

Cooper School

South side of SR 2143, east of junction with SR 2142

Mabane

The Cooper School was established by the American Missionary Association as part of a small educational complex consisting of the Cooper School, Oaks School, and Mary's Grove Congregational Church, which served as the community's first school. The Cooper School is one of two remaining one-room schoolhouses built for black students in Alamance County and is the only surviving building of this educational complex (see also McCray School). The school was probably built around 1900. Few records documenting the early years of the school's history survive. The school operated until 1907, when the Oaks School, a larger facility, was built nearby. In 1907 the school was converted into a parsonage for the ministers of Mary's Grove Congregational Church. The Cooper School represents a tradition of private education for black students that began at Mary's Grove in 1883. [CA 12/15/86, 86003451]