

# 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.

1493

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Tate Gymnasium  
other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 5600 Highway 53 East  
city, town Tate ( ) vicinity of  
county Pickens code GA 227  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30177

( ) not for publication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.

*Ricardus Coombs*

*10-23-02*

Signature of certifying official

Date

*to* 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 A. Beall* *12/12/02*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

*Jon*

Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

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

### Current Functions:

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

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/CRAFTSMAN

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	Stone/Marble
<b>walls</b>	Wood/Shingle; Synthetics/Vinyl
<b>roof</b>	Asphalt
<b>other</b>	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Tate Gymnasium is located in the small north Georgia community of Tate in southeast Pickens County. The gymnasium, constructed in 1923, is a wooden building with Craftsman elements constructed on a solid marble foundation (photographs 2 and 3). All original materials were locally fabricated. The building is rectangular in shape and consists of three bays, the center bay rising above the two flanking bays creating a clerestory (photograph 2). The lower portion of the exterior is covered with lap siding and the remainder is covered with wood shingles (photographs 1, 4, and 5). The building has a standing seam metal roof.

The front (east) façade (photograph 1) features a projecting gable above the recessed entry porch (photograph 5). The roof is supported by double cantilevered brackets (photograph 6), and the porch is paved with 12"x 24" marble tiles (photographs 5 and 6). There are three multi-light fixed windows above the entry porch and one on each side of the entrance (photograph 1). The north façade (photographs 2 and 3) contains six six-over-six double-hung-sash windows and an additional entrance at ground level. The clerestory features eight six-light fixed windows. The rear (west) façade (photograph 3) provides access to the basement level through an additional entrance; there are four multi-light fixed windows at the basement level, four six-over-six double-hung-sash windows at ground level, and a double multi-light fixed window in the clerestory. The south façade (photograph 4) contains seven six-over-six double-hung-sash window at ground level and seven multi-light fixed windows in the clerestory. There is also a chimney on the east elevation.

The interior of the Tate Gymnasium features a basketball court flanked by a row of timber-boxed columns with kicker braces that support the clerestory wall (photograph 7, 9, and 11). Behind the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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column rows are the built-in wooden bleachers contained in the lower flanking bays (photographs 9, 10, and 11). The lower bays have exposed ceiling rafters (photographs 7 and 9). All ceilings feature exposed tongue-and-groove decking (photographs 7 and 9). At the south end of the interior there is a raised stage with an arched opening flanked by pilasters(photographs 7 and 8). Restroom and storage facilities flank the stage. Site-fabricated trusses made of sawn lumber planks span the area above the basketball court and stage (photographs 7 and 9). Stairs at the south end of the gym access the basement level below the stage area. The basement spaces were once used for team dressing and shower areas and contain marble panel shower dividers (photograph 12). The interior also features a small balcony above the entryway at the north end of the building (photographs 9 and 10).

There is little landscaping on the property.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**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  
Entertainment and Recreation  
Social History

**Period of Significance:**

1923-1954

**Significant Dates:**

1923-Construction date of Tate Gymnasium

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Georgia Marble Company, Builders

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Tate Gymnasium was constructed in 1923 under the direction of Colonel Sam Tate, President of the Georgia Marble Company, on land adjacent to the Tate High School campus. Carpenters of the Georgia Marble Company and other community artisans constructed the building, and all expenses were paid by Colonel Tate and the Georgia Marble Company. The building was constructed as an additional resource for Tate High School. The Tate family owned the facility until it was taken in a condemnation action in 1954 by the Pickens County Board of Education. Tate Gymnasium was constructed to accommodate recreational and cultural activities associated with Tate High School and the Tate community. Tate Gymnasium is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a typical gymnasium constructed in a small Georgia town in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building is constructed of wood and marble and exhibits Craftsman details. Character-defining features include the use of multiple materials, wide eaves, and exposed rafter tails. The interior is a large open space and contains a basketball court and stage. The gymnasium is significant in the area of education for its association with the Tate school system. The building provided a venue for athletic and recreational activities for the white students of the school system. The gymnasium is also significant in the area of entertainment and recreation for its use by the Tate community for cultural events. The gymnasium is the largest such building in the community and therefore provided a much needed meeting place for cultural events. Tate Gymnasium is significant in the area of social history for its association with Colonel Sam Tate and the Tate family. The Tate family, which owned and operated a local quarry, was very influential in the community and provided many services in the areas of education and recreation.

**National Register Criteria**

Tate Gymnasium is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of education, entertainment and recreation, and social history for its association with the Tate school system, its use by the community for cultural events, and for its association with the Tate family, a very influential family in the community. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of a gymnasium constructed for a small community in Georgia in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance for Tate Gymnasium begins in 1923, the construction date of the gymnasium, and ends in 1954, the date that marked the end of the Tate family's association with the gymnasium.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

Tate gymnasium is the one contributing building on the nominated property. There are no noncontributing buildings on the property.

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

**\*\*NOTE: The following history was compiled by Mimi Jo Butler, President, Marble Valley Friends, Inc., August, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Tate Gymnasium was constructed in 1923 to provide an auditorium and indoor playing court for the students of Tate High School. At the time Col. Sam Tate, descendant of the founding father of Tate, had assumed control of the Georgia Marble Company in 1907. The Tate family had long been involved in the educational opportunities in the Tate community. Col. Sam became even more involved. He built a new school in 1915, hired qualified teachers, provided a "company house" in which the teachers could live near the school, and worked to provide the most modern opportunities for the students of the community. Both the gym and school were built on Tate property.

At the time Col. Sam was involved in building the educational facilities in Tate for both white and black students, he served as Trustee at Emory University, Wesleyan College and Young Harris College, as well as for the 7<sup>th</sup> District A & M School. He provided marble for structures at Emory and Wesleyan. As students graduated from Tate High School, he provided the funds for them to attend college. He paid for tuition and living expenses. Many attended Emory, Wesleyan and Young Harris, but they were not limited to these institutions. A graduate of North Georgia College himself, some students he supported attended state colleges. He contributed to the education of hundreds of students from the marble valley.

Activities in the community were focused on school and church. Col. Sam was involved in both. He hired the teachers, making sure that all had college degrees and were the best qualified for the job. He made the "rules" for the school, signed and presented diplomas, determined the "code of conduct" for students and as well as citizens of the community. He opposed smoking, profanity and drinking, even Coca Colas. Anyone caught fighting on the job was fired immediately. He provided activities for the members of Tate Methodist Episcopal Church and taught a Sunday School class for many years. "The Sam Tate Bible Class" at Tate United Methodist Church is still an active Sunday School class. He sent one minister to Emory University and to Scotland for two years of post-graduate study, supporting his entire family. Rev. Watkins later became a Bishop in the Methodist Church. In 1927 the citizens of the community commissioned a portrait of Col. Sam to be painted by Charles Naegle entitled "The Master Builder." A big unveiling ceremony was held at the school. The portrait hung in the Tate High School until about 1960 when the Pickens County School System requested that it be removed. In 1997, the Tate heirs returned the portrait to Marble Valley Friends, Inc. and it currently hangs in the auditorium of Tate Primary School.

Many legends were created by the direct involvement of Col. Sam Tate in the community and the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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lives of his employees. He did serve as a patriarch of the entire community, white and black, and took personal interest in all of the families. The Georgia Marble Company built homes for the employees, much more attractive than mill villages which sprung up in typical mill towns. The infrastructure that is still utilized today in Tate was established by Col. Sam and the Company. The Company owned the local store and employees were expected to purchase needed goods there. Most legends have been created by latecomers to the community, not those who directly benefited from his benevolence and educational leadership. The many artisans of the Georgia Marble Company who were fortunate to have worked under his leadership felt that they were given opportunities and resources that other large companies did not provide. Although salaries were limited, resources were plentiful.

It was in this environment that Col. Sam Tate built Tate Gymnasium and Tate High School. At the same time he built his pink marble mansion near-by, "Tate House." It was the "heyday" of the structural and memorial stone business. Marble was plentiful and business was booming. In his final years, he followed the advice of others and ventured into developing other extensive resources in the larger Pickens County community including Conahaynee Lodge, Oglethorpe Monument, and others. He continued to make significant donations to the Methodist colleges in Georgia. When Col. Sam Tate died in 1938, the philanthropy of the Georgia Marble Company was forever changed. Coupled with the Depression, the results were catastrophic.

Col. Sam Tate was one of the most philanthropic men of his time. His great-grandfather, John Iredell Tate, a Revolutionary War veteran, came to the marble valley area in 1832 when the land opened upon Cherokee removal. Several of the early Tates married Cherokees. Over the next 100 years the Tate family amassed thousands of acres of land in the region. Originally farmers, the Tate family assumed leadership in the marble industry in 1884. Col. Sam Tate became President of the Georgia Marble Company in 1907. He was extremely supportive of educational opportunities for the youth of the community and the State of Georgia. He was on the Board of Trustees for Emory University, Wesleyan College and Young Harris College and sent many local graduates to these institutions at his expense. Marble used in the structures at Emory and Wesleyan was donated by Col. Sam. He served as Chairman of the State Highway Board and was also on the board of numerous banking and business enterprises. He was a member of the Board of the 7<sup>th</sup> District A & M School in Cobb County also. Col. Sam built a new high school in Tate in 1915 and when it burned, built a marble-veneered school building in 1928. The Tate Gym adjoined the school property. Col. Sam died in 1938 and much of his estate passed to Tate heirs, including the property on which the Tate Gym is located.

Tate Gymnasium received a Georgia Heritage grant in 2001 for development.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Annual Announcement of Tate High School, September, 1915-May, 1916.

Butler, Mimi Jo. Historic Property Information Form. August, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental information.

Eubanks, Willie Frank Newman. Tate High School music teacher. Interview by Mimi Jo Butler, 1997.

Griffeth, Stephen E. The Many Facets of Tate, Georgia, A Native Son Remembers Historic Tate. Fernandina Beach, Florida: Wolfe Publishing Company, 1998.

Hill, John B. Unpublished memories and interviews, 1958-1988.

Hill, Mildred P. Interviews, 1997-2001.

Honea, Alice Moss. Interview by Mimi Jo Butler, May, 2001 and September, 2001.

Pickens County, Georgia. Deed Book FF, pages 355-358.

Pickens County, Georgia. Deed Book 342, pages 132-133.

Pickens County, Georgia. Plat Book GG, page 226.

Pickens County Heritage Book Committee. Heritage of Pickens County, Georgia, 1853-1998. Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1998.

Pickens County (Georgia) Progress. Legal announcement, January 21, 1954.

Pickens County (Georgia) Progress. Legal announcement, February 4, 1954.

Pioneer (Tate High School Yearbook), 1925. LaFayette, Indiana: LaFayette Printing Company, 1925.

Pioneer (Tate High School Yearbook), 1926. LaFayette, Indiana: LaFayette Printing Company, 1926.

Tate, Luke E. The History of Pickens County, Georgia. Atlanta: Walter W. Brown Publishing Co., 1935.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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**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**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      1.06 acres

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 16      Easting 740725      Northing 3811401

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

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

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property includes Tate Gymnasium and the intact portion of land historically associated with the building.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**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** October 23, 2002  
**e-mail** holly\_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title** Mimi Jo Butler, President  
**organization** Marble Valley Friends, Inc.  
**mailing address** P.O. Box 2  
**city or town** Tate **state** Georgia **zip code** 30177  
**telephone** (770)428-5172  
**e-mail**

- ( ) **property owner**
- ( ) **consultant**
- ( ) **regional development center preservation planner**
- (X) **other:** president, Marble Valley Friends, Inc.

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Mimi Jo Butler, President  
**organization (if applicable)** Marble Valley Friends, Inc.  
**mailing address** P.O. Box 2  
**city or town** Tate **state** Georgia **zip code** 30177  
**e-mail (optional)**

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Tate Gymnasium  
**City or Vicinity:** Tate  
**County:** Pickens  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** December, 2001

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 13

1. Front (east) façade; photographer facing west.
2. North façade; photographer facing south.
3. North façade and rear (west) façade; photographer facing southeast.
4. South façade; photographer facing northwest.
5. Front façade, entry porch; photographer facing west.
6. Front façade, entry porch detail; photographer facing northwest.
7. Interior, main level, basketball court and stage; photographer facing west.
8. Interior, main level, stage; photographer facing west.
9. Interior, main level, balcony; photographer facing east.
10. Interior, main level, balcony detail; photographer facing south.
11. Interior, main level; photographer facing west.
12. Interior, lower level, men's showers; photographer facing north.
13. Front façade and north façade; photographer facing southwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Tate, Pickens County, Georgia

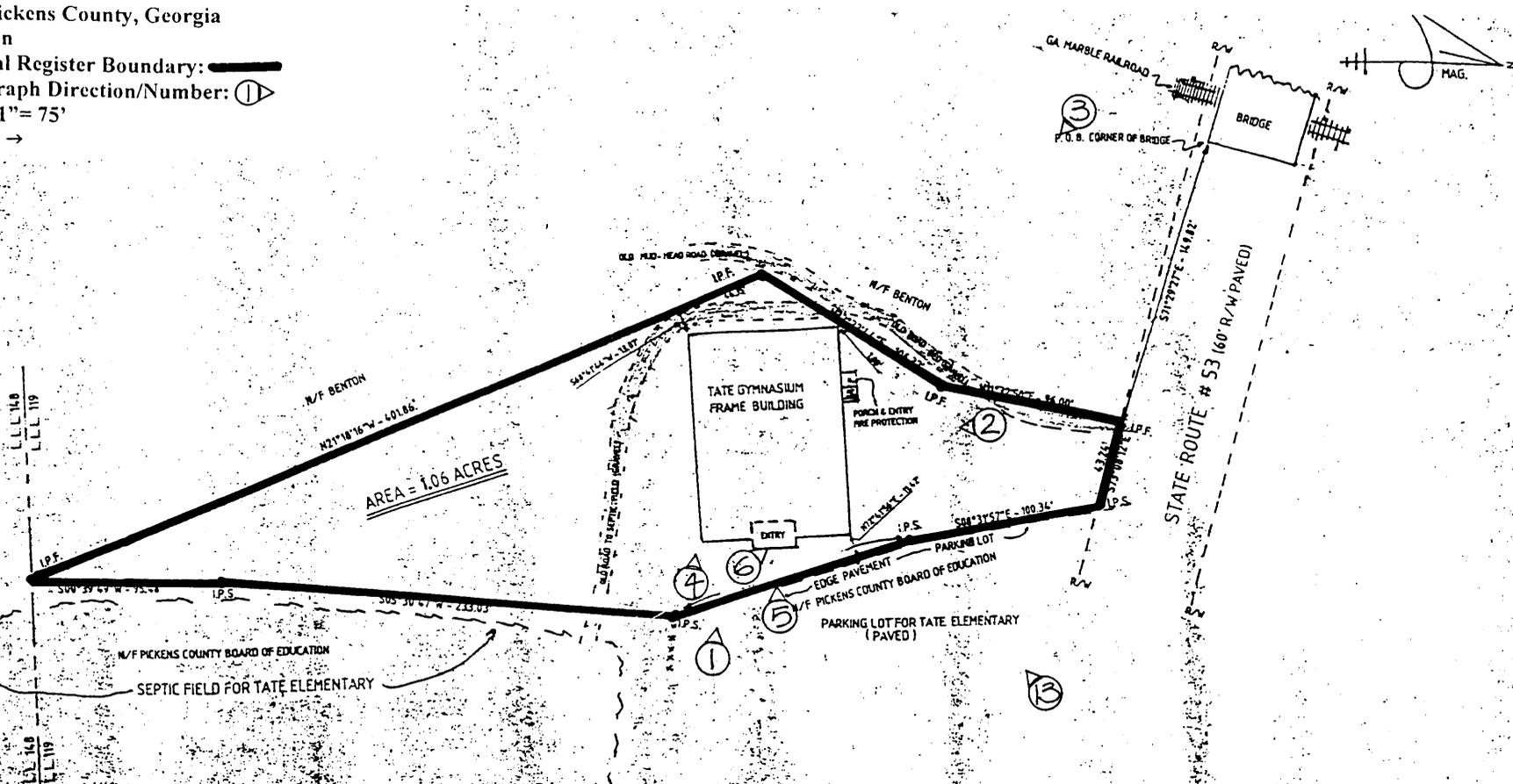
Site Plan

National Register Boundary: 

Photograph Direction/Number: 

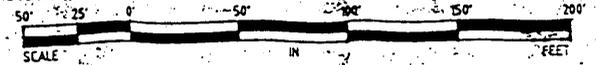
Scale: 1" = 75'

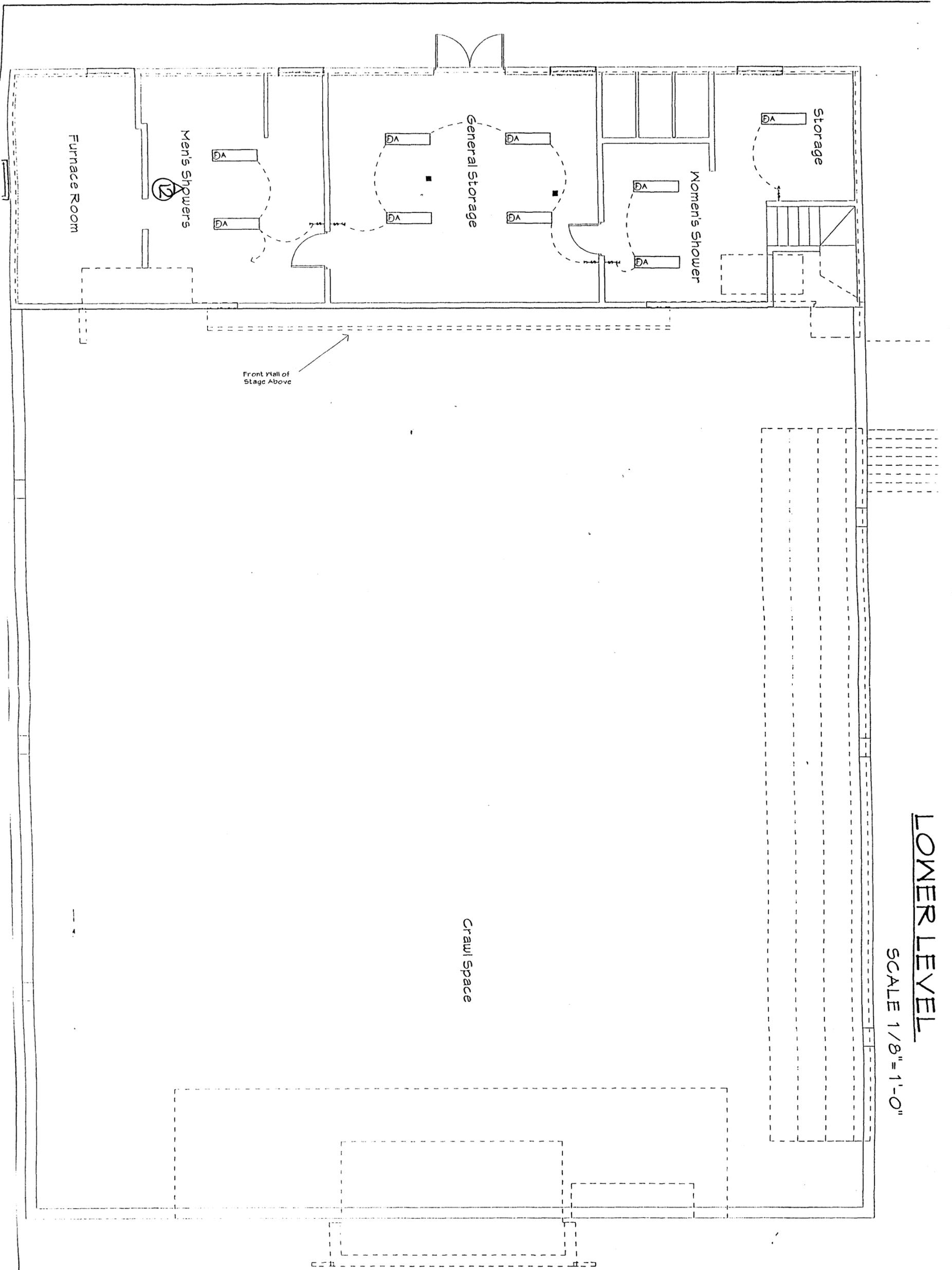
North: 



SURVEY FOR  
**MARBLE VALLEY FRIENDS, INC.**

BEING 1.06 ACRES "FROM THE PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PROPERTY & THE OLD 'TATE' GYMNASIUM - LOCATED IN LAND LOT # 119, 4th DISTRICT, 2nd SECTION, PICKENS COUNTY, GEORGIA. - FIELD WORK BY J. JARRETT - D'WINE J. JARRETT - DATE, APRIL 28, 1999  
SCALE: 1" = 50' - FIELD ERROR OF CLOSURE = 1" IN 10,000 (+/-) - EQUIPMENT USED TOPCON GTS-2 TOTAL STATION  
REFERENCE: PLAT BY RADFORD GRANT FOR PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DATED 10/18/82 & PLAT BY JAMES C. BOLING FOR PICKENS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DATED 2/22/96.  
NOTE: ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL F. E. M. A. FLOOD HAZARD MAPS, THIS PROPERTY IS NOT IN A FLOOD HAZARD ZONE.





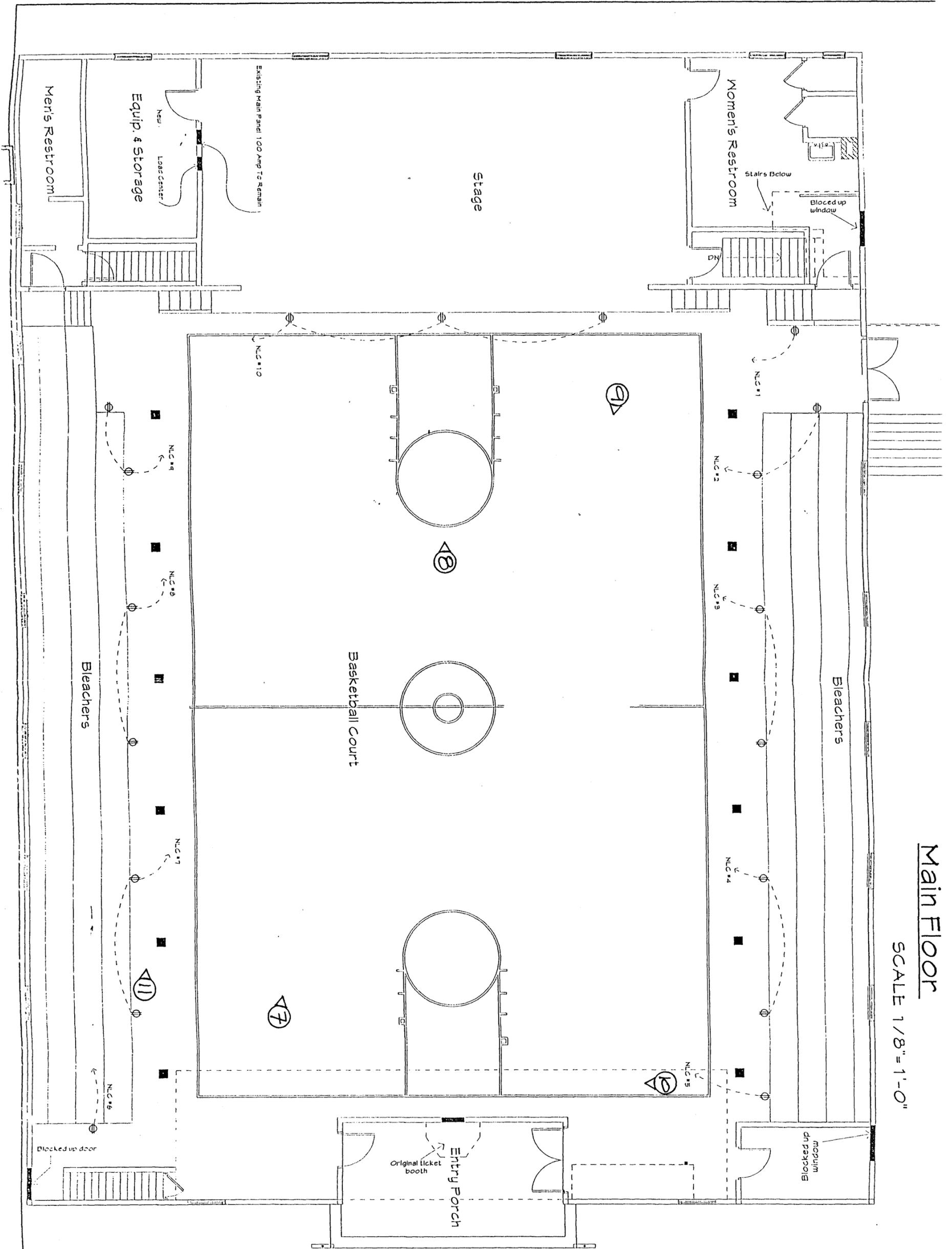
**LOWER LEVEL**  
 SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

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SHEET  
 OF TWO  
 E-2  
 06MAY01

**Marble Valley Friends'**  
**Old Tate School Gymnasium**  
 Village of Tate, Pickens County Georgia 30177

**Tate Gymnasium**  
 Tate, Pickens County, Georgia  
 Lower Level Floor Plan  
 Photograph Direction/Number: ①  
 Scale: 1/8"=1'  
 North: →



**Main Floor**

SCALE 1/8"=1'-0"

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SHEET  
E-1  
OF TWO  
OSMARD

**Marble Valley Friends'**  
**Old Tate School Gymnasium**  
Village of Tate, Pickens County Georgia 30177

**Tate Gymnasium**  
Tate, Pickens County, Georgia  
Main Level Floor Plan  
Photograph Direction/Number: 1  
Scale: 1/8"=1'  
North: →