

# Chestnut Consolidated School (CCS)

*“Historical Marker”*

*Presentation to the Alumni Association Committee*

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**1954 - 1970**



**David C. Wilson**

**March 6, 2011**

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## Objectives

- CWBAT\* understand the historical significance of the marker for Chestnut Consolidated High School.
- CWBAT\* understand the approval process and qualifications needed to obtain a historical marker.
- CWBAT\* understand why CCHS qualifies for a marker only and not some other historical physical indicator
- CWBAT\* get some ideas for the unveiling ceremony

\*Committee will be able to (CWBAT)

# CCS Historical Marker

## 1. What is a historic?

- ❑ Historic or historical refers to what is important in history. The two adjectives are often used interchangeably.

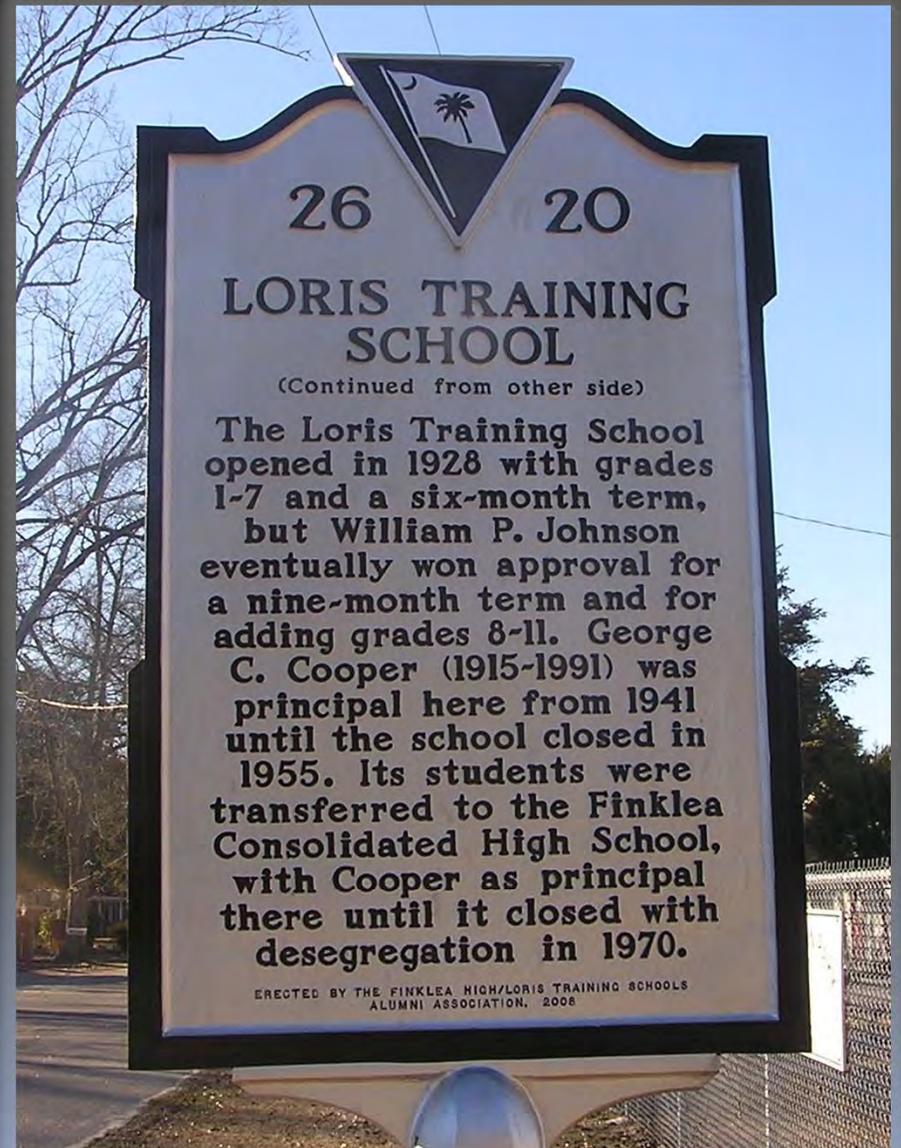
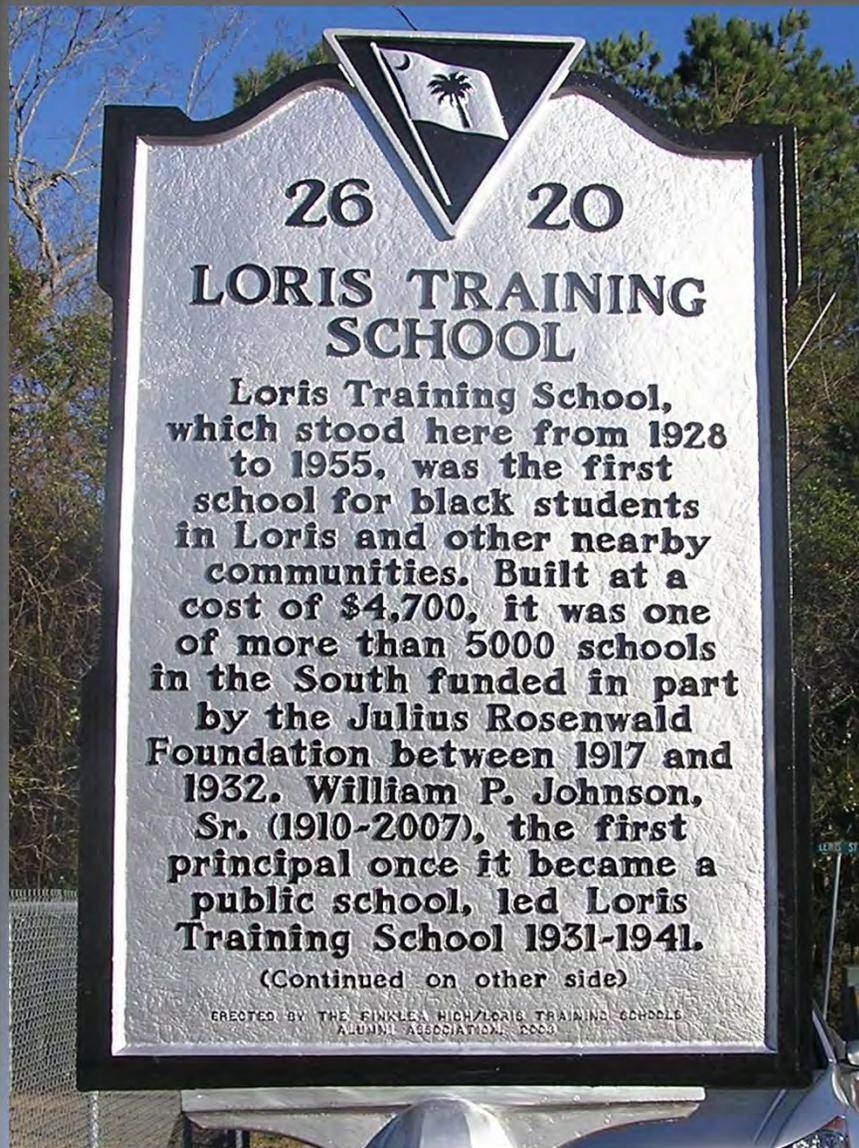
## 2. What is a historic or historical marker?

- ❑ A historical marker or historic marker is an indicator such as a plaque or sign to commemorate an event, institution or person of historic interest and to associate that point of interest with a specific locale that one can visit. It helps bring attention to community treasures and the importance of their preservation.

**Example: Loris Training  
School's Marker  
1928 - 1955**



# CCS Historical Marker – Example - Loris Training School (close-up view)



# CCS Historical Marker – Example - Levister Elementary School – Aynor, SC

## Levister Elementary School was built in 1953 as part of South Carolina Equalization Program

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### Aynor marker featured on national website

BY ROBERT ANDERSON  
STAFF WRITER

The historical marker at the old Levister Elementary School in Aynor is being featured as the Marker of the Week for the Historical Marker Database website.

Both sides of the marker, which was erected this past year by the Levister Development Activity Center, are featured on the website along with a photograph of the old school.

The photographs were shot on Feb. 13 by J.J. Prats, who started the database in 2006. Prats of Springfield, Va., made a stop in Aynor to take the pictures while vacationing in the North Myrtle Beach area.

"I come down here a couple of weeks in February to get away from the cold in

Northern Virginia," Prats said. "Every time I come down here, I check to see what went up and found Levister."

The photographs at Levister will remain on the website until Sunday when a marker in Pittsburgh, Pa., replaces it as Marker of the Week.

"I thought Levister was perfect for Black History Month," Prats said.

Built in 1953, Levister Elementary was one of the many African-American schools built under former S.C. Governor James F. Byrnes, as part of a program designed to preserve school segregation by building new schools for black children.

According to the marker, students in grades one through seven, who had previously attended the Allen, Cool Springs, Pleasant Hill and

Union Chapel schools began the 1953-54 school year at Levister Elementary. The last graduating class was the Class of 1969.

Levister, which is located at the intersection of 11th Avenue and Gum Street, was renamed Aynor Elementary School Annex by the Horry County School District in 1974. It was closed in 1997.

The school was named for Nellie Burke Levister, the first Jeanes teacher in Horry County, who held the post from 1922 until 1958. The Jeanes Fund, established in 1908, was also called the Negro Rural School Fund. Its supervising teachers were consultants for the rural teachers and schools in their counties.

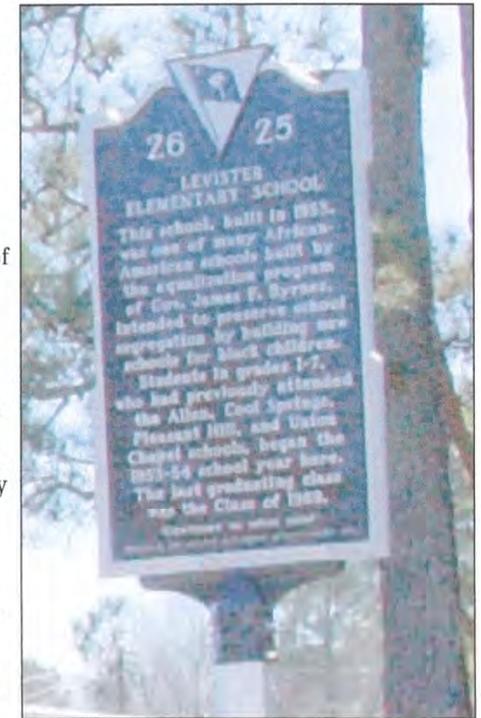
According to the database, there are at least eight other

historical markers within 14 miles of Levister, including ones commemorating the Holliday Highway, Galivants Ferry Stump Meeting, Battle of Blue Savannah, Benjamin Grier Collins, Conway High School, Conway First Methodist Church and The Wade Hampton Oak.

Although he isn't sure when they will be featured on the website, Prats said markers at Whittemore School in Conway and Chestnut Consolidated School in the North Myrtle Beach area will be featured sometime in 2011.

"We have volunteers traveling all over South Carolina making pictures," he said. "There are more than 36,000 across the United States and Canada."

To view the website, visit [www.hmdb.org](http://www.hmdb.org).



COURTESY

Historic marker is website Marker of the Week.

*\*Chestnut Consolidated School is mentioned in this paragraph.*

## CCS Historical Marker – Ex. Historic Site

### 3. What is a historic site?

- ❑ A historic site is an official location where pieces of political, military or social history have been preserved. This means any parcel of land whose historic significance is due to a substantial value in tracing the history in which a historic event has occurred, and which has been designated as a historic site. These Historic sites are usually protected by law, and many have been recognized with national historic site status.

#### Example



**Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**The above is a familiar National Historic site in state of Georgia. Most states will automatically include a national historic site in their state and local historic registers.**

## CCHS Historical Marker – Ex. Monument

### 4. What is a monument?

- ❑ A **monument** is a type of structure either explicitly created to commemorate a person or important event or which has become important to a social group as a part of their remembrance of past events.

**Example: Washington Monument**



### 5. Why does Chestnut Consolidated School/Chestnut Consolidated High School qualifies for a historic marker?

- Chestnut Consolidated School qualifies for a historical marker because it was established as part of South Carolina's Equalization Schools Program. The equalization program was implemented by S.C. Governor James F. Byrnes to build new elementary and high schools for black children across the state to circumvent a potential desegregation ruling by the Supreme court. Chestnut Consolidated School was established in 1954.
- The building has been completely demolished and a new building has been erected on the site; therefore, there is no possibility of any restoration activities.

## **CCHS Historical Marker – Process**

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### **6. What is the process for obtaining a marker?**

- File a former application with supporting documents and an application fee. In this case \$250.00.
- The wording is severely limited by the the number of characters state specification.
- The application is reviewed by the archives committee and additional documents are usually requested to substantiate the significance of the marker.

### **7. Why did the application process for CCHS take over 18 months?**

- The process was difficult for CCHS because all of the official records, that were kept by the South Carolina Finance Committee for Equalization Schools, were inadvertently lost. In light of this situation bits and pieces of information had to be collected to prove the construction, its existence, and where it was located, etc.
- The Horry County School District did supply construction drawings that showed all the construction additions over the years. These documents clearly proved that the school existed because they were marked-up up copies from the original copies.
- The presentation by D. Wilson at the Alumni banquet was submitted as an addendum and it turned out to be a significant piece of a supporting document for the approval process, especially with the older school buildings prior to CCHS. The presentation put a face on the school.

## CCHS Historical Marker – Its Significance

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### **8. What is the national significance of equalization schools?**

Equalization schools are considered significant under the National Register of Historic Places, Criterion A for historic trends in Education, and in Ethnic Heritage—Black, and Criterion C for architectural design trends typical of an era. 20. Most equalization schools will be significant at the local level of significance.

### **9. What is the status of the approval process for CCHS?**

The historic marker for Chestnut Consolidated School/Chestnut Consolidated High School received final approval on December 14, 2010. The final cost is \$1825.00.

### **10. Does this marker have any connection with any other future activities that might be done to commemorate the school?**

No, the marker is in recognition of the historic significance of the school and stands as an historic entity for Chestnut Consolidated School.

### **11. Why will name Chestnut Consolidated School instead of Chestnut Consolidated High School be placed at the top of the marker?**

- In addition to being a high school, the school also housed elementary and middle school students; therefore, its name had to be inclusive by leaving out the word “high” in the name.
- At the bottom of the marker, these words will be inscribed: Erected by the Chestnut Consolidated High School Alumni Association, 2011

# CCHS Historical Marker – cont'd

Map location for the marker on the grounds of North Myrtle Beach Middle School, formerly the site of Chestnut Consolidated School.



### Summary

- The marker was approved on December 14, 2010
- It is to be purchased from the state designated and approved manufacturer, Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio, for \$1825.00.
- The marker is and will be the only official historic symbol designating the former school location as an historic institution in the state of South Carolina and will be listed as such.
- There is no cost for the erecting the marker. SCDOT and the county will coordinate this task with D. Wilson.
- The exact location of the marker on the at North Myrtle Beach Middle School ground has been determined by Horry County Planning Department.
- The installation can be done on the same day as the ceremony. If the unveiling ceremony is held on the weekend, the marker will be installed and covered with a cloth material. Also, it can be installed ahead of the ceremony and covered with a cloth regardless of the day the ceremony is celebrated.

# CCHS Historical Marker

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## Unveiling Ceremony

- Review other unveiling ceremonies from similar schools as a guide for the format.
- Invite former teachers, students, the Board of Education Representative from the NMB attendance area.
- D. Wilson would like to coordinate the effort in getting HCS superintendent or a representative, at least one of Mr. Jacob Chestnut's grandchildren, and a descendant from the Briggs Family (*Clarendon County SC*).
- At least one person from the archives department in Columbia has expressed an interest in attending the unveiling ceremony.

*Note:*

*It is strongly recommended that in no way should we allow the ceremony to be hijacked by anyone looking to get in the news, make a name for themselves and/or push a political agenda. It should be short, solemn, dignified, and authentic!*

**END OF PRESENTATION**

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