

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Springfield Terrace School

2. Location: 707 Hastings Street, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia

3a. Description: The Springfield Terrace School is located at 707 Hastings Street in the West Savannah neighborhood in Savannah, Chatham County, in the southeastern portion of Georgia. The 1926 one-story, wood-frame building is clad in a painted brick veneer and is small in scale, consistent within the surrounding modest one-story, working-class houses in the neighborhoods it historically served. The small school building occupies the northwest corner of a large, irregularly shaped parcel bounded roughly by Hastings Street to the west, Gwinnett Street to the south, Stiles Avenue to the east, and by the rear property lines of numerous residential lots fronting Cornwall Avenue to the north. The parcel once contained other resources such as additions and a playground, none of which remain extant or retain integrity. The school's architectural details contain elements of both the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. Craftsman style elements include exposed rafter tails, wide over-hanging eaves, low-pitched cross-gabled and hipped roofs, and ribbon windows. Colonial Revival style elements include building symmetry, a central entrance framed by a traditional pediment and round Doric columns, multi-light 9/9 windows, and a brick exterior finish. The building is slightly T-shaped and has four large classrooms accessed via a central corridor with angled doorways, while two small utility rooms flank the corridor between classroom spaces. The building maintains a high level of integrity with its intact original floorplan and the survival of most original finishes and materials including plaster walls and ceilings, wood doors with transoms, windows, and wood details like wainscoting in the corridors. Minimal alterations include nonhistoric flooring, and a c.1999 conversion of the former storage and furnace rooms to restrooms and a storage room, respectively.

3b. Period of Significance: 1926-1971

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre.

3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary of the nominated property comprises the building footprint, as no other extant site elements or features remain from the period of significance.

4a. National Register Criteria: A, C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture, Education, Ethnic Heritage-Black

4c. Statement of Significance: The Springfield Terrace School is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage-Black, for its association with African American education in Chatham County, and as a good example of the continuing influence of the Rosenwald Fund school program, and its standardized school plans in local communities to improve schools for African Americans across the South during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Constructed in 1926, the former elementary school at 707 Hastings Street is the only surviving example of a popular one-story public school building type constructed during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Chatham County for the education of rural students living on the outskirts of the county's incorporated areas. Located in the western area of Savannah, the small school historically served the surrounding community of Springfield Terrace, part of a larger area generally known today as Carver Heights or Carver Village. Surrounded by light and heavy industrial development on the western edge of the city, the students were from nearby neighborhoods west of the city, comprised of primarily African American, blue-collar workers. The school is significant at the local level as a community landmark that served as an institutional and civic anchor for the area from the time of its construction in 1926 until its closure in 1991.

The school is also significant under Criterion C for Architecture, as a good, representative example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century "Model Country School" as designed by the Savannah architectural firm of Levy & Clarke. This school type featured between four and six classrooms and was designed to serve students living immediately outside of the Savannah city limits. The vernacular school designs featured standardized forms and simplified architectural details, likely to aid in the speed and low cost of constructing the schools. The only surviving example of this locally unique type in Chatham County, the Springfield Terrace School remains a beloved landmark for the surrounding largely African American community. The school maintains a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Springfield Terrace School is being nominated at the local level of significance for its association with the education of African American children in Chatham County, and as the only extant example of a "Model Country School" type.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the property owner, the City of Savannah, and materials were prepared by a consultant, Ward Architecture & Preservation.