

Shady Grove School
Piney Woods Road, Orange, Virginia 22960



Shady Grove School opened for the first time for the school year 1925-1926. According to actual class rolls located at the Taylor Education Administrative Complex, 200 Dailey Drive, Orange, VA, grades 1-8 were taught.

Some of the neighborhood families' children that attended Shady Grove School were:

Alexander	Henderson	Richardson
Brown	Hudson	Sawyer
Burroughs	Jackson	Scott
Burruss	Johnson	Shirley
Coleman	Jones	Snowden
Comfort	Lawrence	Thompson
Daniel	Lindsay	Waddy
Ellis	Long	White
Frye	Parker	Williams
Fuller	Quarterman	Willis
Green	Rawlings	
Hall	Richard(s)	

Shady Grove School closed its doors in the spring of 1954 as did other one and two room schools in the area. Students went to Lightfoot Elementary School located on Zachary Taylor Highway (Route 522), Unionville, Virginia.

Some of the teachers who taught there were:

<u>Teacher</u>	<u>School Year</u>
Mrs. Hattie White	1925-26
	1926-27

Mrs. Florence F. Redd	1927-28; 1928-29;
Miss Hattie V. White	1929-1930
Mrs. Mabel M. Shirley	1930-1931; 1931-32; 1932-33; 1933-34; 1934-35
Mrs. Lucy P. Jones	1935-36
Miss Evelyn C. Jones	1936-37; 1937-38
	1938-39
Mrs. Mabel M. Shirley	1940-41
Mrs. Thelma A. Lane	1943
Mrs. Charlotte G. Towns	circa mid 1940's-early 1950's
Mrs. Moody	circa 1946-1948
Mrs. Elsie P. Johnson	1952-53; 1953-54
Mrs. Blanche C. Quarles	Substitute teacher

There was no indoor plumbing. "Out houses"—outdoor bathrooms (one for the girls, one for the boys) were in the rear of the school. When one was "filled" up, another one was erected.

There was no electricity.

During the winter months, boys would bring in wood for the "pot belly" stoves.

Water was brought in from neighbor's wells or springs.

Hot lunches were provided by neighborhood mothers.

Students that attended Shady Grove School could recall two separate rooms with school hours from 9:00am to 3:00pm.



In the beginning, student walked to school. Later on, some rode a school bus that had no heat. (ask Joan Washington)

Students studied the Bible during school hours.

The building was erected in 1925. It is one-story in height, of frame construction with a wood roof, metal covered. The building stands on solid concrete foundation and the interior

finish is of plain tongue and groove wood sheathing on sidewalls and ceiling. The floors are ordinary wood floors. The building was heated by stoves vented to a brick chimney.

Shady Grove Baptist Church bought this building in the late 1950's after it was closed and its students were relocated to the New Lightfoot School on Zachary Taylor Hwy in Unionville, Virginia. The school was used for Sunday School and church dining hall. A wedding reception was held there for one of Shady Grove Baptist Church's future pastor and first lady, Rev. and Mrs. Edward White, Sr.

In January, 2006, Shady Grove Baptist Church voted to restore The Shady Grove School. On Saturday, September 1, 2007 from 4:00-6:00pm, The Shady Grove School was dedicated. One of Shady Grove School's teachers, Mrs. Thelma A. Lane was present and signed her name on one of the chalkboards. Two other schools in Orange County was build similar to the Shady Grove School—Thornhill School (in Thornhill, Virginia) and Monroe Wood School. The Thornhill School was bought, renovated and turned into a residence. The Monroe Wood School eventually burned down. Pictures of the schools survive at the Taylor Education Administrative

Complex at 200 Dailey Drive, Orange, Virginia and the Orange County Historical Society at 130 Caroline Street, Orange, Virginia.

The school building itself is almost 100% in its original state. The chalk boards are original as is the teacher's desk. Student's desks and pot belly stove were donated. In the girls' cloak room, graffiti written by the students still survives. On April 15, 2016, the Shady Grove school was recognized with a State Historical Highway Marker.

