

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 04001181

Date Listed: October 27, 2004

Property Name: Ballard School

County: Glynn

State: Georgia

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Daniel J. Vivian
Signature of the Keeper

October 27, 2004
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Criteria Consideration G is hereby added to reflect the exceptional significance of the 1962 International-style classroom wing.

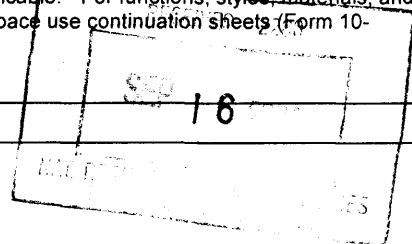
The Georgia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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 Ballard School
other names/site number County Community School

2. Location

street & number 323 Old Jesup Highway
city, town Brunswick (N/A) **vicinity of**
county Glynn **code** GA 127
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31520

(N/A) not for publication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	8	5
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	8	5

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 Clow

9-3-04

Signature of certifying official

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

Dancel J. Vivian 10/27/04

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

for

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions:

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification:LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style**Materials:**

foundation	brick
walls	brick, wood, plaster
roof	asphalt shingles, tar and gravel
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:Summary Description

The Ballard School complex consists of a main school built in 1915 with additions and wings added over the years and connected by covered walkways. The original 1915 school is a one-story white brick building. It reflects Craftsman-style details such as a low roofline, projecting center gable with slightly-recessed entrance, exposed rafter tails, and eave brackets. Many original windows remain but are boarded up. The original central hall with two flanking classrooms on each side was changed in 1967 when the building became a library. It now has a large room, with smaller rooms in the corners. A drop ceiling covers the original tongue-and-groove, beaded board ceiling. The 1936 red brick classroom addition was built with funds from the Public Works Administration (PWA) and contains a central hall with five classrooms and a restroom on each side. This addition is perpendicular to the rear of the original building. In 1953 a separate cafeteria building was built adjacent to the original building and facing the highway. It is a one-story, brick-and-concrete block building. The interior is a large, open space with a stage at one end. Also in 1953 two more classroom wings were built, one with four classrooms, the other with three, immediately behind the cafeteria and parallel to the earlier 1936 classroom building. Each wing is a plain brick building with large windows and a nearly flat roof. The classrooms are entered from the covered exterior walkway. In 1962 another classroom building was built on the south end of the property. It contains a central hall and four parallel classrooms on each side with an additional classroom, teacher's lounge and two restrooms at the west end. This too is a plain brick building with expansive window walls (temporarily covered with plywood) and a flat roof. In 1991 a noncontributing gymnasium was built in the northwest corner of the property. It is a Butler-style metal building with a gable roof. There are also two small concrete block service outbuildings on the site, one built c.1953, the other c.1962. The original school building has had major changes, the newer additions less so. The complex sits in what

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was once a rural section of the county, but now has houses nearby as well as a recreational park. On the west is the railroad.

Full Description:

The Ballard School campus/complex consists of the original 1915 County Community School building and the various additional buildings added in 1936, 1953 (two classroom buildings and the multi-purpose building with kitchen), the two small 1953 storage buildings, the 1962 classroom building, and the non-contributing 1991 gymnasium. Each is discussed below in the order in which it was built.

County Community School (1915) (Photos 1 through 5.)

This building is a one-story building of white brick masonry and wood frame construction. The building displays Craftsman-style architectural details such as a low roofline, projecting center gable with slightly recessed entrance, exposed rafter tails, and eave brackets. There are three different configurations of windows in the building. There are 6-over-6 double hung wood windows located on the west and east facades. There are also slender two over two double hung wood windows on each side of the doorway on the east and west façade. There are small wood transom windows with two panes of glass on the north and south façade. The building has a perimeter masonry wall foundation as well as interior brick piers. The original brick is white but at some point it was painted a white or cream color. The original floor plan was based on the typical four-room schoolhouse plan with a central hallway running through the building. This floor plan was altered in 1967 to use the building as a library. At this time, 4" x 4" steel columns were installed under a load-bearing joist running north and south through the building. The original hallway walls that ran east and west through the building originally supported this joist. The original hallway walls were removed during the remodeling to make a larger central room in the building. New wood frame walls with drywall were added running east and west through the building to allow for small offices and book rooms in the space. The original interior walls were lath and plaster. The existing interior walls are wood frame with drywall. Judging from a 1947 interior photograph of the building, the original floors were tongue and groove wood. The current floor is ¼" plywood with 12" square tiles and then carpet over this. This same circa 1947 photo shows a dark surface material in the classroom space, which could be either wainscoting or paint on plaster. This surface extends to a height of approximately 7 feet and continues around the perimeter of the room. There was also a dark stained picture molding that extended around the room. These treatments no longer exist in the rooms and an exact date of their removal has not been established. The original ceilings are tongue and groove, heart pine bead board ceilings with a white or cream colored finish. A drop ceiling with acoustical tile and fluorescent light fixtures has covered this ceiling. Although some of the original ceilings were cut during the alterations in 1967. The ceiling is in fairly good condition. The original doors no longer exist in the building. However, from a photograph taken ca. 1920-30, the doors appear to have been solid wood doors. This photo also shows a divided transom light above the main door. The doors, transom window, and sidelights were removed during the 1967 alterations. The current doors, transom

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windows, and sidelights are glass with metal frames. The building originally had a Ludowici tile roof. There is nothing mentioned in the 1967 remodeling plan for the removal of this tile roof. It is not clear when this tile was removed, but the current roof material is asphalt shingles.

PWA Addition (1936) (Photos 6 through 10.)

This building is a one-story red brick masonry and wood frame building. Francis L. Abreu (1896-1969) designed the building. He was the architect for all of the Public Works Administration-funded projects undertaken for the Glynn County Board of Education during 1935 to 1936. Farquhar M. McRae Construction Company of Savannah was selected as the contractor for this project. The exterior brick is red brick, but it was originally painted white to match the white brick County Community School building. It was later painted the existing yellow color. The building has a perimeter brick masonry foundation as well as interior brick piers. It has a flat roof of tar and gravel behind a brick parapet. This parapet wall exists on all four sides of the building. The windows are 9-over-9 double hung wood windows. The interior floor plan is based on a rectangular plan with a central hallway running east and west. The classrooms extend off of this hallway to the north and south. Some of the classrooms have been altered into smaller classrooms or offices by the addition of wood frame stud walls with wood paneling. These walls have basically divided the original classroom into two halves. This only occurs in the first classrooms on the north and south as you enter the building from the east end. The interior floors are made of 1" x 2" tongue and groove wood floors with a stained finish. The original ceilings consisted of white gypsum based ceiling tiles nailed directly to the ceiling joists. The original ceilings were removed when the new acoustical tile drop ceiling was installed in the 1960s or 1970s. The current ceilings are acoustical tile drop ceilings. The original walls are made of wood frame stud walls with lath and plaster. The interior doors are solid wood doors with an upper section of divided panes of glass. The exterior entry doors are heavy wood double doors with a smaller section of divide light glass at the top. This only major additions or alterations are the wooden lockers attached to the hallway walls sometime in the 1960s or 1970s, the new wood walls that divide up some of the rooms, and the acoustical tile drop ceilings. The building also has a basement that runs under the front half of the building. A small doorway located to the right, just inside the east end entrance, is the access to the basement. Inside, is a steep staircase that leads down to the basement, where the original boiler was located. At the bottom of the stairs is a large metal door, which has become lodged in the opening and bent at the bottom. There appears to be a concrete slab floor in this space but the exact size of the space is unknown. It was physically impossible to move the door at the time this inspection was made. The exhaust tower for the boiler extends upward along the north facade and exits the roof level. It extends upward for approximately 15 feet.

There are also two temporary classroom additions c.1970s which were placed at the west façade of the building as the need for classroom space increased (photos 7, 11). The buildings are located outside the original form of the 1936 building. They are both wood frame buildings and have been finished with a tabby stucco surface. They are not permanently attached to the 1936 building.

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Cafeteria (1953) (Photos 4, 17, 19, and 20.)

This building is located directly north of the County Community School. Matt L. Jorgensen, who was an architect with the firm Abreu and Robeson in Brunswick, Georgia, designed it in 1953. It was built at the same time as the two classroom wings located just to the west of the cafeteria. It is a one story brick concrete masonry block, brick and steel building. It has metal frame "jal-awning" windows on the south façade only. It has a gabled, built up roof of tar and gravel. The interior ceiling is composed of exposed metal truss roof system. The roof panels, which along with the metal roof truss make up the cafeteria ceiling, has been painted white. The floors are 12" square asbestos tiles placed on top of the concrete slab foundation. The interior space is large and open with a stage at the east end. The kitchen and serving areas are located along the north façade. The doors on the south façade are solid core, wood fiber doors with metal frames. The doors on the west façade are metal-framed divide light doors with sidelights and transom. This building has not seen any additions or alterations since its original construction. This building is connected to the classroom wing and to the community school building by a concrete walkway with brick columns and a flat roof. This walkway was installed at the same time that the cafeteria and classrooms were built. (Photos 17 and 18.)

Classroom Wings (two buildings) (1953) (Photos 21 and 22.)

These two wings of classrooms are located directly west of the cafeteria. One contains four classrooms, the other contains three classrooms. They are connected to each other and the rest of the school complex by an open but covered walkway. The classrooms are each entered from the covered walkway. Matt L. Jorgensen of Abreu and Robeson architectural firm designed them. Each is built of concrete block and brick masonry on a concrete slab foundation. Carpet has been applied to this concrete slab as a finish material for the classrooms. Each wing has a steel joist, pitched, roof with tar and gravel with a roof that has a slight pitch to the south side to allow for easier water run-off. The windows in these wings are metal frame, "jal-awning" windows. The steel roof joists are exposed in the interior ceilings. These joists along with the roof panels make up the ceilings which have been painted white. An acoustical tile drop ceiling and fluorescent light fixtures are below the ceilings. The interior walls are concrete block with a white paint finish. The classroom entry doors are hollow core wood doors with metal frames. There is a steel framed, covered walkway that runs east and west parallel to each wing.

These buildings have not seen any additions or alterations, except for c.1970s temporary classroom additions which were placed at the west façade of the buildings as the need for classroom space increased. This temporary classroom is a wood frame building and was finished with a tabby stucco surface.

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Classroom Wing (1962) (Photos 11 through 16.)

This wing of classrooms is located to the south of the 1936 addition and southwest of the County Community School building. Joseph Schlosser of Miller, Schlosser, and Miller Architects in Brunswick, Georgia, designed it. It is built of concrete block and brick masonry. It has a flat roof with tar and gravel. The windows are metal frame "jal-awning" windows. The exterior doors are solid core, wood fiber doors with metal frames. The interior walls are concrete block with a white paint finish. There is a concrete slab foundation. Terrazzo was used as a finish floor material. The interior floor plan is based on a central hallway plan with four classrooms on each side of a central hall. This building's floor plan is practically a modern copy of the floor plan used in the 1936 addition. This building has not seen any additions or alterations since its original construction, except for some metal lockers that were placed along the hallway walls. This building is connected to the classroom wing and to the community school building by a steel framed walkway with a flat roof. This walkway was installed when the 1962 classrooms were built.

Gymnasium (1991) (Photo 23.)

This building is located to the northwest of the 1953 classroom wing. It is a typical Butler-type metal building with a gable roof. It is faced on the exterior with brick up to a height of approximately 9 feet. From this height to the roofline it is covered in tin. There are no windows in the building, however there are vents and fans in the north and south façade walls. The building sits on a concrete slab foundation. It has a gable tin roof.

Outbuildings (Slight view of no. 1 in photo 6 in center rear.)

There are two small concrete block buildings located on the site. Outbuilding #1 is located just south of the 1936 addition and north of the 1962 classroom wing addition. This building has an asphalt shingle, gable roof and sits on concrete slab foundation. This building was originally built c.1962 to serve as the boiler room for the heating system for the 1962 classroom wing. Windows units supplying heat and air conditioning were installed in the building sometime around the late 1960s or early 1970s. At that time, the original boiler was removed from the small outbuilding and it was then used as storage.

Outbuilding #2 is located between the two wings of classroom additions that were built in 1953. It is built of concrete block on a concrete slab foundation. It also has an asphalt shingle, gable roof. This building was a later addition to provide storage as the school campus grew. It had no other purpose. It is assumed that it was built c.1953 in conjunction with the new buildings that it serviced.

The Campus

The school campus was originally a 10-acre tract of land in what was originally a rural section of Glynn County. Over the years, and the push of growth and development into this area, the site has lost some of its original size. There are three home sites directly north of the school campus. These

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buildings have no relationship to the Ballard School buildings. They were built at a later date as this area of Glynn County began to develop. There are several large oak and pine trees on site. A paved, semi-circular driveway extends off of Old Jesup Road to the front of the Community School building.

The campus is bounded on the north by a small group of residential homes, English Avenue, and a recreational park. It is bounded on the south by Community Road. It is bounded on the east by Old Jesup Road and on the west by the Seaboard Railroad Tracks.

The Ballard School is currently not being used and is awaiting a reuse plan.

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

Period of Significance:

1915-1962

Significant Dates:

1915 – County Community School built
1936 – PWA-funded Classroom Addition completed
1953 – Northern Classroom Wing Additions and Cafeteria completed
1962 – Southern Classroom Wing completed

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

1936 PWA-funded Classroom Addition – Abreu, Francis L. - Abreu and Robeson, Architects,
Brunswick, Georgia
1953 Classroom Wing Additions and Cafeteria – Jorgensen, Matt L. - Abreu and Robeson, Architects
Brunswick, Georgia
1962 Classroom Addition – Schlosser, Joseph - Miller, Schlosser and Miller, Architects
Brunswick, Georgia

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Ballard School Complex is significant in architecture as an example of an early 20th century educational complex that began in 1915 and grew as the student population increased, with major additions in 1936, 1953, and 1962. The original 1915 building reflects the Craftsman style of architecture applied to an institutional building. Character-defining features include its long, low form, broad hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves, exposed rafter ends, and knee braces under the front entry gable. The Craftsman style was somewhat commonly used for early 20th century consolidated school design in Georgia although the Colonial Revival style was more common. The design of the 1935 classroom building reflects the influence of the prevailing Stripped Classical style of architecture popular during the Depression era for government and institutional buildings. Character-defining features include simple, boxy massing, proportioned window openings separated by flush brick pilasters, and the dentiled cornice with paneled parapet. This style of architecture is more commonly found in buildings on college campuses. The 1953 classroom wings and multi-purpose building and the 1962 classroom building reflect the new International style of architecture with their strong, simple geometric forms, large expanses of windows, flat roofs, absence of historical detailing, and use of new materials. The International style was widely used for public school buildings in Georgia starting in the late 1940s with new state education programs and policies emphasizing modern, functional, and economical school buildings. In many communities, and certainly for students and families in rural Glynn County, the public school from this period was the only or the largest International style building. While the original 1915 school building was changed when it became the school library in 1967, it still retains its overall form and exterior materials and details, the other buildings retain most of their original form and materials. The 1936 PWA addition is attributed to Francis L. Abreu (1896-1969), a well-known local architect better known for designing houses on St. Simons Island and in Brunswick. He was also known for his works in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and later in Atlanta. The layout of the complex shows the adaptation to the local climate, for instead of enclosing all the additions, they are connected by covered walkways.

The complex is also significant in education because it reflects the development of the community school program in the county, especially the rural areas. When the original building was built in 1915, it was a move to provide a more thorough and efficient system of education to white residents in the rural parts of the county. This school resulted from the consolidation (and shutting down) of almost all the existing one and two-room schoolhouses, a significant change, also resulting in students being transported to the new school rather than walking. Prior to the construction of the County Community School, there were numerous schools located throughout Glynn County and on St. Simons and Jekyll Island. The consolidation of schools was an effort to provide quality education through a system of strategic schools around the county. There was also a program to instruct adults in proper farming techniques and domestic science skills in the now-demolished domestic science building. Thus the creation of this school was a major landmark for education in Glynn County. The growth of the school and the need for new additions grew out of its regional student body. Later other schools were built in the county. Known first as the County Community School, it was renamed in 1936 for Nathaniel H. Ballard (1866-1936), superintendent of the Glynn County Schools from 1901-1919, who spearheaded the consolidation movement. The school was closed in 1999 and awaits a new use.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

The Ballard School is significant under National Register Criterion A for its relation to the growth and development of education in Glynn County and the State of Georgia. It depicts the role community schools had in consolidating schools into centrally located facilities, a planning tool we still use today. It relates the role these country schools played in improving the quality of life of the rural children and citizens.

This site is also significant under National Register Criterion C for its architectural contributions. It is an example of the changes in educational facility design and construction. It displays a move away from the use of architectural details to bring character and charm to school buildings, to the box-like structures of the 1950's, 60's and 70's, that were built more for functional needs. It is also important that Francis L. Abreu and his firm were involved in the 1936 and later buildings.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

Criteria Consideration G is deemed not to apply to this resource since most of the contributing buildings were built more than 50 years ago and the final contributing building, built in 1962, continued and completed the school expansion program begun in 1936.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Ballard School campus begins in 1915, the date the County Community School was built, and ends in 1962, the date that the last wing of classrooms was built.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

NOTE: In the text the term "wing" is used, as here below, but these additions were separate buildings connected to each other by an open but covered walkway. Without the walkway, they would all be freestanding buildings.

Contributing:

Buildings: 8 ----The 8 contributing resources are the County Community School, the 1936 PWA school addition, the 1953 cafeteria, the two 1953 classroom wings, the 1962 classroom wing addition, and the two outbuildings, one built in 1953, and one in 1962.

Noncontributing: 5—The non-contributing resources are the gymnasium, built in 1991, and the four portable/temporary c.1970s classrooms added to the 1936 and 1953 wings.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The Ballard School, while the campus was begun in the early 20th century, is located in Georgia's oldest area, the coast. The county where the school complex is located, Glynn County, was created in 1777, as one of the original 7 counties, from an area already settled in colonial times. The county was named for John Glynn, a noted member of Parliament who befriended the colonies during their fight for independence. The area residents at Fort Frederica/Frederica town, on St. Simons Island, also located in this county, created the area's first educational program when they appointed Mr. John Ulrich Driezler, in May of 1745, as the head schoolmaster. Brunswick, the current county seat of Glynn County, was created in 1779. The county seat was moved from Ft. Frederica to Brunswick in 1793.

The first public school, Glynn Academy, was created by a constitutional provision and chartered in 1788. This constitutional provision not only established Glynn Academy, but it established a system for providing public education throughout the State of Georgia by establishing similar academies of learning in other communities throughout Georgia such as Augusta, and Savannah. Academies for learning were to be established in the counties and a commission was to be created to administer the operation and advancement of the Academy. Under this same provision, Commons were laid off around each county school site and leased for a period of ninety-nine years. All the proceeds from the leases and the taxes on improvements were to go towards the support of the Academy. This Commons area in Brunswick was referred to as Town Commons and supported the early development of Glynn Academy as well as home sites for the growing city. Glynn Academy, built in 1819, served as the educational institution in Glynn County for several years. The student body was made up primarily of the children of the wealthy plantation owners around Brunswick and on St. Simons Island. The original Glynn Academy building was sold around 1835-36 and the proceeds were used for the support of poor schools in the county.

During the early 1800s, Brunswick began to develop, but at a very slow rate. By 1847, the population had dwindled away and the Act of 1836 incorporating the town was repealed. From 1817 to 1823, "free schools" were being developed throughout Coastal Georgia and some of these schools were located in Glynn County. By 1823, the commissioners of Glynn Academy had been charged to establish two more free schools and to provide a teacher for each one. Only students whose parents paid less than two dollars in state taxes could receive free tuition at these schools. Brunswick was incorporated again in 1856 and began to flourish. However, it did not last long, because during the Civil War the town was deserted due to the blockade of southern ports by the Union forces. In 1860, there were 6 schools and a total of 197 students. After the Civil War, people once again moved back into Brunswick and began to develop the town once again. Brunswick began to grow and port commerce increased astronomically.

In 1870, the population of Glynn County was 2,948. By 1900 the population had jumped to 9,000 and was still growing at an extremely fast rate. By 1873, the Glynn County Board of Education had been created and the management of all the schools in Brunswick and Glynn County had been turned over to their authority. In 1876, there were 6 ungraded schools and two graded schools. For this school system there were 214 white students and 1,690 African Americans for an average attendance of

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540.

As the county grew so did the school system. By 1880, there were still two graded schools, but the number of ungraded schools had grown to 19. There were 314 white students and 1,590 African Americans with an average attendance of 300. By 1885, the number of ungraded schools had grown to 24. During the 1880s and 1890s the population of Brunswick was growing, but the Board of Education had determined that the school facilities were lagging behind the county's growth. The Board decided to build more schools to handle that growth in school children. By 1888, ten private schools had been added to the existing school facilities already around the county. By 1891, there were 25 schools under the Board of Education's authority and the average attendance at these schools was 832. The number of pupils attending Glynn County schools continued to grow by leaps and bounds. By 1895, there were 1,509 students and by 1900 that number had grown to 2,412.

After the turn of the century the Glynn County Commissioners of Road and Revenues (the county commissioners) agreed to aid the rural schools. They hoped that with this aid they could reach every white child in the county with a first class school, taught by a qualified teacher. At the same time the transportation of students to school was implemented at two of the schools, Camp Walker and Emanuel.

Around 1910, the Board of Education realized that a change had to be made to provide a more efficient educational program to the students of the county and one that was easier to manage than the existing. The idea to consolidate many of the one and two room schoolhouses into a centrally located facility in a rural section of the county was proposed. The consolidation concept was being vetted state-wide in Georgia, and was really underway shortly after the end of World War I in 1918. In April 1915, this idea was submitted to the patrons of each school for their opinion. The patrons of the Pyles Marsh, Thornhill, Cypress Mill, Chapel Crossing, and Camp Walker schools heartily endorsed the idea of consolidating their schools into a building to be located at Chapel Crossing Road.

The County Community School was built in 1915 and was reported to be the first of its kind in the state by the local papers. It was a four-room schoolhouse built of white brick and was located on a ten-acre parcel of land. It had a central hallway running through the building from the front door to the back door. The campus included a domestic science cottage and a teachers's cottage. It contained six grades and had an enrollment of 110. There were only 3 teachers in the school at this time. It was built for a two-fold purpose. Its main purpose was to consolidate schools. The school was called from the beginning just the "County Community School," and only later was given a name.

The secondary purpose for the school was not only to instruct children, but also to instruct the adults in these rural neighborhoods. The county demonstration agent used part of the school site to instruct men of the area on better farming techniques. Once a month, the domestic science teacher and a nurse from the county health department would teach women from the community on better housekeeping skills, care of children, and other domestic skills. Newspapers in the area and in other counties quickly found out about the school and its purpose. These newspapers congratulated the citizens of Glynn County as well as the Board of Education for their efforts in improving the school system of Glynn County and serving as an example for other school systems in the State.

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The superintendent of the Glynn County schools at the time, Nathaniel Harrison Ballard, was very proud of the school and had high hopes for its success and the development of more schools of its type in Glynn County.

In 1916, the Board authorized a truck and trailer to be purchased for the transportation of the children of the Thornhill and Cypress Mill communities to the new community school. In 1926, the question of consolidating the remaining white schools was considered, but no action was taken until the following year. With the beginning of 1927, five of these schools were closed and the students were transported to the County Community, Arco, and Brunswick schools.

Enlarging the Campus

The County Community School continued to develop and grow. By 1936, the pupils had outgrown the school and more room was needed. In 1935, the Glynn County Board of Education applied for funds through the U. S. Public Works Administration to build more classroom space. In 1936, they received approval for funds to build three new schools in the county. One of these schools was to be an addition to the County Community School. The building was designed by local architect, Francis L. Abreu (1896-1969). Mr. Abreu, born in New York state, had gotten his degree at Cornell University in 1921 and had worked in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, until 1927 when the creation of the Cloister and the Sea Island development in Glynn County lured him to establish an office in Brunswick, Georgia. Before the additions to the County Community School, Abreu had worked for the Glynn County Board of Education on other projects and was selected as the architect for all of the new PWA schools in this county project. It was to be a rectangular building of red brick and it would provide ten new classrooms for the overcrowded County Community School. The construction contract was awarded to Mr. Farquhar M. McRae of Savannah, Georgia for the total amount of \$34,324.70. He was allotted 100 days to build the school. Construction began on December 30, 1935 and was completed on May 31, 1936.

Mr. Nathaniel Harrison Ballard had served as the superintendent of Glynn County Schools from 1901 to 1919. The Glynn County Board of Education realized the significance of the County Community School and the contributions Mr. Ballard had made for its development. It was approved that the County Community School would be renamed for Mr. Ballard as a tribute to his efforts to improve the schools in the county. The announcement of the naming of the school as the "Ballard School," was made in the March 4, 1936 edition of *The Brunswick News*. This naming of the school came about only a few weeks after Mr. Ballard's death in February. Mr. Ballard was born in 1866 in Palmetto, then in Campbell County, Georgia to Levi and Sarah Harrison Ballard. Mr. Levi Ballard had served as a state representative from Campbell County in 1884-85 and as a state senator from the same county in 1888-89. The Levi Ballard family home, built c. 1869, was placed on the National Register in 1980. Mr. N. H. Ballard was a graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in civil engineering. He started his profession as an engineer, but quickly became interested in education. He served as principal of the Wedowee High School in Wedowee, Alabama and as principal of the Meson Academy in Lexington, Georgia. He accepted the position as superintendent of Glynn County Schools and moved to Brunswick in 1901. He was very involved in local affairs serving as a member of the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Knights of Pythias, Elks, the Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Red Men, and Woodmen of the World. Mr. Ballard had been an important person in education. Not only was he the superintendent of Glynn County Schools for 18 years, but he also served as Georgia State Superintendent of schools from 1923-1925. As a part of his duties as state school superintendent, Mr. Ballard attended the annual school conventions and at one of these supported the act that stated that an election could be called in a county for a tax for the support of local school systems. This act was passed by the Georgia General Assembly.

The Ballard School continued to grow and in 1953 a cafeteria was built to the immediate north of the County Community School building and the 1936 PWA addition. Two wings of classrooms were also built just to the west of the cafeteria. The cafeteria and the classroom wings were designed by Matt L. Jorgensen of the firm of Abreu and Robeson, architects of Brunswick. All the buildings are built of concrete block with a brick veneer and a gabled, steel joist roof system with tar and gravel. The cafeteria provided space for lunches for the students as well as a stage at one end for special presentations and events held at the school. The classroom wings provided the much needed classroom space as the Ballard Campus was trying to keep up with the amount of pupils in the school system. This addition displayed a major change in the construction of school facilities. Materials such as concrete block, steel, metal windows, asbestos tile, and concrete slabs foundation replaced, brick walls, plaster and lath, wood tongue-and-groove floors, and wood windows. The wings are built so that the classrooms opened out onto a covered walkway. With the ends of the buildings being connected to a covered walkway running from the County Community School Building and the 1936 addition.

By 1962, a new wing of classrooms was needed to accommodate the growing number of students. This wing was built to the south of the 1936 addition. Joseph Schlosser of the firm of Miller, Schlosser, and Miller, architects of Brunswick designed it. It was built along the same design as the 1953 addition, but it provided a central hallway with classrooms radiating off this hallway. It is built of concrete block with a brick exterior veneer. The roof is flat with steel beams and a tar and gravel finish surface. This building is connected to the rest of the buildings by the same metal covered walkway.

The school has always been an elementary school, from its inception until its closing. It was originally built for white students, but was integrated by the early 1970s.

In 1991, a gymnasium was built at the northeast end of the property. This gymnasium is a metal building on a concrete slab foundation. It has an exterior brick veneer to a height of approximately nine feet. There are no windows in the building, but there are two large vents in the north and south facades.

The Ballard School was used as a school campus until 1999 when a new school was built in another part of the county and the students from the Ballard School were transferred to this new school building. It has been vacant from that time to the present. The windows were boarded up in 2001 to keep out vandals and the natural elements until a decision could be made on the future of the building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

J.E.B.. *History of Public Education in Glynn County*, no date given. Copy found in the special collection department of the Three Rivers Regional Library, Brunswick, Georgia.

Glynn County Board of Education. *Glynn County Schools: 1987-1988 Activity Calendar*, 1987.

Glynn County Board of Education. *1903-04 31st Annual Report of the Public Schools of Glynn County, Georgia and the City of Brunswick*. (Brunswick, GA: H. A. Wrench & Sons, c. 1904) Copy found in the Margaret Davis Cate Collection, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia, and on microfilm.

Orr, Dorothy. *A History of Education in Georgia*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1950.).

Rathbun, Merrilyn C. "Francis L. Abreu and Fort Lauderdale's Boomtime Architecture," *New River News (Fort Lauderdale Historical Society)*. XX (4), Spring 1982, pp. 3-10. (Copy in the Historic Preservation Division's Architects and Builders in Georgia files, under Abreu.)

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 9 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 451746 Northing 3452198

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Ballard School campus is the lot occupied by the school. It is marked on the enclosed Glynn County Tax Map no. 78-1.

Boundary Justification

The boundary for the Ballard School encompasses the historic resources and acreage representing the development and growth of the school site and all that remains associated with the school. The site is surrounded by modern commercial development, traffic thoroughfares, and modern and historic residential housing.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 47 Trinity Avenue, S. W., Suite 414-H
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** July 12, 2004
e-mail ken_thomas@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Darren Harper, President
organization The Brunswick Company
mailing address P. O. Box 1593
city or town Brunswick **state** Georgia **zip code** 31521-1593
telephone 912-261-0976
e-mail N/A

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Dr. Robert A. Winter, Superintendent
organization (if applicable) Glynn County Board of Education
mailing address 1313 Egmont Street
city or town Brunswick **state** Georgia **zip code** 31520
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: The Ballard School
City or Vicinity: Brunswick
County: Glynn County
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November 2002

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 23

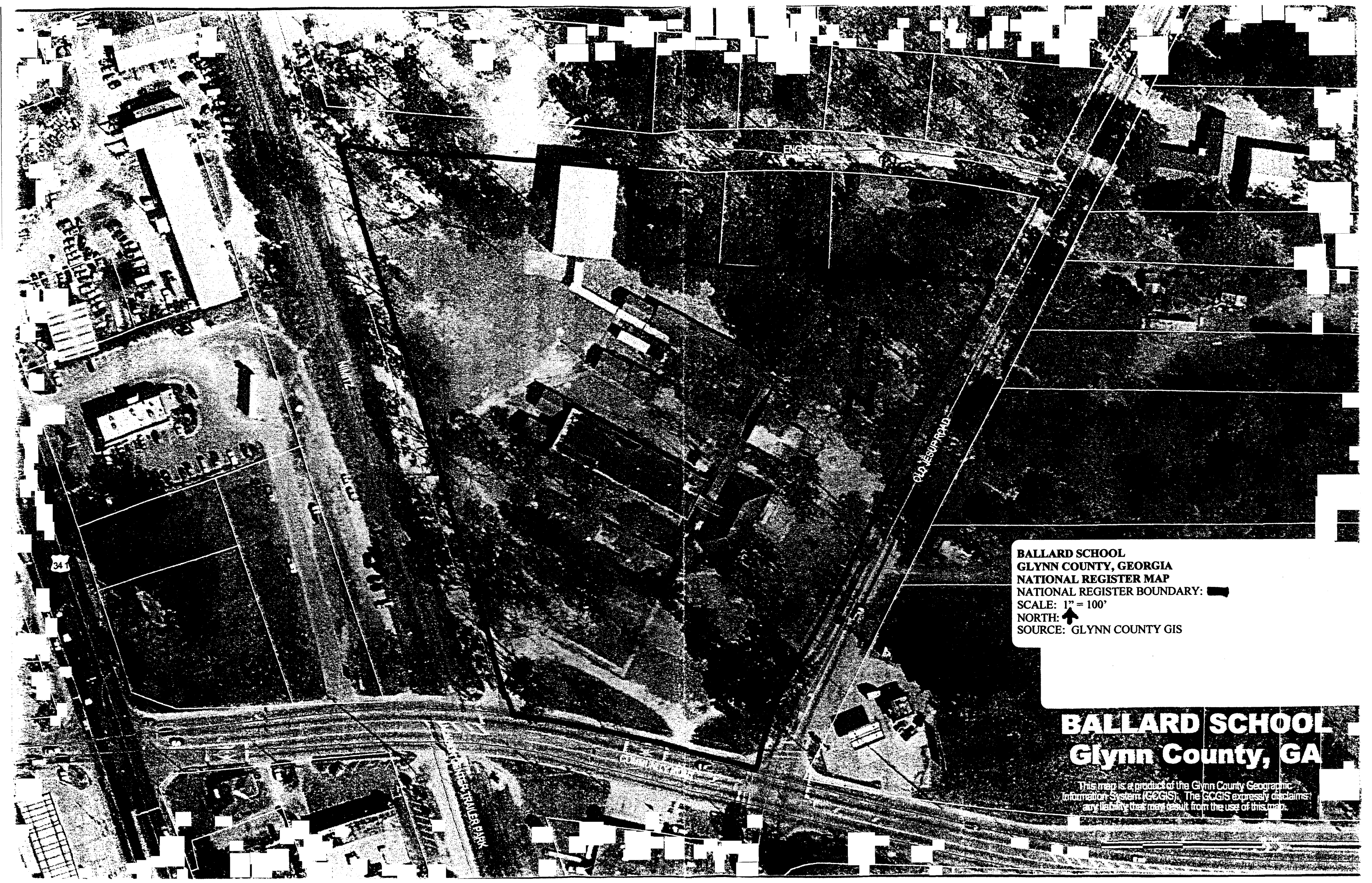
1. The 1915 Building/County Community School in foreground; photographer facing southwest.
2. The 1915 Building/County Community School in center; photographer facing northwest.
3. The 1915 Building/County Community School in center with 1962 building on left and 1953 cafeteria building on the right; photographer facing north.
4. The 1915 Building/County Community School in center with 1953 cafeteria building in the right foreground; photographer facing southwest.
5. Interior of the 1915 Building/County Community School; photographer facing northwest.
6. The 1936 Building in center, rear view with portable extension and part of 1962 building on the right; photographer facing northeast.
7. The 1936 Building, rear view showing the two portable extensions; photographer facing southeast.
8. Interior of a classroom in the 1936 Building; photographer facing southeast.
9. Interior of a classroom in the 1936 Building; photographer facing; photographer facing southeast.
10. Interior of the hallway in the 1936 Building showing lockers; photographer facing southeast.
11. The 1936 Building in the center with the 1962 Building on the right; photographer facing northeast.
12. The 1936 Building in the center, the 1962 Building on the right; photographer facing northeast.
13. The 1962 Building, front corner looking toward covered walkway toward 1915 Building; photographer facing northeast.



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

14. Interior of a classroom in the 1962 Building; photographer facing northwest.
15. Interior, hallway of the 1962 Building; photographer facing southeast.
16. Covered walkway linking the 1962 Building on the left, and the 1915 Building on the right, with the 1936 Building seen in the middle; photographer facing northwest.
17. Covered walkway linking the 1915 Building on the left, the 1953 Cafeteria Building on the right and the 1953 buildings in right rear; photographer facing northwest.
18. Covered walkway going across the complex with the 1915 Building on the left and the 1936 Building on the right, barely visible; photographer facing southwest.
19. The 1953 Cafeteria Building on the right; photographer facing northwest.
20. Interior of the 1953 Cafeteria Building, with stage with curtain labeled "BES" in rear; photographer facing southeast.
21. Detail of covered walkway around the northern 1953 classroom building; photographer facing northeast.
22. 1936 Building on the right, and southern 1953 classroom building's portable extension on the left; photographer facing southeast.
23. 1990s gymnasium in center, with portable extension of 1953 classroom building at right; photographer facing north.

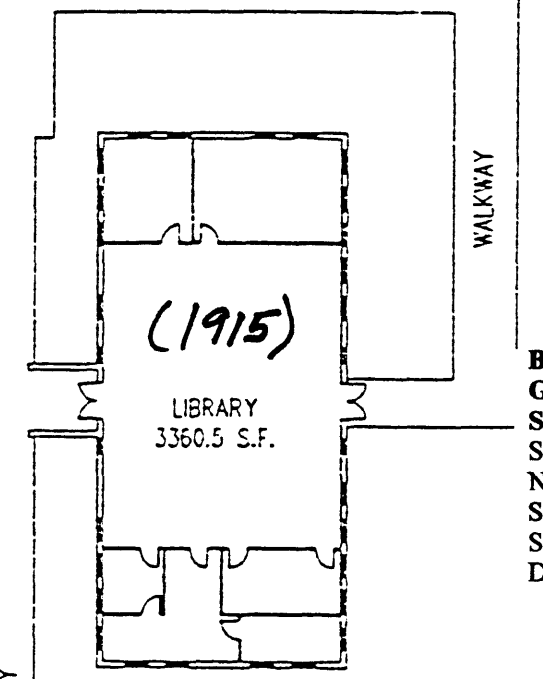
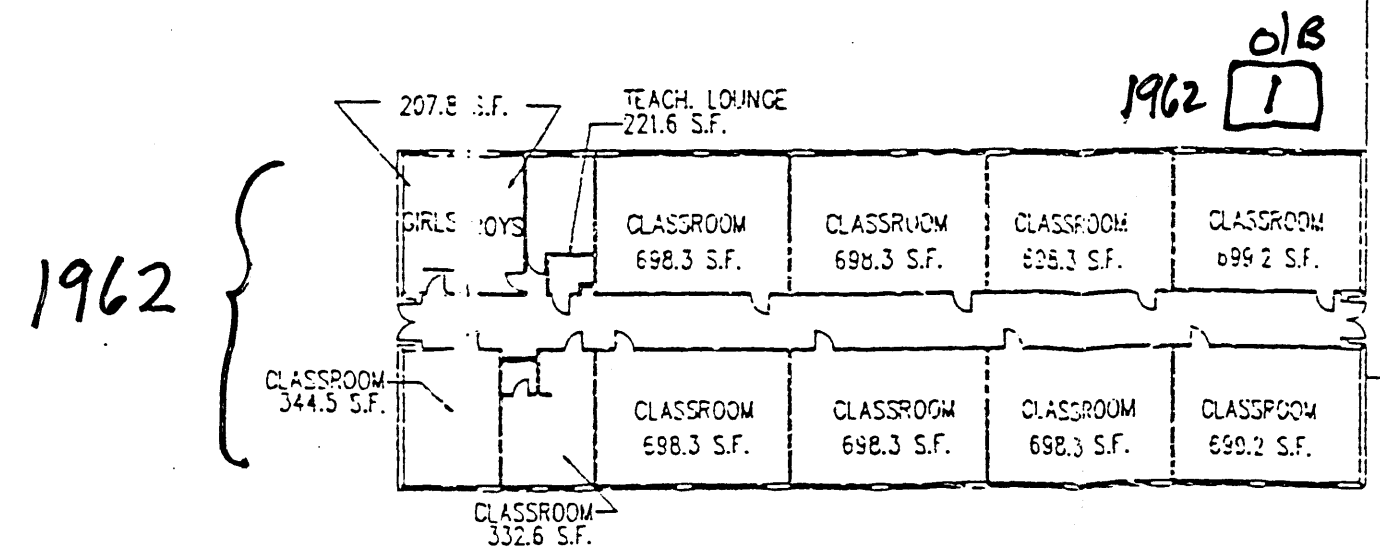
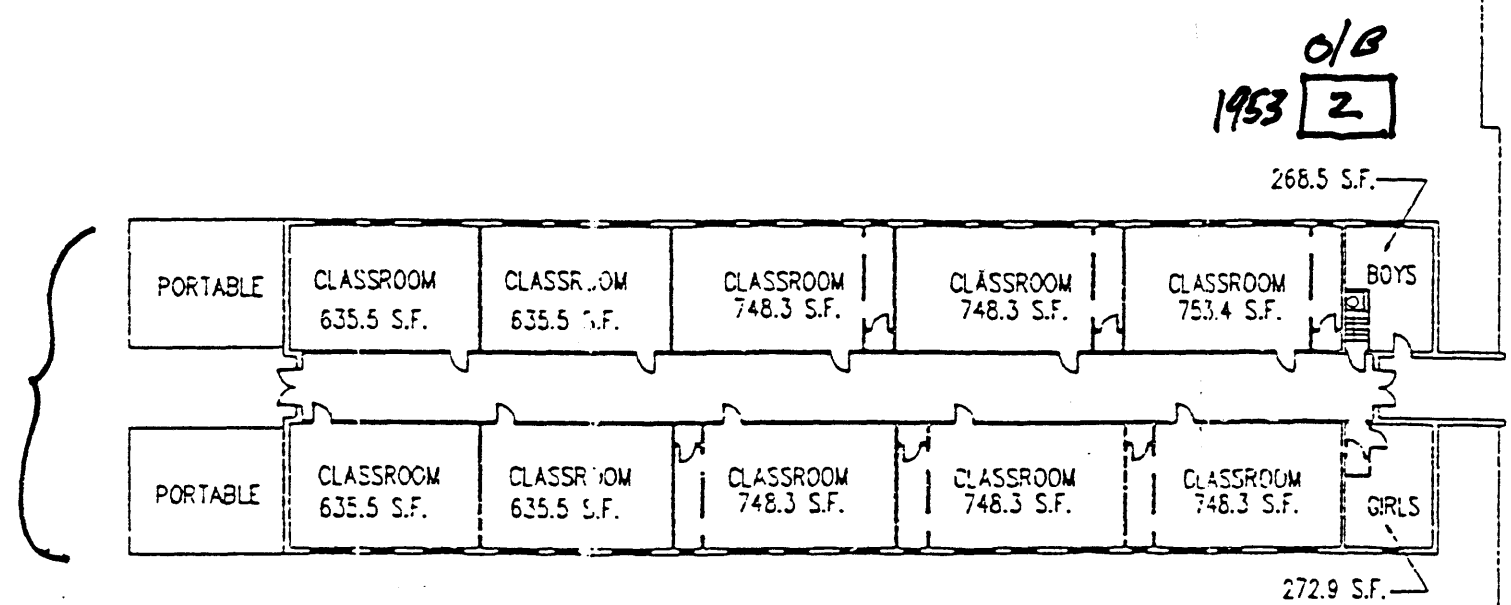
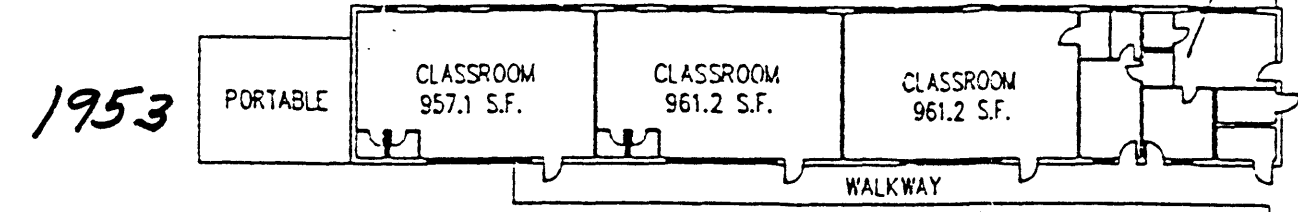
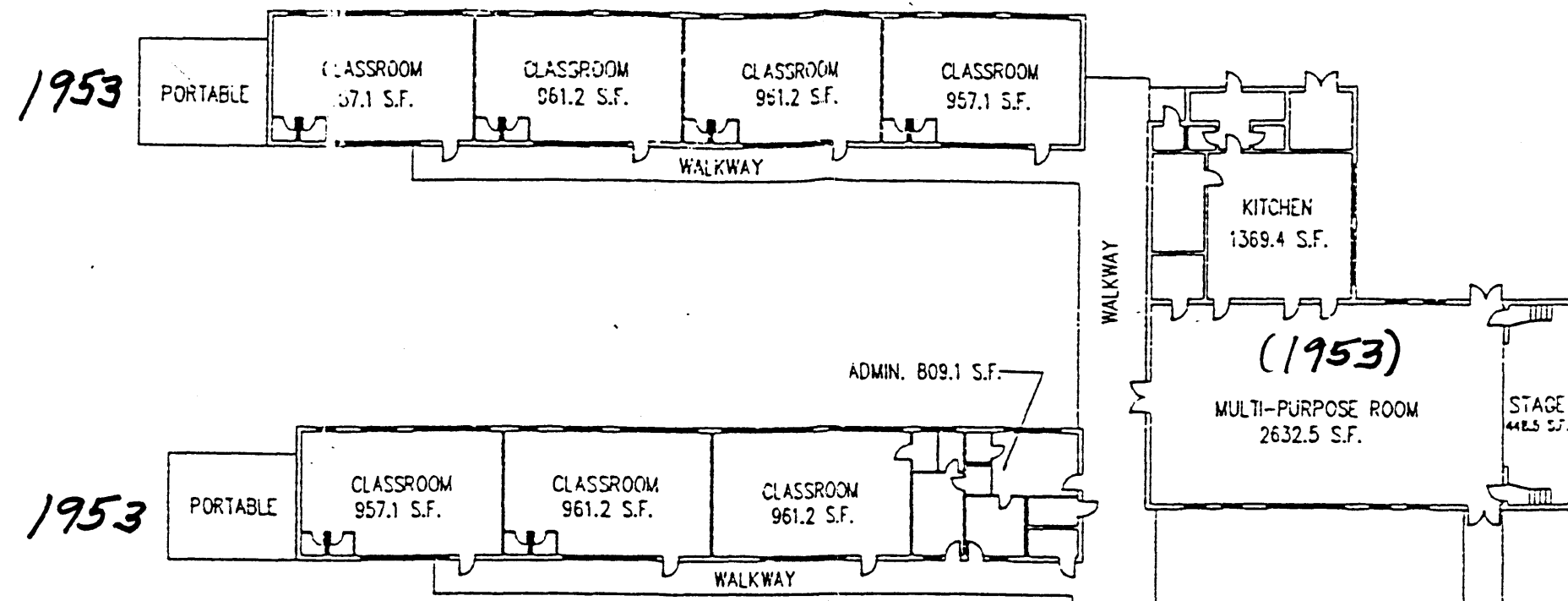
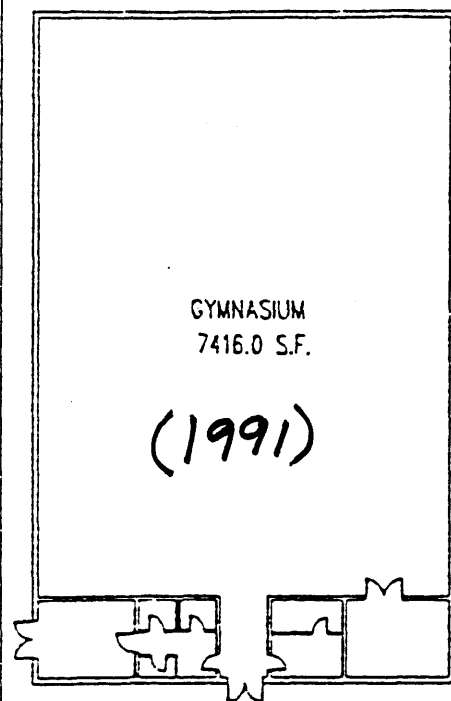
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



BALLARD SCHOOL
GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 
SCALE: 1" = 100'
NORTH: 
SOURCE: GLYNN COUNTY GIS

BALLARD SCHOOL
Glynn County, GA

This map is a product of the Glynn County Geographic Information System (GC GIS). The GC GIS expressly disclaims any liability that may result from the use of this map.

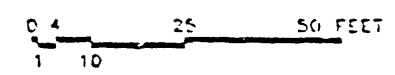


BALLARD SCHOOL
GLYNN COUNTY, GEORGIA
SITE MAP/FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 NORTH:

SOURCE: JOHN A. TUTEN FOR GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOLS
 DATE: 1993

NOTE
 ALL SQUARE FOOTAGES ARE
 NET SQUARE FOOTAGES FOR
 EACH ROOM

NOTE
 INFORMATION TAKEN FROM DRAWINGS BY
 FRANCIS ABRU 10-24-53, ABRU & ROBSON 1-15-53,
 AND MILLER SCHLOSSER MILLER 2-3-52 2-70-67
 FOR THE GLYNN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



No.	REVISIONS/SUBMISSIONS	Date
JOHN A. TUTEN & ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS. 1316 NEWCASTLE STREET BRUNSWICK, GEORGIA 31520		
GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOLS MASTER PLAN		
Drawing Title FLOOR PLAN BALLARD ELEMENTARY		
Drawn	Project No.	9107
Checked	CN: File No.	A101
Reviewed	Drawing No.	A101
Date		1-13-93