

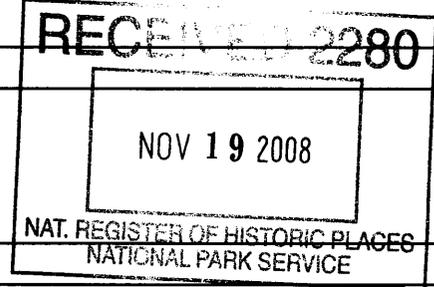
1248

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 Mauk School
other names/site number N/A



2. Location

street & number 37 State Route 127 South
city, town Mauk () vicinity of
county Taylor code GA 269
state Georgia code GA zip code 31058

() not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

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

11-5-08
Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
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

Edson H. Beall 12-30-08

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:

SOCIAL: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation	BRICK
walls	WOOD: Weatherboard
roof	ASPHALT
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Mauk School is located in a rural area of Taylor County in west-central Georgia. The unincorporated town of Mauk is approximately 15 miles southwest of the county seat of Butler. This one-story six-room schoolhouse has retained its essential form and floor plan since construction in 1936. The main rectangular core has a central extension to the rear, giving it roughly an inverted "T" shape. The exterior is wood weatherboard with a continuous brick foundation and asphalt shingle roof. The bulk of the roof is gable-on-hip with a central cross-gabled front entry and rear wing. Rows of six-over-six double-hung windows (recent replacements) provide ample light to the interior. Elements of the Colonial Revival style are evident in the symmetry and a few of the details of this otherwise simple vernacular form. The main central entryway features a recessed stoop with engaged squared columns, leading to double doors with a fixed divided transom and vertical side windows with fixed lights. The entry gable has rake molding and eave returns, plus a round ventilator. The building once had a central cupola that did not survive. There are additional exterior doors on the sides and rear of the building. The front door leads to a large open room. The interior floor plan includes a lateral hallway with three rooms on each side. The largest room is the rear extension, used as an auditorium with an elevated stage and fixed wooden seats. One classroom was converted to a lunchroom prior to 1947. Small restrooms were added c.1948, one on each end of the hallway. Interior materials include original wooden doors and moldings throughout, linoleum tile floors dating to the 1970s in the classrooms, and wood paneling below the chair rails. The building is set back from the road near the rear of the lot with a large grassy front lawn, a few shrubs, and mature trees mostly around the rear perimeter. It sits between the small community and adjacent farmland. The setting includes open fields and views of a few residences, churches, and farm structures.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

FULL DESCRIPTION

The Mauk School is within walking distance of the "town center" of the small, unincorporated farming community of Mauk. It lies at the western edge of Taylor County, almost in Marion County. The building faces east on a four-acre lot that is mostly open with a grassy lawn and some hardwood trees around the rear perimeter (photograph 1). The terrain is flat, with about 410 feet of road frontage on S.R. 127. The school is at the rear of the slightly irregular rectangular lot. Foundation shrubs of various sizes surround the former school (photograph 2). There is no evidence, either in photographs or on the landscape, of any formalized recreation fields or areas for playground equipment. Oral history suggests there were once at least two swing sets. A photograph from 1972 does show a curved front driveway, which is not apparent in 1930s views. The rural setting appears to have changed little since the school was in operation (photograph 33).

The Mauk School retains its historic character and integrity as a rural schoolhouse, and also as the only remaining Works Progress Administration (WPA) funded school in the county. The building replaced a smaller community school that had served Mauk until 1936. Design, materials and workmanship are mostly intact. The façade is symmetrical with some Colonial Revival details (photograph 3). The center of the front projects forward slightly, and the rear has a large central extension that forms the stem of the inverted "T" (photographs 4, 5 and 7). Exterior walls are wood weatherboard with vertical cornerboards (photograph 12). The roof is somewhat complex, with a steeply pitched gable-on-hip main section and cross-gabled front and rear extensions (photograph 2). It has recently been covered in new asphalt shingles. Two brick interior chimneys on the slope of the roof were removed at the time of the re-roofing. The roof also once had a central ridgeline cupola that was gone prior to 1972. The foundation is continuous brick with evenly spaced ventilation holes (photograph 6).

The school exterior has very little ornamentation. There are round slatted ventilators for the attic in each gable end. The main entry has a recessed stoop under a front-facing gable (photograph 13). This gable has eave returns with rake molding. The small portico has engaged square columns, and is topped by a shallow hipped overhang. The double door has wood panels below and glass panes on top. Above the door is a transom window with five fixed panes. On each side of the door is a narrow vertical window with four fixed panes. This main entry appears almost exactly as it did in early photographs. There are also exterior doors on each of the three other sides (photographs 4, 6 and 8) with varying degrees of integrity.

Classroom windows have always been six-over-six double-hung sashes, but the originals were replaced with similar windows in 2002. Some of the original glass panes were salvaged and re-used. There is one window on each side of the front door, flanked by groupings of five windows to illuminate each of the two front classrooms (photographs 3 and 11). The two rear classrooms also each have the five windows. The rear extension (auditorium) has six windows on each side, grouped in sets of two (photographs 5 and 7).

The original floor plan is intact. The interior consists of a large entry room (photographs 14, 15 and 33), a central north-south corridor (photograph 20), four former classrooms on each corner

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

(photographs 16, 17, 18, 19, and 21), and an auditorium projecting to the rear (photographs 23 through 32). The northeast classroom (photographs 16, 17, and 18) was converted to a lunchroom prior to 1947, and two restrooms were installed (one for boys and one for girls) around 1948. The restrooms enclosed some space at the end of each hall, plus a portion of each side portico. Most of the interior walls are composed of wallboard, with wood paneling below the chair rail and wide wood baseboards. Interior doors and moldings are wood. Most of the original interior five-panel doors remain (photographs 20 and 22). Those leading into the auditorium and the entry room are double doors. Floors were covered with 12-by-12-inch linoleum tiles in 1970, except in the auditorium, which has the original wood floors. The dropped ceilings now have synthetic tiles. Some blackboards remain (photograph 21). The auditorium is very intact, with the historic stage décor, early light fixtures, the wooden floor, and wooden theater seats with folding bottoms and Art Deco side panels (photographs 23 through 32). The artwork on the stage walls, consisting of mostly nature scenes, is visible in graduation photographs from the late 1940s.

Wood and/or coal heaters were the original sources of heat. Early photographs show four chimneys. All chimneys have now been removed, but there is some interior evidence of the heating system, such as remnants of stovepipe (photograph 22). Butane space heaters were approved for the Mauk School by the Taylor County Board of Education at its June 4, 1946 meeting. An inoperable gas heating system remains in the building. The running water and indoor plumbing were installed c.1947-1948 when the lunchroom and restrooms were added. Before that, privies (once located on the northwest and southwest corners of the property) were used. The building has electrical wiring, and there is some evidence that electrical lighting has been used since the school opened.

The school's architect is not known, and it is possible that the local school board may have used standardized plan books that would have been available through the state education department. The plan of Mauk School is almost identical to "Floor Plan No. 5 – Five Teacher Community School," which was prepared in the 1920s for African-American schools created under the Julius Rosenwald Fund. Rosenwald was a Northern philanthropist whose efforts greatly improved the condition of many African-American schools in the segregated South during the early 20th century. While Rosenwald plans were created for black schools, they were widely available to state agencies, and there is precedent for their use by some white schools in the rural South. These model buildings employed modern professional design ideas, but they were also efficient and cost-effective. For these reasons, the plans eventually crossed racial lines in their use, with some adaptations. Facilities for white children sometimes had more ornamentation if funds were available. In the case of the Mauk School plan, the number of windows in each classroom was decreased by one, but the roofline was expanded to a steep hip instead of a simple gable, and an elaborate cupola was added (no longer extant). The original Rosenwald plan (if it was used) also had the large open entry room subdivided into an "industrial" room and an office, with a small corridor between them. There is no evidence of this at Mauk. Taylor County school board minutes mention the use of WPA funds for the Mauk School, but they do not discuss the construction plans. Newspaper articles also do not provide any relevant clues, so whether Rosenwald plans were actually used is unclear. The similarity, however, is unmistakable.

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

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance:

1936-1956

Significant Dates:

1936 – construction of the school

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Constructed in 1936 with assistance from the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Mauk School served the white children of the local area as a public school until 1956. It also functioned as a gathering place for various community groups. With six rooms (including at least four classrooms), the building was larger than the typical rural school of its time. Local residents resisted state efforts at countywide school consolidation until later than many other districts in Georgia. Mauk School is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good intact example of a rural school building with elements of the Colonial Revival style. According to "Public Schools in Georgia, 1868-1971," a statewide historic context, early rural public schools in Georgia usually consisted of only one or two rooms. Many benefited from the federal government's work relief programs, and the WPA funds apparently allowed Mauk to build a more commodious facility. Mauk School is also significant under Criterion A in the area of education as an early example of universal public education in Georgia. It first served grades one through nine, and had been reduced to two teachers and six grades by the time it closed in 1956 due to consolidation with the Butler school system. The school employed a number of local women in a time when teaching was one of the few acceptable occupations for women. Mauk School is significant locally in the area of social history because it was continuously used as a community center and meeting place for organizations such as the women's home demonstration club. A local singing school met in the auditorium for two weeks every summer, and "singings" were held on many Sunday afternoons. Other events included bridal showers, plays, movies, and parties. Now owned by the MCN Club, Inc., the school was (and still is) the only nonreligious building in the community large enough to accommodate these gatherings.

The architecture of the Mauk School is very functional, allowing for some flexibility in the number of classrooms, as well as spaces for community uses. The entry room could have been used as offices and/or subdivided for instructional areas. If an extra classroom was needed, the auditorium could also be used. Except for the cupola, the building had little excess ornamentation, but was influenced by the Colonial Revival style. The Colonial Revival was among the most popular styles for schools in Georgia from the 1920s through the 1940s. When New Deal era programs began funding schools in the 1930s, many were constructed with elements of this style. Colonial Revival schools ranged from high-style examples, such as the Sycamore School from the 1920s in Turner County, to mostly plain buildings, such as the Southside School from 1941 in Turner County. Mauk School has a fairly typical symmetrical façade, and uses only modest details such as the simple engaged columns and the gable at the entryway. One less common feature that gave the rural building a touch of modernity was the use of the distinctive Art Deco panels on the end of each row of wooden seats in the auditorium. Similar seats are found in the Hawkinsville Public School in Pulaski County, which was also constructed in 1936.

Regarding the education of their children, the parents of the Mauk community did have some influence over the actions of the Taylor County Board of Education. In 1953 the board surveyed the parents to ascertain whether they preferred to continue to send their children to Mauk, or to have them transported to the county seat of Butler. Mauk School operated for three more years, and parents who wanted to send children to Butler had to arrange their own transportation. Various pieces of legislation in Georgia encouraged consolidation of schools by providing state funds for

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

qualified districts. As schools consolidated, transportation became an issue. Butler was 15 miles away, and a bus system had to be established. The advantages of consolidation included the ability to fund better buildings, hire more qualified teachers, and achieve more uniform educational standards. In 1949 the state passed the Minimum Program for Education Act, providing for more extensive school consolidation and other improvements. The transfer of all Mauk students to Taylor County schools in Butler did not occur until after an agreement was reached in 1956.

In the area of social history, the building has served as an important anchor to the community since its construction. The use of WPA funds probably also meant that local laborers were involved in building the school. Local women (and a few men) were employed as teachers. Numerous organizations used the building for entertainment and recreational purposes, as well as charitable pursuits and extracurricular activities for both children and adults. Despite many challenges, the Mauk community still considers the school an important part of their history and identity as a place.

National Register Criteria

The Mauk School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the areas of education and social history for its dual role in serving the educational and social needs of the small community of Mauk in the early to mid-20th century. The building is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good example of a rural public school.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the school's construction in 1936, and ends when the Mauk School closed in 1956.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The nominated property includes the former school building, which is the only contributing resource on the property. There are no noncontributing resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Note: *The following narrative was written by Norma T. Jones, as part of the "Historic Property Information Form," and edited by staff of the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.*

In 1909 a one-room school was built east of the railroad in the three-year-old town of Mauk in western Taylor County. W. T. (Telly) Rustin was a life-long resident of Taylor County and probably

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

the first teacher in Mauk. (Mr. Rustin taught in several schools throughout Taylor County and also served as Taylor County Superintendent of Schools.) Later this building had rooms added and remained the only school building in Mauk for several years. In 1927 another building was erected to house grades one through nine with five teachers and 250 to 300 students. In 1936 the Works Progress Administration (WPA) assisted in constructing the present building on the west side of the railroad and across town from the earlier buildings. This school served grades one through nine at the time it was built, but was reduced to two teachers and six grades by the time of consolidation with the county school system in 1956.

On June 2, 1936, the Taylor County Board of Education approved several WPA projects, including the new school building at Mauk. A canning plant for Mauk was approved with the same action. The canning plant probably was housed in the school building during the summer months. According to a diary of Mrs. Josephine Harbuck Welch, who was a student at Mauk School during the school year of 1936 to 1937, the student body began classes in the new building in January 1937 upon returning to school at the end of the Christmas break.

The January 28, 1937 issue of the *Butler Herald* reported that the Mauk W. H. D. Club (Women's Home Demonstration Club, led by the county home demonstration agent, name later changed to Mauk Home Demonstration Club or HD Club) reported the first meeting of the New Year in the auditorium of the new school building with ten members present. The report stated, "We are exceedingly glad of our school building and a definite place to hold Club meetings, as heretofore we have had to hold them here and there." Miss Everett gave a talk on "Rural Electrification," which was a new innovation in this section of the county. A teacher who had been at Mauk School in 1937 recalled that the school had electricity when it opened; therefore, there must have been a Delco or other system for electric current until rural electricity came to the area. (Flint Energy's history states the first rural electricity was "turned on" in Taylor County on September 8, 1937, and electricity was extended to the southwest part of Taylor County later that year.)

During the years from 1945 to 1961 the primary fund-raising project of the Mauk H.D. Club was assembling a fair booth with winnings (after expenses) being divided with the Mauk P.T. (Parent-Teacher) Club and after 1956, the MCN Club. Club members would meet at the school building for planning and assembling of booths. From 1945 to 1961 a total of \$814.66 was deposited into the club's checking account and used to buy lunchroom supplies, books, classroom supplies, playground equipment, etc. Financial records of Mauk H.D. Club and MCN Club were kept every year with every receipt and expenditure being entered. For example, the following entry was dated October 28, 1960: "1/2 of lost eggs 2 2/3 doz. at .56 per dozen - loss \$1.46". (Someone must have dropped the eggs.) The Mauk W. D. H. Club also planted shrubbery around the new building. The Mauk H.D. Club continued to hold meetings in the building until it was disbanded in 1971.

On July 1, 1937, the Taylor County Board of Education called for an election for trustees. Minutes of the meeting were recorded as follows: "County school Superintendent authorized and instructed to call an election for the Trustees in the Mauk School District" among others. Each community school had a board of trustees who were entrusted with the duty of hiring teachers as well as other duties. Some of the trustees of Mauk School were Dave Harbuck, Sr., W. O. Whitley, Sr., Will Turner, and L.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

R. Pike. At the July 6, 1937 meeting of the Taylor County Board of Education, the board reported that a set of Brittancis (sic) were distributed to Mauk School as well as Butler, Reynolds, Rupert, and Cross Roads. Minutes of the Taylor County Board of Education on June 1, 1943 stated, "County Board appointed a committee composed of the Principals of Butler and Reynolds (the two large city schools in county) along with Principals of Rupert and Mauk Schools (rural county schools) together with Superintendent to study the school system in regard to curriculum and grading system and make recommendations to improve the schools system."

According to minutes of the board of education meeting on March 6, 1945, it was decided that eighth and ninth grade students from Mauk and Rupert Schools would be brought into Butler for the school term of 1945 - 1946. Also any class with less than five in any grade would be enrolled in the Butler School if transportation and facilities were available. Plans to consolidate rural schools in Taylor County with schools in Butler and Reynolds are recorded in minutes of Taylor County Board of Education dated February 2, 1954. Citizens of Mauk, Charing, and Norwich communities met with the board of education to protest the consolidation of Mauk School; consolidation was delayed until 1956.

Some of the teachers who taught during the years at Mauk School included Telly Rustin, Chandler Dickey, Lucy Caldwell, Ruth Rustin Pike, Mr. & Mrs. Summerhour, Fred Rustin, Carol Smith Goddard, Mr. & Mrs. Lester Halley, Margie Thurmon, Pearl Gorman Riley, Walter Horton, Herman Elliston, Ruby Rustin Ingram, Rita Peacock Turner, Georgia Kate Slocumb Woodall, Nettie B. Hill Turner, Reba Lou Turner, Mary Ann Gregory Waller, Louise Gilson, Jewell D. Lancaster, Imogene Duke Garrett, Doris Callahan Howell, and L. B. Strickland, among others. Multiple classes were held in one room with one teacher teaching all subjects to two or more grades. One class would be given assignments to work silently while the teacher instructed another class. Students in a higher grade in the room would sometimes be allowed to help students in a lower grade.

Recess at Mauk School was a time of fun and games. The older students were allowed to play ball on the school ground in front of the building (broken windows on the front of the building were a common occurrence). On the southern area of the school ground was a small swing set for the younger children. On the northern section was a large swing set for the older children. The Mauk P.T. Club provided playground equipment, consisting of swing sets and baseball equipment. The younger children were not allowed to go on the part of the playground with the older children and vice-versa. Tag, chase, hide 'n seek, rock school, play school, play house, jump rope (when a student could find a discarded plow line at home), hopscotch, Red Rover, and other games were enjoyed by the imaginative students without an expense to the school system or the P.T. Club.

There were no indoor restrooms during the early years, with outhouses serving the teachers and children alike. On the northwest corner of the property was the outhouse for the girls. It was a "three-holer" with no front door, just a wrap-around that gave some degree of privacy. On the southwest corner of the property was the outhouse for the boys. These buildings are no longer on the property, having been torn down when indoor plumbing was installed after approval by Taylor County Board of Education in minutes dated November 2, 1948.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Singing schools were held in the auditorium for two weeks during most summers. A certified teacher would be hired and paid from tuition of students attending. Each morning, the rudiments of music would be taught, including shaped notes and how to "beat time" and "lead". In the afternoons, parents and others would come in to join the singing or to just sit back, listen, and enjoy what the children had learned. Singers were arranged with basses in folding chairs on the left front and altos in folding chairs on the right front. Sopranos and tenors were seated in the stationary auditorium seats in center front. Pianists would also perform on the same piano that has remained on stage all these years. Some song leaders would have a favorite pianist and would ask "their" pianist to play while they lead. Some leaders brought their pianist with them. Sunday after the two-week school was when the school hosted an all-day singing and dinner on the grounds. Students would show their musical skills by singing solos, duets, trios, or quartets. Every student was expected to muster enough courage to "lead" at least one song and to "beat" the time while leading. Some of the singing school teachers were Mr. T. G. Sutton of Fort Valley, Mr. Truie Foster of Buena Vista, Mrs. Nello Bridger of Macon, and Mrs. J. M. Daniels of Unadilla (all towns in Georgia). People would come from miles around to sing or listen (and eat). The *Butler Herald* of August 18, 1955 stated, "the best singing ever at Mauk and one of the best in the state was held with approximately 200 in attendance - with singers coming from all sections of Georgia and some from Florida." Also for several years during the 1940s and 1950s, singings were held in the auditorium each fourth Sunday afternoon beginning at 2:30 p. m. and lasting until late afternoon. Singers would come from miles around. The last singing school was held in 1965.

Private piano lessons were held at the school during the 1940s and 1950s. Piano students were allowed to leave their regular classes for a thirty-minute lesson twice per week. Instruction was given on the stage (using the piano and piano bench that remain on the stage) with Mrs. Alton Lawhorn and later Mrs. Alton Heath providing instruction. At the end of the year, the children dressed in their Sunday School best to delight their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles by performing at the annual piano recital.

Before television had come to almost every home in the area and before transportation was available to anyone who wished to see a movie in faraway places, the stage of Mauk Schoolhouse was often used to entertain the local citizens with such events as "womanless weddings," fashion shows, skits, plays, minstrels, tacky parties, visiting quartet singings, and various other forms of entertainment. Most utilized the acting abilities and musical talents of the citizenry of the Mauk, Charing, and Norwich communities. (Mr. Ed Walls, Mauk School bus driver and owner of his bus, could often be persuaded to take the Mauk children on the school bus to Conner's Mill to the drive-in movie on Saturday nights.) The "front" room and lunchroom of Mauk Schoolhouse were utilized for many years by the local women to fete every young community bride-to-be with a bridal shower or tea (as was the local custom). Some of these young brides were later feted with baby showers in the same room.

The Mauk School building has also served the religious communities of the area. During several years from 1978 to 1990, the Upatoi Primitive Baptist Association used the building for the annual meeting of the association, since the size of many of the rural churches in the association would not accommodate the number of people attending. The association would assemble on Friday,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Saturday, and Sunday mornings. Some of the other area churches that have used the building for various services during the years are the Mauk United Methodist Church and the Mauk Baptist Church. Community Christmas and Easter Services have also been held in the building.

When the community school was consolidated with the Butler School System in 1956, the Taylor County Board of Education deeded the Mauk School property to the communities of Mauk, Charing, and Norwich with the stipulation that an organization be formed to oversee the use and maintenance of the property. The Mauk P.T. Club, which was organized in 1945, evolved into the MCN (Mauk Charing and Norwich) Club for the purpose of carrying out the direction stipulated by the deed. The deed contained a reversionary clause that stated if the MCN Club failed to meet for a period of 36 consecutive months, the property would revert to the Taylor County Board of Education. In 1970 the reversionary clause was sold by the Taylor County Board of Education to the MCN Club for \$1.00. The MCN Club then owned the property without the cloud of the reversionary clause, which had hung low over the club for 14 years.

At the time of the organization of the MCN Club and disbanding of the Mauk P.T. Club, Mrs. L. R. (Ruth) Pike recorded the following paragraphs in the official financial record book of the clubs: "On June 11, 1956 the PT Club, Mauk School Community Club, disbanded after giving all possessions to newly formed MCN Club representing Mauk, Charing, and, Norwich Communities." "On June 11, 1956 the Mauk PT Club met for the purpose of presenting the newly formed Mauk, Charing, and Norwich Club, namely MCN Club, all of its possessions and funds to be used for the benefit of the three communities and for the pleasure of all who visit with us there. Motion made and carried to disband the PT Club." Financial records show that 44 folding chairs and \$289.03 were the possessions and funds transferred. The folding chairs remain in the building today.

The building was leased to Mauk Academy in 1970 with repairs done in lieu of rent. The private school operated on the property, using the building, along with portable classrooms set up on the grounds, until 1976 when Mauk Academy ceased to exist. The portable classrooms and other assets of Mauk Academy were sold to pay bills. During the 1970s when integration was taking place throughout the state of Georgia, private schools were established. While the reason for the establishment of Mauk Academy might have been a controversial one, it is unlikely that the Mauk schoolhouse would have existed without the repairs done by the private school supporters in the 1970s.

During the past 50 years, club members have held fundraisers in various ways to maintain the building as needs arose. It has been painted several times, has been roofed two or three times, was rewired in 1997, and has had all windows and a few doors replaced within the past five years. A new well was dug on the property within the past three years, and small repairs done as needed. (The window and door project was a costly one funded by money raised by the club and an \$18,000.00 grant from the Georgia governor's budget. Senator George Hooks procured the grant on behalf of the Mauk School and the MCN Club.)

In 2001 when rehabilitation was underway, an individual challenged the club's ownership of the property. The efforts of the MCN Club to preserve and renovate the Mauk School were greatly

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

hampered, as it was necessary to expend treasury funds, as well as conduct fundraisers, to fight the takeover of the property. After three years of court filings, suits, counter-suits, and hearings, at an approximate cost of \$70,000.00 to the MCN Club, the club was victorious in retaining full and complete ownership of the property. Some of the projects that enabled the club to raise funds necessary to fight the lawsuits were yearly fall festivals, barbecues, auctions, yard sales, \$100.00 a plate dinners, gospel singing, tee shirt sales, cookbook sales, bake sales, raffles, and monetary donations from club members and others who cared about the Mauk School. A large shadow box is prominently displayed in the hall. In it are mounted memorial and honorary brass plates that honor students, teachers, trustees, bus drivers, lunchrooms workers, etc. associated with Mauk School. For each brass plate, \$250.00 was donated to the preservation effort. There have been 25 plates donated. Fundraising efforts are ongoing with Fall Festival being held annually to cover the expenses of keeping the building open and repairs to the building. "The ABC's of Cooking from Mauk" used old tried and true recipes from past and present club members. Pictures of students and teachers from the Mauk School years of the 1920s, 1930s, 1940s and 1950s were added throughout the book.

The MCN Club is incorporated as a tax-exempt nonprofit organization. MCN Club members may rent the building for a minimum charge of \$25.00 per day and non-MCN Club members are charged a minimum of \$50.00 per day. The building is not rented to any individual or group for commercial uses. MCN Club holds regular monthly meetings at Mauk School. The building still stands proudly as a reminder of the past and as the heart of the communities of Mauk, Charing, and Norwich.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Publications:

Community School Plans. Nashville: Julius Rosenwald Fund. 1921, revised 1928, 1931.

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Jones, Norma T. "Historic Property Information Form, Mauk Schoolhouse" and supporting documentation, July, 2006. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta.

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"Mauk Community Expresses Thanks for Best Singing." *Butler (Ga.) Herald*, 18 August 1955.

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"Rice Brothers Appear at Mauk School Next Week." *Butler (Ga.) Herald*, 25 February 1937.

"School Begins at Mauk Monday, September 28." *Butler (Ga.) Herald*, 17 September 1936.

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Interviews:

Hanson, Frances Lumpkin. Telephone interview by Norma Jones. 21 June 2006.

Harbuck, Gloria. Telephone interview by Martha Ruth Edwards. 21 June 2006.

Ingram, Ruby Rustin. Telephone interview by Martha Ruth Edwards. 13 June 2006.

Pittman, Gaynell. Interview by Martha Ruth Edwards. 13 June 2006.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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 Approximately four acres.

UTM References

Zone 16 Easting 742083 Northing 3598759

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the attached National Register/tax map.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary is the intact boundary from the historic period, which is the same as the current legal boundary. It includes all the land associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Denise P. Messick, Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303-2316
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 2008
e-mail Denise.Messick@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Norma T. Jones, President
organization MCN Club, Inc.
mailing address P. O. Box 99
city or town Butler **state** GA **zip code** 31006
telephone 478-862-3997 or 478-862-2644
e-mail natj@pstel.net

- () **property owner**
- () **consultant**
- () **regional development center preservation planner**
- (x) **other:** former student of Mauk School

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Norma T. Jones, President
organization (if applicable) MCN Club, Inc.
mailing address P. O. Box 17
city or town Mauk **state** GA **zip code** 31058
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Mauk School
City or Vicinity: Mauk
County: Taylor
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 2007

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 33

1. East (main) façade and front lawn; photographer facing southwest.
2. East (main) façade and north side elevation; photographer facing southwest.
3. Front of school and main entry; photographer facing west.
4. North side elevation; photographer facing south.
5. Rear auditorium extension; photographer facing south/southeast.
6. Rear door; photographer facing southeast.
7. Rear auditorium extension; photographer facing north.
8. Side door on south elevation; photographer facing north.
9. Front of school; photographer facing northwest.
10. North side and yard; photographer facing west/southwest.
11. Front windows on northeast classroom; photographer facing west.
12. Main (front) entry area; photographer facing southwest.
13. Main entry porch, door, and side windows; photographer facing west.
14. Front entry room; photographer facing northwest.
15. Front entry room, looking into corridor; photographer facing west.
16. Northeast classroom, converted to kitchen/lunchroom; photographer facing northwest.
17. Northeast classroom, converted to kitchen/lunchroom; photographer facing northeast.
18. Northeast classroom, converted to kitchen/lunchroom; photographer facing southwest.
19. Northwest classroom; photographer facing northwest.
20. Central corridor; photographer facing north.
21. Southeast classroom; photographer facing southeast.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

22. Corner and door of southeast classroom, showing ventilation grill and stovepipe remnant; photographer facing northwest.
23. Auditorium from rear; photographer facing west.
24. Auditorium stage; photographer facing west.
25. Fireplace and corner of stage; photographer facing southwest.
26. Detail of stage backdrop art; photographer facing northwest.
27. Stage fireplace; photographer facing west.
28. Detail of stage backdrop art; photographer facing south/southwest.
29. Stage stairs, curtains and columns; photographer facing southeast.
30. Southwest corner of stage; photographer facing southwest.
31. Auditorium from front; photographer facing east.
32. Detail of auditorium seats; photographer facing southeast.
33. Front entry area, looking outside; photographer facing east.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

3

SEE MAP 3

SEE MAP 3

MAUK SCHOOL

MAUK FIRE DEPT.

2
10AC

MAUK BAPTIST CHURCH
MAUK METHODIST CHURCH

ATLANTIC COASTLINE

264
26
189AC

281
23
123.7 AC

TAYLOR
MARION

HWY 127

GA

25
177 Ac.

280

MAUK SCHOOL
TAYLOR COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/TAX MAP

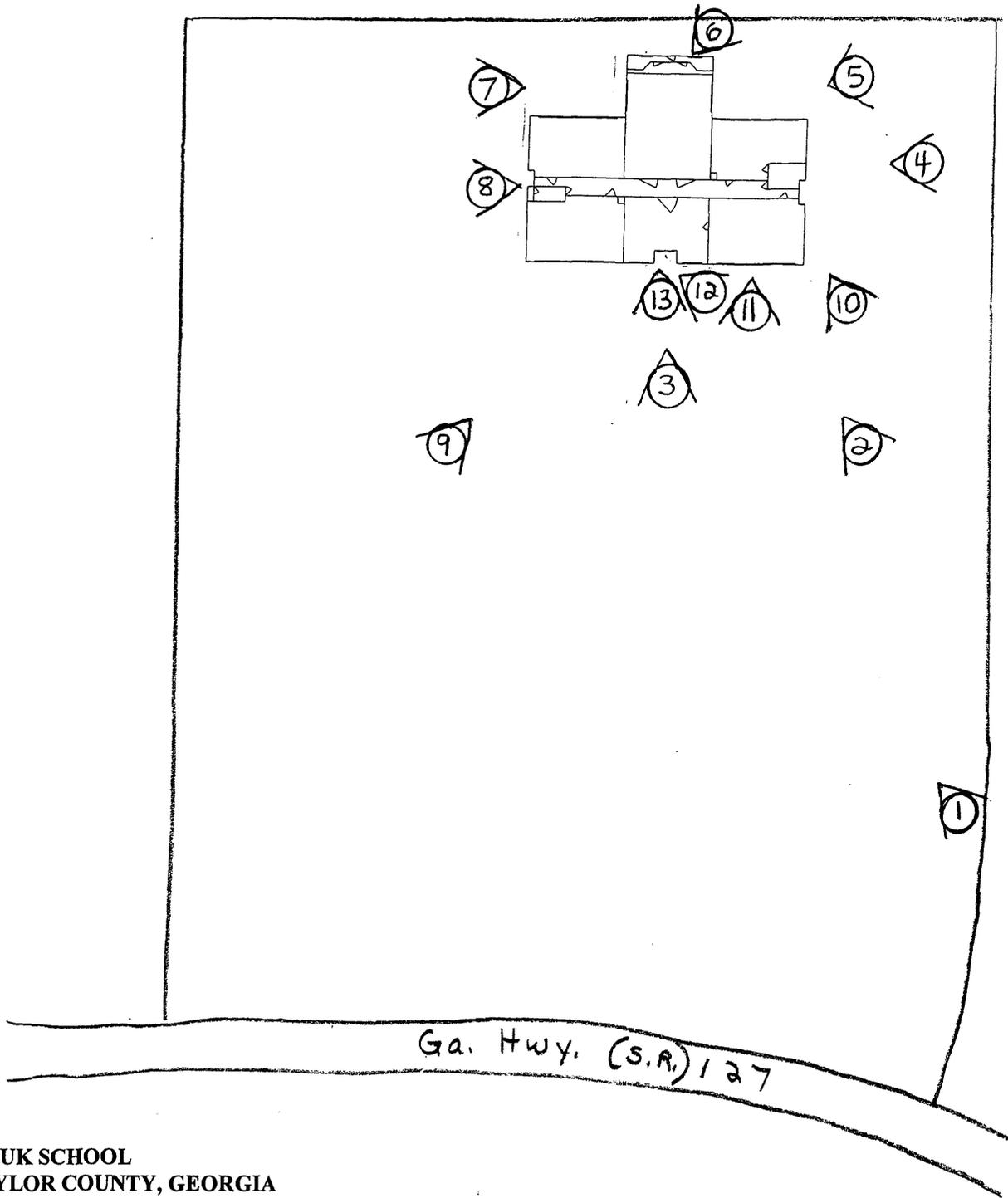
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 

SCALE: 1" = 660'

NORTH: 

SOURCE: TAYLOR COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, MAP 4

COUNTY
COUNTY

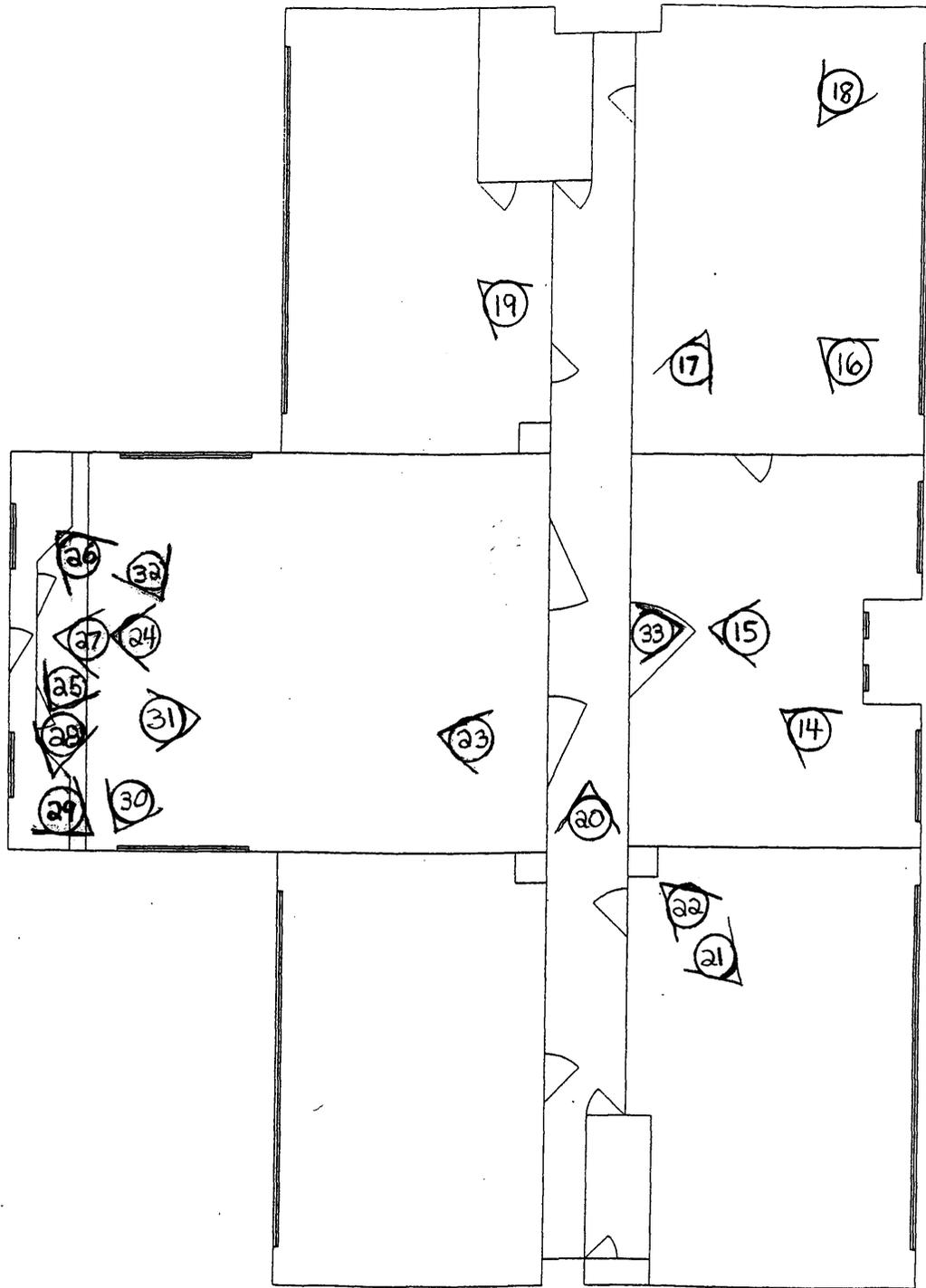


MAUK SCHOOL
TAYLOR COUNTY, GEORGIA
SKETCH SITE PLAN/PHOTO KEY
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH: →

PHOTOGRAPHS/DIRECTION OF VIEW: (#) ↗

SOURCE: BASED ON DRAWING BY NORMA T. JONES



MAUK SCHOOL
TAYLOR COUNTY, GEORGIA
SKETCH FLOOR PLAN/PHOTO KEY
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH: ↑

PHOTOGRAPHS/DIRECTION OF VIEW: #

SOURCE: DRAWN BY NORMA T. JONES