

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #25

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Hartwell City School
CURRENT NAME: Hart County Elementary School
STREET ADDRESS: College Avenue
CITY: Hartwell
PRESENT OWNER: Hart County Board of Educatuion
MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 696
CITY: Hartwell
STATE: Georgia
ZIP CODE: 30643
CURRENT USE: Elementary school
ACREAGE: 0.75 acre
U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell
U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E322580 N3802400
V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-16-4-1. Only a portion of this property is being proposed for National Register nomination. The nominated property consists of the historic classroom building, its front yard, and the historic gymnasium to its northeast. It does not include modern school buildings or parking lots on the larger school property. See the attached site plan/sketch map which provides a diagram of the boundaries and the dimensions of the property proposed for nomination.

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

The Hartwell City School complex consists of a classroom building and a gymnasium.

The Georgian Revival classroom building is characterized by a entrance pavillion which projects slightly from the center of the five-bay, one-story structure. The central bay contains an open arched entrance leading into a vestibule. Concrete Ionic pilasters, frieze, and cornice enframe the opening. The entrance arch, centered within the gable end, is flanked by a pair of narrow rectangular windows capped with flat brick arches containing cast concrete keystones. Cast concrete quoining and string course further define the entrance bay. The gable cornice contains modillions and end returns. A cast concrete water table extends, from the central block, the entire length of the facade. The building is faced with red brick laid in English bond. Four large windows with brick sills dominate the wings flanking the entrance bay. Each of these large windows is flanked by narrow rectangular window openings. On the interior, a cross hall provides interior circulation and separates the plan into four quadrants, each containing four classrooms.

The gymnasium building contains a quatrastyle Doric temple front superimposed onto an entrance vestibule which leads into the gable-roofed gymnasium. The Neo-classical entrance contains 4 Doric pilasters engaged into the brick wall and separated by round arched openings leading into the vestibule. Brick voisoirs and cast concrete keystones and string course provide further entrance details. The twin doorways leading into the gymnasium are capped with transom and crown molding. The doorways are separated by a wooden ticket booth which projects into the vestibule. The main block of the building is relatively unadorned. Cast concrete sills and lintels with keystones decorate the windows along the side elevations. Circular attic vents are positioned in the gable ends.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 86 (classroom building), 87 (gymnasium)

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Hartwell Board of Education
 ORIGINAL USE: school
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Daniel & Beutell, Architects; F. H. Turnipseed, Builder
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: same as current
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1934
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1982

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

The first school in Hartwell was established in 1855 in a frame structure on Lot 113 of the original town plan. This structure was later moved to the back of the property and replaced with the C. I. Kidd Residence. The frame building continued to serve as the Hartwell school until 1888.

In 1888, a new frame school was constructed. Activities in the community prior to the completion of the new school included an ammendment to the town charter in 1883 "to issue and sell bonds to the amount of \$6000. for the purpose of erecting and equipping a public school," meetings to determine the location for the school, and a community vote to decide the location. According to The History of Hart County, the Benson lot was selected; the structure erected on the site burned in 1907 but the "fire left a good clean place to erect a much larger and more up to date structure."

The passage of a \$20,000. bond issue allowed for the construction of a new school. The building appears to have been under construction in 1908 when the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company updated its maps. The school is shown with a notation "from plan". The History of Hart County states that this school was "soon not able to meet the demands of the community" and a bond issue for \$40,000 was passed.

Another new building was designed and constructed a few years later by C. D. Griffin. The Hartwell Sun, in announcing the official opening on January 26, 1922, stated: "It has 16 classrooms, an auditorium seating 800, and has been declared by state school authorities to be one of the most modern buildings in Georgia." A Sanborn map of 1924 depicts the new structure adjacent to the 1908 building. The lot at this time extended from Hodges Street to Cleveland Avenue. This observation corresponds with a notation in The History of Hart County which states that the buildings were "built 100 feet apart with no hazards in case there was a fire" and the description of the lot "which had 400 feet on Hodges Street and ran all the way through to Cleveland Avenue a distance of 800 feet with streets and avenues on all sides."

The existing classroom building was constructed in 1934 on the site of the 1908 building, which was demolished. A plaque on the building notes that Daniel and Beutell were the architects and F. H. Turnipseed was the contractor. In 1939, a gymnasium was constructed on the school property. A plaque on the gymnasium notes Luther M. Temples [sic] as the designer and the Works Progress Administration as responsible for the construction.

The 1921-1922 structure was demolished in 1956 and is now the site of a parking lot. Also in 1956 a new high school was built for the community and the present classroom building and gymnasium became the Hartwell Elementary School. The buildings continue in that use today. Minor alterations have been made to both historic buildings, and new educational structures have been built on the school grounds. However, the two historic structures maintain their identity and integrity.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: A, C
 AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Education
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

The Hartwell City School is significant architecturally as an intact example of institutional design from the 1930s and also for its associations with Atlanta, Georgia, architects Sidney S. Daniell and Russell Lee Beutell. Both Daniell and Beutell were educated at Auburn University and studied in Europe after World War I. The firm was active between 1920 and 1941.

The gymnasium building is important both architecturally and historically for its associations with Luther M. Temple and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). These associations provide an exception to the 50 year age rule; the gymnasium was constructed in 1939. The building was the major WPA project for this community. Luther Temple is a member of the Temple family of builders who were responsible for the supply of material, the

design, and the construction of many buildings in this resource area. Luther Temple is the first member of the family to have studied architecture. He received his education at the Chicago Institute of Technology and returned to his hometown to join his father and brothers in the building industry. The assistance of the Works Progress Administration is significant as the only local illustration of the effect of 1930s Federal policy in Hartwell.

Both the classroom building and the gymnasium are significant educationally as examples of a local school system. The site has provided for an evolving educational complex since 1888. These two buildings are the sole surviving historic educational structures in the community. In addition to representing the community's educational history, they illustrate the state-wide trend toward consolidated modern educational facilities in the early decades of the 20th century in Georgia.

CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 2

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Hart County, Georgia

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Baker, John William. The History of Hart County. Montgomery, Alabama: Harff Jones Yearbooks, 1961 (reprint of 1933 edition). The Hartwell Sun, various issues. Sanborn maps, Sanborn Map Company, New York. Interview: Mr. Vernon Edwards, Superintendent, Hart County Board of Education, Hartwell, Georgia. See also bibliography, Section 9, National Register nomination form.

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VI. SITE PLAN/SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLAN

Attached sketches are intended only to help illustrate the nominated property. No scale is provided or implied, unless otherwise noted. Boundary markings are simply general indications of the extent of the nominated property; the actual boundary description, unless otherwise noted, is the current legal description of the property which coincides with the current tax map number cited in Section I of this form. Also, note that the orientation of the various sketches differs from sketch to sketch; each is provided with a north arrow for clarity.

