

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 Peabody School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Herman Avenue
city, town Eastman () vicinity of
county Dodge code GA 091
state Georgia code GA zip code 31023

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	2	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	0

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 Luce

9-30-04

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

Wilson Beall

11/20/04

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL

Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/COLONIAL REVIVAL
MODERN MOVEMENT/INTERNATIONAL STYLE

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
roof	Asphalt
other	Metal

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Peabody School (photograph 1) is located in downtown Eastman, the county seat of Dodge County, in central Georgia. The campus consists of two buildings, the 1938 school building (photograph 12, foreground) and the 1957 lunchroom building (photograph 12, background). When constructed the school housed all grades and served the African-American community of Dodge County. During the 1940s, two wooden barracks from the Air Force base at Warner Robbins (located in Houston County in central Georgia) were located on the campus and used for classroom space and a lunchroom. These buildings were partially burned and removed in 1956. Around the same time, a new high school was constructed for African-American students, and Peabody School became an elementary school.

The school building is a one-story, brick, T-shaped building with a metal roof that exhibits generalized Colonial Revival-style elements (photograph 1). It was a WPA project, with the federal government paying one-third of the materials cost and supplying all of the labor, and was constructed on the site of an earlier wooden school building that burned. Character-defining features of the building include symmetrical façade (photograph 1), accentuated centered entrance (photograph 4), and double-hung-sash windows, frequently in pairs or groups. Windows are three-over-two double-hung-sash. On the front (southeast) façade windows are in four groups of five windows (photographs 1 and 4). Windows on the rear façade and the auditorium wing are single and grouped (photograph 2). There are double-door entrances on each side façade and no windows (photographs 2 and 3). The main entrance is centrally located on the front façade and has a pedimented surround (photograph 4).

The double entry doors open into a small corridor which leads to a cross hallway that runs the length

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

of the building (photograph 6). Offices and classrooms flank the double-loaded corridor (photographs 5 and 7). The auditorium wing is directly across from the main entrance. Interior walls are plaster and bead board (photographs 5, 6, and 7). Ceilings are bead board and floors are linoleum tile and carpeted (photographs 5 and 7). Doors are wood paneled, some with multi-light windows. The auditorium has a raised stage in the northwest end with a dressing room on each side (photograph 9). The walls and ceiling in the auditorium are bead board and the floor is linoleum tile (photograph 9). There is no permanent seating in the auditorium. There are knee braces under the ceiling along the side walls (photograph 8).

The lunchroom building is located to the northeast of the school building and is connected by a covered walkway (photographs 10 and 11). The lunchroom, constructed in 1957, is a one-story brick building that exhibits elements of the International style. Character-defining features of the lunchroom building include the flat roof, flat, unadorned wall surfaces, and ribbon windows (photographs 10 and 11). The interior is divided into a large open space that was used as a dining area and a kitchen for food preparation and serving. The lunchroom was designed by Stevens and Wilkinson. This architectural firm designed 150 elementary and high schools for 26 county and city school systems as part of a 200-million-dollar program started in 1953 to replace substandard buildings throughout Georgia. Simplified and standardized construction methods using welded steel frames, pre-cast roof decks, steel windows and brick cavity walls were used in order to maximize the \$7.50 per square foot limit set up by the Georgia State School Building Authority. Stevens and Wilkinson were also contracted to design several other buildings for the Dodge County Board of Education, including the new high school for African-American students.

The campus became the Dodge County Early Childhood Center in the late 1960s and closed in the late 1980s. It was acquired by United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County in 1994 for use as a community building.

The building is surrounded by nonhistoric development including the Ocmulgee Regional Library, the Dodge County Library, and a modern public housing development (photograph 1, background). Landscaping on the property includes a grass lawn, minimal foundation plantings, and mature trees (photographs 1, 2, and 12).

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):

Architecture
Education
Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance:

1938-1957

Significant Dates:

1938-construction date of school building
1957-construction date of lunchroom building

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Hosford, E.C.-architect, school building
Noles, Lawrence-W.P.A. foreman, school building
Stevens and Wilkinson-architects, lunchroom building

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Peabody School is located southwest of downtown Eastman, the county seat of Dodge County, in central Georgia. The buildings that make up Peabody School were constructed in 1938 and 1957. It is a good example of a typical school found in small Georgia communities. It is significant in the areas of education and ethnic heritage/black as the only high school for African-American students in Dodge County at the time it was constructed. The buildings and their institutions represent a long-standing role in African-American education on this site, beginning with the earlier buildings constructed on this site and continuing through the construction of the current buildings in 1938 and 1957. According to Carole Merritt in Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia, "the history of black educational resources in Georgia reflects the evolution of racially separate facilities, from the founding of private institutions after emancipation through the development of public schools in the twentieth century." Peabody School is also significant in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of a school campus that developed over time. The school building, constructed in 1938, is typical of an early 20th-century consolidated-type school building found in many of Georgia's small towns and communities. It is also significant for the lunchroom that was constructed 1957. Due to increased enrollments in schools for blacks and whites in the 1950s and 1960s, many boards of education in small communities such as Eastman had to construct new buildings, usually auxiliary buildings, to accommodate the rising number of students. The International-style features of the building are typical of that time, and the building is one of a very small number of buildings in the community to represent the International style of architecture. It was constructed by a statewide campaign to expand and update educational facilities in Georgia.

National Register Criteria

Peabody School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of education and ethnic heritage/black for the typical activities that occurred as the African-American school in Eastman during the historic period. It was the only public in the county for African-American children, reflecting the strict segregation of public schools at the time. It also represents two major developments in public education in Georgia during the first half of the 20th century: consolidation of small schools into a central facility in the early 20th century, and the expansion and upgrading of public school facilities in the 1950s. It is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of a mid-20th century educational complex that began with a Depression-era school building and was expanded in the mid-1950s, and includes buildings that represent two distinct periods of public school design in Georgia, the consolidated school and mid-20th century International style.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The lunchroom building, constructed in 1957, is a one-story brick building that exhibits elements of the International style and was designed by Stevens and Wilkinson. This architectural firm designed 150 elementary and high schools for 26 county and city school systems as part of a 200-million-dollar

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

program started in 1953 to replace substandard buildings throughout Georgia. The building is an integral part of the campus that was constructed to fill a specific need. Due to increased enrollments in primary and secondary schools in Georgia in the 1950s and 1960s, many early to mid-20th century schools have similar additions and free-standing buildings that were constructed to accommodate the rising number of students in Georgia's schools.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for Peabody School begins in 1938, the construction date of the school building, and ends in 1957, the construction date of the lunchroom building. The period of significance encompasses the time in which the school buildings served as the sole educational facility for the African-American community in Dodge County.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The two contributing buildings on the nominated property are the 1938 school building and the 1957 lunchroom building. There are no noncontributing resources located on the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled from research materials supplied by Robin B. Nail, Preservation Planner, Heart of Georgia/Altamaha Regional Development Center, July, 2003. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Eastman's first school for white children was constructed in 1873. As early as 1878, school board minutes recorded 889 white children and 359 African-American children between the ages of six and 18 living in Dodge County. Of that number, 512 white children and 145 African-American children were enrolled in school. An earlier wooden school (also named Peabody) was located on the current Peabody School site. The earlier school burned in 1925. It is not known whether that school served the white or African-American community. By 1932, according to school board records, there were 3,400 white students and 1,600 African-American students enrolled in school in Dodge County.

According to a December 10, 1937 article in the Eastman Times Journal, "It has been recognized that the Negroes of Eastman should have a more satisfactory school building..." Plans for the new school were drawn by E.C. Hosford and included classrooms, offices, and an auditorium. The construction was supervised by Lawrence Noles, a local Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) foreman. The federal government paid one-third of the materials cost and supplied all of the labor. The building was completed in June, 1938. The school housed all grades (1st through 11th, and later 12th) and served all of Dodge County. In contrast, during the same time period, there were 14 schools serving the white students of the county. Professor Burton served as the first principal, and some of the teachers were Mrs. V. Yopp, Mrs. Alberta Hamilton, Mrs. Letish Speed, and Mrs. Letic Edwards. One or more grades were taught in each classroom.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

There is no documentation regarding the name Peabody and its association with the school. In newspaper articles referring to the school during its construction, the building is referred to as "Eastman Negro School." There is some speculation that the school was named for George Peabody, the noted 19th century philanthropist, or possibly a well-known black educator. As stated above, the earlier wooden school building was also named Peabody School.

In the early 1950s all grades were still housed at the Peabody campus with the 1st grade and 8th through 12th grades in the brick building, and 2nd through 7th grades in wooden barracks that had been moved from the Air Force base at Warner Robbins, Georgia. These also served as a lunchroom for the school. In 1953, Peabody School was one of seven black schools countywide. The others were Chauncey Junior High, Chester, Copeland, Lisbon, Mt. Olive, and Rhine Junior High.

According to Dodge County Board of Education minutes from January and February, 1954, there were plans to construct a large addition to Peabody School in order to accommodate the rising enrollment. By May of that same year, the board decided to construct a new African-American high school (extant, located southwest of the 1938 building, now serves as Dodge County Middle School) in order to reduce the overcrowding of Peabody and reduce the size of the addition. Reducing the size of the addition also left adequate playground space and room for future expansion. In April, 1955, the board received plans and an estimate from the architecture firm of Stevens & Wilkinson of Atlanta for a lunchroom building at a cost of \$29,400. The contract was awarded for \$34,800 in May of that year. At some time before December, 1956, the wooden barracks burned and were torn down. The lunchroom was constructed on the same site as the barracks and was completed in 1957. The last class to graduate from the 1938 Peabody School was the Class of 1956. The new Peabody High School (the elementary school also kept the name Peabody) was completed in time for the Class of 1957.

Court ordered school integration began in Dodge County in 1970. Peabody School ceased operating as a school in 1967. It later became the Dodge County Early Childhood Education Facility until 1981. A group of local African-American residents joined together and organized as United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County, Inc., in order to purchase the former school in 1994 for \$12,500. Today the school is used for family and church events, meetings, reunions, and parties, as well as for a Summer Feed A Kid Program.

9. Major Bibliographic References

"Building New Negro School to Start Soon." Eastman (GA)Times Journal, December 10, 1937.

Cobb, Mrs. Wilton Philip. History of Dodge County. Atlanta: Foote & Davies Company, 1932.

Dodge County Board of Education minutes.

Dodge County Historical Society. History of Dodge County, Georgia, 1932-1992. W.H. Wolfe Associates, 1993.

Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, 1994.

Nail, Robin B. "Peabody School." Historic Property Information Form, July, 2003. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Pound, Olin. Dodge County Historical Society, Eastman, Georgia. Interview by Robin B. Nail, May, 2004.

Stevens & Wilkinson: Selected Work. Dittler Brothers, Inc.

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

Acreage of Property 2.67 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 294485 Northing 3563486

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed nominated property follows the current legal boundary and includes the school building, lunchroom building, and the intact 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 47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** September 30, 2004
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Robin B. Nail, Preservation Planner
organization Heart of Georgia/Altamaha Regional Development Center
mailing address P.O. Box 1260
city or town Baxley **state** Georgia **zip code** 31515
telephone (912)367-3648
e-mail rbmail@hogardc.org

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) John Battle
organization (if applicable) United Concerned Citizens of Dodge County, Inc.
mailing address P.O. Box 4525
city or town Eastman **state** Georgia **zip code** 31023
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Peabody School
City or Vicinity: Eastman
County: Dodge
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: May, 2004

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 12

1. School building, front (southeast) façade; photographer facing west.
2. School building, northeast façade and rear (northwest) façade; photographer facing south.
3. School building, southwest façade and front façade, and lunchroom building, background; photographer facing north.
4. School building, entrance detail; photographer facing northwest.
5. School building, interior, classroom; photographer facing northeast.
6. School building, interior, hallway; photographer facing southwest.
7. School building, interior, classroom; photographer facing west.
8. School building, interior, auditorium; photographer facing north.
9. School building, interior, auditorium; photographer facing northwest.
10. Lunchroom building; photographer facing north.
11. Lunchroom building; photographer facing southeast.
12. School building, foreground and lunchroom building, background; photographer facing northeast.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Peabody School
Eastman, Dodge County, Georgia

Site Plan

Photograph Direction/Number: ①

Scale: Not to scale

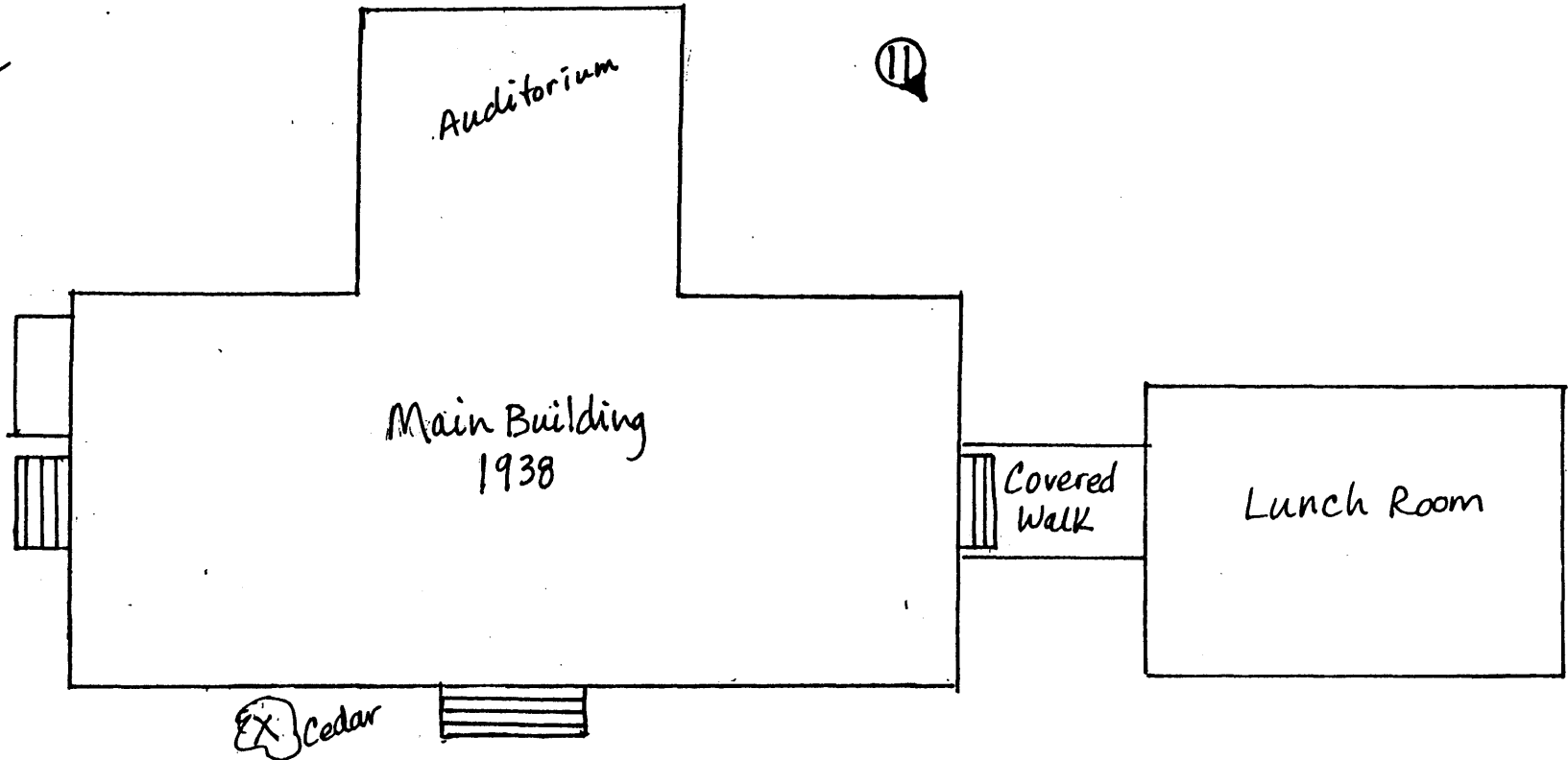
North: ↗

Technology
Auditorium

Ocmulgee
Regional
Library

②

Former
Playground
Area
Oak



Public
Housing
Project

Wooded

④

⑩

③

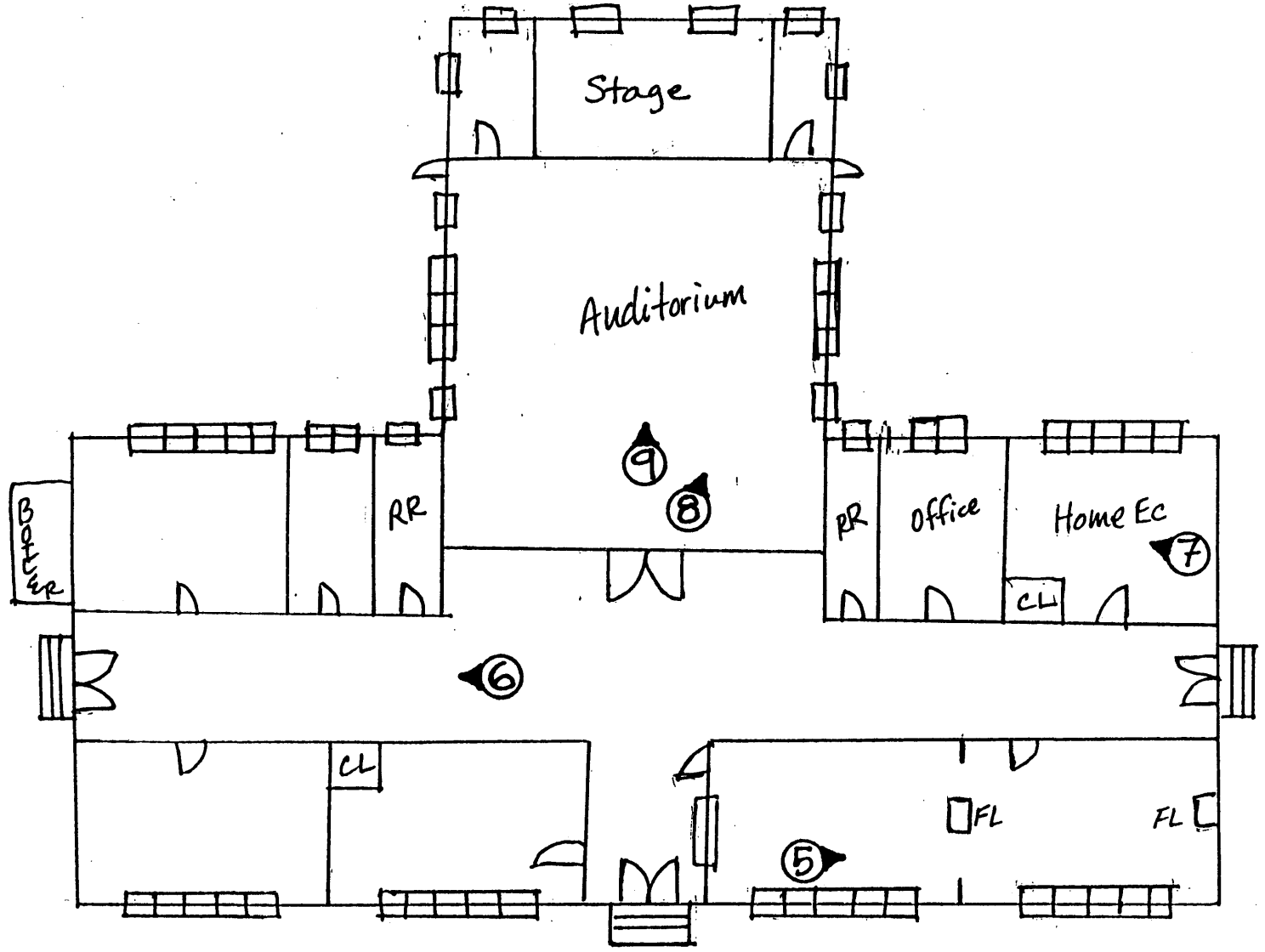
Oak

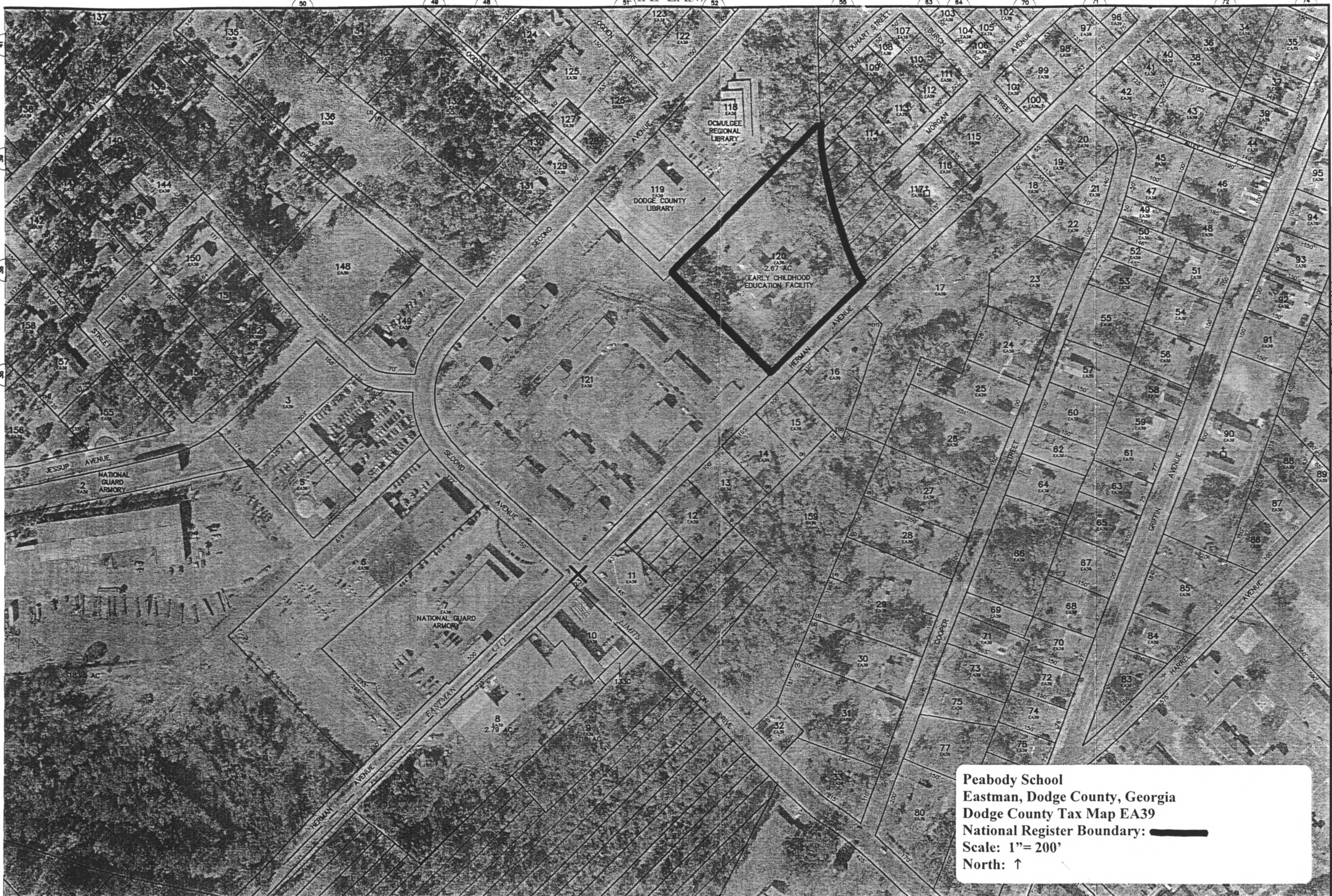
Oak


①

Herman Ave.

Peabody School
Eastman, Dodge County, Georgia
Floor Plan-School Building
Photograph Direction/Number: ①
Scale: Not to scale
North: ↗





Peabody School
Eastman, Dodge County, Georgia
Dodge County Tax Map EA39
National Register Boundary: 
Scale: 1" = 200'
North: ↑



EASTMAN
GEORGIA

DISCLAIMER
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 COUNTY. THE COUNTY AND / OR
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