onn No. 10-100 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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## 7 DESCRIPTION

#### CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT \_\_DETERIORATEO
\_\_GOOO \_\_RUINS
X\_FAIR \_\_UNEXPOSED

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#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located within the town limits of Lincolnville, South Carolina, Williams Graded School was built in 1899. It is believed to have served as a combination school and town hall for the citizens of this black town, which was settled by freedmen after the Civil War.

Exterior: Rectangular in plan, the single story frame building with weatherboard siding is set on low brick piers, and metal roofing covers the gable roof. Brickwork on the piers is American common bond. The roof line of the facade (southeast elevation) and of the northeast and southwest elevations is framed by a boxed cornice with return. Except for the window in the gable end of the facade, all windows are 6 over 6 and feature the original batten shutters.

The facade is divided into three bays and has a central bay porch with a shed roof, with exposed rafters and plain square posts. The original wooden steps and floor of the porch have been replaced with concrete blocks. The porch shelters a double-leaf, paneled door and is flanked on the right and left by windows. Contained in the gable end is a small window with the original louvered shutters. A cornerstone set into the northeast pier is inscribed,

WILLIAMS GRADED SCHOOL ERECTED FEB. 3, 1899 LINCOLNVILLE, S.C.

The northeast elevation has an exterior chimney near the center flanked on each side by two windows. Brickwork on the chimney is stretcher bond. A small masonry addition has been constructed at the extreme right end of the original portion of this elevation. Attached to the northwest elevation is a frame addition with a metal shed roof which extends the width of the building. The southwest elevation contains five bays with a door in the westernmost bay and a window in each of the other four bays.

<u>Interior</u>: The original portion of the building contains one large room. The northwest end of the room has a podium on a dais which is approached by three steps on the front and sides.

Alterations have been minimal, and the auditorium retains much of its original fabric, including wide board paneling beaded to simulate narrow boards on all four walls and the ceiling. The floor of the dais is also original. The two room rear addition constructed after 1899 provides space for a kitchen and an office. The masonry addition attached to the northeast elevation houses a bathroom.

<u>Surroundings</u>: Although it is within the town limits of Lincolnville, the setting of Williams Graded School suggests a rural area. The front of the lot is bounded by a paved road; the adjoining lots on the sides and rear of the building are vacant and wooded.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

T1700-1799 ART ENGINEERING MUSIC THEATER	PERIOD	SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
invention Black Hist		SERVATION LAW	SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAI THEATER TRANSPORTATION

SPECIFIC DATES 1899

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Williams Graded School, located within the town limits of Lincolnville, South Carolina, was constructed in 1899 and is believed to have served as a combination school and town hall. It is significant for its association with the citizens of a town populated by blacks that was established in the second half of the nineteenth century by a black man who was prominent in the political and religious life of the state during the era of Reconstruction. In addition, Williams Graded School is one of the few known surviving examples of public buildings associated with the history of blacks in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century South Carolina which has remained basically unaltered.

Richard Harvey Cain, a prominent political and religious leader among the black population of the Charleston area, ca. 1871 contracted to buy 2000 acres about ten miles from Charleston. A leading proponent of obtaining land for freedmen since the Constitutional Convention of 1868, Cain divided the land into small lots which contained two to ten acres each, which he sold to freedmen. He named this settlement Lincolnville. Cain was minister of Emmanuel African Methodist Church in Charleston, state senator from Charleston County between 1868 and 1870, and later a representative from South Carolina to the United States Congress.

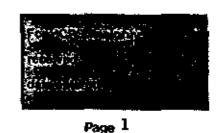
In 1875 or 1876 Cain sold a lot on Pinckney Street in Lincolnville, the present site of Williams Graded School, to Susan Owens for twenty-five dollars. The town of Lincolnville was incorporated by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1889, and regulations for the government of the town were enacted. The statute stated that the town would be governed by a town council consisting of an intendant and four wardens. In 1899 Susan Owens sold her lot to A.T. Williams, an intendant of Lincolnville around the turn of the century. The cornerstone of the building indicates that Williams Graded School was constructed in that same year. Between 1899 and 1902 Williams agreed to sell the property to the town of Lincolnville. The final payment was not made and the title conveyed to the town until 1906. However, extant records, including the cornerstone, indicate that the building was used earlier by the town as a school. According to local tradition, the building also served as a town hall each day after school was dismissed. After a new school was built. In 1924, the building was used solely as a town hall until 1959 or 1960, when a new town hall was constructed. Although the building is still owned by the town of Lincolnville, it is presently used as a church by the Friendship Church of God and Christ.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFEREN	NCES	
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Biographical Directory of the American Congres Printing Office, 1961, p. 646.	s, 1774-1961. Washington, D.C.: Govern	men
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA		
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION  The boundary of the Williams Graded School nom accompanying map entitled "Tax Map Number 385-at a scale of 1" = 100".	1-0, Charleston County, S.C." and drawn	. •
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II FORM PREPARED BY  NAME / TITLE Mary Watson, Historic Preservation Division	David Chamberlain, Elias Bull Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments	
ORGANIZATION South Carolina Department of Archives and Hist	tory May 21, 1980	_
STREET & NUMBER Box 11,669, Capitol Station	TELEPHONE 803-758-5816	_
CITY OR TOWN	STATE	
Columbia	South Carolina 29211	<u> </u>
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION O	:	
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS		
NATIONAL STATE	LOCAL X	
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the Nation hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Jegist criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Sergise.	^	_
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FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN TH	HE NATIONAL REGISTER	
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESER	RVATION	
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Continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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Bleser, Carol K.	Rothrock.	The PromiseC	Land: The	History	of the South	Carolina	Land
Bleser, Carol K. Commission,	1869-1890.	Columbia:	University	of South	Carolina Pre	ss. 1969.	DD. 19.
20, 28, 76,	77.	••••				,,	

Item number 9

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