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NPS Form 10-900  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

AUG 11 1993

OMB No. 1024-0018

**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 Amity School  
other names/site number n/a

**2. Location**

street & number Clay Hill Road  
city, town Lincolnton (x) vicinity of  
county Lincoln code GA 181  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30817

(n/a) not for publication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:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	1
objects	0	0
total	1	1

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0**

**Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources in Lincoln County, Georgia**

**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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Signature of certifying official

8/6/93  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Patrick W. Andrews 9/21/93

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## **6. Function or Use**

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### **Historic Functions:**

EDUCATION/school  
SOCIAL/meeting hall

### **Current Functions:**

SOCIAL/meeting hall

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## **7. Description**

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### **Architectural Classification:**

Other: vernacular

### **Materials:**

**foundation** BRICK  
**walls** WOOD  
**roof** METAL  
**other**

### **Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

The Amity School is located in the southwestern corner of Lincoln County approximately a quarter mile west of the intersection of Georgia Highways 43 and 220. This crossroads is considered the center of the small community of Amity, a very dispersed rural settlement.

The school is a large, two-story frame building, rectangular in shape with four symmetrical facades. Approximately fifty-four feet in width and thirty-two feet in depth, the school building features a one-story, full-facade front porch with a hip roof supported by simple square wood porch supports. The main roof is a side hip covered with standing seam metal, and the structure's distinguishing feature is a bell tower situated at the center of the front roof slope.

There are three entrances to the school, all positioned on the front facade. Two of the doors lead into the two equal-sized first-level classrooms; the third, which has been covered by a single plywood panel, leads to a stairway to the second floor which is one large room. A fourth door on the front facade gives access to a small storage room. All windows of the building are double-hung sash with nine lights in each sash. The rear facade includes two paired windows, one pair to each side, with each pair flanked by single nine-over-nine windows; otherwise all windows are positioned individually.

The two first-floor rooms are identical in size (27' x 16') and historically were mirror images of each other. This lay-out was due to the presence of a single performing stage situated against the front wall of the building, between the two first-level entrances. The wall separating the two rooms thus historically extended only half the depth of the building, from the rear wall to the center of the building. A passageway between the two rooms was situated in the space

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between the front of the stage and the beginning of the dividing wall. The stage has been removed and the dividing wall now extends the full depth of the building to create two distinct rooms separated by a single door.

The second level of the Amity School, which was never used for educational purposes but rather served as a meeting space for the Masons, consists of a single large room with a rectangular stage to the east (left when facing the building) end. This floor has not been used in several years, hence the boarded entrance door to the stairs giving access to the second level of the building.

The building is in good condition and the exterior has only been altered by the placement of plywood panels over several second level windows, none of which are on the front facade, as well as over the entrance door to the second level of the building. The roof is showing some signs of wear but still appears fully intact and is not deteriorated to the point of allowing moisture to enter the upper level. The original brick pier foundation is still extant.

The school is set back from the road on a level lot with open space in the front yard and pine trees on the sides and rear. A nonhistoric shelter is located behind the school.

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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

**Period of Significance:**

1902 - 1943

**Significant Dates:**

1902

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

N/A

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Amity School, constructed 1902-1904, is significant for its role in public education and as an excellent example of vernacular institutional architecture in rural Georgia.

The Amity School is significant in architecture as an example of the type of design used for a rural school. The building is utilitarian in design with a full front porch and three entrances. The bell tower, used to call the students, is centered on the front slope of the roof. Interior rooms are open with simple chamfered support columns. The school reflects the type of building used in rural areas during the early 20th century.

The school is significant in education for its role in public education in Lincoln County. The school represents the efforts undertaken by a rural community to provide educational opportunities for its residents. The school initially included all elementary and secondary grades through grade 9. Two teachers were hired to teach at the school, one for the lower grades (in the east half of the building and the other for the upper grades (in the west half). The building was used until 1943 when the county began consolidating their rural schools.

The school buildings that were constructed in Lincoln County became important community institutions that functioned to solidify their respective communities. The Amity School is defined in the Historic Resources in Lincoln County, Georgia, Multiple Property Documentation Form: Community Landmark Buildings in Lincoln County.

**National Register Criteria**

The Amity School is significant under **Criteria A** for its association with the development of education in rural Lincoln County, Georgia. Its distinctive appearance and prominent size provide clear evidence of the important role played by education in early 20th-century Lincoln County and particularly in the Amity community. The quality of rural education in Georgia during the 19th- and early 20th-centuries varied greatly from county to county, and efforts toward improving education on a state-wide level were slow in coming. But, the small, unincorporated communities of Lincoln County placed considerable importance on education from very early in the county's development. The Amity School is significant for being representative of the early-20th century continuance of this county-wide concern for education.

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The Amity School is significant under **Criteria C** as an outstanding example of rural vernacular architecture. The school building features a one-story, full-facade front porch with a hip roof supported by simple square wood porch supports. The main roof is a side hip covered with standing seam metal, and the structure's distinguishing feature is a bell tower situated at the center of the front roof slope. Although its size makes it unusual in Lincoln County, the school is typical in that it was constructed with local materials and built by local builders and craftsmen.

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

1902 - 1904 - construction of the school.  
1943 - school closed.

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

The Amity School was constructed during the years 1902-1904, after it had been decided that the Amity district's two schools should be consolidated at one location. The July 24, 1902 edition of the Lincoln Journal first reported that the new school would be built, announcing that nearly 100 students would utilize the school once completed. On August 11, 1902 the Amity School Trustees (H. L. Culbertson, S. R. Edmunds, R. B. Graves, W. O. Graves, and A. E. Strother) purchased five-and-one-half acres of land for the school from Reuben Harman for \$37.50.

A community effort was subsequently begun to cut trees and transport them to the Woodlawn community, where they were sawed by Thomas M Bentley. Later that fall, Bentley moved his planer mill to the school site and planed the lumber for construction of the building. Money for the purchase of nails, windows and other building materials was raised locally, typical in rural Lincoln County.

It is not known exactly when the school was completed, but evidence suggests that all but the roof had been finished by December 22, 1903, when the Amity School Trustees leased the upper story of the building to H. L. Culbertson, a member of the local chapter of the Masons. In return for the use of the second floor Culbertson and the Masons were to construct a roof for the school and keep it in good repair over the 99 years covered by the lease.

The Amity School initially included all elementary and secondary grades through grade 9, after which some students went on to Lincolnton to finish their high school educations. Grade 10 was taught

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at the school during its last several years of operation. Two teachers were hired to teach at the school, one for the lower grades (in the east half of the building) and the other for the upper grades (in the west half of the building).

The advent of a county-wide consolidated school system in 1943 brought an end to the need for rural schools in Lincoln County, and with it an end to the need for the Amity School as an educational building. It functions today as the location of monthly meetings of the Amity Community Club, an organization with an interest in the history and betterment of the Amity area, and it has housed a variety of functions for the people of the Amity community.



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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Cobb, Thomas R.R. A Digest of the Statute Laws of the State of Georgia. Athens, Georgia: Christy, Kelsea and Burke, 1851.

Davis, Robert S., Jr. and Dorsey, James E., compilers, Lincoln County Genealogy and History. Swainsboro, Georgia: Magnolia Press.

Georgia Laws: 1820, 1824, 1825, 1830, 1835, 1836, 1845, 1859, 1886-1887, 1903, 1917.

Official Code of Georgia, Annotated, Volume 42, 1982.

Perryman, Clinton J. History of Lincoln County, Georgia. Tignall, Georgia: Boyd Publishing Company, 1933.

Prince, Oliver H. Digest of the Laws of the State of Georgia, 2nd edition. Athens: published by the author, 1837.

Interview with Margaret Strother, resident of the Amity Community and a student at the Amity School during its period of operation, September, 1990.

Interview with Clara Tingle, resident of the Amity Community and a student at the Amity School during its period of operation, September, 1990.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** (x) N/A

- ( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ( ) previously listed in the National Register
- ( ) previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ( ) designated a National Historic Landmark
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #^C
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #^C

**Primary location of additional data:**

- (x) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

LC-211

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 4 acres

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 361260 Northing 3727070

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Amity School is shown as a solid black line on the accompanying tax map.

**Boundary Justification**

The proposed boundary corresponds to the historic boundary of the property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Lisa Raflo, National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** 404-656-2840 **date** June 20, 1993

This form is based to a large degree upon the Amity School Nomination Form prepared by a consultant for the Lincoln County Historical Society:

**name/title** John Kissane  
**organization** Jaeger/Pyburn, Inc.  
**street & number** 119 Washington Street  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30503  
**telephone** 706-534-7024

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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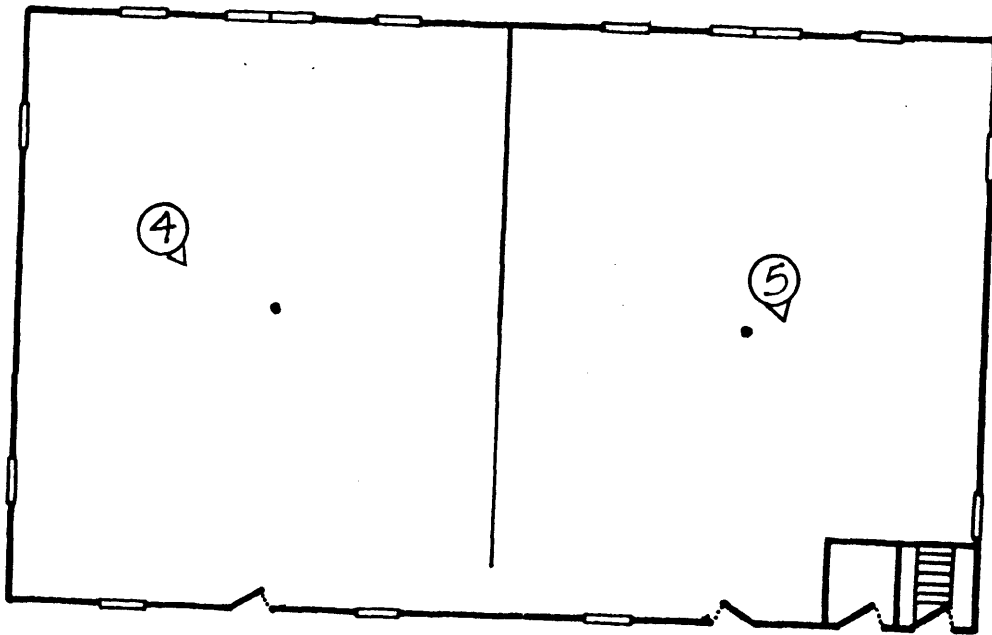
**Name of Property:** Amity School  
**City or Vicinity:** Lincolnton  
**County:** Lincoln  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James Lockhart  
**Date Photographed:** December 1991

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 5: Front facade view; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 5: Front facade view; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 5: Rear facade view, shelter; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 5: Interior of first floor; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 5: Interior of first floor; photographer facing northwest.

③

SHELTER



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②

Amity School  
 Vicinity of Lincolnton, Lincoln Co.  
 Georgia

Sketch Map

Photos: ③

SCALE: NONE

