

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:

Mauk School Listed in National Register

Rural Taylor County school was built in 1936 with Works Progress Administration assistance

ATLANTA (February 9, 2009) –The Mauk School, located in rural Taylor County, was listed in the National Register on December 30, 2008. The property owner sponsored the nomination and prepared the nomination materials.

Mauk School is located in the unincorporated town of Mauk approximately 15 miles southwest of the county seat of Butler. Constructed in 1936 with assistance from the Works Progress Administration, the Mauk School served the white children of the local area as a public school until consolidation in 1956. It also functioned as a gathering place for various community groups. With six rooms (including at least four classrooms), the building was larger than the typical rural school of its time.

The school is significant in the area of education as an early example of universal public education in Georgia. It first served grades one through nine, but had been reduced to two teachers and six grades by the time it closed in 1956 due to consolidation with the Butler school system. Local residents resisted state efforts at countywide school consolidation until much later than most other districts in Georgia.

Mauk School is significant in the area of social history because it was continuously used as a community center and meeting place for organizations such as the ladies' home demonstration club. A local singing school met in the auditorium for two weeks every summer, and "singings" were held on Sunday afternoons. Other events included bridal showers, plays, movies, and parties. Now owned by the

-more-

Mauk School listed in the National Register, page 2

MCN Club, Inc., the school remains the only nonreligious building in the community large enough to accommodate these gatherings.

It is significant in the area of architecture as a good intact example of a rural school building with elements of the Colonial Revival style. This one-story six-room schoolhouse has retained its essential form and floor plan since construction in 1936. The main rectangular core has a narrow central extension to the rear, giving it roughly an inverted “T” shape. The exterior is wood clapboard with a continuous brick foundation and asphalt shingle roof. Elements of the Colonial Revival style are evident in the symmetry and a few of the details of this otherwise simple vernacular form.

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 National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Their mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance. For more information, call 404-656-2840 or visit their Web site at www.gashpo.org.

###

Photo available from Helen Talley-McRae (helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us). Caption information: *Rural Taylor County school was built in 1936 with Works Progress Administration assistance.* (Credit: Photo courtesy GA Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.)