

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG - 8 1986  
date entered SEP 4 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Locust Grove Institute Academic Building

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number 3644 Georgia Highway 42

N/A not for publication

city, town Locust Grove N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Henry code 151

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Jerry Elkins, Mayor, City of Locust Grove

street & number 3644 Georgia Highway 42

city, town Locust Grove N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30248

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Henry County Courthouse

city, town McDonough state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Academic Building of the Locust Grove Institute is a two-story, red-brick structure built in 1904-05 in the Neoclassical style. It is topped by a hipped roof with classically inspired cornices. The central part of the facade projects slightly. Monumental brick pilasters covering both floors are spaced around the building from the second floor to the foundation. Attached to the projecting facade is a portico supported by six wooden columns at the front entrance. Atop the portico is a railing. On the top of the projecting facade is the remaining portion of the original cupola which was a wooden, square tower with an octagonal central portion. A one-story brick addition was added to the rear of the building in 1951-52.

The doorways retain their original fanlights. Original wood-and-glass double doors have been replaced by double metal-framed glass doors. The window openings are grouped in twos on the front and rear and in threes on the two sides. Each set of windows is bounded by a stone lintel and sash. The wood-framed windows have been replaced by metal-framed glass ones. Square attic windows correspond with the larger windows below. The windows on the second floor of the projecting central portico are long, narrow, single lights and are grouped in threes.

The floor plan of the building consists on the first floor of a central hall with north and south exterior doors. There are four large rooms, two on each side of the central hall. A short entrance hallway joins the main entrance (facing northeast) to the central hall. On either side of this entrance hallway is a small office. Originally there was a double stairway in the center of the main hall facing the main entrance. This was changed due to fire code regulations during 1951-52. There were arched hallways on either side of the stairway leading to the cloak rooms and bathrooms; only one of these remains.

The second floor also contains a central hall with two large rooms on the east side of the hall with the arched effect. Directly off the stairway entrance is a large auditorium with a stage. A short hallway with arched entrance leads from the central hall to a room next to the stage. On the opposite side of the central hall is a medium-sized room with arches on the front wall. There is also a small practice room next to the auditorium.

The ceilings are beaded pine, the floors of solid pine, and the walls are plastered with a sand finish. There are decorative bull's-eye moldings on doorways and anglestaffs at the arches. The ceilings are approximately twelve feet high. There are transoms over the interior doors, and some original hardware.

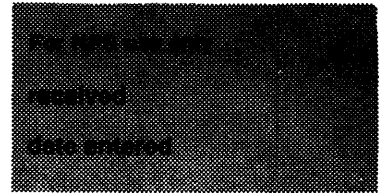
The grounds, which are not being nominated, consist of a parking lot on two sides and cleared land on the other two sides. The nominated grounds immediately in front of the building contain a few large cedar trees, smaller plantings, and grass.

The nominated property contains no outbuildings, as no historic buildings associated with the historic school survive. All of these earlier buildings were torn down by the 1930s.

[continued]

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Continuation sheet      Description      Item number 7      Page 2

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The property is located in the small town of Locust Grove near the railroad tracks. The surrounding land includes the Locust Grove First Baptist Church and a residential area.

Changes to the property include the one-story brick addition made in 1951-52 to the rear of the historic school building for a lunchroom while it was still a school. At this same time, the main stairway was changed, and fire escapes were added. The octagonal cupola above the front portico was struck by lightning in the 1970s and had to be removed. It has not yet been replaced. Also, in the 1970s, the wood-framed windows were replaced by metal-framed ones.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1904-05      **Builder/Architect** James W. Golucke, Architect

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Locust Grove Institute Academic Building is significant in architecture as a good example of the use of the Neoclassical style for an educational facility, in this case the main classroom building for a small Baptist-supported coed preparatory school. It is also significant as one of the last works of James W. Golucke (1865-1907), a Georgia native noted for his courthouses, jails and educational facilities. The building is significant in education as the only remaining building from a once-thriving Baptist secondary school which was among the first to be placed on the accredited list of similar schools in the South. In 1914, the school was selected to represent the Baptist denomination in the United States at an international meeting. The school was organized in 1894; this building was built in 1904 to house all classroom facilities as well as the auditorium. The institute closed in 1930. From 1936 to 1983, the building was used as a local junior high and elementary school. The site surrounding the nominated building once included girls' and boys' dormitories and other school buildings. The building is significant in religion because the school was founded and operated by the Baptist denomination as part of a system of secondary schools around the state. This school was begun by the local Baptist association or regional grouping of Baptist churches and eventually was supported by eleven associations. It is a good example of religious-sponsored educational programs that were prevalent at the turn of the century before the advent of the public school system in Georgia. These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

## HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The idea of creating a Baptist high school was that of the Reverend J. W. Graham. While a student at Mercer University, he was serving as pastor of the Locust Grove Baptist Church. After discussion with his congregation and others, and his own 1894 graduation, he called a meeting to discuss his idea of a Baptist high school in Locust Grove.

On August 12, 1894, the Reverend Graham was able to announce to his congregation plans for the project. That fall, contributions were gathered, and the regional grouping of Baptist churches, the Flint River Association, was petitioned to locate such a high school in Locust Grove. The petition was granted, a principal chosen, and the school began in November in a local store. By the fall term of 1895, a wooden academic building (now gone) was in use. During the first two years, a former one-room school was used as a dormitory for the president and the male students.

The school, coeducational from the start, was based on a high school curriculum and stressed Christian values.

[continued]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Locust Grove, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	7	6	8	5	5	0	3	6	9	3	8	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is a small parcel drawn tightly around the building and its modern addition. It is all that remains historically associated with the building due to the removal of other historic buildings in the original school complex. It is marked on the enclosed plat.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code  county  code

state  code  county  code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources

date June 24, 1986

Suite 1462, Floyd Tower East

street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E.

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  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 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/4/86

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9-4-86

Keeper of the National Register

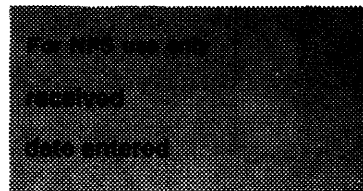
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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As the institute progressed, other buildings were built and enrollment increased. A rally held on April 22, 1903, obtained \$8,000 for the construction of a new academic building. A committee was appointed for further donations. On May 9, 1904, enough money had been promised or secured that construction began. The cornerstone was laid on August 4, 1904.

The new academic building (the subject of this nomination) was designed by James W. Golucke (1865-1907), a Georgia-born architect best known for his public and academic buildings. Many surviving county courthouses and jails were his work, as was the Secondary Industrial School (1906) in Columbus, several buildings at the State Woman's College (now Georgia College) at Milledgeville, and other schools.

During the time this building was under construction, the support for the school and the school itself was reorganized. The Flint River Association decided to allow other associations to help support the school and divided the high school from the grammar school.

Eventually, the Georgia Baptists operated over forty secondary schools throughout Georgia. The creation of the Locust Grove Institute fit into this statewide system. Many of these Baptist high schools became junior colleges, others public schools, although most are now gone.

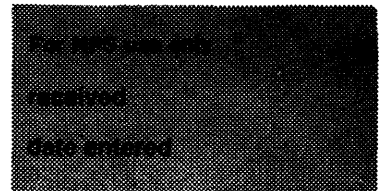
By 1906, the financial needs of the school were too great to depend solely on contributions, and a corporation was formed and stock sold. This allowed further buildings (all now gone) to be built on the campus. Fires destroyed some of the earlier wooden structures which were replaced with more substantial structures, such as the three-story brick boys' dormitory built after 1914. By 1919, there was a plan underway to erect an Alumni Memorial Building designed by Atlanta architect M. F. Morris. During the institute's growth, land was added to the campus, until it contained nearly fifty acres. A 1920 General Development Plan by J. L. Hoffman and Co., Landscape Architects, of Atlanta, indicated that the school, then in full bloom, contained the following structures or areas: alumni building, separate girls' and boys' dormitories, girls' recreation field, girls' gymnasium, dining hall, swimming pool, athletic field and parade grounds adjacent to the boys' gymnasium and armory, tennis courts, separate girls' and boys' infirmaries, and the academic building (also called Recitation Hall), subject of this nomination and the sole remaining building from the former campus.

A catalog for the 1911-12 academic year gives insight into the students, their subjects and their extracurricular activities. At that time, the campus comprised ten acres, with all classes being held in this, the academic building. There were six homes for pupils and teachers. The academic building also contained a library and science laboratory. Five separate courses of study were offered: Classical, Latin/Scientific, Scientific, Modern Language, and Commercial. In Classical, one studied as a senior English, history, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, Latin, Greek,

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and Bible. Bible was required in all courses. The Commercial course required business instead of foreign languages.

One could also study art, music, elocution, with a year's tuition estimated at \$200. There were literary societies on campus, as well as an athletic program encompassing the usual football, baseball, basketball, tennis, track and swimming, all supervised by a fulltime coach.

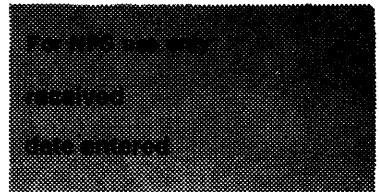
In 1919, ownership of the land and buildings was transferred to the Georgia Baptist Convention, although it was still supported by eleven associations or regional groupings of Baptist churches. By 1920, there was a faculty of twenty for nearly 300 students. By then, the school had nearly 3,000 alumni, men and women, who had come from eleven states and four foreign countries. About eighty-five percent of the student body resided on campus, the rest being local day students. Many students became ministers and teachers, and over 600 went on to college, a third of these to Mercer University, the state's largest Baptist-supported college. The institute also prided itself in that many non-Baptist students were converted while in attendance.

A 1920 publication indicated: "Locust Grove Institute was among the first of the preparatory schools of Georgia to be placed on the accredited list of the Association of Schools and Colleges of the Southern States. In 1914 ... the Commission of International Conciliation [chose this school and six other] coeducational preparatory schools ... to represent the seven leading denominations of the United States; Locust Grove Institute was selected to represent the Baptist denomination."

The institute was unable to weather the Depression and closed its doors in May, 1930. The academic building remained empty until 1936, when it began to be used as the Locust Grove Public School. The dormitories and other buildings were sold for their materials. The academic building served the Henry County Public School System until 1983. It was then acquired by the City of Locust Grove for its current multiple use as city hall, police department, and branch library. There are also plans for a small museum in the building. Restoration of the building is being overseen by the Locust Grove Women's Club.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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Brown, Bernice G. "Locust Grove Institute ... (Academic Building)," Historic Property Information Form, September 30, 1985. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, and additional information provided as a supplement to the form, including:

Gray, Claude. "History of the Locust Grove Institution," The Christian Index, December 25, 1920, pp. 130-33.

Locust Grove Institute. Seventeenth Annual Announcement, 1911-1912 (catalog). Atlanta: The Index Printing Co., 1911.



PLAT

LOCUST GROVE INSTITUTE ACADEMIC BUILDING

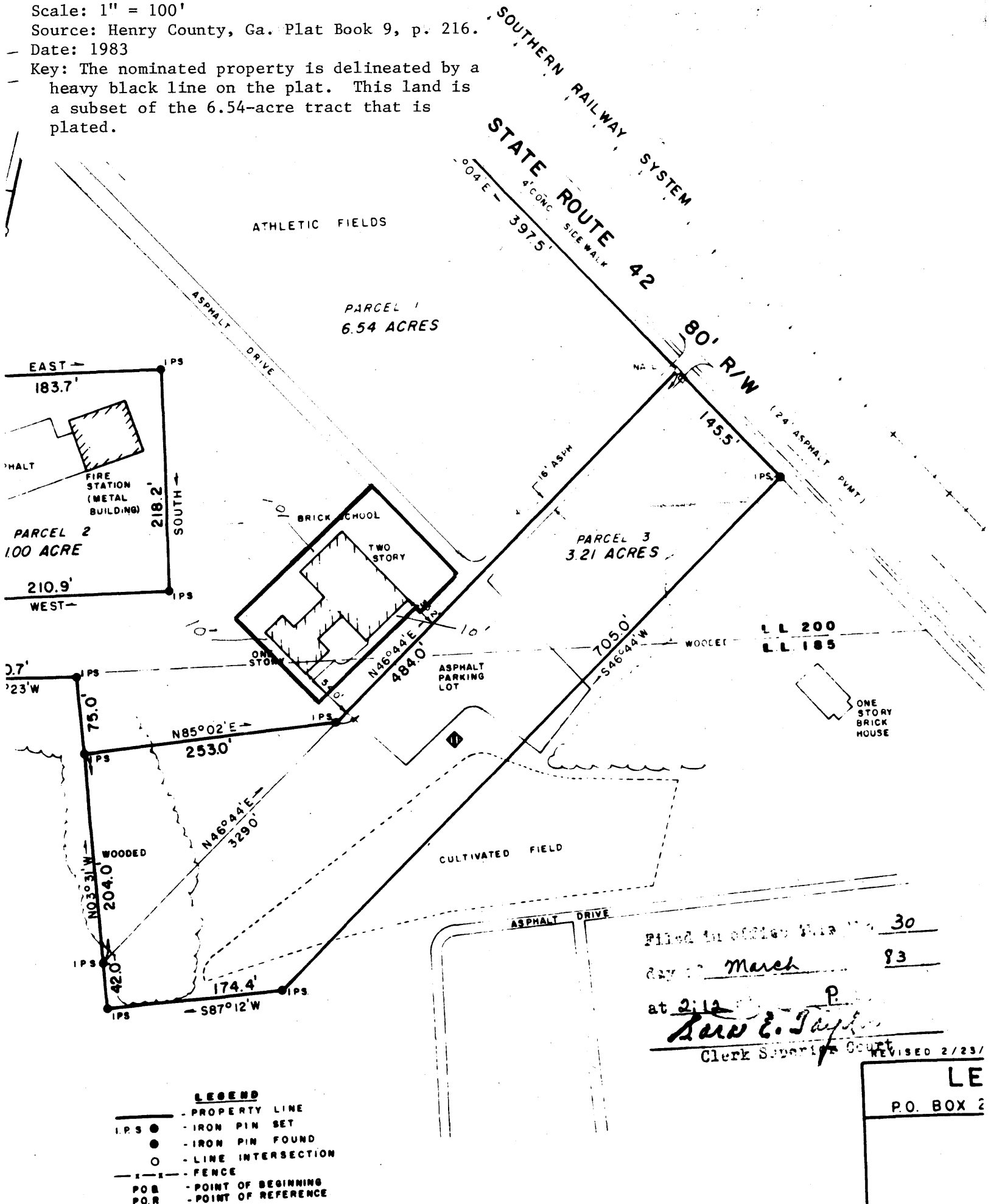
Locust Grove, Henry County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = 100'

Source: Henry County, Ga. Plat Book 9, p. 216.

Date: 1983

Key: The nominated property is delineated by a heavy black line on the plat. This land is a subset of the 6.54-acre tract that is plated.



- LEGEND**
- PROPERTY LINE
  - I.P.S. - IRON PIN SET
  - - IRON PIN FOUND
  - - LINE INTERSECTION
  - - - FENCE
  - P.O.B. - POINT OF BEGINNING
  - P.O.R. - POINT OF REFERENCE

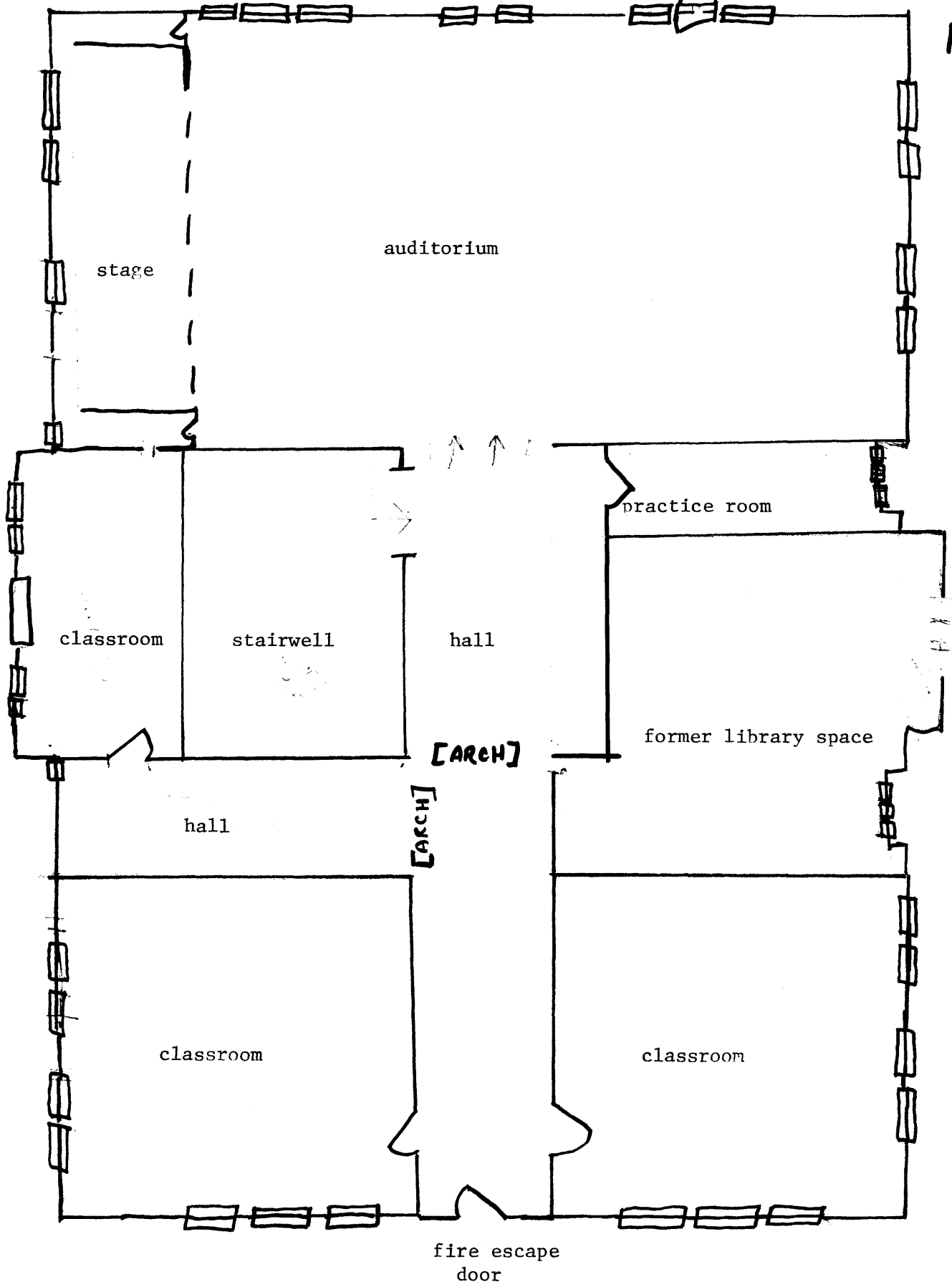
Filed in office this 30  
 day of March 83  
 at 2:12 P.M.  
*Law E. Taylor*  
 Clerk Superior Court

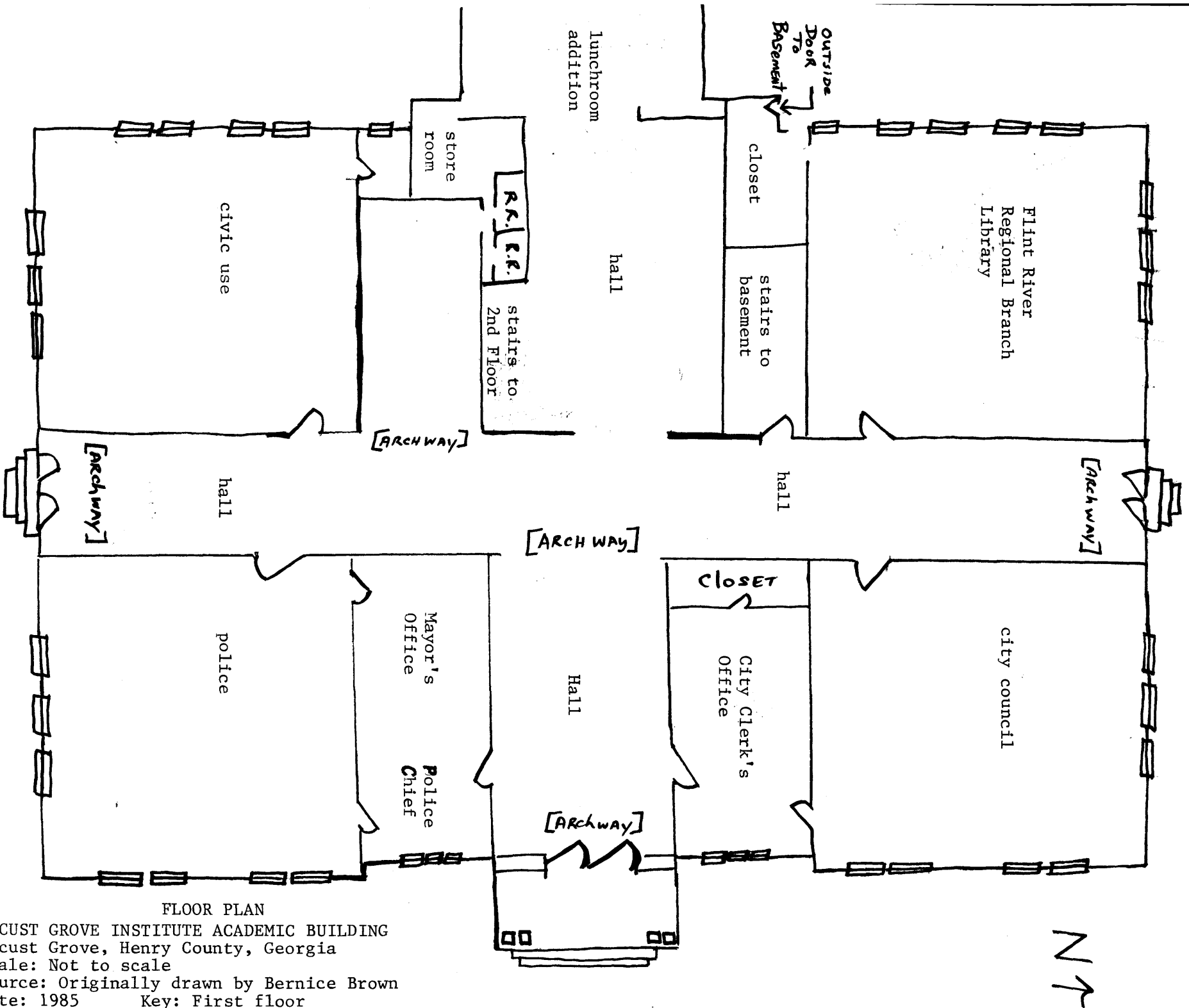
REVISED 2/23/83  
**LE**  
 P.O. BOX 2

FLOOR PLAN  
LOCUST GROVE INSTITUTE ACADEMIC BUILDING  
Locust Grove, Henry County, Georgia  
Scale: Not to scale  
Source: Originally drawn by Bernice Brown  
Date: 1985 Key: Second floor

fire escape door

N↑





FLOOR PLAN

LOCUST GROVE INSTITUTE ACADEMIC BUILDING  
 Locust Grove, Henry County, Georgia  
 Scale: Not to scale  
 Source: Originally drawn by Bernice Brown  
 Date: 1985      Key: First floor