

Cornland School

a one-room school
located on Benefit Road



The History of the School

- Cornland School was built in 1902 for the education of African-American students.
- It was one of many little schools in Norfolk County, Virginia.
- It educated seven grades of students, until 1952 when Southeastern Elementary opened.



Why is Cornland School Important?

- It is the oldest pre-Rosenwald school in our area.
- It is located close to the site of an earlier school which may have existed as early as 1871.
- It symbolizes the respect of African-Americans for education during Reconstruction and segregation.



What Was the School Like?

- Small and simple:
20'X30'
- No indoor plumbing
- Heated by wood-burning stove in the middle of the building
- Students walked to school
- One teacher for seven grades



What is the Building Like Today?

- Paneling covers the original bead board.
- Platform and railing were added by a church.
- Some holes in floor and ceiling.



What is Cornland School Foundation?

- The Foundation is an organization which plans to restore the building and open it to community events.
- The Foundation is working to learn all it can about the school and its place in the educational history of African-Americans in Norfolk County, Virginia.
- The Foundation wants to encourage today's students to overcome obstacles to their own educations.
- The Foundations' members are members of the city's Historic Preservation Committee, retired and active school employees, the property owners where the school is located, and other interested citizens.

How Can You Help?

- Talk about us!
- Join us!
- Contribute
 - IDEAS
 - INFORMATION
 - EXPERTISE
 - TIME
 - MONEY

