

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 Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium
other names/site number N/A

1214

2. Location

street & number 304 South Gibson Street
city, town Warrenton
county Warren code GA 301
state Georgia code GA zip code 30828

() vicinity of

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property:

- (X) 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 Claves

Signature of certifying official

9.9.01

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

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall *10/22/02*

for

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

RECREATION AND CULTURE/AUDITORIUM
RECREATION AND CULTURE/SPORTS FACILITY/GYMNASIUM

Current Functions:

RECREATION AND CULTURE/AUDITORIUM

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/CLASSICAL REVIVAL/NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
roof	Asphalt
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium is located just outside of the central business district of Warrenton, the county seat of Warren County. The Gymnasium-Auditorium is a large, rectangular-shaped brick building constructed in the Neoclassical style (photograph 1). Character-defining features of the style include the dominant portico with classical columns, triangular pediment, symmetrical façade, central entrance and fanlights.

The front (east) façade (photographs 1, 2, and 12) of the building features a projecting entrance. The entrance is highlighted by a pedimented entablature supported by four Ionic pilasters (photograph 1). Three sets of double doors at the entrance feature large fanlight transoms (photograph 4). A circular gable vent is also present on the front façade (photograph 1).

The north façade (photograph 1) and south façade (photographs 2 and 3) each feature seven large round arched, six-over-six double-hung-sash windows arranged symmetrically. The rear (west) façade (photograph 2) includes two quarter-circle gable vents, four six-over-six double-hung-sash windows on the main level, and several six-over-six double-hung-sash windows and two sets of exit doors at the basement level. There is also a chimney on the rear façade.

Two original ticket booths (photographs 6 and 7) remain in the lobby of the Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium. The interior of the building features a basketball court flanked by original slat-back wooden bleacher seats (photographs 8 and 9). At the west end of the interior is a raised stage (photograph 8). Above the basketball court is a self-supporting curved tile ceiling (photographs 8 and 9). Stairs at the west end of the gym (photograph 11) access the basement level below the stage area. The basement spaces were once used for team dressing and shower areas (photograph 10).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

The building sits on a small grass plot with concrete in front. It is located in a residential neighborhood on the front and sides. Nearby are parking lots, the Warrenton Baptist Church, and city hall. There have been no substantial changes since 1937.

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
Politics and Government
Social History

Period of Significance:

1937-1952

Significant Dates:

1937

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Merry & Parsons-Architects
Claussen-Lawrence Construction Company-Builder

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium is a major historic community landmark building in Warrenton. It is significant in architecture as a good example of the use of the Neoclassical style for a community building during the Federally funded building programs of the New Deal. Built in 1937, the building retains its original entrance Greek Temple-like design, with Ionic pilasters, and large fanlight transoms over the entrances. It retains its original large gymnasium space with original bleachers, stage, and dressing rooms. The interior self-supporting, arched, tile roof is also considered a major architectural/engineering feat. The building is also significant in politics and government because it shows the government's support of education by the use of a Federally funded program during the New Deal to build a building to be used as the public school gymnasium as well as a community meeting space, the largest one in town. The building represented a major enhancement to the local public school facilities and it was used by the school system until 1981. The building is also significant in social history because and was the site of many concerts, as well as other cultural, sports, and civic activities, and was truly the heart of the community. Its pending restoration will bring it back to use as a community center.

National Register Criteria

The Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of politics and government and social history as a building constructed using federal funding through a New Deal program and as the largest such building in the community that provided a meeting place for cultural and community events. The building is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a community landmark building constructed in the Neoclassical style.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium begins in 1937, the construction date of the building, and ends in 1952, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium is the one contributing resource on the nominated property. There are no noncontributing resources on the nominated property.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by Louise Hadden, Warren County Historical Society, July, 1998. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium was constructed in 1937 as a Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works Project, No. GA 1302-D, at a cost of \$18,000. This building was built to replace the previous gymnasium-auditorium that burned. The community was experiencing financial need during this time, therefore the building was a WPA project that provided funds as well as jobs.

All sports, science fairs, theater productions, prom dances, graduations, and school events suited to this type of structure were held there from 1938 to 1981. Warrenton had a very active music community. Music was a key in bringing the community together. This building provided a place for classical concerts and recitals, talent shows, minstrel shows, regional gospel sings, and dancing to the world-famous Big Bands of that era, including Glenn Miller, Charlie Spevak, Tommy Tucker and Ted Lewis who performed here in the 1930's and 1940's.

The building provided a place for educational, cultural, sports, recreational and civic activities for over 40 years. It made it possible for Warrenton residents to share as a community, and to become a strong community as they shared school carnivals, Christmas programs, graduation exercises, womanless weddings, Tom-Thumb weddings, talent shows, beauty pageants, and Junior-Senior proms.

In 1981, the Warren County Board of Education built a new high school with a new gymnasium-auditorium. The former (1937) gymnasium-auditorium was left vacant. Ownership of the 1937 building was transferred to the City of Warrenton.

Plans have been worked on since 1994 to restore the building to be used as a community building, including applying for sources of funding. A reimbursable grant from the Georgia Department of Transportation, (ISTEA) was awarded for Fiscal Year 1997, but ISTEA funds for Fiscal Year 1998 were withdrawn, due to changes in federal guidelines.

Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium received a Georgia Heritage Grant in 2001 for the rehabilitation of the building for its continued use as a community building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Hadden, Louise. Historic District Information Form. July, 1998. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With supplemental information.

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 Less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 345486 Northing 3697096

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the attached map by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary of the nominated property includes the Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium and the intact portion of land historically associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** @
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Louise R. Hadden, Secretary
organization Warren County Historical Society
mailing address 701 East Main Street
city or town Warrenton **state** Georgia **zip code** 30828
telephone (706)465-3368
e-mail N/A

- () **property owner**
() **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
(X) **other:** member of local historical society

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Mary Ann Mosely, Clerk
organization (if applicable) City of Warrenton
mailing address P.O. Box 109
city or town Warrenton **state** Georgia **zip code** 30607
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs




Name of Property: Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium
City or Vicinity: Warrenton
County: Warren
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December, 2000

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 12

1. Front (east) façade and north façade; photographer facing southwest.
2. Rear (west) façade and south façade; photographer facing northeast.
3. East façade and front façade; photographer facing northwest.
4. Front façade, entrance detail; photographer facing west.
5. Interior, plaque detail; photographer facing north.
6. Interior, foyer; photographer facing northeast.
7. Interior, foyer, ticket booth; photographer facing north.
8. Interior, gymnasium facing stage; photographer facing northwest.
9. Interior, gymnasium; photographer facing northeast.
10. Interior, basement, locker room; photographer facing northwest.
11. Interior, stairwell to basement; photographer facing north.
12. Front façade; photographer facing west.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium
Warrenton, Warren County, Georgia
Warren County Tax Map W14
National Register Boundary: 
Photograph Direction/Number: 
Scale: 1" = 100'
North: 



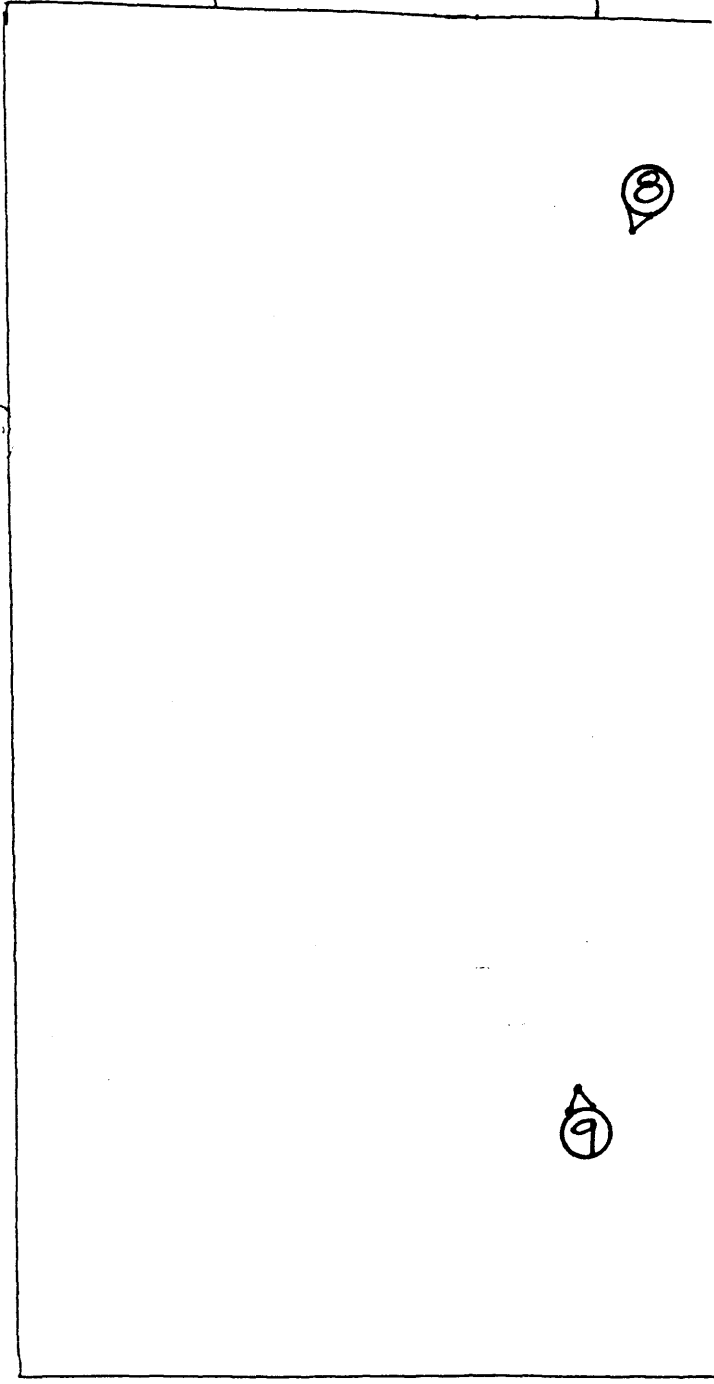
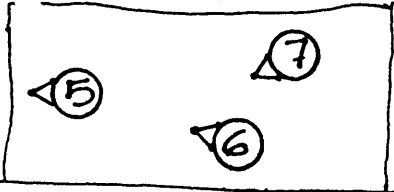
Gibson Street

①

⑫

⑬

④



Church Street

Warrenton Gymnasium-Auditorium
Warrenton, Warren County, Georgia

Floor Plan

Photograph Direction/Number: ①

Scale: not to scale

North: ←

②