

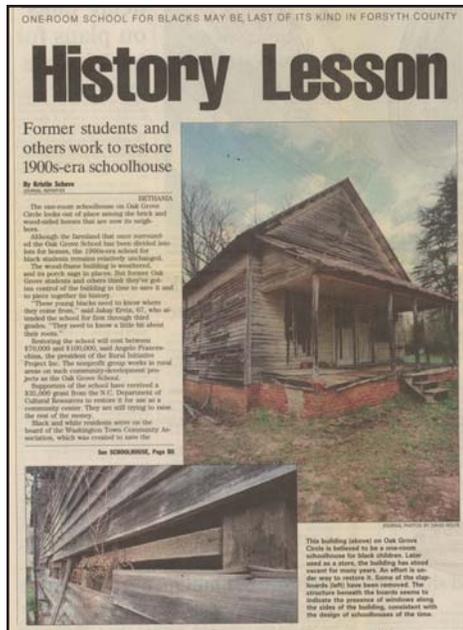
# HISTORIC MARKER PROGRAM

Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission

## Oak Grove School

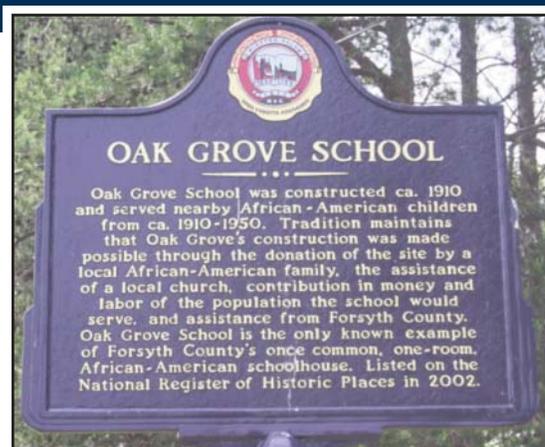
The Oak Grove School was built in 1910 and is significant in the areas of education and African-American history in Forsyth County. Oak Grove School served

local African-American children living in the Washington Town community near Bethania from circa 1910 to circa 1950. Oral tradition suggests that Oak Grove's construction was made possible through the donation of the site by a local African-



American family, the assistance from a local church, contributions in money and labor of the population the school would serve, and some assistance from the County. This combination of support is consistent with the pattern of grassroots funding necessary for African-American school construction across the South in the early 20th century.

At the time of Oak Grove's construction, one-room schools were extremely common. During the 1910s, over 80% of North Carolina's African-American students attended school in one of 1,934 one-room schools. For about the first 25 years, one teacher instructed six, and later seven grades in Oak Grove's single room. As more schools were consolidated, only one or two grades were taught at the school in its last fifteen years of operation. By 1947, Oak Grove School was one of only nine one-room schools still operating in Forsyth County. The school closed sometime in the 1950s. A grocery store opened in the building in 1953, which operated for 10-15 years. In 1998, the building began undergoing a sympathetic restoration. Today, Oak Grove School is the only known extant example of Forsyth County's once common one-room African-American schoolhouse, as well as being the sole link to the



Washington Town's thriving community at the turn of the 20th century.

The one-story, weatherboarded, front-gable-roofed school features a shed-roofed front porch supported by square posts spanned by a wood railing; bands of large six-over-six sash windows on both side elevations; a brick stovepipe chimney; a rear shed addition with German siding; exposed rafter ends; and a new metal roof. The building is now being used as a museum space and a community center.

In 2002, Oak Grove School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and in 2003, it was designated as a Forsyth County Local Historic Landmark.



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Oak Grove School National Register Nomination

<http://www.visitnc.com/listings/view/48493>



This information is also available at the Forsyth County Historic Resources Commission's web site: <http://www.ForsythCountyHRC.org>