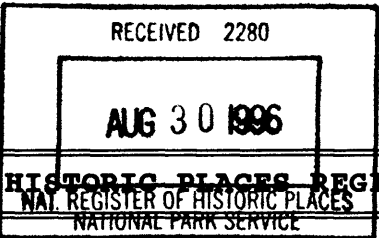


1035



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 Sumner High School
other names/site number Sumner Elementary School

2. Location

street & number 716 Walnut Street
city, town Sumner (N/A) vicinity of
county Worth code GA 321
state Georgia code GA zip code 31789

(N/A) not for publication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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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

8-23-96

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

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall

9.26.96

Entered in the
National Register

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/High School

Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/T-plan

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick veneer
roof	asphalt shingles
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Sumner High School is located in Sumner, a small town located in the southeast portion of Worth County along US 82/SR 50. Within the Sumner city limits, the High School is located east of the center of town.

The Sumner High School is a one-story, T-plan, brick-veneer building with exposed rafter tails built in 1938-1939. The windows have been boarded; however, a historic photograph illustrates that the windows were double hung with twelve-over-twelve lights, and most of these survive intact under the plywood enclosures. The front entrance is marked by the major distinctive architectural feature of the building, a parapet. The school building has had no additions.

The interior of the school has remained intact. The front entrance is located in the center, entering into a cross hall with classrooms on the front side of the hall. A science room and library are located on the other side of the hall. The auditorium is located directly across from the main entrance to complete the T-plan shape of the building. The school building retains its original floors, transoms, wainscoting, doors, windows, auditorium seats, and light fixtures.

The school sits on a large lot which contains two non-historic auxiliary buildings built at a later date: a cafeteria/canning plant (1959), and a small schoolhouse (1962). There are houses across the street and a city park to the northeast. The non-historic gym (1954) is south of the school but has been sold to private owners. The high school is vacant; however, the auditorium is used occasionally for community events. The school building is in fair to good condition.

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
ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1938-1946

Significant Dates:

1938-1939

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Architect is unknown.
Built under the auspices of the Works Projects Administration (WPA).

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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 Sumner High School is significant as a historic landmark community building in the small town of Sumner. The school represents the influence of state-mandated school consolidation in the early 20th Century and the assistance of the federal government's Depression-era building programs.

The Sumner High School is significant in education because it was the first consolidated white high school for this portion of Worth county, one of the county's four consolidated school districts, showing the state's movement toward better education by creating regional schools. Home economics and agricultural practices were taught at the school. The agriculture students would learn of farm production using conventional and experimental crop techniques, and home economic students would center their projects on their family's home. As a result of the interaction between the school and home, a strong relationship formed between the two.

During its first year, the school had eleven teachers and 374 white students. Sumner High School was considered to be one of the best accredited high schools in southern Georgia. It continued as a high school until 1960, when further consolidation merged all the high schools into that of the county seat of Sylvester. In that same year, Sumner High School was renamed Sumner Elementary School and housed grades one through eight. In the fall of 1970, Sumner Elementary School was combined with the local black school, Parker Elementary, to comply with Section VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Sumner High School is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a T-plan school building built with limited funds by the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and as a community landmark building. It was built to be a consolidated high school for white students of one of the county's four districts. This type of school is characteristic of early 20th century consolidated schools in Georgia. It reflects almost no ornamentation due to limited funds, except for a brick parapet located above the main entrance, but does retain original wood floors, transoms, doors, wainscoting, auditorium seats, and other interior features. The school served as a focal point for many community activities and the auditorium remains the largest county-owned auditorium space.

The Sumner High School is significant in politics and government because the school was built due to the federal government's

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Depression-era building programs. The school was built with \$26,250 worth of bonds sold during the Great Depression, and the labor was provided through the Works Projects Administration (WPA).

National Register Criteria

The Sumner High School meets Criterion A because it is significant as the first consolidated white school for this portion of Worth county. The school also meets National Register Criterion C because it is a good intact example of a T-plan school built under the auspices of the WPA with limited funding.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is from 1938, the year the school was constructed, to 1946, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Sumner High School is the only contributing resource located within the National Register boundary. Two noncontributing resources, the cafeteria/canning plant (1959) and the four-room school house (1962), are located just west of the school. The two auxiliary buildings were determined to be noncontributing resources since were constructed outside the period of significance.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The city of Sumner, located within the Coastal Plain region of Georgia, developed along the Brunswick and Albany Railroad (now the Seaboard Coast Line) during the early to mid-1870s. The town was named after John C. Sumner, who owned the land near the railroad, and the city charter was signed in 1883. Early community development consisted of sawmills, turpentine stills, mercantile establishments, a post office, a doctor's office, schools, and churches. In 1883, the population of the town was composed of 42 white families and 21 black families. The 1909 census of taxpayers reflected a town of 176 white individuals and 167 black individuals.

The original school in Sumner was constructed in 1882, opened in 1885, and burned in 1895. Smaller schools existed until the construction of

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Continuation Sheet

Section 8

the existing Sumner High School in 1938. The school officially opened in the fall of 1939. The school was constructed under the auspices of the Works Projects Administration (WPA) and originally housed grades eight through eleven. The school population, consisting of only white students due to segregation, represented the consolidation of several surrounding schools within the Sumner school district. The curriculum included home economics and agriculture/farm production. The twelfth grade was added to the school in 1952.

At the conclusion of the 1959-1960 academic school year, Sumner High School was consolidated, along with other high schools, into the Worth County High School in Sylvester. Sumner High School was renamed Sumner Elementary and housed academic grades one through eight.

As a result of Section VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, all of Georgia's public schools were required to be desegregated. In the fall of 1970, Parker Elementary, Sumner's black school, was paired with Sumner Elementary. Grades one through four were housed at Parker Elementary and grades five through eight remained at Sumner Elementary. At the beginning of the 1975-1976 academic school year, all students transferred to Parker Elementary.

After restoration of the Sumner High School auditorium in the early 1980's, it was maintained as a community meeting place. Currently, the school classrooms are vacant and the auditorium is occasionally used for community events. A residence was constructed in 1938 by the local school board for the Sumner High School principal; however, the residence burned and a modern structure is now located on the site. Also, the school was awarded Georgia Heritage 2000 Grant funding in November 1995.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Young, Raymond. "Sumner High School". Historic Property Information Form, February 13, 1995. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Ga.

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 240200 Northing 3489100

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary of the nominated property is marked on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary encompasses the block of school land traditionally associated with the school and still owned by the school board and includes the historic school and two non-historic auxiliary buildings: the cafeteria/canning plant and the 4-room school house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Pallante, National Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street, N.W.
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** August 1996

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

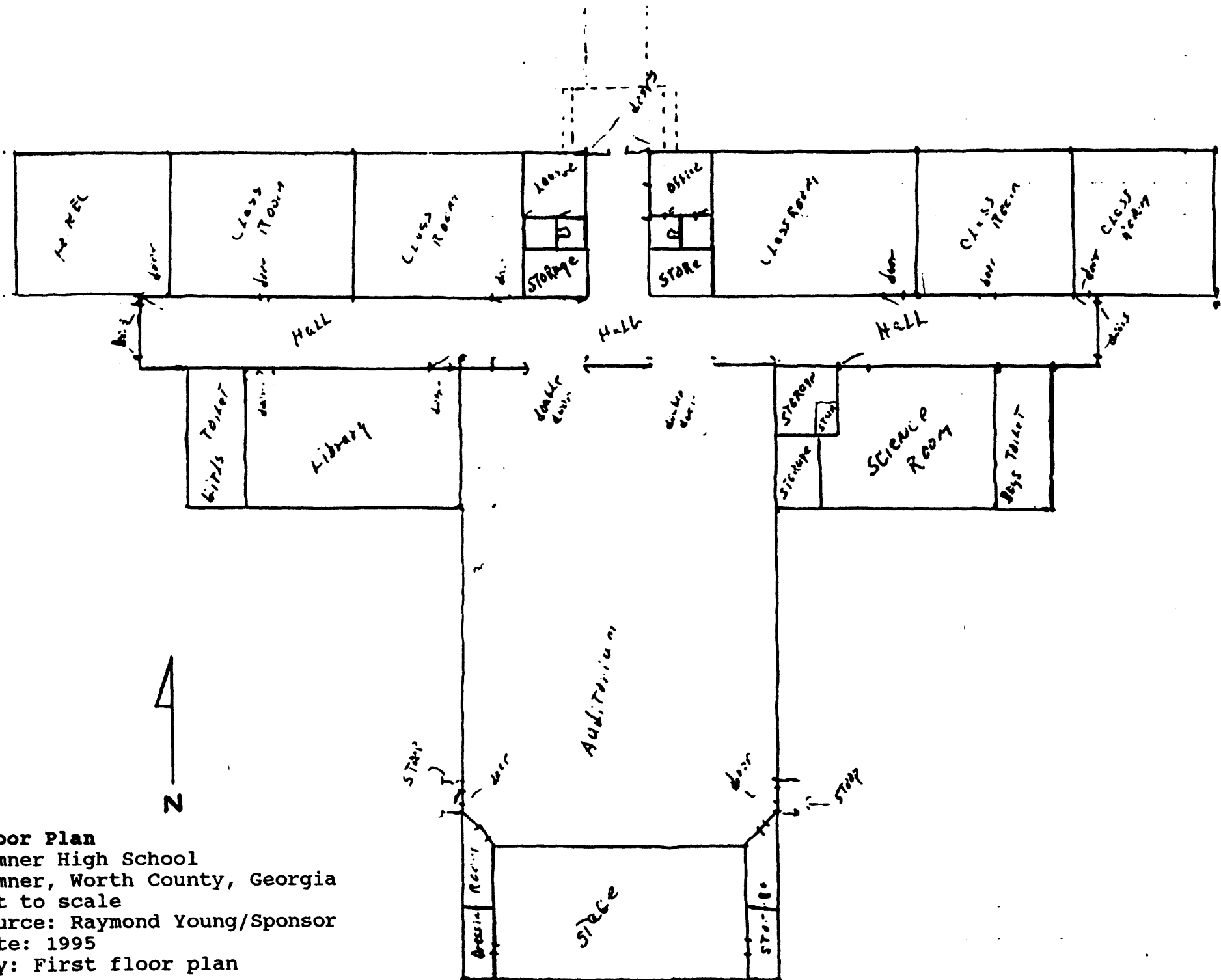
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Sumner High School
City or Vicinity: Sumner
County: Worth
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November 1995

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 12 Walnut Street main entrance; photographer facing south.
- 2 of 12 Front Facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 12 Front Facade; photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 12 Rear Facade/Auditorium; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 12 Rear Facade/Auditorium; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 12 Four-room School building; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 12 Auditorium (not included within National Register boundary);
photographer facing southeast.
- 8 of 12 Main hallway; photographer facing west.
- 9 of 12 Main entrance; photographer facing northeast.
- 10 of 12 Auditorium; photographer facing south.
- 11 of 12 Library; photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 12 Classroom; photographer facing east.



Floor Plan
 Summer High School
 Summer, Worth County, Georgia
 Not to scale
 Source: Raymond Young/Sponsor
 Date: 1995
 Key: First floor plan

Site Plan

Sumner High School

Sumner, Worth County, Georgia

Scale: 1"=100'

Source: Worth Co. Tax Assessors
Office

Date: 1990

Key: The nominated parcel is marked
by a heavy black line.

