

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Cherry Grove Baptist Church Schoolhouse

2. Location: 1878 Danburg Road, Washington, Wilkes County

3a. Description: Cherry Grove Baptist Church Schoolhouse is a c.1910 small one-room, one-story, wood frame building with a stacked stone pier foundation and a metal roof. The building is located about four miles north of the city of Washington, the county seat of Wilkes County. It is located on the property of Cherry Grove Baptist Church, which sits just off Route 44 North, or Danburg Road. The building sits on a gentle slope on a portion of the church property, which also contains the significantly altered church, a parking lot and a cemetery, none of which are included in this nomination. The schoolhouse is approximately 20 feet by 30 feet, and the exterior has horizontal wood clapboard with corner boards and remnants of white paint. The north and south elevations of the building each have two sets of windows, all 6/6 with the exception of a single 2/2 on the north. The replacement windows are not wide enough to fill the original frame openings, so clapboard siding has been used to fill the gaps. The west elevation has no openings and the east elevation contains the wooden double-door entry, composed of vertical boards. The interior has a mixture of materials, both in type and in age. Floors, walls and ceilings have varying wood boards, and the use of both cut and wire nails is evident. The mixture of materials demonstrates the vernacular nature of the building. There are no electrical utilities or plumbing in the building and a stove in the center of the room appears to have been the only heat source, no longer extant. The building has remnants of a central chimney. A ghost mark shows the historic location of a chalkboard, also no longer extant. Although the currently vacant building is in fair condition, it still retains a high level of integrity.

3b. Period of Significance: c.1910-1956

3c. Acreage: Less than 1 acre

3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary encompasses the footprint of the building and a 10 foot buffer immediately adjacent.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Ethnic Heritage/Black, Education, Architecture

4c. Statement of Significance: In the years following the end of slavery, freed blacks established schools for their children. Students were educated under brush arbors, in churches, or in barns with few or no teaching supplies. It often fell upon African-American churches and communities to support education efforts. Oral history and physical evidence suggests that the Cherry Grove Baptist Church Schoolhouse was built just prior to the close of the New South Era (1877-1912) and before various philanthropic funding sources became available to rural African-American schools. According to Public Schools in Georgia, 1868-1971, a statewide historic context, as late as 1910 most black schools met in homes or churches, and less than 10 percent of the allocation for public education was spent on black schools. Beginning in 1951, sales tax money was used to upgrade African-American schools and build larger modern consolidated schools, in an attempt to maintain segregation in supposedly "separate, but equal" facilities. It continued to be used as a school, with elementary grades taught by a single teacher, until the early 1950s, when many small church schools such as Cherry Grove Baptist Church Schoolhouse in the rural areas of Washington-Wilkes County were closed, and consolidated to a larger school for African Americans.

Cherry Grove Baptist Church Schoolhouse is significant under National Register Criterion A in the areas of ethnic heritage/black and education, as one of fifteen identified extant pre-Rosenwald, one-room schoolhouses for African-Americans built on church grounds within the state, and is an excellent example of a public school that was associated with a local church. The building is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a rare example of a vernacular one-room schoolhouse, with no stylistic features. This building would have been constructed and supported by members of the church and the community.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Cherry Grove Baptist Church Schoolhouse is being nominated at the local level of significance for its association with the education of African-American children in Washington-Wilkes County.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the property owner, Cherry Grove Baptist Church. Nomination materials were prepared by church representatives, G. Kathryn and Edward M. Anderson, Jr.