

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 21 1985  
date entered APR 18 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dasher High School

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 900 South Troup Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Valdosta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 013 code

county Lowndes

code 185

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Community Center

4. Owner of Property

Coastal Plains Area Economic Opportunity Authority, Inc.  
name Mr. F. J. Smrcina, Executive Director

street & number P. O. Box 1645

city, town Valdosta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 31601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Lowndes County Courthouse

city, town Valdosta

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Lowndes County  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Dasher High School is a one-story, early 20th-century school building with Tudoresque detailing. It is constructed of brick and tile block and has a gable roof. The building is laid out in a modified "T" pattern, with one bent arm of the "T". A main entrance is located at the top of the "T" opposite the auditorium/gymnasium which forms the tail of the "T" plan. A mid-1950s classroom wing has been added to the north arm of the "T". The main entrance has a recessed entry way situated behind a Tudor-arched opening and flanked by buttress-like piers. This area is highlighted by a parapeted cross gable that is detailed with diamond-patterned brickwork in relief. A second historic entrance is located at the south end of the building. Here, a small brick portico with arched openings projects from the end wall. This wall extends upward to form a parapet roofline, concealing the gable roof. The wall is detailed with simple brick patterning and terra cotta insets. The school's non-historic north end has the same parapet configuration but none of the detailing. The original window openings are still apparent, but the historic multi-paned wood-sash windows have been replaced with aluminum-framed windows and plywood paneling. A cupola atop the roof ridgeline behind the main entrance was added at the same time as was the auditorium/gymnasium in ca. 1939.

The interior is laid out with a double-loaded central corridor that runs the length of the school, intersecting with an entrance foyer at the main entrance. The overall interior arrangement of the classrooms and central corridor has been preserved, but almost no original interior finishes remain in place. Plaster walls, coat racks, transom-type hallway windows, heavy wood doors, and blackboards were all removed and replaced with modern materials in a recent remodeling. Walls are sheetrocked, many ceilings are covered with acoustic tiles, and floors are carpeted.

The school is located on level sandy ground. Large expanses of lawn, a few mature shade trees, and several palm trees are located around the school. To the north are several recent school buildings that were added to the school complex in the 1960s. These are not included in the nomination. A modest residential area with both historic and non-historic houses surrounds the school property.

### Boundary

The nominated property, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, includes the historic school building with its additions and its immediate landscaped setting. Later non-historic school buildings and parking lots are not included.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
<b>Specific dates</b>	1929	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Lloyd Greer, Architect J. N. Bray Co., Contractor	

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Dasher High School is historically significant in terms of architecture, education, and local history. In terms of architecture, the Dasher High School is a good example, although altered, of an important type of early 20th-century school building. In terms of education, the school is significant as the only one of three black high schools in Valdosta to have survived. Graduates of the school include many of Valdosta's early to mid-20th century black leaders as well as a cross-section of Valdosta's black community. These areas of significance support National Register eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, and C.

Architecture

Architecturally, the Dasher High School is a good example in Valdosta of the type of progressive school design that appeared around the state and the country in the 1920s. Its sprawling, one-story layout, which diverged from typical multi-story school designs of earlier periods, documents a new belief in educational circles of the period that a one-story school provides for more efficient heating, ventilation, lighting, and pupil circulation. The rather extensive exterior detailing of the school documents the commitment of the period to quality construction for public schools. This reflects a rising concern for and attention to education in Georgia during the 1920s. The Tudor-arched entrances, parapeted gables, elaborate diamond brickwork, and terra-cotta inlays on the exterior suggest a "Tudoresque" styling which makes references to the popular Tudor Revival style of the period. The architect of the school was Lloyd Barton Greer (1885-1952), a locally and regionally prominent architect who designed many houses, churches and institutional buildings in the area. Greer graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology's Architecture School in 1903, and in 1915 moved to Valdosta to set up an architectural practice. The construction workers who built the school were a mixture of black and white tradesmen. The foreman of the construction crew was white; the chief bricklayer was black.

Education and Local History

The Dasher High School was the third school to serve as a public high school for blacks in Valdosta; of the three it is the only one extant. From 1929, the date of its opening, until 1956 when it became a junior high school it was the sole black high school in Valdosta. Presently it serves as a senior citizen and community center. The school's first and only (while is served as a high school) principal was Rev. James L. Lomax, an important civic, religious, fraternal, and educational leader in the black community. Rev. Lomax (1898-1976) attended Fort Valley State College, Savannah State College, and Syracuse University. He became principal of Magnolia Street School (the black high school in Valdosta that preceded Dasher) in 1923 and continued to serve as a principal in Valdosta until he retired in 1967. In addition, he served for 34 years as pastor of Macedonia First Baptist Church in Valdosta. Graduates of the school include many of Valdosta's early to mid-20th century black leaders as well as a cross-section of Valdosta's black community. Among the most noted individuals attending the school were the

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Smrcina, F.J. "Outline of the Historic Preservation Section Historic Property Information Form and A Partial History of the Old Dasher High School," April 1981. On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, GA.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Approxjately 4 acres

Quadrangle name Valdosta, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	7	2	8	2	9	3	0	3	4	1	4	6	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is described and justified in Section 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date 2/28/85

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/14/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 4-18-85

*Delores Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

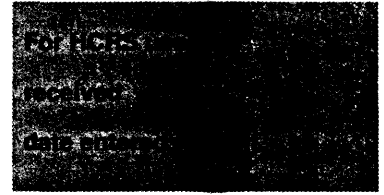
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

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8. Significance

author Ossie Davis (1917- ) and Louis Lomax (1923-1970) a noted writer who was also Rev. Lomax's adopted son. In more recent years the school has turned out school principals and administrators, a Rhodes scholar, and the first black elected to the Valdosta City Council. The school was named for Robert Dasher who when he was a member of the Valdosta Board of Education and Mayor of Valdosta donated the land for the school.