

Help... Rescue and Restore



**Brief
History
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sheet**

Lucasville School for Colored Children

We need:

- Photos and anecdotes**
- Descriptions of furniture, contents**
- 1865 American Flag**
- Artifacts from school and era**
- Memorabilia and copies of records**
- Early Books/teaching materials**

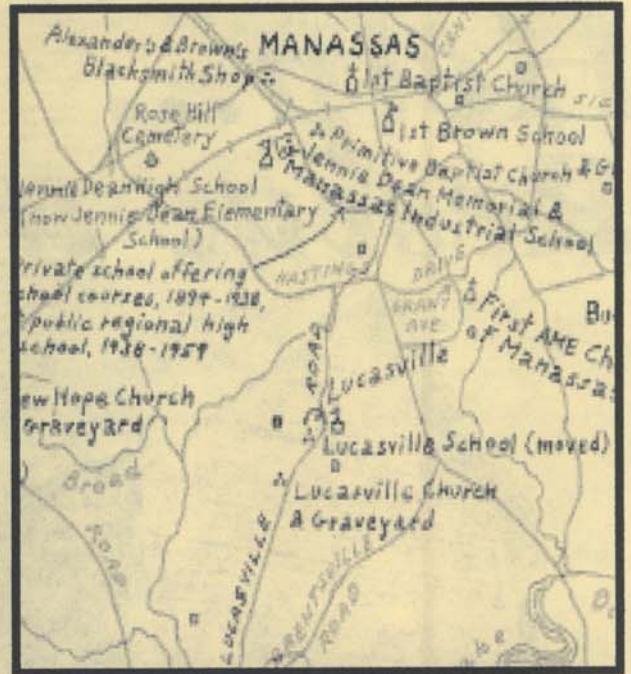


**Come to meeting July 22, 7:30 p.m., McCoart Building for
information and to lend support**

The Lucasville School (Manassas School District #5 (Colored))

was authorized in November of 1883 to serve the black children who lived near the community of Lucasville. The schoolhouse and the fuel to heat it were to be provided by the patrons. Mr. George H. Harris was appointed teacher at a salary of \$25.00 per month. However, the school was closed before original opening do to legal problems and everyone compensated for furniture, fuel and building which had been donated.

Problems were ironed out and school reopened for the 1884-85 school year. At an October 1884 School Board meeting, patrons petitioned for a new schoolhouse to be built on the road to Brentsville on the land of Edward Francis. The Board approved the plan and decreed that a schoolhouse could be built on the site using blueprints earlier used for the District's Bradley School. H.W. Lloyd was awarded the bid on November 8, 1884 to build the school for \$267.13. The final payment on the land was made 2 years later. The new building was located at the intersection of Lucasville Road and Gordon Drive. It is today on the Fletcher farm close to that intersection. It was the only public building in the community of more than 100 persons.



Map section from African-American Heritage of Prince William County by Eugene M. Scheel, Waterford, Virginia October 2000

In February, 1888, District School Board minutes show the school again threatened with closure due to low enrollment, but the board decided that in fairness to the teacher and "good students", the school would be kept open as long as ten students came each day.

Because low enrollment plagued the school, it was closed for the rest of the year in February, 1893. The following school year, 1893-94, figures showed that Lucasville school was the most costly of the colored elementary schools to operate, at an average of \$10.00 per student. Nevertheless, in July, 1894, the Board ordered the school to be open for seven months because it had maintained an average daily attendance of twenty-one students the previous year.

In the autumn of 1901, the Manassas District School Board decided to put the school and one acre of land up for sale to the highest bidder and consolidate the students with the Brown School of Manassas. Apparently, no sale occurred because on August 23, 1906, the School Board voted to postpone the reopening of the school as petitioned for by the patrons. The next year the school opened and Mr. William Taylor was hired to teach for 5 months at a salary of \$25.00 per month. It was still open in 1912 when Alice A. Taylor was hired at a salary of \$30.00 per month for a seven months school year. The higher salary and longer school year indicate success in the Lucasville School.

In 1926, the school closed for good and this time the students really were bused to Brown School in Manassas which had just opened its new building. On December 7, 1927, Prince William County School Board member Mr. D. J. Arrington was authorized to sell the school building and its lot and no further mention was made of the Lucasville School. Since that time, it has served as a farm outbuilding on the Fletcher farm and is in need of repair considering the lack of attention it has been given.

School history from **Yesterday's Schools** by Lucy Walsh Phinney, 1993.

Information on materials relating to the Lucasville school may be sent:

c/o Mr. Bob Bainbridge
Prince William Historical Commission
McCoart Building
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, VA 22192

To give additional information, please call:

• Sara B. Anderson, Chairman, Prince William
Historical Commission - (703) -791- 5822

or

• Lillian Gaskill - (703) 491-6982