

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

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

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HISTORIC RESOURCES OF MARSHALLVILLE AND VICINITY  
MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA

AMENDMENT TO LAMSON-RICHARDSON SCHOOL  
INVENTORY FORM #5

(NOTE: This amendment contains information requested by the National Register during its review of the Marshallville multiple resource nomination.)

Description:

The Lamson-Richardson School is an early twentieth century school surrounded by informally landscaped grounds and playing fields. The school is a one-story, gable-roofed, T-shaped building. It is built with poured-in-place concrete foundations and loadbearing common-bond brickmasonry walls. The roof is supported by wood trusses with exposed rafter ends. East and west gables feature half-timbering and stucco; the north gable is sheathed in wood siding. The roof is surfaced with a combination of sheet metal and asphalt shingles. The south end of the building contains three classrooms with southern exposures, single-loaded off a lateral corridor. These classrooms and the corridor have been subdivided recently with non-structural partitions, and the original windows have been replaced by aluminum and glass sash. The north end of the building contains a gymnasium. The gymnasium floor and ceiling have been damaged by leaking water, and the windows have been removed. The school is located adjacent to the railroad tracks which cut through the black section of town. The front yard (to the north of the building) is informally landscaped with grass and trees and contains a curving dirt driveway and a small parking area. The back yard consists of level, open playing fields. The building is surrounded by a chain-link fence that encloses a children's play area. To the west is the railroad; to the north is New Town Street; to the east is a modern educational facility separated by trees, a rise in ground level, and a driveway; and to the south are woods. A small, modern, prefabricated metal building is situated in the extreme southwest corner of the property.

Statement of Significance:

EDUCATION: As originally stated in the nomination, the Lamson-Richardson School is historically significant as a philanthropic educational institution for black students. It is one of a very few privately-endowed black schools in the region, and it is among the principal local historic educational facilities.

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**ARCHITECTURE:** The Lamson-Richardson School is architecturally significant as a historic landmark in Marshallville's black community. It is the largest, most imposing, and most intact historic building in the black section of town. It is also the only building principally associated with black history to be nominated in Marshallville. (Because of age or loss of integrity, no other properties associated with black history in Marshallville appear to meet the National Register criteria.) The school is also architecturally significant as a good, albeit modest example of progressive early twentieth century school design in Georgia. Characteristic features of its time and place include its single-story layout, its broad southern exposure to admit light and air, its single-loaded corridor plan designed to facilitate access and ventilation, and its durable building materials including concrete and brick. Evidences of period design survive in the Craftsman-style half-timbering and stucco in the end gables and the exposed rafter ends. Also characteristic of its time are the extensive playing fields surrounding the building. These principles of educational design were codified by the 1920's into standard school plans for Georgia's public schools.

Condition-Integrity:

The Lamson-Richardson School is in fair to poor condition. (The building is currently used as a preschool and senior citizens center.) The building is structurally sound, although the gymnasium roof is in need of immediate repair. The interior has been modified somewhat by the erection of non-structural partitions but maintains its basic structural/spatial arrangement of classrooms, corridor, and gymnasium. Classroom windows have been replaced by aluminum sash and the gymnasium windows have been removed, but the size, shape, and pattern of fenestration is maintained. Leaking water has damaged the ceiling and floor of the gymnasium, resulting in warped and sprung boards, but the original fabric remains. All in all, the school maintains its essential integrity of form, material, and plan in spite of deterioration and alteration.

Geographic Data (revised from original):

ACREAGE: 5 and one-half acres (approximately)

UTM REFERENCE: Z. 17; E. 223190; N. 3593620 (centered on building)

TAX MAP REFERENCE: City of Marshallville Map 26, Block B, Lot 1; Western half of parcel, approximately (see Verbal Boundary Description and sketch map).

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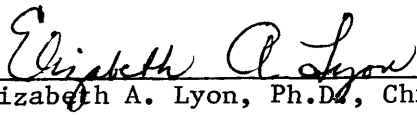
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V.B.D.: The nominated property as amended consists approximately of the western half of the originally nominated property. This property includes the Lamson-Richardson School, its front yard, rear playing fields, and a small non-historic prefabricated structure; it does not include the modern school complex and its grounds to the east. The nominated property as amended is bounded by the east side of Railroad Street paralleling the railroad tracks to the west, the south side of New Town Street to the north, an indicated property line and woods to the south, and a rise of ground between the historic and contemporary schools marked by trees and a driveway to the east. The boundary of the nominated property is described by a heavy black line on the attached sketch map entitled "Amendment to the Lamson-Richardson School, Inventory Form #5."

Prepared By:

Richard Cloues  
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Department of Natural Resources  
270 Washington Street, S. W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404/656-2840

January 13, 1981

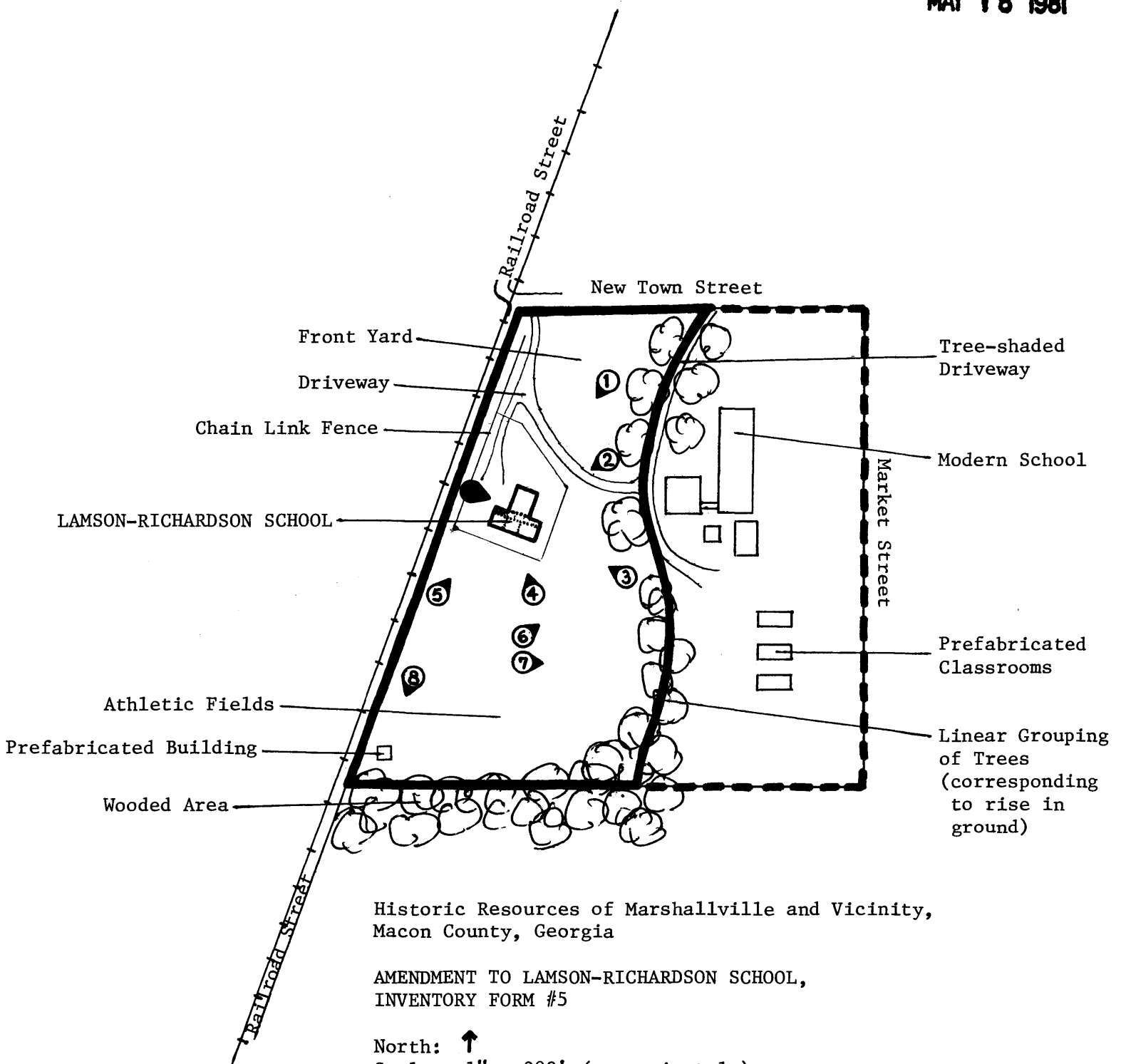


Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D., Chief  
Historic Preservation Section  
State Historic Preservation Officer

1/27/81  
Date

FEB - 6 1981

MAY 18 1981



Historic Resources of Marshallville and Vicinity,  
Macon County, Georgia

AMENDMENT TO LAMSON-RICHARDSON SCHOOL,  
INVENTORY FORM #5

- North: ↑
- Scale: 1" = 200' (approximately)
- Original Boundary: - - - - -
- Amended Boundary: —————
- Original Black-and-White Photograph: ●
- Supplementary Slides: ○

MARSHALLVILLE AND MACON COUNTY MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION  
ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES INVENTORY FORM

No. 5

RJ#E1000697

IDENTIFICATION

Property Name W. Central Georgia CAC Historic Name Lamson-Richardson School  
Street Address Railroad Street City Marshallville County Macon  
Present Owner Macon Co. Board of Education Street Address Hwy 49  
City Oglethorpe State Georgia ZIP Code 31068  
Original Owner American Missionary Association Acreage 10.3  
U.S.G.S. Quadrant 1:24000 Marshallville, Ga. U.T.M. Reference A) Z.17 E.223180 N.3593710  
B) Z.17 E.223330 N.3593705  
C) Z.17 E.223321 N.3593500  
Tax Map Reference City of Marshallville Map 26, Block B, Lot 1 D) Z.17 E.223100 N.3593510

Architectural Description and Present Condition: The Lamson-Richardson School is a one-story brick building in fair to poor condition. (The old gym is in poor condition but the school rooms are currently in use). The building sits on a concrete foundation.

HISTORY

Current Use Day care center Historic Use School  
Construction Date 1915 Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Alterations \_\_\_\_\_

Historical Narrative: Anna Wade Richardson, born in Marshallville in 1862 of slave parents, studied at Atlanta University and in Boston. In 1887, with support from Kate A. Lamson, a Boston YWCA Counselor, a two-story frame building was erected as a school for Marshallville's blacks. The American Missionary Association sponsored this non-denominational grade school. Edward Richardson took over the school in 1914 upon his wife's death and the present building was constructed with funds from Tremont Temple Baptist Church in Boston. In 1937, under  
(cont'd)

SIGNIFICANCE

Areas of Significance Education Statement of Significance: The Lamson-Richardson school is a focal point of the black community in Marshallville. It was one of the few privately owned schools for blacks in the area and students from as far away as Albany studied here. That the community as a whole supported the school made it even more remarkable. Therefore, it is important not only as a high quality educational institution, but as one of the few remaining symbols of black history and achievement in the community.

SOURCES

Prepared by Mrs. Jane Bickley Street Address West Main Street  
City Marshallville State Georgia Date 11/21/79  
Representation in Other Surveys None

Sources of Information:

Richardson, Blanche. History of Lamson-Richardson School, Marshallville, Georgia. Typescript.  
(cont'd)

SEP 16 1980

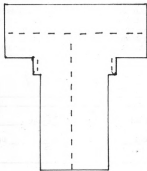


Photographer James R. Lockhart Direction Photographer Facing Southeast

Date March 1980 Negatives on File Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Photograph Number 31 of 41.

SITE PLAN--INCLUDE NORTH ARROW



CONTINUATION  
HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

the leadership of Blanche Richardson, Anna's daughter, the first senior high class was graduated. In 1957, the new buildings to the east were constructed and the school became a county-supported grade school.

SOURCES

Moore, Violet. "The Lanson-Richardson School Principals Include Three Richardsons." Montezuma Citizen-Georgian. June 1970.

Moore, Violet. "Marshallville School Started by Slaves' Daughter." Macon Telegraph and News. July 19, 1970