

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Faith Cabin Library at Anderson County Training School
other names/site number Catherine Degen Unit

2. Location

street & number 145 Town Street not for publication
city or town Pendleton vicinity
state South Carolina code SC county Anderson code 007 zip code 29670

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 X statewide ___ local

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____
Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

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 _____

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Faith Cabin Libraries in South Carolina,
1932-ca. 1960

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION -- LIBRARY

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Log Cabin

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD

roof: METAL

other: STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Faith Cabin Library at Anderson County Training School is located off Town Street in Pendleton, Anderson County, South Carolina, near its intersection with West Queen Street. It is situated on a southern-facing hill. The building is a linear building oriented to the east. This one-story log building on a stone foundation is covered by a five-V-crimped tin roof. It is located adjacent to the only other building remaining at the Anderson County Training School, now (2012) serving as the Pendleton Community Center.

Narrative Description

The façade features two larger rectangular windows located on either side of the wooden plank door. The windows are covered with wooden plank shutters which are barred by planks of wood on the top and bottom of the shutter. Along the southern elevation of the building is an irregularly-coursed field stone chimney made from the same material as the foundation. The exposed gable reveals vertical log planking. Parallel to the chimney is a wooden fence originating from the front corner of the building and extending to the foundation. Along the western elevation of the building are two rectangular windows covered with wooden screens. The remnant of the stone foundation is exposed. The northern elevation is a solid exterior wall with vertical planking on the gable.

Faith Cabin Libraries in South Carolina, built from 1932 to 1943, fall into two subtypes based on physical and associative characteristics. The Faith Cabin Library at Anderson County Training School falls under Subtype 1, Free-Standing Log Cabin. Construction materials were supplied by the local community. This Faith Cabin Library is a one-room building with a field stone chimney.

A 1993 photograph of the library, in a brochure titled *A Legacy of Black History: Pendleton, S.C.*, shows the library with a small wooden porch and a sign reading "Faith Cabin Library." That porch was removed between 1993 and 2010. This library still, however, possesses architectural integrity and retains its character-defining features, making it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under the associated Multiple Property Submission.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE – BLACK

Period of Significance

ca. 1936-1954

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Faith Cabin Library at Anderson County Training School is significant from ca. 1936 when it was built, to 1954 when Anderson County Training School closed, for its role in African American education and social history in Anderson County and upstate South Carolina from the Great Depression of the 1930s to the 1950s when a new school replaced it.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Faith Cabin Library at Anderson County Training School, located off Town Street, in Pendleton, Anderson County, South Carolina, is significant under Criterion A for its role in African-American education and social history in South Carolina circa 1936.¹ This unit is important on a local level for its impact on the African American community in Anderson County, and on the state level as one of only two remaining free-standing Faith Cabin Libraries extant of the thirty built in South Carolina between 1932 and 1943.

According to a 1940 report compiled by Willie Lee Buffington, founder of the Faith Cabin Library program, this school then contained 5,197 books.² During the school year, the library was open from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.³ A teacher with library experience staffed the library. In the summer months, the library remained open from 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.⁴

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A – Education / Ethnic Heritage – African American

The Faith Cabin Library at Anderson County Training School was a part of the larger Faith Cabin Library program that offered library services to African Americans in South Carolina. The segregation laws of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, known as "Jim Crow" laws, barred African Americans from using other library facilities beyond what was offered in Columbia and Charleston. Willie Lee Buffington created this program between 1932 and 1943, helping to build thirty Faith Cabin Libraries in South Carolina, offering many African Americans their only means of access to library services and library books.⁵

The black community of Pendleton and nearby rural communities of Anderson County were among the thirty communities fortunate to participate in the Faith Cabin Library program. With donated money and timber from the community, this library, a free-standing log cabin, was built on the campus of the Anderson County Training School circa 1936. It continued to serve that school until it was closed in 1954 with the construction of a new African-American school in Seneca. That school was built under the "equalization program" of Governor James F. Byrnes' administration (funded by the Educational Finance Commission), a statewide attempt to preserve the practice of racial segregation in public schools by providing newer and better facilities for black students under the "separate but equal" doctrine as set forth by the United States Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), establishing the rationale for *de jure* segregation in America.

¹ There are conflicting dates of construction for this library. Research by Tamara Powell, in the Willie Lee Buffington Papers at the South Caroliniana Library, gives the construction date as 1936. The Pendleton District Commission website, as <http://www.pendletondistrict.org/historyculture>, claims 1937, as does a recent undated newspaper article by Kelly Davis, "Faith Cabin Library on endangered list," in the *Independent-Mail* (Anderson, S.C.). The 1993 brochure by the Pendleton Foundation for Black History and Culture, *A Legacy of Black History: Pendleton, S.C.* (Pendleton: Pendleton District Commission, 1993) claims 1939. The library was in use before 1940, according to Buffington's report "A General Survey of Faith Cabin Library with its 26 Separate Units (South Carolina)," (June and July 1940), Willie Lee Buffington Papers, South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina, Columbia, S.C. (hereafter cited as Buffington Papers). A circa date of 1936 seems most appropriate.

² "A General Survey," Buffington Papers.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Tamara Powell, "Willie Lee Buffington and Faith Cabin Libraries: Doing Practical Good in a Disordered World." In Susan Schramm-Pate and Rhonda B. Jefferies, eds., *Grappling with Diversity: Readings on Civil Rights Pedagogy and Critical Multiculturalism* (Albany: State University Press of New York, 2008), p. 85.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See Faith Cabin Libraries in South Carolina, 1932-ca. 1960, Multiple Property Documentation Form.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Buffington, Willie Lee. Papers. South Caroliniana Library. Columbia, South Carolina.

Carr, Louise Douglass. "The Reverend Willie Lee Buffington's Life and Contributions to the Development of Rural Libraries in the South." Master's thesis, Atlanta University, 1958.

Davis, Kelly. "Faith Cabin Library on endangered list." *Independent-Mail* (Anderson, S.C.), n.d. On file at the Pendleton District Commission, Pendleton, S.C.

Pendleton Foundation for Black History & Culture. *A Legacy of Black History: Pendleton, S.C.* Pendleton: Pendleton District Commission, 1993.

Powell, Tamara. "Communities in Collaboration: A Struggle to Increase Literacy in South Carolina." Ph.D. dissertation, Department of Education, University of South Carolina, 2004.

Powell, Tamara. "Willie Lee Buffington and Faith Cabin Libraries: Doing practical good in a Disordered World." In Susan Schramm-Pate and Rhonda B. Jefferies, eds., *Grappling with Diversity: Readings on Civil Rights Pedagogy and Critical Multiculturalism* (Albany: State of University of New York Press, 2008).

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

**South Caroliniana Library & Pendleton
District Commission**

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____
