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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Lone Oak Academy
other names/site number Prospect Academy; Lone Oak Community Building

2. Location

street & number 4945 Lone Oak Road/Georgia State Route 54
city, town Lone Oak (X) vicinity of
county Meriwether **code** GA 199
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30230

(N/A) not for publication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	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	1
objects	1	1
total	2	2

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 12-18-01
Signature of certifying official Date

for W. Ray Luce, Division Director and 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. Boall 1-28-02

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet _____

Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/meeting hall

GOVERNMENT/fire station

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Summary Description:

The Lone Oak Academy is a one-story, wood-frame, rectangular building with wood lap siding, side-oriented gable roof, a brick foundation, and double-hung windows. There are double entrance doors on the front facade and concrete steps. There are two chimneys and a continuous brick foundation covering the older piers. On the interior is one large room with a raised stage at the west end and a partitioned kitchen area at the north end. At the stage end there is an original roll-up canvas curtain with advertising and a lake scene from the 1930s. The building sits on a large lawn with landscaping, a flagpole, and the former school bell on a stone pedestal in front, a well immediately behind the building, and parking, a barbeque pavilion, a restroom building, and community fire station farther to the rear of the lot. None are historic save the bell, and the boundary of the nominated property has been drawn to exclude the barbeque pavilion, restroom building, and fire station. The building is located in a residential area in the small town of Lone Oak. There have been few changes, most notably the addition of a handicapped access ramp and metal door awnings.

Narrative Description:

The Lone Oak Academy building is 34' x 46', one-story, rectangular wood-frame building with wood lap siding, side-oriented gable roof, bricked foundation, double-hung 6-over-6 windows, single entrance door on the south (back) side with wooden wheelchair ramp; and two doors on the north (front) side. (Photos 1, 2, and 5.) Remnants of an interior chimney peek out of the roof's north side; there is also an exterior chimney at the rear of the building. Doors have metal awnings, and the front doors have concrete steps. The building sits about half-way back on a long three-acre site, with

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Section 7--Description

parking, barbeque pavilion, restroom building and community fire station behind it. A gravel drive approaches the building from the north, then wraps around both sides of the building, connecting to the rear parking area.

A continuous brick foundation covers older piers. There is a side-oriented gable roof which is made of composition shingle/asphalt shingle, with older wood shakes evident underneath. There is wood lap siding with boards that are about 4½ inches wide. (Photos 1, 2.)

There are foundation plantings on all sides of the building. There are metal awnings over all three doors. The windows have green wood shutters. The building's original school bell sits on the front lawn on a stone pedestal. The original well site, with recent wooden housing, is located behind the building. (Photos 1, 2, 5, and 6.)

The academy's interior consists of a single room, with a raised stage at the west end, and partitioned kitchen area at the north end. (Photo 9)

At the west end of the room is a raised platform stage. (Photo 11.) The stage has a roll-up canvas curtain, with a full-color painted lake scene surrounded on all four sides by advertisements from the time it was created. There are 24 advertisements surrounding the painting. The curtain dates to the 1930s and is in good shape. (Photo 12.) It is similar to others found in Georgia schools or auditorium buildings from that era. At the north end of the stage is the town's last post office booth, 5 ½' long, 4' wide, 7' tall, donated and moved to the community building, and dating to the turn of the century (1900 A.D.). (Photo 10.)

Directly behind the building is a barbeque pavilion, built in 1965. Adjacent to the pavilion is a small bathroom building, made of cement blocks, painted white, built between 1975 and 1980. (Photo 7.) Farther back is the community fire station, built in 1976. (Photo 8.) These are all public buildings, although none is yet historic, and all have been excluded from the nominated property.

There are residences on both sides of the site. On the east side is an older house, barn, and small wood outbuildings, painted white. On the west side is a newer house, with chain link fence, and a row of trees along the fence line. Across Georgia State Route 54, to the north, is a field. The general character is rural and quiet.

Changes to the building have been minimal. In the 1920s a porch was added to the front of the building; this porch was removed in 1951. Also in 1951, a room partition was removed, reverting the building to its earlier one-room layout. A handicapped ramp (photo 6) has been added recently, as have metal awnings over the front and rear doors.

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
Art
Education

Period of Significance:

c.1870-1944

Significant Dates:

c.1870

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Lone Oak Academy is significant in architecture as a good, intact example of a one-room school house, built and used for that purpose. It retains its original woodwork on the interior and exterior. The academy is the archetypical one-room schoolhouse. Once common, these buildings are now extremely rare. According to the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, there may be only 200 examples left statewide (or about one per county), and less than half a dozen are listed on the National Register. Very few are as old as this one.

The building is significant in art because of the surviving 1930s roll-up curtain with its lake scene and local advertising border containing 24 local advertisements from the 1930s. It is one of a few surviving curtains from that era in Georgia.

The building is also significant in education because it was built to be and served as a one-room school/academy from its construction c.1870 until 1944. During that time it was the only educational building for white students in this small rural community. Since 1951 it has served as a community center.

National Register Criteria

The academy meets National Register criterion A because as a one-room school it fits in to one of the major movements of American history, that of publicly supported education. This building served as a school through several different eras from a private academy to a locally supported one-room school until it closed in 1944. The buildings meets National Register criterion C because it retains much of its original architectural workmanship and continues to look like it is a one-room school. It has its original windows and doors, floors, and original one-room configuration with a 20th-century stage and roll-up curtain having been added to keep it a viable local institution.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance runs from the construction of the original schoolhouse until 1944, when it ceased to be a school.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing: 2: 1 building (the school)
 1 object (the bell)

Noncontributing: 2: 1 noncontributing structure: well house
 1 noncontributing object, the flag pole.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Lone Oak is a small crossroads town in northwestern Meriwether County, about 7 miles east of downtown Hogansville, 5 miles west of Luthersville, and 13 miles north of Greenville, the county seat. Incorporated in 1901, the municipal boundaries encompass one square mile, with an estimated 165 residents in 1996. The surrounding landscape is rolling, rural, with woods, fields and streams.

Meriwether County grew rapidly after the 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs and subsequent 1827 Land Lottery in which the former Indian land was distributed to potential white settlers. The county was created from Troup County in 1827. Lone Oak was originally part of the county's Eleventh District, and site of the Eleventh District Justice Court.

The 1830 Census recorded a Meriwether county population of over 4,000. The population continued to grow rapidly until 1850. Much of the early settlement appears to have been in and around Greenville, the county seat. A strong agricultural economy developed, with plantations in the central part of the county and to the southwest, while the north and southeastern sections of the county were apparently more suited to subsistence based farming. An exception to this trend was the early gold mining community of Gold Hill (to be later incorporated as Lone Oak).

In 1830 Daniel Fling built a pioneer plantation cottage on 400 acres described by historian Regina Pinkston as "an undulating area of woods and streams." These 400 acres were to become the community of Lone Oak as Mr. Fling and his descendants sold off plots of land. For a brief time, this early community was called "Fling's Crossroads."

Around 1835, gold was discovered in the local streams. Gold mining became a profitable industry. Gold was panned from the streams and stream branches between 1835 and 1840; later a mine was established north of town. The town, and its first post office, became known as Gold Hill. Tradition has it that the town was also once called "Graball," due to two rival families that accused each other of trying to grab everything. The local gold mine (Wilkes Gold Mine) was operated until sometime after the Civil War. It still exists, abandoned.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Although the town was briefly called Gold Hill and perhaps Graball, it has also been known as Lone Oak for at least 150 years. The origin of this name was the sole Post Oak tree that stood at the community's crossroads.

Lone Oak was, and is, a Methodist town, with two Methodist churches (white and black). The community's earliest schools were affiliated with its churches. The first Methodist church was called Smith's Chapel. When the Methodist Church called "Prospect" was moved to the crossroads between 1845 and 1850 from nearby Liberty Hill Road, the Smith Chapel congregation transferred to Prospect, and the Smith Chapel building became a school.

Prospect Church was associated with two well-loved residents, Dr. Young John Allen and Dr. James Wideman Lee. Young John Allen (1836-1907) was raised in Lone Oak, attended Prospect Church (leaping out a church window when he was saved), graduated from Emory College, and became Georgia's first Missionary Ambassador to China, where he was made an honorary Chinese Mandarin. On his return trips to the States, he would preach to overflow crowds at his hometown church. Dr. James Lee was a Lone Oak native who held important positions in the Methodist Conference and became pastor of a leading church in St. Louis, Missouri, where he gained recognition as one of Methodism's greatest preachers. When the old Prospect Church was rebuilt in 1939, it was renamed the Allen-Lee Memorial Methodist Church, in honor of these two men.

Lone Oak Academy

On November 12, 1870 John Powledge deeded one acre of land to the Trustees of Prospect Academy for the construction of a new school. This school was to serve the extreme northwest areas of Meriwether County. Two other deeds, one from Daniel Fling on November 12, 1887, and one from J. R. Sewell on February 14, 1894, added two additional acres of land. At this time, the school became known as the Lone Oak Academy.

At the academy, two to three teachers would instruct up to 100 students of various school ages, originally in one room. Later a partition was built, creating two rooms, each room accommodating five grades. A number of boarding students attended this academy. This two-room system was continued until 1944, when the Lone Oak school was closed and consolidated with the Luthersville school, six miles away.

The building remained vacant and unused from 1944 until 1951 when it was renovated by local citizens participating in a statewide community improvement contest. As part of this renovation, a porch that had been added in the 1920s was removed. Awnings were installed over the building's doors. The room partition was also removed, reverting the building to its original one-room layout. The building became known as the Lone Oak Community Building. A barbeque pavilion was constructed behind the building in 1965.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

In 1970 the building was deeded to the Town of Lone Oak by the Meriwether County Board of Education. In 1976, a community fire station was built toward the rear of the 3-acre lot. About this time, a small bathroom building was constructed next to the barbeque pavilion.

The original school building continues to serve the citizens of the area as a meeting place for government, civic, and social activities. The Lone Oak Community Club has potluck dinner meetings in the building the first Tuesday every month. Since the club was formed in 1951, the group has missed only two of its monthly meetings, once due to an ice storm and the other time due to a death in the community. About 30 members typically attend each meeting, often representing at least four generations. At each meeting, funds are collected to help maintain the Community Building.

The Lone Oak Community Club was the sponsoring organization for the town of Lone Oak's entry in 1952 for the Georgia Power Champion Home Town Contest. The town won honorable mention in the under 1,000 population, along with two county seats. The club continued to enter the town in subsequent contests and submitted a detailed report of annual events of civic beautification and improvement.

Residents also use the building for weddings and wedding showers, fund raisers (such as Womanless Weddings, Old Maid Convention, barbeques and bake sales), and as a voting place. Church services have also been held in this building: from 1934 (when the old Prospect Methodist Church was demolished) to 1939 (when the new Allen-Lee Memorial Methodist Church was completed).

This building also has the aspect of a local history museum. Framed documents relating to the building and community are mounted on the walls. Since 1951, the Lone Oak Community Club has kept detailed scrapbooks in the building, relating to their community improvement projects, with photographs and news clippings. Also, in the north corner of the building, actually sitting on the side of the stage, is the small post office structure that was last operated by the late Guy Strickland in his store. This was Lone Oak's last post office, discontinued in 1902 when mail was then routed to Hogansville instead. Mr. Strickland's heirs gave the post office structure to the people of Lone Oak to be placed in the Lone Oak Academy, now the Lone Oak Community Building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Miller, Lynne S. Draft Historic Property Information Form, "Prospect Academy/Lone Oak Academy," July 15, 1999; and additional information submission, November 5, 1999, including copies of original documents, historic photographs, etc. Copy on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

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

Acreege of Property approx. 2 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 703820 Northing 3672300

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line on the enclosed tax map comprising the northern two-thirds of parcel 33.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that remains associated with the building. Nonhistoric buildings on land behind the historic schoolhouse have been excluded from the nominated property.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, SW, Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** December 10, 2001

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

name/title Lynne S. Miller/Preservation Planner
organization Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center
street and number P.O. Box 1600
city or town Franklin **state** Georgia **zip code** 30217
telephone (770) 854-6026

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Lone Oak Academy
City or Vicinity: Lone Oak
County: Meriwether
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 2000

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 12: Lone Oak Academy, front facade, with school bell in left foreground; photographer facing southwest.

2 of 12: Lone Oak Academy, front facade with school bell in right foreground; photographer facing southwest.

3 of 12: Lone Oak Academy, northeast corner of building looking toward bell and entrance circle with flagpole in distance on left; photographer facing northwest.

4 of 12: Flagpole and entrance drive and lawn; photographer facing northeast.

5 of 12: Lone Oak Academy, rear facade with well on left; photographer facing north.

6 of 12: Well with academy in background; photographer facing northeast.

7 of 12: Outbuildings, with barbeque pavilion on left and bathroom building on right (excluded from the nomination), academy roof in background; photographer facing north.

8 of 12: Fire Station on left, barbeque pavilion on right (excluded from the nomination); photographer facing southwest.

9 of 12: Interior of academy showing kitchen area on left, photograph taken from the stage area; photographer facing northeast.

10 of 12: Interior of academy with post office area on left next to stage, also at left, and entrance/front facade doors in background; photographer facing north.

11 of 12: Interior of academy, stage with curtain raised and post office on right; photographer facing northwest.

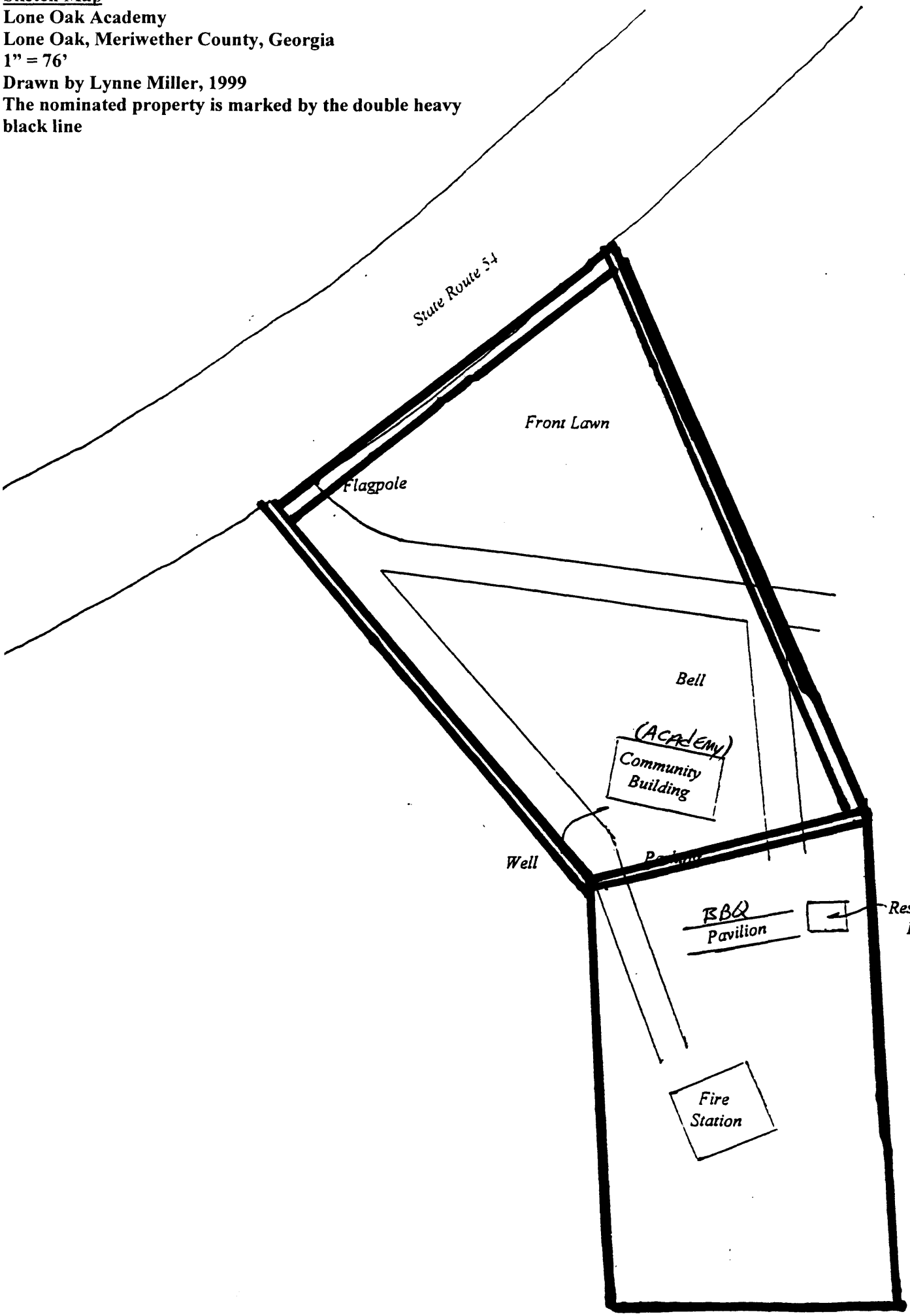
12 of 12: Interior of academy, stage with curtain lowered; photographer facing northwest.

Lone Oak Academy
Lone Oak, Meriwether County, Georgia
1" = 200'
Tax Map 26A
Meriwether County Tax Assessor's Office, c. 1999
The nominated property parcel 33 is marked with a heavy black line



Lone Oak Academy
Lone Oak, Meriwether County, Georgia
1" = 76'

Drawn by Lynne Miller, 1999
The nominated property is marked by the double heavy black line



Floor Plan

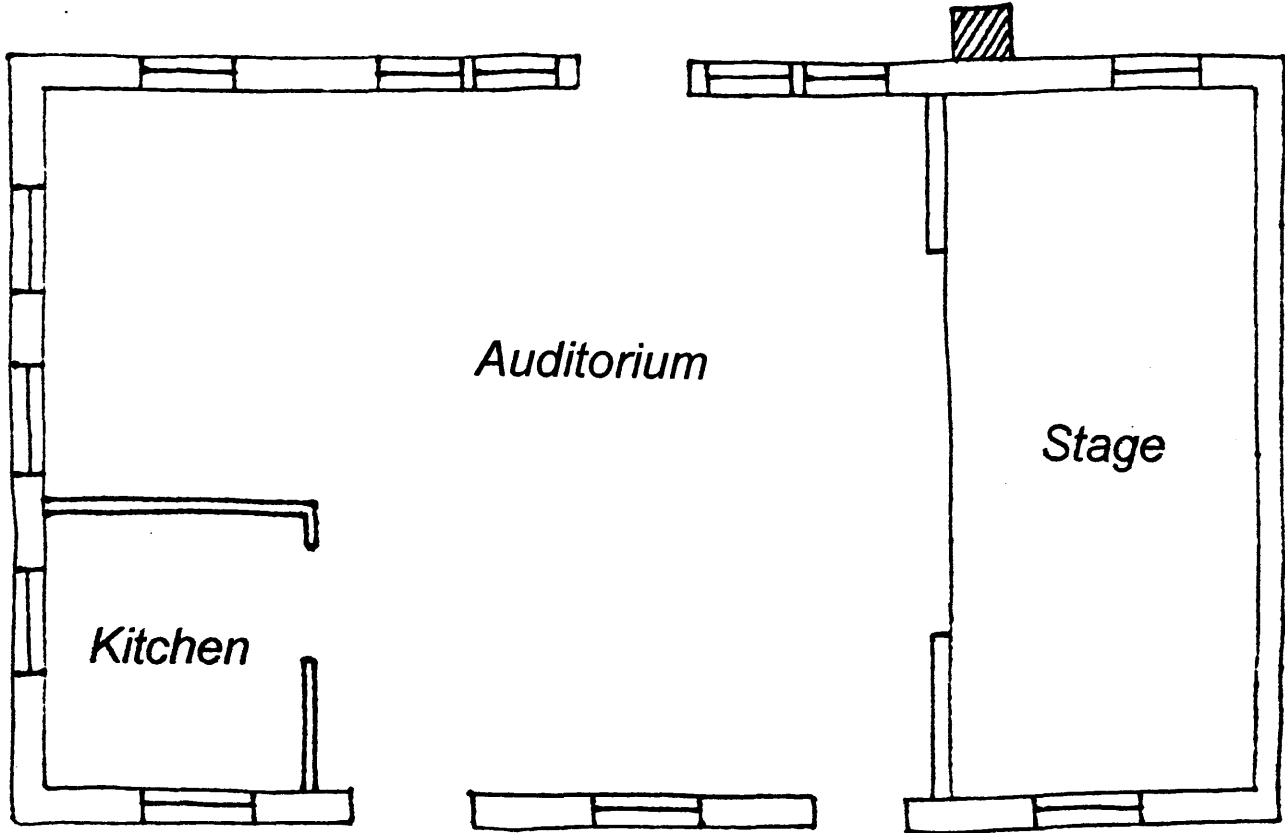
Lone Oak Academy

Lone Oak, Meriwether County, Georgia

Not to scale

Drawn by Steven Moffson, 2001

All features appear on floor plan



Lone Oak Academy
Lone Oak, Meriwether County, Georgia
Floor Plan
No Scale

