

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 Beulah Rucker House/School
other names/site number Gainesville High and Industrial School for Colored; Beulah Rucker Oliver Industrial School

2. Location

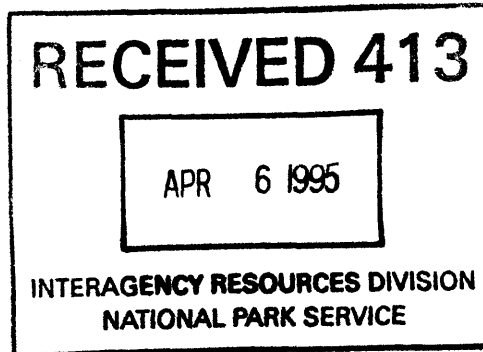
street & number 2110 Athens Highway
city, town Gainesville (X) **vicinity of**
county Hall **code** GA 139
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30501

(X) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- (X) private
- () public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal



Category of Property

- (X) building(s)
- () district
- () site
- () structure
- () object

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

3/21/95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
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

Edson H. Beall

5/4/95

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Entered in the
National Register
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
EDUCATION/education-related

Current Functions:

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

Materials:

foundation	stone
walls	wood
roof	metal
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Beulah Rucker Oliver House/School is located in Hall County in Gainesville, Georgia on the Athens Highway (US 129). The building is a c.1915 Georgian cottage that was used as a house and school (photo #1). It is a one-story building with a hipped, raised-seam metal roof, wood siding, six-paneled, wood front door, 4/4 double-hung windows, and a stone pier foundation (photo #2).

A central-passage house, it originally had two rooms on either side of the hall--an interior wall has been removed so that there is now one large room on the east side (photo #3). There are wood floors, simple wood mantels, and 1930s era hardware (photo #4). The off-center chimney was built by Beulah Rucker Oliver in the late 1910s of stones and red mud from the property (photo #5). Underneath the house the dug-out food cellar is still apparent (photo #5). A front shed porch and a rear kitchen addition have been removed.

A school building, dormitory, workshop, and cannery were on the site, but they have since burned or were torn down. A well which has been covered over is also on the property. There is a non-historic, concrete block Veterans school on the property that dates to the 1950s. The landscaping is minimal with mature oaks, young pines, and overgrowth.

The Beulah Rucker Museum and Educational Foundation, Inc. is currently rehabilitating the building for use as a community center

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):

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

Period of Significance:

c.1915-1945

Significant Dates:

c.1915 - Construction of Beulah Rucker Oliver House/School

Significant Person(s):

Beulah Rucker Oliver

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Beulah Rucker and Byrd Oliver - builders

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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Beulah Rucker Oliver House in Gainesville is significant in education and ethnic heritage: African American as the only surviving historic resource in the Gainesville High and Industrial School for Colored complex which was established ca. 1914 by Beulah Rucker Oliver (ca. 1890-1963), a noted black educator, who served as principal and teacher for over forty years. Serving the underprivileged, it was one of few black elementary schools in Hall County and the only black high school. It was also the only school in the area that taught industrial skills to blacks. Crops were grown on site and the students made and sold bricks, hats, and woven rugs to help supplement operating costs and to learn skills.

The building was the Oliver family's residence from ca. 1915 until Mrs. Oliver's death in 1963. The building also served as the school building from ca. 1915 to ca. 1920 when the Rosenwald Foundation gave money to the school, on a matching funds basis, to build a new school house, a dormitory, cannery, and workshop. These buildings are no longer standing.

National Register Criteria

The Beulah Rucker Oliver House/School is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and B for its significance in the educational and ethnic history of Gainesville and Hall County and for its association with Beulah Rucker Oliver.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The house/school was built c.1915 and 1945 is the fifty-year mark for historical significance.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The house/school is the contributing resource and the nonhistoric Veterans school is the noncontributing resource.

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Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

NOTE: The following history was prepared by Karen High, et al. "Beulah Rucker House/School," Historic Property Information Form, Summer 1991. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta.

Born in Banks County, Georgia, Beulah Rucker (ca. 1890-1963) was one of eight children born to Caroline Wiley and Willis Rucker, who were sharecropper farmers. From her first day of school, Ms. Rucker wanted to be a school teacher. She attended Knox Institute, a boarding high school in Athens, Georgia, while cleaning houses to help pay her tuition since her parents, in Ms. Rucker's words, were "financially handicapped." Graduating in 1909, Ms. Rucker began teaching in private and public schools, teaching music, and making and selling hats to save money to begin her own school. In 1911, Ms. Rucker opened her first school. It was during this time that Ms. Rucker married Reverend Byrd Oliver and kept her name for business purposes. The present site of the former Beulah Rucker Oliver Industrial School was first purchased in 1914 by Beulah Rucker from John Hayden. While teaching and running the school, Ms. Rucker found time to get a college degree from Savannah State College in 1944 by taking summer, extension, correspondence, and short courses.

Initially in 1911, Ms. Rucker bought 12 acres off the Athens Highway in order to locate her industrial school near the Southern Railway crossing in Gainesville to the country. Ms. Rucker wanted to build a school for her people, the black children of Gainesville. The school was established to provide an education for people of limited means. The school was started around 1911 in a house on the old Athens Highway, northeast from the present site, off the railroad tracks. In 1914, Ms. Rucker left the old house behind and moved to the country so that the school could grow their own food to help supplement costs. Although students boarded at the school for most of the year, many children worked to help supplement the school by cleaning for the Chicopee Mill or by selling rugs or hats and making bricks. These industrial trades were taught at the school along with a standard educational curriculum. The importance of prayer and devotion were also major components of the education taught by Beulah Rucker.

At first, the Olivers lived and taught school in a small shack rented from the original property owner. Later, a stable was moved to the property and converted into a house and school to save the cost of rent on the shack. The house which still stands on the property, which is the subject of this nomination, was built between 1914 and 1916 by Beulah and her husband Byrd Oliver as a residence for themselves and their children and a schoolhouse during the day. Ms.

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Rucker kept her maiden name after marriage since most of her business acquaintances knew her by that name. Their children Garfield, Dorothy, Carree, and Elvernia were all born in the house in 1916, 1919, 1925, and 1929, respectively. This was the first building built by the Olivers at the site. The house has a four room, central hall plan with two bedrooms on one side, and a living room and work room on the other. Later the same year, Ms. Rucker built a chimney onto the house herself using rocks found at the site. A cellar was dugout beneath the house and used as a storage area and pantry.

Around 1918 or 1920, the school was visited by a representative of the Rosenwald Foundation, an organization that gave grants to build schools and expand black education in America. The Rosenwald Foundation, on a matching funds basis, built a new school house, a dormitory and workshop for the Industrial School. After receiving the Rosenwald grant, the school expanded from an elementary school to include high school. At the time there was no high school for blacks in Hall County. During this thriving period, the attendance of the school reached up to 200 students.

During the Great Depression, the workshop was torn down for wood to improve the other buildings. The boarding house and school both burned between 1949 and 1950, and army barracks from Atlanta were brought in and converted into classroom and sleeping quarters.

The high school was consolidated with the Gainesville city schools in 1951. The lower school grades 1-8 continued and a night school for veterans was opened. This school offered classes up to the 12th grade and courses in trade skills. The veterans learned how to make bricks at the school, and built a new workshop for the complex around 1956 that still exists on the site.

Beulah Rucker continued to run the elementary school until around 1957 when the rest of the school consolidated with the city. Ms. Rucker passed away in 1963 and the property passed on to Ms. Rucker's children.

The cannery was demolished in the 1960s and the Rucker house was rented out as a residence after the schools moved out. Before Ms. Rucker died, she asked her children to erect a memorial and specified that the land on which the house sits and the school existed should always be for public use. In 1971, a reunion was organized to raise money for the Beulah Rucker Memorial Community Center. Although little money was raised, in 1976 some renovations were made on the house including repairing damaged flooring and walls, adding wall paper, removing one interior wall and removal of the deteriorated front porch. The building now stands vacant, but the Oliver children and friends of the Rucker School, which make up the Beulah Rucker

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Museum and Educational Foundation, Inc., are in the process of establishing a community center as a memorial to Beulah Rucker Oliver, and possibly using the house as a museum. The property was a 1994 Georgia Heritage 2000 Grant recipient from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

9. Major Bibliographic References

High, Karen, et al. "Beulah Rucker House/School," Historic Property Information Form, Summer 1991. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

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 #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

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):

n/a

NOTE: This property was listed in the Georgia Register of Historic Places on July 8, 1994.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 5 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 243370 Northing 3796730

Verbal Boundary Description

The Beulah Rucker Oliver House/School boundaries are indicated with a heavy black line on the enclosed tax map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The property boundaries represent the historic and current legal boundaries associated with the house/school building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Historic Preservation Division, 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** March 30, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

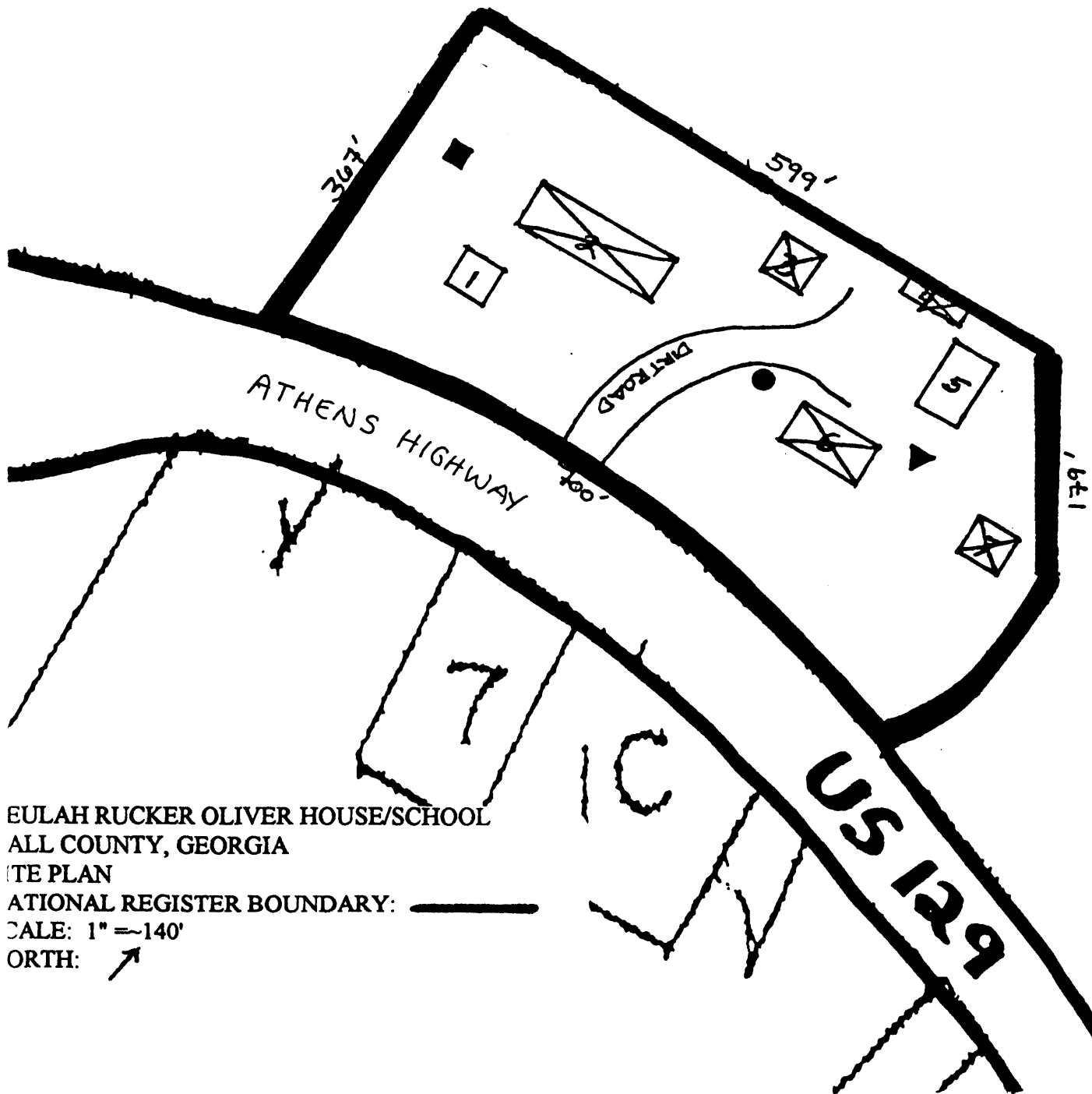
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Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Beulah Rucker House/School
City or Vicinity: Gainesville
County: Hall
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June 1994

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 5: Southeast corner; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 5: Northwest corner; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 5: Central hall; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 5: Work room with looms; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 5: Cellar and base of chimney; photographer facing east.

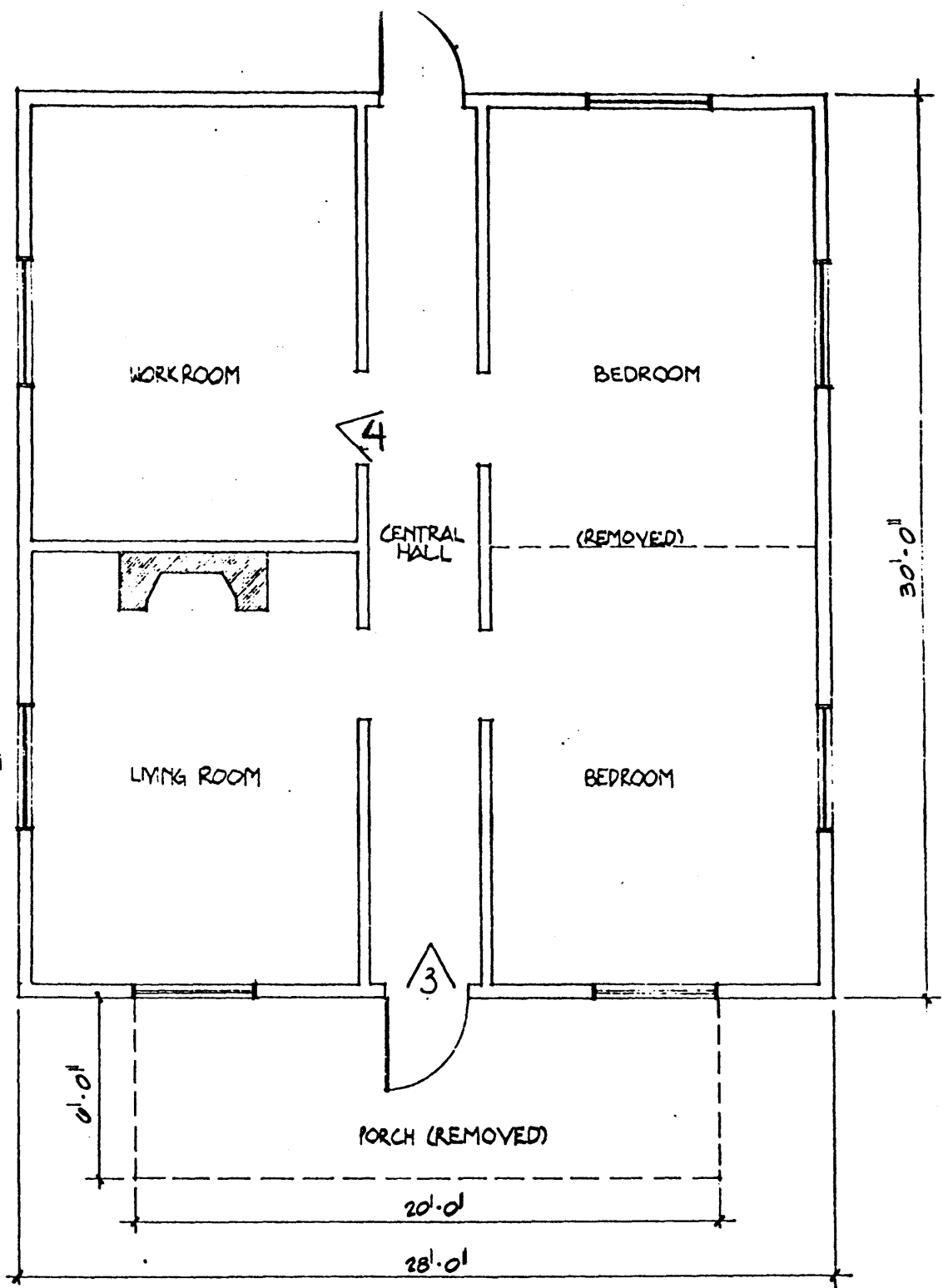


EULAH RUCKER OLIVER HOUSE/SCHOOL
 ALL COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SITE PLAN
 NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:
 SCALE: 1" = 140'
 NORTH: ↑

- 1 The Rucker Oliver House
house/school
c. 1914
- 2 The School House
Initial and Rosenwald
c. 1914, c. 1920
- 3 The Cannery
built by Rosenwald fund
c. 1920
- 4 Gymnasium
c. 1956
- 5 Veterans School
classrooms
c. 1956
- 6 Boarding House
classrooms/residence
c. 1920, barracks 1949
- 7 The Workshop
c. 1920
- ▬ Proposed Boundary
- Well - date unknown
- Outhouse - gone
- ▼ Outdoor Pavillion - c. 1956
- Existing
- ⊗ Gone
- ↑ NORTH

SCALE: 1" = 140'

2



NOTE:
ALL ROOM
USES ARE
HISTORIC

JEULAH RUCKER OLIVER HOUSE/SCHOOL
HALL COUNTY, GEORGIA
FLOOR PLAN
PHOTOGRAPHS/DIRECTION OF VIEW: >
NORTH: ↗

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