

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 30 1984
date entered JUN 28 1984

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

1. Name

historic Chestnut Grove School

and or common

2. Location

street & number 610 Epps Bridge Road, N/A not for publication

city, town Athens, Ga. X vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Clarke code 059

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Chestnut Grove Baptist Church

street & number c/o Mrs. Roberta Barnett, 3140 Atlanta Highway

city, town Athens N/A vicinity of state Georgia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Clarke County Courthouse

city, town Athens state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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

Chestnut Grove School, constructed in 1896, is a one-room schoolhouse, located at the southwest intersection of Epps Bridge Road and Timothy Bridge Road, west of Athens. The building is rectangular in shape, sheathed in weatherboards, and has a hipped roof. It is raised on low cornerstone piers.

Three large double-hung sash windows with solid wooden shutters line each side of the structure. A single wooden door on the eastern facade provides the only entrance into the building. A narrow rectangular brick chimney is built into the south side of the structure. Recent restoration activity has included the replacement in-kind of the roof and portions of the boxed cornice and weatherboarding.

The interior of the schoolhouse consists of tongue-and-groove pine board with black paint for use as a chalkboard, while the upper portion is white. The floor and ceiling have been removed because of deterioration and are under repair, and the joists are exposed. The building has no electrical or plumbing fixtures.

The structural system is wood balloon frame construction of rough-sawn pine boards. Heating was provided by a pot-bellied stove which was vented through a chimney on the south wall.

Boundary

The boundary of the property consists of ten feet to the north and south of the schoolhouse and twenty feet to the east and west of the building. The boundary includes the landscaping to the rear of the school; however, it does not include the nearby non-historic Chestnut Grove Church building, parking lot, and cemetery. The boundary of convenience, as described, was selected because of the lack of obvious topographic boundary and the absence of an appropriate current legal boundary description.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
Specific dates	1896	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Chestnut Grove School is significant in the areas of architecture, education, local history, and social/humanitarian. Architecturally, it is significant as a one-room schoolhouse built in the late-nineteenth century in rural Georgia. In terms of education and local history, it is important for its contribution to black education and the life of the surrounding black community. In the area of social/humanitarian history, the building functioned as a meeting place for nearby church groups. The Chestnut Grove School meets National Register criteria A and C.

In terms of architecture, the Chestnut Grove School is significant as one of the few remaining single-room schoolhouses in Clarke County and the state, built in the late-nineteenth century. The primitive conditions evidenced in this structure, including the lack of interior plumbing and lighting and the use of a wood stove for heat, were typical of small rural school facilities for both black and white children.

Concerning the area of education, Chestnut Grove School is significant for its association with the education of black children in Clarke County and Georgia at the turn of the century. It is indicative of educational practices in a rural area where there was a single classroom instructor responsible for teaching basic reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography to all ages of children from the nearby countryside. Chestnut Grove School further illustrates the history of public education in rural communities in Georgia where student attendance was higher in winter months when children had no farming-related responsibilities to keep them at home.

In reference to the social/humanitarian area of significance, Chestnut Grove School was used as a meeting place for the nearby church congregation and the Baptist Aid Lodge, and for social gatherings for the black community at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and picnics during the summer months. In this way, it served this rural black community as a social as well as educational facility.

In terms of local history, the Chestnut Grove School is important for its association with the surrounding black community, which provided the land, the labor, and many of the materials to build the school. The school has remained a source of pride and commitment by the local black community to the education of their children. It is under restoration as a result of the efforts of former students who remember their teachers and the education they received there.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Barnett, Roberta, and James K. Reap, "Historic Property Information Form: Chestnut Grove School," April, 1982. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Athens West, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	2	7	4	6	1	0	3	7	5	7	2	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary description and justification are included in Section 7.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date April 26, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/22/84

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

6/28/84

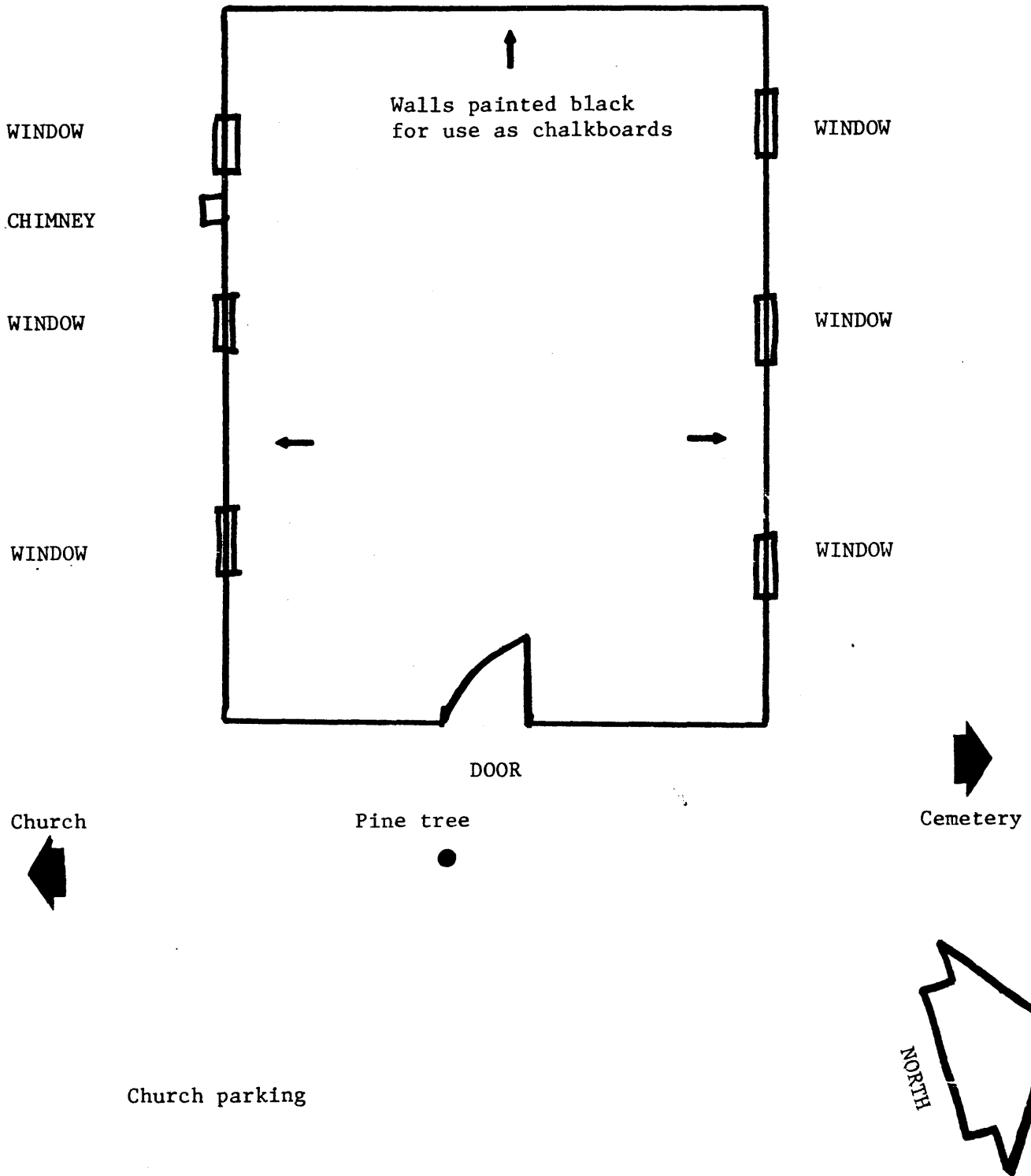
for *Alvin Byers*
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Spring Bulbs, Large Trees, Wisteria, Roses



SKETCH MAP

Chestnut Grove School
Vicinity of Athens, Clarke County, Georgia
Map not to scale