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NATIONAL REGISTER, HISTORY  
& EDUCATION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

330

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Old Pascagoula High School  
other names/site number: N/A

**2. Location**

street & number: 2903 Pascagoula Street not for publication: N/A  
city or town: Pascagoula vicinity: N/A  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Jackson code: 59 zip code: 39567

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility 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 x meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide x locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Paul FEB. 25, 2000  
Signature of certifying official Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
x entered in the National Register,  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain):

[Signature] Beall  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson W. Beall 4/6/00

(Old) Pascagoula High School  
Name of Property

Jackson, Mississippi  
County, State

**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:** Public/local

**Number of Resources within Property: Two**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:** Building

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:** Education/School

**Current Functions:** Vacant

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:** Moderne

**Materials:**

Foundation: brick, concrete

Roof: tar, pebbles

Walls: brick

Other: wood trimming

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

(Old) Pascagoula High School  
Name of Property

Jackson, Mississippi  
County, State

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1939-1950

**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Smith & Olschner/  
Newton & Schmoll

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography** See continuation sheet.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- 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**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

MS Department of Archives & History  
City of Pascagoula, Office of Community  
Development

(Old) Pascagoula High School  
Name of Property

Jackson, Mississippi  
County, State

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately one (1) acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	350420	3359760	C		
B				D		

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title:	City of Pascagoula Historic Preservation Commission, Liz Ford Chairman		
organization:	City of Pascagoula Historical Preservation Commission	date:	31 August 1999
street & number:	P O Drawer 908	telephone:	228-938-6639
city or town:	Pascagoula	state:	MS
		zip code:	39568-0908

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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### Property Owner(s)

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name:	City of Pascagoula		
street & number:	P O Drawer 908	telephone:	228-938-6639
city or town:	Pascagoula	state:	MS
		zip code:	39568-0908

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service**

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Pascagoula High School  
Jackson County Mississippi

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**Narrative Description**

The Pascagoula High School, located at the corner of Pascagoula Street and Dupont Avenue, is a public school building significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century architecture in the Moderne style for the State of Mississippi.

The original building of the old high school maintains a consistent modern image and represents two important stages in the development of modern American architecture from its early years in the 1930's through its widespread acceptance in the 1950's.

The institutional building, built in 1937-38, is H-shaped in plan and consists of broad, horizontal forms anchored by a two story central block at the building entrance. The entrance faces east to Pascagoula Street and is flanked to the south by the auditorium, and to the north by the cafeteria and kitchen. From the entrance, a corridor lined with classrooms leads to the building's west wing which contains classrooms, the old library, and a small auditorium.

The exterior displays the unadorned geometrical massing, curved walls, round 'port hole' windows, which served as accents, and corner placed windows with wood trim, all of which are characteristic features of the Moderne architecture style of the 1930's.

The building's continuous perimeter concrete footings carry masonry bearing walls with individual concrete footings having interior masonry piers. Piers support solid wood sills which, in turn, carry 2 x 8 floor joists at 16" on center. The joist ends are let into the perimeter brick bearing walls and every third joist is secured to the brick wall with a steel strap. Wood cross bridging braces the joists. The interior piers supporting the 1941 addition are of concrete rather than brick, but the wood floor structure and brick perimeter walls replicate those of the original portion.

The roof is supported by built up flat wood trusses, spanning from bearing wall to bearing wall. The cafeteria and kitchen roof consists of steel beams supporting 2x8 wood joists. The auditorium roof is framed with steel trusses supporting 2x8 wood joists.

The exterior walls are of solid brick one (1) foot thick, forming the building's perimeter. Steel angle lintels span crawl space vent openings and I-beams with welded bearing plates span all window and door openings in the bearing walls. The exterior walls are of load bearing multi-

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wythe brick exposed on the exterior and rest on concrete footings. The walls rise above the roof to form a continuous parapet which is topped by a cast stone coping. The brick in the 1938 construction is a random palette of browns and warm grays.

Concrete stairs lead up to each building entrance. The front and auditorium entrance stair treads are of cast stone with unique rounded nosings; the auditorium stairs are flanked with large, low bricks walls with cast stone caps. Secondary entrance stairs are of typical cast in place construction and several were flanked by brick walls with cast stone caps.

Exterior doors are of wood panel, stile and rail construction and are painted red. Wood door frames extend up to enclose transom windows above each door. Each of the four front doors contains five horizontal lites that extend almost the full height of each door. The auditorium doors are of similar construction but with four lites each. All other doors contain three horizontal lites in the top half of the door. The front door hardware consists of solid pull bars without latches or levers.

Auditorium doors and other doors hold thumb latch hardware. Most doors are in generally good condition.

On the inside, the corridor walls are plastered and painted and are detailed with wood base, wainscot, and crown moulding. Banks of red metal lockers line the walls along all corridors. Operable transom windows line the upper corridor walls, opening to the classrooms. Two stairs lead up to the second floor and are simply finished with plaster walls and ceilings and concrete stairs. A tall window lights the north stair while a skylight lights the south stair.

Office and classroom walls are of painted plaster and are detailed with wood base and crown moulding. Ceilings are of wood fiber tiles and floors are of finished wood. Doors to classrooms and offices are of wood stile and rail construction with three horizontal solid panels and a four paned lite at the top of the door. The frames above these doors include a transom above. Remaining original interior door hardware reflects the consistent moderne styling evident throughout the building.

The auditorium walls are of painted plaster and are detailed with wood base. The floor is of concrete, stained red and scored to create a pattern. The main ceiling is divided into bays reflecting the auditorium structure and contains both plaster and lay in acoustical tile. Chairs

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Jackson County Mississippi

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consist of cast iron frames supporting wood seats and backs. Each row of chairs ends in a decorative cast iron panel. Brushed aluminum wall sconces are attached to each column. The floor of the stage is of wood.

The old high school is the most important structure at this public site on Pascagoula Street. It has proven its worth through sixty years of continuous service as a school. This record testifies to the durability and quality of its construction and materials and to the inherent usefulness and flexibility of its design. Most of the building's original finishes remain in place and in good condition, although they will require repair and refinishing. Restoration will result in enhancing the building's solid construction to withstand both the slow processes of natural aging and the unexpected ravages of the coastal climate.

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Jackson County Mississippi

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**Statement of Significance**

The Old Pascagoula High School served the people of Pascagoula for almost sixty years. During the late 1930's, when the citizens of Pascagoula were still struggling with the desperate conditions of the Great Depression, the construction of the high school was an expression of hope and confidence for the community. Through the years the high school played a role in Pascagoula's growth as an important factor to be considered for the thousands of families moving to the city. For many residents of Pascagoula the old high school represents a source of shared experience and meaningful memories.

In 1937 Mississippi's Department of Education recommended that the City of Pascagoula construct a new high school building. In 1936, the Mississippi State Legislature first authorized the issuing of state bonds for the construction of schools and Pascagoula's new high school. As one of the first schools built under the legislative bond issue act, building costs were funded by a \$100,000 state bond issue and an \$81,000.00 grant from the Public Works Administration of the Federal Government.

The Pascagoula High School was designed by the Mississippi architectural firm of Smith & Olschner located in Gulfport then constructed by Newton & Schmoll, general contractors from Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The architects began work in December, 1937, and construction was completed by the end of 1938 allowing the new school to open in January of 1939. At the time of its completion, the new school building was one of the most modern in the state since it incorporated state of the art equipment which reflected the latest ideas in school planning. The building's simple, horizontal lines, rounded corners, and repetitive window bays reflect the 'streamline modern' style that was popular during the mid to late 30's in public works projects. Among the amenities included in the new school were a large library, a cafeteria, a clinic, and a public auditorium. Fully equipped workrooms for typing and home economics, practice rooms for band and choral, and a fully equipped science laboratory were also included. In addition to its fire proof construction, the building contained a central heating system, electric lighting, a public address system, and individual lockers for each student.

The new high school was dedicated on Friday, January 27, 1939, and all citizens of Pascagoula were invited to tour the building which was guided by the district superintendent and the faculty. Pascagoula's newspaper, the CHRONICLE STAR, ran a special 'Pascagoula High School Edition' that day in honor of the new school.



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Jackson County Mississippi

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The school reached its student population capacity and by 1941 a new classroom wing was added to the northwest corner of the existing building. The addition included a larger library, a small auditorium, and five classrooms, while the original library was renovated to provide a larger cafeteria with an attached kitchen.

In the past thirty years, the high school experienced many alterations and adjustments to its buildings. As classes were added or removed from the curriculum and as programs grew more specialized, they were moved into quarters that better suited their needs.

Perhaps the most noticeable change to the buildings resulted from the installation of air conditioning in the early 1970's. Individual heating and air conditioning units in each classroom required the installation of large metal vents through the walls beneath each bay of windows. The celestory windows lighting the large auditorium were removed and their openings were filled in, several with vents for the air conditioning system. Despite these minor alterations, the high school buildings have experienced few substantial changes over the years and retain their original architectural character. The Old Pascagoula High School maintains a high degree of integrity and stands as an important example of the Moderne style in Mississippi, qualifying for listing on the National Register under Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level of significance.

In the mid 90's the student population in Pascagoula High School reached a level that could no longer be accommodated in the old high school. Two new high schools were built, and with the opening of the new high school the old Pascagoula High School was closed in 1997 and has stood vacant since.

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Jackson County Mississippi

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**Bibliography**

1. Old Pascagoula High School, A Feasibility Study for Repair and Reuse by WFT Architects, PA January 1999.
2. Higginbotham, Jay. Pascagoula: Singing River City. Gill Press. Mobile: 1967.
3. Laws of the State of Mississippi, Appropriations, General Legislation and Resolutions. Published by authority 1936.
4. McLemore, Richard Aubrey, A History of Mississippi Volumes 1 & 2. University and College Press of Mississippi. Jackson: 1973.
5. "Pascagoula High School Edition", The Chronicle-Star. Volume XCIV, Number 25. January 27, 1939. Pascagoula, MS.

**Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the Northwest corner of Pascagoula Street and Dupont Avenue thence commencing in a Northwesterly direction along the West side of Pascagoula Street for approximately 480 feet; thence Westerly approximately 420 feet; thence Southeasterly approximately 400 feet to Dupont Avenue; thence East approximately 470 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary lines were drawn to include the area containing and lying immediately around the Main building of the former Pascagoula High School. The above legal description was determined from the sketch map attached herein which includes the entire Old High School Complex. For purposes of this nomination, however, the above reflects only the High School building itself.

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Pascagoula High School  
Jackson County Mississippi

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**Photographs**

The following information is the same for the photographs of the exterior:

1. Old Pascagoula High School
2. Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi
3. Norma Savage, Photo Market, Pascagoula, MS
4. September 21, 1999
5. Mississippi Department of Archives & History

Photo 1 of 10– Front Entrance and South wing from Pascagoula St. looking Northwest

Photo 2 of 10– Auditorium and second story, view to North

Photo 3 of 10– Auditorium entrance, view to North

Photo 4 of 10– South wing showing auditorium

The following is the same for the photographs of the interior:

1. Old Pascagoula High School
2. Pascagoula, Jackson County, MS
3. WFT Architects, P. A.
4. January, 1999
5. MS Department of Archives & History

Photo 5 of 10– View from stage in auditorium

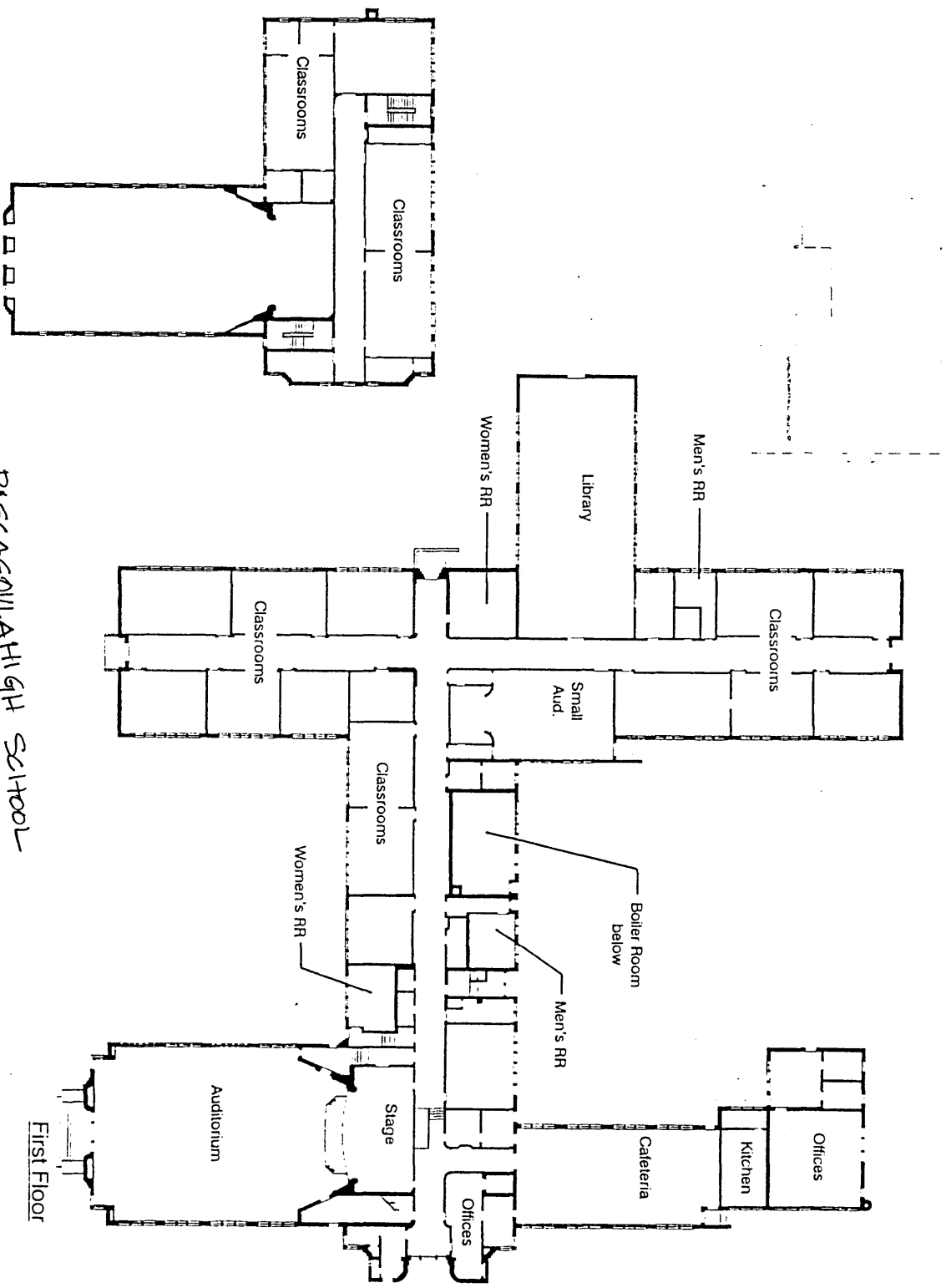
Photo 6 of 10– Curved corner detail at intersection in main corridor

Photo 7 of 10– Curved corner at intersection in main corridor

Photo 8 of 10– Main corridor with skylight

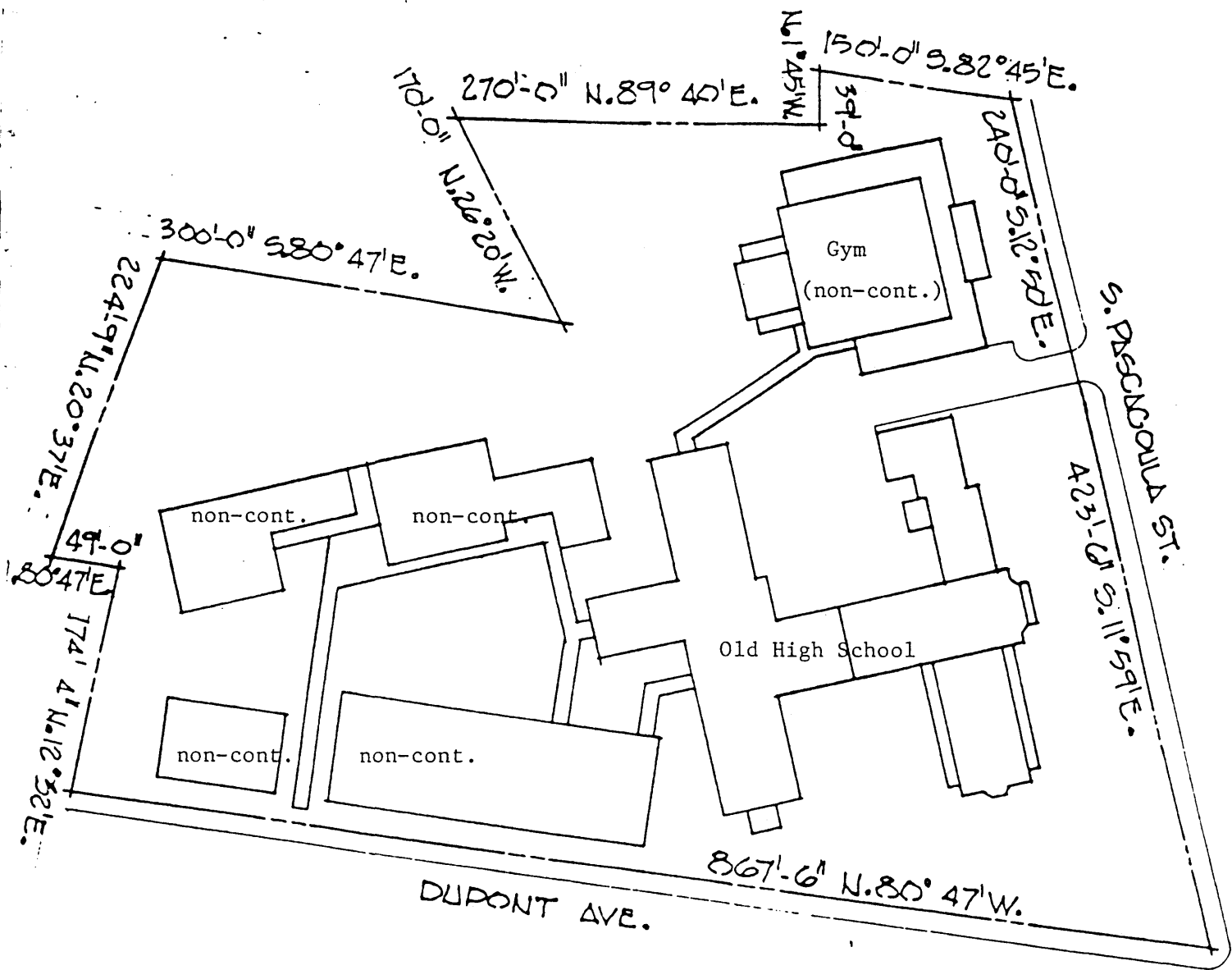
Photo 9 of 10– View from main entry to stage in auditorium

Photo 10 of 10– Detail of auditorium seating



PASCAGOULA HIGH SCHOOL  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Floor Plan, Main Building  
Not to Scale



PASCAGOULA  
HIGH SCHOOL

SCALE : 1" = 120' - 0"

APPROXIMATELY 8.95 ACRES  
JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

Sketch with Main Bldg. and Non-Contributing Bldgs.