

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
34 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 651-8739 <http://www.gashpo.org>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Helen Talley-McRae, 404-651-5268
helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Cauley-Wheeler Memorial Building Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (June 18, 2008) – The Cauley-Wheeler Memorial Building, located on Laney-Walker Boulevard in Augusta, Richmond County, was listed in the National Register on June 4, 2008. The property owners, the Haines Alumni Association, Inc., sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

The building was listed at the state level of significance in the areas of black ethnic heritage, education, and women's history. Constructed in 1924, the Cauley-Wheeler Memorial Building is the only extant building from the campus of the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute. The Haines Normal and Industrial Institute was an important African American educational institution in Augusta founded by prominent black educator Lucy Craft Laney in 1886. Its beginnings were associated with the Presbyterian Church, though sometimes the church supplied little more than moral support. Haines offered educational opportunities that did not exist in public schools of the time.

A Mrs. Wheeler of New York provided \$10,000 for this building to honor Mary Cauley, her former nurse, who was educated at Haines. The school honored both women by naming the building after them. Built to house primary education, the building represents the educational accomplishments of the 50-year career of Lucy Craft Laney at the Haines Institute. Laney was a

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determined and accomplished woman who went beyond teaching to raise funds, administer programs, supervise teachers and students, and engage in community and social causes to advance women and blacks. The school closed as an institution in 1949.

Located near downtown Augusta on the current campus of Lucy C. Laney High School, the Cauley-Wheeler Memorial Building is a one-story, brick veneer building with a hipped roof. The rectangular building, constructed in 1924, contains four classrooms, two on each side of a central hall that divides the building across its shorter axis. Overall, the building retains its integrity of form and design, and most of its historic materials. Other buildings associated with the Haines Institute were demolished in 1951, after nearly all of the property had been leased to the Richmond County Board of Education for a high school.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer, listing in the National Register recognizes a property's significance and ensures that the property will be taken into account in the planning of federally funded or licensed projects. In addition, owners of income producing National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

For more information on the National Register and other preservation programs, contact the Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Natural Resources at 404-656-2840 or visit our Web site at www.gashpo.org.

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