
Lucasville School: A Small, but Significant Building in Prince William County



Reporting Category: Virginia and United States History

Topic: Civil War and Reconstruction/Industrialization

Primary SOLs: VUS.1; VUS.7 VUS.8

Materials: Interactive Video; Comprehension Worksheet; (see attached).

Directions:

- Students will watch and educational video illustrating the following concepts:
 - o A brief history of why Lucasville School is significant to Prince William County and Virginia's history.
 - o Video will tie into the worksheet that students will have to complete as part of their lesson.
- Complete Worksheet

Context:

The Importance of Lucasville School

Lucasville School is a reconstructed one-room schoolhouse that was open from 1885 to 1926 to new generations of African Americans in the years after the Civil War. African Americans emerged from slavery with a strong desire for literacy. Freedmen admired those who had learned to read and write during slavery and viewed literate African Americans as social and moral leaders. Education could help them achieve political and economic independence and determine their own future.

In 1870, Virginia's Legislature established a statewide system of free public schools for all citizens. The Manassas District School Board authorized an elementary school for the Lucasville neighborhood in November 1883. In November 1884, the School Board hired H.W. Lloyd to build the school, a job Lloyd finished by March 1885. Lucasville School remained in operation for most of those years until it permanently closed in 1926.

Lucasville School's students ranged from grades one through six. Each student's lessons were suited to his or her grade level. Children studied mathematics, geography, penmanship, reading and history. Most children who attended County 'Colored' schools studied Black History in February during Abraham Lincoln's birthday week.

At least seventeen men and women taught at Lucasville School, including Alice and William Taylor who alternately taught at the school from 1906 until the school closed. Some were certified teachers while others were hired on the condition that they complete further training. Some Lucasville School teachers may have trained at Jennie Dean's Manassas Industrial School for Colored Youth which opened in 1894.

After the school permanently closed in 1926, the building was sold at auction and moved to a local farm across present day Route 234. There it remained intact until it was dismantled in 2005 and relocated to its current location. By then the structure had greatly deteriorated. However, the reconstructed school contains a few of the original boards. Between December 2005 and February 2008, Lucasville School was dismantled and reconstructed through the efforts of citizens, County officials and Public Homes, Inc and now serves as a museum to remind us of earlier County citizens' efforts to challenge racism and create an effective and lasting public education system.

Exercise: (See attached)

Name: _____



Observation & Interpretation: Take a Tour of Lucasville School!

Take a virtual tour of Lucasville School and learn why it is important to Virginia and Prince William County History. Answer the following questions on the worksheet.

1. What years was Lucasville School open ? _____
2. Explain the impacts of the Civil War on African Americans any why the learned at Lucasville School. _____

3. What subjects and grades were taught at Lucasville School? Where did students go to receive a higher education? _____

4. What are some of the differences you see at Lucasville School compared to your school and why are they there? _____

5. What were some other struggles faced by African Americans and other groups in the post-Reconstruction South? _____

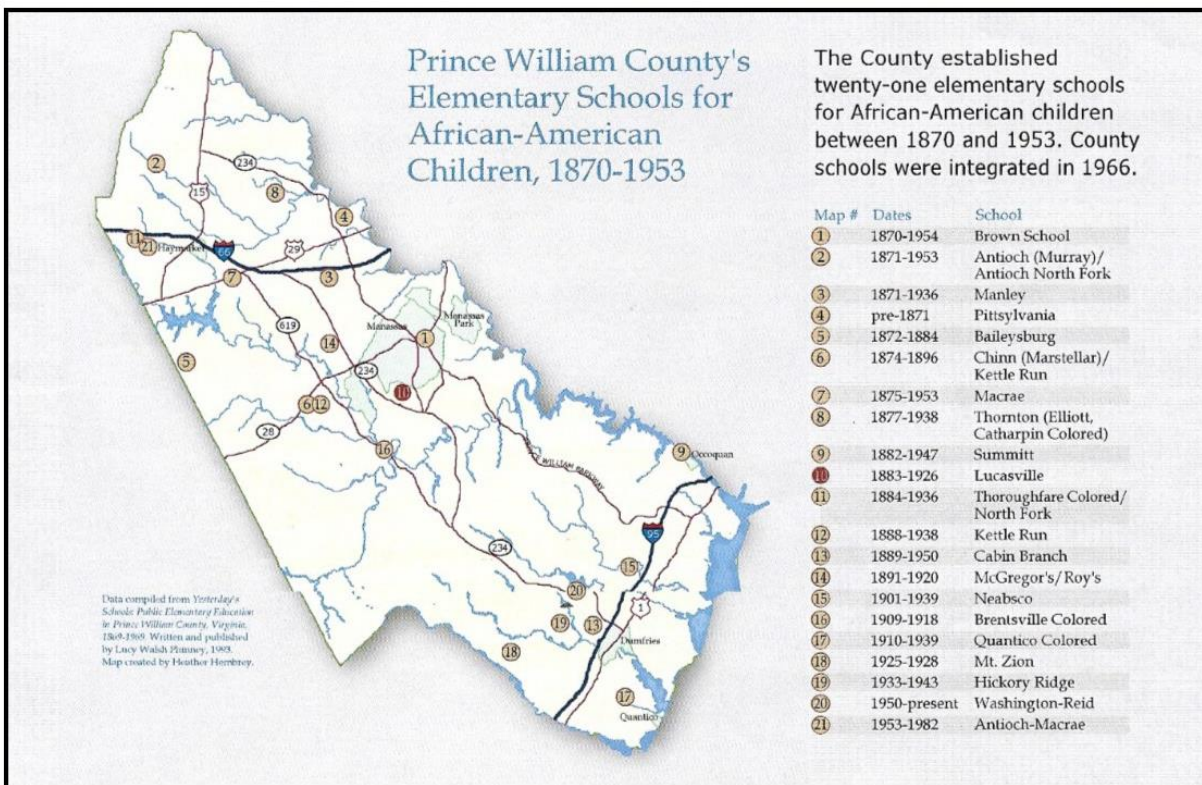
6. Why is it important that Lucasville School is preserved? _____



Name: _____

Secondary Resource Analysis

Watch the accompanying video telling the story of Lucasville School and why it is important to Virginia and Prince William County History. Analyze the map and answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper.



1. How many African American Schools were built in Prince William County?
2. Why do you think the schools were opened after 1870?
3. What years was Lucasville School open?
4. What year did Prince William County schools integrate?
5. What does integration mean?
6. What caused the schools the different locations for each school?
7. What grades and subjects were taught in these schools?
8. Why are these schools important to learn about?