

679

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 Poulan Library
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number South side of 100 block of Church Street
city, town Poulan () vicinity of
county Worth code GA 321
state Georgia code GA zip code 31781

() not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Richard Clowes
Signature of certifying official

6-5-03
Date

W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson A. Beal 7/25/03

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: library
SOCIAL: clubhouse

Current Functions:

EDUCATION: library

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation	CONCRETE
walls	CONCRETE
roof	ASPHALT
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Poulan Public Library is located on Church Street in the historic residential area of the small town of Poulan in southwest Georgia.

The small, one-story, one-room building was constructed in 1908 of cast-concrete block resembling rough-faced stone (photographs 1-4). The building features a pyramidal roof with wide, flared eaves, a symmetrical façade, and distinctive quoins on its corners. Decorative features include the cast-concrete sign above the entrance, which reads "Library," and the cornerstone, which reads "Poulan Library 1908" (photograph 5). The windows are the original two-over-two double-hung sash windows with cast-concrete lintels and sills. The library was built in an understated Colonial Revival design with its symmetry on all four facades and distinct quoins and lintels.

The interior of the building features one room lined with shelves (photographs 6-7). The building retains its original plaster walls, bead-board ceiling, simple wood door and window surrounds, and wood floor under vinyl.

Landscaping on the small lot consists of foundation plantings, grassed lawn, and four square concrete fence posts. The Poulan Library still serves as the town library.

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
OTHER: Women's History

Period of Significance:

1908 - 1953

Significant Dates:

1908 – construction of the library

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Poulan is a small town located in Worth County in southwest Georgia. The town of Poulan was founded in 1877 by John G. McPhaul, a North Carolinian, and was one of the towns that developed along the Brunswick and Albany Railroad during the 1870s. McPhaul was involved in many of the major economic and civic activities in Poulan during its early settlement. He owned a general store, produced turpentine, was a railroad agent, and organized and was president of Poulan Cotton Mills and Poulan Bank as well as donating land for the Presbyterian church in Poulan. During the first decade of the 20th century, Poulan was prospering as a small town with an agricultural-based economy. According to the April 26, 1907 edition of the Worth County Local, Poulan's industries included a cotton mill, saw mills, planing mills, shingle mills, overall factory, turpentine still, novelty works, ginnery, wagon and buggy factory, etc., as well as a few mercantile enterprises including the Poulan Drug Co. The population at this time was 474 people.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries was a period of civic improvement and civic involvement throughout the United States. Part of this civic improvement included the construction of libraries. Poulan was no different than many small towns of this era. On April 27, 1908, John McPhaul and other citizens helped secure a charter for a public library in the name of "Poulan Public Library." The library was built in the same year on land sold by McPhaul to the library's board of trustees.

The Poulan Library is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent, intact example of a small town public building. The building retains its original exterior and interior materials, simple ornamentation, and floor plan. The building features understated elements of the Colonial Revival style including symmetrical facades on all four sides and decorative quoins and lintels. The use of cast concrete block as an inexpensive alternative to stone is a noteworthy feature, popular in the early 20th century.

The library is significant in the area of education as a good example of a small town public library constructed in the early 20th century. The early 20th century was a time of great civic improvement throughout the country, including the construction of public libraries. Between 1896 and 1925, public libraries in the U.S. increased from 900 to 3,900, in part due to the philanthropy of Andrew Carnegie and others. Public libraries served communities by having books available to citizens and as meeting space for civic groups. The Poulan Public Library, including its original collection of books, was a gift to the city from Chase Osborn, philanthropist and governor of Michigan from 1911 to 1913. Osborne was a part-time resident of Worth County and often stayed at his nearby estate, Possum Poke (National Register listed August 26, 1982). Also, Poulan Public Library served as the only public library in Worth County until the Worth County Public Library was opened in nearby Sylvester in 1931.

The library is significant in the area of women's history as the meeting space for the Poulan Women's Club from its founding in 1916 through the 1930s. Women's clubs were important social and community organizations; many built and owned their own clubhouses, while others, like this one, used space in local public buildings.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

The Poulan Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of a small town public building built in the early 20th century. The building is also eligible under Criterion A for its use in public education as the only public library in Poulan and for women's history for its use as a meeting place for the Poulan Women's Club.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the date of construction for the building, 1908, and ends with the end of the historic period, 1953 for its continued use as Poulan's public library.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

There is only one resource on the property, the library, which is contributing.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

N/A

9. Major Bibliographic References

"Application for Charter." Worth County Local. (April 24, 1908).

Grubbs, Lillie Martin. History of Worth County, Georgia: For the First 80 Years, 1854-1934. Macon, GA: J.W. Burke Co., 1934.

"John G. McPhaul Dies Suddenly, Pioneer Citizen of Worth." Worth County Local. (November 2, 1917).

MacDonald, Alex. "Poulan Library," Historic Property Information Form, December 31, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Pithless Paragraphs from Pretty, Prosperous Poulan." Worth County Local. (April 26, 1907).

Segers, Carolynn. "Poulan Library Open Eight Decades." Albany Herald. (April 1991).

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 0.05 acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 235235 Northing 3489610

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy, black line, drawn to scale, encompassing parcel 87 and the right-of-way.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary is the current legal boundary including the right-of-way and comprises the historic acreage associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 4, 2003
e-mail gretchen_brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Alex MacDonald/Preservation Planner
organization Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center
mailing address PO Box 346
city or town Camilla **state** Georgia **zip code** 31730
telephone (229) 522-3552
e-mail amacdonald@swgrdc.org

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Diane Harris
organization (if applicable) City of Poulan
mailing address PO Box 69
city or town Poulan **state** Georgia **zip code** 31781
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

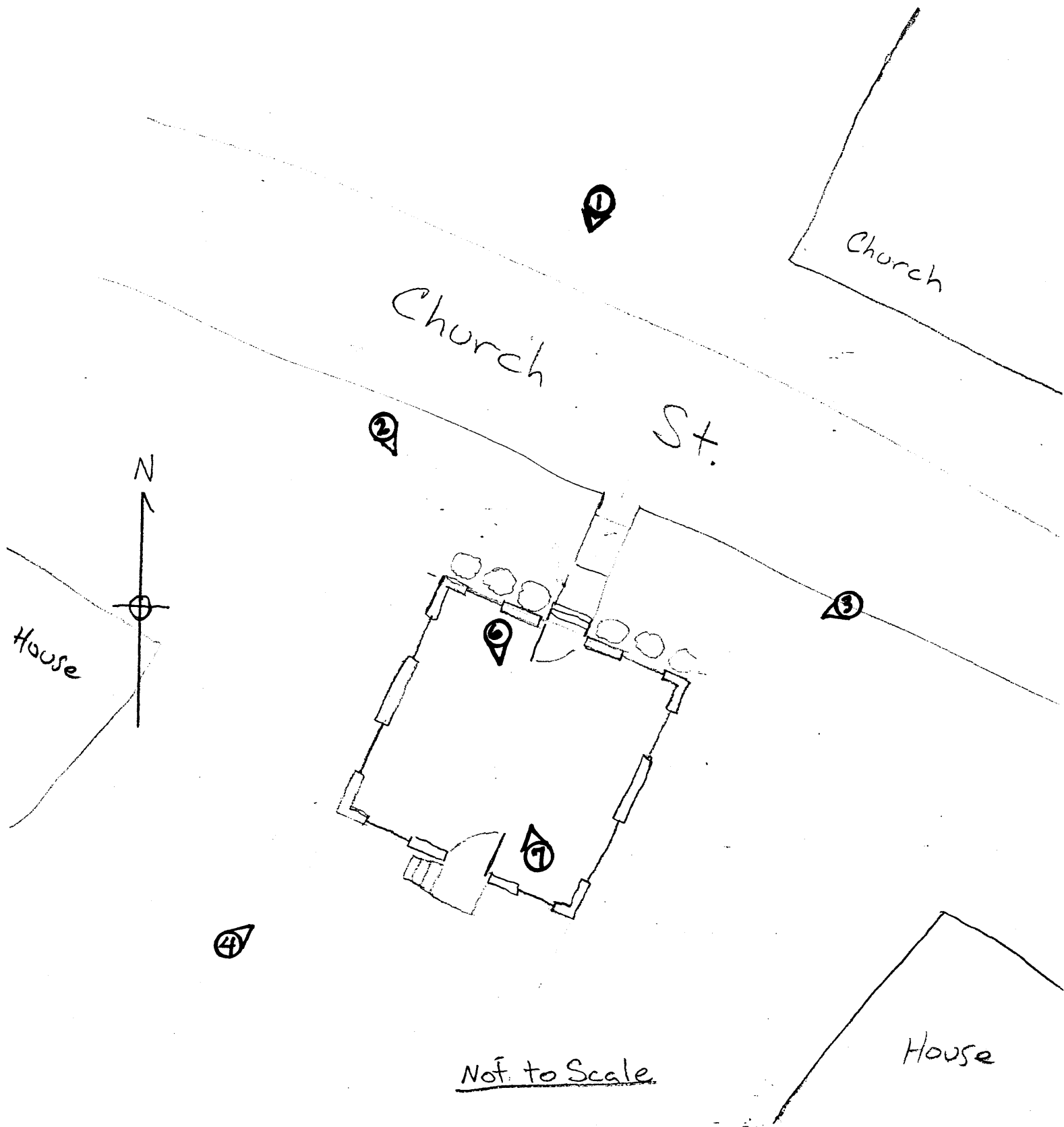
Name of Property: Poulan Library
City or Vicinity: Poulan
County: Worth
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November 2002

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 7


1. Front façade; photographer facing south.
2. Front (north) and west facades; photographer facing southeast.
3. Front (north) and east facades; photographer facing southwest.
4. Rear façade; photographer facing northeast.
5. Detail of front façade, cornerstone; photographer facing south.
6. Interior; photographer facing southeast.
7. Interior; photograph facing north.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



POULAN LIBRARY
WORTH COUNTY, GEORGIA
SITE PLAN/FLOOR PLAN
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①
 NORTH: ↑
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: ALEX MACDONALD

Poulan, Georgia



**POULAN LIBRARY
WORTH COUNTY, GEORGIA
TAX MAP**

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 

NORTH: 

SCALE: 1" = 100'

SOURCE: WOTH COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE