The combination of black community action and support from the Rosenwald Fund provided for a substantial and well-designed school building for their children and their childrens' children.<sup>8</sup>

Many sources testify to the strong feelings of black community pride and achievement sustained by Dry Bridge School. In May 1929 the *Martinsville Bulletin* printed an account of the first graduation from the new Dry Bridge School submitted by Principal John L. Hairston, and teachers Mrs. J. L. Hairston, and Victoria Earley. The two-day ceremony featured pageants and recitations by eighth-grade graduates. The account from the Dry Bridge School principal and teachers mentioned looking forward to final completion of the new and adequate school building, suggesting that interior work was still under way during the school's first year of operation. Community support for education at Dry Bridge School continued during the winter and spring of 1930. In February 1930 the Henry County School Board decided to keep white schools open for the legal term of seven months but to reduce Negro schools to a term of six and a half months, "due to lack of funds." Supporters of Dry Bridge School quickly rose to this challenge. By April 1930 they had provided the School Board with funds for extension of their school year to the full term of seven months.<sup>9</sup>

The greatest change in the administration of the new Dry Bridge School occurred after January 1931, when Principal J. L. Hairston suddenly died while teaching a class. Rev. R. T. Anderson replaced Principal Hairston by March 1931, when he reported to the Dry Bridge School League that he had secured a Rosenwald library for the school at a total cost of \$80. Rev. Anderson came to Martinsville in 1930 as pastor of Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church on Fayette Street in Martinsville. R. T. Anderson served as principal of Dry Bridge School until it closed in the late 1960s. His leadership at the school was admired by students and by the black community, who appreciated his quiet advocacy of civil rights.<sup>10</sup>

When interviewed in August 2008, graduates of Dry Bridge School still remembered their years of instruction and the strong community support East Martinsville provided for their education. Darnell Hodge, Sr., now 91, is the only student interviewed who attended the new Dry Bridge School when it opened in 1928. Darnell, Sr. certainly remembered Principal J. L. Hairston, who died in class in January 1931 on the day Principal Hairston said he would give Darnell a whipping. Darnell, Sr., and others remembered Principal Hairston's successor Rev. R. T. Anderson as a

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County Training School, where he graduated as the only boy in his class. At Dry Bridge he played an Indian in school programs organized by the teachers.<sup>11</sup> Students who attended Dry Bridge School in the 1940s and 1950s remember that Rev. Anderson began each school day by opening the classroom partition to form an assembly space for devotionals. Chapel started the school day, and everyone sang hymns accompanied by Mrs. Mae Baldwin Gilmer playing the piano. A prayer closed the devotionals before class instruction began. Education was strict and enforced by discipline. There was no recess unless lessons were finished. Students didn't graduate from one class to another until they learned the work. Mrs. Gilmer said, "I sent them out of first grade reading." Dr. James Wilson remembered that classes were small; perhaps 12 in a class, so everyone learned more, or could learn more. Parents wanted their children to learn.<sup>12</sup>

Rev. Anderson was respected by the community and by children not yet in school. Dr. Wilson remembered that Rev. Anderson maintained a good balance between discipline and interest in the students. Discipline was strict. Marguerite Wilson recalled that "Dr. Green was Rev. Anderson's stick." But Rev. Anderson also took his students to the annual circus, and they marched uptown behind the circus parade. Those interviewed supported Rev. Anderson's statement on discipline made in 1962: "We did not, at any time, have to send teachers out on the playgrounds at recess to watch our children. Our children behaved themselves, realizing that they were loved by the teachers and principal, even if correction or discipline was necessary." In fact, discipline and respect for elders are the aspects of Dry Bridge School best remembered by Darnell Hodge, Jr., now that he is retired and volunteers for work with youth in Martinsville.<sup>13</sup>

Most graduates agree that bonds of family and community strengthened the education they received at Dry Bridge School. One teacher remembers that the school was like a big household. Imogene Draper recalls that the school served as a community center for Voter League registration of blacks during the 1930s. Many former students remember that their parents supported their education, as did their church leaders, and that their Dry Bridge School teachers and principal provided them with lifetime role models.<sup>14</sup>

Annexation brought Dry Bridge School into the Martinsville School District in 1948. A freestanding school addition was built beside Dry Bridge School in 1958. The two buildings were called the East Martinsville Grammar School. East Martinsville Grammar School closed at the end of the 1967-1968 school year as the result of school desegregation in Martinsville. In 1969 MARC Workshop, Inc. rented the property from the Martinsville School District to begin its mission of serving handicapped persons. This system continued until March 1, 1989 when the City of Martinsville conveyed the property by deed to MARC Workshop, Inc. MARC now seeks historic designation for Dry Bridge School in recognition of its earlier role in the education of black students in the community of East Martinsville.<sup>15</sup>

Endnotes

1. Henry County School Board Minutes, Vol. 1, April 6, 1922; June 30, 1923; March 6, 1926. School Improvement League Books, First Baptist Church of East Martinsville; in possession of Marguerite W. Wilson, Martinsville, Virginia. Library of Virginia, Virginia Department of Education, School Building Service Photographs, #1202, Dry Bridge, Henry County, no date. M. W. Wilson said that the old Dry Bridge School took its name from a railroad bridge that passed over dry land near the school; it was only a 5-minute walk from the old Dry Bridge site to the new school. M. W. Wilson, personal communication, September 15,

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2008. Imogene Hodge Draper reported that the old schoolhouse lot was purchased by the Henry County School Board in 1899. I. H. Draper, *Martinsville Bulletin*, June 18, 2007.
2. School Improvement League, Book 1, March 16, 1927; April 27, 1927.
  3. School Improvement League, Book 1, May 22, 1927; July 6, 1927. Book 2, Sept. 16, 1927; Oct. 30, 1927; Nov. 13, 1927; December 25, 1927. Deed Book 62,165, Henry County Circuit Court; reference from Marguerite Wilson.
  4. School Improvement League, Book 2, January 8, 1928; January 22, 1928; February 26, 1928.
  5. Bryan Green, Rosenwald Schools in Virginia, Multiple Property Documentation form (012-5041), Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, 2004. Ultimately Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee established and maintained an extensive file of Rosenwald schools built for black students in the South.
  6. Ibid. After raising \$250 for purchase of the school lot, the Dry Bridge School League raised the additional \$250 for the school building with another fund-raising campaign in 1928. School Improvement League, Book 2, final 4 pages.
  7. School Improvement League, Book 3, March 27, 1928. Henry County School Board Minutes, Vol. 1, July 30, 1928; April 22, 1929; May 27, 1929. Library of Virginia, Virginia Department of Education, School Building Service Photographs: #1195, no date; #1196, August 29, 1929; #1197, no date; #1199, no date; #1200, no date; #1201, August 29, 1929; #1203, August 29, 1929.
  8. Henry County School Board Minutes, Vol. 1, June 14, 1924; May 27, 1929. Dry Bridge School League Books of First Baptist Church of East Martinsville contain no record of meetings between November 11, 1928, and November 10, 1929; there is a blank space in Book 3 between the entries for those two dates. This may be because Rosenwald funds and Rosenwald school plans were used for constructing and furnishing the school. Henry County School Board minutes make no reference to the Rosenwald funding for Dry Bridge School.
  9. I. H. Draper, *Martinsville Bulletin*, June 18, 2007. Henry County School Board Minutes, Vol. 1, February 15, 1930; April 15, 1930. I. H. Draper believes that Mrs. Earley actually wrote the letter to the *Martinsville Bulletin*; email communication, Sept. 26, 2008 .
  10. School Improvement League, Book 3, January 1931; March 8, 1931. *Fayette Street, A Hundred-Year History of African American Life in Martinsville, Virginia*, Fayette Area Historical Initiative and Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Martinsville and Charlottesville, Virginia, 2006.
  11. Darnell Hodge, Sr., interview, Martinsville, August 19, 2008. Darnell Hodge, Sr., is the only graduate interviewed who mentioned the national leadership of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt during the 1930s when he attended school.
  12. Interviews conducted at Dry Bridge School, Martinsville, August 19, 2008, with assistance from David Draper, MARC Director. Dr. James L. Wilson, personal communication, Martinsville, August 28, 2008.
  13. Ibid. Marguerite Wilson interview, Martinsville, August 28, 2008. I. H. Draper, *Martinsville Bulletin*, June 18, 2007. Sometimes discipline was excessive. Principal J. L. Hairston's school punishment was so harsh that some parents intervened. I. H. Draper, personal communication, Martinsville, August 28, 2008. Interviews at Dry Bridge School, August 19, 2008.
  14. Interviews at Dry Bridge School, Martinsville, August 29, 2008.
  15. Interview with Dr. George L. Wallace and W. K. Putney, founding board members of MARC, Roanoke, July 10, 2008. Dr. George L. Wallace, telephone communication, October 2, 2008. Dr. Wallace and Mr. Putney, and MARC Director David Draper understand that historic designation for Dry Bridge School may also enhance opportunities to receive grant funding for MARC, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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**9. Bibliographical References**

Draper, Imogene Hodge. *Martinsville Bulletin*, June 18, 2007. Personal communication, Martinsville, Virginia, August 28, 2008. Email communication, September 26, 2008.

Dry Bridge School interviews, Martinsville, Virginia. Conducted and recorded by John R. Kern, August 19, 2008.

Bennett, Lavern Townsend

Carter, Caroline H.

Draper, Imogene Hodge

Hairston, Buford

Hairston, Virginia M.

Hodge, Darnell, Jr.

Hodge-Hylton, Gloria

Lampkin, Mary Hailey

Lipscomb, Juanita Manning

Millner, Curtis R., Sr.

Myers, Sallie Paterson

Thompson, Virginia Lee Townsend

Waller, Virginia G.

*Fayette Street, A Hundred-Year History of African American Life in Martinsville, Virginia, 1905-2005*. Fayette Area Historical Initiative, Martinsville, Virginia; Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2006.

Green, Bryan. Rosenwald Schools in Virginia, Multiple Property Documentation Form (102-5041). Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, 2004.

Henry County School Board Minutes, Vol. 1. Henry County School Board Records, Axton, Virginia.

Hodge, Darnell, Sr. Martinsville, Virginia. Interview with John R. Kern, August 19, 2008.

MARC, Inc. Articles of Incorporation. Martinsville, Virginia. May 23, 1969.

School Building Service Photographs, Virginia Department of Education. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

School Improvement League, Books 1-3. First Baptist Church of East Martinsville, Virginia. Records in possession of Marguerite W. Wilson, Martinsville, Virginia.

Wallace, Dr. George L., and W. K. Putney. Interview. Roanoke, Virginia, July 10, 2008.

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Wallace, Dr. George L. Telephone communication with John R. Kern, October 2, 2008.

Wilson, Dr. James L. Martinsville, Virginia, Personal communication with John R. Kern, August 28, 2008.

Wilson, Marguerite W. Interview. Martinsville, Virginia, August 28, 2008. Telephone communication with John R. Kern, September 15, 2008.

## 10. Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nomination parcel consists of the southern two-fifths of Martinsville property ID 050027800, Tax map Number 36 (03)00 /01-07, as shown on accompanying GIS-produced map and aerial view.

### Boundary Justification

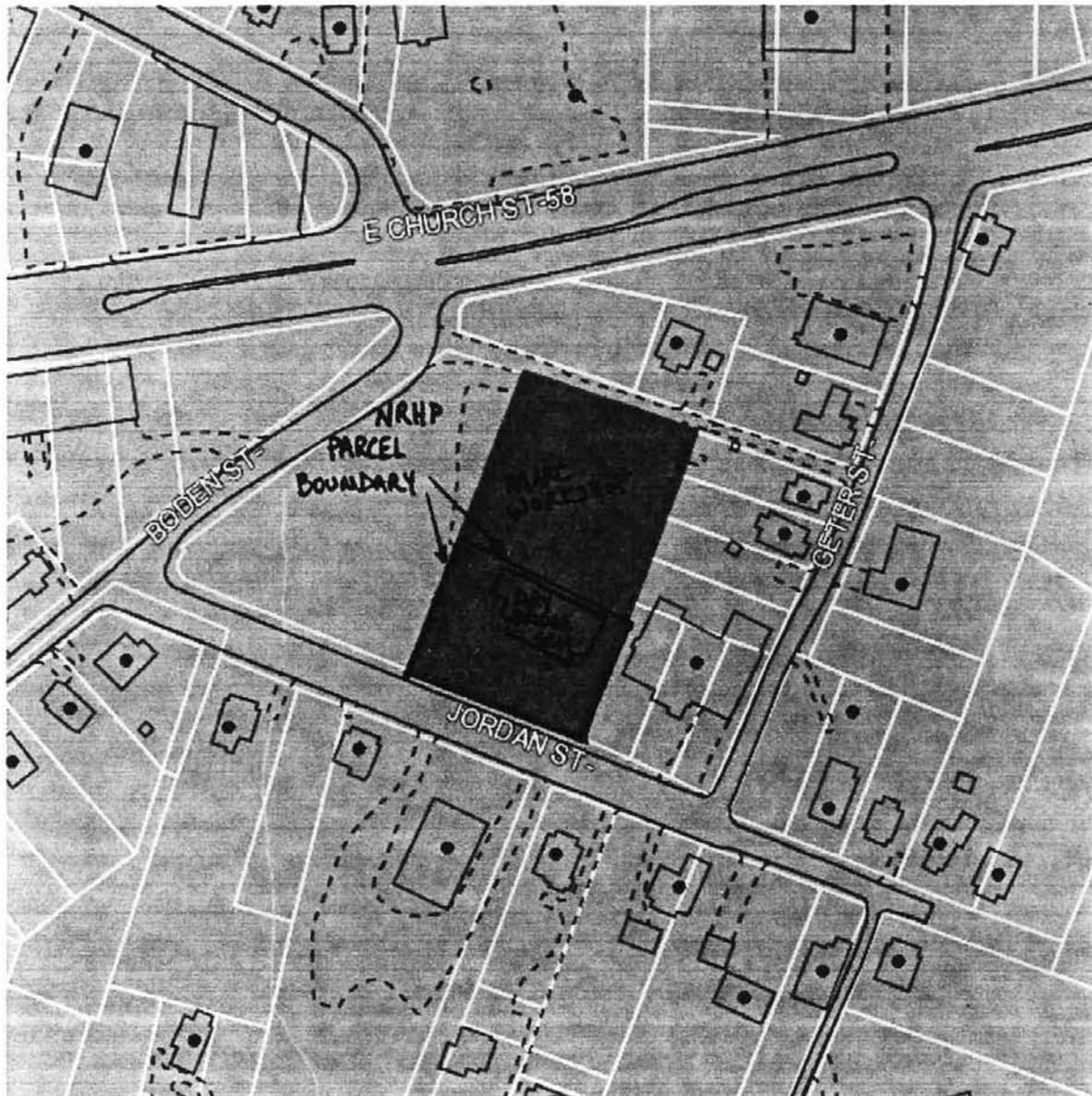
The nomination parcel encompasses all parts of the original the 1929 Dry Bridge School lot that have not been disturbed and/or developed, and includes narrow strips of land to either side of the school, and the front yard, which was part of the original school lot. It does not include modern buildings on the north and east sides of the school.

## Photographs

Dry Bridge School  
City of Martinsville, Virginia  
Photographer: Michael J. Pulice  
Date: August, 2008

1. Front elevation, facing northwest
2. Front elevation, facing northeast
3. Southeast corner entrance
4. North (rear) elevation
5. Representative classroom
6. Classroom door, original flooring, blackboard, etc.
7. Original classroom ceiling

# Property Report - City of Martinsville

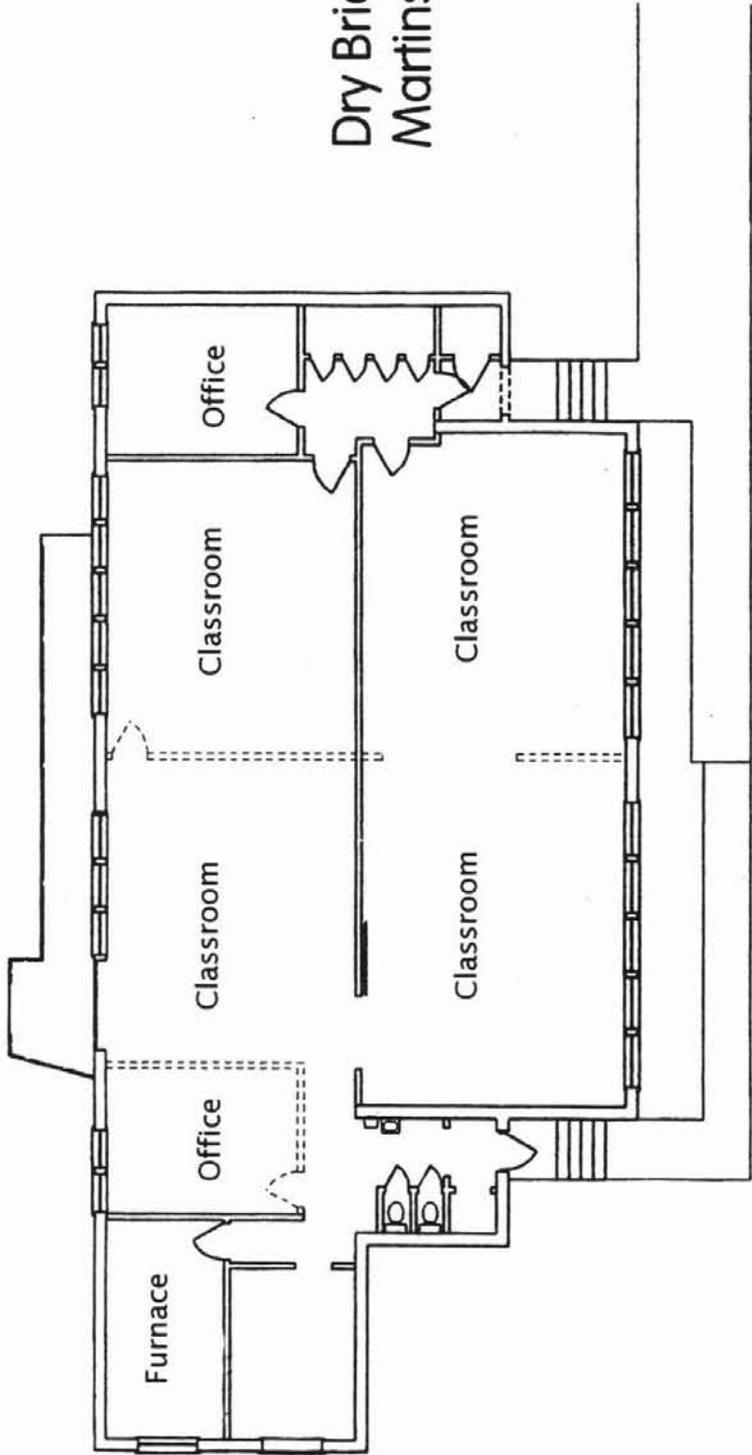


## Current Data:

**Property ID:** 050027800    **Tax Map Number:** 36 (03 )00 /01-07  
**Owner:** MARC WORKSHOP INC  
**Address:** PO BOX 3749    **City/State/Zip:** MARTINSVILLE, VA  
**Deed/Page:** 186-343 GD    **Legal Description:** MARC WORKSHOP  
**Aquired Date:** 3/1/1992    **Consideration:** \$0.00  
**Year Built:** 0000    **Property Desc:** MARC WORKSHOP    **Above Grade Sq Ft:** 17919  
**Acres:** 3.555    **Zoning:** R-9  
**Land Value:** \$33900.00    **Building Value:** \$329200.00    **Total Value:** \$363100.00

## Previous Data:

**Owner:** MARTINSVILLE CITY OF  
**Aquired Date:** 5/1/1989    **Deed/Page:** GD    **Consideration:** \$0.00

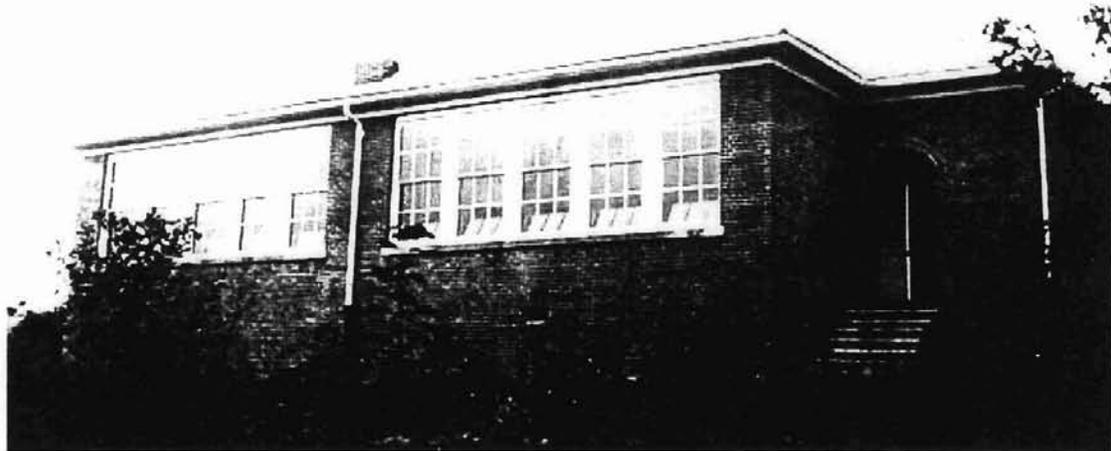


Dry Bridge School  
Martinsville, Virginia

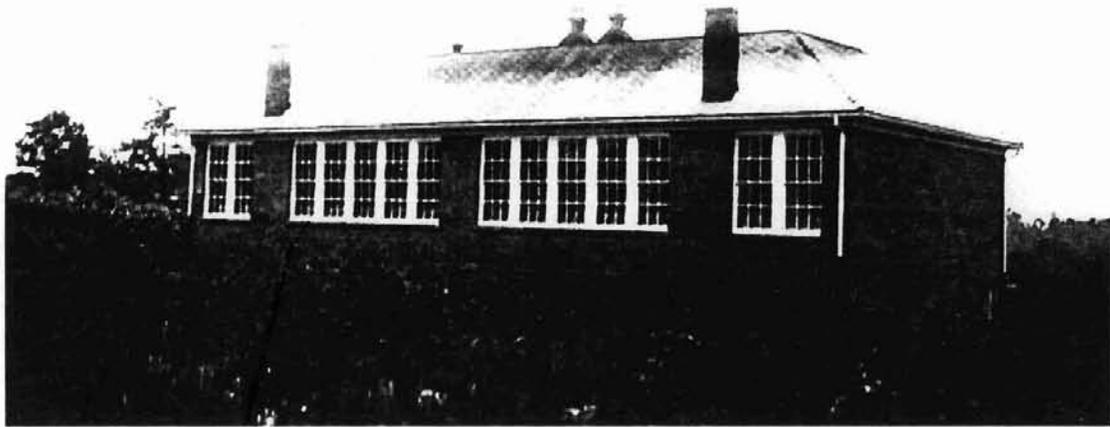


FLOOR PLAN - EXISTING BUILDING

1/16" = 1'-0"



FRONT



REAR

DRY BRIDGE SCHOOL  
MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA  
— Soon after Construction —