

VLR- 3/19/09
NRHP- 6/11/09

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 Shady Grove School

other names/site number DHR File # 054-0099

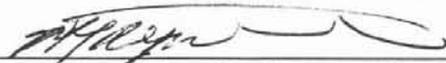
2. Location

street & number 2925 Three Chopt Road

city or town Gum Spring vicinity _____ state Virginia code VA county Louisa code 109 Zip 23065

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 of certifying official _____ Date 4/23/09
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ 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 Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

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8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or 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 Heritage (African American); Architecture

Period of Significance 1925 – 1962

Significant Dates 1925, completion date

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

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Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University Rosenwald Archives, Fisk University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Zone Easting	Northing	Northing
<u>18</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>246588</u>	<u>4183088</u>
<u>NAD 83</u>		<u>2</u>	
<u>See continuation sheet.</u>			

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: Capital Region Office Staff: Kristin Kirchen and Ann Andrus
 Organization: Department of Historic Resources date October 2008
 street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue telephone 804-367-2323
 city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23221

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 Shady Grove Baptist Church
 street & number 3384 Oakland Church Road, P.O. Box 68 telephone _____
 city or town Gum Spring state VA zip code 23065

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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Summary Description

The one-room Shady Grove School is located on Three Chopt Road, just west of Route 250 in a semi-rural area of Louisa County. The one-story, frame school is located on the north side of Three Chopt Road and is oriented with its front facing east and its gable end facing the street. The main entrance is accessed off of an engaged corner porch and the front (east) façade is completed with a bank of three nine-over-nine double-hung wood windows and two shorter six-over-six wood windows. The side gabled, metal roof is pierced by a narrow internal brick end chimney and features exposed rafter tails. The building has been vacant for many years and is in deteriorated condition. A dedicated group of former students is currently working to restore the school.

Currently, the area between the school and the road is open grass and bare earth, while woods are encroaching on the north side. The original manual water pump is located in the middle of the yard between the street and the school building. The metal pump is marked "The F.E. Myers and Bro. Co." Twin paths used to lead off into the woods to the north to the boys and girls privies which were located on opposite corners of the property. The privies are no longer standing and the paths are grown over.

Detailed Description

The exterior of the Shady Grove school is clad with plain wood weatherboards, some of which are in deteriorated condition, and rests on a concrete pier foundation. A side gabled, standing-seam metal roof with exposed rafter tails protects the building and is in good condition. The recessed main entrance on the façade (east elevation) is located in an end bay and is protected by an engaged porch. The wooden porch floor and steps are new construction and the supporting square post is currently missing. This post will be repaired and reinstalled as part of the current restoration project. The door, composed of five horizontal panels, is capped with a four-light transom. To the right of the front door are two short six-over-six double-hung wood windows and to the right of those is a bank of three tall nine-over-nine windows. Once located on the opposite elevation, the west or rear elevation, there was a large bank of windows providing the ample light source characteristic of Rosenwald School design. There were originally six windows, all nine-over-nine double hung wood sash. At some point, three of the windows were boarded up on the interior and sided over on the exterior leaving three unevenly spaced window openings. All of these windows will be reinstalled as part of the current restoration project. The gable ends of the building, the north and south elevations, lack fenestration and feature only rectangular vents high in the gables.

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The interior of the school is largely intact. A single classroom takes up much of the space with two small cloak rooms and an industrial room arranged along the east wall. Matching black boards were located opposite each other on the blank north and south walls; one blackboard survives on the south wall, as does the wooden frame for the one on the north wall. The wooden floors and narrow board ceiling are original, as are the narrow board walls which are set on a diagonal creating a chevron pattern. Interior doors into the industrial room and cloak rooms feature five horizontal panels and are each capped by a pivoting four-light transom. A chimney flue, encased with the narrow board wall cladding, rises out of the northeast corner of the classroom and vented the single wood stove used for heat (the stove is no longer present). This flue also intrudes into the industrial room where it shows evidence of having been connected to another stove at some point. A four-shelf cupboard with board and batten doors is partially built into one of the walls in the industrial room. Window and door trim throughout the building is broad, flat and unadorned.

Interviews with former students who attended the school in the 1940s and 1950s revealed that the middle coat room was used as a library and that the industrial room was called the kitchen and was where the students stored their lunches.

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Summary Statement of Significance

The Shady Grove School was completed in 1925 using money from the Rosenwald Fund and relying heavily on the labor and support of the local African American community. The one-room, one-teacher school housed grades one through seven for more than 35 years, providing educational opportunities for several generations of Louisa's close-knit black community. Shady Grove School is a well preserved example of a rural Rosenwald school building; the one-story frame building stands on its original site and preserves much of its original fabric with very little alteration. While traffic on the nearby roads has increased, the school remains in a quiet, rural setting as it was historically. According to the construction records available on Rosenwald Schools at Fisk University, Shady Grove was one of two Rosenwald schools built in Louisa County.

Criteria Statement

The Shady Grove School is nominated under Criteria A and C in the areas of Ethnic History – African American, Education, and Architecture at the local level with a period of significance from the date of construction, 1925, through its last year of operation, 1962. As an intact example of a one-room school constructed with the assistance of the Rosenwald Fund, Shady Grove is a significant example of the impact of Virginia's "separate but equal" policy in education and the counterattack of the Julius Rosenwald Fund which sought to "raise up" black youth through the power of education. Architecturally, the Shady Grove School is an intact example of a one-room schoolhouse built from "One Teacher Plan No. 1 (East or West Facing)" drawn by S.L. Smith with the Rosenwald Fund office in Nashville and first published in book form in 1924. The school is a significant example of both a Rosenwald plan type and a typical African American one-room schoolhouse from the early to mid 20th century.

Shady Grove School meets the criteria for registration set out in the Rosenwald Schools in Virginia Multiple Property Documentation form. It was built between 1917 and 1932 using funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The school's design, floor plan, workmanship and materials are typical of Rosenwald schools and it was built following the standard plans required for funding. Shady Grove School retains a high degree of architectural integrity and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, association, and workmanship.

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Historical Background

Shady Grove School is one of two schools constructed in Louisa County early in the 20th century with financial assistance from the Julius Rosenwald Fund which was established to improve educational opportunities for African American students in the South. Fisk University records identify the other Rosenwald School in Louisa County as Louisa School, a four-teacher Rosenwald school funded in the 1926-1927 budget year. Curiously, the Fisk University records for the Louisa School show only “public” and “Rosenwald” contributions at \$5,800 and \$1,100, respectively with no contribution shown from “Negroes.” Information from the Louisa Historical Society indicates that this four-teacher school was torn down many years ago.

Following the Civil War, the earliest schools established for African Americans were taught by black teachers in old or inadequate buildings. In the second decade of the twentieth century opportunities for African American education were greatly assisted by the Rosenwald Fund, the philanthropic effort founded in 1917 by Julius Rosenwald, president of Sears, Roebuck and Company.

In Virginia 367 schools were built using Rosenwald funds. Rosenwald was influenced by the work of Booker T. Washington at Tuskegee Institute and that institution directed the efforts of the Fund until 1920 when a separate office was established in Nashville. The Fund provided matching funds for school construction, requiring contributions from both the local government as well as the African American families that would benefit from the school. Receipt of Rosenwald monies also required conformance with specific building plans. Shady Grove’s plan follows the “Community School (One-Teacher) Plan No. 1” shown in *Community School Plans*, published by the Rosenwald Fund office director Samuel L. Smith. Seventy-three schools or about 20% of those constructed in Virginia were, like Shady Grove School, of the one-teacher type.

In the south, 5,358 Rosenwald schools were constructed, providing improved classroom conditions for over 648,000 African-American students, and providing educational opportunities for generations of students. Rosenwald schools in Virginia and the south are the tangible reminders of the Fund’s initiatives for the advancement of African-American education during the first half of the twentieth century. Rosenwald schools usually played a central role in their communities often serving as sites for pageants, exhibits, theatricals and other community activities and they often provided a model for schools in the surrounding area with regard to architecture, sanitation and maintenance.

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The Shady Grove School was constructed between 1924 and 1925 at a total cost of \$1,500, according to records at Fisk University. Terms of the Rosenwald Fund required that public and/or private funds be raised in an amount at least equal to the amount of the Fund's contribution. Of that total, the African-American contribution is recorded as \$700, the public – or county – contribution was \$400, and the contribution from the Rosenwald Fund was \$400.

The history of the construction of Shady Grove School is a testament to the strong-willed determination of the Patrons' League, chaired by Mr. George Walter Hayden, to secure a better school for the children in the community. Built on land donated by Thomas Jackson, the two-acre parcel and the school building are now owned by Shady Grove Baptist Church, which stands a short distance away.

Much of the history of the construction of the school is documented in a series of letters received by G. W. Hayden from W. D. Gresham, Supervisor for Negro Education for Virginia's State Board of Education and from Frank West, chairman of the Louisa County School Board. Dr. James H. Bowles, Sr. has preserved this record of correspondence and is working with the school's alumni to actively restore and preserve it.

In July of 1922, Ednora Pendleton, "Supervisor" wrote Hayden in response to his concern about the need for a new school, encouraging him to consider the Rosenwald plan. She explained what the offerings from the Rosenwald Fund would be for a one-room school (\$500) versus the two-room plan (\$700). Her recommendation was to consider the one-room plan with the idea of seeking additional funds in the future to expand it, if needed. She closed her letter by advising him to attend the County School Board meeting later that month. A letter from W. D. Gresham to Hayden in September of that same year expresses Gresham's hope to visit the Shady Grove area in October to investigate the need for a new school.

Hayden received a letter in February 1923 from Lucile Robertson, superintendent of schools for Louisa County, who expressed her interest in the school's welfare and promised to send a one-teacher school plan with instructions for "how to begin." She asked that he read the instructions at a meeting of the patrons' league and to "return it to me as I have only this one and I must carry it to every league that requests to build." She then recommended forming a five-man committee as a board of trustees to take charge of the work and see that it is done according to requirements. She advised that the \$500 be held and "we will plan other arrangements in case the County balks."

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Letters from Gresham to Hayden from April and May of 1923 indicate that Hayden continued to press for Gresham to make a visit, which he was finally able to accomplish in June and in a letter dated June 9, 1923, Gresham thanked Hayden for his kindness during the previous day's visit. He wrote:

I saw actual conditions first hand and I now know the needs of you people. I promise you that I shall do all in my power to help secure a new building for the people in that section.

Later that month, on June 23, Gresham wrote to Harris Hart, superintendant of public instruction at the State Board of Education, citing the interest on the part of the patrons' league of Shady Grove School for a new school building. He wrote:

The present building was built by the Negroes 40 or 50 years ago and is entirely unsuited for school work today. The building is made out of logs with one window on each side and the crudest sort of desks. As I understand it, the board has made no appropriation toward this school other than to pay a part of the teacher's salary.

Gresham went on:

I am therefore taking this up with you to solicit your interest in this case with the hope of inducing the county to do something to relieve conditions in the neighborhood which I have mentioned. We shall be glad to give them some help from the Rosenwald fund, if they will meet the conditions.

The following month, Gresham's office sent Frank T. West, Louisa County Superintendent of Schools, a plan "which will give an outline of the conditions on which Rosenwald aid is granted." In August of 1923, Gresham wrote Hayden informing him that he was offering West help from the Rosenwald fund (\$400) for a new Shady Grove school. He noted that \$400 was all that could be offered from the Fund for a one-teacher school. He closed by saying "I do hope that the school board and the colored people together will bend all their energies towards getting this school for the people in that community."

Hayden's dealings with Mr. West appear to have been drawn out and the permission and funding for a new school seem to have been frequently delayed. In August of 1923, a note from West to Hayden stated that he could not sign to release the county "until the school board authorizes me that the

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equipment is forthcoming." In early September the county school board approved the lumber for

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use in the school, but another set-back was received later that month when West advised Hayden that any surveying of land for the school should be postponed. He told Hayden that the school board felt the school site should be closer to Gum Spring and directed him to attend the next school board meeting on October 8. On October 6, Hayden and eleven others of the "Shady Grove Patrons League" signed a statement for consideration by the school board stating their desire for the new school to be built near the old school "since it is near the center of the children." Hayden's search for funding for the new Shady Grove School extended on several occasions to Charlottesville to Dr. James Dillard, the president of the Negro Rural School Fund/Anna T. Jeanes Foundation, who noted that since the Rosenwald Fund had taken responsibility for assisting with school construction efforts, the funds he was responsible for were not being provided for construction.

Letters from West in early 1924 seem to suggest that Hayden struggled with getting county assistance for equipment just as he had with construction funding. West told Hayden in January 1924 that the county had no funds for modern desks for the new school. In February of 1924, West wrote Hayden that the County had agreed on an amount for the school and had sent the Rosenwald fund application to Mr. Gresham.

In November of 1924, Gresham wrote expressing his pleasure at learning that the school was nearly complete, but letting Hayden know that since the maximum of \$400 had been provided, there was no additional money for privies and that he should use any plan available to construct them. When Hayden advised that there was an insufficient number of desks in the school, Gresham wrote to West saying "the Rosenwald authorities will object to homemade desks in their schools; so I hope that some way may be found whereby about ten more desks may be secured for this school."

Gresham inspected the nearly complete Shady Grove School in January of 1925. He wrote Hayden of his visit, stating, "I am very proud of this school . . . I do not hesitate to say that it is one of the best one-room schools in the State." Gresham suggested that a date for a dedication of the building be set and closed by noting that he was enclosing a photograph of the school for Mr. Hayden to keep. The school today appears very much as it did in that 1925 photograph.

Rosenwald Schools were sometimes associated with a religious institution. In the case of Shady Grove School, many of the students and their parents attended Shady Grove Baptist Church. The church, however, had no role in the administration of the school except for the influence it brought to bear on those members whose children were truant or not performing to the best of their ability. Long time residents of the community recall that the original Shady Grove School, replaced by the

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1925 building, was on property belonging to Shady Grove Baptist Church.

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School board records for African-American schools in Louisa County during the 1920s and 1930s have not been located. However, oral history accounts, drawn from the strong memories of Shady Grove's former students – many of whom still live in the community – provide a vivid picture of the school during its later years. The most active of the former students of Shady Grove School who are now promoting its rehabilitation were students there in the 1950s. Their recollections include strict, but well qualified, teachers, classes of between 20 and 30 students, a school supported by caring parents, students with a deep respect for their teachers, and a community in which education was deemed of greatest importance. Grades one through seven were taught by a single teacher, who administered discipline by slapping the offender's hand with a ruler. These former students recall that notes sent by teachers to parents of children who'd been disciplined at school resulted in additional punishment carried out at home. Many of the students credit their current good health to walking to school in all kinds of weather and to energetic outdoor games at recess. The students recall that the school day included chores associated with the upkeep of the classroom. The girls were responsible for gathering materials from the nearby woods for starting a fire in the woodstoves and the boys cleaned the stoves and built and maintained the fires. Water was hauled in buckets from the pump which is still standing in the front yard and bag lunches were stored in the "kitchen," a small room off the classroom. Older students recall the school being used at night for adult education, an indication of the importance that this community placed on learning.

The school was used until 1962 when students were transferred to an elementary school approximately 5 miles away. Louisa County sold the Shady Grove school building to Wilmore Shelton in 1962 who later sold the property to the Shady Grove Baptist Church for ten dollars.

In 2006, the Shady Grove Restoration Committee, a group of former students, began to restore the school for use as a museum and gathering place. The project has been well received in the community, drawing hands-on assistance from white as well as black residents, and from several area churches.

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Bibliographical Sources

Green, Bryan Clark. Rosenwald Schools in Virginia. Multiple Property Listing for the National Register of Historic Places. 2004. Copy available at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA. VDHR File # 012-5041.

Correspondence concerning Shady Grove School between G. W. Hayden, Gresham and West; owned by James H. Bowles, Sr. and stored on a disk and filed in the file for Shady Grove School, Louisa County in the archives of the Department of Historic Resources.

Geographical Data:

Verbal Boundary Description

The Shady Grove School is identified as tax parcel on the tax parcel maps for Louisa County, Virginia.

Boundary Justification

The nominated acreage includes the 2 acres that originally comprised the school property.

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Shady Grove School
Location: Louisa County, Virginia, 054-0099
Date of Photographs: June 2008
Photographer: Kristin Kirchen
Negative Number: 22435
Negatives Filed: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Photo 1 of 6
View: Southeast oblique showing front porch and entrance.

Photo 2 of 6
View: Southwest oblique with water pump in the foreground.

Photo 3 of 6
View: East elevation.

Photo 4 of 6
View: Interior of classroom space.

Photo 5 of 6
View: Interior of industrial room showing built-in cupboard.

Photo 6 of 6
View: Interior view of bank of windows in industrial room.