

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Worth County Local Building

and/or common Tri-County Gas Building

2. Location

street & number 118 North Isabella Street ___ not for publication

city, town Sylvester ___ vicinity of congressional district 2nd-Dawson Mathis

state Georgia code 013 county Worth code 321

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Glenda M. Gammage

street & number Route 1, Box 360

city, town Sylvester vicinity of state Georgia 31791

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Worth County Courthouse

city, town Sylvester state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Worth County Local Building is a two story brick commercial structure of a localized Beaux Arts style. Elements which have been incorporated into the building, which are typical of this style, are classical details, coupled pilasters, arched openings and a symmetrical plan. Its setting is in a block of commercial buildings, and it shares a common wall with adjacent buildings to both the north and the south. It sets directly across the street from several buildings of a similar height.

The facade of the building is divided into three definite entities, each complementing the others, yet each set off unto itself. The first entity, which comprises the ground story, is of plain wooden and glass store front design. Small brick pilasters set off a window to the left and a door to the right, both of which are closed.

The second entity is encompassed by the second story. Here is where the Beaux Arts style is strongly engaged with its broad arched window between two pairs of pilasters and its classical details on the entablature.

The roof is the third entity and is flat except for the front portion which is gabled. The tile gabled portion with two dormers tops off the building which is the tallest on the block.

The north and south walls adjoin other buildings and contain two flues each. The plain unpainted brick continues around the corner to the rear side which is five bays wide. The door and windows are arched with radiating brick voussoirs.

The Worth County Local Building is now used to house the Tri-County Gas Company. The first floor has been divided into a sales area in the front and a storage area in the rear. The front portion has been covered with paneling and ceiling tile while the rear of the first floor has the original tongue and grooved ceiling and the original elevator machinery. The second story interior is composed of one large room and has been altered little since its construction. The only major alteration to the original fabric of the building has been the removal of a stairway which led from the street to the second floor.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Journalism

Specific dates 1911 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary Statement of Significance

The Worth County Local Building is significant in terms of architecture, journalism and commerce. Its vernacularized Beaux Arts styling demonstrates how high-style architecture was interpreted by local designers and builders in the small cities and towns of Georgia; the building is also a prominent landmark along North Isabella Street in downtown Sylvester. The building was built to house the offices and printing presses of the Worth County Local, the turn-of-the-century county newspaper. After the mid-1920s, when the newspaper headquarters moved to another Sylvester address, the building accommodated a variety of local businesses including a furniture store, a meat market and grocery store, and most recently, the Tri-County Gas Company. Dating from the second decade of the twentieth century, the building reflects a time of optimism and growth in the historical development of Sylvester.

Architecture

The Worth County Local Building is a vernacularized Beaux Arts-style building. Its Beaux Arts styling is manifest in the overall composition of the front facade which includes the raised foundation that serves as the first floor, the paired pilasters and broad, segmental arched window with keystone on the second floor, the modillioned cornice, and the tiled pent roof with pedimented gables. These identifiable Beaux Arts elements are handled in a vernacularized way, however. For example, the raised foundation shows little detailing except for simple entablatures fashioned from brick; the paired pilaster capitals are abstract versions of Corinthian capitals; and the modillions and pediments are relatively refined. Such non-academic combinations of design and construction features are typical of the ways in which high-style architecture was interpreted by local designers and builders in the small cities and towns of Georgia. They also -- and as typically -- produce buildings such as this that are local landmarks. The Worth County Local Building is the only major representation of turn-of-the-century Beaux Arts design in Sylvester.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gammage, D.L., Sylvester, Ga., interview October 11, 1979.
 Grubbs, Lillie Martin, History of Worth County, Georgia, for the First Eighty Years, 1854-1934 (Macon: J.W. Burke, 1934).
 Sawyer, Lee, Sylvester, Ga., telephone interview October 12, 1979.
 Sumner, Marian A., Sylvester, Ga., telephone interview October 12, 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .05 acre (2,250 sq. ft.)
 Quadrangle name Sylvester, Ga. **ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED**
 Quadrangle scale 1:24,000 **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

UMT References

A	1 1 7	2 3 0 5 6 5	3 4 9 1 3 3 0			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D		
E				F		
G				H		

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the nominated property circumscribes the city lot at 118 North Isabella Street in Sylvester. This boundary is described by a heavy black line on the attached "property/sketch" map. The boundary coincides with the current legal description of the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries property.

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title a) Erick D. Montgomery, historic preservation planner
 b) Richard Cloues, architectural historian

organization a) Southwest Georgia A.P.D.C.
 b) Historic Preservation Sec., Ga. D.N.R. date April, 1980

street & number a) P.O. Box 346 a) (912) 336-5616
 b) 270 Washington St., S.W. telephone b) (404) 656-2840

city or town a) Camilla
 b) Atlanta state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

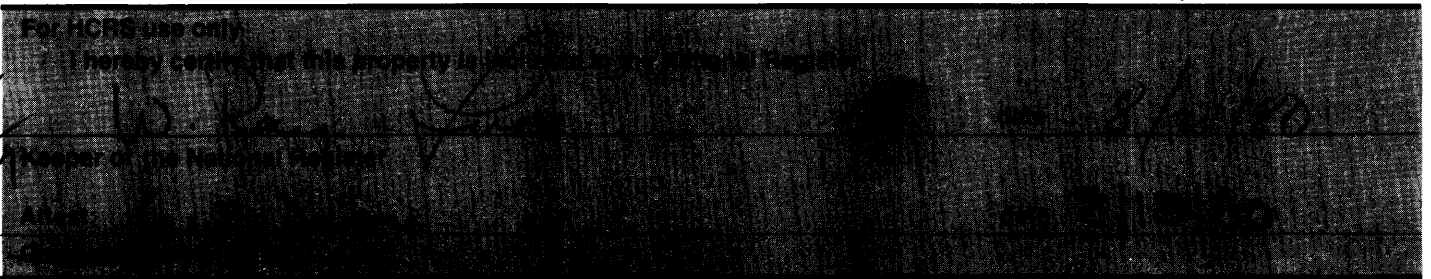
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

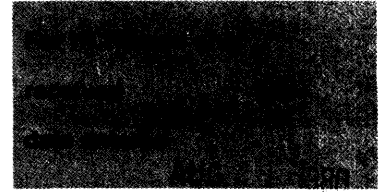
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date June 9, 1980



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Significance

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Commerce and Journalism

The uses of the building as a newspaper office and a place of merchandising make it significant to the history of Sylvester in the areas of journalism and commerce. The design was such that it would accommodate the Worth County Local, a newspaper which has been in continuous existence since 1884. Later, the building was adapted to distribution and storage of goods as a place of business.

The Worth County Local Building was built in the latter part of 1911 while owned by T. R. Perry. The name of the architect or builder has not been determined, but the building was constructed specifically to house the Worth County Local. The Local was a newspaper which had been published at Sumner, Georgia, beginning in 1884 under the name of the Sumner Free-Trader. Later, the name was changed to the Worth County Local, and in 1893, the operation was moved to Sylvester. When the Local moved into its new building, the editor and publisher was Clifford Grubbs. An editorial by Grubbs, dated December 8, 1911, gives the following information:

"If nothing unforeseen happens we expect to get out the next issue of the Local in the new building erected for the plant.

"This is a modern building built for a newspaper office, with room on the ground floor made of cement and stone for all the heavy machinery.

"New machines of the latest models have been added to the plant so that when we are in the new building we will have a publishing plant as good as any in South Georgia.

"We have added a new late model linotype machine, a folding machine, a new stitcher, new presses, ruling machines, and bindery equipment.

"We will be able to take care of our trade without the necessity of their sending from home for anything in our line."

The Worth County Local remained in the building until sometime in the 1920s, when another plant was erected on Kelly Street. The editor, Clifford Grubbs, purchased the building from T.R. Perry in 1913 and held it until December 19, 1927, when it was lost through foreclosure to the W.D. Pope estate. Grubbs had relinquished control of the newspaper in 1917 to G.R. Nottingham, who, in turn, sold out to A.K. McGill in 1921. McGill changed the name to the Sylvester Local in 1924, and it was under his editorship that the business was moved to another location.

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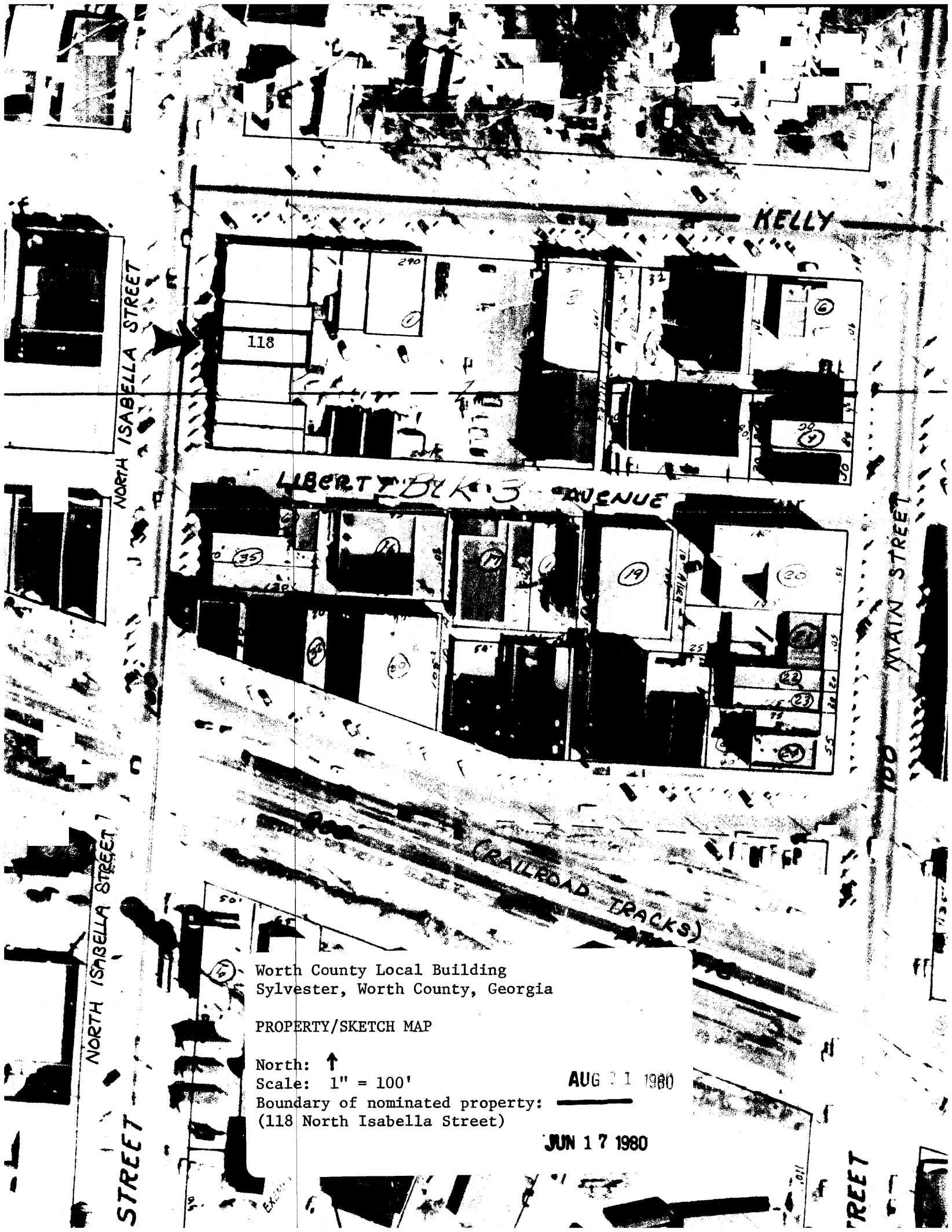
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The Pope estate almost immediately sold out to the Mims-Sawyer Furniture Company, which occupied the building for many years. Ownership passed in 1932 to the Somerset Company, in 1937 to Harris Nathan, and in 1940 to Dr. Joe L. Johnston. Shortly after Dr. Johnston bought the building, he conveyed one-half interest in it to Dr. J.M. Sutton.

None of the above owners except Mims-Sawyer actually occupied the building with their own business. The Sawyers leased either all or part of the building until 1955 under various partnerships in the furniture business. Other establishments which have leased at least some part of the building include a meat market and grocery, a barber shop, an antique shop, and the Tri-County Gas Company. The present owner, Glenda M. Gammage, purchased the building in 1979 from the Sutton heirs.

Preservation Interest

The present owner is anxious to have this building included in the National Register so that she might take advantage of the various incentives for rehabilitation associated with registration. Since this will be one of the first two buildings nominated to the National Register in Worth County (the courthouse is the other), it is felt that it will serve as a catalyst for the preservation of other buildings in Sylvester. The possibility of creating both commercial and residential National Register districts will be strengthened by inclusion of this significant building in the National Register as an individual property. Ms. Gammage plans rehabilitation work soon after the building is listed. It will continue to be rented out and used as a place of business.



Worth County Local Building
Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

North: ↑
Scale: 1" = 100'

Boundary of nominated property: ———
(118 North Isabella Street)

AUG 31 1980

JUN 17 1980