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NPS Form 10-900
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 31 1994 OMB No. 1024-0018

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 Tubman High School
other names/site number Tubman Junior High School
Tubman Middle School (current name)

2. Location

street & number 1740 Walton Way
city, town Augusta () vicinity of
county Richmond code GA 245
state Georgia code GA zip code 30904

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property

- (X) building(s)
- () district
- () site
- () structure
- () object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	2	5
sites	0	0
structures	3	0
objects	0	0
total	5	5

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

1/25/94
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

Edson H. Beall 3/7/94

**Entered in the
National Register**

Edson H. Beall Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions:

EDUCATION/school

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and 20th Century Revival: Beaux Arts

Materials:

foundation	Concrete
walls	Concrete/Brick/Stucco
roof	Asphalt
other	Terra-cotta

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Tubman High School is in Richmond County, Georgia on the west side of downtown Augusta. The building faces north and is surrounded by late nineteenth and early twentieth century neighborhoods and modern commercial and residential development. The three-story, brick veneer-over-concrete school was constructed in 1917. The building was designed by architect G. Lloyd Preacher and constructed by Palmer-Spivey Construction Co.

Tubman High School is an example of the Beaux Arts style, a popular style used for public buildings in the early twentieth century (Photo #1). This style is characterized by monumentality and exuberant ornamentation, as demonstrated here. Tubman School has a central, projecting entrance portion with fluted, engaged columns with Ionic capitals (Photo #2). Beginning at the second story, these columns support a pedimented gable with cornice returns. Terra-cotta ornamentation in pediment includes relief swags, an open book, a globe, shields, rinceau detailing, and cornucopias. Originally, there were sets of five central, double-hung, 3/1 windows on the second and third floor, now there are heating/air-conditioning units over the center windows. Concrete balustrade and cartouche are under second story windows. A terra-cotta ball flower relief surrounds the main entry-way and panels on each side of the entrance.

The double door entry with heavy iron gates opens onto the tile floor entry-way and trophy display area. The main lobby features two sets of double glass doors with transom and sidelights (Photos #3 and #4).

Triple, double-hung, 3/1 windows are on all three floors and concrete projection with curved ledge from ground to bottom of first story windows along front facade. Other ornamentation on the front and side

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facades includes pronounced cornice with dentils and concrete round medallions, concrete string course between first and second stories and third story and cornice, decorative brickwork panels between second and third stories, and a continuous band under second story windows. Projecting portions on each end of the front facade with triple 1/1 windows on each floor and terra-cotta ornamentation above third story windows. The east and west facade entrances are double doors with a suspended, flat, metal awning with ornamentation (Photo #5). The rear or south facade is stucco over concrete with no brick. Heating/air-conditioning units covering some of the double-hung, 3/4 windows on front and rear facades (Photo #6).

The floor plan is a central hall with classrooms on either side. An auditorium is located in the center. A three-story ell-wing was added to the rear east side in 1928 (Photo #6). Interior features are plain plaster walls, tile floors covered by carpet, wood moldings, cast-iron steam radiators, and chair rail in the halls. Acoustical tiles cover the original ceilings in the halls and classrooms. A ceramic tile floor, original ceiling, and scroll brackets are in the main entrance lobby (Photo #7). Interior stairs are located on either side of the auditorium wing, on each end of the main building, and on the south end of the 1928 wing with a chair lift (Photo #8).

Built as one of the most modern schools in the South, the original building featured an auditorium to seat 864, a library, a lunchroom, and a principal's office complete with an intercom system. Originally, there were 26 classrooms, 2 study halls, a gymnasium, 3 domestic rooms, 3 science laboratories, a faculty room, a teachers rest room, cloak rooms, a hospital room, and an art room with skylights. The building was steam heated, thoroughly ventilated and "fireproof." The main building has retained a high degree of integrity with few changes to the 1917 design.

The auditorium features decorative plaster reliefs, moldings, and Corinthian columns supporting the balcony (Photo #9). The seats in the auditorium face south toward the stage. On either side of the stage is a classical plaster relief figure of a woman. Ornate plaster moldings with rinceau, ball flower, and acanthus detailing surround the sides and top of the stage--typical of the Beaux Arts style. On the east and west walls of the auditorium are two more plaster relief figures--all of the relief figures are in different poses (Photo #10). Three sets of double doors with transoms enter the north side of the auditorium. On the east and west side, there are double doors with paneled transom and sidelights. There is also a chair rail around the auditorium, row seating with hinged, wooden seats, and center aisle.

The old cafeteria was built c. 1932 and is directly behind the auditorium (Photo #11). It is a freestanding, stucco-covered concrete

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building with medium pitch roof, false parapet, flush, exterior chimneys, double door entrances on south, west, and east facades, double-hung, 3/1 paired windows with 8-light transom. Heating/air-conditioning units are on the south side windows.

The freestanding gymnasium and shop building were constructed c. 1951. The brick gymnasium has a dome roof and is located southeast of the main building (Photo #12). The shop building is to the southwest of the main building. Recent additions to the property include a new brick media center and cafeteria in 1990. All ancillary buildings are located behind the original high school and are connected to the main building with covered walks.

Landscape features include a front entrance gate with two brick gatehouses, a main drive lined with mature trees, and an athletic field located behind the school buildings. The identical gatehouses were built in 1917 on either side of the main front drive facing north (Photo #13). Each structure is a rectangular brick building with a S-tile, pyramidal roof topped with a finial, pronounced cornice with terra cotta, rinceau detailing, and dentils. There are large walk-through openings on the north and south facades with ball flower relief surrounds and a shield inscription plate on the top center with the date "1917" and acanthus leaves (Photo #14). On the east and west sides, there are window openings with wrought-iron bars and decorative surrounds. Tile floors on the inside and wrought-iron double doors on the north openings.

The gatehouses are connected together with the main gate and fence portion. The main entrance consists of two gate posts with concrete caps with a decorative shield and leaf relief, wrought-iron, double, swing gates with decorative iron work, and a round arch over opening with "Tubman Junior High School." The fence has a three-foot brick wall with four-foot, pointed, wrought-iron posts.

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):

Education
Architecture

Period of Significance:

1917-1943

Significant Dates:

1917

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

G. Lloyd Preacher, architect
Palmer-Spivey Construction Company, builder

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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 Tubman High School was named in honor of noted Augusta philanthropist Emily Tubman. Built in 1917, the Tubman High School is significant in terms of education for its association with the school of the same name, an important educational institution in Augusta for more than 100 years. Until the 1950s, it was the only public high school for girls in the Augusta area. Young women from surrounding counties and South Carolina attended Tubman High School. In 1951, Tubman became a coeducational junior high school and now serves as a middle school. The building is also significant for being constructed as a result of Augusta's first-ever public bond referendum in support of education.

The new Tubman High School, completed in 1917, was one of the most modern schools in the South. There was an auditorium to seat 864, a library, a lunchroom, and a principal's office complete with an intercom system. It had 26 classrooms, 2 study halls, a gymnasium, 3 domestic rooms, 3 science laboratories, a faculty room, a teachers rest room, cloak rooms, and a hospital room. It was steam heated, thoroughly ventilated and "fireproof." The original grounds contained ten acres, where ample facilities were provided for all girls' field sports.

From 1874 till 1951, Tubman High School played an important role in developing women's education in Augusta, as well as enriching the lives of all the young women who attended there. Although much has changed since 1917, the Tubman School building continues to educate students, play a part in the history of education in Augusta, and is a major local education landmark.

The Tubman High School building is significant in architecture as an intact, outstanding example of the Beaux Arts style of architecture designed by the regionally prominent architect G. Lloyd Preacher. The Beaux Arts style of architecture was popular during the early twentieth century for public buildings. Characterized by monumentality, classical detailing, and exuberant surface ornamentation, this style was the perfect medium to demonstrate importance, wealth, pride, and achievement. For a school, the Beaux Arts style symbolized the importance of education, a wealth of knowledge, pride in accomplishment, and scholastic achievement. This three-story brick building exemplifies the Beaux Arts style with its immense, symmetrical front facade, the classical design elements such as the front pedimented entrance with engaged columns, and cornice dentils, and the elaborate terra cotta ornamentation. The open book

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and cornucopias relief in the pediment further signified the high ideals and standards that both the Tubman High School and the Beaux Arts style desired.

Tubman High School, completed in 1918, was designed by one of Augusta's leading architects, G. Lloyd Preacher. Preacher was working in Augusta during the second two decades of the twentieth century. He was born May 11, 1882 in Fairfax, South Carolina and was educated at Clemson University. Prior to opening his own architectural firm around 1909, Preacher was employed by the Lombard Iron Works as a draftsman. At one time, Philander Scroggs, Charles Thompson, Willis Irvin, and Whitney Ewing, all prominent regional architects at a later date, trained in Preacher's Augusta office.

Preacher was one of four Georgia architects commissioned by the Governor to form the first State Examining Board for registering architects. In 1924, Preacher moved his residence to Atlanta where his firm did a large volume of business in the Southeast, with offices in Atlanta, Spartanburg, West Palm Beach, Charleston, Miami, and Birmingham. Among the work his firm designed after moving to Atlanta was the Atlanta City Hall and thirty-four individual Atlanta schools.

In Augusta his major contributions were concentrated in the downtown area, mainly on Broad Street. He designed the Augusta Fire Department Headquarters (1259-63 Broad Street), Richmond Hotel (744 Broad Street), the Marion Building (739 Broad Street), The Plaza Hotel (531 W. Ford Street), the Modjeska Theater (813 Broad Street), the Lenox Theater (1120 9th Street), Most Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church (953 Telfair Street), the Lamar Building (753 Broad Street), the new Houghton School (333 Greene Street), the Herald Building (725 Broad Street), Lenwood Hospital (2400 block Wrightsboro Road), the J.B. White store building (936-946 Broad Street), and Augusta's first apartment building--the Shirley (1001 Greene Street) and the Broadway Apartments (335 Broad Street). G. Lloyd Preacher died in Atlanta, Georgia on June 17, 1972.

Tubman High School is an intact example of school architecture in the Beaux Arts style. It incorporates all aspects of prevailing philosophy and technology of the early twentieth century that were employed when constructing a major new school. The local newspaper declared it to be the "Finest Girls' High School in the South."

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National Register Criteria

Tubman High School is eligible under Criterion A for its role as the first and only public girls high school in the Augusta area till 1951 and its importance in Augusta's educational development for the past 100 years. The school is also eligible under Criterion C as an intact example of a Beaux Arts style school building by a regionally prominent architect, G. Lloyd Preacher.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

1917 is the date of the school's construction and 1943 is the fifty year mark for historical significance.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing buildings are the main school building and the 1932 cafeteria building. The two gatehouses and entrance gate are the contributing structures. These buildings and structures were built within the period of significance and retain a high degree of integrity. The noncontributing buildings are the nonhistoric gymnasium (1951), shop building (1951), and library (1990).

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Emily Tubman and the Neely Institute

The Tubman High School for girls was named in honor of Emily Tubman. Mrs. Tubman was known for her wealth and generosity throughout the South.

Emily's husband, Richard, specified in his will the sum of \$10,000 to emancipate his slaves in 1837. Half was to go to the University of Georgia if the legislature agreed that the Tubman freedmen could live in Georgia, if not then the entire amount was to be used to relocate the freedmen elsewhere. Skeptical about any favorable action in Georgia, Emily inquired about the societies that were taking former slaves to Africa. Henry Clay, her childhood guardian, was head of the American Colonization Society. States also formed societies, and Emily wrote to both the American and the Maryland societies. She

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decided upon the latter and permitted the now freedmen to choose to go to Africa or to remain in Augusta. Only six stayed in Georgia and about fifty went by rail to Charleston and then by packet to Baltimore where they left on a larger ship for Liberia.

The slavery issue settled, Emily devoted her time to her religious interests. She had attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church with Richard but was not a member. Impressed by the words of Alexander Campbell, organizer of the disciples of Christ, she helped form the first Christian Church in Augusta in 1837 in a building on Reynolds Street behind her Broad Street home. Other churches were endowed in Atlanta, Athens, Sandersville, and Sylvania in later years. She also contributed to Bethany College in West Virginia, Hiram College, Indianapolis University, and Lexington University.

During the Civil War, Augusta's churches served as hospitals for the wounded brought by rail from surrounding battle areas. Emily purchased an ice machine from France and had it carefully brought into Georgia through the Union blockade in 1863. Cold water to drink and to bathe wounds relieved thousands of Confederate soldiers. She also was concerned about the many widows and orphans the war created and gave sums of \$100 and \$500 to many women and children.

In 1874 Emily paid for the construction of the First Christian Church and parsonage on Green Street. In 1876 Emily gave the old Reynolds Street church building to the Board of Education for a public high school for girls which became Neely Institute. In 1877 the Board of Education renamed Neely Institute to Tubman School for Mrs. Tubman's generosity. She was eighty years old and had lived through almost a century during which education for girls was considered a frivolity. Her generosity helped to change the public's attitudes toward education for women. The Academy of Richmond County was the equivalent boys' high school to Tubman High School.

New Tubman High School on Walton Way

The current Tubman school was built after the great Augusta fire of March 1916. Most of Augusta's business and residential districts were destroyed during the fire. This fire destroyed 32 blocks and 746 buildings in downtown Augusta. Instead of rebuilding downtown many people moved west to the Summerville area. Because of the shift in population, it was convenient for the Tubman High School to move to its present location on land that the Richmond County Board of Education had already purchased.

A portion of the land for the school was purchased from the Deutscher Schuetzen Club on July 28, 1914 for \$8500.00. These tracts of land included the 6.25 acre central tract, 0.5 acre southern tract, 0.344

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acre driveway tract, and two lots of 0.13 acres each that open from the east side of the central tract onto Druid Park Avenue. The rest of the land was purchased on February 1, 1917 for \$9500 from Theo. Zoller (former secretary of the Deutscher Schuetzen Club), which included two 0.91 lots on either side of the driveway facing Walton Way.

The site for the new school had been known as the Schuetzenplatz, a piece of property owned by the German Society of Augusta and used for a clubhouse, a beer garden, and shooting range. On November 7, 1916, a school bond for \$100,000 was passed to build the new school. This was the first school bond passed by Augustans.

In the Friday, November 3, 1916 issue of the Augusta Chronicle there appears a letter from Lawton B. Evans, Superintendent of the Richmond County Board of Education, the letter states:

"Sir: In order to make more definite the attitude of the board of education toward the question of proper plans for the proposed Tubman High School. I beg leave to say, in addition to my card of yesterday, that while the board of education is soliciting plans from or through the local architects of Augusta, they are taking every precaution to insure a fair and wise decision...

It occurs to me that the public may be interested in knowing the class of men with whom we have been corresponding to secure their services. We are in correspondence with Mr. W.B. Ittner of Saint Louis, who built the Soldan High School of that city, and who is a national authority on high school architecture. He is undoubtedly the leading school architect of America..."

The same letter goes on to state that the board of education also contacted Mr. O. Betell of Newark, NJ and Mr. E.A. Christy of New Orleans, LA. All of these men had built several high schools throughout the nation and they agreed to review the plans submitted to the Board of Education from local architects and that they would make recommendations to the needs of a modern high school.

The specifications for the new school stated:

"In brief, the architecture should be of such style as clearly to indicate that the building is a high school. The building is to be three stories. Due regard should be given to such a degree of ornament for the front as will be in keeping with the general plan of the building... the hall facing front entrance be made to sound the keynote of the purpose of the school--a girls school--the HOME."

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The plans for the new school had to provide accommodations for twenty class rooms, science laboratories, home economics, commercial department, drawing and general art, two study halls, library, assembly hall, gymnasium, locker rooms, lunch room and lavatories.. The girls at this new school would take various subjects such as physics, chemistry, geography, and biology in the laboratories. The home economics department consisted of a modern kitchen, dining room, sewing instruction in stenography, typing, bookkeeping, penmanship, arithmetic, and general business practice. Another subject that the girls were expected to take was art and the art room was to have skylights to take advantage of the natural light for drawing and painting. Local architect G. Lloyd Preacher was selected to design the Tubman High School.

The present building opened its doors February 1918 for 300 girls. The building was built to accommodate 600 students. In 1928 a three story wing was added to the main building because of the growing number of students. By 1932, the student body had increased to 900, so a new cafeteria was built behind the school. Tubman continued to grow with nearly 1200 students by 1939. With the increase in students, Tubman's reputation as one of the finest educational facilities in the south was on the upswing. No other school could begin to compete with this school in the Augusta area. Students came from surrounding counties in Georgia and South Carolina to board in Augusta homes in order to attend Tubman. There were also students who commuted daily by train and other means from such nearby communities as Harlem, GA and Aiken, SC. T. Harry Garrett, principal of Tubman High School from 1903 till 1945 when he retired, worked hard to achieve a strong reputation for the school and to attract students from outside Augusta.

The Richmond County Board of Education began a major restructuring in 1949. A major part of the changes was that by 1951 the Academy of Richmond County would become a coeducational high school and Tubman would be a coeducational junior high--consisting of grades 8 through 10. Although bitterly protested, this change marked the end of Tubman High School. At this time a shop building and a new gymnasium were built to accommodate the new male students.

The next major change for Tubman occurred in 1961 with integration. At that time there were approximately 10% black and 90% white students in the school. In 1970 Tubman was to lose the tenth grade. Currently the student population has dropped to about 700, approximately half black and half white.

In 1990, a new cafeteria and media center were built behind the main building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Polatty, G. L. "Historic Property Information Form," July 1992. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

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
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 10 acres

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 407230 Northing 3704250
- B) Zone 17 Easting 407390 Northing 3704240
- C) Zone 17 Easting 407380 Northing 3703860
- D) Zone 17 Easting 407210 Northing 3703860

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary follows the current legal boundary of the ten-acre property, as drawn on the enclosed plat map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the current legal property associated with the school and its ancillary buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Program Specialist
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** January 10, 1994

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Tubman High School
City or Vicinity: Augusta
County: Richmond
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1993

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 14: Front facade of Tubman High School; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 14: Front facade of Tubman High School; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 14: Detail of Tubman High School main entrance; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 14: Entry-way and trophy display area of Tubman High School; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 14: East facade entrance; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 14: Rear facade and ell wing; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 14: Main entrance lobby; photographer facing east.
- 8 of 14: Stairway outside of auditorium; photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 14: Auditorium; photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 14: Auditorium east wall detail; photographer facing east.
- 11 of 14: Rear facade of Tubman High School and ancillary buildings; photographer facing north.
- 12 of 14: Tubman High School Gymnasium front facade; photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 14: Tubman High School front entrance and gatehouses; photographer facing south.

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Photographs

14 of 14: Tubman High School gatehouses; photographer facing northwest.