

Survey and National Register Branch Supervisor, Sarah David, reviewed the report and offers the following comments:

*According to the report, Nevin School is of local historical importance as one of the oldest schoolhouses within the Charlotte Township. The school was constructed in 1923.*

***In item 8.b. under workmanship**, the author may want to avoid the word “vernacular.” The school follows forms and designs that were popular for school design across the state and came from centralized, architect-informed sources such as the Rosenwald Fund or the state’s Department of Public Instruction.*

***In item 8.b. under Materials**, the author needs to mention and address the replacement windows and replacement front door and make an argument as to how or why those changes do not detract significantly from the building’s overall integrity. For example, when noting that the windows have been replaced with single-pane, fixed-light windows, also note that the fenestration (location of window openings, size of window openings) has not been altered and can still reflect the importance of natural light in school design.*

***In item 11**, please discuss the justification for drawing the boundary through an existing building.*

***In the opening Statement of Significance**, it would be informative to address the building’s architectural integrity with a sentence or two noting the most significant changes (windows and door replacement), but stating that in spite of those changes, the building continues to communicate its significance as the most significant and prominent artifact of the community.*

***Later in the document**, the building’s roof is described as mansard. The roof form is actually a hip roof and not a mansard roof.*

***On page 16**, the report describes the interior as “severely” altered, but only lists one change. The author should describe other changes or simply describe the interior as “altered,” leaving off “severely.”*

***The section titled “Similarity to Rosenwald Schools”** may place too much emphasis on Rosenwald design. A better section heading might be “Comparisons to Other School Buildings,” and the report could note what other schools of a similar vintage still stand in Charlotte and how those schools compare to the Nevin School in terms of architectural integrity. The section could still make comparisons with Rosenwalds and mention how it is possible that white communities looked to Rosenwald designs, but the author should be careful about drawing concrete conclusions. School design throughout the twentieth-century was a much-studied topic and architects working for state and local governments and for the Rosenwald Fund were influenced by the same research and philosophies. The report also needs a site plan clearly identifying the components of the building: 1923, 1940, and other additions.*

*A bibliography is also needed.*

*With these changes, we believe the designation report will provide the preservation commission and local governing board sufficient information to determine whether the Nevin School possesses the requisite special local significance and integrity for local historic landmark designation.*

*Thank you for the opportunity to review this local designation report.*