

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED NOV 15 1979
DATE ENTERED JAN 24 1980

**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

Yonge Street School

AND/OR COMMON

H.R. Butler School

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

89 Yonge Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fifth - Wyche Fowler

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Fulton

CODE

121

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Community Center
- MILITARY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Atlanta Board of Education, Dr. Alonzo A. Crim, Superintendent

STREET & NUMBER

224 Central Avenue, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30303

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

Fulton County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The H.R. Butler School, formerly known as the Yonge Street School, is located in a high-density, public-housing area. Immediately to the north of the school is the small Selena Sloan Butler Park.

The school complex consists of the main school building, a wing addition, and the associated playground to the rear of the main building. The main building is a two-story, essentially rectangular brick structure, five bays across. The three central bays comprise the original structure built in 1911. The two flanking bays were added in 1940 and continue the original design. The center bay is marked by an arched entrance with fanlight. This main building is lighted through the east-front and west-rear elevations by two bands of double-hung, nine-over-nine windows stretching across all five bays. Detailing is limited to some patterned brickwork.

The interior of the school is typical of school construction for the period, with board floors and plaster walls. The plan of the central original bay is four-over-four. It should be noted, however, that the size of these original eight rooms is smaller than contemporary white classrooms.

A wing addition to the school within the property boundaries is a one-story brick structure. This wing was added in 1951.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Afro-American History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910-Present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT King & Walker, Architects
Acworth Construction Co., Builders

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The H.R. Butler School [formerly known as the Yonge Street School], is significant in Georgia social and political history, Atlanta educational history, and is an important landmark in Georgia Afro-American history. The school was the first modern brick public school built for black students in Atlanta. In addition, this school was the site of the organization of the first Colored Parents and Teachers Unit in the United States, an organization which later merged with the formerly all-white Parent-Teacher Association.

After Reconstruction and during the early years of the Atlanta public-school system [founded in 1872], Atlanta's blacks were disfranchised by various means [including property requirements and literacy tests] and received little benefit from public-education monies. At the time of the decision to build the Yonge Street School, qualified blacks could vote in general elections and for final bond approval, but were still disfranchised by white primaries. The construction of this school resulted from the passage by city voters in February of 1910 of a \$3 million bond issue. This bond money contained provisions for new sewer systems, waterworks and crematory plant, as well as \$600,000 for new schools and improvements to existing facilities. Passage of bond issues in Atlanta in 1910 required a two-thirds majority of all registered voters. To increase the chances of passage, a token \$38,200 was allocated out of the \$600,000 for construction of a new school for black children. The new school was proposed for the Fourth Ward, which had the largest number of blacks. Later, voter registration drives gave the Fourth Ward the largest number of registered black voters. Although black leaders were fully aware of the inequitable distribution of bond monies, they advocated support of the bond issue on the basis that some benefit was better than none. The bond issue passed with overwhelming voter support. It seems clear that demographics and political awareness played important roles in the eventual location and construction of this first modern school for blacks in Atlanta in the Fourth Ward in 1910-11. In June of 1910, the City of Atlanta purchased for \$9,000 from Bishop Henry M. Turner, a prominent black leader and Methodist clergyman, the lot on Yonge Street as the school site. The school was completed in 1911.

During the first school year at Yonge Street, Selena Sloan Butler, with the cooperation and assistance of the school's principal, Cora Finley, organized

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Golden Anniversary History, Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, 1970.
 Founder The Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers [sic], 1971.
 Atlanta Constitution, February 1, 1910.
 Atlanta Journal, February 12, 1910.
 Personal inspection, May, 1979.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.34 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Northwest Atlanta, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 743140 37371530

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the accompanying property/sketch map by the heavy black line.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Steve Henson, National Register Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Sec., Dept. of Natural Resources

DATE

August 31, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, S.W.

TELEPHONE

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia 30334

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 11/1/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Hulse
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
ATTEST *Larry A. Adams*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 1/24/80

DATE 1/21/80

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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the country's first Colored Parents and Teachers Unit. The National Congress of Parents, later known as the P.T.A., had been incorporated in 1897 to serve white parents. In 1921, the Georgia Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers was created, with Mrs. Butler as president. Five years later, a national congress was founded. This national Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers merged with the Parents and Teachers Association (P.T.A.) in 1970. This school is, thus, the home of the first black P.T.A. unit in the country. In 1955, to honor Mrs. Butler's work, the name of Yonge Street School was formally changed to H.R. Butler School. According to Atlanta Board of Education policy, a school cannot be named for a living person; therefore, the name was changed to the H.R. Butler School in memory of Mrs. Butler's husband, and to honor her.

The 1978-79 school year was the last year of formal operation for the H.R. Butler School. Currently, it is serving as a community center for the largely public-housing population in the area. Inclusion of this significant school on the National Register should serve as an important preservation catalyst for this area.