

over the next few years are proof that it continued to provide education for the children of the surrounding farm community.

On January 14, 1895 the District Board ordered a new stove for the Allendale School to replace the old one which was found to be unsafe. The Board bought one for \$6.75 including freight from Manassas to Bristow. When the stove made it to Bristow, the Clerk of the Brentsville Board hauled it to the Allendale School taking the old stove to his home to await the Board's instructions.¹

In the summer of 1908, the School Board rescinded an earlier order to build a new Allendale school and instead ordered the consolidation of Allendale and Hazelwood Schools at Aden.² Records show that a group of parents from both the Allendale

¹Brentsville District School Board minutes of January 14, 1895, p.176.

²Brentsville District School Board minutes of July 31, 1908.

and Hazelwood school petitioned the School Board to keep the Allendale school open but it did not happen.

The Board decided to rent the Lodge Building at Aden for the consolidated school's use during the 1908-09 school year. In October of 1910, ten of Allendale's desks were given to the Brentsville Colored school; the rest of the desks, the maps and charts were given to the primary department of the Aden consolidated school. The Allendale Schoolhouse stood empty.

In July of 1911, sixteen citizens presented the School Board with a petition to re-open the Allendale School. The matter was tabled and one year later the school property was sold to W.F. Hale for \$105.³ By 1917 the old schoolhouse had been moved beside the barn on the nearby Beahm property where it was used as a granary for several years before it was torn down.

³Brentsville District School Board minutes of July 13, 1912

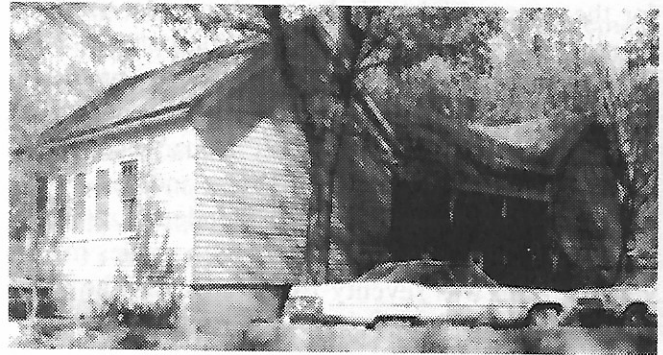
THE ANTIOCH (MURRAY)/ ANTIOCH/ANTIOCH-NORTH FORK SCHOOL

Gainesville School District #3
Colored
1871?-1953

The Antioch School was one of the northern group of four colored schools which also included Macrae, North Fork or Thoroughfare Colored, and Thornton Schools. During the course of its history, it has been located on three different sites, all in the foothills of Bull Run Mountain.

The first Antioch Schoolhouse was located about 0.6 miles south of the intersection of Jackson Hollow and Waterfall Roads.¹ No records remain which pinpoint the exact date of its opening but it was probably during the very early 1870's. Antioch was the third schoolhouse to be established by the Gainesville District School Board. It was a one-room

¹Private correspondence from Elizabeth Nickens to the author, 1992. Ms. Nickens' mother began her teaching career at the Antioch School in 1906.



*The Antioch-North Fork School as it looked in 1980
(Courtesy of PWC Historical Commission)*

schoolhouse up on a hill on land owned by the Murray family and was referred to, in the early years, as the Murray School. In 1879, Mr. Joshua Murray was appointed to teach the school for a salary of \$20 a month.² He may have been the teacher prior to that, but no records corroborate this. The Murray School served the black community around Waterfall for nearly ten years. When increased enrollment made a move to larger quarters necessary, the Antioch

²Gainesville District School Board Minutes Book of 1879.

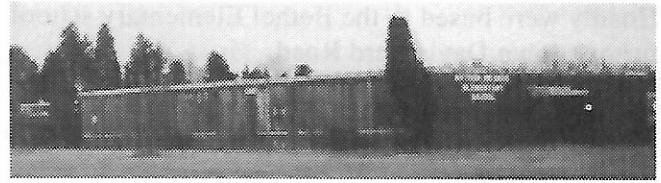
ANTIOCH-MACRAE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Gainesville School District
Colored, then desegregated in 1965
1953-1982

The Antioch-Macrae School opened in 1953 when several of the small colored schools in the Gainesville District were combined. Two of those small schools gave their names to the new consolidated building which, like its counterparts built during the early fifties, was built of cinder block covered with brick. The kitchen, cafeteria, office, five classrooms and two bathrooms had acoustical ceiling tiles and asphalt floor tiling.

Mr. Russell Fincham was named head teacher and unofficial principal of Antioch-Macrae when it opened in 1953. He wasn't officially named principal until 1959 despite the fact that, after spending a whole day teaching classes, he worked into the late afternoons doing administrative work. Throughout those years, he had neither a secretary nor even a telephone to make his task easier. At one time, Mr. Fincham even borrowed a county truck to drive, on his own free time, to Manhattan where a friend had arranged for him to pick up textbooks which were more up-to-date than those which the county supplied to his school.¹ He stayed at Antioch-Macrae

¹Alexandra B. Stoddard. "Four teachers were in the vanguard of change in schools", *Potomac News*, February 11, 1993, p.3.



*The Antioch-Macrae Elementary School,
abandoned in 1982.*

(Photo by the author)

until 1966 when he was hired to be the assistant principal of Jennie Dean Middle School. He was named principal there in 1977 and remained until his retirement in 1981.

Antioch-Macrae continued as a colored schoolhouse until "freedom of choice" became the desegregation policy of the Prince William County schools in 1965. In 1966, Antioch-Macrae was annexed to Gainesville Elementary School to house the kindergarten and first grades, thereby easing the overcrowded conditions which resulted from desegregation. The arrangement worked well and the two schools operated in that manner until 1982. At that time, the population of school age children in that area of the Gainesville District had declined and Tyler Elementary had opened, so the Antioch-Macrae Schoolhouse was no longer needed. Today children attend Tyler for kindergarten and first grade before moving down the road to Gainesville Elementary for grades 2-5. The Antioch-Macrae School sits abandoned and boarded up on the Antioch Road between Gainesville and Thoroughfare.

BACON RACE SCHOOL

Occoquan School District
White
1890?-1923

No records exist to document the year the Bacon Race one room school opened. The small frame building was located at the intersection of Davis Ford Roads and Bacon Race Roads (then called Telephone Road) across from the Bacon Race Church and served the children from the Hoadly area. Hoadly was a loosely organized community in the Hoadly-Bacon

Race-Davis Ford Road area of the county where the McCoart Administrative Center is now located. The people of Hoadly were mostly small farmers who also earned some money from timbering and making moonshine.¹

When no teacher could be found for the 1923-24 school year, the Bacon Race school was closed. Consolidation of the small schools at larger center schools was a major objective of the School Board at that time, too, so the closing was permanent. Beginning in September of 1923, the children from

¹Prince William County Historical Commission. *Home Place*. Prince William, Virginia, 1990, p.65.

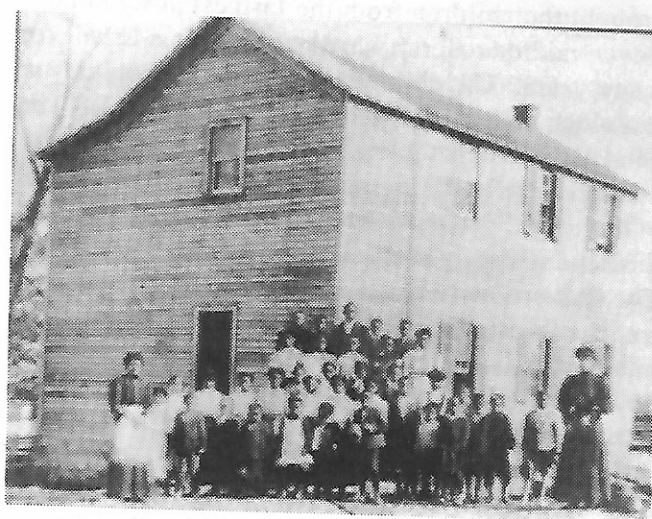
THE THOROUGHFARE COLORED/ NORTH FORK SCHOOL

Gainesville District #12
Colored
1884-1936

As early as February 1883, a group of black citizens from the Thoroughfare area of the County near Haymarket petitioned the School Board for a colored school but the Board denied their request at that time. Then, according to District School Board records of October 1884, Mr. Frank Fletcher brought to the Board a list of sixty black children who lived within a mile of the village of Thoroughfare. Twenty-five of them had never had proper school facilities. He requested that the patrons¹ be allowed to rent an available house and furnish it with desks for use as a school. He also asked that the Board pay the teacher's salary. This time the Board agreed, as did the County School Superintendent, and ordered that the school open in November as School #12 of the Gainesville District.

The following April the School Board decided to contract to have a proper schoolhouse built.² It was to be one room measuring 18'x28' with a ten foot high ceiling, three windows on each long side and one door. Tongue and groove panelling was to be used for both the floor and ceiling. In June the contract was awarded to Mr. Peyton for \$204.73; for an additional \$38 he agreed to repair the building, which had been serving as the school. On the fourth of July, 1885, the School Board travelled to Thoroughfare and chose a site on a knoll on the south side of the John Marshall Highway near the center of town about four-hundred feet from the station serving the Washington and Harrisonburg branch of the Southern Railroad.

In October of 1898, Mr. R.A. Jones, the teacher of the Thoroughfare colored school, reported to the School Board that his schoolhouse had been occupied for seventeen days over the summer by part of the 2nd Army Corps stationed at Thoroughfare. He stated that the Army had agreed to pay \$2 per day rent plus \$15 to repair damage to the schoolhouse and its



*The Thoroughfare/North Fork School in the early
20th century.*

(Courtesy of Mr. Howard Allen and Mrs. Betty Berry)

furnishings for a total of \$49, which the Clerk of the Gainesville District Board was directed to collect.³

Over the years, the little schoolhouse had begun to bulge at the seams with an ever growing number of students. The School Board refused to enlarge the building so the black citizens of Thoroughfare decided to add another room themselves. By 1899, they had a second room on top of the first and sheathed the whole in wood with a shingled roof. At first the stairway allowing access to the second floor was located outside the building, but in a few more years, the stairs were moved inside the front door.⁴

The two-room, two-teacher school continued to serve the black children of the community of Thoroughfare for thirty-six more years. At some point, the school became known as the North Fork School because of its location along the North Fork of Broad Run. Presumably it also took care of any confusion between the Thoroughfare White School and the Thoroughfare Colored School.

Large families, with twelve to fifteen children were not unusual in the largely rural area and thus a long and steady stream of pupils was assured. Most lived in or very near the village where their families farmed mostly corn and wheat but some came from as far as four or five miles away. As the roads improved and transportation was available, a school bus

¹Parents and friends of the Thoroughfare School.

²Gainesville District School Board minutes of April 4, 1885.

³Gainesville District School Board minutes of October 1, 1898.

⁴Oral history with Howard Allen, Betty Berry and Mary Fields by the author in 1991.