

# WALLACE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## SCHOOL BUILDING RESTORATION

179 DAYS AND VOILA!



**A BLESSED PARTNERSHIP:**  
Wallace Grove Baptist Church  
and  
Madison-Morgan Conservancy

**WITH DONATIONS FROM:**  
Junior Champion Lumber  
Franklin Restoration  
Great Estates Landscaping  
Indian Creek Baptist Church  
Madison-Morgan Cultural Center  
Morgan County Landmarks  
Pam Parrish  
Plainview Baptist Church  
Jessica Royal  
Ruark Farms  
Social Circle Hardware  
Sunflower Farm  
Thankful Baptist Church  
Wallace Grove Baptist Church Congregation

## OUR PAST

The Wallace Grove School was just one of a multitude of schools built in rural African American communities in Morgan County, GA, at the turn of the twentieth century.



On November 22, 1901, W.P. Wallace donated approximately one acre to the Wallace Grove Baptist Church.

In 1901 the congregation built both a school and a church on the property. The school building still stands, but the church was burned and rebuilt in the mid-century.

In the school year of 1902-1903, the first class was held in the school building, and attendance was recorded in the Morgan County Board of Education rolls.

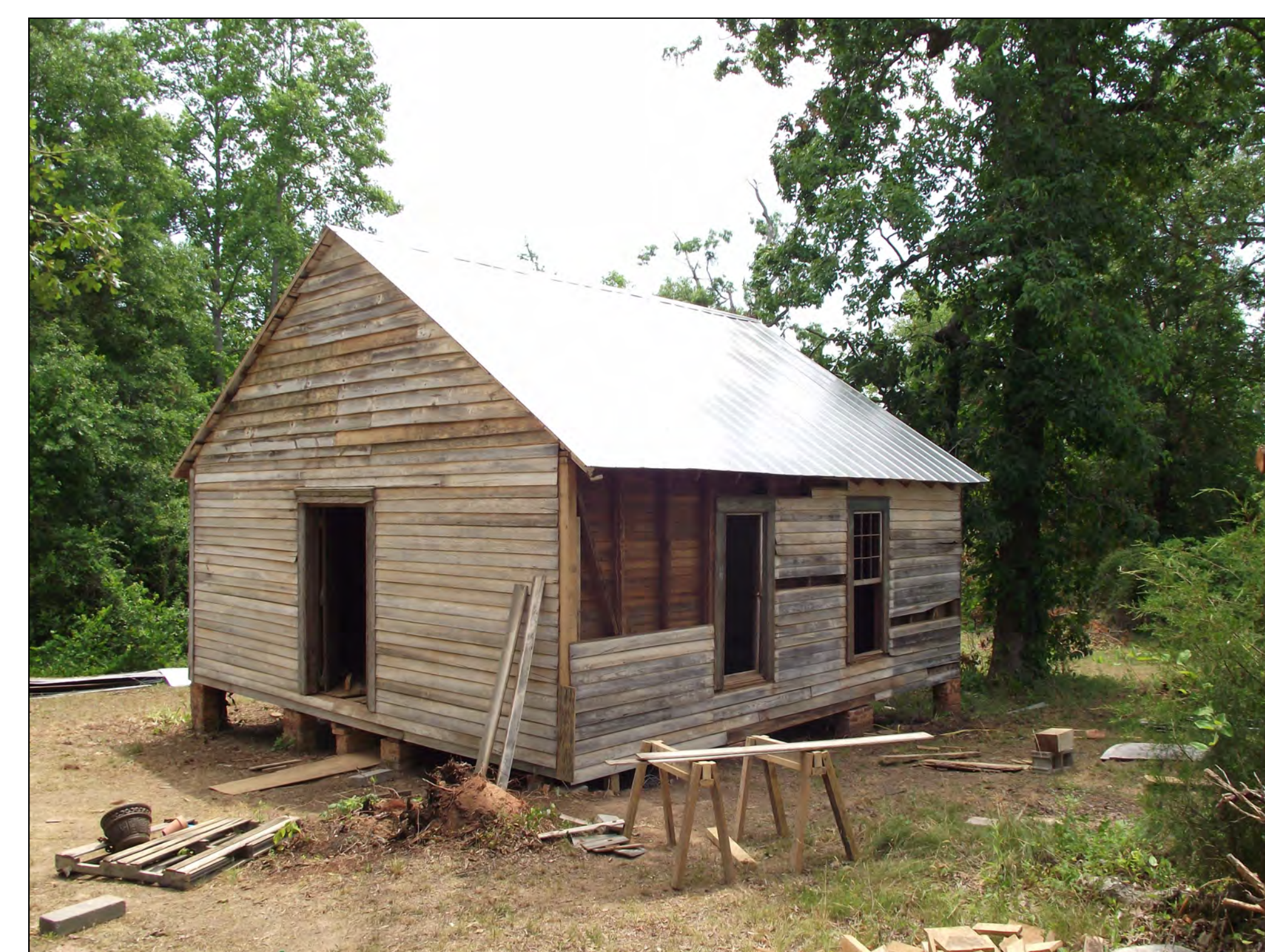
## OUR STRUGGLE

In the last 110 years, the Wallace Grove school building has suffered damage due to weather and abandonment. By the 1960s, the Morgan County school system was consolidated, and the building was no longer used as a school.

In March of 2011, Pastor Tommy Chatman and members of the Wallace Grove Baptist Church conducted a clean up of the grounds around the school, and began the restoration.



*Above: Interior before restoration;  
Below: Exterior mid-restoration.*



## OUR TRIUMPH

Pastor Tommy Chapman was aided by a host of contributors, craftsmen, and volunteers, who together completed the restoration of the school in September of 2011.



The school building is now an authentic and beautiful example of a turn of the century rural African American school.

The restoration of the structure will give Wallace Grove Baptist Church the opportunity to interpret an important part of Morgan County's educational and black history for years to come.



*Above: Interior after restoration*



# WALLACE GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

## SCHOOL BUILDING RESTORATION CELEBRATION

SEPTEMBER 17, 2011

**A BLESSED PARTNERSHIP:**  
Wallace Grove Baptist Church  
and  
Madison-Morgan Conservancy



Wallace Grove Baptist Church  
Pastor, Tommy Chatman

Located on Wallace Grove Road, just West of Weaver Jones  
Road in beautiful Morgan County, GA.

706-474-2209



*Mrs. Emma Johnson, the last teacher to  
teach in the Wallace Grove School  
Building, and Mrs. Anne Wallace Walker,  
granddaughter of W.P. Wallace who  
donated the land for the  
church and school.*



## EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

At the turn of the twentieth century (1900), both white and black communities throughout Morgan County saw a proliferation of building small, clapboard schools, often associated with churches.

Archival records indicate that there were at least 52 and possibly more than 100 black schools during this time period, some of which were housed in free-standing school buildings, others inside a church.



Of those many school buildings, only one remains in its original location: Wallace Grove School. Existing today in the same form as it was built in 1901, Wallace Grove School is an invaluable resource preserving a critical link to our past.