

# 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

