

3640

**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 HAMPTON, CORA BECK, SCHOOLHOUSE AND HOUSE  
other names/site number HOLLEYMAN SCHOOL

**2. Location**

street & number 213 Hillyer Place  
city, town Decatur (N/A) vicinity of  
county DeKalb code GA 089  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30030

(N/A) not for publication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:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	2	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Signature of certifying official

3/3/92  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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
- ( ) determined eligible for the National Register
- ( ) determined not eligible for the National Register
- ( ) removed from the National Register
- ( ) other, explain:
- ( ) see continuation sheet

Entered in the  
National Register

Melous Gyer 4/16/92

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register      Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
EDUCATION/school

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

### Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Cora Beck Hampton Schoolhouse and House are located in downtown Decatur, a county seat community approximately eight miles east of Atlanta. The nominated property consists of a frame, one and one-half-story cottage with a rear addition and an attached frame, one-story, one-room, gable-roofed building (the schoolhouse). Being within the city, the house has a sidewalk in front of it. There is also a stone retaining wall on the west (Hillyer Street) side of the property. The northern part of this wall also has a white picket fence atop it.

The main house contains an entrance hallway with a door connecting it to the schoolhouse, and a staircase to the upper floor. There is a large bedroom and a smaller room on the front of the first floor, and a large room at the rear (in the addition) which includes the kitchen, dining room and living room. There are porches on the front of the house and on both sides of the rear addition. On the upper level there is a large room, a small room, a bath, and a large attic space.

The schoolhouse consists of one room which is rectangular in shape (approximately 25' x 15'). It has a gabled roof and sits on brick pillars. It has seven windows, each 79" x 29". The entrance is a door on the east side facing away from Hillyer Place. There is a fireplace with chimney on the west wall opposite the door. The exterior is clapboard. There is a tin roof over the entrance. The chimney, pillars, and foundation are of brick. The schoolhouse is essentially unornamented. There are remnants of hardware indicating that the windows had shutters. The windows are double-hung with four over four panes.

The schoolhouse has a 12-foot ceiling. On the west wall there is one window on either side of the coal-burning fireplace which includes

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a mantel and chimney. On the east wall, one window is on the same wall as the door. On the south side there are three windows and on the north wall, where there is a corridor connecting the main house with the schoolhouse, there is one window. The walls are wainscotted, chair-railed, and plastered. There is also picture molding. The floor, wainscotting, chair-railing, windows, and window trim are of heart pine. The interior window molding is fluted with rosettes at the top corners. The chair-rail molding is also fluted. The fireplace mantel was purchased ready-made. It is of simple design and made of poplar. There are terra-cotta colored tiles around the opening and around the hearth. The walls have the original lathing.

The main house and the schoolhouse are adjacent to an abandoned dirt street (Pate Alley), part of which is included within the property on a flat or level terrain. They are next to a new street, Commerce Drive, and are surrounded by a residential area on three sides as well as the bus station and other commercial enterprises to the southside. They are also just a few blocks on the west from the central business district of downtown Decatur and between two subway/rapid rail stops. The property is on the edge of the Sycamore Street Historic Area on the east.

No archaeology has been done on the property, and no assessment of archaeological potential has been made.

Changes to the schoolhouse include the replacement of one window with a corridor to the school teacher's house. Additional bricks have been added between the original brick pillars for additional support. An entrance was added to the attic space above the twelve-foot ceiling so that it could be used for storage. Previously there was no entrance into it, but a space was created in the otherwise closed ceiling to provide access via a ladder.

Changes to the main house have taken place through the years although it has recently been restored as a residence.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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

**Period of Significance:**

ca. 1892-1902

**Significant Dates:**

1892

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Unknown

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Hampton Schoolhouse and House are significant as a very rare example of a one-room school and the school teacher's house together on the same piece of property. The schoolhouse is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a building built to be a one-room schoolhouse, its functional and un-adorned style reflecting the bare necessities: a fireplace for warmth, and windows for light, and one room where all the subjects were taught to all the students by one teacher. Once common, such one-room schoolhouses are now extremely rare in Georgia. The property also includes the teacher's residence: a one and one-half-story, frame cottage of late 19th century vintage that is a typical in-town house of that era. The property is significant in education because it served for a decade (1892-1902) as a one-room schoolhouse operated by a local teacher, Cora Beck Hampton, who taught various ages of white elementary students of both sexes here. Mrs. Hampton, a widow, operated the school until the City of Decatur created a public school system, at which time her school ceased operation. That same year (1902) she remarried Dr. W. F. Holleyman and was active in many other civic affairs until her death in 1935, having sold this property in 1919.

**National Register Criteria**

The Hampton Schoolhouse and House meets National Register Criterion A because it is associated with events contributing to the broad patterns of American History. This would be in its role for a decade, 1892-1902, as one of five privately-run schools within the city of Decatur. It is the only remaining schoolhouse in Decatur from the era before the city created a public school system and built new school buildings. The one-room schoolhouse was the major type of school building in the era before larger public schools were created. The teacher, Mrs. Hampton, a widow, chose one of the few occupations open to single women, or women at all. She taught approximately 30 students, boys and girls, all white, all the subjects for the grades roughly considered elementary/grammar school, or pre-high school in later years. This schoolhouse thus represents one of the basic early elements of Georgia's educational system. The schoolhouse is one of the few remaining one-room schoolhouses in Georgia, one of the very few which remain at its original location and is restored, and one of the very few urban schoolhouses to remain.

The schoolhouse also meets Criterion C because it embodies distinctive characteristics of a type of building, that is, the one-

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room schoolhouse. It was in this detached, one room where all the school functions took place. It had, and retains, few adornments. It had a fireplace for warmth, all plumbing being outside and today non-existent, windows for light, and a large open space for seating and school activities. In this simple but functional creation, it was the embodiment of the late 19th century schoolhouse. The associated teacher's house is a good representative example of late 19th century vernacular houses in Georgia with its simple, straightforward design and lack of stylistic detailing.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance (1892-1902) is that period of time during which the one room schoolhouse was used as a local school. After that, it was just part of the residence.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

This property is counted as two contributing buildings because the house and schoolhouse, although now technically joined, were historically discrete structures with entirely different functions.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

The Cora Beck Hampton Schoolhouse and House are located in Decatur, Georgia, a city eight miles east of Atlanta, which was founded in 1823, before Atlanta was begun in 1837. The Georgia Railroad which linked Augusta to Decatur ended at a "terminus" on the west around which Atlanta began. Decatur's motto is "a city of homes, churches, and schools." Until it established a public school system in 1902, all of Decatur's education took place in private schools such as the Hampton School.

The exact date of the founding of the Hampton School is not known, although Cora Beck Hampton (later Mrs. Holleyman) built and began teaching there some time between 1885 and 1892. The school's unusual juxtaposition with the main house probably is due to two reasons. One, it was at the original southern-most end of the property, with Pate Street or Alley immediately adjacent to the south wall. Secondly, the Decatur trolley line came along just east of the house on Oak Street

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and the school's location would put it closest to that form of transportation, which perhaps some students took.

The Hampton Schoolhouse dates from a particularly interesting era for private schools in Decatur. In an article with the headline "When Decatur Learned Its ABCs There Were Only Academies, Private Teachers" (NEW ERA, June 20, 1935) one paragraph begins:

"After the close of the Civil War came the quaintest and most picturesque era of the schools in Decatur, the rise of private schools taught in private homes or small school rooms especially built by their energetic mistresses. All of these lady teachers were characters such as might have stepped from the very pages of 'Cranford' and their sweetness and charm, their aristocratic mien and their methods of instructing their young pupils have endeared them to all."

Several schools and their teachers are described in the paragraphs which follow, the Hampton School among them.

Also among the schools described in the NEW ERA article is the school run by Miss Kate Hillyer from her father's home on the corner of Howard Avenue and Line Street (now Hillyer Place) just south of the nominated property. Both the Hampton and Hillyer schools are mentioned in an article called "History Lives in Line Street" in the ATLANTA JOURNAL, August 20, 1933. The article begins "Not many streets two short blocks long have as many historical associates as has old Line Street, now Hillyer Place, in Decatur."

While the details of schooling at the Hampton School have not been discovered, details from nearby city and county schools can shed some light on education in a turn-of-the-century one-room schoolhouse. There would be between 25-30 pupils, both boys and girls. The tuition could range anywhere from \$2-\$3 a month, or perhaps charged by the number of days attended.

The schools were usually referred to by their teacher's name, as in this case, since they were privately operated, and were usually run in or adjacent to a private residence. At the Patton School, the subjects taught were the 3-R's, astronomy, Latin, French, philosophy, higher math, and literature. Some schools added painting and Friday night musicals as enrichment programs. A typical report card from 1894 indicated that a pupil received marks in writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, dictionary, rhetoric, algebra, Latin, French, deportment and punctuality.



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The schools sometimes had individual desks, while some had long desks which would accommodate several pupils, and others even had a desk-like board nailed to the wall.

It is likely that the school closed when public schools were instituted in Decatur in 1902. Although she still owned the property at 213 Hillyer Place (on the southwest corner of the block), Mrs. Holleyman moved to 511 Sycamore Street, on the northeast corner of the same block. It is possible that she exchanged this property for the northern half of her original lot, north of the school and house.

Mrs. Cora Stewart, currently housekeeper at 509 Sycamore Street, which is just to the north of the nominated property (213 Hillyer Place), remembers from her childhood (the late 1930s) that the schoolhouse was used as a kitchen. She was sometimes invited in for cookies. She used to pass the schoolhouse as a child from her residence behind the cemetery on her way to purchase ice at the ice house adjacent to the railroad tracks, just south of this property across Commerce Drive.

BIOGRAPHY OF CORA BECK HAMPTON, OWNER AND TEACHER

Cora Vaughn Beck was born in 1846 in Griffin, (then Pike County) Georgia. Lewis H. Beck, later the founder of Beck & Gregg Hardware of Atlanta, was her brother. Her father, a banker, died when Cora was two. Before 1850, her mother married John G. Hill of Griffin, and when Cora was nine, her mother remarried V. R. Tommey, whom Cora described as "a retired capitalist." She moved to Decatur in 1867 and lived "with the Tommey family." The relation between these Tommeys and her stepfather is unclear. Her stepfather did come to Decatur as indicated by the fact that he was a superintendent of the Sunday school at the Methodist church for several years.

In 1873 Cora, at age 26, married John Russell Hampton. He died in 1875, leaving her, at 28, a widow with one daughter. She remained a widow for the next twenty-seven years until she married Dr. Wylie F. Holleyman in 1902.

On September 10, 1885 she bought a city lot from Mr. Porter for \$300. It included twice as much land as currently with the nominated property, for the lot ran all the way to Sycamore Street on the north. The southern half of this lot included the site of the schoolhouse. From her recollections: "I bought a cheap lot of one acre, erected two rooms and made additions as I worked and saved money." These two rooms probably refer to the residence at 213 Hillyer Place. Elsewhere in her recollections she said "For ten years I taught school..." These recollections were made in 1902, indicating that the school had

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been in operation since about 1892, and, this in turn suggests that the schoolhouse was built in that same year or just before.

Tax records for 1889-1892 inclusive indicate that the value of her Decatur property was \$800 in 1889 and 1890, went to \$900 in 1891 and to \$1000 in 1892. The value of household effects was at \$50 in 1892. The rise in the total value of her real estate would seem to indicate that by 1892 she had added something to the property, presumably the one-room schoolhouse.

From the time she arrived in Decatur, Cora Beck was involved in activities memorializing the Confederate dead and preserving Confederate history. She apparently began these activities by herself bringing flowers annually to lay on the graves of Confederate soldiers in the Decatur City Cemetery. Eventually her individual activities broadened to include her school children. One of her earliest activities involved ascertaining the identity of a Confederate soldier whose grave in the Decatur City Cemetery was inadequately marked.

She recalled "For ten years I taught school, using my grave as an object lesson held up to 25 and 30 pupils all the while--a history that could not be magnified in its true light, of noble deeds done, and grave men's virtue now honored." An article in the United Daughters of the Confederacy (a woman's organization) scrapbook describes how Mrs. Hampton involved her school children in the memorial activities: "Mrs. Cora Hampton with her entire school of manly little boys and sweet little maidens...and other sympathizing friends marched in process from the school room [the nominated property one block from Sycamore Street] down Sycamore Street...and thence to the 'city of the dead' laden with...beautiful flowers...the principal of the school [Mrs. Hampton], her pupils and patrons...covered the graves with rare and beautiful Southern flowers."

Cora Beck Hampton Holleyman continued to be active in the Agnes Lee UDC Chapter well into her 80's, including beginning historic entertainment at her house in 1903. She died at 88 on March 13, 1935.

LATER HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY:

Cora Beck Hampton Holleyman sold the southern half of the property with the house and schoolhouse in 1918 to Mrs. J. D. Pearson. (She sold the northern half, or swapped it, after 1901.) The table below shows the subsequent purchases of the property:

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Owners of 213 Hillyer Place

<u>year sold</u>	<u>sold to</u>
1885	Cora Beck Hampton
By 1915, northern half G. W. Duvall	
1918 (southern half)	Mrs. J. D. Pearson
1921	Mr. Bryant
1923	H. C. Hollifield
1958	Melton and McKinney (plumbing company)
1979	C. Hubbard & J. Spaulding
1985	Barbara and Brian Sherman (current owners/educators)

Hubbard and Spaulding did extensive work on the house but did little on the schoolhouse except that it was the location of their bathroom. The remainder of the schoolhouse space was used as storage.

When the Shermans bought the property they restored the schoolhouse as closely as they could to its original historic character and finished the rehabilitation of the house begun by Hubbard and Spaulding, keeping it as historical in character as possible.

Confirmation of the Closing of the School:

The time span of the Cora Beck Hampton School had to be between 1885 when Mrs. Hampton bought the property and 1902, the year of her recollections presented by Mary Gay in the UDC archives at the DeKalb Historical Society, when Cora Beck Hampton Holleyman said "For ten years I taught school..." The past tense "taught" seems to indicate that by this time (1902) the school had closed.

Indication that the school was open until 1902 is found in a document called "Public Schools in Decatur 1902-1932" in the archives of the DeKalb Historical Society. The subtitle of this document is "Recollections of Mr. E. E. Treadwell as told to and recorded by Robert L. Hudgins, City Clerk." Treadwell (1871-1963) was the first superintendent of the City of Decatur public school system, and had opened the first public school in September, 1902, serving as principal. He later became superintendent.

Treadwell recalled that there were four private schools operating in Decatur at the time, including "2 small private schools." These were Kate Hillyer's school and the school "run by Mrs. Cora Hollaman [sic] in her home on Line Street (now Hillyer Place)." The other two schools according to Treadwell were the Agnes Scott (Female) Institute (a grammar school started in 1889 which grew into Agnes Scott College) and the Donald Fraser High School for Boys.

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Treadwell said that when the public school system opened, only the Agnes Scott Institute closed immediately, and that he had to force the other private schools to close. He did this by persuading prominent citizens of Decatur to transfer their children from the private to the public schools with the result that other parents did the same and that "before long, the private schools closed." Consistent with all the data presented herein would be the inference that the schools closed between the end of the 1901-1902 and the beginning of the 1902-1903 school years, i.e., during the summer of 1902. In July, 1902, there were 58 white students in the new system.

Today, the one room that was the Hampton School has been restored using some school items, but rather than be a museum, it has been restored as a sitting room or parlor. It is one of the few remaining one-room schoolhouses in Georgia.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Sherman, Barbara and Brian. "Holleyman School." Historic Property Information Form, December 1, 1989 with supplemental materials. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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

- ( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ( ) 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:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- (X) Other, Specify Repository: DeKalb Historical Society, Decatur, GA.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 750960 Northing 3740180

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat surveyed for the owners, Brian and Barbara Sherman, dated July 1, 1986.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is all that the current owners own associated with the house and schoolhouse and is approximately all that was ever associated with this house. It includes the two historic buildings, the grounds around them, and a portion of the abandoned city street that once ran next to the school on the south side.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
**organization** Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** February 21, 1992

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Hampton, Cora Beck, Schoolhouse and House  
**City or Vicinity:** Decatur  
**County:** DeKalb  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** September 1991

**Description of Photograph(s):**

1 of 8: Front facade of house, facing Hillyer Place; photographer facing northeast.

2 of 8: North facade of house with yard and fence; photographer facing south/southeast.

3 of 8: North facade of house; photographer facing south.

4 of 8: Interior of house, first floor stairhall; photographer facing south.

5 of 8: Schoolhouse, entrance facade, as seen from Commerce Drive; photographer facing northwest.

6 of 8: Schoolhouse, south facade and entrance facade (east facade); photographer facing northwest.

7 of 8: Schoolhouse, interior, facing entrance (east side); photographer facing east.

8 of 8: Schoolhouse, interior, fireplace wall (west side); photographer facing west.

NOTE! THIS PROPERTY DOES NOT LIE WITHIN A DESIGNATED F.I.A. FLOOD HAZARD AREA.  
 REFERENCE: SURVEY PLAT BY V.F. GADDY ENTITLED PROPERTY OF JAMES B. SPAULD AND DATED AUG. 13, 1983

HILLYER PLACE (F/K/A LINE STREET)

16' ASPH. PAV.

6" CURB

128' TO FUTURE S.W. CORNER OF SYCAMORE ST.

147.00' S.W. CORNER

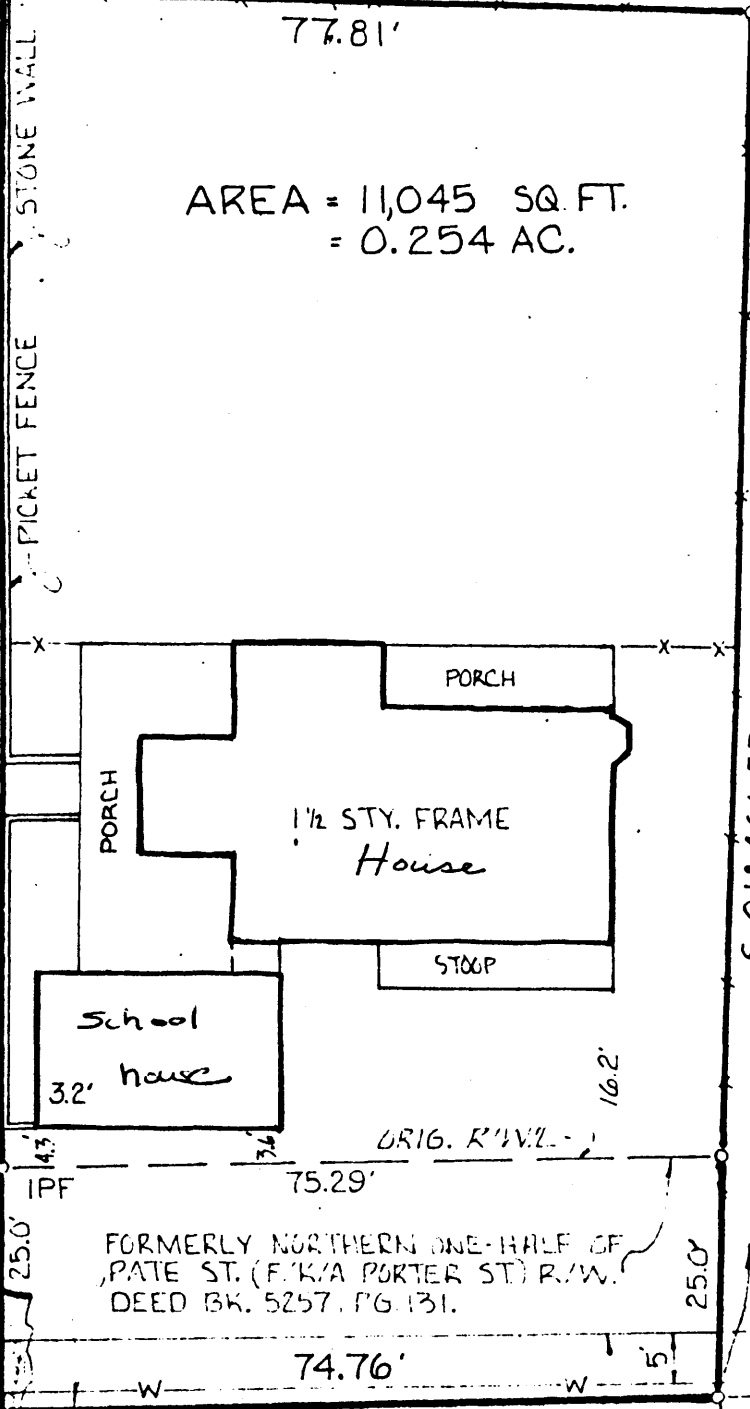
N 00° 34' 00" E 75.29'

74.76'

IPF (REBAR) - 6' CHAIN LINK FENCE ALONG ROAD S 87° 30' 16" E

IPF (P/NAIL)

AREA = 11,045 SQ. FT.  
 = 0.254 AC.



S 01° 46' 53" W 142.70'

MAG. NORTH

FORMERLY NORTHERN ONE-HALF OF PATE ST. (F/K/A PORTER ST) R/W. DEED BK. 5257, PG 131.

ORIGINAL Q. OF PATE STREET F/K/A PORTER PLACE

IPF (R/R SPIKE)

S 89° 15' 15" W

IPF (REBAR)

EASEMENT FOR MAINTENANCE OF WATER MAIN. D. BK. 5257 PG. 131



Hampton, Cora Beck, Schoolhouse and House  
 Decatur, DeKalb County, Georgia  
 Scale: as marked  
 Source: Danny H. Godwin, Surveyor  
 Date: 1986  
 Key: The nominated property is all that contained within the heavy black line.

*Danny H. Godwin*

SURVEYED BY  
 DANNY H. GODWIN RLS # 2222  
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

DATE: JULY 1 1986

SCALE 1"

