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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 HAWKES CHILDREN'S LIBRARY OF WEST POINT
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 100 West 8th St. (N/A) vicinity of
city, town West Point
county Troup code GA 285
state Georgia code GA zip code 31833

(N/A) not for publication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 | 0 |
| objects | 0 | 0 |
| total | 1 | 0 |

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

11/30/90
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
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

**Entered in the
National Register**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Melvin Byrum 12/28/90

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

for
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions:

EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

GEORGIAN REVIVAL

Materials:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| foundation | brick |
| walls | brick |
| roof | asphalt shingles |
| other | n/a |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Hawkes Children's Library, located facing the Chattahoochee River in the center of West Point, is a one-story, brick structure in the Georgian Revival Style with end chimneys, fine wood moldings, and a central entrance portico of brick with a special design above the front door. On the interior, the library consists of one large room which in the original design was divided into the central "delivery hall", the children's reading room on the east and the general reading room on the west, with rest rooms at the rear or north end. That layout is still in use today, although the library now serves mostly as a location for adult fiction, children's books, and local history. On the inside there are fine hardwood shelves including built-in book shelves and seating around the walls. Other built-in equipment includes two original fireplaces, one of which is within a seating/reading alcove. There are no outbuildings, but a small park-like setting has been created behind the library through the use of various plantings. There are a historical marker and a boulder with a plaque on the grounds. The library is facing the City Hall and a former residence across a dead end street and only a block from the central business district. There is a service station immediately across the street on the west and the garden center building immediately to the north (rear). A handicapped access ramp has been added at the front entrance and is the only major change to the building.

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

Period of Significance:

1922-1940

Significant Dates:

1922

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Robert and Company of Atlanta (architects)
Batson and Cook of West Point (builders)

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 Hawkes Children's Library of West Point is significant in architecture because it is a good example of the use of the Georgian Revival style, so popular in the 1920s, for a small public building. The library reflects major aspects of the style including symmetry of design, use of bricks, and a central portico as well as brick quoins on the corners of the building. It is also significant as a work of Robert of Company, architects, of Atlanta. This firm, begun in 1917, is the longest-operating architectural firm in the city. It designed this library in 1919, at the beginning of its career using the prevailing Georgian Revival style. The firm's works are numerous and cover every part of the state and much of the southeast. The library is also significant in education because it was the first public library for this small community which was chosen by Albert K. Hawkes of Atlanta as one of six small Georgia towns to benefit from libraries at his death. West Point accepted the offer in 1917 and the library opened in 1922. It was the only public-supported library for West Point and vicinity until 1976.

National Register Criteria

The Hawkes Library meets National Register Criterion A "the broad patterns of our history" because it was built to be a library, the first one in this riverside community, and served as the only library for West Point and the adjoining Alabama communities for over five decades. While the idea of public-supported libraries is common in the late 20th century, in the first quarter of the century things were quite different. The establishment of this library showed the community unification achieved between a private woman's club and the city government to accept the rare gift of a philanthropist. While Mr. Hawkes named a series of towns in his will to be offered libraries, he only authorized that six be funded. The acceptance of this bequest and the unity of important forces at the local level allowed this library to happen.

The library meets National Register Criterion C because it is a good example of the Georgian Revival style. Elements of this style which can be seen in the building include the use of red brick, a central, classical portico/entrance, brick corner quoins, and other detailing around the cornice. The style was that chosen for many public buildings of the era, especially schools, tying in the educational theme of the library for the city's school children, for

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

whom it was originally named and dedicated. It is also important as an early work of Robert and Company, architects and engineers, of Atlanta. The firm, only founded in 1917, was able to accept this contract from the City of West Point and design a building fitting the functional needs of the occasion. The library consists of one large reading room with various accoutrements-built in shelves, a reading/fireplace alcove, and other built-in seating. The firm, still in business today, has grown to be one of the premier architectural firms in Atlanta and the southeast.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance is the period from the library's construction and opening (1922) until the end of the historic period (1940) during which time it was primarily used as a children's library.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Hawkes Children's Library of West Point was built in 1922 in the westernmost point of the state of Georgia in Troup County. The area opened for settlement a century earlier in 1827 after the Creek Indians had been removed and white settlers enticed to the area through the 1827 land lottery. West Point was settled almost immediately at this westernmost point of the state, on the Alabama state line. It had been a city for some time when the library movement began.

The movement which lead to the founding of the Hawkes Library was similar to that in other cities. In 1873, Dr. Scott Todd, Morris Herzberg, Theodor Mayer and H. Blumenfield formed a reading club which became the Young Men's Library Association, meeting in Mr. Herzberg's jewelry store, with Shep Shepherd as president. As they ceased to be "young men" they lost interest in their library and it went into debt. Some of the young ladies in town decided to pay off the debt and get the Association going again. Miss Bertha Heyman, Mrs. Trox Bankston and Miss Gilliam Lanier, among others, worked to get the books circulating again.

A meeting was held at Miss Bertha Heyman's house and a large number of local ladies attended. As part of their plans to create interest in the need for a permanent library many fundraising events were held,

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

such as dinners, suppers and bazaars which were also fun social occasions.

The books were a "floating library," managed out of different stores and offices in downtown West Point.

Mr. Trox Bankston, owner and editor of the newspaper, Mr. Lee Heyman and Miss Bertha Heyman are all said to have gone to New York City to try and persuade Andrew Carnegie, the noted library philanthropist, to donate a library to West Point. In May, 1910, Mr. Carnegie agreed to give \$10,000 to West Point if the city government provided the site and \$1,000 a year for maintenance. This was his usual offer to most small-town American communities. This was approved by the city council. The Young Men's Library Association (which was now being funded and run by the young ladies) offered to donate its collection of 1400 books. (When the Hawkes Library opened in 1922, the donation from the Young Men's Library Association was 800 books.) On learning more about the town and its neighboring communities, in September, 1911, Mr. Carnegie changed his mind and said the library should be for both West Point and Lanett, Alabama, to share - each city paying \$500 a year maintenance. After much negotiation and compromise, eventually neither town would help support a library physically located in the other community. West Point even took a vote in a local referendum. So a practically free gift was turned down by the citizens rather than work out a plan to share with their neighbors.

Eventually, the West Point Woman's Club, organized in 1898, took over handling the library collection and managed it out of their club room in the new city auditorium.

Mr. Albert King Hawkes (1848-1916) was one of the leading opticians in America in 1895. In the 1880s he had come to Atlanta and opened a business, manufacturing spectacles and lenses - a business that grew to include the sale of glasses in more than 8,000 villages and towns in the United States. Mr. Hawkes was the author of several books on spectacles and the inventor of several appliances used extensively in optometry. He had a great love for children and educating them.

It seems to be the general consensus in West Point that it was entirely through the efforts of Mrs. C. E. Patillo that Mr. Hawkes bequeathed funds for a children's library in West Point. When he died in 1916, he left \$7,000 each to several towns for the building of a library for children. One of these towns was West Point. The city had to provide the site and the building had to be built according to the specifications of the will, that is of brick and stone and to cost no less than \$7,000.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

In his will, Mr. Hawkes specifically named the towns to which he wanted to offer, through his executors, the opportunity to have a library, each to be the first in its community. The first was in Griffin, and it had actually been funded and built before he died. His choice of the other five towns (for he only intended to fund six libraries) were Cedartown, Dalton, West Point, Madison and Elberton. Of these five, only three, Cedartown, West Point, and Elberton accepted the bequest. If any of the first five did not accept the donation, then he designated five more towns, Thomasville, Waynesboro, Jackson, Waycross, and Hawkinsville. Of these, only the one in Jackson was built. Negotiations for one in Waynesboro went as far as the design stage, but it was never built. So in summation, despite his generous offer to these ten Georgia communities, only four of them accepted the donation and built a library. Adding Griffin to that number, the five Hawkes Libraries in Georgia are a unique example of the only Georgia-based philanthropist to fund more than one local public library.

After the offer was made through the executors of the Hawkes Estate, then the fight with city hall began. The aldermen at the time were probably less than enthusiastic about a library after the Carnegie offer had fallen through.

On July, 9, 1917, the offer of a library by the Hawkes Estate was formally brought before the City Council. A committee was appointed by the mayor to go to Griffin to see the Hawkes Library there and to go to Atlanta to meet with the executors. They reported back at the council's next meeting, August 13th. They reported that the executors approved the use of the city auditorium as part of the plan, presumably for its motion picture camera. The council then voted to accept the "Hawkes Library Gift". They passed a resolution at the October 23rd meeting to accept the library "in accordance with the plans and specifications furnished by the executor of Mr. Hawkes". The city was to furnish a lot and the lot was to be deeded to the library trustees. A lot of land was offered by Will Williams and it was accepted. At the December 1917 meeting it was proposed that ladies be allowed to be on the library's Board of Trustees and that passed. It was primarily through the constant efforts of Mrs. Trox Bankston and Miss Bertha Heyman and other members of the West Point Woman's Club that the city council agreed to accept the donation. In January, 1918, the West Point Library Association was chartered.

After the association was established, the city council had accepted the donation, the land had been secured, and the executors notified that all conditions had been met, the executors notified the City Council by the time of their meeting of May 12, 1919 that all conditions having been met, the \$7,000 donation was now available. The

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

land was then deeded by the city to the library association which consisted of the Mayor and the city councilmen, Mr. C. W. Sharmon, Mr. J. A. Lanier, Mr. J. W. Hudmon and Mr. J. C. Roper. It was a perfect spot because it faced the new city auditorium which could hold the motion picture machine (part of Mr. Hawkes requirements); and it was then located adjacent to the Chattahoochee River Bridge that people crossed daily to get to a major residential area on the other side.

The plans for the library are dated October 21, 1919 by Robert and Company of Atlanta. They do not reflect the name of any individual designer for the firm.

The city council also gave money for an adult section of the library, but the name Hawkes Children's Library was given to the building according to the specifications of the will. (The term "children's" was later dropped so adults would not be discouraged.) The West Point Library Association appointed a Board of Trustees to manage the affairs of the library. The board was to be made up of the pastors of the First Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church and Christian Church, which was then in West Point, two businessmen and two ladies.

Although the plans were drawn in 1919 and all elements seemed to be in order, a disastrous flood in late 1919, and subsequent ones during the next few years, prevented work beginning. The LaGrange Graphic of April 20, 1922, under the title "Building Boom in West Point" indicated that the building committee of the Hawkes library had let the contract for the library. Local West Point contractors Batson and Cook (who are also still in business) were awarded the contract.

On September 29, 1922, a Friday night at 7:30 PM, the Hawkes Children's Library was formally opened. Reverend S. P. Spiegel, who as chairman of the Board of Trustees was the Master of Ceremonies, presented the library to Mayor Arch Avary and Miss Charlotte Templeton, Executive Secretary for the Georgia Library Commission gave the featured address.

The library had 800 books from the now closed Young Men's Library Association and \$500.00 from the Woman's Club. On the first day of service, October 1, the library contained 1,057 books. Mrs. Mary Poer Oslin was the first librarian, serving faithfully for 19 years. During the first month, 258 members joined and 839 books were loaned. The hours were from 2 - 5 every day, except Sunday, and 7 - 9 on Thursday and Friday evenings. The new building even prompted a poem which was run in the newspaper.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

By the end of the first year, the library had 1,950 books and 14 magazine subscriptions. Five hundred readers had joined.

The Woman's Club held parties as fund raisers, threw "Book Showers" and had committees to solicit donations.

The library received \$50.00 a month from the city and had to struggle financially for many years. The Business Girls Club gave donations. Miss Alice Wilson, niece of a former West Point resident and book reviewer for the Atlanta Constitution, donated books. Requests were made in the newspaper regularly for donations. Mrs. Oslin solicited and received 10 magazine subscriptions. The rent shelf also helped buy books. The charge was two cents a day for new books.

In 1931, Mr. Hawkes' sister, Mrs. S. O. Cundy, passed away. The remainder of his estate had been held in trust for her, and the provisions of his will entitled the Hawkes Library to receive around \$5,700 in additional funds after her death. The trustees at C & S Bank in Atlanta requested that the library help defray the cost of maintaining the Hawkes mausoleum in West View Cemetery in Atlanta. The trustee agreed, of course, and received the additional \$5,700 to be used only to purchase books and provide motion picture entertainment for the children. This eased the financial strain the library had been under. Much later, Mrs. Trox Bankston, who had moved to Covington, Georgia, left \$500.00 to the library; while friends, and relatives of Miss Bertha Heyman donated money in her honor. In 1953, Mr. Al Hagedorn, the financial chairman of the library board, headed up a drive for funds to replace the light fixtures and the heating system.

In 1928, Mrs. Oslin wrote the Trustees of the C & S Bank and asked them for a portrait of Mr. Hawkes. After the death of his sister, Mrs. Cundy, her daughter, Helen Cundy Bryan, sent a photo suitable for enlargement.

On February 18, 1932, the 34th birthday of the Woman's Club, the portrait of Mr. Hawkes was unveiled. It still hangs in the library. Also presented were pictures of Dr. Todd and Mr. Herzberg of the Young Men's Library Association. The speaker was Miss Beverly Wheatcroft, executive secretary of the Georgia Library Commission. Miss Wheatcroft listed among the goals for the commission to have books made available to the black population throughout the state.

Mrs. Oslin had a regular feature in the local newspaper called "Hawkes Library Notes." She listed new books, reminded everyone of library hours and had suggested reading lists for boys and girls

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

(different books for the sexes were recommended). An excerpt from April 23, 1936: "to the young men and women who wish really new books perfectly free of charge. You will get cleaner literature by coming to your own library where the books are carefully selected. Do not give yourself mental indigestion by feeding on the wrong mental diet. Clean minds never produce wicked deeds."

From the notes in March 1938, "the library had 6,200 volumes and 967 readers. The librarian is especially proud of the collection in the children's section...none of the modern tainted literature has thus far crept into the children's and young people's sections."

In 1944, Mrs. Oslin retired and Mrs. Marie Moore became the librarian. During World War II, Mrs. Moore kept a record of servicemen and activities of West Point and the valley.

In her 1945 library report, she stated the library had 1,209 members and 7,054 volumes. The library also furnished suitable literature to teachers in the "colored nursery school." Mrs. Moore was librarian until 1965.

For many years, summer story hour for children was sponsored by the Woman's Club, the Forum Study Club, and the Junior Women's Club. These had very high attendance and were enjoyed by the children of West Point.

From Mrs. Moore's report in 1964, the library had over 11,000 books and the membership was 1,325.

Miss Bessie Blackmon succeeded Mrs. Moore in 1965. Miss Blackmon's report in 1966 mentioned a bronze plaque given commemorating Miss Bertha Heyman. Black children from the local schools were registered as readers and were being welcomed in the library.

In 1969, Miss Julia Stanfield, Miss Bessie's assistant, became librarian, serving until 1980. The position was then assumed and is still held (in 1990) by Mrs. Ken (Dale) Smith.

The Hawkes Library remained the only public library in the area until the new library across the river in Shawmut, Alabama was opened in 1976. This new library served both sides of the river.

The Hawkes Library now contains adult fiction, children's books and local history. Current popular magazines may be checked out. Mrs. Smith knows her patrons and their reading tastes and helps them with their selections, as have all the librarians before her. The research

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

and children's activities take place at Bradshaw Library in Shawmut, Alabama now.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Zachry, Margaret. "Hawkes Children's Library", Historic Property Information Form, July 13, 1989. Copy on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Ga.

Original Plans dated October 21, 1919, Robert and Company Architects, Atlanta, GA. (Originals are located in their archives/record room.)

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
- (X) Other, Specify Repository: Troup County Archives, LaGrange, GA

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 670100 Northing 3638870

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is that part of the small, city-owned parcel on which the library is situated and is marked on the enclosed plat map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is just that portion of city-owned property which is occupied by the library building and its grounds. The 80' depth was selected since that was the width of the original parcel in 1919.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian.
organization Historic Preservation Section, 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** November 14, 1990.

(HPS form version 3-30-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

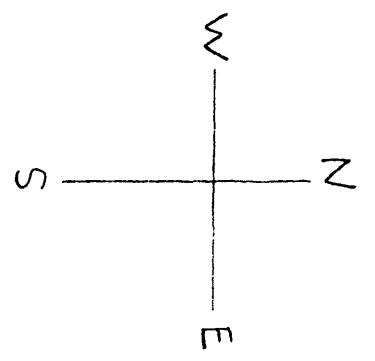
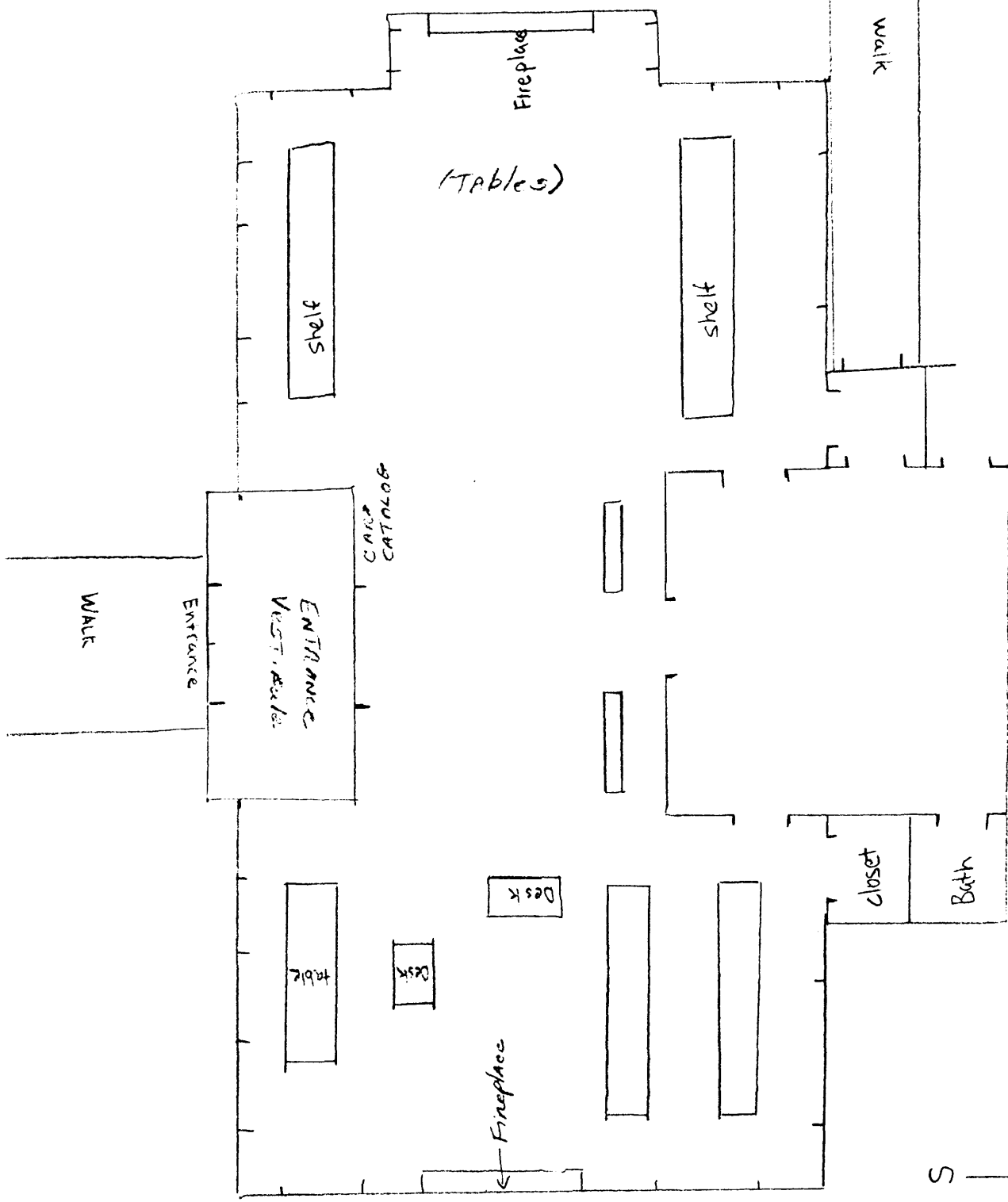
Photographs

Name of Property: Hawkes Children's Library
City or Vicinity: West Point
County: Troup County
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June, 1990

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 6: Entrance (Front) Facade. Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 6: East (River) Facade. Photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 6: West (Street) Facade. Photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 6: Entrance vestibule as seen from inside. Photographer facing south.
- 5 of 6: Reading room. Photographer facing east.
- 6 of 6: Reading room. Photographer facing west.

Floor Plan
 Hawkes Children's Library
 Of West Point
 West Point, Troup County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: Drawn by George Zachry
 Date: 1988
 Key: The various features are
 marked directly on the plan



Tax Map/Sketch Map
Hawkes Children's Library of
West Point
West Point, Troup County, Georgia
Scale: 1" = 50'
Source: Troup County, Georgia Tax
Assessors Office

Date: Base map is 1955
Key: The nominated property is the
parcel 80' wide which is the same
size as the original lot in 1919
and is marked off of parcel no. 1.
The library is marked on the map
at its approximate location.

