

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

date entered

APR 13 1983

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Central Graded School, Florence Junior High School

and/or common Poynor Junior High School (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 301 South Dargan Street

NA not for publication

city, town Florence

NA vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state South Carolina

code 045

county Florence

code 041

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition**
- NA in process
 - NA being considered

Status

- occupied
 - unoccupied
 - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
 - yes: unrestricted
 - no

Present Use

- agriculture
 - commercial
 - educational
 - entertainment
 - government
 - industrial
 - military
- museum
 - park
 - private residence
 - religious
 - scientific
 - transportation
 - other:

4. Owner of Property

name Florence School District I

street & number 314 South Dargan Street

city, town Florence

NA vicinity of

state South Carolina 29501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Florence City-County Complex

street & number Irby Street

city, town Florence

state South Carolina 29501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in
South Carolina

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia

state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Poynor Junior High School, located on the southwest corner of Dargan and Palmetto Streets in Florence, South Carolina, is a two-story brick Georgian Revival school building constructed in 1906-08. The building was constructed by J.F. Ong of Columbia, South Carolina according to plans by W.J. Wilkins, who revised original plans by Charles Coker Wilson. Subsequent additions to the building have not compromised its integrity.

Additional Information: Poynor Junior High School is a two-story Georgian Revival school building with a central tetrastyle colossal Ionic portico. The main block of the building has six bays on either side of the portico with four-bay pavilions at each end of the main block. The building has a full brick basement and a stepped parapet above the Ionic entablature which is carried around the entire building. The brickwork is common bond with every sixth course bonding. The mortar is colored red.

The pedimented portico has four unfluted Ionic columns and two pilaster responds with Attic bases and Scamozzi capitals. The columns are built of stuccoed brick. A broad flight of stairs approaches the portico. The full entablature consists of an architrave, composed of a lower fascia, an upper fascia, and a cyma reversa and fillet; a plain frieze; and a cornice composed of a cyma reversa, a dentil course, an ovolo, a soffit and corona, a small cyma reversa, and a large cyma recta. The cornice is raked in the pediment of the portico where a brick tympanum is pierced by a central lunette vent.

The main entrance, centered beneath the portico, has wooden pilasters and a full entablature enframing the double wooden doors, sidelights, and transom. An arched window is above the doorway on the second floor. The single bays flanking the entrance have a nine-over-nine double-hung sash window on each floor; the first floor windows have gauged brick jack arches.

The main block of the building runs six bays on either side of the portico. The windows are nine-over-nine except for six-over-six in the basement. A brick belt course separates the basement and the first story. The end pavilions are four bays wide and repeat the fenestration of the main block. The portico entablature is continued across the entire facade.

The north and south side elevations of Poynor School maintain the pattern of fenestration established by the facade. These elevations have three bays on either side of a broad central pavilion which originally had auxiliary entrances on the transverse axis of the building. A two-story brick wing was built onto the south elevation ca. 1935 by the Works Progress Administration and another two-story brick wing was built onto the north elevation ca. 1945. These wings are visually subservient to the main building.

The west elevation of Poynor School features the auditorium wing which projects from the main body of the building. The entablature of the building is continued around the auditorium. Tall arched windows line the sides of the auditorium.

The interior of Poynor School has a north-south transverse hall which runs perpendicular to the primary east-west axis established by the portico, foyer, and auditorium. Classrooms open on either side of the transverse hallway. Arched openings enter the hall from the foyer on the east and from the ends of the hall on the north and south. The floors of the building are of hardwood while the walls and ceilings are of plaster.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1906-1908

Builder/Architect J.F. Ong/W.J. Wilkins

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Poynor Junior High School, located on the corner of Dargan and Palmetto Streets in Florence, South Carolina, was built in 1906-08 and is the oldest remaining school building in Florence County. The building is important in Florence as one of the few remaining large scale early twentieth century public buildings in Florence and as a community center and local landmark.

Additional Information: Poynor Junior High School was built in 1906-08 from plans of Charles Coker Wilson revised by W.J. Wilkins; the contractor was J.F. Ong.¹ The school was constructed on property acquired from the trustees of the black graded school. The land was obtained on the promise of constructing another school for blacks.²

The "new school," as it was first known, was to have accommodated the educational needs of the community for some time; however, shortly after its completion it was found to be too small and the high school was forced to return to the old building.³ Poynor became known as Central School, later Central Graded School, and in 1922 as Florence Junior High School.⁴

Poynor has been significant in the lives of Florence citizens as a center of community activity throughout its career. In 1910, a banquet for President Taft was held at Poynor. The buildings, grounds, and auditorium were in high demand for recitals, concerts, meetings, lectures, tournaments, chautauquas, fund raisers, and extracurricular classes.

In 1955 Poynor Junior High School received its present name in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Wilmer S. Poynor.⁶ Since 1975 it has been used as the Florence Center for Adult and Community Education.

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 4.5 acres

Quadrangle name Florence West, SC

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	7	6	1	3	7	4	0	3	7	8	4	0	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Poynor Junior High School nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying Florence County Tax Map #90-087, drawn at a scale of 1" to 100".

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 Wells
organization South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Pete Rogers, Pee Dee Regional Council
Dorothy Murphree, Director, Florence
Adult and Community Education
date January 31, 1983

street & number 1430 Senate Steet

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 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

title Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/14/83

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/19/83

Keeper of the National Register

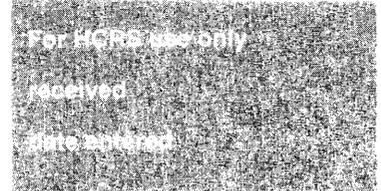
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 1

Item number 7

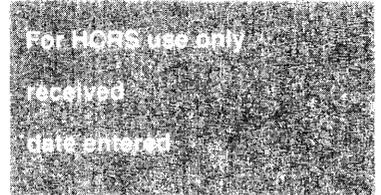
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A foyer set off by a Roman Doric colonnade opens from the transverse hall on the west on the principal east-west axis. Three-run staircases rise from either side of this foyer approaching the balcony of the auditorium and the second floor. A double doorway in the center of this foyer leads to the auditorium. The auditorium has a broad proscenium arch with a projecting keystone, a semicircular balcony with turned balusters in its balcony rail and supporting metal columns, and tall round-arched windows on either side.

Poynor Junior High School is located in an urban area of Florence surrounded by religious, public, commercial, and residential buildings. Large oak trees accentuate the front grounds of the schoolyard.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet 2

Item number 9

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Bibliography

Florence, South Carolina. Florence City-County Complex. Florence County Clerk of Court. Deed Book 0, p. 316-318.

Minutes. Board of Trustees. Florence City Schools.

Murphree, Dorothy. "History of Poynor School and Grounds." typewritten. n.d.

Superintendent's Annual Report on Florence City Schools. n.p. n.p. 1909, 1912-13, 1918, 1922.

Footnotes

¹ Minutes, Board of Trustees, Florence City Schools, 6 April 1906, p. 93; 8 May 1906, p. 94; 31 May 1906, p. 96.

² Deed Book O, pp. 316-318, Florence County Clerk of Court, Florence City/County Complex, Florence, South Carolina; Minutes, Board of Trustees, Florence City Schools, 30 August 1901; Dorothy Murphree, "History of Poynor School and Grounds," (typewritten), n.p., n.d., n.p.

³ Murphree; Superintendent's Annual Report on Florence City Schools, 1912-13, n.p., n.d., n.p.

⁴ Superintendent's Report on Florence City Schools, 1909, 1918, 1922, n.p., n.d., n.p.; Murphree.

⁵ Minutes, Board of Trustees, Florence City Schools, *passim*.

⁶ Murphree.