NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

2010

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This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Liberty Colored High School
other names/site number Liberty Colored Junior High School; Rosewood School; Rosewood Center

2. Location

street & number jct. of South Carolina Hwy. 93 (E. Main St.) and Rosewood St. not for publication ____
city or town Liberty vicinity ____
state South Carolina code SC county Pickens code 077 zip code 29657

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant __ nationally __statewide x locally. (__ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 2/21/03
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property __ meets ___does not meet the National Register criteria. (__See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
X entered in the National Register __See continuation sheet.	Linda McClelland	4/15/03
__determined eligible for the National Register __See continuation sheet.		
__ determined not eligible for the National Register		
__ removed from the National Register		
__ other (explain):		

Liberty Colored High School
Name of Property

Pickens County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

__ private
x public-local
__ public-State
__ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

x building(s)
__ district
__ site
__ structure
__ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN SOUTH CAROLINA , ca. 1895-1954

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education
Subcategory: school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Work In Progress
Subcategory:

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt shingle
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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)

x 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

__ a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
__ b removed from its original location.
__ c a birthplace or a grave.
__ d a cemetery.
__ e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
__ f a commemorative property.
__ g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Education

Period of Significance

1937-1952

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.38 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	345397	3850825	3	17		
2	17			4	17		

___See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bradley S. Sauls (with assistance from G. Anne Sheriff and Luther Johnson, Jr.)
organization South Carolina Department of Archives and History date May 2002
street & number 8301 Parklane Road telephone (803) 896-6172
city or town Columbia state SC zip code 29223

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.
Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Liberty
street & number PO Box 716, 206 W. Front Street telephone 864-850-3505
city or town Liberty state SC zip code 29657

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended(16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative Description

The Liberty Colored High School is located at the intersection of South Carolina Highway 93 (East Main Street) and Rosewood Street in the town of Liberty in Pickens County, South Carolina. The school's location is less than half a mile from the center of Liberty's downtown area. The school is surrounded by residential property and a small stand of trees to the north, separating it from a county sheriff and emergency services complex. Construction of the school was completed in 1937 on a lot that today comprises 1.38 acres. The main façade of the building faces SC 93. The school is situated at the rear of the lot, which is largely an asphalt parking lot in front, and a grassy playground area in the rear surrounded by a chain link fence.

The school is a one-story brick structure with a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roof and a small projecting wing at the south end which is the primary entrance to the building. The primary entrance faces SC 93 and has a front-facing gable that intersects the main roofline. A second entrance, also at the south end of the building, faces Rosewood Street. There is a third entrance at the opposite end of the building facing the tree line at the northern boundary of the property.

The primary entrance is a projecting wing with three brick arches, embellished with cast stone keys and imposts. A circular, louvered vent is set in the center of the façade above the center arch and also features cast stone keys. In alignment with the two outer arches are double-leaf doors capped by fanlight transoms. The doors each have windows of six panels. The second entrance (facing Rosewood Street), repeats the design and features of the primary entrance and projects from this end of the building. At this entrance, however, there is only a single set of double-leaf doors at the central arch, capped by a fanlight transom. There is also a bronze plaque at this entrance that reads "Built by Works Progress Administration 1935-1937". The north wall of the primary entrance, perpendicular to the main wing of the building, has a tripartite window with nine-over-nine light, double-hung wood sashes. The south wall of the entrance has a tripartite window flanked by paired windows, all with nine-over-nine light, double-hung wood sashes.

The length of the building, on the east and west sides, has somewhat irregular window fenestration patterns. The classrooms are lighted by tripartite windows flanked with a single window on each side. These windows are nine-over-nine light wood sashes. There are two narrow windows with six-over-six light wood sashes. At the north end of the building, paired windows, all with nine-over-nine sashes, flank the tripartite window.

The entrances at the south end of the school open into the auditorium. Original hardwood floors remain in the assembly space as well as on the stage at the west end of the auditorium. The original beaded board ceiling also survives with fluorescent lighting the only modern intrusion. The auditorium was historically used for assembly space and was later used for indoor athletic and recreational activities. The stage doubled as a dining area for students eating their lunches prepared in the kitchen behind the stage. The kitchen is no longer extant, but the area is still accessible through a doorway at the rear of the stage. A doorway on the south end of the stage provides access to the basement. A doorway on the north end provides access to a small corridor and office space.

The classroom wing is accessible from the auditorium via a four-step staircase through double doors. The classroom wing is perpendicular to the auditorium, running north to south. This wing has a central hall flanked by three classrooms on the east side, and a classroom and offices on the west side. Each classroom has two transom windows, still operable, to provide light and ventilation. Walls dividing two of the classrooms on the east side of the school were removed in the fall of 2001 in preparation to renovate the building for use as a municipal office complex. Those plans were cancelled and no further wall or partition removal has taken place. Beaded board ceilings remain throughout the classrooms and central hallway. Fluorescent lights are the only modern intrusion.

The walls that were removed in 2001 not only divided the classrooms, but also provided corridors to two separate stairways, one each on the east and west sides of the building, providing access to the basement. The basement contained separate girls and boys restrooms. In the 1950s, these restrooms were abandoned and the stairways were sealed. The former stairway corridors were converted to restroom facilities. The fixtures have since been removed and the building currently has no functioning restrooms. Restrooms will be restored to the building in 2002 as part of interior renovations to make the building functional as a youth center.

The basement is also accessible by exterior stairways below grade on the east and west sides of the building. These below grade entrances have been locked and closed off for many years. The basement is also accessible by a doorway on the south end of the building near the secondary entrance on Rosewood Street. The basement is an unfinished space and is cluttered with ductwork for a modern climate control system.

In 2002, the owner of the building, the City of Liberty, leased the school to Liberty First Baptist Church for use as a youth activity center. The church plans minor interior renovations in keeping with the historic character of the building.

Statement of Significance

The Liberty Colored High School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the history of education in Liberty and Pickens County. It is one of the last remaining buildings in the county associated with the history of segregated education for blacks. The school was in continuous use from its completion in 1937, through the end of segregation in 1969-70, until the last year of its service as a special education facility in the Pickens County School District in the 1990s.

The town of Liberty was established between 1873 and 1875, and incorporated in 1876, along the Air Line Railroad between Atlanta and Charlotte in the south central part of Pickens County. Formal education for blacks in Liberty was established as early as 1899 at New Hope Baptist Church, less than a mile southwest of the current building on SC Highway 93 (East Main Street). A wood frame school was erected adjacent to the church in 1900. This school was replaced ca. 1922 (possibly with assistance from the Julius Rosenwald Fund) with another wood frame building at the corner of SC 93 and Rosewood Street. It was destroyed by fire on December 27, 1935.[1]

With money for education scarce during the Great Depression, South Carolina lacked the funds to construct new schools or repair existing facilities. Hundreds of schools in the state lacked basic water and toilet facilities, and the majority of wood-frame black schools were unpainted or unfinished. Without assistance from Federal New Deal era programs, much-needed school construction would not have happened. From 1936-1937, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) assisted with repairing, remodeling, and rebuilding 290 school buildings in South Carolina, including several black schools. By 1943, the WPA had built, added to, or improved over 2,000 schools in South Carolina, along the way raising the quality of facilities for all school children, black and white.[2]

After fire destroyed the Liberty school in 1935, black students temporarily attended classes at New Hope Baptist Church and Robinson Chapel Methodist Church. A new brick school for blacks was erected in Liberty with federal assistance from the WPA in 1937. Additional funding came in the form of insurance money (replacement value of old school was $3,500.00) from the state's Sinking Fund Commission, and local contributions.[3]

The new school was called Liberty Colored Junior High School and included grades one through nine. By 1945, the tenth and eleventh grades had been added and the name changed to Liberty Colored High School. In 1949, the school added the twelfth grade and was fully accredited. The school employed seven teachers that year with an enrollment of over 130 students. The school term had recently been extended to 180 days.[4]

The new brick Liberty Colored High School was a significant improvement in facilities for black students in Pickens County. Large, well-lighted classrooms greeted the students who arrived for their first day at the new school in 1937. Classes in agriculture, carpentry, and home economics provided practical instruction. By the late 1940s, the school had a modestly equipped science laboratory and home economics room in the basement. The disparities inherent in segregated education, however, continued to put black students in the Liberty area at a disadvantage. The limited funds provided by state government were supplemented by donations from parents and the community. The Parent-Teacher Association purchased books for the school library. The "library" at Liberty Colored High was actually a series of small bookshelves in each classroom. Students built the bookshelves. Textbooks for the Colored school were often second-hand discards from the white school. Even janitorial supplies came from the white school in the form of used, worn brooms and mops.[5]

The Liberty Colored High School was one of two high schools for blacks in Pickens County, serving Liberty, Norris, Central, Clemson, and rural areas in between. Students who lived too far from school to walk had to arrange their own

transportation. Parents usually delivered their children to school from more distant locales, but in the late 1940s a bus service provided another option. J. D. Black, a future mayor of Liberty, started a private bus line. For a subscription fee, black students from Norris and Central could ride the bus to the school at Liberty. Black's bus service ran until the county school district began offering bus service ca. 1950.[6]

The other black high school in Pickens County was Simpson in Easley. Liberty's school was the largest and most modern of the two until a new brick Simpson school was built in 1949. In 1955 the two high schools were consolidated into the new Clearview Colored High School in Easley. The old Liberty Colored High became an elementary school and was renamed Rosewood after the street where it was located. Rosewood Elementary School contained grades one through seven. When segregation ended about 1970, Rosewood Elementary was gradually merged with the white Liberty Elementary. After Rosewood Elementary ceased to exist, the building was later renamed Rosewood Center and continued to be used by the Pickens County School District for special education classes plus other adult and teacher education programs into the 1990s.[7]

In March 2001, the School District sold the school to the City of Liberty. In October 2001 the City began a renovation project for the purpose of converting the school into a municipal office complex. The plans called for major interior demolition and the addition of a new entrance wing. When a new mayor and council were elected in November 2001, they cancelled the project just after some interior walls had been demolished. The planned new entrance wing was not constructed, preserving the historic character of the exterior. Despite the loss of an interior wall separating two classrooms, the overall historic integrity of the building has not been lost. In 2002, the City agreed to lease the building to the Liberty First Baptist Church for use as a youth activity center. The church will make minor interior repairs (including the addition of restrooms) and maintain the historic character of the building.[8]

Notes

1 Julia Jean Woodson and G. Anne Sheriff, Liberty, South Carolina: One Hundred Years, 1876-1976 (Central, SC: Faith Clayton Family Research Center, Central Wesleyan College, 1992), 2-3, 40-42 ; School District of Pickens County, A History: The Schools of Pickens County (Pickens, SC: n.p., n.d.), 151-153, 249-250.

2 South Carolina Superintendent of Education, Sixty-Ninth Annual report of the State Superintendent of Education of the State of South Carolina, 1937 (Columbia, SC: General Assembly of South Carolina, 1938), 51; Sharmila Bhatia, et al, A Brief History of South Carolina Schools from 1895 to 1945 (Columbia, SC: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 1989), 51-53; Jack Irby Hayes, Jr., South Carolina and the New Deal (Columbia, SC: University of South Caroilna Press, 2001), 58-60.

3 F. C. Robinson, Secretary of Sinking Fund Commission of South Carolina, letter to Jesse D. Gillespie, Pickens County Treasurer, 7 February 1936.

4 Luther Johnson, Jr., interview by author, 16 March 2002.; Betty Hendricks, "History and Present Status of the Negro Schools of Pickens County, South Carolina" (M.A. Thesis, Furman University, 1949), 50-55.

5 Ibid.

6 Johnson, Jr.

7 Ibid.

8 Erika Haavie, "Historic Liberty school being transformed into City Hall," The Greenville (SC) News, 9 October 2001; Jean Scott, "Historic school won't be new Liberty City Hall," Anderson (SC) Independent-Mail, 16 January 2002; Sara Harvey, "Liberty seeks ideas on how to use old Rosewood school," The Greenville (SC) News, 17 January 2002; Jean Scott, "School could soon be church program," Anderson (SC) Independent-Mail, 20 March 2002.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the nominated property is indicated by the heavy black line on the accompanying Pickens County Tax Map (Tax Map Number G15-10-0270).

Boundary Justification

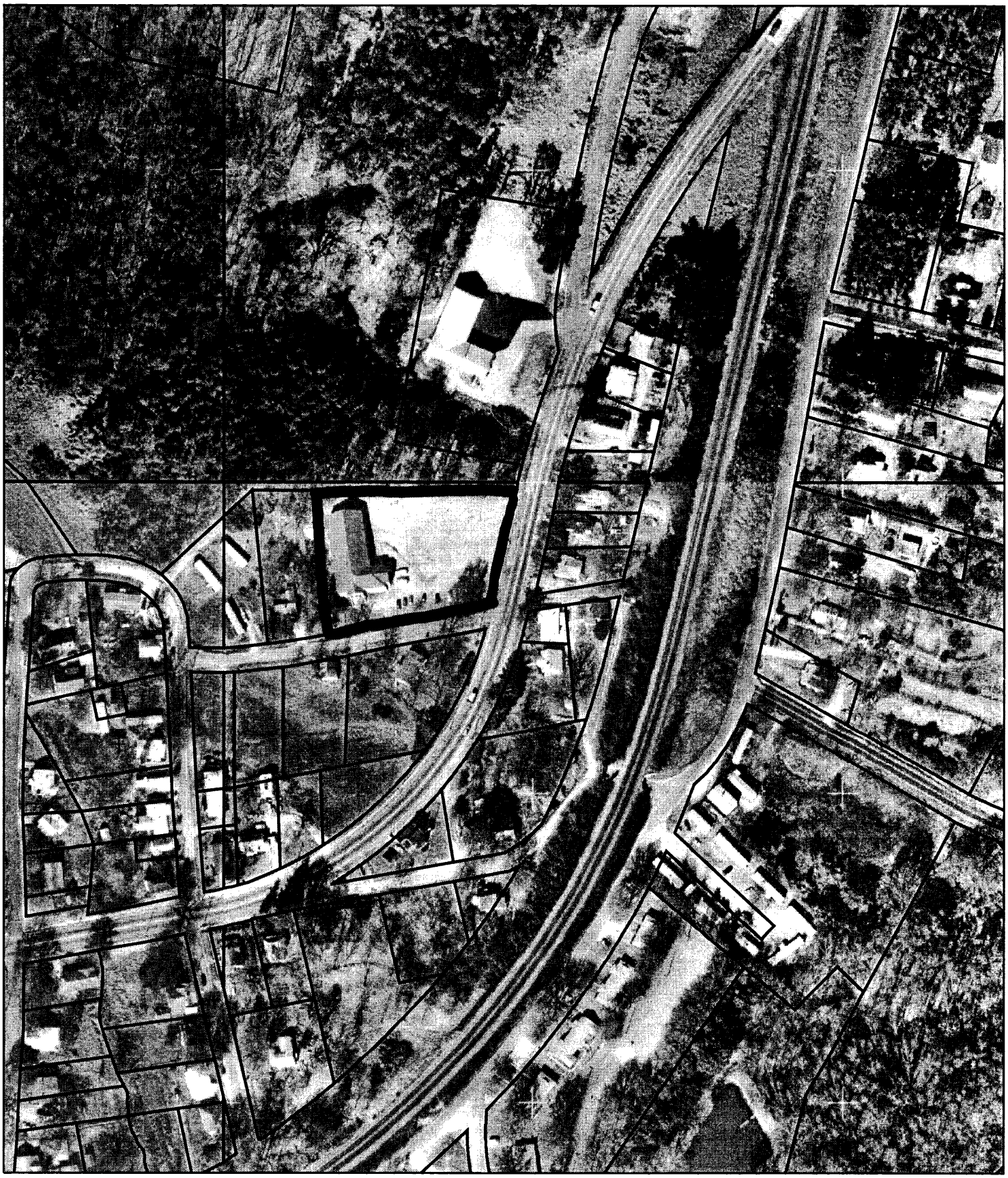
The nominated acreage contains the school and its associated grounds.

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Liberty Colored High School (Rosewood School)
Location of Property: Liberty, Pickens County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: Bradley S. Sauls
Date of Photographs: March 16, 2002
Location of Original Negatives: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, 8301 Parklane Rd, Columbia, SC 29223

1) Main (East) façade and primary entrance
2) SE oblique view
3) South entrance
4) East façade, facing SW
5) East façade
6) Primary entrance, facing NW
7) Beaded board ceiling at primary entrance
8) South entrance with steps from Rosewood St., facing north
9) W.P.A. plaque at South entrance
10) South entrance, facing NE
11) West façade, with playground equipment in foreground
12) West façade, facing SE
13) North entrance, facing SW
14) North entrance
15) Auditorium, facing SW
16) Auditorium facing west
17) Auditorium facing primary entrance and NE
18) Auditorium facing primary entrance and E
19) Auditorium facing primary entrance and SE
20) Steps from auditorium leading to classroom wing, facing north
21) Auditorium, steps from south end of stage leading to basement
22) Office, south end of classroom wing
23) Classrooms on east side of building, facing NE
24) Classrooms on east side of building, facing NW
25) Transom window in classroom on east side of building
26) Exterior stairs below grade leading to basement on east side of building



PICKENS COUNTY

South Carolina

Tax Map

N

0 50 100 Feet

DISCLAIMER:
This map is prepared for the inventory of real property found within this jurisdiction, and is compiled from recorded deeds plats and other public records and data. Users of this map are hereby notified that the aforementioned public primary information sources should be consulted for verification of the information contained on this map. Pickens County assumes no legal responsibility for the information contained on this map.

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Map produced by:
Pickens County GIS Mapping
March 27, 2002

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 03000270

Property Name: Liberty Colored High School

County: Pickens State: South Carolina

_____
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Linda McClellan April 18, 2003
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 3: Certification:

The missing items for the certification statement are hereby marked to indicate that the action being requested is a nomination and that the SHPO believes the property meets the National Register criteria. This corresponds to the State's forwarding letter and has been confirmed by the State staff.

The South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)