

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Bladen County Training School**

Elizabethtown, Bladen County, BL0263, Listed 09/11/2018  
Nomination by Heather Slane & Cheri Szcodronski, hmwPreservation  
Photographs by Cheri Szcodronski, July 2017



Front (southeast) façade of Bladen County Training School (main building), facing northwest



Front (southeast) and side (southwest) elevations of high school building, facing north

# 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: Bladen County Training School

Other names/site number: Elizabethtown School, Bladen Central High School, Bladen Elementary School, Bladen Middle School

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina

## 2. Location

Street & number: 1360 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

City or town: Elizabethtown State: NC County: Bladen

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION - school  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION - school  
SOCIAL - meeting hall  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER - ten-teacher Rosenwald school,  
customized Floor Plan No 8-A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION: brick

WALLS: brick

ROOF: rubber membrane

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

**Narrative Description**

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

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**Narrative Description**

The Bladen County Training School is located on the southwest side of Elizabethtown, a rural community in central Bladen County that is also the county seat. The school stands on the west side of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, between McKoy and Newkirk streets. (Martin Luther King Jr. Drive extends approximately 30-degrees east of due north. However, for the sake of description, the buildings and site will be described as if Martin Luther King Jr. Drive ran directly north-south, rather than using true cardinal directions.) It was constructed following a modified Floor Plan No 8-A from *Community School Plans, Bulletin No. 3*.

The Bladen County School complex includes three primary buildings: the 1928 ten-teacher, brick Rosenwald school with 1931 addition, a 1951 two-story, brick high school building, and a 1958 one-story, brick L-shaped classroom and cafeteria building. It also includes the 1948 frame gymnasium, a c. 1950 small storage building, a c. 1936 single-classroom building near the gymnasium, and 1950s athletic fields. The main school building has a U-shaped plan and stands parallel to Martin Luther King Jr. Street with rear wings extending to the west. It is accessed via a circular drive near the north end of the building that connects to a paved parking lot in front of the 1958 classroom/cafeteria building to its north. South of the school, also facing Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, is the 1951 two-story high school building. The sidewalks between the main, high school, and classroom/cafeteria buildings are sheltered by flat-roofed metal canopies supported by metal posts. West of the high school is the 1948 gymnasium as well as the storage building and single-classroom building. Behind the main and high school buildings is a large open field enclosed with a chain link fence with a baseball backstop at the northwest end. A small paved area within the U-shape created by the rear wings of the main school building was paved to serve as an outdoor basketball court.

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The approximate 14.3-acre site includes ten contiguous tax parcels that together create an L-shaped tract with frontage on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Newkirk, Roland, and Powell streets. The site is level terrain, largely cleared of trees except for small groups of trees at the south end of the parcel along Newkirk Street, at the southwest corner along Roland Street, and scattered on the north end of the property, north of the classroom/cafeteria building. A paved driveway from Martin Luther King Jr. Drive to the northeast corner of the classroom/cafeteria building extends west around the building as a gravel driveway leading to the open field west of the buildings. There is paved parking in front (east) of the classroom/cafeteria building and along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in front of the main building and high school building. A small, circular driveway at the southwest corner of the site has gravel parking within the circle, at the intersection of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Newkirk Street. The school complex retains its small-town, semi-rural context with low-density, single family housing on all sides.

### **1. Bladen County Training School**

**1928; 1931; 1950s, 1970**

#### **Contributing Building**

The 1928 Bladen County Training School is a symmetrical, one-story, U-shaped building, initially constructed with ten classrooms, but later expanded with four additional classrooms in 1931 constructed on the west end of the rear wings. The red brick building is laid in a six-to-one common bond, with the header row alternating between header and stretcher bricks, and has a soldier-course water table above a darker brick foundation. It has a stepped parapet on the façade and on the rear elevations of the rear wings, all of which are capped with cast-concrete coping that has been covered with metal. Windows throughout the building are arranged in a single-triple-single configuration, each group lighting a classroom and having brick sills. However, original wood nine-over-nine windows were replaced with metal-framed windows with solid metal panels at the top (concealing a dropped ceiling on the interior) and the outer two sashes of each triple window have been replaced with solid panels. The replacement windows were installed in 1970 when the building was renovated for use as an elementary school.

The symmetrical, east-facing façade is eight bays wide with a brick pilaster in the center of the façade and a band of cast concrete that spans the façade, forming a continuous header over the windows. There are two sets of single-triple-single windows, one on each side of the central pilaster. Entrances at either end of the façade are inset within a round-arched brick opening with cast concrete keystones, and the entrance bays have dropped ceilings and concrete floors. Doors are replacement metal doors, likely installed in 1970, with a single light, replacement two-light sidelights, and an original six-light arched transom within a double-course rowlock arched brick surround. The entrances are connected to each other and to the high school building and cafeteria/classroom building via walkways covered in 1970 by flat metal canopies supported by metal posts.

The rear wings that create the U shape of the building are set back slightly at the north and south ends of the façade. The wings feature stepped parapets on their front (east) and rear (west) elevations. Parapets on the east elevation flare slightly with brick corbelling at the outer corners. Their front elevations each have a rectangular brick “panel” made of soldier-course brick in a slightly darker color than the brick exterior with cast concrete squares at the corners. A marble cornerstone, located at the

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east end of the north wing's north elevation reads "Bladen County Training School 9-12-28." The north elevation of the north wing features two sets of paired windows on the east end, lighting nurse's and dentist's offices, then four typical single-triple-single windows at the west end of the elevation, lighting four classrooms with a pilaster between the easternmost two classrooms.

The concrete band on the façade of the building also appears on the rear (west) elevations of the rear wings as well as on their internal elevations, facing the paved courtyard. A single-triple-single window on the west elevation of each ell lights the westernmost classrooms. The south elevation of the north wing, facing the paved courtyard, has an entrance at the west end: four brick steps lead to a replacement metal door with single light, sheltered by a small gabled roof with exposed rafters supported by square wood posts. Two single windows are located near the center of the elevation, lighting the hallway that extends along the south side of the wing with an entrance near the east end that is sheltered by a shed roof supported by a full-height brick wall on its west side. At the east end of the wing, where it abuts the front portion of the building, is a projecting, shed-roofed, brick bathroom addition with three small metal-framed windows. The west elevation of the main portion of the building has three sets of paired windows and the north elevation of the south wing matches the south elevation of the north wing. Pilasters separate the two easternmost classrooms, the third and fourth classrooms from the east, and the westernmost two classrooms.

The interior of the building is arranged with two long single-loaded corridors extending from the front entrances to the rear of the two ells. There is a small entrance vestibule at the east end of each corridor. Two classrooms are located at the front of the building with the auditorium immediately behind it, all between the two corridors. The auditorium was historically open to the corridors without north or south delineating walls, but was enclosed around 1970. The remaining classrooms are aligned along the north and south sides of the north and south corridors respectively. There are two small offices at the northwest corner of the building with a slightly inset entrance hall flanked by closets accessed from within the offices. These were used for a nurse and dentist. All of the other classrooms are roughly the same size, measuring about twenty-one by thirty feet, with the following exceptions. Two classrooms at the east end of the south wing are smaller, measuring about twenty-one feet square. A larger classroom immediately to their west measures about twenty-one by forty-three feet and was likely originally two separate twenty-one-foot square classrooms, like the adjacent rooms to its east.

A 1931 addition on the west end of each wing extended the main corridor to access two additional classrooms on each wing. Original exterior entrances at the west end of each corridor were located within arched bays. While the arched openings remain, delineating the former rear walls of the building, the two openings have been infilled with a modern door surrounded by plywood with a vent in the arch above the door. Restrooms added in the 1950s, located just west of the auditorium, are accessed via the main corridors.

Interior features and materials have been altered over time, though the closet in the dentist's office evidences the original flooring, wall, and ceiling materials. The building historically had wood flooring throughout with wood sheathing on the walls and ceilings and five-panel wood doors. However, later alterations include the installation of vinyl flooring throughout, a dropped acoustic tile ceiling, and hollow-core wood doors to the classrooms, all likely completed c. 1970 when the school became

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Bladen Elementary School. The westernmost classrooms have carpet and later frame partition walls to create office or storage spaces. Original wood-framed chalkboards and bulletin boards remain in each classroom as well as wood baseboards. Door and window surrounds were altered, including the removal of original transoms over the doors and the installation of drywall and heating vents in the transom areas, when the doors and windows were replaced throughout the building. The auditorium was altered around 1970, when the school was converted to an elementary school, with the installation of walls on the north and south elevations, separating it from the corridors, the addition of an office on the north end and a raised stage at the south end, and the installation of carpeting and a dropped acoustic tile ceiling. Bathrooms feature painted brick walls, original tiled floors, and acoustic tile ceilings.

## **2. Gymnasium**

**1948, early 1950s, 1970s**

### **Non-Contributing Building**

The large, front-gabled gymnasium is located southwest of the main school building on the south end of the grassy field. The building was constructed with wood weatherboards, two entrances on the east elevation, each sheltered by a shed roof, four windows at the upper portion of the east elevation, and six windows each on the upper walls of the north and south elevations. A shed-roofed, concrete-block locker room wing was constructed on the west elevation, likely in the early 1950s, and there is a projecting, shed-roofed restroom bay on the south elevation, near the southwest corner of the building, constructed in the 1970s.

The main portion of the building has a rusticated concrete block foundation, vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled roof. The locker room and restroom wings have plain concrete block foundations and exteriors. The south entrance on the east elevation, facing Martin Luther King Jr. Drive has replacement metal doors with concrete steps. It retains its original shed-roofed covering supported by diagonal braces. The north entrance on the east elevation has been removed. Paired metal doors near the east end of the north elevation are accessed by concrete steps on a concrete-block foundation. The original shed roof sheltering this entrance has been removed. A single entrance on the west end of the north elevation also has a metal door sheltered by shed roof and is accessed by a later concrete ramp with metal railing that extends along the north elevation of the building. A single rectangular vent remains in the west gable, though a vent in the east gable has been filled in with vertical vinyl sheathing.

The interior of the gymnasium features a 5280-square foot space with original wood floors throughout and plywood panels, installed in 1974, to cover the walls, which were originally exposed studs. The dropped acoustic tiled ceiling, while later, appears to have been installed just below the bottom of the roof trusses. The horizontal wood members are visible just above several missing ceiling tiles. Additionally, diagonal roof bracing along the north and south elevations remains visible below the dropped ceiling. The diagonal supports are in turn supported by five projecting masonry pilasters on the north and south elevations. Window casings for four square window openings, equally spaced between the pilasters, remain on the north and south elevations, though the two-over-two horizontal-pane wood-sash windows have been boarded or removed. Original wood pull-out bleachers line the north and south walls of the gymnasium.



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Locker rooms at the west end of the building were likely constructed in the early 1950s after the High School Building was erected. The locker rooms were inaccessible. However, floor plans indicate that the full-width, shed-roofed wing contains two locker rooms, each 16' by 24' and accessed via hollow-core metal doors. Single square window openings on the north, south, and west elevation of each locker room have been boarded. The locker rooms flank a boiler room that is accessed via paired metal doors on the west elevation. A shed-roofed bathroom wing on the south elevation has a small hallway on its west side leading to two restrooms on its east side. The hallway and restrooms all have plywood-sheathed walls and ceilings, tile floors, and hollow-core wood doors.

Alterations to the building include the removal of an entrance, chimney, and windows. The installation of vinyl siding over or in place of original weatherboards and the installation of a dropped ceiling have obscured remaining historic details. An archival photograph shows a second entrance on the east elevation, near the north end, matching the existing entrance on the south end of that elevation. Additionally, four evenly spaced windows on the east elevation and six windows each on the north and south elevations, all two-over-two horizontal-pane wood-sash windows, have been removed or covered. A chimney on the east elevation, at the boiler room, has also been removed.

### **3. High School Building**

**1951**

#### **Contributing Building**

Located south of the main building and facing north, the rectangular-massed, two-story high school building is thirteen bays wide on the north elevation and a single bay deep on the east and west elevations. It has a five-to-one common bond brick veneer, brick soldier-course water table, and flat roof behind a brick parapet with projecting concrete soffit and metal coping. Some original fifteen-light metal casement windows remain. They have brick sills and two operable sashes: a three-light hopper sash at the bottom of the window and a six-light hopper sash at the center. There are inset entrances on the north, east, and west elevations, and open-air stairwells on the east and west ends of the building are connected by a double-loaded east-west corridor on each floor.

Centered on the north elevation, facing the 1928 school building, is the main entrance to the high school building. The inset entrance has a replacement metal hollow-core door with single light, flanked by two-light metal-framed sidelights, and a two-light metal-framed transom. The entrance bay has a concrete floor, is accessed by low concrete steps with a metal railing, and has a cast concrete surround. A flat-roofed, metal covering shelters the walkway between this entrance and the 1928 school building and the upper portion of the entrance bay, above the covered walkway, has been enclosed with metal. To the west of the entrance bay is a small plaque with the name of the building contractor, "Southeastern Construction Co. Charlotte, N.C.". First floor windows immediately flanking the main entrance have cast concrete surrounds. All other first floor windows on the north elevation have been removed with the openings boarded, bricked-in, or vinyl windows installed. Most of the second-floor windows on the north elevation remain intact with only three of the original twelve windows bricked in. Open-air stairwells are located on the east and west ends of the building, on the north side of the corridor. The stairs are accessed by open bays on the east and west ends of the north elevation, each

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with a rectangular brick opening sheltered by a flat-roofed metal canopy. Above each opening, located between the first and second floor level, is a fifteen-light window lighting each stairwell.

The east and west elevations are identical, each with an inset entrance centered at the first floor level and an open-air landing at the second floor level. The entrance has brick surround that projects the depth of one header course, is three stretchers wide and extends up to the bottom of the second-floor opening where the cast concrete cap forms the sill for the second-floor opening. The inset entrances have concrete floors and are accessed by concrete steps with metal railings. The doors, which open to the main hallway match the formal entrance doors with a replacement metal hollow-core door with single light, flanked by two-light sidelights, and a two-light transom. On the south wall of each inset entrance and open-air landing is a solid wood door leading to a bathroom and on the north walls are paired three-light-over-one-panel wood doors leading to the brick stairs. Openings at the second floor level have concrete sills that extend beyond the width of the opening and there are metal grates in the openings above. Dropped ceilings throughout the building have been extended into these first- and second-floor bays, resulting in a metal panel covering the upper portion of each bay.

The south elevation originally featured twelve full-sized windows on each level, four in each of the three classrooms, and shorter windows on the east and west ends of each level, opening to the bathrooms. All of the window openings have been partially or completely bricked in or boarded, though the brick has been inset and the locations of the original brick openings are still evident throughout.

The interior of the building is arranged as a double-loaded corridor with three classrooms on each side of the east-west hallway at the second floor and two classrooms, a science lab, and a number of offices and support rooms on the first floor. The building has exposed concrete-block walls, tile floors, and acoustic tile ceilings dropped approximately two feet below the original tiled ceilings with narrow crown molding. Wood doors feature three horizontal rectangular lights over one panel and each has a two-light wood transom. There are two shared-light windows in each classroom that open to the hallway and are roughly the same size as the transoms. However, most of the transoms and shared-light windows have been removed in order to accommodate the dropped ceiling and HVAC ductwork, which utilize vents in the former shared-light window openings.

Classrooms measure 20' by 30-36' and each has original wood baseboards and wood trim surrounding the chalkboards and bulletin boards, which are typically located on two of the four walls. A transverse hallway on the north side of the first floor leads from the main entrance to the main hallway. An office on the west side of that hallway has a small toilet room at the northwest corner and its south wall has a three-light-over-one-panel door with two-light transom flanked by two-over-two horizontal-pane wood-sash windows, which allows light to penetrate the interior office to its south. On the east side of the transverse hallway is a teachers' lounge with closets at its south end, abutting the main hallway of the building. Additional office, storage, boiler, and fuel rooms are located on the south side of the first floor. The open-air stairs on each end of the building have concrete floors and steps, metal railings, exposed brick walls, and each is lit by a fifteen-light window on the north elevation. Restrooms are similarly finished with exposed brick walls, terra cotta floors, plaster ceilings, and wood partitions between the stalls.

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Alterations to the building include the removal of windows and partial or complete infill of window openings, the installation of dropped ceilings throughout the building, and the removal of most transoms and shared-light windows.

#### **4. Classroom/Cafeteria Building**

**1958**

##### **Contributing Building**

The one-story classroom/cafeteria building has a cafeteria and lobby on the east end of the building and a classroom wing on the west end. The lobby, at the southeast corner of the building, is constructed of concrete and has a flat roof with a textured concrete parapet with deep overhangs. The main entrance is located on the north end of the east elevation and is accessed by a concrete plaza with a row of shrubs along the north side, adjacent to the cafeteria, a raised circular platform holding a small sculpture in the center, and concrete steps leading to the parking lot on the south end. The entrance is inset slightly and sheltered by the deep overhangs of the roof. It features paired one-light doors with a one-light transom that extends all the way up to the roof. The doors are flanked by fixed windows, resulting in a wall of windows and glass doors that make up nearly one half of the east elevation. To the north of the entrance, on the south wall of the cafeteria is a plaque dedicating the building in 1958.

South of the entrance, the east elevation is faced with decorative concrete panels. The design of the concrete panels extends along the east end of the south elevation as concrete screening and an original integrated concrete planter wraps the southeast corner of the lobby, below the panels and screening. The brick wall of the restrooms is recessed behind the screening on the south elevation, allowing for light and air flow through restroom windows while retaining privacy. An entrance near the east end of the south elevation accesses a transverse hall that separates the lobby and cafeteria from the classroom wing. The entrance, paired one-light doors with a one-light transom, is inset with plain concrete panels at the inset bay and extending just west of the bay. The south entrance and adjacent walkway are sheltered by a flat metal canopy on metal posts that connects to the 1928 school building.

West of the south entrance, the one-story, flat-roofed classroom wing has an exposed concrete structure with concrete pilasters and concrete floor planes that project beyond the running bond brick exterior. It has a wide, textured concrete parapet with deep overhangs supported by the pilasters. The north and south elevations are each ten bays wide, separated by concrete pilasters, with windows centered in each bay. Windows are paired metal slider windows with frosted sashes and colored solid panels above and below, extending from the floor plate all the way to the roofline. There are two such windows, adjacent to one another, between each pilaster. The west elevation has an inset entrance centered on the elevation with paired one-light doors topped by a one-light transom. The north elevation features a pair of one-light doors with a one-light transom that open to the transverse hallway between the cafeteria and classrooms.

The cafeteria wing at the northeast corner of the building has a running bond brick veneer with a flat roof behind a parapet with concrete coping. Windows centered on the east elevation, facing Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, are a group of six metal-framed windows that extend the full height of the

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elevation separated by metal framing. Each has a solid colored panel at the base topped by a fixed sash, two louvered sashes, a second fixed sash, and two solid-colored panels at the top. This same configuration exists on the south elevation of the cafeteria, facing the concrete plaza, though paired doors are in the place of east two windows. The doors are paired one-light wood doors with a two-light transom above and four solid-colored panels at the top, aligning with the panels over the windows.

The north elevation of the cafeteria features a group of four, four-light metal awning windows on the east end. To its west is a group of louvered panels, three wide and double height with a solid metal door in place of the lower right louvered panel. This door opens to a concrete loading dock. To the west of the loading dock is a second set of windows, this one five-wide, though the top windows have been covered to conceal a dropped ceiling in the kitchen and the second window from the west has been removed to accommodate an exhaust fan. At the west end of the north elevation is a projecting brick wing that holds a walk-in freezer and has a single vent on its west elevation. The west elevation of the cafeteria features a four-bay-wide window near its south end, adjacent to the classroom wing. The windows match those on the east and south elevation with paired doors in the place of the north two windows. The doors open to a grassy area west of the school.

The interior of the building is arranged with the lobby at the southeast with restrooms immediately to its south. To the north of the lobby is the cafeteria with storage and support spaces extending along its north elevation. A transverse hallway separates the lobby and cafeteria from the classroom wing, a double-loaded corridor that extends to the west with seven classrooms on either side of the hallway (though the easternmost classrooms have been subdivided into office and storage areas). The interior of the building features exposed concrete-block walls throughout, dropped acoustic tile ceilings, and hollow-core wood doors with one-light and a blind transom.

The lobby, hallways, and cafeteria feature rubber tile flooring and there are later lockers that extend the length of the transverse hallway and on both sides of the lobby. The kitchen, at the northwest end of the cafeteria, is separated from the dining area by wood partitions with moveable sections that open as windows to pass food through. It has terra cotta tile flooring and modern solid-surface "tile" on the walls. Bathrooms at the south end of the lobby have solid wood doors, ceramic tile on the floors and lower half of the walls, and modern partitions between stalls. Classrooms feature original tile flooring, radiators along the exterior walls, and vents at the upper portion of the interior walls, accessing the HVAC run in the dropped ceiling of the hallway. The classrooms have metal-framed chalkboards and bulletin boards.

## **5. Storage Building**

**c. 1950**

### **Non-Contributing Building**

Likely constructed concurrent or shortly after the gymnasium, a small, front-gabled, storage building just northwest of the gymnasium has a rusticated concrete block foundation matching that of the gymnasium. It has vinyl siding, a 5V metal roof, and an entrance on the east elevation. The interior was not accessible.

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## **6. Single-Classroom Building 1936, 1960s**

### **Non-Contributing Building**

Located northwest of the gymnasium and just northeast of the storage building, the small, one-room, front-gabled classroom building has a concrete block foundation, vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled roof, and louvered rectangular vents in the east and west gables. A six-panel metal door on the east elevation is sheltered by a metal awning and accessed by a concrete stoop on concrete block foundation.

The interior of the building has wood floors, plywood-covered walls and ceiling, and chalkboards and bulletin boards with wood trim matching that of the main building. Framed panels flanking the chalkboard/bulletin board on the north elevation and extending nearly the full width of the south elevation are likely window openings that have been boarded. While the history of this building is unclear, its overall proportions match those of the projecting wings of the 1936 “White Building” that used to be located on the property. The concrete-block foundation and the former wall of windows that faced the gymnasium less than ten feet to the south indicate that the building may have been moved to this location to serve as additional storage space when the remainder of the White Building was demolished between 1964 and 1969.

## **7. Athletic Fields 1950s**

### **Contributing Site**

Located west of the 1928 Rosenwald school and northwest of the 1948 gymnasium is an approximate five-and-a-half-acre grassy field with a baseball diamond occupying the majority of the field. The diamond features a chain link backstop at its northwest corner and a dirt path defining the outfield on the south and east sides. The remainder of the field has patches of dirt and grass.

### **Integrity Statement**

Bladen County Training School retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, material, feeling, and association. Located on its original site, the ten-acre tract was enlarged with an additional approximate five acres to accommodate the construction of the classroom/cafeteria building. It retains its historic setting with low density residential development surrounding the school.

Changes to the 1928 Rosenwald-funded building include the replacement of the windows, though original openings remain; the installation of tile flooring, dropped ceilings, and drywall throughout; and the alteration of the auditorium space with carpet, walls constructed at the hallways, and closets and offices on the north end of the former auditorium. However, the overall massing and layout with classrooms arranged along single-loaded corridors remains intact along with the original brick exterior. The design and construction of the high school and classroom/cafeteria buildings are in keeping with typical 1950s school design and construction. Both buildings retain their original massing and layouts with classrooms arranged along double-loaded corridors and brick exteriors with concrete detailing. The 1958 classroom building also retains original windows, doors, and uncovered interior concrete block walls. Material changes include the covering of most windows and the installation of dropped

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ceilings in the High School building and the installation of dropped ceilings in the classroom/cafeteria building. However, all together the school complex retains sufficient integrity of design, materials, and workmanship to convey the property's historic feeling and association.

**General Statement of Archaeological Potential**

The school is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Archaeological remains, such as trash deposits, privy features, and other structural remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the Bladen County Training 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

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE - BLACK

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Period of Significance**

1928-1970  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1928

1931

1948

1951

1958

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

African American  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

R.B. Rollins  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Bladen County Training School meets Criterion A for Education and African American Ethnic Heritage for listing on the National Register. It is locally significant for its association with African American education in Bladen County from 1928 until 1970. This school was one of three schools in the county financed and constructed with the assistance of the Rosenwald fund, with the primary building funded by the Rosenwald Fund in 1928 and additional buildings funded by the county over the following decades. Bladen County Training School served African



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American students in grades 1-12, with elementary students coming from the Elizabethtown community and high school students coming from across Bladen County, as it was the first high school for African American students in the county. The period of significance begins in 1928, when the school was constructed, and ends in 1970 when the school was desegregated.

The historic and architectural context for the Bladen County Training School is provided in the related Multiple Property Documentation Form "Rosenwald Schools in North Carolina," context pages E3-51, "The Rosenwald School Building Program in North Carolina, 1915-1932." The school building falls under property type Rosenwald School Subtype II, pages F52-55 and meets the registration requirements for the school subtype, pages F56-57. Specifically, the school was built between 1915 and 1932 utilizing funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund; retains sufficient architectural integrity including an intact design, floor plan, workmanship, and materials; and retains its original location in a low-density urban setting.

## **Narrative Statement of Significance**

### **History of the Bladen County Training School**

The Bladen County Training School is one of three Rosenwald-funded schools in the county, all of which are extant. The East Arcadia School is located at 1516 East Arcadia Road in East Arcadia, and it served the African American elementary school students in the southeastern tip of Bladen County. It was constructed using Floor Plan No 6-A during the 1927-1928 school year. The school is currently owned by East Arcadia Senior Citizens Association. Portions of the original building have been removed, windows and entrances have been altered, and it is in fair condition.<sup>1</sup> The Porterville School is located at (639 Baer Mill Drive near Clarkton) and served elementary school students in the southwestern part of the county. It was constructed using Floor Plan No 4-A from *Community School Plans, Bulletin No 3* during the 1925-1926 school year. The school is used as a multipurpose building by the Pierce Chapel AMEZ Church, but retains its original appearance and is in fair condition.<sup>2</sup> The Bladen County Training School, also known as the Elizabethtown School, is located in central Bladen County and served students from first through eleventh grades, adding twelfth grade in the 1940s. It is the largest of the three Rosenwald schools in the county, with ten classrooms built in 1928 and an additional four classrooms added in 1931, and it was the first high school for African American students in the county.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Dorothy McKoy, et al., "East Arcadia," NC Rosenwald School Search Form, File BL0264, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>2</sup> Dorothy McKoy, et al., "Porterville School," NC Rosenwald School Search Form, File BL0385, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC.

<sup>3</sup> Fisk University, "Rosenwald Fund Card File Database," [rosenwald.fisk.edu](http://rosenwald.fisk.edu) (accessed July 2017); Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 439; Interview with Bladen County Training School Alumni (Rufus Lloyd, Marie McKoy, Minnie Price, Dorothy \_\_\_\_, Helen \_\_\_\_) by Heather Slane and Cheri LaFlamme Szcodronski. Bladen County Training School, Elizabethtown, NC. July 10, 2017. (hereafter referred to as Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017); Charles U. DeBerry, "High School Principal's Annual Report," 1940-41, 1947-48, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office Rosenwald Research Files (original repository North Carolina State Archives), Raleigh, NC (hereafter referred to as NC SHPO Rosenwald Research).

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Bladen County covers 879 square miles of North Carolina's coastal plain southeast of Fayetteville and northwest of Wilmington. It was formed in 1734 and originally stretched from the coast to the Mississippi River. The county seat is Elizabethtown, where the Bladen County Training School is located.<sup>4</sup> Elizabethtown is located in central Bladen County along the Cape Fear River. A rural area of North Carolina, it is one of the more fertile parts of its county, and many African Americans grew cotton, tobacco, and peanuts, or worked for peanut mills, cotton mills, logging companies, paper mills, or sawmills.<sup>5</sup> Although education was viewed as a route to a better life, few opportunities existed outside of farming for African Americans in the South.<sup>6</sup> Parents often encouraged children to get an education so they could leave Bladen County to seek advanced degrees or industrial job opportunities in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York – and many high school graduates did so.<sup>7</sup>

In the 1920s, African Americans comprised 40% of the total population in Bladen County, but they had no high school for their children.<sup>8</sup> In May 1926, the African American community made its first request to the county school board for a high school. The question was deferred for a full year while both Clarkton and Elizabethtown were considered for the school's location before the school board finally voted to build the school in Elizabethtown. William Credle, North Carolina's Supervisor of the Rosenwald Fund, provided Floor Plan 8-A for the school, which was altered first by Leslie N. Boney, who designed a number of rural schools in the region, then again by B.F. Rollins, who was awarded the construction contract for the school.<sup>9</sup>

The school was completed in 1928 at a total cost of \$23,000 on ten acres donated by Hattie McDowell.<sup>10</sup> A key requirement of the Rosenwald Fund program was the financial investment of both the local African American community and the local (white) school board.<sup>11</sup> For the Bladen County Training School, the school board provided \$18,900, of which \$15,000 was loaned from the State Literary Fund. Although Elizabethtown's Superintendent, W.W. Woodhouse, and William Credle exchanged several letters discussing the amount to be requested from the literary fund, the initial loan was not approved by the Board of Education and Credle had to travel to

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<sup>4</sup> Jonathan Martin, "Bladen County (1734)," North Carolina History Project, <http://northcarolinahistory.org/encyclopedia/bladen-county-1734> (accessed July 2017); Albert Irby, "A Survey of the Negro Schools of Bladen County, North Carolina, with Proposals for Consolidation," Master's thesis, 1951, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 4-5.

<sup>5</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017; Irby, "A Survey of the Negro Schools of Bladen County," 5, 7.

<sup>6</sup> Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 421.

<sup>7</sup> Interview with Bladen County Training School Alumni (Helen Hallis, Minnie Price, Dorothy McKoy, Nettie Cromartic, Richard McCallister, Dolores Lions McKoy) by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, July 9, 2016. (hereafter referred to as Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016); Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> Irby, "A Survey of the Negro Schools of Bladen County," 6.

<sup>9</sup> "W.F. Credle to W.W. Woodhouse," February 11, 1928, Department of Public Instruction, Division of Negro Education, Rosenwald Fund Aid, 1927-1942, Box 13, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC (hereafter referred to as Rosenwald Fund Aid Collection); "W.W. Woodhouse to W.F. Credle," February 15, 1928, Rosenwald Fund Aid Collection; "A Chronological History of the Bladen County Rosenwald Schools," Study List Application, File BL0263, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC (hereafter referred to as Study List Application).

<sup>10</sup> Fisk University, "Rosenwald Fund Card File Database," [rosenwald.fisk.edu](http://rosenwald.fisk.edu) (accessed July 2017); Bladen Central High School Alumni Association, "The History and Foundation of the Bladen County Training School," Study List Application.

<sup>11</sup> Hoffschwelle, *The Rosenwald Schools*, 38; Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 398.

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Elizabethtown to personally convince the commissioners take on the loan.<sup>12</sup> Meanwhile, the Rosenwald Fund provided \$2,100, and the African American community provided \$2,000 of the total cost.<sup>13</sup> Rural black communities were typically dominated by tobacco and cotton tenant farmers and sharecroppers, so their economy was often based on trade rather than cash. Raising funds for Rosenwald schools was a challenge, as was ongoing funding.<sup>14</sup> George Edward Davis, Newbold's Supervisor of Rosenwald Buildings, often traveled to communities to help raise funds for Rosenwald schools, and he made a trip to Elizabethtown in February 1928.<sup>15</sup> Alumni also recall selling sandwiches, cookies, candy, snow cones, and other goods to raise money, with funds going toward school supplies, new band uniforms, and even construction of the gymnasium.<sup>16</sup>

Although the school was initially named Elizabethtown School by the Rosenwald Fund, it was dedicated Bladen County Training School upon completion.<sup>17</sup> The school served students in grades one through eleven originally, with a primer class (kindergarten for a half year) and the twelfth grade both added in the 1940s.<sup>18</sup> Combination classrooms were common, and the number of students in each grade varied greatly, but there were approximately 30-40 children in each classroom.<sup>19</sup> Students from all over Bladen County attended high school at the training school, some even staying with host families in Elizabethtown during the school year because they lived too far away to commute daily.<sup>20</sup> Originally, students either walked to school or were taken by wagon or car. Eventually the community purchased its own buses to transport students, so only local students walked to school.<sup>21</sup>

A typical school day started at 8:00 am and ended at 3:00 pm, but the school day ended early at the beginning and end of the school year so students could assist their families with harvest and planting on their farms.<sup>22</sup> Each day began with a prayer.<sup>23</sup> Lunches were served at the school for 25 cents each, but some children brought lunch with them rather than buying from the cafeteria.<sup>24</sup> Students studied reading, writing, arithmetic, science, health, civics, music, home economics, and typing.<sup>25</sup> Recess was at 10:30 each day for a half hour.<sup>26</sup> School activities included dances, weekly movies, plays, and assemblies each Friday. Each spring, the school put

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<sup>12</sup> "W.F. Credle to W.W. Woodhouse," October 26, 1927, Rosenwald Fund Aid Collection; "Final Loans Approved from Literary Loan Fund - 1928," Rosenwald Fund Aid Collection; "A.T. Allen to W.W. Woodhouse," January 27, 1928, Rosenwald Fund Aid Collection.

<sup>13</sup> Fisk University, "Rosenwald Fund Card File Database," [rosenwald.fisk.edu](http://rosenwald.fisk.edu) (accessed July 2017);

<sup>14</sup> Hanchett, "The Rosenwald Schools," 415.

<sup>15</sup> "W.F. Credle to W.W. Woodhouse," February 11, 1928, Rosenwald Fund Aid Collection.

<sup>16</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>17</sup> The cornerstone reads "Bladen County Training School 9-12-28."

<sup>18</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017; "Negro Public Schools in the State of North Carolina," 1927-1928, 1929-1930," NC SHPO Rosenwald Research; DeBerry, "High School Principal's Annual Report," 1940-41, 1947-48.

<sup>19</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>20</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017.

<sup>21</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017; Bladen Central High School Alumni Association, "The History and Foundation of the Bladen County Training School," Study List Application.

<sup>22</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>23</sup> Charles U. DeBerry, Principal, "Schedule of School Time," September 7, 1948, NC SHPO Rosenwald Research.

<sup>24</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016.

<sup>25</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016.

<sup>26</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016.

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on an operetta for which the teachers made students' costumes. They also built floats for community parades, and during homecoming, the students marched together from the school down the street to the football field. Students could also participate in the Crown & Scepter Club (honor society), and the seniors who did participate were the only students permitted to enter and exit the high school building through the front door – all other students used the side door. Students could also join Glee Club, or play on the school's football or basketball teams. May Day was an important community event, and children wrapped the May pole.<sup>27</sup>

The school's first principal was Paul R. Brown, who also served as the vocational agriculture teacher for both students and adults in the community.<sup>28</sup> Others to serve as principal were J.W. Moore, Dr. Charles DeBerry, and C.M. Caraway.<sup>29</sup> Some teachers were local, while others came from neighboring towns of Fayetteville or St. Paul and stayed with local families during the week.<sup>30</sup> Because most colleges in the South did not offer graduate education for African Americans, many teachers from the Bladen County Training School travelled to northern universities during the summer months to earn advanced degrees.<sup>31</sup> The teachers and principals enforced strict discipline at the school. Principals went around town looking for students skipping school and took them to class. Being in class was so important, alumni say, that "there were no suspensions and issues were handled in school." Paddling was the most common discipline, and alumni recall that "if we got in trouble at school, we would get beatings at school and at home."<sup>32</sup> Because education was so important and opportunities for African Americans were so limited, teachers worked hard to ensure students understood the material. Alumni felt the teachers "wanted our generation to do better than they did."<sup>33</sup> They also ensured the school was accredited by the Southern Association of Schools, which offered inspection and accreditation for schools across eleven southern states. Bladen County Training School received accreditation in 1931.<sup>34</sup>

The school grew significantly through the 1930s, with four additional classrooms constructed in 1931 on the west end of the rear wings, followed by the addition of an agricultural building in 1936, which was funded by the Public Works Administration. It was known as the "White Building" and contained a classroom, wood shop, and blacksmith shop.<sup>35</sup> Later this building housed grades one through three, as well as the primary (kindergarten) students.<sup>36</sup> Most of this building was demolished between 1964 and 1969, however it is possible that one classroom remains extant may have been moved adjacent to the gymnasium to serve as additional storage space.

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<sup>27</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>28</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017; Bladen Central High School Alumni Association, "The History and Foundation of the Bladen County Training School," Study List Application.

<sup>29</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni 2016, 2017.

<sup>30</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016.

<sup>31</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017.

<sup>32</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni 2016, 2017.

<sup>33</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016.

<sup>34</sup> "Accredited High Schools for Negroes in North Carolina," 1942, 1947, NC SHPO Rosenwald Research; "Dues of Southern Association Schools, November 1955," NC SHPO Rosenwald Research.

<sup>35</sup> Irby, "A Survey of the Negro Schools of Bladen County," 23.

<sup>36</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017.

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The gymnasium was added to the campus in 1948 and was built in part by the local community. They acquired recycled lumber from demolished barracks at Fort Bragg in nearby Fayetteville, and community members built the gym floor themselves.<sup>37</sup> Alumni recall “the county school board was so embarrassed [the community members] did it all themselves, that they took over school operations and finished building the gym.”<sup>38</sup> Students also participated in the project by helping to clear the trees where the gymnasium was built and by fundraising to help pay for the new building.<sup>39</sup>

The original school building received upgrades during the 1950s. It was originally heated with coal stoves, which were replaced with radiators, and the two outdoor privies, were replaced with indoor restroom facilities. Alumni recall being taught how to use the indoor plumbing by the teachers. The school was also originally lit only by the large banks of windows, but by the 1950s had electricity.<sup>40</sup> The curriculum expanded significantly by this time as well, adding foreign languages, bookkeeping, specialized math and science courses, drama, and dance.<sup>41</sup>

By the 1950s, so many students attended the Bladen County Training School that there weren't enough classrooms to accommodate them all. The original classroom building was stretched from ten classrooms to twenty, either by temporarily subdividing rooms or by adding mobile classroom units.<sup>42</sup> In 1951, a two-story building containing eight classrooms, a science lab, and office was added to the campus for the high school grades, but the classrooms were immediately stretched from eight to twelve through subdividing the rooms.<sup>43</sup> The school's name, “training school,” gave the perception that it was a disciplinary school, so the name was changed to Bladen Central High School in 1956.<sup>44</sup> Although the school received commendations for excellent faculty and library facilities, it was still unable to adequately accommodate all the students attending and also received several warnings from the Southern Association of Schools for needing classrooms, a lunchroom, a music room, and a better water supply in the early 1950s.<sup>45</sup> Therefore, in 1958, another classroom building was added to the campus, including an additional fourteen classrooms, a multipurpose room/cafeteria, and a kitchen.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017; Bladen Central High School Alumni Association, “The History and Foundation of the Bladen County Training School,” Study List Application; Irby, “A Survey of the Negro Schools of Bladen County,” 22; “Bladen Elementary, Elizabethtown, NC,” Floor Plans, File BL0263, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC (hereafter referred to as Floor Plans).

<sup>38</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017.

<sup>39</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017.

<sup>40</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016, 2017; Irby, “A Survey of the Negro Schools of Bladen County,” 22.

<sup>41</sup> “The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Interim Application Form,” 1954, NC SHPO Rosenwald Research.

<sup>42</sup> Irby, “A Survey of the Negro Schools of Bladen County,” 17-22.

<sup>43</sup> Floor Plans.

<sup>44</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017; “A Chronological History of the Bladen County Rosenwald Schools,” Study List Application.

<sup>45</sup> “Status and Recommendations Concerning Southern Association Schools, November 1954,” NC SHPO Rosenwald Research; “List of North Carolina Negro High Schools Warned and Dropped, November 1954,” NC SHPO Rosenwald Research; “North Carolina, Session 1955-56, Approved Negro Public Schools,” NC SHPO Rosenwald Research; “The Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, Interim Application Form,” 1954, NC SHPO Rosenwald Research.

<sup>46</sup> Floor Plans.

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Still, the school's student population continued to grow beyond its physical capacity through the 1960s. A 1967 survey of county schools noted that thirty-six classrooms were needed for grades one through eight, but only sixteen were available, requiring ten mobile classroom units be brought to the school. The high school grades were also over capacity and required four mobile classroom units. The report recommended a county-wide reorganization, including reducing Bladen Central High School to elementary grades only.<sup>47</sup> Desegregation became the catalyst for this reorganization, and the last African American class to graduate from Bladen Central High School was the class of 1970. The 1970-1971 school year was the first desegregated year at the school.<sup>48</sup> Grades one and two were transferred to Elizabethtown Primary School, while grades seven through twelve were transferred to Elizabethtown Middle School or East Bladen High School (also called Elizabethtown High School).<sup>49</sup> Meanwhile, grades three through six remained, and the school was renamed Bladen Elementary School (later Bladen Middle School).<sup>50</sup> The school closed in 2002.<sup>51</sup>

In 1982, the Bladen County Training School-Bladen Central High School Alumni Association was formed to preserve the history of the school. After the school closed in 2002, their mission expanded to include preserving the school buildings as well.<sup>52</sup> In 2003, the building was transferred from the Board of Education to the Bladen Youth Focus Project and is known as the Bladen County Youth Focus Project Community Center.<sup>53</sup> The original 10-teacher school building is now in use as the Paul R. Brown Community Center, named after the school's first principal. The 1958 classroom building is used for a variety of public meetings and classes, can be rented for weddings and family reunions, and is home to after-school programs and the Paul R. Brown Military Academy. The 1948 gymnasium and 1951 high school building are currently vacant and in need of repairs, while the remaining classroom from the White Building is still being used for storage.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> J.L. Pierce, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Planning, "Bladen County School Survey, 1967," 8-15, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

<sup>48</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017.

<sup>49</sup> Elliot Henry, NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Planning, "Bladen County School Survey, 1970," 11, North Carolina Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

<sup>50</sup> "A Chronological History of the Bladen County Rosenwald Schools," Study List Application.

<sup>51</sup> Study List Application Narrative; Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2017.

<sup>52</sup> Bladen Central High School Alumni Association, "The History and Foundation of the Bladen County Training School," Study List Application.

<sup>53</sup> "A Chronological History of the Bladen County Rosenwald Schools," Study List Application; "The Bladen County Board of Education to Bladen County Youth Focus Project Inc.," Deed Book 535, Page 967, December 19, 2003, Bladen County Register of Deeds, Elizabethtown, NC, [www.bladennroc.org](http://www.bladennroc.org) (accessed July 2017); Bladen Central High School Alumni Association, "The History and Foundation of the Bladen County Training School," Study List Application.

<sup>54</sup> Interview with BCTS Alumni, 2016; Bladen Central High School Alumni Association, "The History and Foundation of the Bladen County Training School," Study List Application.

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_



Bladen County Training School  
Name of Property

Bladen County, North Carolina  
County and State

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: North Carolina State Archives

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** BL0263

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 14.3 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 34.622318  | Longitude: -78.618304 |
| 2. Latitude: 34.621596  | Longitude: -78.616939 |
| 3. Latitude: 34.619731  | Longitude: -78.618690 |
| 4. Latitude: 34.620233  | Longitude: -78.619633 |
| 5. Latitude: 34.620427  | Longitude: -78.619483 |
| 6. Latitude: 34.621552  | Longitude: -78.621551 |
| 7. Latitude: 34.622341  | Longitude: -78.620849 |
| 8. Latitude: 34.621388  | Longitude: -78.619092 |
| 9. Latitude: 34.621978  | Longitude: -78.618497 |
| 10. Latitude: 34.622011 | Longitude: -78.618553 |

Bladen County Training School  
Name of Property

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County and State

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

The National Register boundary is shown by a black line on the accompanying map, drawn at a 1"=200' scale, and in alignment with the tax boundary comprised of nine parcels.

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

The nominated boundary includes approximately 14.3 acres historically associated with the school.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Heather Slane, Architectural Historian  
name/title: Cheri Szcodronski, Architectural Historian  
organization: hmwPreservation  
street & number: P.O. Box 355  
city or town: Durham state: NC zip code: 27701  
e-mail: heather@hmwpreservation.com  
telephone: 336-207-1502  
date: July 2017

**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.

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- **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.)

### **Photographs**

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

### **Photo Log**

Property Name: Bladen County Training School

County and State: Bladen County, North Carolina

Photographer: Cheri L. Szcodronski

Date: July 2017

Location of Negatives: State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina

1. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
facing west
2. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
facing northeast
3. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
facing east
4. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
facing southwest
5. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
south entrance
6. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
north hallway facing west
7. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
auditorium facing southeast
8. Bladen County Training School – Main Building  
typical classroom

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9. Bladen County Training School – High School Building  
facing southwest
10. Bladen County Training School – High School Building & Gymnasium  
facing west
11. Bladen County Training School – High School Building  
first floor hallway, facing north
12. Bladen County Training School – High School Building  
typical classroom
13. Bladen County Training School – High School Building  
typical classroom
14. Bladen County Training School – Gymnasium and Single-Classroom Building  
facing southwest
15. Bladen County Training School – Gymnasium, Single-Classroom Building, and Shed  
facing southeast
16. Bladen County Training School – Gymnasium  
facing southwest
17. Bladen County Training School – Classroom/Cafeteria Building  
facing west
18. Bladen County Training School – Classroom/Cafeteria Building  
facing north
19. Bladen County Training School – Classroom/Cafeteria Building  
facing east
20. Bladen County Training School – Classroom/Cafeteria Building  
cafeteria, facing northeast
21. Bladen County Training School – Classroom/Cafeteria Building  
typical classroom
22. Bladen County Training School – Classroom/Cafeteria Building  
hallway, facing east

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**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.



Image from NC-HPOweb

Bladen County Training School  
 1306 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
 Elizabethtown, Bladen County, NC

Site Map with National Register Boundary  
 — National Register Boundary

\*White lines delineate the tax parcels  
 within the boundary

- 1. Main Building
- 2. Gymnasium (NC)
- 3. High School Building
- 4. Classroom/Cafeteria Building
- 5. Storage Building (NC)
- 6. Single-Classroom (NC)
- 7. Athletic Field



Scale: 1" = 200'





Image from NC-HPOweb

Bladen County Training School  
 1306 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
 Elizabethtown, Bladen County, NC

Site Map with National Register Boundary  
 — National Register Boundary

\*White lines delineate the tax parcels  
 within the boundary

Coordinates:

1. 34.622318, -78.618304
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Scale: 1" = 200'

