

555

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

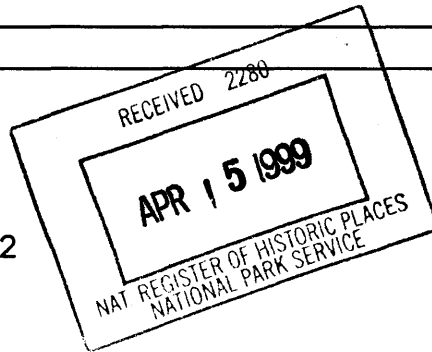
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested 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 Jones County High School
other names/site number Gray High School

2. Location

street & number Clinton Street
city, town Gray
county Jones code GA 169
state Georgia code GA zip code 31032



(n/a) vicinity of

(n/a) not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

| | | |
|------------|---|---|
| buildings | 1 | 0 |
| sites | 0 | 0 |
| structures | 0 | 0 |
| objects | 0 | 0 |
| total | 1 | 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.

Riceland Coover
Signature of certifying official

4-2-99
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. Beall 5/12/99

() 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:

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

Materials:

| | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| foundation | brick |
| walls | brick |
| roof | asphalt |
| other | wood, concrete |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Jones County High School is located within a larger school complex on the west side of Gray, Jones County. The historic school is oriented towards US Highway 129/Georgia State Route 11/Clinton Street, a main thoroughfare through Gray, and the other modern school-related buildings are located behind (south) of the historic school. The larger area surrounding the historic school encompasses commercial and residential development.

The Jones County High School was built in 1936 with funds from the Public Works Administration and designed by Ellamae Ellis League (1899-1991). The immediate setting of the school consists of a semi-circular driveway and a row of trees and foundation plants located between the building and US Highway 129/Georgia State Route 11/Clinton Street (see photos 1 and 2). The other school-related buildings located behind (south) vary in scale from much smaller to slightly larger than the historic school. The buildings include the Jones County Junior High School with lunchroom, Business Building, Jones County Gymnasium, and Vocational Building. A c.1935 library was located on the campus but demolished several years ago.

The overall form of the building consists of a one-story H-plan center block with a center rear ell, the auditorium. The building features wood-framed construction with a brick stretcher bond veneer. The front horizontal section of the building consists of a three-part plan which includes a central block and adjacent wings. The roof is hipped with three small arched-top dormers located above the pavilion. Many of the original windows have been replaced; however, the replacement multi-paned sashes of the windows match the originals.

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Section 7--Description

The central block features a slightly front-projecting symmetrical pavillion with a flat roof and parapet, wide cornice, quoins, and 16-over-16 double-hung windows. The recessed main doorway features an arched entrance with decorative woodwork, paneled double doors, and 9-over-9 double-hung windows (see photo7).

Extending out from the center block and pavillion to the wings, the building features three 15-over-15 double-hung windows on each wing and recessed brick squares on the projecting ends. The east elevations of the building consist of three bays of paired 12-over-12 double-hung windows (see photo 3). The window pattern of the east elevation is continued on the west elevation. In 1968, the west elevation was continued with a rear ell addition. A small rear addition, which was added to the southwestern side of the building in 1968, continues the wood-frame construction with brick stretcher bond veneer (see photo 4). The auditorium, the center rear ell, features wood-frame construction with brick stretcher bond veneer, 20-over-20 and 9-over-9 double-hung widows, and paired wooden doors (see photos 5 and 6).

The main entrance opens into a central hallway consisting of the lobby. Two rooms are located on either side of the lobby, one room historically functioned as the principal's office. The lobby opens into a cross hallway and entrance to the auditorium (see photo 8). The cross hallway extends to the side wings which have long hallways with classrooms located on either side. The auditorium is a large open space with a stage located at the far southern end (see photo 9). The auditorium seats approximately 600 people and retains many of its original features: vaulted ceiling, two rows of seats, central aisle, floor, and stage (see photo 9 and 10). The classrooms feature many of their original features such as large window openings to provide ample natural light, blackboards, plaster ceilings and walls, molding, wood floors, and doors (see photos 12, 13, and 14).

The school was deeded to the Jones County/Gray Chamber of Commerce in 1992. The other remaining buildings remain under the ownership of the Jones County Board of Education. An adaptive use plan is proposed for the building to function as the office of the Jones County/Gray Chamber of Commerce and as a community meeting space.

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
OTHER/WOMEN'S HISTORY
EDUCATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1936

Significant Dates:

1936 Construction of the Jones County High School.

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Ellamae Ellis League (1899-1991)

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Jones County High School is a historic community landmark building in the small town of Gray, Jones County. The school represents the influence of state-minded school consolidation in the early 20th century and the assistance of the federal government's Depression-era building programs.

The Jones County High School is significant in architecture and Women's History at the state level as an excellent example of a H-plan school building representing the Colonial Revival style constructed with limited funds by the Public Works Administration, and for its architectural design by Ellamae Ellis League (1899-1991), a prominent and influential woman architect in Georgia. The Jones County High School was constructed to be a consolidated high school for white students in Jones County. This type of school is identified as significant in a study and context written for Georgia's schools. The *Public Schoolhouse in Georgia: A Cultural Assessment* context examines the evolutionary designs of school houses built from the early 18th century through the mid-20th century. According to the context: "The rectangular or square plan of corridors and classrooms [of the late 19th century] evolved into the H or U plan with a central core leading to an auditorium. Schools became one story again. Thought was given to circulation and linkage between classrooms and the support areas of offices, workshops, gymnasiums, and science labs." The Jones County High School is an excellent example of this type of school. The building features the significant center H-plan shaped core with an auditorium extending from the central core.

The building is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. The character-defining features include its three-part plan, hipped roof with arched-top dormers, front projecting pavilion with a wide cornice, quoins, and wooden fanlight design located above the main entrance (see photos 1,2, and 7). The Colonial Revival style was very popular in Georgia for a long period, from the 1890s through the 1940s and beyond. The architectural style is found on Georgia's various types of domestic, commercial, and community landmark buildings. Other significant character-defining features include large window openings to provide ample natural light, blackboards, plaster walls, wood floors, plaster ceilings with crown trim, panel doors, blackboards, auditorium wall decorative detailing, and auditorium seats and stage (see photos 8-14).

The school is also significant in the area of architecture for its association to Ellamae Ellis League. Ms. League was born in Macon, Bibb County in 1899 and was exposed to the field of architecture at an early age. Her father was Curran Ellis (1872-1934) and her uncle was Charles Edward Choate (1865-1929), both men were successful Atlanta architects. She graduated from Lanier High School in Macon and went on to attend Wesleyan College in 1917. She married George Forrest League the same year but divorced in 1922. During the marriage, the couple had two children. After her divorce, her uncle, Charles Edward Choate, urged her to enter the field of architecture to provide a

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

good life for her two children. She began her architectural career in 1922 as an apprentice for the architectural firm Dunwody and Oliphant of Macon. While working at Dunwody and Oliphant, League enrolled in an architectural correspondence course from the New York Beaux Arts Institute of Design. In 1928, League placed her two children into the care of her parents and moved to France to attend the Ecole des Beaux Arts at Fontainebleau, France. She was one of only three women attending the school. After several months of study in France, she returned to Macon and joined the architectural firm of Claude Shelverton. To insure her career as an architect, League became a registered architect in 1929. League formed her own architectural firm in Macon during the early 1930s. One of her first clients proved to be one of her most important. Mr. James H. Porter, president of the Bibb Company in Macon, was a philanthropist and commissioned League for the construction of several building he financed for the city of Macon.

One of League's most important Depression-era commissions came from the Public Works Administration. League's firm was commissioned to supervise the reconstruction of the 1806 Fort Hawkins Blockhouse, a Macon landmark. It was during this period that League's firm was commissioned for other Public Works Administration projects, including the Jones County High School.

Following the end of World War II, League's firm grew due to the post-war construction boom. League changed the name of her firm to League, Warren, and Riley, to include her associates Delmer Warren and Oliver Riley. The firm was commissioned for several projects throughout the Macon area. League closed her firm in 1975, after 41 years of service.

League helped organize the various American Institute of Architects (AIA) chapters in Georgia into one Georgia chapter and served as the first president of the Georgia Council AIA in 1964. League received many honors during her career, her greatest honor came in 1968 when she was invested as a Fellow of the AIA, a first for a women architect. In Susan Hunter Smith's study on women architects in Georgia, she identifies League as the most prominent woman architect in Georgia and as an example for other women architects.

The Jones County High School is significant in the area of education for its association to the school consolidation movement in Georgia during the early to mid-20th century. Prior to the school consolidation movement, Georgia had a system of independent local schools. Both African-American and white schools relied on the services of philanthropic foundations, such as the Julius Rosenwald Foundation (African-American schools) and the Peabody Fund (white schools), private funding, and religious organizations. Some power was given to local independent school systems to levy taxes to support education but a system of inequality developed; rural school systems could not generate the same revenue as larger urban areas.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

The beginning of the 20th century brought some significant changes to Georgia's educational system. In 1911, Georgia's school districts were made county-wide and given the authority to consolidate schools and provide transportation. In 1919, the Georgia Constitution was amended to allow county school boards to issue school bonds for the construction of schools. In that same years, a bill was passed that encouraged school consolidation by financially compensating county school boards which consolidated their county schools. Through these school consolidation programs, Georgia experienced a significant increase in the number of school buildings and students attending those schools. It was during this period that the Jones County High School was constructed as Jones County's first consolidated school for white students.

The Jones County High School is significant in the area of politics/government for its association to the Public Works Administration. The school was constructed in 1936 with funds from the Jones County Board of Education, Jones County Commissioners, and the Federal Emergency Administrator of Public Works. The Jones County High School was the largest federally funded public works project in Gray. The Jones County High School is an excellent example of the kind of local public works project found in many towns across Georgia. The Public Works Administration provided funds and construction workers for construction of schools throughout Georgia. Many of these New Deal-era buildings, including the Jones County High School, are significant community landmark buildings since they represent growth during a time of economic struggle.

National Register Criteria

The Jones County High School meets National Register Criterion A because it is significant as the first consolidated white school built with partial funds from the Public Works Administration for Jones County. The property also meets National Register Criterion C as an excellent intact example of the type of New-Deal school built during the school consolidation movement in Georgia and designed by a prominent early woman architect in Georgia.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

1936

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Jones County High School is the only contributing property within the National Register boundary.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****Note: The following history was prepared by Bert King, "Jones County High School," Historic Property Information Form, January 12, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

On November 11, 1935, the Jones County Board of Education announced in the Jones County News that sealed bids would be taken until December 13 for the construction of a new high school in Gray, Georgia. The building was to be located in front of the old high school building in the center of the town. The project was to be funded locally and federally with the Board of Education and the County Commissioners paying 55% of the cost and the Federal Emergency Administrator of Public Works paying 45%.

Previously, Mrs. Ellamae Ellis League of Macon had been engaged to draw architectural plans for the building. Mrs. League, a pioneer woman architect of the era, was the niece of the distinguished Atlanta architect, Charles Edward Choate. At his urging, she began her career as an apprentice in the Macon firm of Dunwoody and Oliphant in 1922. While serving this six-month apprenticeship, she took a correspondence course from the New York Beaux Arts School of Design. Later she studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts at Fontainebleau, France and traveled extensively in Europe. In 1929, she became a registered architect. One of the few women of the 1930's to head their own architectural firms, she very early tackled commercial and institutional assignments, such as schools, hospitals and churches. She also supervised the reconstruction of Ft. Hawkins, an outpost built in 1806, a Macon landmark. On Friday, December 13, 1935, the contract to build the school was awarded to Stillwell Construction Company of Macon, with work to begin not later than ten days after approval by the Acting State Director of Public Works Administration and to be completed within approximately six months thereafter.

The first event to be held in the new building was the presentation of three one act plays by the Jones County High School English Department on April 2, 1936. On June 1, 1936, graduation exercises were held there. For the next thirty-five years, Jones County High School was the only white high school in the county. As the county's population grew, so did high school enrollment:

1939-1940 - 173

1949-1950 - 142

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

1959-1960 - 359

1969-1970 - 610

With integration in the Fall of 1970. Jones County High School became the only high school in the county and enrollment almost doubled to 1148. During those early years of integration, Jones County High School earned a reputation of having a minimum of the racial tension that most of the schools in surrounding counties experienced. In 1990, the last year of the building's use, the enrollment was 926.

With the opening of a new high school in September, 1990, the original building was abandoned and plans were made to raze it. The Jones County Chamber of Commerce initiated a plan to save the original building, restore it, and use it for offices for the Chamber of Commerce and the Clean Community Commission and as a community center.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Chesnut, Linda and Steven J. Hoffman. "The Public Schoolhouse in Georgia: A Cultural Assessment." Atlanta, Georgia: Georgia State University, 1986.

King, Bert. "Jones County High School." Historic Property Information Form, January 12, 1994.
On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Ga.

Smith, Susan Hunter. "Women Architects in Atlanta, 1895-1979." The Atlanta Historic Journal, 23 (Winter 1979-80): 85-108.

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): Jo-G-21 (Jones County Survey 1988)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 262840 Northing 3654760

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for the nominated property is marked with a heavy black line on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the nominated property includes the 1936 school building and its historic front yard. The post-World War II buildings located behind the historic school, which is now owned by the Jones County/Gray Chamber of Commerce, are owned by the Jones County School Board. None of these later buildings are included in this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** March 1999

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

name/title Bert King/Chairman
organization Save the Old High School Committee
street and number P.O. Box 1707
city or town Gray **state** Georgia **zip code** 31032
telephone (912) 986-6000

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Jones County High School
City or Vicinity: Gray
County: Jones
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1997

Description of Photograph(s):

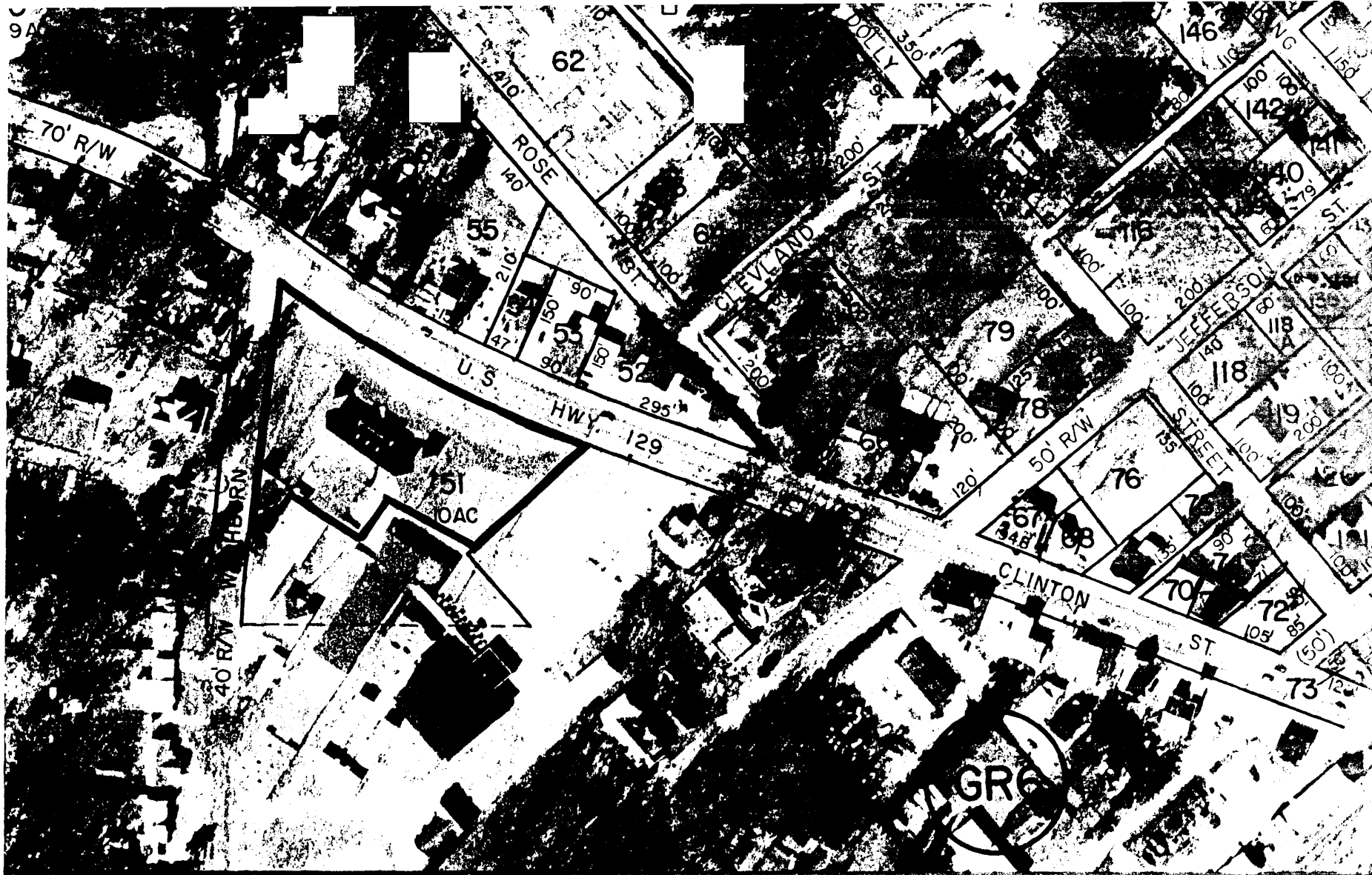
- 1 of 14 View of front facade of the Jones County High School; photographer looking southeast.
- 2 of 14 View of the front facade of the property; photographer looking southwest.
- 3 of 14 View of the eastern elevation of the property; photographer looking west.
- 4 of 14 View of the western elevation of the property; photographer looking northeast.
- 5 of 14 View of the rear facade of the school and eastern elevation of the auditorium; photographer looking north.
- 6 of 14 View of the western elevation of the auditorium; photographer looking northeast.
- 7 of 14 Detail view of the main entrance; photographer looking southeast.
- 8 of 14 View of cross hallway and entrance into the auditorium.
- 9 of 14 View of auditorium; photographer looking towards the stage.
- 10 of 14 Detail view of original auditorium seats and floor.
- 11 of 14 View of interior hallway.
- 12 of 14 View of biology lab/room with original floors, blackboard, and transom windows.
- 13 of 14 View of classroom with original floors, blackboard, and plaster walls.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

14 of 14 View of classroom with original floors, blackboard, and plaster walls.



R

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY MAP

Jones County High School

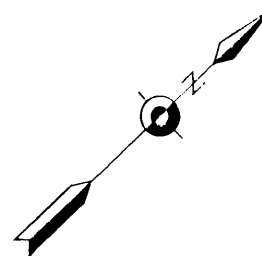
Gray, Jones County, Georgia

Source: Jones County Tax Assessor's Office

Scale: 1" = 200'

National Register boundary is marked by a heavy black line.

3
3d



DATE

REVISION

| DATE | REVISION |
|------|----------|
| | |
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MILLEDGEVILLE, GEORGIA 31061

NATIONAL REGISTER SITE MAP

Jones County High School

Gray, Jones County, Georgia

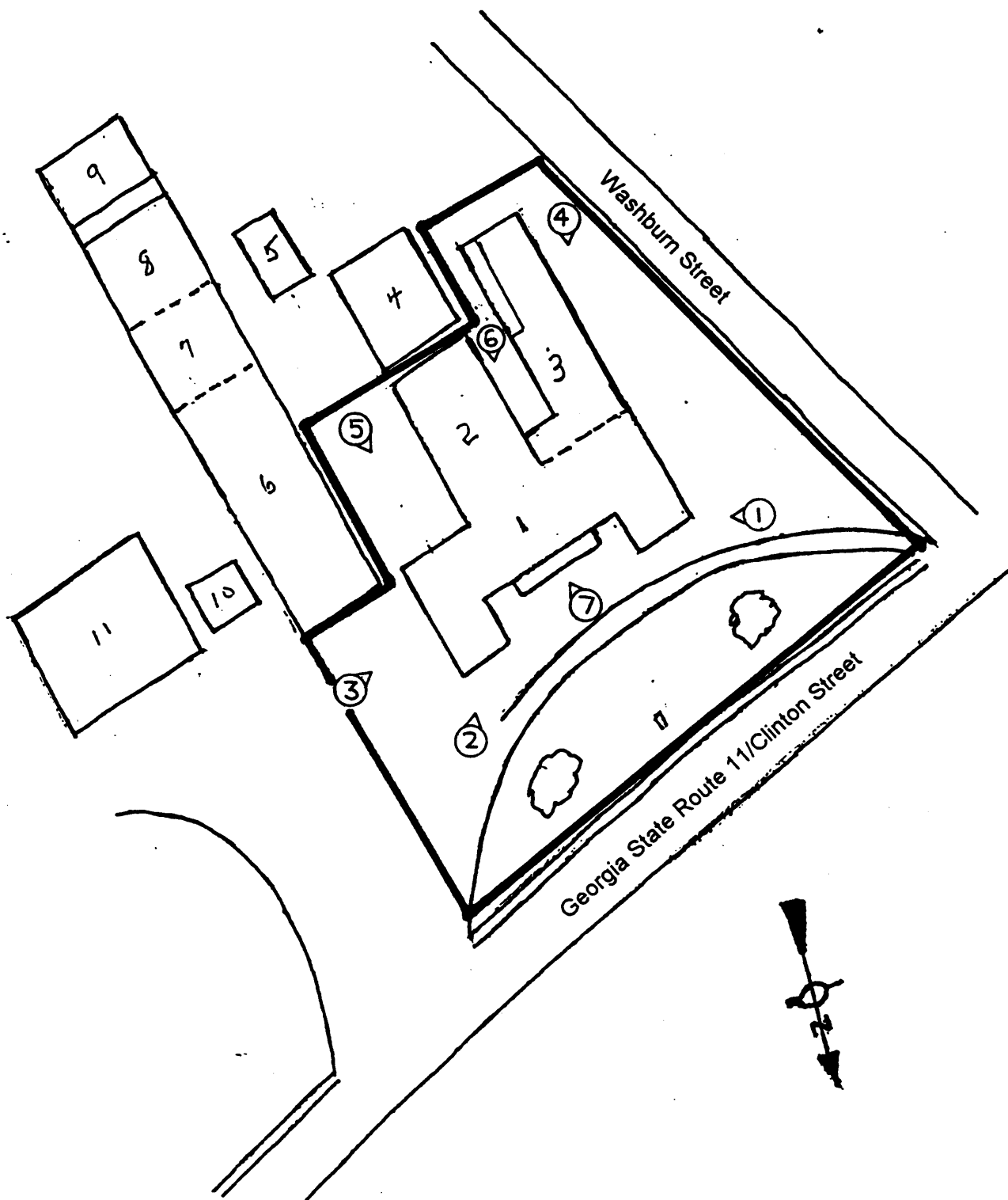
Source: Sponsor

Scale: Not drawn to scale.

⊙ = Photo number and direction.

National Register boundary is marked by a heavy black line.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Main classroom building | 7. Addition #1 (Junior High) |
| 2. Auditorium | 8. Addition #2 " |
| 3. Additions to main building | 9. Addition #3 " |
| 4. Vocational building | 10. Business building |
| 5. Library | 11. Gymnasium |
| 6. Lunchroom and Junior High | |



NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/FLOOR PLAN
Jones County High School
Gray, Jones County, Georgia
Source: Sponsor
Scale: Not drawn to scale

