



**HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION SHEET
PART 1—SIGNIFICANCE**

SECTION 1. APPLICATION INFORMATION

PROJECT NUMBER

Historic Property Name J.S. Wright High School

Property Address 700 Branch Street, Abbeville, SC

Historic District or National Register Property J.S. Wright High School

☐ National Register District ☐ Certified State or Local District

☒ Property with multiple buildings, including individually-listed properties and properties in a historic district (see Section 6)

Application received (date) 3-4-26

☒ Property visited by SHPO (date/s) 1/16/26

Additional information requested (date/s) _____

☐ Preliminary consultation (date) _____

Complete information received (date) _____

☒ Applicant informed of SHPO recommendation

Transmitted to NPS (date) 3-31-26

SECTION 2. APPLICATION MATERIALS

☒ Photographs (PDF) ☐ Photographs (up to 20 individual in folder) ☐ Historic District Map ☒ Other (list) Full RB NR Draft

☒ For properties with more than one building—map or site plan of the entire property and map or site plan of the portion of the property under applicant's ownership or control.

SECTION 3. SHPO RECOMMENDATION

Virginia E. Harness, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards, has reviewed this application.

Include names of any additional staff to be copied on NPS decisions Elizabeth Johnson

☐ The property contributes to the significance of the above-named district or National Register property and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.

☐ The property contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code.

☐ The property does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

☐ Insufficient documentation has been provided to evaluate the property.

☐ This application is being forwarded without recommendation.

Preliminary Determinations

☒ The property appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will be nominated individually.

☐ The property does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will not be nominated.

☐ The property appears to contribute to the significance of a:

☐ proposed historic district that appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be nominated.

☐ registered historic district, but is outside the period(s) or areas of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS. The nominated will be amended.

☐ The property is located in a proposed historic district and:

☐ the property does not appear to contribute to the significance of the proposed historic district.

☐ the proposed historic district does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will not be nominated.

3/31/2026

Date

Elizabeth M. Johnson

State Historic Preservation Office Signature

This is a review sheet only and does not constitute an official determination of the significance of the property.

SECTION 4. ISSUES

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Extensive loss or deterioration of historic fabric | ☐ Obscured or covered elevation(s) |
| ☐ Substantial alterations over time | ☐ Moved property |
| ☐ Significance less than 50 years old | ☐ Other (explain) |
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SECTION 5. HISTORIC DISTRICT OR PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION INFORMATION

The period(s) of significance of the district is 1954-1970.

The property is mentioned in the historic district documentation, section _____, page _____.

- ☐ Supplemental Listing Record requested. The property is located in a registered district, but its current condition is not consistent with the determination that it contributes or does not contribute to the district, as stated in the nomination.
- ☒ Preliminary Determinations. The state of the nomination for the property/historic district is:
- ☐ Nomination was submitted to the NPS on _____.
- ☒ Nomination was submitted to the State Review Board, and will be forwarded to the NPS within 1 months. Draft enclosed.
- ☐ Nomination process will likely be completed within thirty (30) months.
- ☐ Other, explain _____.
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SECTION 6. SHPO EVALUATION

Describe any problematic issues or concerns. For properties with more than one building, such as a functionally-related complex (identified in Section 1), list all contributing and non-contributing buildings, regardless of ownership, and specify the buildings that are under the applicant's ownership or control.

J.S. Wright High School is a historically Black high school located in Abbeville, SC. The property is eligible for listing at the local level under Criterion A: Education & Ethnic Heritage: Black and Criterion C: Architecture. The Modern school, initially constructed in 1954, was built under the state's equalization program, which sought to avoid integration by "equalizing" white and Black school plants. As a school newly constructed with state equalization funds, the property is eligible under the Equalization Schools of South Carolina, 1951-1960 MPDF for its educational history and architecture from 1954 through 1960. The school continued to be important to local Black educational history after 1960, as it was the county's only Black high school until integration in 1970. The school was expanded three times during the period of significance in 1959, 1962, 1965, with non-historic additions c. 1975. The campus features a Modern design typical of the proscribed design standards of the equalization program. Lyles, Bissett, Carlisle and Wolff, a Columbia-based firm known for their Modern designs, drafted plans for the original school and its historic additions. It is the only example of a newly constructed equalization school in Abbeville (two other schools had equalization additions/renovations). For National Register purposes, the campus includes three contributing buildings: the School Building (1954, 1959, 1962, 1965), Shop Building (1954, 1962, 1965, c. 1975), and the All-Purpose Room & Science Lab (1959, 1962), which was built separately and later connected to the School Building c. 1975. There are also two non-contributing structures on the property, a Utility Unit (c. 1975) and an Electrical Tower (c. 1975). The School Building has a modified E-shape plan, while the other two buildings are roughly rectangular, forming a sprawling campus with outdoor space between wings and buildings. The area around the school is heavily overgrown with vegetation. All buildings are one-story tall, apart from the double-height gym. The school buildings are defined by an austere Modern aesthetic. Each building features a jumbo red brick exterior, slanted roof, large banks of windows, and covered walkways. The interior areas are deteriorated but generally retain historic features and finishes, though in some areas drop ceilings are non-historic. The campus has had minimal alterations since 1970 and retains its historic integrity. The nomination for J.S. Wright High School was approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review on March 20, 2026 and will be forwarded to NPS no later than May 4, 2026. The application included Sections 7 & 8 of the draft nomination, and SHPO has provided the full Review Board draft as an additional point of reference. The SHPO supports the nomination of J.S. Wright High School to the National Register of Historic Places.

SECTION 7. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE EVALUATION