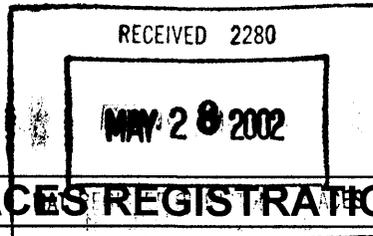


150



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 Alapaha Colored School
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number East side of Henry Street south of its intersection with George Street
city, town Alapaha () vicinity of
county Berrien code GA 019
state Georgia code GA zip code 31622

() not for publication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.

W. Ray Luce
Signature of certifying official

5-22-02
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 7-11-02

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/MEETING HALL/HALL OF OTHER FRATERNAL

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/NO STYLE

Materials:

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| foundation | Brick |
| walls | Wood/Weatherboard |
| roof | Metal/Tin |
| other | N/A |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Alapaha Colored School is a two-story frame building that sits on a small parcel of land in the Alapaha community in north Berrien County, Georgia. Constructed in 1924, the school served the African-American community in Alapaha and surrounding north Berrien County.

The building features wood-framed construction, low-pitched, hipped metal roof, interior chimney, exposed rafter tails, novelty board exterior siding, front shed porch with a decorative pressed metal roof, single and paired double-hung windows, centrally located main entrance with double doors, and brick piers (photographs 1, 2, 4, and 5). In 1945, a one-story ell was added to the rear of the building (photographs 2, 3, and 4). The one-story ell addition features wood-framed construction, a metal gable roof, novelty board exterior siding, triple double-hung windows, and brick piers.

The interior plan consists of an entrance foyer (photograph 6) that features two doors that open into two equal-sized interior rooms. A staircase leading to the second floor is located in the southern end of the foyer (photograph 10). A restroom (originally the book room) is located in the northern end of the foyer. Both northern and southern interior rooms feature pine board floors, tongue-and-groove board walls, wood ceiling, and fireplaces (photographs 6, 7, and 8). A door is located in the party wall shared by the two rooms (photographs 7 and 8). The rear ell addition consists of a classroom (photograph 9) that is accessed by a door in the south classroom in the original portion of the school.

The second floor is one large space (photograph 11). Originally a small room was located on this floor and served as a lunchroom for the students; however, the walls were removed c.1954 so the room could function as a large meeting space (see attached floor plan). The second floor features an original pot-bellied stove and kerosene stove. Today the second floor is used as a meeting space for the St. Mark Lodge #4 Masons.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The building was originally situated on a large parcel of land. Much of that land has been sold and developed. The building is now situated on a small parcel with no outbuildings. The landscape surrounding the building consists of pine trees, shrubs, lawn, and no driveway. The building is located near the edge of Henry Street.

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:

1924-1953

Significant Dates:

1924-Construction of Alapaha Colored School
1953-New school constructed for the African-American community

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)

The Alapaha Colored School is an excellent example of a rare surviving African-American school in Georgia. The building is significant in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African-American and education. The Alapaha Colored School was built in 1924 to serve the African-American children of Berrien County. The school's service area extended to the north to the Irwin County line, east to the Atkinson County line, and west to the Tift County line. The building functioned as a school from 1924 to 1954; the school closed in 1954 when Berrien County consolidated the African-American community schools into one school, Nashville High and Elementary School. The first floor housed various grades and the second floor housed grades four and five as well as the lunchroom (the lunchroom was located in the room removed after c.1954). The Alapaha Colored School is one of the last surviving two-story wood-framed African-American community schools in Berrien County as well as in the state of Georgia. According to Carole Merritt in *Historic Black Resources*, a statewide context on African-American resources in Georgia, a 1920s survey of Georgia's black schools determined that a majority were made of frame construction. Rural schools were generally one-room buildings with one teacher for all grades. Only one in five schools had two or more rooms. Alapaha Colored School is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of an early 20th-century community school. The significant character-defining features of the original core of the building include its two-story height, wood-frame construction, single double-hung windows (a few windows have been added to create paired windows), interior spaces divided into classrooms, and its absence of any stylistic features. These character-defining features were commonly found on pre-1930 schools in Georgia. After 1930, school construction changed to allow for larger schools with corridors, ribbon windows to provide more light, and other more "modern" features to improve the condition of schools. The 1945 ell addition strongly represents some of these "modern" features. The character-defining features of the ell include ribbon windows consisting of triple-paired windows.

National Register Criteria

The Alapaha Colored School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as the only school for African-American children in the Alapaha community and surrounding areas. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion C as a good example of a typical school building constructed during the early 20th century for African-American students.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the proposed nomination begins in 1924, the year the school was constructed, and ends in 1953, the year the school was taken out of service.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Alapaha Colored School is the one contributing resource on the property. There are no noncontributing resources on the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by James Horton and Rudolph Smith, July, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The Alapaha Colored School was constructed in Alapaha, Berrien County, Georgia, in 1924, for the African-American children of Alapaha and the north Berrien County. The school housed eleven grades of school that were offered at that time. The school's service area extended to the north to the Irwin County line, to the east to the Atkinson County line, and the west to the Tift County line.

Originally the building was two-story and rectangular in shape with a front porch. There were four rooms in the original building. Three of the four rooms were used for classrooms. The fourth room, a small room upstairs, was used as a lunchroom. The lunchroom did not provide meals for the students, but did have a kerosene stove for heating students' lunches and simple cooking, but it never had running water or an electric refrigerator. The lunchroom also provided some simple lunch accessories like bread, soup, and condiments. Students were responsible for bringing their own lunches everyday. The lunchroom contained a few tables and chairs. Today the lunchroom still has the old kerosene stove and a Hoosier cabinet.

The building was heated with coal burning, pot-bellied stoves. Students were assigned to keep the stoves fueled. Coal for the stoves was dumped in a pile outside the school. Students brought the coal inside and stored it in a closet underneath the stairway landing to keep it dry. They carried it in buckets to their classrooms. In the summer, the screenless windows were opened for ventilation and there were no electric fans. Restrooms for the school consisted of two wooden outhouses behind the school at the corners of the property (these structures no longer exist). Facing the front of the building and looking east the boys' outhouse was to the right back corner of the schoolyard and the girls' outhouse was to the left back opposite corner. A well with a pitcher pump located at the northwest corner of the building was used for water. Running water was added to the building c. 1947.

In 1945, the building was too small to accommodate all of the students and another classroom was added to the rear. This one-story wooden addition was constructed similarly to the existing building. It was built by the older students of the school under the supervision of the principal at the time, Professor Jenkins.

The school accommodated eleven grades but had only four classrooms. Several grades were grouped in the same classroom. Grades 1, 2, and 3 were located on the first floor in the room to the right upon entering the foyer. Grades 4 and 5 were located upstairs in the room to the north side of the building opposite the lunchroom. Grades 6 and 7 were located downstairs in the room to the left

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

upon entering the foyer. Grades 8, 9, 10, and 11 were located on the first floor in the large addition room to the rear of the building. The classrooms were simple square rooms with several windows. The floors, walls, and ceilings are wood and each room had one blackboard and one light bulb on a cloth cord hanging from the ceiling. The desks were mismatched with some being the old-fashioned type with fold-down seats and lift-up tops and others being all wood with fixed-seats and tops. The school originally sat on several acres of land and had cleared yards in front, on the sides, and in the rear. The 1924 deed states that the property consisted of "seventy yards square." The playground consisted of an outdoor basketball court to the south of the building, a softball field to the rear, and some open space around the building. In addition to basketball and softball, the children played in the trees in the wooded area behind the building, had a swing hanging from a tree, played train, and jumped rope.

Individual community schools like Alapaha Colored School, constructed specifically for the black community were maintained by Berrien County until 1953 when a modern school building was constructed. The new building was designed in a similar fashion to the white school, Berrien High School, and was complete with gymnasium, but was for black students only. The school was called Nashville High and Elementary School and it became the only school in the county for Blacks. The Alapaha Colored School was closed as a grade school after 1953 when the new school was built. However, Alapaha Colored School was still owned and used by the school board for summer GED classes for veterans of World War II who were unable to finish school before the war. Eventually the school building was sold to the St. Mark Masons for their lodge and has been used for their meeting hall since that time.

Alapaha Colored School received a Georgia Heritage Grant in 2001 for the rehabilitation of the building for its continued use a lodge for the St. Mark Masons and as a community building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Horton, James and Rudolph Smith. Historic Property Information Form. July, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental information.

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.

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 288508 Northing 3473471

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The National Register Boundary encompasses the building and remaining land associated with the history of the Alapaha Colored 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 21, 2002
e-mail holly_anderson@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title James Horton, Preservation Planner
organization South Georgia Regional Development Center
mailing address 327 West Savannah Avenue
city or town Valdosta **state** Georgia **zip code** 31601
telephone (912)333-5277
e-mail

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

name/title Rudolph Smith, City Manager
organization Town of Alapaha
mailing address P.O. Box 385
city or town Alapaha **state** Georgia **zip code** 31622
telephone
e-mail

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Mayor James Boone
organization (if applicable) Town of Alapaha
mailing address P.O. Box 385
city or town Alapaha **state** Georgia **zip code** 31622
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Alapaha Colored School
City or Vicinity: Alapaha
County: Berrien
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December, 2000

Description of Photograph(s):

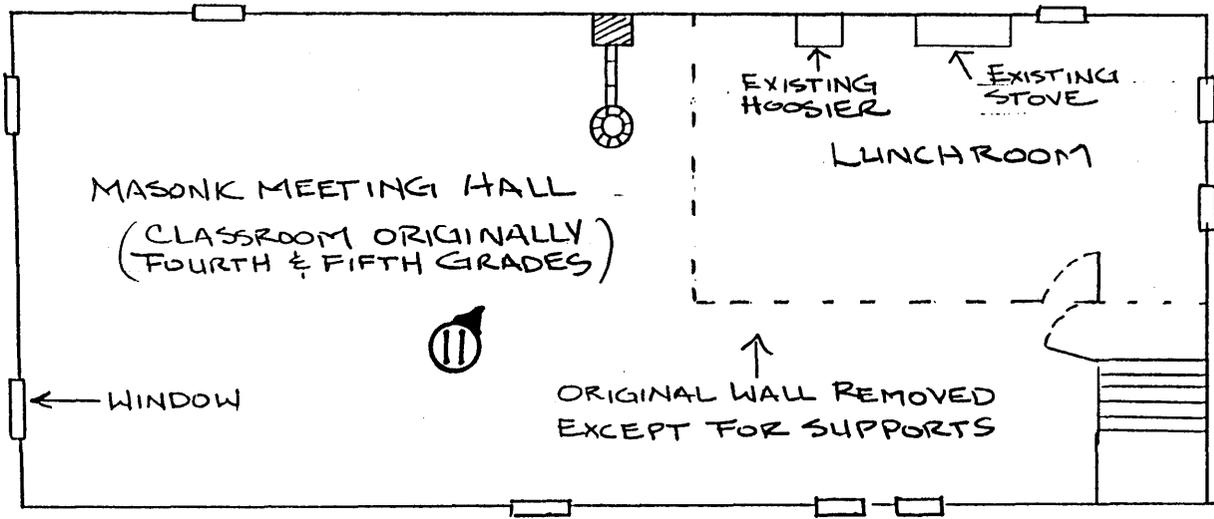
Number of photographs: 12

1. Front (west) façade; photographer facing east.
2. Front façade and south façade; photographer facing northeast.
3. South façade and rear (east) façade; photographer facing northwest.
4. Rear façade and north façade; photographer facing southwest.
5. North façade and front façade; photographer facing southeast.
6. First floor, foyer and classrooms; photographer facing east.
7. First floor, north classroom; photographer facing southeast.
8. First floor, south classroom; photographer facing west.
9. First floor, classroom, 1945 addition; photographer facing northwest.
10. Stairwell to second floor; photographer facing southeast.
11. Second floor, north room; photographer facing southeast.
12. Front façade; photographer facing east.

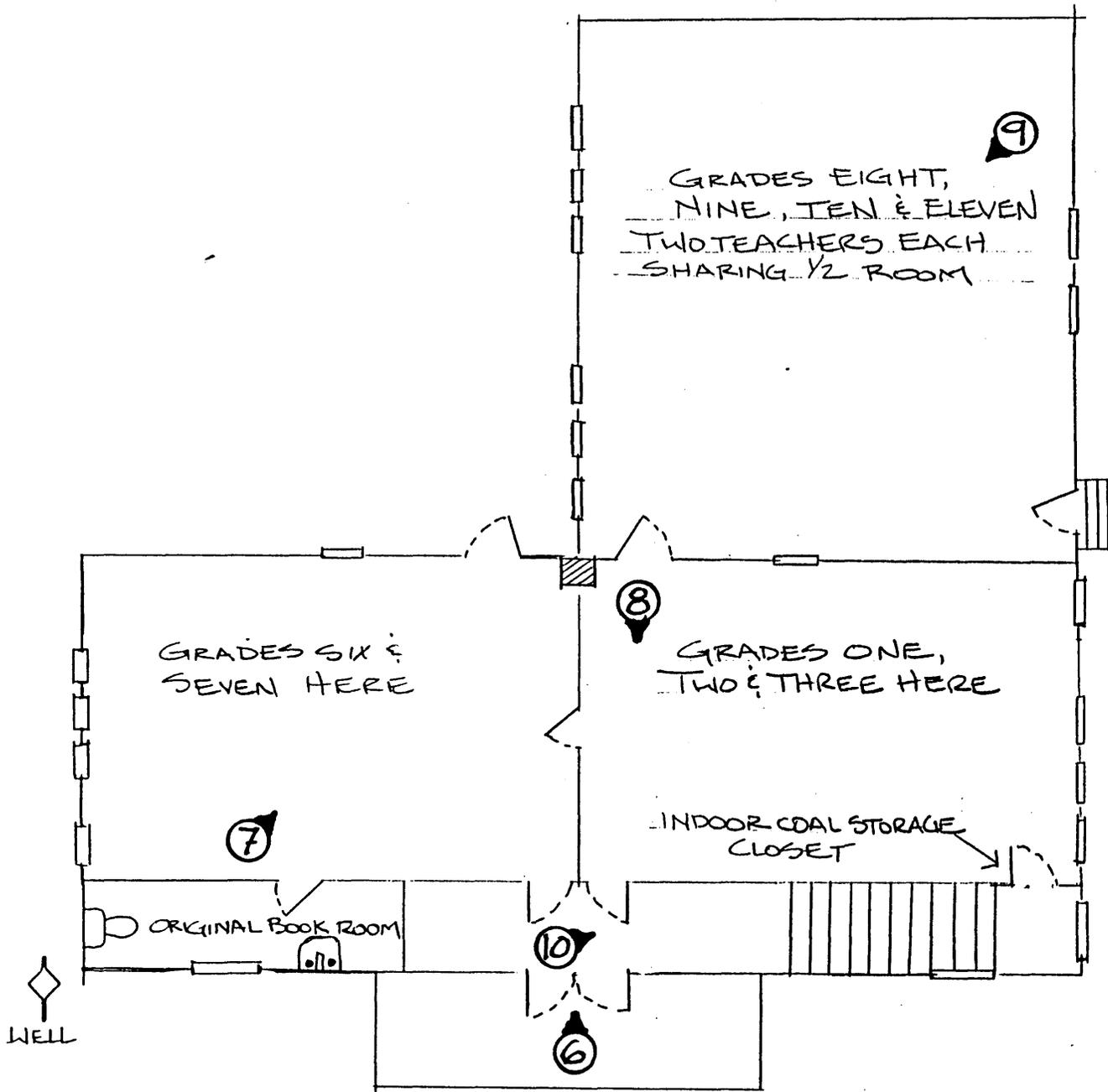
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Alapaha Colored School
 Alapaha, Berrien County, Georgia
 Berrien County Tax Map 47B
 National Register Boundary: 
 Scale: 1" = 200'
 North: 



Alapaha Colored School
 Alapaha, Berrien County, Georgia
 Second Floor Plan
 Photograph Direction/Number: 1
 Scale: Not to scale
 North: ↑



Alapaha Colored School
 Alapaha, Berrien County, Georgia
 First Floor Plan
 Photograph Direction/Number: 1
 Scale: Not to scale
 North: ↑