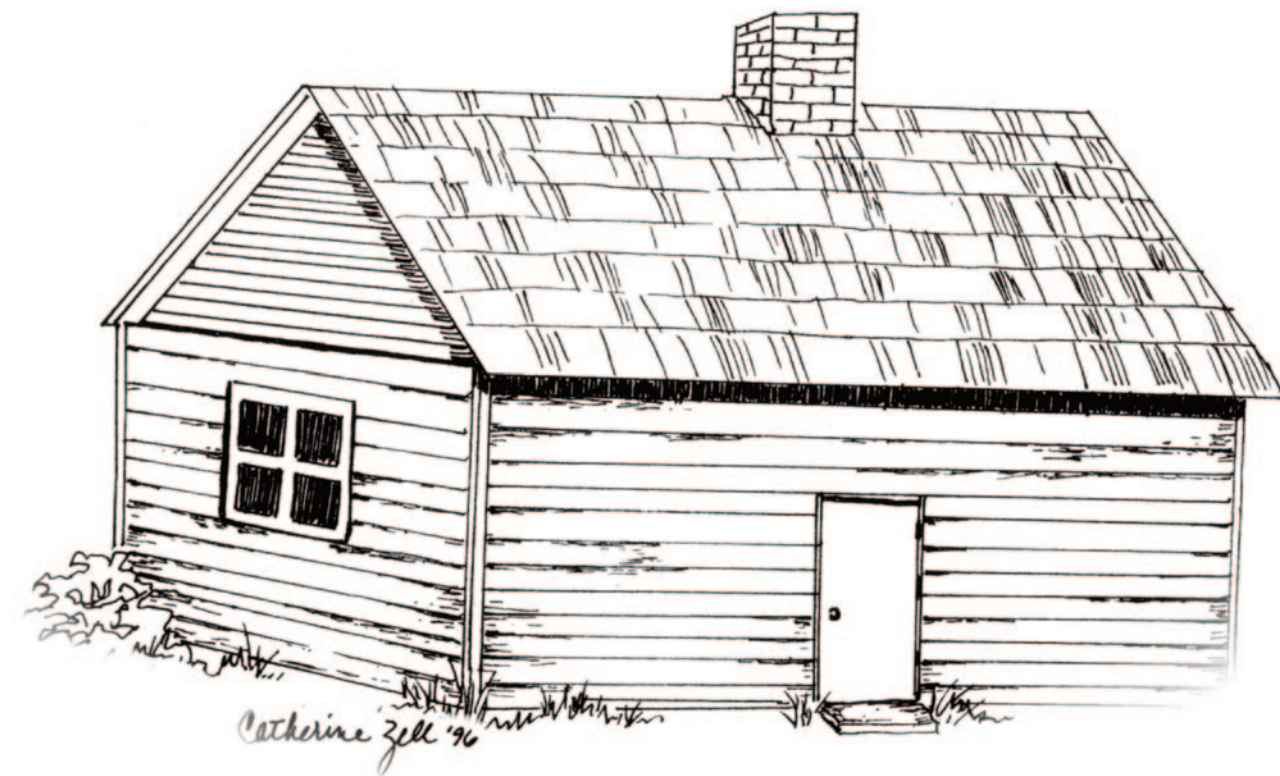


HISTORIC ♦ CARY



THE CARY COLORED SCHOOL

After the American Civil War, a one-room school for District #2 white students was built near this site on Holleman Street, also called Cemetery Road as it led from Kildaire Farm Road to Hillcrest Cemetery. Alfred “Buck” Jones also provided land and a log school for District #2 African American students near Walnut Street and Tanglewood Drive. Jones was a highly educated, respected man, accomplished in politics and law, and considered by many African Americans as a friend due in large part to his support of education for all. The first classes for these district schools began in November 1877. Sessions usually ran for four months with three levels of instruction.

After Buck Jones died in 1893, an agreement was reached that students from the white district school would begin attending the nearby Cary Academy in 1895. The District #2 school building vacated by the white students was then designated for use by African American students and the name was changed to the Cary Colored School*. In 1900, the building was expanded to three rooms. The school building burned down in 1935. Two years later a new school was built in the Kingswood neighborhood with funds and land provided by members of Cary’s African American community.

* NOTE: This was the official name of the school. The term “colored” was not considered offensive during this time. Furthermore, when this term is used throughout this text it is meant to reference the historical period.

Illustration by Catherine Zell

AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY: EDUCATION & FAITH

CARY CHRISTIAN CHURCH



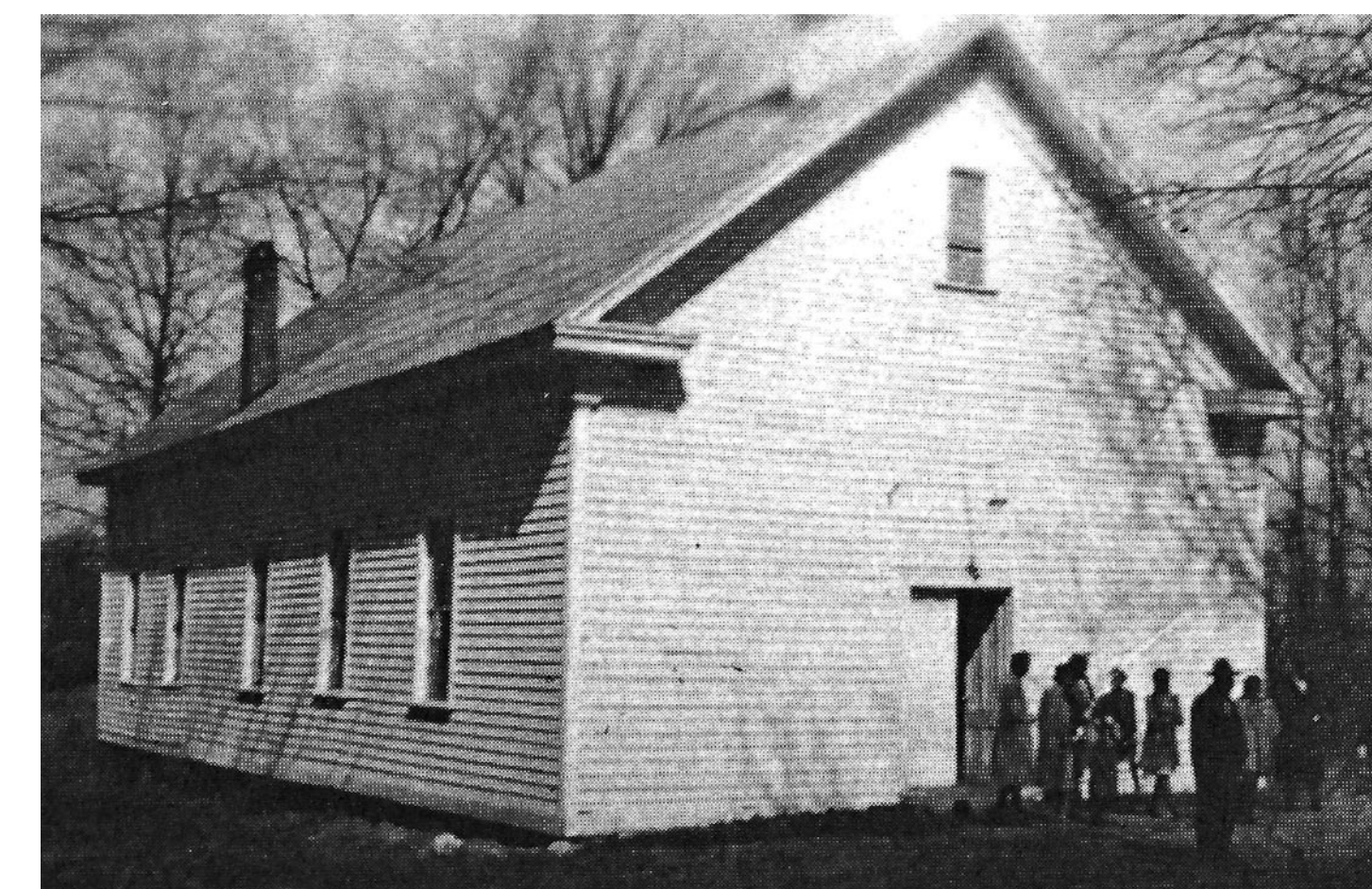
This was also the location of an African American Christian church. Formed by five deacons after the Civil War in 1868, the congregation first worshipped in a brush arbor off West Cornwall Road (current site of the Cary First Christian Church Cemetery). In 1883, services were moved to this site and by 1896, a wooden framed church building stood here. Remnants of the foundation can be found nearby. Cary Christian Church was an early member of the North Carolina Colored Christian Conference and stood out among small rural churches with members of the congregation numbering over 300 by 1900. The 1880

This was also the location of an African American Christian church. Formed by five deacons after the Civil War in 1868,

Before the American Civil War, the majority of African Americans were enslaved and worked on large area farms. After emancipation, African Americans in Cary began to acquire land, and build community. This site once held two important African American community structures – a school and a church.

and 1896 Conference Conventions were held in Cary and hosted by the church. Now known as Cary First Christian Church, the congregation moved to its present location at 1109 Evans Road in 1968 on land donated by Clyde Evans, Sr.

Illustration by Jerry Miller



To learn more about Cary history and historic sites, visit townofcary.org/landmarks.

Thanks to Cary First Christian Church and the Friends of Page-Walker for sharing research and photography and to our funding partner, Raleigh Regional REALTORS and the Vibrant Community Grant Program. Credits: *Around and About Cary* by Tom Byrd and Jerry Miller and *Both Sides of the Tracks II Recollections of Cary North Carolina 1860-2000* by Ella Arrington Williams-Vinson.



A TRADITION OF EDUCATION AND FAITH: THE MEADOWS FAMILY



Several African American families lived nearby in the Cornwall Road area, including the Meadows family. John W. Meadows was principal of the Cary Colored School from 1900 – 1935 when it was a 3-room wooden structure near this site. His wife,

Annie Mitchell Meadows, taught grades 1-4 in one room, while he taught grades 5-7 in another room. Reverend Meadows was also a local minister and a respected community leader.

Photo courtesy of the Meadows / Gibbs Family

