

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Rose Hill School

2. Location: 433 21st Street, Columbus, Muscogee County

3a. Description: Rose Hill School is located approximately two miles north of Columbus's city center in the historic Rose Hill neighborhood and faces south on 21st Street. The property consists of two contributing buildings: the 1900 Romanesque Revival-style school and the 1954 International Style cafetorium. Its parcel is flat with overgrown shrubs and a few small hardwood trees. The two-story brick school building has a partial daylight basement, rectangular footprint, rough-faced granite foundation, and a hipped roof. The wide eaves protect a cornice with dentils and brick corbeling. A projecting central bay on the south façade contains a large pediment with a terra cotta rosette, rough-faced granite string courses, and the two main entrances, both of which are framed by rough-faced granite. Windows throughout the building, many of which are historic, are tall and narrow, have rough-faced granite sills and lintels, and are separated by pilasters with bead and reel and egg and dart detailing. Round arched openings are found at multiple entrances, many second-floor windows, and four small, high windows within the projecting bay. Inside the school, the first and second floors have nearly identical plans. There are eleven large classrooms with high ceilings, integral cloak rooms, administration offices, wide hallways, centrally located open areas, and three staircases. Historic interior materials include plaster walls, beadboard ceilings, interior doors with transoms, and wood floors. In 1954, the basement was finished to include a library, bathrooms, teacher's lounge, an additional classroom, and storage space. At the same time, the International Style cafetorium, a simple, flat-roofed, brick building, was constructed at the rear of the property and connected to the school via a flat-roofed steel canopied walkway. This building served as a cafeteria and auditorium and retains its minimal exterior ornamentation, metal windows, and simple stage. The school and cafetorium both retain a high degree of all aspects of historic integrity.

3b. Period of Significance: 1900-1972

3c. Acreage: 1.83 acres

3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary of the nominated property is the current legal parcel boundary.

4a. National Register Criterion: A and C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Education, Architecture

4c. Statement of Significance: Rose Hill School is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of education as an excellent example of an early 20th century urban public school, a significant school type in Georgia as defined in the statewide context *Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in Georgia, 1868-1971*, with an extant mid-20th century "cafetorium." Constructed by the Columbus Public School System, Rose Hill School is representative of cities and towns erecting important buildings for educational purposes upon the establishment of public-school systems. The school's two-story form with partial daylight basement, rectangular footprint, hipped roof, masonry construction, centrally located open spaces, classrooms with separate cloak rooms, and large multi-light wood windows along with its urban location are hallmarks of an urban public school type building, as outlined in the context. Rose Hill School is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good intact example of a school designed by a local architect in an early 20th century revival style, as was common for urban public schools, according to the context. The 1900 school building was designed by prominent local architect T. W. Smith in the Romanesque Revival style and retains many of the character-defining features of the style as defined in Marcus Whiffen's *American Architecture Since 1780*. Its symmetrical massing, broad and smooth wall surfaces of masonry construction, rough-faced granite window lintels and sills, beltcourses, and door surrounds, and the round-arch form found in window and door openings are all indicative of the style. Additionally, while the building does not have a tower, an arcaded corbel table, or wheel windows often associated with the style, it does have several features reminiscent of these elements. Hipped roof projecting bays on the side elevations evoke the signature towers; the four round-arched windows just below the cornice within the front projecting bay mirror a large-scale corbel table; and a terra cotta rosette within the front pediment suggests a wheel window. The 1954 cafetorium, designed by local architect, E. Oren Smith, is representative of the International Style with its minimalist rectilinear, one-story form, flat roof, uniform red brick veneer, and metal awning-type windows with minimal exterior reveals, all of which are character-defining features of the style according to Whiffen's *American Architecture Since 1780*.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The property is being nominated at the local level of significance as an excellent intact example of an urban public school in Columbus exhibiting the Romanesque Revival and International styles as applied to school buildings.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by Oracle Design Group, Inc., and nomination materials were prepared by preservation consultant, Regina Brewer.