

36

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 Siloam Junior High School
other names/site number Nathanael Greene Academy

2. Location

street & number 473 Highway 15 South
city, town Siloam (N/A) **vicinity of**
county Greene **code** GA 133
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30665

(N/A) not for publication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	1	3
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	3

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.

Richard Cloves
Signature of certifying official

1-2-02
Date

for W. Ray Luce, Division Director and
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

Elson H. Beall 2/20/02

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet

for

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 EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	asphalt shingles
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The Siloam Junior High School (now known as the Nathanael Greene Academy) is a one-story, rural school building with Craftsman and Colonial Revival stylistic elements. The school building is arranged asymmetrically with the main classroom area intersecting the auditorium. (Photos 1, 2, 3.) It is representative of school buildings intended to serve small communities, like Siloam, during the early part of the 20th century. The building's exterior appears as it did originally, at the time of construction, in 1929.

The school building is made of red brick with several wood-columned porticos and stoop porches. The roofs are gabled and low pitched, resembling Craftsman bungalows particularly in the shed dormers and overhanging eaves. The wood double-hung windows are grouped in pairs, fours, and fives divided by wooden modillions. (Photos 1,2,3,4.)

The porticos have simple columns that carry a plain entablature, cornice, and front gabled roof. The school's corners have quoins and most of the exterior windows are double-hung 9/9. Pressed-tin ceilings cover the portico's ceiling. (Photo 4.)

A long hallway defines the building along the longitudinal axis and separates the two front and three rear classrooms. (Photo 8.) The north side has an auditorium portion that runs on the building's latitudinal axis. (Photos 12, 13, 14.) The auditorium has a separate outside front entrance with the date "1929" on a plaque above the door on the far right of the front facade. (Photo 4.) The auditorium also contains a fairly rare, surviving 1930s painted curtain. The front-center portion of the building houses the library and principal's office, common to many school buildings. A side door is located on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

building's south side and provides access to the play area. (Photo 5.) The interior resembles the traditional classroom and hallway layout of early 20th century schools. The floors are tongue-and-groove oak boards. The original ceilings are square, pressed tin throughout (including the auditorium) with decorative moldings. Most of the window and door trim is simple in design and made of wood. (Photos 8 through 11.)

The windows are tall 9/9 double-hung sashes. Wainscoting covers several areas and most of the walls are white plaster. The classroom doors have transom windows (covered). The original chalk boards remain with wood casings. (Photos 8 through 11.)

The school is constructed of load-bearing brick masonry with timber framing for the roof and basement area. The masonry is common, American bond with a soldier-brick course at the floor level. The main floor is elevated above ground with a ventilated and lighted crawl space below.

The school is located on a flat area set-back off the road. The area behind the school is casual with dirt areas for playing. The front is landscaped with a curved entrance, paved parking area, and sidewalks that include several trees. (Photo 1.) The area behind the school is generally wooded and reflective of the rural location.

The historic vocational school building was built in 1939. It has been moved off of the nominated property and is not included in the nomination.

There are three major noncontributing/non-historic buildings on the campus. Two of these are used for classrooms and one is the gymnasium. One classroom building was built in 1970 and expanded in 1996, the gymnasium was built in 1971, and the classrooms for kindergarten were built in 1996. (Photos 15 and 16.) The historic school building is connected to the 1970 classroom building by a covered walkway. (Photo 5.)

The school appears as a rural school building close to the main road and adjacent to other residential buildings in Siloam. Open space is behind the school and across the street is an open area that is part of a private, historic residence listed in the National Register (Moore-Crutchfield House). The school is also in the immediate vicinity of the Siloam National Register Historic District but separated from it by nonhistoric development.

Changes to the building and site include the addition of detached buildings to the property in 1970 and other new buildings in later years. The exterior chimneys were removed. Restrooms were added to the original school in 1937. Ceilings were lowered inside in the 1970s over the original tin in the classrooms. The vocational building was removed in 2000 to a new location elsewhere in town.

The school operates as a private academy.

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
EDUCATION

Period of Significance:

1929-1952

Significant Dates:

1929

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Siloam Junior High School is significant in architecture as a good example of a Craftsman-inspired school that retains most of its original exterior details and ornamentation including entrances and window arrangements and dormer windows. The original intact attached auditorium retains its original materials. The style of architecture used for this school building is typical of that used in the 1920s in small Georgia towns in keeping with the funds available and the needs of the community, making this a comfortable, community-friendly building, looking much like a large house welcoming the students each day.

The school is significant in education because it was built to be and served as the only public elementary/junior high (grades 1-9) for white students for approximately 20 years before becoming just an elementary school in 1947 for grades 1-6 in this community. It is also the only historic school building in the county built to be a school that remains in continuous use as a school, although now it is a private, rather than a public, school.

National Register Criteria

The school meets National Register Criterion A because it is a good example of an early junior high school, the intermediate schools between elementary and high that became widespread in the 1950s. This is one of the earliest in Georgia to use the name "junior high" in its name. The school also meets National Register Criterion C because it is a good example of a rural school building built during the 1920s when schools were under new directions to be functional but not grand in their style. By using the prevalent Craftsman style, the school system accomplished their goal in creating such a new school building. The main building retains much of its original materials in room arrangements, original doors, walls, and trim, and in general is very intact.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance runs from the building of the main school building in 1929 until the end of the historic period, 1952.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

There is one contributing building, the main school building. There are three noncontributing buildings, the two classroom buildings and the gymnasium, constructed in 1970, 1996, and 1971 respectively.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The Siloam Junior High School follows in a long line of educational buildings in this area of Greene County. The current building exists because of the demise of its predecessor.

On September 5, 1928, the two-story wooden school house in Siloam burned. At this time Siloam was a rural agricultural area which had for some years been feeling the effect of the boll weevil infestation. Dr. Arthur Raper in Tenants of the Almighty states that when cotton was king in 1919 over 21,000 bales were ginned, but that in 1928 less than 5,000 bales were realized.

The Board of Trustees of the Siloam Consolidated School system authorized a \$10,000.00 bond referendum to be held December 10, 1928 for the purpose of raising money for the building and equipping of a new a school house. Twenty bonds of \$500.00 each were to be issued. (Several of these original bonds are in the office of the Greene County School Board.) Signing this referendum were W. G. Credille, chairman, and members G. G. Johnson and W. J. Clifton. Mr. Credille was a respected farmer, Mr. Johnson was the local pharmacist, and Mr. Clifton was the owner and operator of the Siloam cotton gin.

In the December 1928 issue of The Herald Journal, the county newspaper, the Siloam correspondent reported that the bond issue passed - 115 votes for - 10 against. Also the correspondent wrote that Siloam had always been a progressive little town with three churches and one of the strongest banks in the county. In Tenants of the Almighty, Dr. Raper states that in 1924 there were seven banks in the county and in 1928 all had closed except the one in Siloam and two in Union Point.

Besides the bond referendum the women of the community contributed in various ways. There was a ball game with the matrons versus the high school girls and a benefit card party was held, the proceeds of both to go towards the school building. In November the treasurer of the Siloam School Club reported \$87.94 in the treasury.

On January 7, 1929 Mrs. M. J. Howard of Fulton County, Georgia, a former resident of Siloam, deeded four acres to the Board of Trustees of Siloam Consolidated School. (Greene County Deed Book 21, page 351) and Mrs Eva Reynolds deeded them one and one-tenth acre. (Deed Book 21 Page 351) A plat of the acreage was made by Sam P. Turner on December 31, 1928. (Plat Book 1, page 263)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Mr. Earl Overton, a respected contractor from Union Point, Georgia, was employed as contractor for the brick building. Mr. Overton's daughter, Mrs. Vesta Newton, who resides on Hawks Bill Drive, Greensboro, was interviewed February 4, 1998. She said that her father had recently completed a brick grammar school building in Union Point before taking the Siloam job. His brick mason was Mr. Ed Eaves of Union Point.

School opened September 2, 1929, in this building with 120 pupils enrolled in nine grades. In the September issue of The Herald Journal the Siloam correspondent wrote: "The new building is completed and fully equipped for the school year. The auditorium is equipped with seats, a new piano, hand-painted curtain and two sets of hand-painted scenery. With the cooperation of the patrons and the strong faculty this promises to be the best year in the history of the school of Siloam."

The first graduation in this new building was held May 23, 1930 for four graduates. Enrollment increased however when two county schools consolidated with Siloam - Veazey school in 1936 and Sibley school in 1937.

Because of the stock market crash in 1929 and the ensuing national Depression, many businesses and individuals experienced a shortage of funds. Schools were no exception. The 1933 Code of Georgia provided that any Board of Trustees in any school district that levied a school tax could borrow money to pay their teachers for the current year. The Siloam Consolidated Board of Trustees borrowed \$455.00 for this purpose. The agreement and the note dated September 29, 1937 can be found in the office of the Greene County Board of Education.

In the Greene County Board of Education Office there is also an invoice dated August 18, 1937, from Nolan Company, Atlanta, Georgia, a company of plumbing, heating and mill supplies. This invoice gives a list of plumbing supplies for restrooms for Siloam school. Another invoice dated September 7, 1937, is for a shallow well pump. It can be assumed then that this was the time the two indoor restrooms were added to the brick building. Prior to this there were two wooden outhouses.

In the July meeting of the Greene County Board of Education Mr. Ed Downs, Farm Security Supervisor, informed the board of a \$15,000.00 grant for Greene County schools. The superintendent was authorized to enter into a contract with the Vocational Department of the state in securing vocational agriculture teachers. In December 1938 Mr. Downs discussed with the board plans for construction of school buildings through the W.P.A. grant. Mr. Harrington, W.P.A. area supervisor, also met with the board.

At the January 1939 meeting the board decided to build the first vocational agriculture building at the White Plains school. In October 1939 the county superintendent was authorized to secure a Home Economics teacher for the Siloam and White Plains schools. No mention of the Siloam vocational building can be found in the Board of Education minutes but since Siloam and White Plains shared

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

both vocational agriculture and home economic teachers, it is reasonable to assume that the four room vocational agriculture building was erected in 1939.

By September 1945 the state accrediting committee had ceased to recognize junior high schools so the eight and ninth grades were bussed to Greensboro. At this time the vocational agriculture building was converted into a lunch room. In 1957 the White Plains school consolidated with Siloam and in 1965, the Siloam school (the nominated property) was consolidated with Greensboro.

A group of individuals in Greene County were concerned because there was no facility and at that time no state or federal funds available for a school for mentally retarded children. A committee was formed, funds raised and in the fall of 1965 a school was opened in the Siloam school. This was housed in the former vocational agriculture building and called The Little Red School House. It operated in this location for four years.

On April 18, 1969 the Greene County Board of Education deeded the five and one-tenth acres and the buildings thereon to the Town of Siloam. (Deed Book 54, page 175) Then on May 1, 1969 the Town of Siloam deeded the property to Nathanael Greene Academy. (Deed Book 54, Page 232) Prior to this a group of parents had been considering opening a private school to provide their children a solid foundation in preparatory education to prepare them for college or to better qualify them to earn a living with a well rounded education. Also they desired to have a school where there could be prayer and religious education to help build the moral character of each student. This private school, Nathanael Greene Academy, named for General Nathanael Greene for whom Greene County is also named, opened August 29, 1969 with 189 students in grades one through twelve.

The third through sixth grades were housed in the previous vocational agriculture building and the brick building was used for grades seven through twelve. The first and second grades were in a small two room wooden building which was later razed.

In 1971 Nathanael Greene Academy was one of four so-called "segregation academies" in the United States and the only one in Georgia to receive federal tax exempt status.

In 1970 a building was added for first through seventh grades and the vocational agriculture building became a preschool for three, four and five year olds. When a preschool building was erected in 1996, the building became a music room and a weight room for athletes. The vocational building was removed from the property in 2000 and is not included in the nomination. The building is now next to the Siloam City Hall, outside of the area being nominated.

In the 1997-98 school term 286 students were enrolled and the one original building remains in use.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Walker, Burke and Jane Rhodes. Draft Historic Property Information Form, "Siloam Junior High School," March 1998, copy on file in the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia 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
- 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): n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.1 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 307210 Northing 3712000

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all the current owners own at this location. It corresponds to the acreage historically associated with the school.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Ave. SW, Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** December 5, 2001

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

name/title Burke Walker
organization Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center
street and number 305 Research Dr.
city or town Athens **state** GA **zip code** 30605
telephone 706-369-5650

() **consultant**
(X) **regional development center preservation planner**

name/title Jane Rhodes
organization
street and number 1260 Church St.
city or town Greensboro **state** GA **zip code**
telephone 706-467-2472

(X) **other:** local resident, interested party

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Siloam Junior High School
City or Vicinity: Siloam
County: Greene
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1999

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 16: Front facade; photographer facing southwest.

2 of 16: Front facade, with auditorium entrance on far right; photographer facing northwest.

3 of 16: Front facade, closer look, showing two main entrances; photographer facing northwest.

4 of 16: Front facade, close up of auditorium front entrance with "1929" plaque barely visible above the doorway; photographer facing west.

5 of 16: South or side facade showing side entrance and link to new classroom building; photographer facing north.

6 of 16: South facade on right, rear or west facade on left; photographer facing northeast.

7 of 16: North facade, side entrance at rear of auditorium, from the stage; photographer facing south.

8 of 16: Interior, central hall at side hall with front entrance to school at end of side hall; photographer facing north.

9 of 16: Interior, one of the classrooms; photographer facing northeast.

10 of 16: Interior, another one of the classrooms; photographer facing northeast.

11 of 16: Interior, classroom adjacent to auditorium stage with stage door seen in rear; photographer facing northwest.

12 of 16: Interior, historic stage door in auditorium on stage; photographer facing east.

13 of 16: Interior, auditorium, looking toward stage; photographer facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

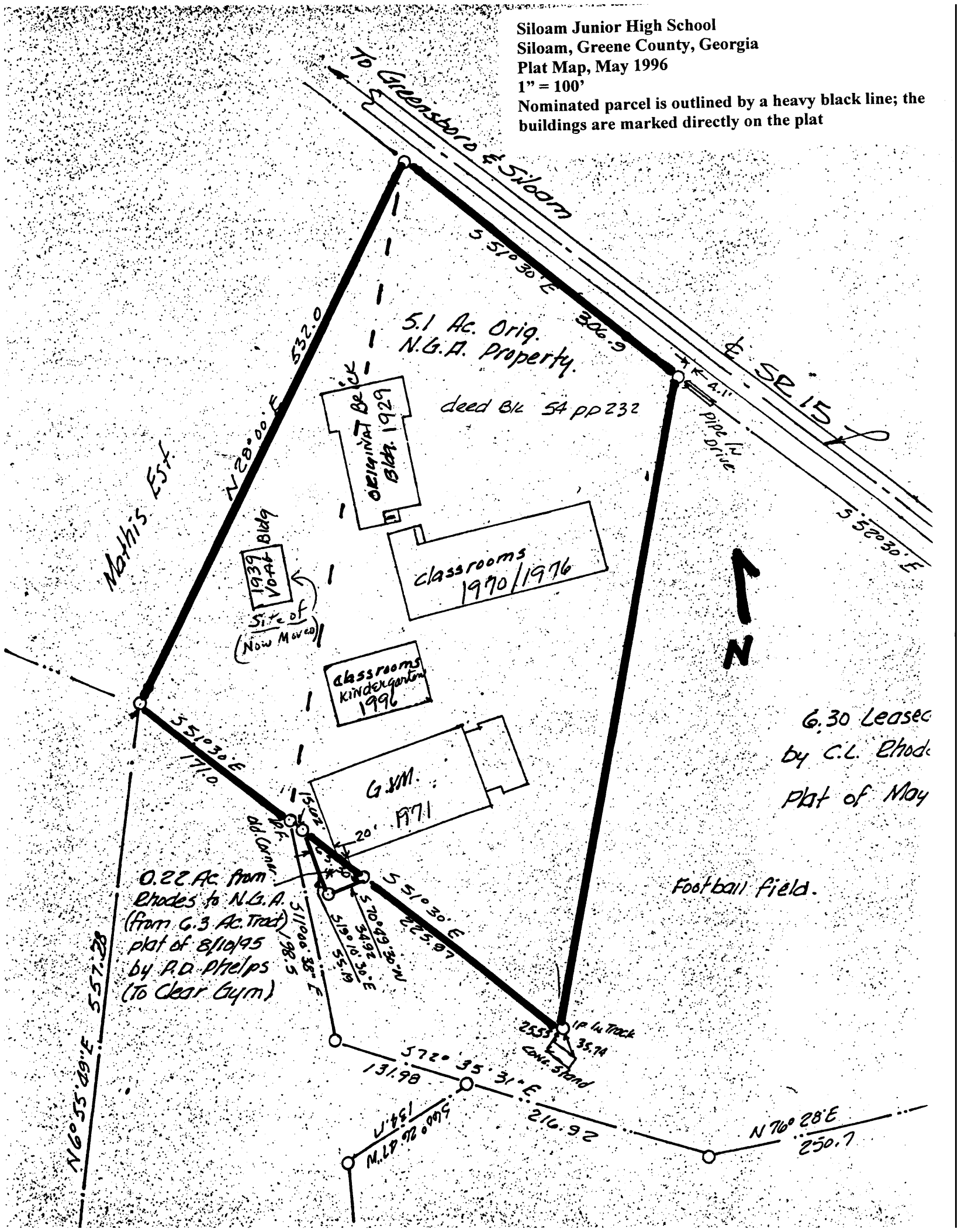
14 of 16: Interior, auditorium looking toward entrance doorway on left, and hallway to school on right; photographer facing southeast.

15 of 16: Modern school buildings with gym on left and two classroom buildings, historic school is to the far right of picture; photographer facing west.

16 of 16: Modern school buildings, closer look at gymnasium; photographer facing northwest.

Siloam Junior High School
 Siloam, Greene County, Georgia
 Plat Map, May 1996
 1" = 100'

Nominated parcel is outlined by a heavy black line; the buildings are marked directly on the plat



Nathis Est.

To Greensboro & Siloam

5.1 Ac. Orig. N.G.A. Property.
 deed bk 54 pp 232

ORIGINAL Beck Bldg. 1929

classrooms 1970/1976

classrooms kindergarten 1996

Gym 1971

1939 VOTAF Bldg
 Site of (Now Moved)

6.30 Leased by C.L. Rhodes plat of May

Football field.

0.22 Ac. from Rhodes to N.G.A. (From 6.3 Ac. Tract) plat of 8/10/95 by P.D. Phelps (To Clear Gym)

N60°55'09"E 557.28

N29°00'E 532.0

S51°30'E 171.0

S11°00'38"E 198.5

S19°00'30"E 349.2

S70°00'30"E 262.6

S51°30'E 262.6

S19°00'30"E 349.2

S70°00'30"E 262.6

S51°30'E 262.6

S72°35'31"E 131.98

N14°26'47"W 134.17

S60°26'47"W 560.91

N76°28'E 250.7

S26°12'E 26.92

S35°31'E 216.92

S35°31'E 216.92

S76°28'E 250.7

S35°31'E 216.92

FEAT pipe line



Siloam Junior High School
Siloam, Greene County, Georgia

Floor Plan

Not to scale

Drawn by Burke Walker, 1998

This is a floor plan of the 1929 Junior High School building; the room uses are marked directly on the plan

