NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Exp. 10-31-84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received DEC 27 1982

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ~~Brainerd Institute~~

and/or common Kumler Hall ~~(preferred)~~ (Brainerd Institute)

2. Location

street & number Lancaster and Cemetery St~~reet~~s. NA not for publication

city, town Chester NA vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Chester code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	NA in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	NA being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	X other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Herbert C. Lutz

street & number Route 1, Box 1-M

city, town Chester N/A vicinity of state South Carolina 29706

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chester County Courthouse

street & number Main St.

city, town Chester state South Carolina 29706

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1981 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Brainerd Institute was one of the earliest secondary institutions for black children established in Chester County, South Carolina. The institute, which opened ca. 1868, relocated on the present site, a large tract in eastern Chester, ca. 1882. Only two of the buildings constructed for Brainerd Institute are still standing: Kumler Hall, a two-story brick dormitory built ca. 1916, and the Martha Tweed Administration Building, a two-story brick-veneer building constructed ca. 1900. The Administration Building is in ruinous condition and lacks integrity to convey the history of Brainerd Institute; Kumler Hall, although in poor condition, is structurally sound and retains integrity from the time of the Institute's significance.

Additional Information: Brainerd Institute relocated on the De Graffenreid lands in eastern Chester ca. 1882. Three major buildings were built between 1888 and 1904: Centennial Hall, a substantial, three-story, brick-veneer building used as a male dormitory; the Martha Tweed Administration Building, a two-story, brick-veneer building used for classrooms; and a large two-and-one-half-story frame female dormitory. Centennial Hall was destroyed by fire between 1910 and 1917 and was replaced by Kumler Hall. The female dormitory and several small supporting buildings were destroyed after 1944. The Martha Tweed Administration Building is in ruinous condition, owing to severe structural decay, and is beyond preservation. Only Kumler Hall retains sufficient integrity from Brainerd's active years to meet the National Register Criteria.

Kumler Hall is a two-story brick dormitory building located in eastern Chester on a large grassy lot. The building has a full basement and a hip roof. A one-story porch with brick piers and a hipped roof spans the breadth of the facade (south elevation.) The facade is three bays wide, with a central doorway and two-over-two sash. The side elevations are five regular bays. An auxiliary entrance with a small porch is centered on the rear elevation. The brickwork is stretcher bond. Two interior chimneys pierce the hipped roof.

Kumler Hall has a central longitudinal hallway opening onto the porch, with a central single-flight stairway and classrooms and dormitory rooms opening on either side on both floors and the basement. The floors are wooden, and the ceilings are plaster.

Kumler Hall is currently vacant. The building shows considerable superficial damage, including broken window panes, cracked plaster, and a sagging floor, but there is no evidence of structural damage. The building is located in a low-to middle-income residential section of Chester, with many small houses and a trailer park nearby. The ruins of the Martha Tweed Administration Building are located east of Kumler Hall.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	X education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	X other (specify) black history
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1916 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Brainerd Institute, one of the earliest and finest of the many private schools established for freedmen in South Carolina in the years just after the Civil War, was located in Chester. Brainerd was operated from ca. 1868 until 1940 by the Board of Missions of the Presbyterian Church, USA and offered vocational, industrial, mechanical, classical college preparatory, and teacher training. Two vacant and rapidly deteriorating buildings are the only remnants of the once active twenty-one-acre campus. The Martha Tweed Administration Building, a two-story, brick veneer building constructed ca. 1900 and Kumler Hall, a two-story boys' dormitory constructed ca. 1916. Only Kumler Hall, however, retains sufficent structural and architectural integrity to meet the National Register criteria. The building is significant as the only intact physical reminder of one of the finest and most successful elements of this unique educational system for blacks.
Additional Information: In the spring of 1866 at the request of a Mr. Harris, Miss E. E. Richmond, a white, New York native, opened a school under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau at Brawley's Plantation, five miles from Chester, South Carolina. She was joined by a New Jersey native Miss Caroline I. Kent and the two moved the school into the town of Chester. The second story of a large storage building was the home of their day, night, and Sunday schools. Black ministers were also invited to preach at the school and it is said to have been very successful.[1]

In 1868 the Board of Home Missions of the New York Presbyterian Church, USA sent Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Loomis to upper South Carolina to establish schools and churches at likely places among the freedmen. About this same time the Freedmen's Bureau announced its intention to close the school at Chester. Rev. Loomis, impressed by what he had seen of the northern women's work, convinced the Board of Missions, Freedmen's Division, of the Presbyterian Church USA to take over the school.[2] The school was then known as the Chester Mission but shortly thereafter was named Brainerd Mission School and in 1873 Brainerd Institute after David Brainerd, an early Presbyterian missionary among the Indians in Massachusetts.[3]

Brainerd occupied several locations before finally settling on the present site, the old DeGraffenreid land, where the mansion house was utilized as the main building. Other support buildings were constructed as well as boys' and girls' dormitories to house the capacity student body.[4] Brainerd Institute was committed to high standards both in its academic program and in the conduct of its pupils.[5] In addition to basic academic courses, each student fulfilled the requirements for one of the major courses of study, mechanical, industrial, vocational, business, college preparatory, or teacher training.[6] Students also attended classes in good conduct and Bible study and were required to attend the Presbyterian church each Sunday. There were several religious organizations on campus and every student was a member of each one.[7] The young ladies were required to wear sedate uniforms and all students lived by a strict set of regulations.[8]

Perhaps the most important contribution of Brainerd was its role in providing public school teachers for the black community.[9] From 1868 until the turn of the century,

continued

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.5

Quadrangle name Chester **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	482733	3840422	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is shown bounded by the heavy red line on the accompanying Chester County Tax Map #201-4, scaled at 1 inch = 200 feet. This boundary includes Kumler Hall while excluding adjacent trailer parks and the ruins of the old Administration Building.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	**code**	**county**	NA	**code**
state	NA	**code**	**county**	NA	**code**

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Suzanne Pickens Wylie, John E. Wells; Linda VanderBroek, Catawba Regional Planning Council

organization South Carolina Department of Archives and History **date** August 3, 1982

street & number 1430 Senate Street **telephone** (803) 758-5816

city or town Columbia **state** South Carolina 29211

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 12/7/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register **date** 1/27/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

Brainerd provided the only schooling available for black children in Chester, and it provided the only high school until the 1920s.[10] Brainerd did aspire to junior college status for a time toward the end of its career, apparently in an attempt to increase enrollment cut by the advent of more and better public schools for blacks.[11] In actuality Brainerd was never really more than a high school; however, it was accredited by the state and its standards were so much higher than any of the public schools that most of its graduates were certified to teach public school.[12]

Although Brainerd apparently always operated at full capacity, it eventually outgrew its purpose. Public school facilities for blacks in Chester slowly improved and many students preferred to take advantage of this cost free education. Throughout its career Brainerd was always in critical need of funds for expansion and repair of its campus. In later years as Brainerd ceased to be as necessary to the education of blacks in the area, funds were increasingly hard to obtain.[13] Brainerd closed between 1939 and 1941.[14] The campus was cut up into parcels and sold; the city of Chester bought the Martha Tweed Administration Building, and it was used as an elementary school for some years.[15]

Boulware, Marcus Hanna, Ph.D. Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 1866-1979, Chester, S.C. Columbia, S.C.: R. L. Bryan, Co., 1979.

Bulletin of Information. Brainerd Institute. Chester, South Carolina, 1939-1940.

Catalogue. Brainerd Institute. Chester, South Carolina, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1930-31, 1931-32, 1937-38, 1939-40.

Chester, South Carolina. Chester County Courthouse. Chester County Clerk of Court. Deed Book 352, p. 269; Deed Book 387, p. 206.

Chester, South Carolina. Chester County Library. "A Scrapbook of Historical Information About and Recollections of Chester County Schools, 1811-1976." Compiled by the Varsity Study Club, ca. 1976 [Typewritten]; "Brainerd Institute," newspaper clipping, ca. 1936.

Chester, South Carolina. Chester County Library. Brainerd Institute File.

Chester, South Carolina. Chester High School Library. "Historical Sketch - Brainerd Institute," n.d. [Typewritten.]

Collins, Anne Pickens. "History of Brainerd Institute." [Typewritten.]

"The Educational Efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau and Freedmen's Aid Societies in South Carolina, 1862-1872." The Journal of Negro History 8 (January 1923): 1-27.

McMillan, Lewis K. Negro Higher Education in the State of South Carolina. n.p., n.p., 1952.

Parker, Inez Moore. The Rise and Decline of the Program of Education for Black Presbyterians of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, 1865-1970. San Antonio: Trinity Press, 1977.

Thirty-Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Missions for Freedmen of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Presented to the General Assembly, May 1900. Pittsburgh, Pa.: Office of the Board, n.d.

Brainerd Institute Nomination
Footnotes

[1] "A Scrapbook of Historical Information About and Recollections of Chester County Schools, 1811-1976," compiled by the Varsity Study Club, Chester County Library, pp. 106-107 [Typewritten] ; Lewis K. McMillan, Negro Higher Education in the State of South Carolina (n.p., n.p., 1952), p. 9; Catalogue of Teachers and Students, Brainerd Institute, Chester, South Carolina, 1929-30, p. 7 and 1930-31, p. 7; "Historical Sketch - Brainerd Institute," Chester High School Library [Typewritten] ; Marcus Hanna Boulware, Ph.D., Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 1866-1979, Chester, South Carolina (Columbia, S.C.: R. L. Bryan Co., 1979), p. 17; Inez Moore Parker, The Rise and Decline of the Program of Education for Black Presbyterians of the United Presbyterian Church, USA, 1865-1970 (San Antonio: Trinity Press, 1977), p. 152.

[2] Catalogue, 1929-30, p. 7 and 1930-31, p. 7; Parker, p. 152; "Historical Sketch;" Boulware, p. 17; McMillan, p. 9; Scrapbook, pp. 106-107; Anne Pickens Collins, "History of Brainerd Institute;" "The Educational Efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau and Freedmen's Aid Societies in South Carolina, 1862-1872 " The Journal of Negro History 8 (January 1923): 27.

[3] "Historical Sketch;" Parker, pp. 152-153; Scrapbook, p. 107.

[4] Scrapbook, pp. 107-108; Catalogue, 1929-30, p. 8; Collins, pp. 3-5.

[5] Collins, p. 4; McMillan, pp. 6, 8; Scrapbook, p. 108.

[6] McMillan, p. 154; Collins, pp. 4-5; Catalogue, 1929-30, p. 9; 1931-32, pp. 20-23; 1937-38, pp. 4-6; "Brainerd Institute," newspaper clipping, ca. 1936, Chester County Library; Thirty-Fifth Annual Report of the Board of Missions for Freedmen of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, presented to the General Assembly, May 1900 (Pittsburgh, Pa.: Office of the Board, n.d.), p. 157.

[7] Catalogue, 1931-32, pp. 8-9.

[8] Catalogue, 1937-38, p. 7; 1929-30, p. 33.

[9] Parker, p. 154; "Brainerd Institute;" McMillan, p. 8.

[10] McMillan, p. 8; Scrapbook, pp. 104, 106; "Brainerd Institute."

[11] McMillan, p. 8; Parker, p. 156; Collins, pp. 5-6; Catalogue, 1939-40, pp. 10-11.

[12] McMillan, p. 8; Collins, p. 5.

[13] Collins, p. 6; Parker, p. 156; Catalogue, 1928-29, p. 22; 1931-32, p. 8.

[14] McMillan, p. 8; Collins, p. 6; Parker, p. 156.

[15] Parker, p. 156; McMillan, pp. 8-9; Chester County Deed Book 352, p. 269 and Book 387, p. 206, Chester County Clerk of Court, Chester County Courthouse, Chester, South Carolina.