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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Murray County High School Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1004 Green Street
city, town Chatsworth () vicinity of
county Murray code GA 213
state Georgia code GA zip code 30705

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property:

- () building(s)
- (X) district
- () site
- () structure
- () object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	8	9
sites	0	0
structures	1	2
objects	0	0
total	9	11

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Richard Coates

5-6-04

Signature of certifying official

Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Daniel J. Linn *6/21/04*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

for

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL/SECONDARY SCHOOL

Current Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL/GRAMMAR SCHOOL

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/SPANISH COLONIAL REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/CRAFTSMAN

Materials:

foundation	Stone/Granite
walls	Stone/Granite; Brick; Concrete; Metal
roof	Asphalt
other	Concrete Block

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Murray County High School is located one and one-half mile northwest of downtown Chatsworth, the county seat of Murray County in northwest Georgia. It is a campus consisting of a number of buildings and structures constructed over time to accommodate the changing educational needs of the surrounding community.

Four early buildings on the campus, constructed between 1934 and 1936, all feature a rock exterior. Homer and J.D. Watkins were the stonemasons. The original Murray County High School Building (photographs 1, 6, and 15), constructed in 1934, is locally known as the Rock Building. It is a one-story building with a basement and features a rock exterior with Spanish Colonial Revival elements. The building is T-shaped (photographs 2 and 3) with the front portion or crossbar functioning as the primary elevation and housing classrooms. The rear wing (photographs 2, 3, and 4), or stem, is occupied by an auditorium that also functioned as the original gymnasium. The roof is gable-on-hip and covered with asphalt shingles. The only stylistic features on the building include a large ornamental parapet over the front entrance (photograph 5) and smaller gabled parapets as well as pilasters framing entrances located on the southeast and northwest façades of the building (photographs 1 and 4). Paired wooden double-hung-sash windows are located along all façades of the building except at the southeast and northwest ends (photographs 1, 2, 3, and 4). These windows, which are wood-framed with a one-over-one-over-one configuration, are not original and were installed in the late 1970s. The original windows were six-over-six. Doors are metal and are also not original to the building, dating probably from the 1960s. The building has a single rock chimney (photograph 2), located on the west façade of the auditorium portion of the building.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Other early buildings, the Home Economics Building, the Cannery, and the Agriculture Building, were constructed to accommodate the expanding curriculum and agricultural classes taught at the school. The Home Economics Building (photographs 6 and 7), constructed in 1935, is a one-story building with a rock exterior and an asphalt shingle gable-on-hip roof resembling that of the Rock Building. The front façade is symmetrical (photograph 7) and the rectangular-shaped building features a central gabled front entrance porch supported by rock piers (photograph 7). Although now open, the front entrance porch was screened either originally or within a few years of the building's construction. There is a double-door entrance with a multi-light transom. Each door has six rectangular panes of glass in the upper half. Most windows along the building's four façades are paired double-hung-sash with a one-over-one configuration (photograph 6). A second, smaller entry porch is located on the southeast façade of the building, toward the rear (photograph 6). A third entrance is located on the northwest façade. The building features two tall interior rock chimneys. It has a hipped roof and large window openings that have been filled in with concrete block.

The Cannery (photograph 8), constructed in 1935 by National Youth Administration labor, was used by students as well as the local community to can all varieties of vegetables. It is a one-story building with a rock exterior and an asphalt shingle gable-on-hip roof resembling that of the two earlier buildings. The front (north) façade is symmetrical and features a central entrance. The Cannery originally featured two windows on the front façade two windows on the east façade, a second entrance on the west façade, and four windows across the rear, but nearly all of these openings have been infilled. The secondary entrance on the west façade has been infilled with rock while the other openings have been completely or partially infilled with concrete block. The original openings are still evident and the fenestration of the building remains unchanged.

The Agriculture Building (photographs 9, 10, and 11, background), constructed in 1936, is a one-story building with a rock exterior and an asphalt shingle side gable roof. The front (east) façade, which features a single-door entry on the north end of the façade and four six-over-six double-hung-sash windows, appears unchanged from its original appearance (photographs 9 and 10). The building features elements of the Craftsman style, including a small gabled entry porch supported by slender square wood posts and features exposed rafter tails (photograph 9). One original window on the right (north) elevation has been removed and the opening infilled with rock. Extending off the rear (west) façade of the building is a large gabled addition (photograph 10) constructed in 1941. This portion of the building has been substantially altered, with original six-over-six windows removed, their openings partially infilled with rock that closely matches the original, and small fixed horizontal windows have replaced the original windows.

Later historic resources on the campus include a brick gymnasium that features a barrel vault ceiling, the athletic field located behind the gymnasium completed in 1950, and three brick classroom buildings constructed adjacent to the gymnasium. The gymnasium (photographs 12, center, and 13, background), was constructed in 1949. It is a large brick building with a barrel vault roof covered with rolled roofing. The northeast and southwest façades each have four large window openings. These openings remain but have been infilled with an opaque material.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

In 1950, a classroom building (photograph 12, center) was constructed adjacent to the southeast corner of the gymnasium. This one-story, flat-roofed brick building consists of four classroom spaces, two to either side of a central hallway. Also in 1950 an athletic field (photographs 13 and 14) was constructed southwest of the gymnasium. The field, used primarily for football, is still in use today much as it has been since 1950. The two sections of bleachers (on the northeast and southwest sides of the field) are nonhistoric. The south side (visiting) bleachers were installed in the 1980s, and the north side (home) bleachers were installed in the early 1990s.

In 1956 two additional classroom buildings (photograph 12, left and background) were constructed, one adjacent to the south façade of the 1950 classroom building, and one adjacent to the northeast corner of the gymnasium. They are both similar to the 1950 building in design. They are one-story brick buildings with flat roofs and wall surfaces and ribbon windows, typical of 1950s school buildings. When the first of these two buildings was completed, an enclosed hallway was added to the front of the gymnasium, providing sheltered access to each of the 1950s buildings.

The campus also includes nonhistoric school-related buildings and an additional nonhistoric athletic field. There are four classroom buildings, southwest of the Rock Building, constructed in 1974 (photograph 9, right foreground), 1976 (photograph 9, right background), 1980 and 2002. These four one-story brick buildings serve as the core of the Bagley Middle School complex.

Other nonhistoric resources on the campus include a one-story brick field house (1965); a one-story concrete block building constructed for use in the agriculture program (1968) (photograph 9, left background); a one-story concrete block maintenance building (1969); a greenhouse (1970s) (photograph 8, at right); a utility building (1976) (photograph 8, at left); and the visitors bleachers (1980s) (photograph 14) and the home bleachers (1990s) (photograph 13, left) around the field. Further west, beyond the majority of the buildings making up the campus and outside of the National Register boundary, is an athletic track and a storage building.

Landscaping on the property consists of grassed areas in the immediate vicinity of the buildings, foundation plantings, mature trees, sidewalks, covered walkways, and paved driveways. There are also sections of concrete block retaining wall in the vicinity of the Rock Building, and these appear original to the property. The primary parking area on the property is located between the Rock Building and the Home Economics Building, while smaller areas of parking are located adjacent to several buildings. A paved drive wraps around the south side of the complex and bends to the northwest behind the Agriculture Building and the Cannery and continues west of the field house and athletic field and on to Green Road.

The original Murray County High School complex now serves as Bagley Middle School, within the Murray County public school system.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Agriculture
Architecture
Education

Period of Significance:

1934-1956

Significant Dates:

1934-Construction date of first building, Rock Building
1935-Construction date of Home Economics Building and Cannery
1936-Construction date of Agriculture Building
1949-Construction date of gymnasium
1950-Construction date of athletic field and classroom building
1956-Construction of two classroom buildings

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Watkins, Homer-builder
Watkins, J.D.-builder

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The buildings that make up the Murray County High School Historic District were constructed between 1934 and 1956 to serve the white children of the Chatsworth community.

The complex is significant in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of a school constructed over time for a small Georgia community and representing two distinct periods of public school design in Georgia. The earlier buildings, constructed of stone, exhibit features of different architectural styles including Spanish Colonial Revival and Craftsman. This type of stone-veneer construction is prevalent in north Georgia. Other important architectural characteristics representing school architecture of the period include one-story height; large windows; low-hipped or gabled roofs; combining classrooms, offices, and auditoriums; and period design motifs (Spanish Colonial in this case). The later buildings, constructed of brick veneer with large windows in the International style, expanded the capacity of the school as well as the athletic facilities to accommodate the expanding student body. International style influences include simple rectangular forms; one-story height; flat roofs; large, plate-glass panel windows; absence of ornamentation. These influences reflect a major change in school design in Georgia following World War II. All of these buildings are intact and retain the majority of their original character-defining exterior features. The vernacular rock buildings are outstanding examples of 1930s-era design and construction as carried out by a public school in north Georgia.

Murray County High School Historic District is significant in the area of education as an outstanding example of a Depression-era educational complex that has evolved over time and continues to function as an educational facility. Early buildings in the school complex illustrate the statewide trend toward consolidation of rural schools in Georgia in the 1920s and 1930s. It is significant for its function as the educational facility for the white community in Chatsworth and surrounding Murray County, for the typical activities that occurred there during the historic period, and for the agricultural-related curriculum taught at the school. These classes benefited not only the students but also the surrounding communities by providing services such as food canning and farm vehicle maintenance and repair. The first building constructed was the original Murray County High School building, and between 1934 and 1989 all public high school students in Murray County studied in these buildings.

Murray County High School Historic District is significant in the areas of agriculture and education for its role in initiating an agricultural education program in the Murray County public school system. The first agriculture classes were held in the basement of the Rock Building. In 1936 the agriculture program was relocated to the newly completed Agriculture Building. Also important to the agriculture program was the Cannery, completed in 1935 and utilized to can agricultural produce grown not only by high school students but also by many Murray County residents. Agriculture has been a vital component of Murray County's economy since its founding and Murray County High School played a key role in educating students in the most advanced techniques of animal husbandry, cropping and gardening. Through the mid-1950s the campus included more than one hundred acres of farmed land, and agriculture was a major component of the curriculum. Students studied theory and technique in the school buildings and put them into practice in the fields, which were in crops, hay

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

and pasture. The presence of a cannery was also key to the role played by agriculture. The cannery represented a major community resource during times when preservation of food produced at home and on the farm was a vital necessity. People from all over Murray County brought produce to be canned there, an operation run by the faculty with assistance from students.

National Register Criteria

Murray County High School Historic District is eligible for listing in National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of education and agriculture for the typical educational activities and the agricultural programs that took place in these buildings between 1934 and 1956 and for the locally innovative agricultural education programs taught at the school. Murray County High School Historic District is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an outstanding example of an educational complex that began with Depression-era school buildings and was expanded through the mid-1950s including buildings that represent two distinct periods of public school design in Georgia.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Murray County High School Historic District begins in 1934, the construction date of the original Murray County High School building, and ends in 1956, the date of construction of the last two historic classroom buildings on the campus.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources in the Murray County High School Historic District are those constructed between 1934 and 1956 that are significant for the themes architecture, education, and agriculture, and which retain a substantial degree of historic integrity. These resources include four early rock buildings, three 1950s classroom buildings, a gymnasium, and an athletic field.

Noncontributing resources in the Murray County High School Historic District are those constructed after 1956. These resources include classroom buildings, auxiliary buildings, and an athletic field.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by John Kissane, Historic Preservation Consultant, March, 2003. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Development of Murray County-An Overview

Established by the Georgia legislature in 1832, Murray County originally constituted the entire northwest corner of the state and included land that now comprises Catoosa, Dade, Gordon, Walker and Whitfield counties as well as portions of present-day Bartow and Chattooga counties. A village named Poinsett (later renamed Spring Place) was selected as the first county seat. Within a few years it became apparent that the area was too large to administer as a single county and by the early 1850s Murray County was reduced in size to its present 342 square miles. The Indian Removal in the early 1830s and the land lotteries prompted an increase in the rate of white settlement of northwest Georgia during the 1840s and 1850s and Spring Place grew into a thriving although small county seat.

Murray County saw little fighting during the Civil War and was relatively undisturbed during the war years, at least compared to many other parts of Georgia and the South. Situated in the mountains of northwest Georgia, Murray County in the 1860s was a sparsely populated agricultural region inhabited primarily by small farmers, only a few of whom owned slaves. Like most of Georgia's mountain counties, Murray County sent delegates to vote against secession at the 1861 convention in Milledgeville. Several skirmishes took place in Murray County during 1864 and the spring of 1865 but casualties were few. More troubling than the loss of lives at home was the fact that scores of young men who had gone off to defend their homeland never returned. When the war came to an end the local economy had to be reestablished, and for the next decade Murray County worked to rebuild its agricultural prosperity and commercial enterprises.

Spring Place continued its very modest growth through mid-century and recorded a population of 300 by 1876, according to the *Georgia State Directory* of 1876-1877. The town remained much the same over the next three decades, but arrival of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad to Murray County in 1905 caused great change. The L & N by-passed Spring Place, and at a location approximately three miles to the east a depot was constructed near the Georgia Talc Company. Several businessmen formed the Chatsworth Land Company on June 2, 1905, and later the same year William Pendley established the Chatsworth Brick Company south of the depot. Pendley anticipated that a new town would be established near the depot, and he was correct. The town of Chatsworth was laid out in 1906 and incorporated on August 18 that same year.

Chatsworth grew rapidly and, boasting a population of 550 by 1911, it had in a few short years grown larger than Spring Place. In 1912 several Chatsworth businessmen, wishing the county seat relocated to Chatsworth, began circulating petitions calling for an election on "the county seat question." A sufficient number of signatures were collected, and the County Ordinary set September

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

30 as election day. But almost immediately residents of Eton, a small village just north of Chatsworth that also contained an L & N depot, began a campaign to have the county seat moved to their town. A complicated and confusing series of events followed, beginning with a contested election that recorded 933 votes for Chatsworth, 440 for Eton and 150 for Spring Place. Chatsworth could not be named county seat without a required two-thirds majority, but the question arose of whether Eton had a legal right to be included in the referendum. Georgia's Secretary of State, Phillip Cook, threw out the Eton votes in January, 1913, thus putting the matter in the hands of the State Legislature. Finally, on July 24, 1913, the legislature voted in favor of moving the Murray County Courthouse to Chatsworth.

Although it had grown very quickly initially, Chatsworth's population increased by only about 50 residents between 1915 and 1930 to total 607 in January of that year. But the extension of water mains north of town prompted considerable growth in that section in the 1930s, and Chatsworth's population reached 900 in 1935 (the year after Murray County High School was established) and topped 1,000 just two years later.

Public Education in Murray County

Early educational efforts in Murray County actually began prior to the County's establishment. In 1801 a group of Moravians established a mission at what became Spring Place and started a school. The Moravians remained at Spring Place until 1832, when they were displaced by the Cherokee removal and the land lottery. But the following year Murray County Academy was incorporated, and it opened in 1835. Other academies included Sandy Springs (1840), Clear Springs (1840), and Spring Place (1850).

In 1877 a countywide educational system was established in Murray County, an accomplishment many considered a major factor in lifting the area out of its post-war depression. Furthermore, the undertaking greatly benefited Murray County's black residents, for whom several schools were opened as early as the late 1880s. The first Murray County Board of Education was appointed by the Grand Jury on February 6, 1877, and Rev. S. H. Henry severed as the first superintendent, a position he filled until 1900.

By 1880 more than 30 schools were in operation in Murray County. These were very small, one- or two-room school buildings that served the county's several small communities as well as its rural areas. Given Murray County's poor road system as well as the fact that there was no means of transporting children, the small schools constituted the only viable option at the time. Spreading the county's meager funds among so many schools resulted in poorly equipped buildings, so most school districts elected or appointed trustees to provide leadership and supervision and, it was hoped, increase community support for local educational efforts. But by 1896 Murray County's educational budget for the entire school year totaled only \$5,781.03 and teachers were paid an average of just \$100 for a school year of instruction. There were 1,149 students in Murray County in 1896, 1,014 white and 135 black.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

The first decades of the 20th century saw gradual improvements in Murray County's public education system. Small high schools were in operation at Chatsworth, Eton and Lucy Hill, but gradually interest grew in establishing a single Murray County High School at a central location. Lucy Hill, founded in Spring Place in 1896, had been designated as the official county high school in 1923 but the other two schools remained open and drew students from their own localities and surrounding rural areas. Many Murray County residents agreed that a new facility was needed, but could not agree on where a new high school building should be constructed. Residents of Spring Place did not want the school built in Chatsworth and visa versa, and neither of those towns would be satisfied if it were located in Eton. Thus the Murray County Board of Education was faced with a difficult situation and chose to purchase 36 acres of the Tom Davis estate located nearly two miles northwest of downtown Chatsworth, roughly between Chatsworth and Spring Place. The Davises were a family of prominent landowners primarily in the section of Murray County north and west of Chatsworth.

Murray County School Superintendent Earl Foster was convinced that a consolidated high school would bring many benefits to the county's children for years to come, but he also recognized that the matter was sensitive and might damage him politically. Foster was defeated by Sam Jackson in the 1936 general election. In 1934, however, Foster was focused on getting the new high school planned and built and his concerns were only with improving education in Murray County public schools.

On April 16, 1934 the Board of Education voted to authorize Superintendent Foster and Board Chairman M. D. Jefferson to receive grants and donations and draw up and execute all contracts necessary for the construction of a main high school building and auxiliary structures. Just one month later the Chatsworth Times noted that construction of the new high school had begun. The plan was to construct the main building first and have it ready for occupation by students in the fall of 1934. Following its completion, work would be undertaken on an agricultural building and a home economics building. These three structures were funded partly by a \$5,000 gift from V. C. Pickering, \$5,000 in surplus funds from the Murray County Board of Education, and two highway-refunding certificates that totaled \$10,500. The highway certificates were given to the Murray County Commissioners by the State of Georgia as reimbursement for paving completed prior to establishment of the State Highway System, and the Commissioners subsequently earmarked them for the new school.

Work on the Rock Building, as the main high school structure is still referred by many Murray County residents, progressed quite rapidly. The exterior walls were built entirely of rock salvaged from the recent construction of the Chatsworth-Ellijay Highway. This material was donated to the school project and local truck drivers hauled the large rocks to the school site for \$0.50 a load. Laborers were initially paid \$1.00 per day while stone masons received \$2.00 a day, but at some point during the project the School Board increased these figures to \$0.15 an hour for "common laborers," \$0.30 an hour for carpenters and \$0.50 an hour for stone masons. Overseeing the undertaking was head stone mason Homer Watkins, whose son J. D. worked on the project as well. It is believed that some of the workers involved with the project were participants in the Civil Works Administration (CWA), forerunner to the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The CWA was established in 1933 as a

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Depression-era relief program, and it was incorporated into the WPA, which was created in 1935 to combat basic economic and social problems arising from the Depression.

Although the Rock Building was not entirely completed when classes began in the fall of 1934, work was far enough along that the building could be made ready for use. Georgia State School Superintendent M. D. Collins was guest speaker at opening ceremonies held to celebrate the achievement. The first principal of Murray County High School was L. N. Foster, brother of County School Superintendent Earl Foster. A staff of thirteen teachers welcomed nearly 300 students, 60 of whom were seniors, when classes began.

The leadership and contributions made by V. C. (Conroy) Pickering are considered by many Murray County residents to have been integral to the successful construction and early growth of the new school. Pickering was a state representative and state senator but his primary occupation was in road and bridge construction. Not only did Pickering make a \$5,000 contribution for construction of buildings, he also made a gift of the remaining 164 acres of the Tom Davis Farm in the early 1940s. This land was gradually developed for use by the school's agriculture program, although eventually much of it was used to provide space for a hospital and health center, a new high school, a county library, a recreation center, and the school district's central offices. There were apparently plans to name the school for Pickering, and it is not known why this did not come about. Pickering supported public education in other ways. Murray County School Board minutes reveal that in June of 1935 Board members voted to accept Pickering's offer to loan the School Board money so that it could meet the payroll for May of that year. Pickering also donated much of the equipment that was installed in the cannery when it was completed in 1936.

Miss Lula Gladden, an original Murray County High School faculty member who taught English, Latin and mathematics until her death in 1944, wrote the Murray County High School song, *Alma Mater*, early in the school's history. The words of the first verse have to do with the construction of the original Rock Building. They mention that the rocks used for the building's walls were brought from the nearby Cohutta Mountains:

From the cliffs of old Cohutta,
Once against the sky
Came the walls of Alma Mater
So rugged and so high.

As it was first used, the Rock Building consisted of eight classrooms, a small library and an office on the main floor, with additional classrooms and science laboratories in the basement. Once the Agriculture Building was completed agriculture classes were conducted there. In early 1935 the second building on the Murray County High School campus, the Home Economics Building, was completed.

One of the original teachers at Murray County High School and an individual who had a profound influence on the institution and education in the county, was Gordon Isaac (G. I.) Maddox, hired in

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

July of 1934 to teach vocational agriculture. A native of Jackson, Georgia, and a graduate of the University of Georgia, G. I. Maddox taught in Carrollton for several years before relocating to the Chatsworth area. He married Miriam Smith on December 23, 1934 and the couple moved into the Home Economics Building and resided in an apartment there for 23 years. The apartment, which occupied one half of the building, consisted of a large living room, a dining room, two small bedrooms and a small kitchen. The Murray County High School Home Economics Department was on the other side of the building. There was no electricity in the building when the Maddoxes first occupied their apartment, however, due to the fact that some property owners along Green Road at first would not allow power lines to run across their land, so G. I. and Miriam went without electricity for six months. Before their children were born, the couple took in boarders, usually female teachers, in the spare bedroom of their apartment.

A third building, the Cannery, was also completed in 1935 and was built by National Youth Administration (NYA) labor. V. C. Pickering was behind this project as well and donated most of the original equipment in the building. Homer Watkins again served as head stonemason and was assisted by his son J. D. The Cannery was one of the first such buildings constructed in Georgia for use by a public school as well as the local community. County residents were supervised by agriculture instructors and during World War II canned all varieties of vegetables as well as beef, chicken, cake, cookies and other food items to send overseas. Canning was done three days a week beginning in June and in many cases was a family activity that kept people from going hungry during winter months especially during the war years. Cans were acquired from the American Can Company in Atlanta and were sold for \$0.04 each. The Cannery was a center of community activity for 41 years before being replaced by a larger brick structure in 1976, and the historic building has subsequently been used for storage purposes, first by the agriculture department and more recently by the janitorial department

In 1936 the Agriculture Building was constructed, also in part by NYA employees. Vocational agriculture instructor G. I. Maddox, with the support of Pickering, played a key role in getting this building constructed. Some of the work was completed by Future Farmers of America (FFA) members and other agriculture students, under the direction of Maddox. These young people would collect rocks and brought them to the building site.

In 1945 a lunchroom was first operated out of the Rock Building in the northwest corner room, with food delivered to students in the auditorium. Miriam Maddox operated the service until 1950, when a building originally constructed as a military barracks was brought to Chatsworth from Tullahoma, Tennessee. It was rebuilt on the Murray County High School campus and utilized as a lunchroom. (This building is no longer extant.)

In 1949 the gymnasium was constructed a short distance to the northwest of the Rock Building. The following year a small classroom building was constructed adjacent to the gymnasium at its south corner. This building provided more classroom space for the school. Also in 1950 an athletic field (Murray Field) was constructed to the southwest of the gymnasium. In 1956 two additional classroom buildings were constructed near the gymnasium. This section of the Murray County High School

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

campus becoming known in later years as the "old annex." The new buildings consisted of a new lunchroom, home economics rooms, principal's and counseling offices, a library, science laboratories, and several classrooms.

In 1974 a major addition was made to the primary Murray County High School building, nearly doubling its size. This annex housed new offices, seven academic classrooms, three shop classrooms, and a new library. In 1976 the original cannery was taken out of service and replaced by a new brick building. The original building remains, however, and since the mid-1970s has been used for storage. Several other additions and freestanding buildings have since been constructed on the campus during the nonhistoric period, the most recent being a large brick classroom building completed in 2002 at the far south end of the main school complex.

In 1989 Murray County High School became Bagley Middle School. The campus was named in honor of C. W. Bagley, who joined the MCHS faculty in 1935 and served as assistant principal and then principal and was also superintendent of schools from 1945 until 1965 and served on the board of education.

Many graduates of Murray County High School have gone on to positions of local, regional, statewide and even national prominence, a testament to the high educational standards of the institution. The following is but a sampling of these individuals:

Olin Baxter -- a professor at the University of Tennessee.

Charles Carnes -- graduated in the mid-1940s after serving in World War II, went to college and law school and became a lawyer and later was a State Appeals Court Judge.

Lula Gladden -- taught arithmetic at Murray County High School for many years and authored the school song, *Alma Mater*.

Judy Poag -- taught at Murray County High School and was basketball coach, later served as Murray County Sheriff and State Representative.

Charles Pannell, Jr. -- is presently a Federal Judge.

James Pannell -- served as a state representative out of Savannah and once was a candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Georgia.

Charles (Bo) Presley -- owned the Georgia Railroad Bank for many years and was later associated with First Union Bank.

Neal Shelton -- taught physics at the university level and wrote several important articles on subjects in his field.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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McAuliff, Kevin, Tim Howard, and Randall Richards. "Murray County High School Historic District."
Historic Property Form. July, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of
Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Murray County History Committee. Murray County Heritage. Roswell, Georgia: WH Wolfe
Associates Historical Publications Division, 1987.

Ross, Paul. Murray County High School Class of 1950. Interview by Kevin McAuliff, 2001.

Springfield, Ruth. Murray County High School Class of 1941. Interview by Kevin McAuliff, 2001.

Watkins, J.D. Son of stone mason Homer Watkins. Interview by John Kissane, 2002.

Wilbanks, Edwin. Murray County High School graduate. Interview by Kevin McAuliff, 2001.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 21 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 16	Easting 702553	Northing 3850543
B)	Zone 16	Easting 702546	Northing 3850163
C)	Zone 16	Easting 702154	Northing 3850155
D)	Zone 16	Easting 702142	Northing 3850540

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the enclosed map by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Murray County High School Historic District includes the historic buildings and structures associated with the development of the campus and the portion of land historically associated with the school.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** May 3, 2004
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title John Kissane
organization
mailing address 310 Three Oaks Drive
city or town Athens **state** Georgia **zip code** 30607
telephone (706)613-7307
e-mail

- () **property owner**
- (X) **consultant**
- () **regional development center preservation planner**
- () **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Dr. Randall Richards
organization (if applicable) Murray County Board of Education
mailing address P.O. Box 40
city or town Chatsworth **state** Georgia **zip code** 30705
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Murray County High School
City or Vicinity: Chatsworth
County: Murray
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November, 2003

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 15





1. Rock Building, front (east) façade and south façade; photographer facing northwest.
2. Rock Building, rear (west) façade and north façade; photographer facing southeast.
3. Rock Building, rear façade and south façade; photographer facing southeast.
4. Rock Building, south façade; photographer facing north.
5. Rock Building, front façade, entrance detail; photographer facing west.
6. Home Economics Building, foreground, and Rock Building background; photographer facing northwest.
7. Home Economics Building, front (east) façade; photographer facing west.
8. Cannery; photographer facing southeast.
9. Agriculture Building, front (east) façade, entrance detail; photographer facing north.
10. Agriculture Building, front façade and south façade; photographer facing northwest.
11. Agriculture Building, background; photographer facing north.
12. Gymnasium, center; 1956 classroom buildings, left and center; 1950 classroom building, background; and Rock Building, right; photographer facing north.
13. Stadium and athletic field; photographer facing east.
14. Athletic field; photographer facing south.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

15. Rock Building, center; 1950 classroom building, right background; and gymnasium, background; photographer facing west.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Murray County High School Historic District
Chatsworth, Murray County, Georgia
Site Plan
National Register Boundary: 
Contributing: 
Noncontributing: 
Photograph Direction/Number: 
Scale: 1"= approximately 150'
North: ↑

