

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hawkinsville Public School Listed in the National Register

ATLANTA (June 12, 2008) – The Hawkinsville Public School, located on Warren Street in Hawkinsville, Pulaski County, was listed in the National Register on May 28, 2008. The nomination was sponsored by the Pulaski County Board of Education. An employee of the school system prepared the nomination materials.

Hawkinsville Public School was constructed in several phases between 1936 and 1969 to accommodate growing enrollment and changing educational needs in Hawkinsville and Pulaski County. It is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a Colonial Revival-style school with an H-shaped plan that was later expanded with International-style additions. The architect for the first phase, W. Elliott Dunwody, Jr. of Macon, also designed numerous buildings at Mercer University and Wesleyan College. As was true for many schools constructed at this time, some of the funding and labor came from federal relief program assistance.

The school is significant in the area of education as a typical example of a small town public school that expanded over time to accommodate growing enrollment, school consolidation, and changing educational needs. This school housed both elementary and

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secondary grades for whites until the 1956 construction of an elementary school. It remained a high school for approximately 40 years and a middle school for 15 years.

The school is also significant in the area of social history. As one of the first public facilities in Pulaski County to be integrated in the 1966-1967 school year, it represents the dramatic changes that occurred as a result of racial desegregation.

The red brick school building retains most of its character defining features including the original stage and 500 wooden theater seats in the auditorium, which display distinctive art deco designs on the end panels. Other materials in the 1936 building include brick chimneys, pine and oak floors, plaster walls, and wood-paneled doors with glass transoms. The 1949 gymnasium retains its oak floors, metal light fixtures, and exposed interior steel trusses supporting a gabled roof.

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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