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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Old Salem School

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3.4 miles west of Macon on Highway 14 — N/A not for publication

city, town Macon — X vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Noxubee code 103 zip code 39341

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property: Contributing	Noncontributing	
[ ] private	[X] building(s)	1	1	buildings
[X] public-local	[ ] district			sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site			structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure			objects
	[ ] object	1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [X] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date Dec., 21, 1989

Miss. Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

[✓] entered in the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.

[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[ ] removed from the National Register.

[ ] other, (explain:) _____

Entered in the National Register

1/26/90

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

School, schoolhouse

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Work in progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof Cement-Asbestos Shingles
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Old Salem School stands on level ground facing south toward Highway 14. A row of four 3'-0 diameter oak trees stands between the highway and the school. The school building is a 52' wide by 42' deep, five-bay by four-bay brick structure, laid in common bond, with a hipped roof supported by a wooden superstructure and covered with cement-asbestos shingles. The plan consists of rooms astride a central hall on both floors.

The building's brick walls are one-foot thick. The first-floor brick up to the level of the heads of the first-floor windows, are a mixture of bluish-gray and dark-red bricks; the bricks above this area change to a brownish-red. There is no apparent design or construction consideration to explain this change. The windows on both floors are wooden, double-hung four-over-four sash with segmental-arch heads and plain, limestone sills. The front and rear double-doors on the ground floor open from the central hall and have a three-paned, glazed transom. The rear doors are intact and consist of four lights above recessed panels. The front doors have been replaced with a single door. A metal fire escape leads from a single wood door at the east end of the second floor of the rear facade.

Plain, brick chimneys rise from both the east and west endwalls. The roof has metal gutters andcylindrical downspouts.

The plan (See scaled drawings of the first and second floors) consists of a central stairhall on the first floor with double-pile rooms to either side. The second floor consists of the central stair with double-pile rooms to the west and a single room the full depth of the building to the east. This single room contains a stage extending the full depth of the building. The wall to the west of the stair includes an operable, counter-weighted panel which can be raised and lowered.

On the interior the ground floor consists of a concrete slab and the second floor consists of tongue-and-groove pine boards. The walls are plaster on wood lath above a 3'-0 high beaded-board wainscot. All interior door and window trim is wood and is quite plain as are the handrail, balusters, and newels of the interior stair. The ceiling is covered with pressmetal throughout, including a pressmetal cornice and pressmetal covering beams which span between the front and rear rooms on each floor. This beam is supported on both floors by a single, wooden column.

The original teacher's house stands west of the school but has been much modified.

☐ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) N/A ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Education	1914-1939	Building constructed 1914

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person	Architect/Builder
N/A	N/A-unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Old Salem School is significant as the largest and most sophisticated county public school building remaining in Noxubee County, Mississippi from the early 20th Century. It was a product of the national and state process of school consolidation.

In the first decade of the 19th Century school consolidation developed nationally as a result of efforts to increase educational efficiency and as motorized transportation became available to assemble students from a large geographic area. In 1910 the Mississippi Legislature passed its first school consolidation legislation. Educators argued that school consolidation offered the best available system because it cost less per pupil than one-room schoolhouses, provided better organization, delivered a better quality of teachers and teaching, enabled the purchase of better equipment, provided a broader circle of acquaintances for students, made a wider variety of athletic activities possible, and produced more dignified school buildings (J. T. Calhoun, Consolidated Schools and Transportation of Pupils, Bulletin #10 of Consolidated Schools, 1917, 7-12 and 29) The erection of consolidated schools led to the gradual disappearance of the one-room schoolhouse.

In 1870 the public school system was established in Noxubee County (J. T. Calhoun, Consolidated Schools in Mississippi, Bulletin #34 of Consolidated Schools, 11). In 1904 the land was purchased for a school on the present Old Salem School site (Noxubee County Chancery Clerk's Office, Deed Book 77, 325). With consolidation, Noxubee County maintained 19 small, non-consolidated schools, established two separate school districts as shown in the table on the following continuation sheet (WPA Statewide Historical Research Project, Noxubee County, Vol. LII, 88-91 and interviews with Mr. Albert Williams, and Ms. Janelle Craig):

☒ See continuation sheet

District	1936-38 Description/Value	Current Condition
Brooksville	Brick elementary and high school. $12,000.	Demolished
Center Point	Brick elementary school. $4,000.	One room remains
Cliftonville	Frame elementary school. $2,000.	Remains in a modified condition.
Cooksville-Paulette	Brick elementary and high (3-year) school. $7,500.	Second floor removed. Shell of first floor remains.
Lynn Creek	Frame elementary and high school. $10,000.	Only slab remains
Mashullaville	Brick and frame buildings including those for the county agricultural high school. $20,000.	Parts remain
Salem	Brick elementary school. $7,000. High school grades moved to Macon in 1932.	Remains intact

It is remarkable that as large a sum of money as $7,000 was spent in 1916 on a school housing only primary and secondary grades. Furthermore, its organization, including moveable partitions, was extremely thoughtful and innovative. The grammar school grades occupied the first floor with grades one and two in the southeast room, grades three and four in the northeast room, grades five and six in the southwest room, and grades seven and eight in the northwest room. On the second floor the southwest room housed high school math and science classes. The northwest room held high school history and English classes. The large room on the east side, outfitted with a stage, was used for study hall, music, chapel, and entertainment (H. F. Cockrell, "Salem High School, 1914-1932," Noxubee County Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, #46, pages 2,3, and 8, and #47, pages 6 and 8).

In 1922-23, in addition to the two separate school districts and the seven consolidated schools in Noxubee County with an aggregate enrollment of 672 students, there were 19 non-consolidated schools (with 200 pupils in one-room schools). The majority of students in the non-consolidated schools were black.

(Calhoun. Consolidated Schools. 73-74.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Calhoun, J. T. Consolidated Schools in Mississippi. No place and no publisher. Bulletin No. 34, Session 1922-23. Copy found in Special Collections, Mississippi State University Mitchell Library

Cockrell, Helen Farrar, "Salem High School, 1914-1932," Noxubee County Historical Society, "Noxubee County Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin," Number 46 (June, 1988), 2,3, and 8 and Number 47 (September, 1988), 6 and 8.

Craig, Ms. Janelle, Chancery Clerk, Noxubee County, Mississippi. Interviewed by Michael Fazio on March 9, 1989.

Noxubee County Chancery Clerk's Office, Deed Book 77, p. 325, C. F. Jackson to Noxubee County, 26 July 1904.

[X] See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested N/A
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:
- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [X] Other

Specify repository: Noxubee County Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property about 1 1/2 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	349370	3662780
B			
C			
D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Commence at a point 24.75 chains West of the Southeast Corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 1, Township 14 North, Range 16 East, and run South 1.72 chains to the North right-of-way of Mississippi State Highway No. 14; thence run West 15 degrees North along the North line of said right-of-way 2.77 chains to the point of beginning of this description; thence run North 3 chains; then run West 15 degrees North 5.28 chains; thence run South 3 chains to the North line of said Highway No. 14 right-of-way

[X] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The parcel of land included comprises that parcel purchased in 1904 by the Noxubee County Board of Education for the erection of a school.

See Co Shee

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Fazio

organization private consultant date April 1, 1989

street & number P. O. Box 2870 telephone 601-323-3451

city or town Mississippi State state Mississippi zip code 39762

Williams, Mr. Albert, Superintendent, Noxubee County Schools. Interview by Michael Fazio on 9 March 1989.

"WPA State-wide Historical Research Project, Source Material for Mississippi, Noxubee County," Vol. LII, Part 2, 1936-1938. Copy found at the Office of the Chancery Clerk, Noxubee County, Mississippi.

Section 10, Page 1, Verbal Boundary Description

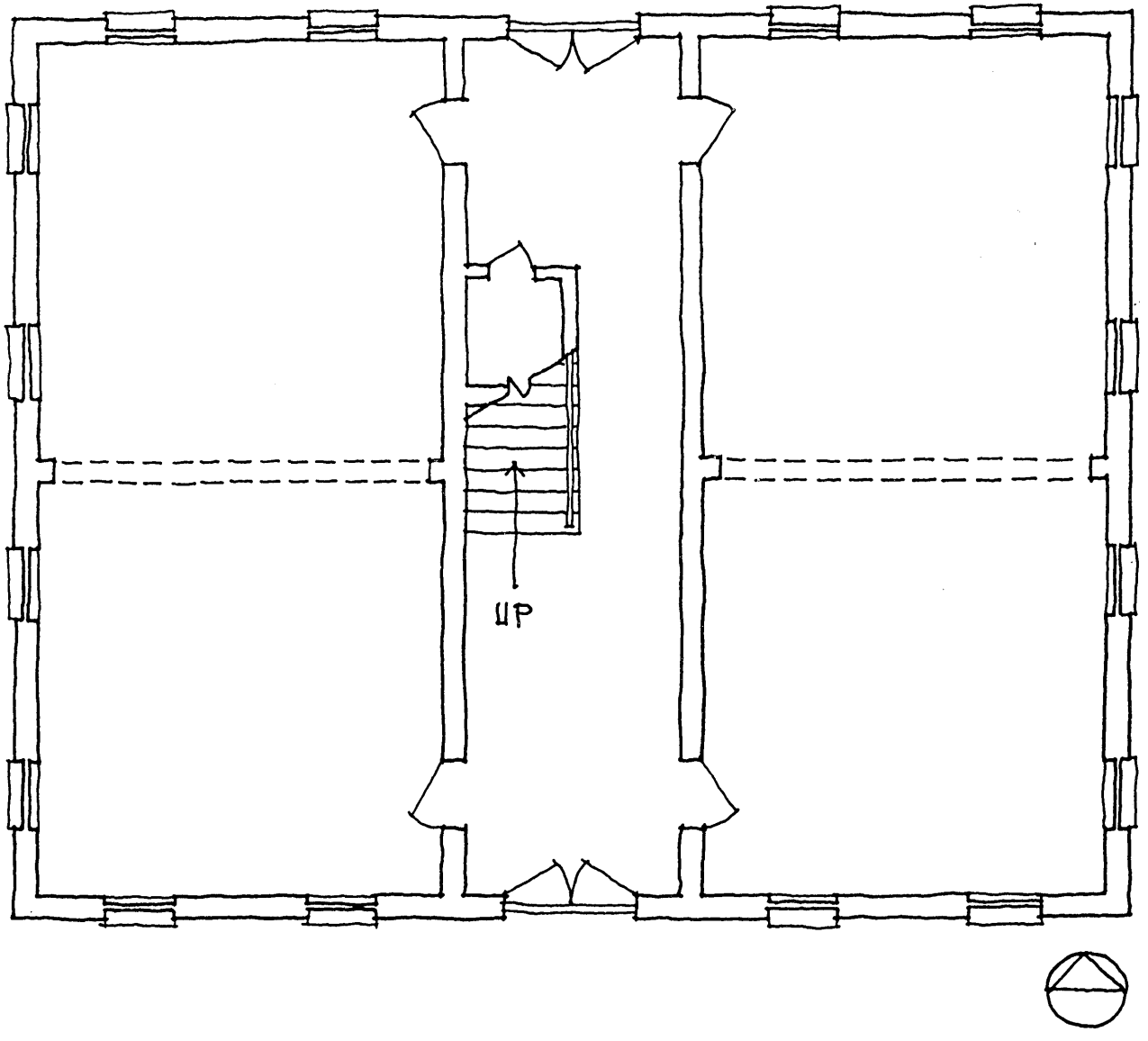
thence run East 15 degrees South along the North line of said Highway right-of-way 5.28 chains to the point of beginning, all lying and being in Section 1, Township 14 North, Range 16 East.

Section number: Photos Page--

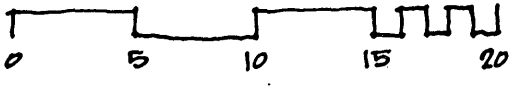
The following information is the same for all photographs:

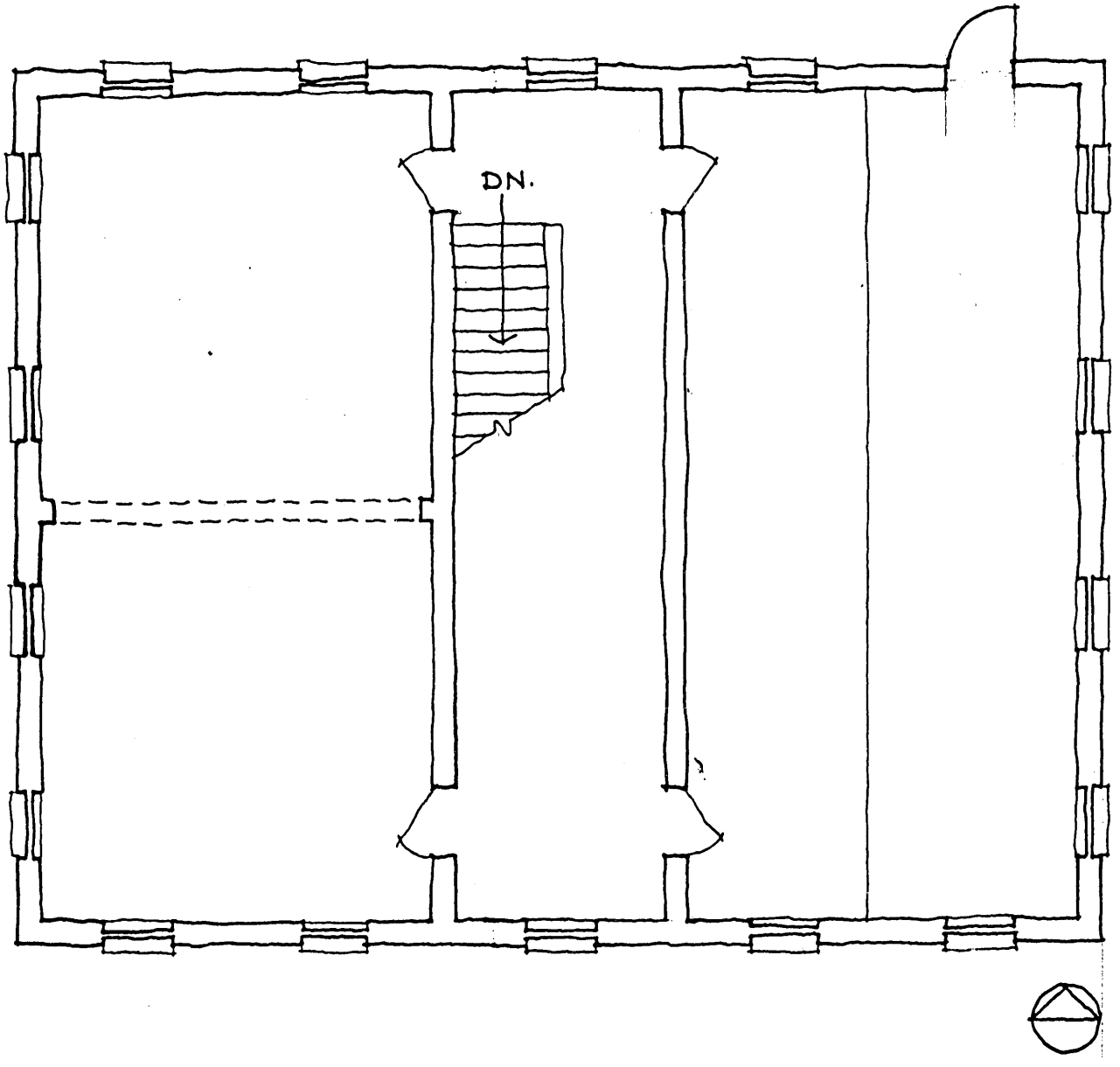
1) Old Salem School
2) Near Macon, Noxubee County, Mississippi
3) Michael Fazio
4) February, 1989
5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1: Exterior from the southwest
Photo 2: First floor, central stairhall looking north
Photo 3: First floor, southeast classroom, looking west
Photo 4: Second floor, east classroom/auditorium, looking southeast

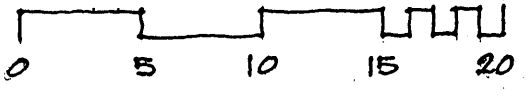


OLD SALEM SCHOOL
1ST FLOOR PLAN.





OLD SALEM SCHOOL
2ND FLOOR PLAN



OLD SALEM SCHOOL

1 OF 4

Northern Co 1115

OLD SALEM SCHOOL

2 OF 4

Noxubee Co MS

OLD SALEM SCHOOL

3 OF 4

Noxubee Co, MS

OLD SALEM SCHOOL

4 OF 4

Tishomingo Co. MS