

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.

W. Ray Luce 3/30/01
Signature of certifying official Date

W. Ray Luce
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 Edson H. Beal 5/10/01

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions:

RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

no style

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	metal
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Hiram Colored School, built in 1930, is located on the north side of Hiram, Paulding County in a loosely developed residential area. The school is situated on a high point of a large lot featuring large mature trees and foundation plantings. Historically, the lot associated with the school was approximately 3.5 acres and currently is 1.7 acres. A short gravel drive provides access to the school from Georgia State Route (SR) 92 as well as to the adjacent streets Fitzgerald and Ragsdale.

The Hiram Colored School is a one-story building featuring wood-framed, weatherboarded construction, asymmetrical massing, a metal hipped roof with exposed rafter tails and overhanging eaves, interior chimney, an integral front porch supported by a brick pier and brick column, and continuous brick foundation. The original windows have been replaced but the historic openings remain (photos 1-5).

The interior plan of the school consists of two large open classrooms, approximately 22' x 30' (see Figure 2 on page 7). Tongue-and-groove pine boards, approximately 2.5 inches wide, are used in the construction of the floors, walls, and ceiling (see photo 6). The interior also features five-paneled doors with hopper-type transoms, twelve-foot ceilings, and a built-in library (see photo 9). Historically, a movable partition originally separated the two classrooms. Currently, the partition is gone but the track for the partition remains intact. The classroom on the northern end of the building features a stage on its far northern end (see photo 7). The classroom on the southern end of the building features the built-in library and two cloak rooms. The cloak rooms have been renovated to function as restrooms; however, the original configuration of the cloak rooms has remained intact. The industrial room, now the kitchen, is located on the eastern side of the building (see photo 10). The room is approximately 10' x 20' and has entrances to the front porch and vestibule.

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):

ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN
ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION

Period of Significance:

1930-1955

Significant Dates:

1930 Construction of the Hiram Colored School.

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

n/a

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Hiram Colored School is a historically African-American school built with funds provided by the Julius Rosenwald Fund, a philanthropic organization. The school is significant in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African-American, architecture, and education at the state level of significance.

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The Hiram Colored School is significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage: African-American and education for its function as a African-American school constructed with funds from the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Julius Rosenwald (1862-1932), president of Sears, Roebuck and Company and philanthropist, provided funding for the construction of adequate school facilities for black children in the rural South from 1913 to 1932. At the turn of the century, northern philanthropists had joined forces with white southern education leaders to improve public education for African-Americans in the southern states. Their concern was practical as well as humanitarian: the United States needed more productive agriculture to support urban and industrial development. They believed that in the South, this could be achieved by creating a better-trained black labor force through vocational education, then known as industrial education.

Rosenwald was impressed with the industrial education program of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and in 1912 he gave a gift of \$25,000 to be distributed as matching grants for the construction of schools in the Tuskegee example for black children. In 1917, Rosenwald consolidated his financial contributions into a philanthropic foundation, the Julius Rosenwald Fund. The Rosenwald Fund continued to operate out of Tuskegee Institute until 1920; the fund was then relocated to Nashville, Tennessee. From 1920 to 1928, between four and five hundred schools were built annually, with the fund's aid totaling from \$356,000 to \$414,000 each year.

Mandatory standards for Rosenwald school architecture were essential, for the Rosenwald Fund intended that buildings it aided serve as models of modern rural school design. All schools had to be built according to standardized designs published by the Rosenwald Fund as Community School Plans. These plans included designs for one-story school buildings housing one to six classrooms. The plans were revised and eventually included schools up to twelve classrooms. The plans had strict control over the building's orientation on the site, construction materials, floor plan, exterior and interior finishes, and furniture. Every school plan included an industrial room in addition to the regular classroom. The schools had to be situated on a lot of at least two acres to allow for a school garden and playground.

By 1932 in Georgia, 242 schools and 12 teacher's homes were constructed in 42 counties by the fund. There has been no comprehensive survey in Georgia to determine how many of these schools remain.

The Hiram Colored School, the only Rosenwald school in Paulding County, is an excellent example of a Rosenwald school. The school was constructed in 1930 using the Rosenwald "Two Teacher Community School" plan (see Figure 1). The school was situated on a 3.5 acre lot and the total cost of the school was \$3,010. \$1,400 was paid by the African-Americans in the community, \$210 by the white members, \$650 by the public school system, and \$750 by the Rosenwald Fund. The school included an industrial classroom as well as a library. The library consisted of 130 books stored in a built-in bookshelf. The Hiram Rosenwald school was the only African-American school in Paulding

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County to have a library. Students attended the school from first through ninth grade; Hiram Colored School was one of two African-American schools in Paulding County that taught ninth grade (most schools ended with the seventh grade). The building functioned as a school from 1930 until 1955. In 1955, the building was sold by the Paulding Board of Education to the Sweet Home Baptist Church and now the building functions as a community center.

The Hiram Colored School is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a Rosenwald-designed school building. The Julius Rosenwald Fund (the Fund) had strict control over the design of the Rosenwald schools. In 1920, the Fund established guidelines for the construction of its schools. The Fund expected that its buildings would serve as examples for the rural school building.

The character-defining features of a the "Two Teacher Community School" school includes the school situated on at least a two-acre lot; single, paired, and ribbon windows; two large open classrooms separated by a moveable partition; an industrial room; wood or masonry exterior facade; and hipped or gable roof (see Figure 1).

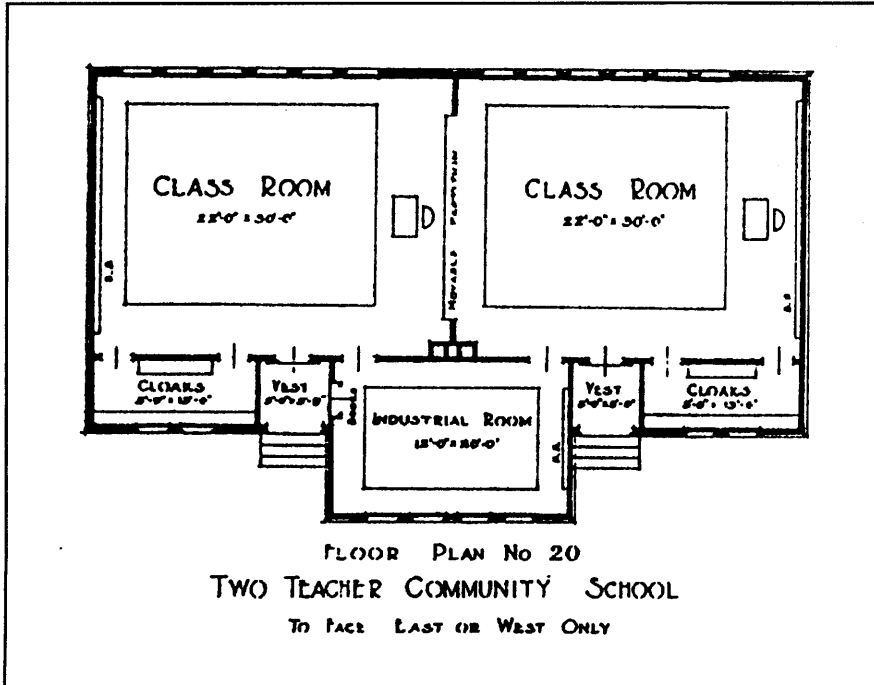


Figure 1 : Rosenwald School plan

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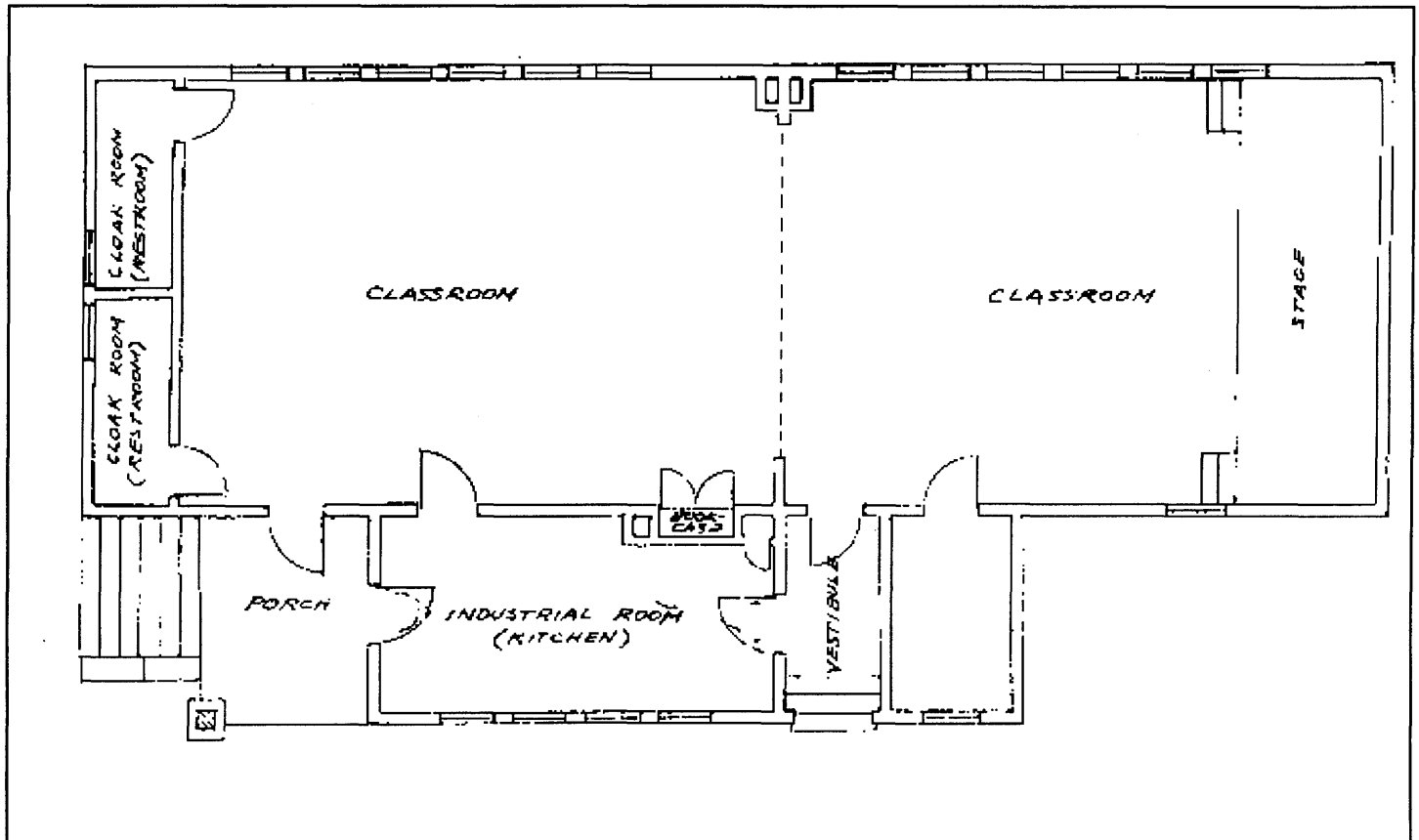


Figure 2: Existing floor plan for the Hiram Colored School, Paulding County, Georgia

The Hiram Colored School has retained many of its historic exterior and interior character-defining features, as defined by the Rosenwald Fund. The exterior character-defining features of the Hiram Colored School include its location on a 1.7 acre lot, one-story wood-frame construction, gable roof, and ribbon window fenestration (see photos 1- 5). The interior character-defining features of the school include two large open classrooms (see photos 6 and 8), intact track showing the location of the moveable partition, original wood walls, ceiling, and floors (see photo 6), five-paneled doors with transoms (see photo 8), library (see photo 9), and industrial room (see photo 10). The overall arrangement of the interior space (see Figure 2) is representative of the Two Teacher/Community School (see Figure 1) designed by the Rosenwald Fund.

National Register Criteria

The Hiram Colored School is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its association to the Julius Rosenwald Fund, a philanthropic fund that provided assistance for the construction of schools

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to education African-American children. The Hiram Colored School is eligible under National Register Criterion C as an excellent example of a Rosenwald-funded school.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

A (religious properties): The Hiram Colored School has been owned by the Sweet Home Baptist Church of Hiram since 1955 after its use as a public school was discontinued. However, the significance and National Register eligibility of the school building relate to its architecture and historic role as a public school building prior to the time the building was sold to the church and not to any religious associations. The period of significance for the school building ends in 1955 when its use as a school was discontinued.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Hiram Colored School begins in 1930 with the construction of the school and ends in 1955, the year the school closed.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Hiram Colored School (building) is the single contributing building.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****Note: The following history was prepared by Dan Latham and Gloria McCrary, "Hiram Colored School," Historic Property Information Form, October 17, 1997. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

On April 4, 1930, the Paulding County Board of Education met in a special session to consider an application for the Rosenwald Fund for a "Hiram colored school" and library. Upon the guarantee of the trustees and black people of the community that the building would be completed by June 20, 1930, the Board approved the application. W.J. Arnold, secretary-treasurer of the Hiram local school district, was made paymaster for the building. Having charge of the financing for the building, he was guaranteed reimbursement of \$750 as special aid from the Rosenwald Fund as soon as the building was completed and accepted by the State Department of Education.

At its June meeting, the Board ordered Superintendent C.A. Roberts to buy desks for the Hiram Colored School and also to buy heaters for the school, as soon as needed. At the Board's regular meeting on July 1, 1930, W.J. Arnold reported that the building had been completed and accepted by the state for the Rosenwald Fund. The total cost of the school building was \$3,010. The cost breakdown was as follows: blacks, \$1,400; whites, \$210; public, \$650; and the Rosenwald Fund,

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\$750. With a warranty deed dated July 1, 1930, the "Trustees Hiram Colored School" transferred the property, containing three and one-half acres, to the Paulding County Board of Education. The trustees of the school were as follows: C.(?) Fitzgerald, C.W. Sims, T.H. Hutchens, E.D. Moore, and I.S. Ray. At the end of 1930, the Hiram Colored School was one of 218 Rosenwald schools that had been built in 97 of Georgia's counties.

By the late 1930s, Paulding County had eight black schools, as follows: Matthews Consolidated (Dallas), Hiram, Mt. Carmel, Mt. Olive, Union Hill, Zion Hill, Edgefield, and Rocky Ford. Three of the schools --Zion Hill, Edgefield, and Rocky Ford-- were still held in church buildings. Of the five black school buildings, the Hiram school building had the highest valuation, at \$3,000 --twice that of the building with the next highest valuation, the Matthews Consolidated. None of the black schools had running water, and all had outside pit toilet systems. The Hiram school, with its Rosenwald-funded library of 130 volumes, was the only black school in the county with a library.

The ninth grade was the highest grade taught in the county's black schools in the late 1930s. The Hiram and the Matthews schools were the only ones with a ninth grade. The other schools generally went through the seventh grade, with the Mt. Carmel and Mt. Olive schools sometimes having an eighth grade. The Matthews school had two or three teachers; the Hiram school, two teachers; and the other schools, one teacher each. For the 1937-38 term, the Hiram school had a total enrollment of 80 students --65 in elementary school and 15 in high school (eighth and ninth grades). The average daily attendance was 67.7. The Matthews school was the only black school at that time with the larger enrollment.

According to Paulding County Board of Education records, the teachers at the Hiram Colored School during the period from October 1, 1930, to December 31, 1931, were G.R. Newell and Eva I. Harper. Other teachers at the Hiram school in the 1930s included the following: Mattie Harper, B.C. Brown, Lela Brown, Jonas P. Turner, and Essie Mae Sims.

At its December 3, 1940, meeting, the Paulding County Board of Education decided to consolidate the Union Hill, Zion Hill, Edgefield, and Rocky Ford schools with the Matthews Consolidated School, effective January 1941. The Union Hill school had less than ten students at the time, and the other three schools lacked school buildings.

For the 1941-42 school term, the Matthews Consolidated School added a tenth grade. Its school building was valued at \$2,000, as was the Hiram school building at that time. The Mt. Carmel and Mt. Olive school buildings were each valued at \$500. After the January 1941 consolidation, each of the four remaining black schools had small libraries, and the Hiram school's library began to decline in size --having 102 volumes in 1941-42.

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By the 1943-44 school term, the Hiram Colored School had the smallest enrollment of the remaining black schools. Matthews Consolidated had an enrollment of 223; Mt. Carmel, 76; Mt. Olive, 76; and Hiram, 60. The Hiram school's average daily attendance, however, was slightly higher than Mt. Carmel's.

For the 1944-45 school term, an eleventh grade was added at the Matthews Consolidated School, where by the 1946-47 term, all the county's black children attended grades higher than the seventh. The Matthews school consisted of three buildings (one of which was the former Union Hill School) and had eight teachers for grades one through eleven. Hiram, Mt. Carmel, and Mt. Olive, then entirely elementary schools, had two teachers each. The Hiram school had an enrollment of 54 elementary students for the 1946-47 term, with an average daily attendance of 49. The school's library had declined to only 24 volumes. Still, none of the black schools had running water or indoor toilet systems.

The following teachers are among those that worked at the Hiram Colored School in the 1940s: Jonas P. Turner, Fannie H. Turner, Mary Lou Nixon, Eleanor Boston, Vera Jennings, Josephine Easley, and Hazel Owens. For the period from 1937 to 1943, the trustees of the school were: Eddie D. Moore, Earl Weddington, I.S. Ray, M.R. Kight, and Charlie W. Sims.

By 1952 the Paulding County Board of Education had established the construction of a new Matthews Consolidated School for blacks as one of the top priorities for the county school system and had obtained options on a new site. A school bond election passed on August 20, 1952, and on February 2, 1954, the Board of Education approved a resolution reorganizing the county schools into eight schools for whites and one school --Matthew Consolidated-- for blacks. The Hiram Colored School continued operations through the 1954-55 term or until the new Matthews Consolidated School was completed and ready for occupancy. Some of the teachers at the Hiram Colored School in the 1950s were as follows: H.E. Rutland, Mattie Alexander, Marry Lucas, Fannie M. Harris, Lena Mae Andrews, Florence M. Harris, Sophie D. Peterson, and Eva H. Steele.

At its June 7, 1955, meeting, the Paulding County Board of Education decided that sealed bids on the Hiram Colored School would be accepted at its July meeting. The Board, at that next meeting, approved the sale of the Hiram Colored School to the people of Hiram for church and community purposes. The amount was set at \$600, and the building was to be released when the new Matthews Consolidated School was completed. With a warranty deed dated November 5, 1955, the Paulding County Board of Education transferred the school property to Sweet Home Baptist Church.

The original property of three and one-half acres has been reduced to approximately one and three-fourths acres today. Some land apparently has been lost to highway and street rights-of-way, and Sweet Home Church made several transfers of property between 1956 and 1973. The most

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significant transfers were two lots, each approximately two-thirds acre, taken from the west side of the property in 1968 and 1973.

Since 1955, Sweet Home Baptist Church has used the Hiram Colored School building for a variety of church and community functions. There never has been, however, a well-defined long term use for the building. In the 1960s, it was used by the community to sponsor dances for the neighborhood teenagers and as a venue for various adult social organization events. It also was used, for a time, to show movies on Saturdays. It was then and still is used for events such as family reunions, church auxiliary meetings, yard sales, and fish fry and barbeque fund-raisers for various church and community organizations. In the late 1980s, Sweet Home Church held its services and meetings in the old school building while the church building on Oak Street was being remodeled.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Embree, Edwin R. "How Negro Schools Have Advanced Under the Rosenwald Fund." (Reprinted from The Nation's Schools, May 1928, Vol. I, No. 5.)
- Foster, W.A. Paulding County: Its People and Places. Roswell, Ga.: H.H. Wolfe Associates, 1983.
- Georgia. Department of Education. Annual Reports. Report of J.C. Dixon, Supervisor of Negro Education (1929-30).
- Paulding County, Georgia. Board of Education. Audit of Accounts (October 1, 1930 to December 31, 1931).
- Paulding County, Georgia. Board of Education. Minutes (1919-55).
- Paulding County, Georgia. Board of Education. Superintendent's Annual Report to State Department of Education (1937-47).
- Paulding County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book UU, p.509; Deed Book 3-P, p.74; Deed Book 5-D, p.246; Deed Book 6-P, p.402.
- Rosenwald School Conference: Resource Guide. Conference on October 21, 1995 at Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

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 Approximately 1.7 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 707163 Northing 3751064

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Hiram Colored School is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map and the attached National Register Boundary Map. On the north, west, and south, the boundary conforms to the current property lines. On the east, the boundary extends to the top back edge of the drainage ditch along SR 92 to include the entire front of the school yard.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Hiram Colored School includes the building, landscaping including large trees, front and side yards, and remaining historic acreage (about one-half the original acreage) associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, SW
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** March 15, 2001

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

name/title Dan Latham and Gloria McCrary/Preservation Planner
organization Coosa Valley Regional Development Center
street and number 275 Barnwell Street
city or town Hiram **state** Georgia **zip code** 30141
telephone (770) 943-5234

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Photographs



Name of Property: Hiram Colored School
City or Vicinity: Hiram
County: Paulding
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 1998

Description of Photograph(s):

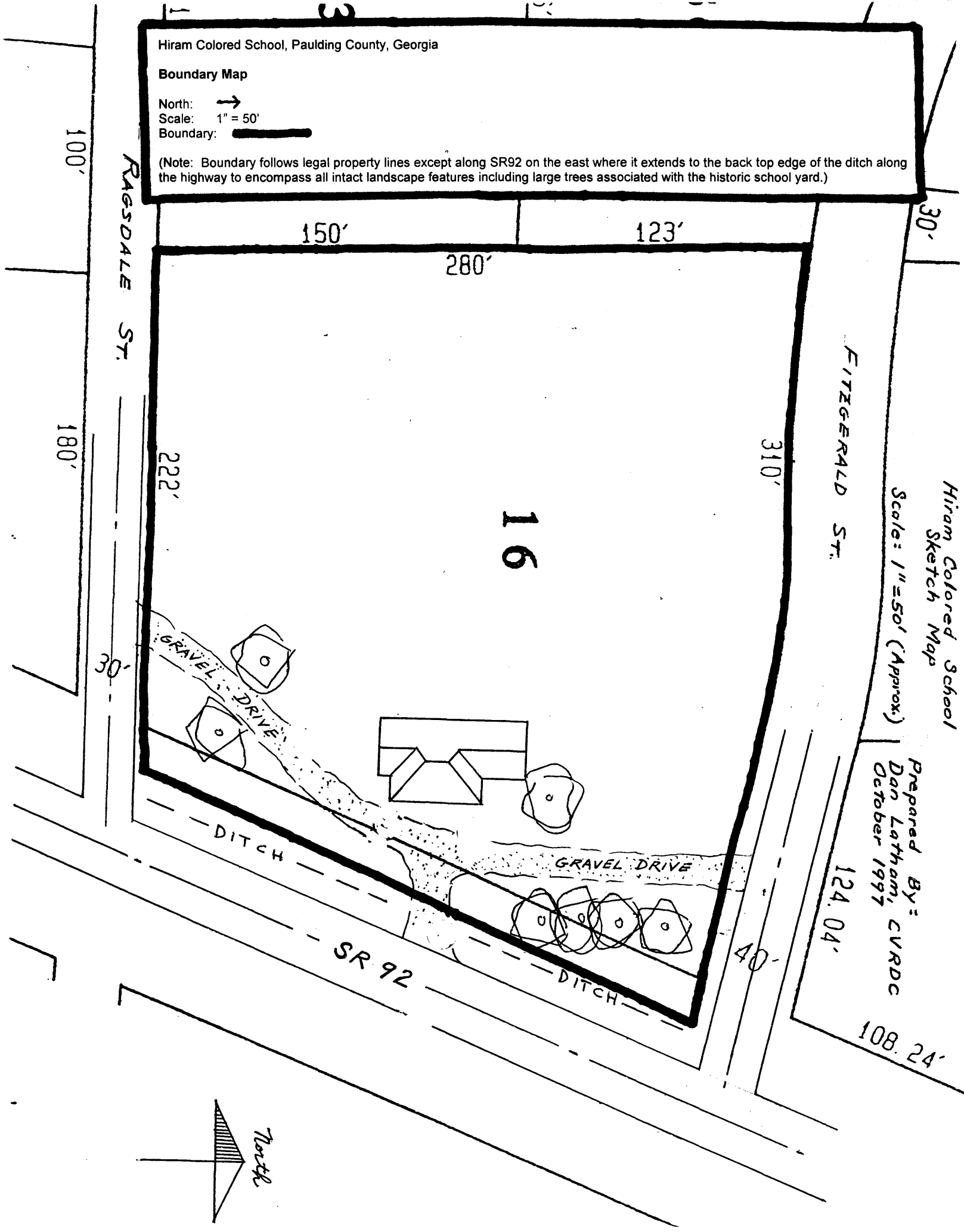
- 1 of 10 View of the Hiram Colored School; photographer facing north.
- 2 of 10 Detail view of main entrance; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 10 View of side elevation; photographer facing west.
- 4 of 10 Detail view of ribbon window fenestration; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 10 Detail view of ribbon window fenestration; photographer facing southeast.
- 6 of 10 View of interior; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 10 Detail view of the stage; photographer facing north.
- 8 of 10 View of interior; photographer facing south.
- 9 of 10 Detail view of the library; photographer facing northeast.
- 10 of 10 View of the Industrial Room/Kitchen; photographer facing north.

Hiram Colored School, Paulding County, Georgia

Boundary Map

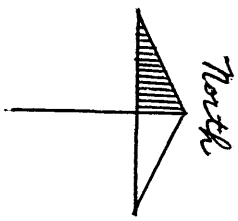
North: 
Scale: 1" = 50'
Boundary: 

(Note: Boundary follows legal property lines except along SR92 on the east where it extends to the back top edge of the ditch along the highway to encompass all intact landscape features including large trees associated with the historic school yard.)



Hiram Colored School
Sketch Map
Scale: 1" = 50' (Approx)

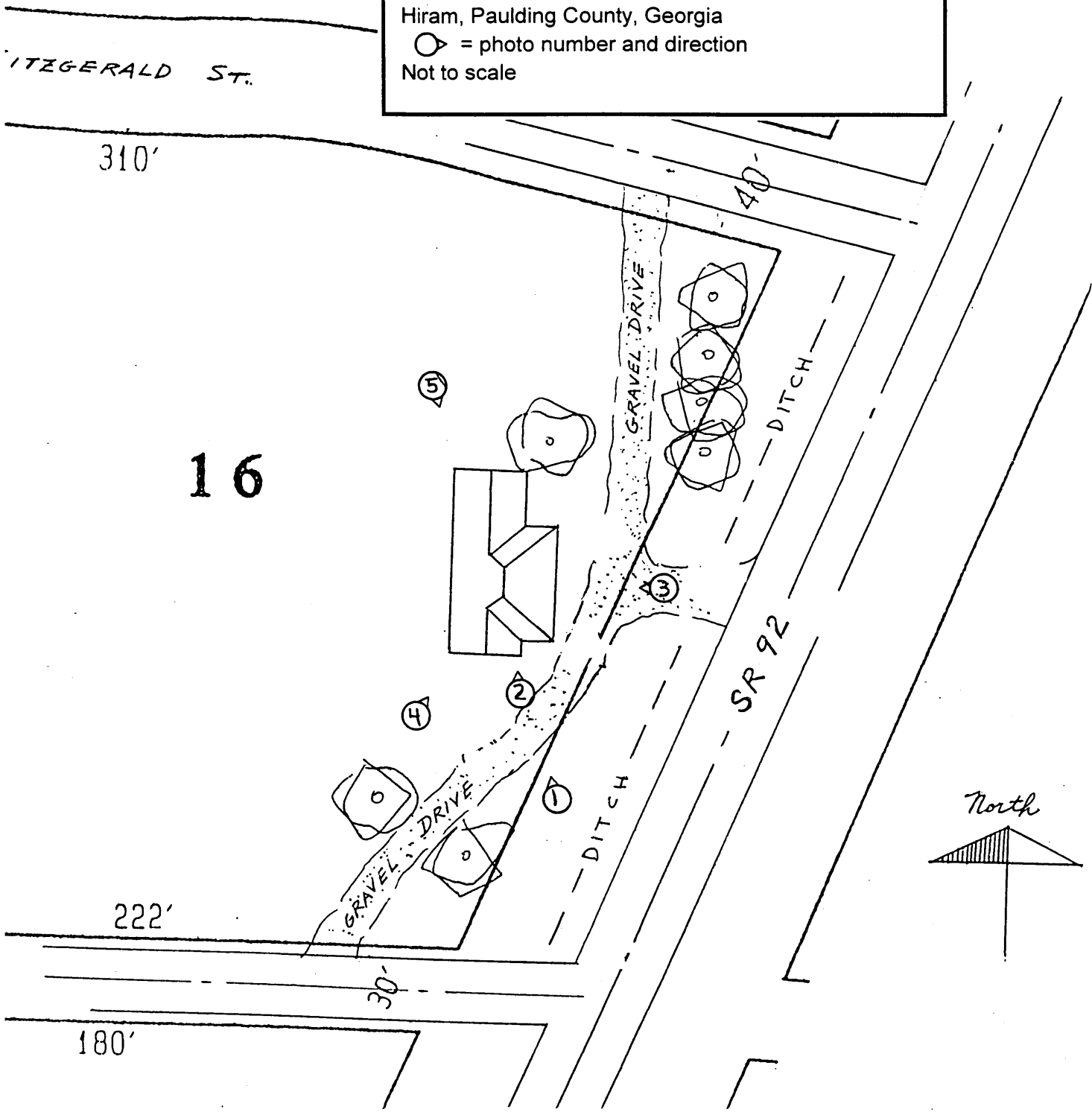
Prepared By:
Dan Latham, CVRDC
October 1997



NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/EXTERIOR SITE PLAN

Hiram Colored School
Hiram, Paulding County, Georgia

○ = photo number and direction
Not to scale



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NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/FLOOR PLAN

Hiram Colored School

Hiram, Paulding County, Georgia

⊙ = photo number and direction

Not to scale

