

FINAL

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Booker T. Washington School
other names/site number 139-555-41118

2. Location

street & number 614 Fort Wayne Road N/A not for publication
city, town Rushville N/A vicinity
state IN code IN county Rush code 139 zip code 46173

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Jan T. Costello
Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

4-9-90

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION: school

SOCIAL: meetinghouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: T-Plan

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

STONE: limestone

roof ASHPALT

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Booker T. Washington School, 1905, is a two story brick building which is situated on a triangular lot. The school is located in an eastside residential section of Rushville. The building stands on a small hill with an open area, the playground, to the east.

Architecturally, the school exhibits some characteristics of the Romanesque Revival Style, such as multiple-coursed round and segmental arches and rock-faced stone sills. The dominant influence, however, is the simple T-plan vernacular, which had been well established in the county by this period. The basic T-plan type has been adapted here to accommodate a two-story building.

The main facade faces north to East 7th Street (photo 1). The forward projecting stem of the "T" has three bays on each story; a central entrance flanked by two windows on the first floor and three windows above.

The entrance is recessed behind a triple-coursed round arch. Paneled wood double doors topped by a rectangular transom mark the entrance. All window openings have segmental arches infilled by rectangular two-over-two double-hung sash. Most windows are partially or entirely hidden by wood panels covered with insulbrick. Rock-faced limestone sills finish the windows.

Two windows on each story are centered in the east and west walls of the front projection and on the north wall segments of the main block. The west and east walls of the main block have two windows on each story (photos 2 and 3). The rear or south wall has four windows on each story (photo 4). There is a wider blank wall space in the center of this rear elevation. A small brick chimney is located just east of center in this wall.

The school has a low-pitched hip roof covered with asphalt shingles. The roof is heavily deteriorated in some areas.

The interior of the Booker T. Washington School has retained much of its historic appearance. The first floor has two large classrooms in the main section, with a staircase and cloakrooms in the stem of the "T". The stairs begin as a single flight until about two-thirds

See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black

Period of Significance

1905-1932

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Bullder

Winship, Morris

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Booker T. Washington School is significant under Criterion A because it was the focal point for the black community of Rushville, Indiana. Besides being a source of pride, it was also an educational, cultural, political, social, and fraternal center for the town's black citizens. The building was designed so that it not only served as a school, but also as a community center, having a large room upstairs which was used for social and political meetings.

In terms of its educational significance, the Booker Washington School is a local representative of the district school system in Indiana. The district school system was established by provisions in the 1852 state constitution, although it was during the period of 1867-1900 that the system grew rapidly. Legislation passed in 1869 specifically called for the state to provide for the education of blacks. As in many states, it seemed that the best method to achieve this goal was to build separate facilities for black pupils. Most of these were probably located in urban areas where they would have been accessible to the most students. The 1905 superintendant of Public Instruction Report lists 83 segregated schools in the state and an enrollment of 3,645 black students in segregated facilities.¹ In that year, 77 black students were located in Rush County. The Booker T. Washington School was built in 1904-05 in order to serve the black community of the Rushville area. (The contract was let in September of 1904 and the building was finished in January of 1905.) Local contractor Morris Winship was retained to erect the building.²

The building served as an educational center from 1905-1932. First through sixth grades were taught here; any further education for blacks would come from one of Rushville's other public schools. The only other school for black students in the county was located in Carthage, (It is still standing; built in 1908 in the Mission Revival style by architects Nobly and Caldwell). Black teachers served at this school, and they are still remembered as leaders in the black community.³

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Carmack, Paul. History of Education in Rush County. Division of Graduate Instruction, Butler University, 1942.

"Colored Residents to Seek to Retain Washington School". Rushville Republican. May 13, 1932.

"Colored School Appropriation". Rushville Republican. September 9, 1904.

"Colored School Building Appropriation". Rushville Graphic. September 30, 1904.

"Colored School Building Appropriation". Rushville Graphic. December 9, 1904.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

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|------|---|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 0 |
| Zone | | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | |

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 6, Commissioner's Annexation, May 8, 1885, 275', 222 1/2'-7th Street frontage, 350' on Fort Wayne Road, 100' on 5th Street.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the historic property boundary.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Gulde date July 25, 1989
 organization Rush County Heritage telephone 317-876-3353
 street & number 1726 Pemberton Lane, B state IN zip code 46260
 city or town Indianapolis

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1 The Booker T. Washington School

of the way to the second story, where a landing is encountered. At this point, the stairs divide into two perpendicular short flights which continue to the second story (photo 5). The stairs have square newels, turned balusters, and a molded handrail.

The second floor originally had one large room, two storage rooms, and a balcony over the first floor hall. The larger room has been subdivided.

Typical interior elements include plaster walls, car sided wainscoting, and simple surrounds with entablature headers (photo 6). Wood doors feature paneling and transoms.

Although deteriorated, the school house still has enough integrity to recall its role as an educational center.

The school will not remain vacant for long; money has already been allocated to repair the roof and additional work is anticipated.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 The Booker T. Washington School

Bibliography (continued)

"Colored School Building Appropriation". Rushville Graphic
January 24, 1905.

Fletcher, Peter. Interview conducted at his home by William F. Gulde, July 13, 1988. Former student of the Booker T. Washington School.

Gary, A. L. and E. B. Thomas. Centennial History of Rush County Indiana. (Indianapolis: Historical Publishing Company). 1921.

Phillips, Clifton. Indiana in Transition, 1880-1920. (Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau and the Indiana Historical Society). 1968.

Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. (Indianapolis: William Burford). 1905.

Rush County Retrospect, A. Volume I. (Rushville: Rush County Historical Society with the cooperation of the Indiana Historical Bureau). 1984.

Starr, Ruth. "Wesley United Methodist Church". (Unpublished paper on the history of one the churches in Rushville's black community). 1970.

Thornbrough, Emma Lou. A Short History of Indiana Negroes, 1863-1963. (Indiana Division, American Negro Emancipation Centennial Authority). 1963.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1 The Booker T. Washington School

In 1932, the city school board decided to close the school. Dwindling enrollment and the economy were cited as the primary reasons. In spite of a petition signed by 70 persons, the board closed the school.

The second floor of the school was a political and social center for the black community of Rushville. Beginning in 1910, the NAACP frequently used this meeting space, local politicians spoke in the school. In about 1919, famous black educator Mary McCloud Bethune visited the school. Local black chapters of the Odd Fellows and Masons used the second floor of the building. Plays and dances were also held here.

In summary, the Washington T. Booker School was the focal point of the black community in Rushville. The building is probably one of a few surviving black schools in small town Indiana.

Today, Rushville's dwindling black population still uses the grounds of the building for church revivals and family reunions. It stands as a legacy of pride and heritage for the entire community.

The future of the building is bright as the city of Rushville is planning to restore the structure. A grant of \$10,000 has recently been awarded for a new roof. To be known as the Booker T. Washington Center, it is anticipated the building will serve as a day care center for low income residents of the county. The black community, Rush County Heritage (local preservation group), and the City of Rushville are all interested in seeing that this significant building is saved.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ PHOTOS _____ Page 1

Booker T. Washington School

The following information is common to all photographs:

1. Booker T. Washington School
2. Rushville, Indiana
3. William F. Gulde
4. July 25, 1989
5. Rush County Heritage, c/o
William Gulde
1726 Pemberton Lane, B
Indianapolis, IN 46260

The following describes each view, with the photo number given first:

1. Exterior, general view, looking southwest
2. Exterior, main facade, looking south/southeast
3. Exterior, rear (south) elevation, looking north
4. Exterior, view from northwest, looking southeast
5. Interior, staircase, first floor, looking southeast
6. Interior, classroom, looking north

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____ The Booker T. Washington School

END NOTES

1. Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Indianapolis:
William Burford, 1905. P. 267.
2. Winship was a prominent local builder in Rush County. He was a resident of Rushville and built over 150 homes in the county. Some of his other notable projects include: Graham High School, 1908, in Rushville; Belle Gregg or Jackson School, 1906, in Rushville; and the Franklin College Gymnasium in Johnson County. (William Winship, interview with William Gulde, August 1, 1989. W. Winship is the grandson of Morris Winship.)
3. Peter T. Fletcher, interview with William Gulde, July 13, 1988. Fletcher was a student at the Booker T. Washington School.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL, RUSH CO., IN

The purpose of this continuation sheet is to amend the information in Section 2, Location for the Booker T. Washington School National Register nomination (5-24-90). The building has not been moved or relocated in any way; however, its address on the nomination is not accurate.

At the time of nomination, the school had not been used for years. Apparently, its accepted address at the time was 614 Fort Wayne Road. Fort Wayne Road was once a major route from Rushville to Fort Wayne. It runs diagonally (northeast) behind the school. The front doors of the school have always faced East Seventh Street. Therefore, when the building was rehabilitated as a community center about a year ago, its address was listed as 525 East Seventh Street. The street and number blank should read "525 East Seventh Street." All other information in this section is accurate and current.

Under Section 6, the current functions of the school should read "SOCIAL: meeting hall" because the building serves as a general purpose community center, and "EDUCATION: school" because another major function of the building is to house the community's "Head Start" preschool program. The building is rented for other uses but these two seem to be the most significant.

Under Section 7, the school has been rehabilitated since its nomination. The rehabilitation has preserved the original first floor class room, staircase, and upstairs meeting room. Other portions of the school were altered to accommodate offices and an elevator for handicap access. The rehab used HUD funding through the Indiana Department of Commerce's Community Focus Fund grant program. The DHPA reviewed the project to insure that the Secretary of the Interior's Standards were followed.

All other information on the nomination form is current and accurate.

