

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 Kirkwood School
other names/site number Kirkwood Elementary School

1045

2. Location

street & number 138 Kirkwood Road
city, town Atlanta () vicinity of
county DeKalb code 089
state Georgia code GA zip code 30317

() not for publication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

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	4	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	4	1

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.

W. Ray Luce
Signature of certifying official 7/31/02
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 Patrick Andrews 9/23/2002
 - 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, library, education-related

Current Functions:

Domestic: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival
Modern Movement

Materials:

foundation	Concrete
walls	Brick
roof	Asphalt
other	Wood

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Summary Description:

The Kirkwood School is a 2.9-acre former school campus located in the center of Kirkwood, a residential neighborhood in east Atlanta, adjacent to the city of Decatur. The complex includes the **first school building (1906)**, the **main school building (1922)** with additions built in 1924 and 1928, a **cafeteria building (1950)**, and a **library building (1964)**. The first school building was designed by Atlanta architect Alexander C. Bruce and constructed in 1906 as a two-story frame building, with a recessed entrance and Neoclassical portico. In 1922, the exterior was covered with a brick veneer. Also in that year, a second, larger school building, designed by Atlanta architect John Downing, was built to the north. It is a two-story, brick building with classrooms and offices on each side of a double-loaded corridor. In c.1924, a large, one-story brick auditorium was added to the rear of the main building. The auditorium is lined with arched casement windows on each side elevation. In 1928, eight additional classrooms, designed by Atlanta architect G. Lloyd Preacher, were added to the north side of the main building, which extended its double-loaded-corridor plan and nearly doubled the size of the school. The first school building and the cafeteria are joined to the main building by a one-story glazed corridor. The one-story library is connected to the main building by an open breezeway. In the late 1990s, the school buildings were rehabilitated as loft apartments with classrooms serving as apartment units. Many of the public spaces and much of the historic fabric were preserved as part of the rehabilitation, which was certified on June 8, 1999 by the National Park Service, Technical Services Preservation Branch.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Description:

Kirkwood is a large residential neighborhood in east Atlanta located between the Atlanta neighborhood of Edgewood and the city of Decatur. Kirkwood was settled after the Civil War by families that built large houses on spacious lots. By the end of the 19th century, the neighborhood had become a streetcar suburb of Atlanta for middle- and upper-middle-class residents. Many houses in Kirkwood are one-story bungalows built in the first decades of the 20th century. These houses are set on small lots with uniform setbacks on tree-lined streets that form a gridiron plan. The neighborhood was racially mixed but mostly white until the mid-1960s when "white flight" to the suburbs had begun. Desegregation of the Kirkwood School in 1965 hastened white migration and by 1967 the neighborhood was predominantly African American.

The Kirkwood School occupies most of a city block in the center of the Kirkwood neighborhood (photo 1). The site is bounded by Kirkwood Road to the east, Howard Street to the west, Warlick Place to the north, and Delano Drive to the south. The school is set behind a grass lawn that is raised slightly above the street and supported by a concrete retaining wall. Much of the area to the rear of the school is paved for parking. A canopy of mature oak trees shades the property. Smaller trees located on the site include dogwoods, hollies, and magnolias. Foundation plantings are located around each of the buildings, except the cafeteria. A nonhistoric, metal fence surrounds the entire property.

The **first school building** on the site was built in 1906 at the corner of Kirkwood Road and Hardee Street. Designed by the architecture firm of Bruce, Everett, and Hayes, the school was constructed in 1906 as a frame, two-story Italianate-style building (photos 1-3). The building's compact massing is broken by the recessed entrance bay in the center of the main façade. In 1922, the school's weatherboard cladding was covered with a brick veneer to match the main Kirkwood school building constructed that same year. The cupola that originally surmounted the shallow-pitched hip roof is no longer extant. The double-leaf main entrance is flanked by sidelights and covered by a classical portico. The entrance portico is supported by Tuscan columns and includes a dentil cornice. Five tripartite windows are located across the main façade. These windows are flanked by smaller single sash windows that were added after the building was first constructed. The molded cornice features a wide entablature but does not include dentils or brackets.

The plan of the 1906 building features offices and four classrooms on the ground floor with a central stair corridor that provides access to the second floor. The auditorium that was originally located at the rear of the building was later divided into two classrooms. In 1939, two first-floor classrooms were converted to a cafeteria. The second-floor featured five classrooms. In the 1990s certified rehabilitation, classrooms were subdivided to form loft apartments. Plaster walls, wood floors, windows, some blackboards, and light fixtures remain intact. Public spaces, such as entrances vestibules, corridors, and stairs, have also been preserved.

The **main school building** was designed by John Downing and completed in 1922. It was built as a two-story H-shaped building with a doubled loaded corridor on the first floor dividing six classrooms,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

offices, lounge, workroom, and restrooms (photos 7-8). The concrete-framed school is clad in brick with a flat, built-up roof. In later years when the building still served as a school, the cornice was removed, possibly because it was damaged, and replaced with flat metal panels. The main entrance in the center of the east façade is framed by a classical portico supported by Tuscan columns and is similar to the portico on the earlier 1906 building (photo 9). The Palladian entrance features a semicircular fanlight above a double-leafed entrance and flanking sidelights (photo 13).

The interior plan of the main school building is organized along the double-loaded corridor that intersects the entrance hall in a T-shape (photos 13-14). Four classrooms were located at the corners of the building and two across the rear (photo 16). The offices, lounge, workroom, and restrooms were located across the front of the building. Stairs to the second-floor classrooms are located at the south end of the corridor. Walls in both the corridors and classrooms are plaster and the wood floors are covered with vinyl tiles. The interior doors are solid wood with molded surrounds.

In 1924, a large **auditorium** was built at the rear of the main school building to form a T-shaped plan (photo 10). The auditorium is a one-story brick structure with a gabled roof. Arched casement windows separated by brick pilasters are located in each of its four bays. The cornice is heavily molded and features some decorative brickwork. The large open interior space features a stage at the west end and is covered with a segmental barrel vault (photos 17-19). Interior walls are plaster with wood wainscoting.

In 1928, an **eight-classroom addition** was built on the north end of the main school building. Designed by Atlanta architect G. Lloyd Preacher, the two-story addition was clad in brick to match the exterior of the 1922 building (photos 11-12). The interior plan of the addition continues the double-loaded corridor of the 1922 building and includes a stair in the northwest corner (photo 15). The classroom walls are plaster and the wood doors include transoms above.

In 1929, a **glazed corridor** was constructed that joins the first school building (1906) with the main school building (1922), photos 4-6. The brick corridor is lit with a band of casement windows set below the overhanging eaves. The flat roof is lined with decorative brackets.

In 1950, the **cafeteria**, designed by J. W. Kreis, was built behind the first school building (1906). The cafeteria is a one-story, L-shaped brick building with a low-pitched hip roof (photos 20-22). A delivery entrance is located to the rear and a **glazed corridor**, built in 1950, joins the cafeteria to the glazed corridor that was built in 1929 (photo 22, background). The windows throughout the cafeteria are double-hung sashes. The interior is divided into two spaces, the kitchen at the west end of the building (photo 23) and the large rectangular dining room that spans the width of the building north to south (photos 24-25). The floors in the cafeteria are vinyl tile and the walls are covered with plaster.

In 1964, the **library** was built on the north side of the main school building (photos 26-27). Designed by the Atlanta firm Cunningham and Forehand, the library is a modern one-story brick building with a butterfly roof that cant inward in the form of an inverted gable (photo 28). The fixed-pane windows

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

are set in vertical brick divisions that rise from the foundation to the eaves. The interior plan features a large open library space with three small room on the east and south sides. The interior walls are exposed concrete, carpet covers the floors, and the ceilings are formed by suspended acoustical tile.

The only noncontributing property associated with the Kirkwood School is a small, concrete-block shed located at the north end of the site (no photo). The shed, which used for storage, features a one-room plan and is covered by a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. The shed was built outside the period of significance.

An open area that was historically used for outdoor recreation by students at the Kirkwood School is located at the rear of the school at the west end of the property facing Howard Street. The open field is now paved asphalt and used as a basketball court and still represents the historic open space that was an integral part of the school campus during the period of significance.

In the late 1990s, the school was rehabilitated as twenty-five loft apartments. As part of the rehabilitation, which the National Park Service certified on June 8, 1999, many of the classroom spaces were subdivided into apartments. Historic features, such as the wood floors, plaster walls, doors and transoms, sash windows, lighting fixtures, and blackboards were retained. Public spaces, such as entrances halls, corridors, stairways were also preserved. The auditorium was divided into three loft apartments. The cafeteria and the library were rehabilitated but were not included in the certified rehabilitation because they were considered outside the period of significance when the when the property was certified as historic for the tax incentives program in 1997. The Kirkwood School overall retains a high level of historic integrity.

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
Social History and Ethnic Heritage: Black

Period of Significance:

1906 - 1967

Significant Dates:

1906 – First Kirkwood School building constructed.
1922 – Main Kirkwood School Building built.
1924 – Auditorium added to main Kirkwood school building.
1928 – Classroom wing added to main school building.
1950 – Cafeteria building built.
1964 – Library building built.
1965 – Desegregation of Kirkwood School began.
1967 – Kirkwood neighborhood became predominantly African American.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Bruce, Everett, and Hayes (architect)

John F. Downing (architect)

G. Lloyd Preacher (architect)

J. W. Kreis (architect)

Cunningham and Forehand (architect)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Kirkwood School is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of school design in Atlanta from the first decades of the 20th century through the post-World War II period. The buildings were designed by some of Atlanta's most prominent architects. As a complex, the Kirkwood represents changes in architectural design and the evolution of educational theory. The Italianate first school building (1906) was typical of small early 20th-century schools, which were usually frame buildings with minimal stylistic features. The 1906 school building was designed by the architectural firm of Bruce, Everett, and Hayes. Alexander C. Bruce was the senior partner, and former partner of Thomas H. Morgan. A native Virginian, Bruce came to Atlanta via Nashville, in 1879 to join the firm of W. H. Parkins. This partnership lasted until 1882, when Bruce formed a partnership with Thomas H. Morgan, which produced many of Atlanta's most important turn-of-the-19th-century buildings. Apart from the Kirkwood School, Bruce collaborated with Everett on only two Atlanta buildings, the St. Johns Methodist Episcopal Church (1907) and the First Congregational Church (1908).

The main Kirkwood school building was designed by John F. Downing and completed in 1922. The two-story Colonial Revival-style school features an H-shaped plan with offices and service functions in the center and classrooms in the wings. Other Atlanta schools were based on the H-shaped plan, such the Home Park Elementary School in Atlanta, designed by local architect Edward Dougherty in 1911. The architect of the Kirkwood School, John Downing, was the son of noted Atlanta architect, W. T. Downing. John worked in his father's office during summer vacations and after his father's death in 1918, continued his architectural practice. He designed several schools in Atlanta, as well as the Cyclorama Museum and Bona Allen Office Building. Downing also lived and worked in Miami, Boston, and Memphis.

In 1928, the city hired G. Lloyd Preacher to design an eight-classroom addition to the north side of the main classroom building. The addition matches the main building's Colonial Revival style and continues its double-loaded corridor with flanking classrooms. The architect, G. Lloyd Preacher, was one of the city's most important 20th-century architects. He was born in 1882 in Fairfax, South Carolina and educated at Clemson College. He began his professional career in Augusta in 1905 as a draftsman and engineer for the George Lombard Iron Works. By 1910, he had established his own architectural and engineering practice in Augusta, specializing in large-scale institutional work, especially schools, hospitals, hotels, and skyscrapers.

In 1922, Preacher moved his business to Atlanta, forming G. Lloyd Preacher and Company with J. F. Wilhoit and Nicholas Mitchell. Eventually, the firm established offices in New York, Indianapolis, Memphis, Raleigh, Spartanburg, and Miami. Preacher's firm was responsible for over 30 schools and numerous apartments in Atlanta. Preacher also designed Atlanta's Gothic Revival-style city hall. An astute businessman, Preacher provided high-quality design at a reasonable cost. The Atlanta Board of Education stated that, ". . . the one project [Kirkwood School] for the 1921-24 period designed by G. Lloyd Preacher cost less than any other, was a better building with a lower operation and upkeep cost than were any of the buildings designed by others." After World War II, Preacher

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

returned to architectural practice in Atlanta. Preacher died in 1972 at the age of 90. In 1950, the cafeteria, designed by J. W. Kreis, was built behind the first school building (1906). The cafeteria is a one-story brick building with a low-pitched hip roof. It was designed in the form of a ranch house. Modern architecture, and specifically ranch houses, were becoming popular in Atlanta after World War II. It is unusual in this case because the cafeteria was modeled on a domestic architectural form rather than an institutional design like the other school buildings.

In 1964, the library was built on the north side of the main school building. Designed by the Atlanta firm Cunningham & Forehand, the library is a modern one-story brick building with a butterfly roof that cant inward in the form of an inverted gable. The butterfly roof, although only slightly canted, adds a sense of dynamism to the building. Butterfly roofs were built infrequently in the 1960s because of the structural difficulties associated with water drainage. In addition, the library's fixed-pane windows are set in vertical brick divisions that rise from the foundation to the eaves. These divisions separate the wall plane into alternating zones of fenestration that puncture the plane of the brick wall. The overall effect is modern and abstract with the window openings rising from the foundation to the eaves. The library, unlike Kirkwood's earliest revival-style buildings, is ahistorical and includes no references to past architectural styles. This modern building represents the last phase of physical development of the campus.

The Kirkwood School is significant in the area of education because it represents the efforts of the neighborhood to provide schools for its children, first as an independent city and later as part of the Atlanta Public School System. The city of Kirkwood provided for its residents municipal functions such as fire and police protection and built schools in 1906 and 1922. These schools, located in the center of the neighborhood, were not only important community landmark buildings, but also represent a significant financial investment in an educational system by the residents of Kirkwood.

In 1922, Kirkwood was annexed to the city of Atlanta, and joined the Atlanta Public School System. Between 1909 and 1921, the Atlanta Board of Education was becoming stronger; the curriculum was becoming more progressive and modernized; the educational system less inbred and more open to outside ideas and personnel; and the outreach of the entire system became far more extensive as Atlanta grew and expanded its boundaries. The 1921 Strayer and Englehart report that gave poor marks to the city's school programs and facilities began a campaign by the city to improve its inadequate schools that lasted through the 1920s. The auditorium addition (1924), the eight-classroom addition (1928), and the glazed corridor (1929) between the first school building (1906) and the main school building (1922) represent the school system's campaign to improve its facilities. The effort continued after World War II as specific functions were moved from classroom buildings into separate buildings, such as the cafeteria (1950) and the library (1964).

The Kirkwood School is significant in the areas of social history and black ethnic heritage because it represents the dramatic changes that occurred as a result of the racial desegregation of schools and the resorting of neighborhoods along racial lines. Organized segregation of Atlanta neighborhoods began with the 1906 race riot, which resulted in many black-owned businesses relocating from downtown Atlanta to the Auburn Avenue community east of downtown.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

In the two decades after the race riot, white Atlantans made efforts to legally prevent blacks from moving into white neighborhoods. Segregation ordinances were passed in 1913 and 1916, and after the United States Supreme Court declared segregation ordinances unconstitutional in 1917, the tactic of citywide comprehensive zoning was employed as a means of separating the races. Atlanta's 1922 zoning designations were not termed in the manner of a segregation ordinance but instead were organized according to land uses, building types, and tenant categories. White city leaders believed that this approach would legally circumvent the 1917 court ruling. Racial zoning designations were considered to be property-usage classifications and thus within the city's authority. The intent behind these designations was to retain control of black migration and establish "buffers" between black and white neighborhoods. These aspects of the 1922 zoning ordinance were declared unconstitutional two years later, but other forms of racial zoning were employed. A 1929 law, for example, forbid persons the right to move into a building on a street containing a majority of dwellings "occupied by those with whom said person is forbidden to intermarry." Laws of this kind were struck down by the courts, but Atlanta's leaders continued to view certain areas of the city as appropriate for black development and other areas as appropriate for white development.

The racial polarization of Atlanta's residential neighborhoods intensified after World War II. Like cities across the nation, whites migrated from urban neighborhoods to outlying suburbs, spurred in large part by federal intervention in the form of FHA insurance and VA mortgage guarantees for returning soldiers. In each year between 1947 and 1957, houses built nationally with FHA and VA mortgages ranged from under 40 percent to over 50 percent. The suburbs were considered safer for children and, more significantly, the suburbs had always been perceived as a step up the economic and social ladder. As a result, the number of people who owned their own homes after World War II doubled.

Government mortgage policies, however, perpetuated a kind of racism in which integrated neighborhoods were declared poor risks and were ineligible for loan assistance. The GI Bill shaped the housing industry and both the FHA and VA concentrated their investments in new buildings in suburbs. Suburbs started out white and usually remained white for decades. In Atlanta, white flight, as this phenomenon is called, began immediately after World War II. Reynoldstown, a neighborhood in east Atlanta along the rail line, was among the first communities in the city to experience post-war flight. In the span of fifteen years Reynoldstown went from a predominantly white neighborhood at the end of World War II to almost exclusively African American in 1960. Kirkwood, which is located further east along the rail line, remained mostly white until 1962 when residents began leaving for the suburbs. The desegregation of the Kirkwood School in 1965 accelerated white migration, and by 1967, the neighborhood and the school were predominantly African American. By 1970, Atlanta's racial landscape was reordered with African Americans settling in the south and west parts of the city and whites residing in the city's north and east portions and in nearby suburbs.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

A – The Kirkwood School is significant in the area of education because it represents the efforts of the neighborhood to provide schools for its children and because the school is significant in the areas of social history and black ethnic heritage because it represents the dramatic changes that occurred as a result of racial desegregation.

C – The Kirkwood School is an excellent example of school design from the first decades of the 20th century through the post-World War II period and because it represents the work of some of Atlanta's most important architects.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The period of significance for the Kirkwood School extends to 1967. The school meets Criterion Consideration G because it continues to achieve significance into a period less than fifty years before the nomination. The construction of the library building in 1964 represents the continued use and development of the property as a school. The nomination also represents the phenomenon of "white flight" in Kirkwood, which began in 1965 and was complete by 1967. White flight is an extraordinary event that in the years after World War II dramatically changed the racial composition of individual neighborhoods and the overall racial landscape of the city. The Kirkwood School is of exceptional importance because more than any other resource type, schools—and their policies on racial segregation—had a tremendous impact on black and white migration in urban communities.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the first Kirkwood School building in 1906 and ends in 1967 to include the dramatic racial transformation when the school was desegregated and shortly thereafter the Kirkwood neighborhood's resident's changed from mostly white to predominantly African American.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The school includes four contributing buildings, the first Kirkwood School building built in 1906, the main Kirkwood School building, the cafeteria building, and the library building. A small concrete-block shed built after the period of significance is the only noncontributing resource associated with this nomination.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The area known as Kirkwood was established after the Civil War. Located along the rail line between downtown Atlanta and Decatur, the rural community comprised large houses on large lots. Kirkwood derived its name from two of the area's prominent land-owning families, the Dunwoodys and the Kirkpatricks. The Kirkpatrick family owned land on the north side of the rail line; the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Dunwoody's owned the land to the south where the Kirkwood neighborhood is located. Both families sold lots for development. In 1871, Kirkwood was described as a "beautiful suburban villa." In 1891, Atlanta's streetcar lines were extended to Kirkwood along DeKalb Avenue and in 1899, Kirkwood was incorporated as independent city. By 1920, Kirkwood comprised over 500 houses, numerous churches, and stores, and the city provided governmental and civic services to its residents.

The city of Kirkwood established its own school system. School children in this growing Atlanta suburb had been taught in the homes of Kirkwood residents. In 1906, residents approved a bond issue authorizing the town council to build a public school. In February of that year, the Warlick property was acquired and the school was completed in September 1906. The cornerstone identified the building as the Kirkwood Public School. The two-story frame building included six classrooms and auditorium. About 110 elementary and high school students were enrolled the first year with tuition set at \$9 per student.

By 1919, as Kirkwood continued to grow, enrollment in the Kirkwood School increased. As a result, the homes of residents were used for additional classroom space and a portable classroom structure was built at the rear of the school. In 1920, a \$50,000 bond issue was approved for the construction of the main school building adjacent to the first school building (1906). The cornerstone for the new building was laid in 1921 and the building was completed the following year. The main school building, which is larger than the first school building, is a two-story brick building. In 1923, kindergarten classes were added to the curricula.

In 1922, Kirkwood was annexed to the city of Atlanta, and joined its public school system. In the early 1920s, the Atlanta school system came under critical review by professional educators. In 1921, at the request of the school board, a team of consultant's from Columbia University's education laboratory reviewed Atlanta's educational programs and facilities. Out of a possible 1000 points, no elementary school rated higher than 666 points. The school buildings were uniformly criticized for being "poorly planned" and "placed incorrectly on undesirable site[s]." The principal investigators, Strayer and Englehart, criticized Atlanta for not keeping up with its urban growth.

Enrollment at the Kirkwood School continued to increase and the city improved the campus to keep pace with enrollment. In 1924, an auditorium was added to the rear of the main school building. In 1926, the city issued bonds for the construction of eight additional classrooms to be added to the north end of the main classroom building. Both of these improvements were part of an Atlanta effort in the 1920s to modernize its public schools.

After World War II, specialized functions were moved from the main building into new buildings: a cafeteria in 1950 and a library in 1964. Before 1950, lunches had been served on the school grounds by students' mothers. Later, parents associated with the Parent Teacher Association provided lunches in the renovated auditorium of the first school building (1906).

The Kirkwood School was integrated in 1965, hastening "white flight." Between 1962 and 1967, whites left Kirkwood, and the once racially mixed neighborhood became predominantly African

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

American. In the early 1960s, older white residents owned most of the homes in Kirkwood, but the new African-American residents were younger with an average of three children. This large school-age population strained the segregated school system.

In 1965, in an effort to relieve overcrowding in nearby black schools, the city desegregated Wesley, Whiteford, and Kirkwood elementary schools. On the first day of integration in January 1965, all eighteen teachers and nearly all of Kirkwood's white students had transferred to area white schools. They were replaced with African-American teachers and about 500 black students. Desegregation of the Kirkwood School, which was in advance of the city's court-ordered timetable, accelerated white flight in the neighborhood, which had begun in 1962. In 1967, two years after the school was desegregated and in the course of only five years, nearly all of the neighborhood's white residents had left for the outlying suburbs. Kirkwood, like many nearby neighborhoods south of the rail line, became a mostly African-American neighborhood.

The Kirkwood School served the predominantly African-American neighborhood until it was closed in 1996 because of decreasing enrollment. In 1997, Kirkwood Elementary LLC purchased the school with the purpose of rehabilitating the school buildings for use as loft apartments. The rehabilitation was certified on June 8, 1999 by the National Park Service, Technical Services Preservation Branch.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Ray and Associates. Historic District Information Form. Kirkwood School. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, 2001.

Historic District Information Form. Kirkwood. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, 2001. Prepared by graduate students, Heritage Preservation, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia.

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 Approximately 2.9 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 748030 Northing 3738300

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary comprises the tract of land historically associated with the Kirkwood School and includes all of the contributing resources that are included in this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian
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 7, 2002
e-mail steven_moffson@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Lynn Speno
organization Ray and Associates
mailing address 328 7th Street
city or town Atlanta **state** GA **zip code** 30308
telephone (404) 607-7703
e-mail N/A

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Henry Finkbeiner
organization (if applicable) Kirkwood School LLC
mailing address P.O. Box 5063
city or town Atlanta **state** GA **zip code** 30307
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Kirkwood School
City or Vicinity: Atlanta
County: DeKalb
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: May 2002

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 28

1. First school building (1906), photographer facing northwest.
2. First school building, photographer facing northwest.
3. First school building, photographer facing northwest.
4. Glazed corridor between first school building and main school building, photographer facing west.
5. Glazed corridor between first school building and main school building, photographer facing east.
6. Interior, glazed corridor between first school building and main school building, photographer facing south.
7. Main school building (1922), photographer facing southwest.
8. Main school building, photographer facing southwest.
9. Main school building, photographer facing northwest.
10. Main school building auditorium (1924), photographer facing northeast.
11. Main school building addition (1928), photographer facing southeast.
12. Main school building addition, detail of windows, photographer facing east.
13. Interior, main school building, entrance hall, photographer facing east.
14. Interior, main school building, south stairwell, photographer facing south.
15. Interior, main school building addition, photographer facing north.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

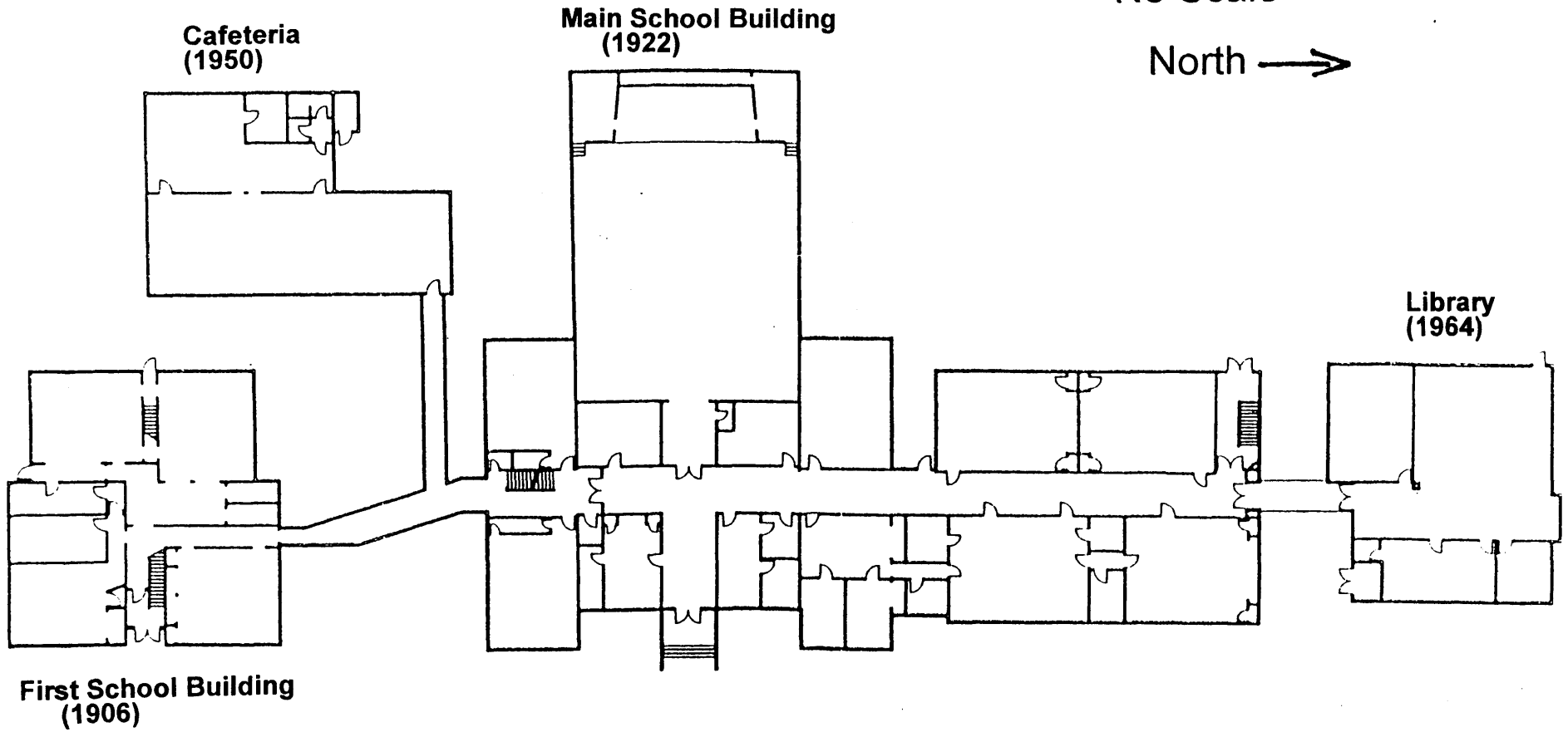
Photographs

16. Interior, main school building, northeast classroom, photographer facing east.
17. Interior, main school building auditorium, photographer facing north.
18. Interior, main school building auditorium, photographer facing northeast.
19. Interior, main school building auditorium, photographer facing northeast.
20. Cafeteria building (1950), photographer facing northeast.
21. Cafeteria building, photographer facing southeast.
22. Cafeteria building (left), first school building (right), and glazed corridor between the cafeteria and the earlier 1929 glazed corridor (background), photographer facing north.
23. Interior, cafeteria building, kitchen, photographer facing southwest.
24. Interior, cafeteria building, dining room, photographer facing south.
25. Interior, cafeteria building, dining room, photographer facing north.
26. Library building, photographer facing southwest.
27. Library building, photographer facing west.
28. Library building, photographer facing southeast.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

No Scale

North →



**Kirkwood School
DeKalb County, Georgia**

First Floor Plan (before rehabilitation)