

**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 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 Marysville School

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Sunny Acres Rd. _____ not for publication

city or town Pacolet _____ X vicinity

state South Carolina code SC county Spartanburg code 083 zip code 29373

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 ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

___ 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):

Marysville School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

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)

<input type="checkbox"/> private district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing buildings	Noncontributing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local sites
1	0	0	0	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	
		1	0	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Education Subcategory: School

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: Vacant Subcategory:

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation – Brick
walls –Wood – Weatherboard
roof - Shingle
other

Narrative Description

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

Marysville School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

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.

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

Ethnic Heritage-Black

Period of Significance

1915-1954

Significant Dates

1915, ca. 1950

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pacolet Manufacturing Co.

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:

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Page 4

Marysville School
Name of Property

Spartanburg, SC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property .52

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1 <u>17</u>		3 <u>17</u>	
2 <u>17</u>		4 <u>17</u>	

___ 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 Brian Robson

organization _____ date December 8, 2005

street & number 131 Hawkins Acres Road telephone (864) 579-7639 city or

town Spartanburg state SC zip code 29307

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 Town of Pacolet

street & number PO Box 278 telephone 864-474-9504

city or town Pacolet state South Carolina zip code 29372

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.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

The Marysville School is a one and a half story, three room school building located at the corner of Knuckles St. and Sunny Acres Rd. in the Town of Pacolet, on the eastern side of Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Marysville School resembles a Gabled Ell structure, with its "L" shape, but this is due to the addition of a third room sometime prior to 1950, and not, it seems, as a specific design effort.

The school was built in 1915 by the Pacolet Manufacturing Company for the families living in the Marysville Community of Pacolet. The community was made up of the families of the Manufacturing Company's colored workers, and the school was used to educate the children of the community.

The front of the building faces south towards Sunny Acres Rd. From this angle, the Gabled Ell appearance is seen, with a room built at a right angle to the rest of the structure. This room was added to the building some time between 1935 and 1950 to accommodate the growing population of students to the school. There are a total of three entrances to the building on the front façade. One entrance is located on the original portion of the structure, facing south towards Sunny Acres Rd. Two other doors are located on the addition and face west towards Knuckles St. The middle door opens into a small hallway between the two classrooms in the original portion of the building, with the two surrounding doors opening directly into classrooms. Two small, square windows are located on the addition on the front façade, both facing towards Sunny Acres Rd. These windows appear to have been one-over-one windows, but they have been boarded and this can not be verified.

The doors are accessed by a small set of brick stairs that lead up to a covered porch that is supported by three Doric columns on the front-left corner of the porch. Located next to this porch on the ground can be seen the semi-circular, block outlined remains of a small landscape area.

The school was built on a slight hill which descends from front to rear. This can be seen from the right side of the structure, as the front portion of the right façade is one level, and ending with a second, lower level being present on the rear portion of the right façade. The upper level of this façade contains ten double-hung sash windows stretching the entire length of the façade. Six small, rectangular windows are located on the rear portion of the lower level of this façade.

From the rear of the structure both levels of the school become clear. The lower level contains a total of three entrances. One small door is located on the lower left of the rear façade, which is covered by a small overhang. Photos taken of this portion of the school in 1935¹ do not show a door in this location at that time, so it must have been added some time after 1935. Two small, rectangular windows are located to the right of this door, also added after 1935, and two one-over-one windows are located above this door on the upper level. The right side of the rear façade contains two entrances on the lower level. Both of these doors were also added after 1935. There was a door present prior to then, but it was located on the left side of this portion of the façade. That door has been bricked-in, and a small rectangular window was put in its place. The door now present on the far right appears to have been the location of a window originally, but it was converted into a door post 1935. A total of two small, rectangular windows are located to the left of the current doors on the lower level. There are five double-hung sash windows on the upper level of this portion of the rear façade.

The left façade of the school contains one small, rectangular window on the lower level that has been boarded, with two additional windows, also now covered, located on the upper level of this façade.

¹ State of South Carolina School Building Survey, Pacolet Mills Colored School, 18 Mar. ,1935, SCDAAH, L 42259, FR. 493-514.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

The main level of the interior, accessed only by the entrances located on the front of the building, contains three rooms separated by a small hallway. All of these rooms are square in design, and all are roughly the same size. These rooms were used as the classrooms. The two classrooms that are located adjacent to one another are the original rooms, built in 1915. They were separated by folding doors, which could slide open or closed as needed. These sliding doors are still in place. The third room is located in the addition, and was built sometime between 1935 and 1950. This room is separated from the other two classrooms by a small hallway. All of these rooms still contain their original slate boards, as well as their original floors and walls.

As mentioned above, there are three other entrances located on the lower level of the rear portion of the school. The small door on the left side of the rear lower level leads into a small kitchen area, while the other two doors on the right side open into storage spaces.

Originally built in 1915, the school appears to have undergone few changes between then and 1935, when Marysville School was inventoried and described in a state school building survey performed by the Works Progress Administration. At some time after this, the growing student population forced a need to build the additional room onto the original structure, and it seems likely that the doors and windows added on the rear portion of the building would have been added at the same time. Although the exact date these changes were made is not known, a local resident, and one-time student of Marysville, Betty Littlejohn, states that they were there when she went to school, which was prior to 1950.²

² Betty Littlejohn, interview with the author, Mar. 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

The Marysville School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, for its association with the history of segregated society in upstate South Carolina. The school was built by the Pacolet Manufacturing Company in 1915 to educate the children of the black families that worked in the mills in Pacolet, and served in that function until it was closed in 1954.

By the early 20th century, the mills owned by the Pacolet Manufacturing Co. at a place on the Pacolet River on the eastern side of Spartanburg County known then as Trough, and now as Pacolet, were thriving. The area around the mills would grow with the mills, as homes provided for the mill workers would be built by the Manufacturing Co. One such area built by the Manufacturing Co. would become known as Marysville. In many ways, it was similar to the other homes of the mill village. Described as, "...four rows of houses...and you could see from one end to the 'nother."³ Unlike the other homes, however, these homes were built specifically for the colored mill workers and their families.

Originally called Gilliam Town, the name of this village was changed to Marysville, after Mary Brown Knuckles, the lady that would bring Marysville School to the residents of that community.⁴ The community was built by the Pacolet Manufacturing Co. in order to keep the colored workers and their families separate from the white workers. It was not just the houses that were segregated, everything in the village at that time, as was common in the south during the first half of the 20th century, was segregated. Not only did the colored mill workers have their own community, they were not allowed to have the same jobs in the mills that white workers did. In fact, they were not even allowed to have jobs inside the mills. The colored workers were outside workers, taking care of the landscape, cleaning bathrooms, etc.⁵ The same was also the case for educating the children of the colored workers, as well. Confronted with the dilemma of "separate but equal," and, apparently, with the help of Mary Brown Knuckles, the Pacolet Manufacturing Co. built a school for the residents of Marysville in 1915.

More than 75 years after attending Marysville School, Ola Smith would recount what it was like: "At the time,[1925] when I started, it was just two rooms...they had more than one grade in the room...it was up to fourth or fifth grade in the first room, and the other side was bigger children...They had folding doors in between...[and] they would close the doors so that one class wouldn't disturb the other one..."⁶ Marysville School would be even more thoroughly described in 1935, when the Works Progress Administration surveyed the school for the State of South Carolina School Building Survey. Known in this survey as the Pacolet Mills Colored School, it describes in fascinating detail the condition and make-up of the school as it was in 1935. In one section it describes the size of the two classrooms. Room #1, which was used for grades 3-6, measured 30 feet in width by 23 feet in length. Room #2, used by grades 1 and 2, was almost identical; measuring 29 feet wide by 23 feet long.⁷ Other information was also made clear by this survey which gave evidence of the neglect the school was in by this time. The survey lists 2 pit toilets used by the students, which were in poor condition. The general cleanliness of the toilet was listed as "bad" and was not satisfactorily screened from flies.⁸ In addition, the coal heating system was listed as to not being in use because of bad condition.⁹ It was not all bad, however. The school did have the means to serve hot lunches to the students¹⁰, and the overall condition of

³ Teter, Betsy Wakefield, ed., *Textile Town: Spartanburg County, South Carolina*, Hub City Writers Project, Spartanburg, SC: 2002, p. 126.

⁴ Trowell, Ruth Watson, *Pacolet Mills: A Village Called Trough*, Spartanburg, SC: 1998, p. 23.

⁵ *Textile Town*, 126.

⁶ *Textile Town*, 126.

⁷ State of South Carolina School Building Survey, Pacolet Mills Colored School, 18 Mar. ,1935, SCDAH, L 42259, FR. 493-514, p. 4.

⁸ School Building Survey, 7.

⁹ School Building Survey, 8.

¹⁰ School Building Survey, 8.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

the school was listed as being in "...very good shape."¹¹ Also attached to this survey is a sketch of the floor plan, and pictures of the school.

It is apparent from the sketch, as well as the photos, that the building underwent many changes after 1935. The most obvious change was the addition of a third classroom, built at a right angle to the front of the building. In addition, changes were made to add a kitchen in the lower level on the rear of the school. Although the exact date these changes were made it not known, Betty Littlejohn, a former student at the school, states they were made before 1950.¹²

Regardless of these changes, the school would become obsolete by 1954. Not because of inadequate facilities, but, due to the decision of the Supreme Court in the landmark *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. In that case, the Supreme Court decided that segregating schools was illegal under the constitution. All schools were to become integrated, making Marysville School unnecessary. By then, the mills, houses, and Marysville School were the property of the Milliken Corporation. In 1998, Marysville School was acquired by the nearby Montgomery Chapel Baptist Church. The Church would use the school sparingly, and it soon became a storage facility for pews, records, and so on. In 2004, the building was given to the Town of Pacolet, who plans to restore and preserve the school as a cultural location.

¹¹ School Building Survey, 14.

¹² Betty Littlejohn, interview with the author, Mar. 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

Bibliography

State of South Carolina School Building Survey, Pacolet Mills Colored School, 18 March 1935,
SCDAH, L 42259, FR. 493-514

Teter, Betsy Wakefield, Ed., *Textile Town; Spartanburg County, South Carolina*
Hub City Writers Project, Spartanburg, SC: 2002

Watson, Ruth Trowell, *Pacolet Mills: A Village Called Trough*: 1998.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 10

Verbal Boundary Description

N of Sunny Acres Road & S of Knuckles Street, Spartanburg County Tax Map # 7172-00

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is limited to the building and its grounds.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOGRAPHS Page 11

Name of Property: Marysville School
Location of Property: Sunny Acres Rd., Pacolet vicinity
Spartanburg County, S.C.
Name of Photographer: Brian Robson
Date of Photographs: August 26, 2006, and October 27, 2005.
Location of Original
Digital Images: South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. Façade
2. Façade/Addition, Door/Porch Detail
3. Facade, Door/Porch Detail
4. Right Elevation
5. Rear Elevation
6. Rear Elevation, Left Portion
7. Rear Elevation, Right Portion
8. Left Elevation
9. Classroom #1
10. Classroom #2
11. Classroom #2
12. Classroom #3, in Addition
13. Classroom #3, in Addition