

Alston Middle School

Alston Graded School, one of the first African American schools founded in Dorchester County, stood at Cedar Street and West 1st North Street from 1910 to 1954. It was named for its founder, Dr. J.H. Alston, who donated the property to build the school. It included grades 1-11 until 1949, when the 12th grade was added. The two-story wood frame school, which was designed by architects Burden and Walker of Charleston and built by N.A. Lee, was moved to Bryan Street in 1953. The school has been demolished. The only known artifact that remains of the school is the cornerstone (**note cornerstone**).

The stone (dated 1910) lists Dr. Charles Shepard as a founding trustee. Dr. Shepard who is most commonly known in Summerville history for founding the Pinehurst Tea Farm was also one of the primary backers of the Bank School.

The Bank School was operated by the Epiphany Episcopal Church on Central Ave. next door to what is now St. Luke's Lutheran Church. The Bank school was used as a primary school for African Americans until the Alston School was built.