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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 Powell Chapel School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 620 Old Atlanta Highway
city, town Newnan (X) vicinity of
county Coweta code GA 077
state Georgia code GA zip code 30263

() not for publication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 Coover

Signature of certifying official

5-5-03

Date

fr 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 *6/23/03*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Ray

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL/SCHOOLHOUSE

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/CLUBHOUSE

RELIGION/CHURCH-RELATED FACILITY

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/CRAFTSMAN ELEMENTS

Materials:

foundation	Brick; Concrete
walls	Wood/Weatherboard
roof	Asphalt
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Powell Chapel School is located north of Newnan, in Coweta County in west central Georgia. The school, constructed in 1936-37, served the surrounding rural African-American community north of Newnan until the mid-1950s.

The one-story building (photographs 1, 3, and 10) features wood-framed construction, a side-gabled roof covered with asphalt shingles, an interior chimney, exposed rafter tails, pine exterior siding, a front-gable entry porch (photograph 1), and a brick pier foundation. In 1942, an addition was constructed at each end of the building (photographs 15, and 10). The additions are covered with pine siding, contain single and paired single-sash nine-pane windows, and rest on concrete foundations.

The interior plan consists of a large main room (photographs 6 and 7) that served as classrooms during the historic period. A set of blackboards was used as a divider to create two classrooms. A small kitchen (photographs 4, 5, and 8) is attached to the rear of the building, and a small added room used as a water closet projects onto the front porch (photographs 1 and 10). The interior walls and ceiling were constructed of three- to four-inch tongue-and-groove boards, and the floors were constructed of eleven-inch boards (photographs 6 and 7). In the main room the walls have been covered with sheetrock and paneling, the ceiling has been covered with stippled sheetrock, and the floors have been covered with plywood (photographs 6 and 7).

There is an abandoned well and currently no water to the schoolhouse. A propane tank at the rear of the building provides gas for two interior space heaters. There is an abandoned storage shed

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

(photograph 9) to the rear of the building between the former locations of the outhouses. In the late 1950s, the heaters were added to replace three wood and coal burning stoves. The property is slightly elevated from the roadway. In front of the building are a few mature oaks and pines and in back a grove of hardwoods and underbrush (photographs 2 and 3)).

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
Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance:

1937-1952

Significant Dates:

1937-Construction date of the school

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Carlyle, Willie-Carpenter

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Powell Chapel School is a good example of a rare surviving African-American rural school in Georgia. The building is significant in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: Black and education. The Powell Chapel School was built in 1936-37 to serve the African-American children of the surrounding area in Coweta County. The building functioned as a school from 1937 to the mid-1950s; the school closed in the mid-1950s when Coweta County consolidated its school system. The main room housed seven grades until additions to the building in 1942 made it possible to have two classrooms. According to Carole Merritt in *Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia*, a statewide context on African-American resources in Georgia, "the history of black educational resources in Georgia reflects the evolution of racially separate facilities, from the founding of private institutions after emancipation through the development of public schools in the twentieth century." Powell Chapel School is one of the last surviving wood-framed African-American community schools in Coweta County. The building is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of an early 20th-century rural community school. The significant character-defining features of the original core of the building include its wood-frame construction, large interior spaces divided into classrooms, and its absence of any stylistic features. According to Carole Merritt in *Historic Black Resources*, a 1920s survey of Georgia's black schools determined that a majority were made of frame construction.

National Register Criteria

Powell Chapel School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of education and ethnic heritage: black as the only school to serve African-American children in the Newnan area of Coweta County during the historic period. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a once typical but now rare one-room African-American school built in the early 20th century.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

Powell Chapel School is used by Powell Chapel United Methodist Church for some activities, but is not owned by the church. The school is owned by a group of trustees.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Powell Chapel School begins in 1937, the construction date of the school building, and ends in 1952, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resource included in the nominated property is the school building. There are no noncontributing resources on the 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 Kathy Proctor, member, African American Alliance of the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society, July, 2002, and Bernice Sutton, former Powell Chapel School student, January, 2002. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

This portion of the history was prepared by Kathy Proctor.

The Powell Chapel property was once part of Powell Plantation, home to John Stephen Powell (1782-1857), an early settler to Coweta County. This family's history is well documented through county histories and the family's many legal transactions on record in the county.

John Stephen Powell came to Coweta County, Georgia between 1825 and 1827 bringing his wife Sarah Cowart Powell (1791-1866), five children and 40 slaves, and settled about 2 1/2 miles north of Newnan on what is now called the Old Atlanta Highway. Mary B. Patterson, in her compilation of the Powell genealogy, states that "here he reared his family and he and his wife are buried near where the original home stood." The family cemetery is located "on the Powell Plantation... in what is now Lakehills" and "(t)he old Atlanta road ran thro' this plantation, as did the Atlanta & West Point Railroad..." (Supporting evidence that church and school property were once part of the plantation as follows: legal description in Deed Book W, Page 197 indicates the property line of Powell Chapel Church runs along the "middle of the plantation road"; plat of survey dated 1969 shows the plantation road as "old roadway"; plat dated 1980 shows the same road as "dirt road". A portion of the old plantation road is still in use by the church.)

Several generations of the Powell family lived on the land settled by John. John's son, William Francis Speight Powell ("W.F.S.") (1818-1897), returned to Coweta County from Carroll County to live on the land settled by John Powell. Jack Powell (1856-1911), grandson of John and son of W.F.S., grew up on his father's plantation and a great-grandson, Jack Hanson Powell, was born on September 8, 1881. Descendants of John Powell continued to own portions of the plantation property for over 100 years. Patterson stated that in 1949 the home place was owned by Lewis Orr Powell, grandson of John.

The 1845 Tax Digest of Coweta County shows John Powell being taxed on 1255 acres in the Fifth Land District and 32 slaves, and W.F.S. Powell being taxed on 400 acres (district not given) and one slave. Prior to his death in 1857, John gave portions of his land to sons William F. S., John W. and Levi T. G. Powell. He also divided some of the slaves among his children. In his will, John bequeaths to his children additional slaves they are to receive at the death of his wife. Between the time of John's death in 1857 and Sarah's death in 1866, the slaves gained their freedom. After becoming freedmen, some likely remained on the plantation property as sharecroppers or tenant farmers.

Previous to the war the Negroes belonged to the same churches to which the whites belonged. All

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

churches had a place provided for them, but after they were freed both races concluded that it would be best to have separate churches. The colored members made formal application for letters of dismission, which were granted, afterward organizing churches of their own, their white brethren assisting in that, and in the erection of houses of worship (Jones and Reynolds).

Assistance in constructing the Powell Chapel Church was likely provided by John Powell's oldest son, W.F.S. Powell, a Methodist minister, and his wife, Webby Durindo Redwine (1823-1879). Patterson states that W.F.S. moved to Carroll County but returned to "his father's old home place" in Coweta County after his mother's death in 1866. In 1867, W.F.S. purchased a portion of his father's estate. An annual return dated June 27, 1868, lists John W. Powell as Executor of John Powell's estate and accounts for the receipt of \$1,590.00 "from sale of Nine Hundred acres of Land known as the home place sold to W.F.S. Powell for cash in two parcels."

W.F.S. Powell then conveyed to John W. Powell approximately 900 acres, excepting out of Land Lot 87 of the Fifth District "about one acre for the white burying ground and one quarter acre for the blacks burying ground." (The burying grounds are the Powell/Potts family cemetery located near the original home site of John Powell. The Coweta County Genealogical Society when surveying the cemetery in 1984 noted the grounds included about an acre and there appeared to be more graves than only those marked.)

In 1870, John W. Powell reconveyed to W.F.S. a portion of the 900 acres and in 1877, W.F.S. conveyed this property to his wife, Webby Powell. In December 1878, Webby Powell conveyed a tract in Land Lot 105 of the Fifth District to the Trustees of Methodist Episcopal Church, being the tract where the church now stands, indicating the probability the original church was built around 1879. (However, the earliest recorded burial at the Powell Chapel cemetery, the gravesite of Mrs. Willie Mae Carlyle, is December 18, 1877.)

Wyatte Powell, great-grandson of John Stephen Powell, inherited from his father Jack Powell, approximately 140 acres in Land Lot 105 of the Fifth District. In 1927, Wyatte subdivided the acreage for the development of Homestead Heights. In 1936, the Trustees of Powell Chapel School purchased for \$300.00 the schoolhouse tract - Lot 19 of Homestead Heights Subdivision containing approximately ten acres. Construction of the school likely began shortly thereafter, if not before.

In 1937, the Trustees sold a one-half acre tract to Leigh Town Union (Masonic Lodge) for \$25.00, and sold a five-acre tract to Charlie Ware for \$150. It is probable these funds were used to begin construction of the Powell Chapel Schoolhouse.

This portion of the history was prepared by Bernice Sutton.

Classes were held at Powell Chapel Church, a wood-framed building, beginning in the late 1890s. The church burned down in 1907. Another place had to be found in which to have school. An old house was found on the Bowers' place. The house was located on the road that runs from the Roscoe Road into the Atlanta Highway (north of the school building). This road is now known as

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Country Club Road. When Powell Chapel Church was rebuilt it was a brick structure. The school began again in the church. Records show the church was rebuilt in 1920.

It was always the concern and determination of the parents that their children have a schoolhouse. So in 1936-37 they were able to construct Powell Chapel School. The school was named after the church simply because the parents thought it was the right thing to do. The community had no name and the church had always been the center of activities in the community.

The building of the school was not as easy task. The original portion of the building was constructed from materials that were salvaged from an old unoccupied building that had been used as a schoolhouse for the area around Jones Hill in the Roscoe community, on Walt Carmichael Road not far from Hettie James Dunnaway Gardens (north of the school building).

The lumber from the old building was not enough to complete the building so the men and boys in the community cut and hauled wood, did odd jobs, and donated their time to help raise funds. Some of these men were Robert Sutton, Sr., Ed Kirby, Ed Parks, Arthur Gibson, John Hudson, Tom Hall, William White and others. The women in the community sold pies and cakes to help raise money for more lumber, nails and paint. The carpenter for the project was a member of the church, Willie Carlyle. Friends, neighbors, and parents all chipped in to help whenever and wherever as needed. Many of the helpers are still living in the area. Robert Sutton, Sr. attended school in the house and the church, and his son, Robert, Jr., attended school in the church and the school house and the two now live only a couple of miles from the building.

The school was completed in 1937. It was a fairly spacious, one room building with a big wood and coal burning heater. A well provided water for the school. There was one outhouse with accommodations for two. The girls had to scrub the seats and floors of the outhouse every Friday.

Neither the county or the school system had any part in the building's construction but after the school was built by the community, the government stepped in and sent teachers. One of the first teachers to come to the new school was Agnes E. Neely. Her husband, Rev. J. E. Neely, was serving as pastor of the Greater Mt. Zion African American Church on Duncan School.

There was no lunchroom in the school, only a small kitchen with a little stove for warming the pork and beans furnished by the county. The government also furnished apples and prunes. The teacher allowed the older girls also to cook navy beans and yellow corn meal. Students brought bread from home to eat with the pork and beans. The students also had to bring their own bowls and spoons from home. Out front in a specially built bay of windows was a space for the water containers and water glasses the students brought from home. They were mostly snuff glasses or peanut butter and jelly glasses. Students' names were written on tape. The glasses were washed at school by the teacher or the big girls but on Friday they were taken home for washing. Lunch was served and eaten at one's desk.

The parents had to raise money to buy coal to heat the school. The men would get together and cut

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

and haul wood for the school's heater and the stove.

Although the building was in use, there were unpaid balances on the extra materials and the carpenter's charges. The ladies gave fish fries and wiener roasts at the schoolhouse to raise money. Concerts and boxed suppers were also given at church. The ladies also sold candy.

The books for the school were hand-me-down books from the white school in Newnan. People, places and things on the written pages did not change, but there were times when the teachers had to fill in the gaps to keep the student up to date on current events. Seven different classes were taught in one room.

The community grew and school enrollment grew. There was a need for more space to accommodate the growth and another teacher as well. The parents started all over again raising money to make the school a little higher. They called on Willie Carlyle again to do the job of enlarging the school. It was extended on each end. A partition was put in the center of the building making two rooms. The divider was a set of black boards that could be raised to the loft when necessary. Another teacher, Mrs. Nicey Maddox, came to the school. Now Powell Chapel school had two rooms and two teachers.

Every Friday the dividing blackboards were raised and all the students were gathered into one room while a specific class used the other side as a stage. This class would do some type of program. Friday's were always chapel time. One or another grade for the last hour of school made a presentation.

There were no special coaches in charge of sports or physical education programs. At recess the students made up their own activities, like high jump, running and ball games. Field days were held every year and the students did quite well in these activities when in competition. They also did really well in academic bowls.

There were no buses, so students either walked or parents brought them on wagons or in cars. Sometimes in winter they came with aching hands and feet to a building that wasn't very warm anyway. So they would gather closer around the heater for warmth on very cold days. Usually the little students in the first and second grades desks would be closer to the heater anyway.

Each morning there were devotions before class. The Lord's Prayer was recited after singing a patriotic song such as "My Country 'Tis of Thee", or "God Bless America." Bible verses were read by the students and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. At the close of the day the students ended with a song.

The history of the schoolhouse provides a significant view of one era of the African-American educational experience, and the building stands as a tangible reminder of that experience. The history of the Powell property in its entirety provides a glimpse into the larger early African-American experience in Coweta County.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Central High School Honors Program, Central High School, Newnan, Georgia.
Coweta School Days, Brentwood Communications, Columbus, Georgia.

Coweta County Genealogical Society. *Coweta County Census Records 1830, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1880, 1900*.

Coweta County Genealogical Society. *1890 Tax Digest*.

Coweta County Genealogical Society. *Coweta County, Georgia Cemeteries*, WH Wolfe Associates (1986).

Coweta County Genealogical Society Magazine, Volume 1, No. 1, "Tax Digest – First Record Book 1845".

Coweta County, Georgia Probate Records, Administration Building, East Broad Street, Newnan, Georgia.

Coweta County, Georgia Superior Court Records, Courthouse, Newnan, Georgia.

Coweta County, Georgia Tax Assessor Records, Administration Building, East Broad Street, Newnan, Georgia.

Coweta County, Georgia Tax Commissioner Records, Administration Building, East Broad Street, Newnan, Georgia.

Joiner, Oscar H.; Bonner, James C.; Shearouse, H.S.; Smith, T.E. *A History of Public Education in Georgia 1734-1976*, The R. L. Bryan Company, Columbia, S.C. (1979).

Jones, Mary G. and Reynolds, Lily. *Coweta County Chronicles*, The Stein Printing Company (1928), (2d) by Southern Historical Press.

Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, 1994.

Newnan-Coweta Historical Society. *A History of Coweta County, Georgia*, WH Wolfe Associates (1988).

Newnan Times-Herald. *Centennial Magazine 1865-1965*. (1965).

Patterson, Mary Brewster "Genealogy of the Powell-Redwine-Patterson families" as copied by Lucile (Floyd) Pierson. Coweta County Genealogical Society Library, Grantville, Georgia.

Powell Chapel School Census Reports. Coweta County Genealogical Society Library. Grantville, Georgia. (Attached as A-11)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

Powell Family Folder - Miscellaneous Papers. Coweta County Genealogical Society Library, Grantville, Georgia.

Powell, Mitch. Personal interview, Newnan, Georgia by Kathy Proctor (2002).
Poythress, Bernice Sutton. "The Powell Chapel (School History)" and oral interviews, Newnan, Georgia by Cynthia Rosers (2002).

Proctor, Kathy Hanson. "Powell Chapel School." Historic Property Information Form, July, 2002. On file the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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 1 acre

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 705956 Northing 3699345

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed nomination includes the Powell Chapel School and the acreage currently owned by the sponsor organization that is historically associated with the school.

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** May 1, 2003
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Kathy Proctor
organization African American Alliance of the Newnan-Coweta Historical Society
mailing address 140 C West Washington Street
city or town Newnan **state** Georgia **zip code** 30263
telephone (770)463-5542
e-mail

- () **property owner**
- () **consultant**
- () **regional development center preservation planner**
- (X) **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Trustees of Powell Chapel School
organization (if applicable)
mailing address 140 C West Washington Street
city or town Newnan **state** Georgia **zip code** 30263
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Powell Chapel School
City or Vicinity: Newnan
County: Coweta
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November, 2002

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 10

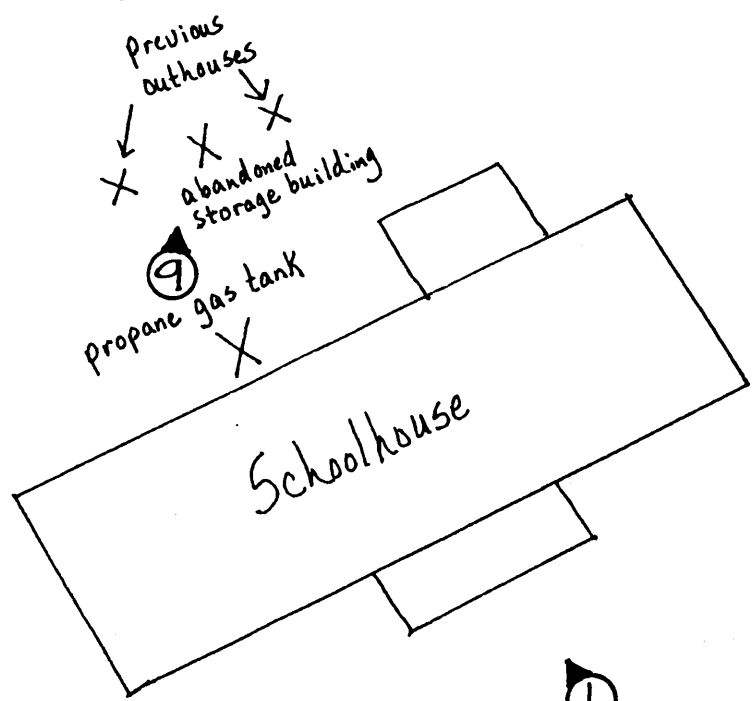
1. Front (south) façade; photographer facing northwest.
2. Site; photographer facing northeast.
3. Front façade and east façade; photographer facing west.
4. Rear (north) façade; photographer facing southeast.
5. Rear façade and west façade; photographer facing east.
6. Interior, main room; photographer facing southwest.
7. Interior, main room; photographer facing northeast.
8. Interior, kitchen; photographer facing east.
9. Abandoned shed; photographer facing north.
10. Front façade and west façade; photographer facing north.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

← (Wooded area) →

Powell Chapel School
Coweta County, Georgia
Site Plan
Photograph Direction/Number: ①
North: ↗
Scale: Not to scale

④
↑
(partially wooded
& dense
brush) ⑤
↓



X
house on
adjoining property

③

①

X Abandoned well (indentation beside large pine tree)

⑥
dirt drive

(approx. 200' road frontage)

Old Atlanta Highway

②

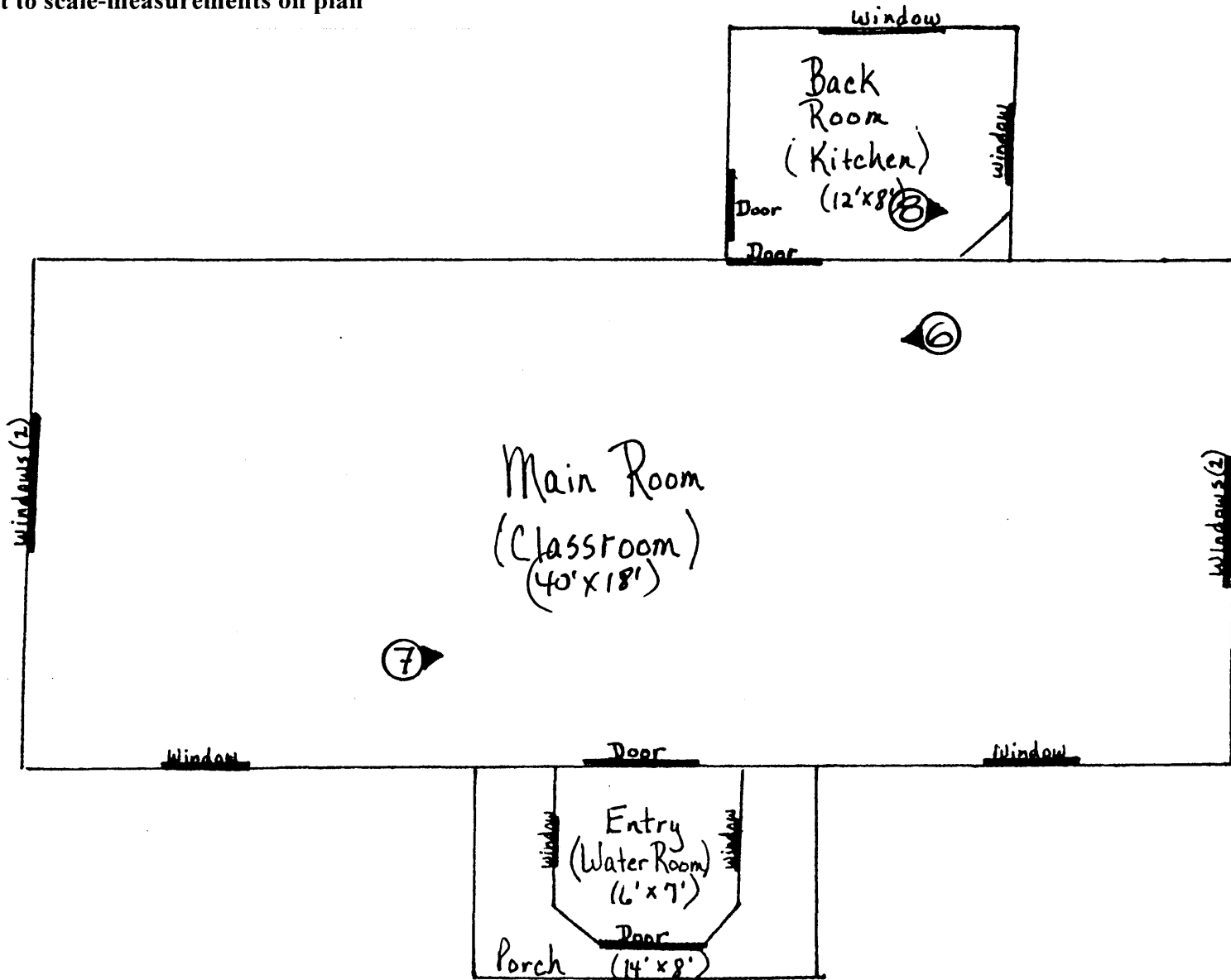
Powell Chapel School
Coweta County, Georgia

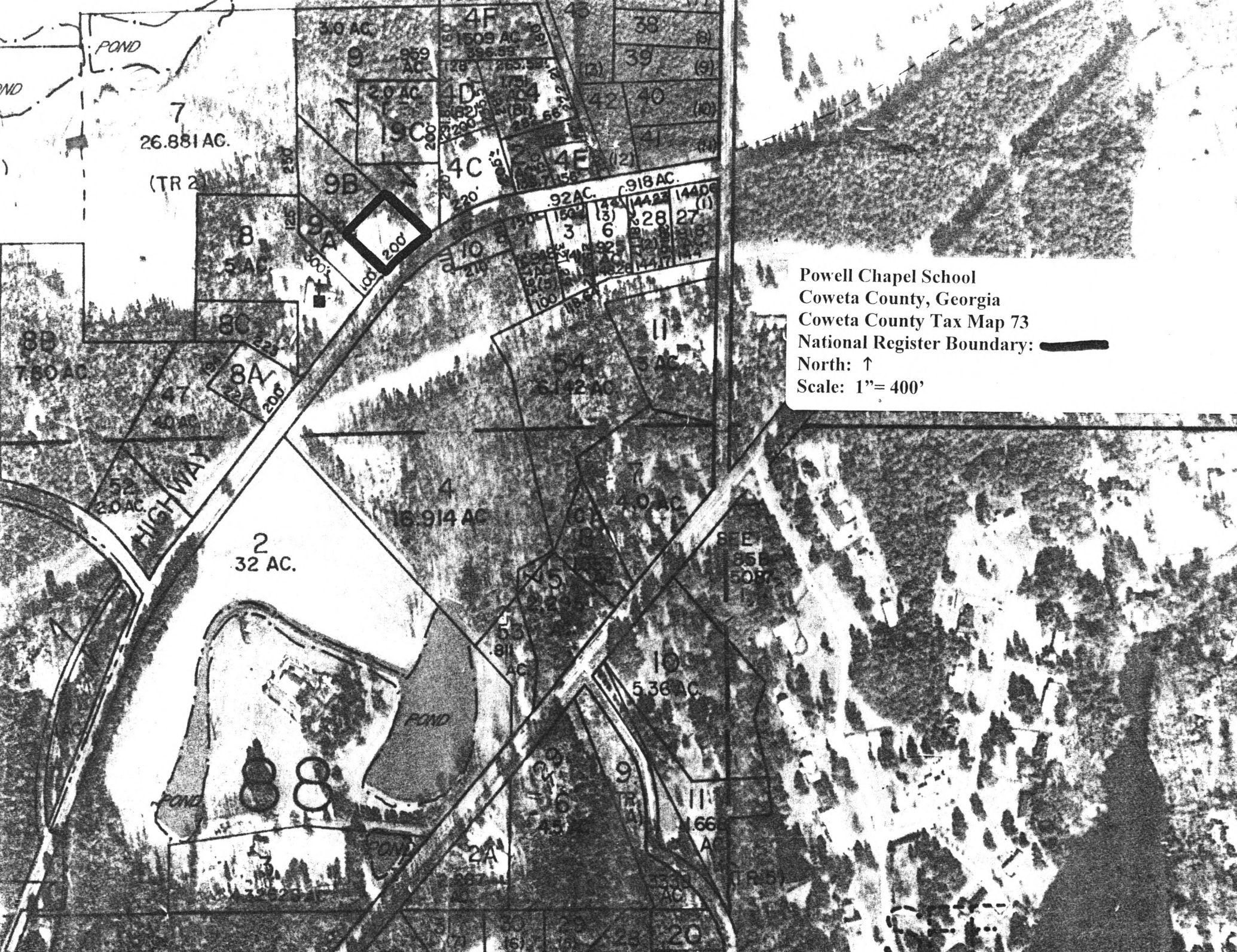
Floor Plan

Photograph Direction/Number: ①

North: ↗

Scale: Not to scale-measurements on plan





Powell Chapel School
Coweta County, Georgia
Coweta County Tax Map 73
National Register Boundary: **————**
North: ↑
Scale: 1"= 400'