

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Fulton County Almshouse
other names/site number Haven Home

2. Location

street & number 215 West Wieuca Road NW not for publication
city or town Atlanta vicinity
state Georgia code GA county Fulton code 121 zip code 30342

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this 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 meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
 national statewide local


Signature of certifying official/Title: Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date 19 DEC 2013
Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official _____ Date _____
Title _____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____
Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: institutional housing

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
 Classical Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK
 walls: BRICK
 roof: ASPHALT
 other: BRICK (chimneys)

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Fulton County Almshouse, completed in 1911, is a brick Neoclassical Revival-style building now used as a school facility. It consists of four major sections, which are connected by enclosed walkways (sun porches), surrounding a central courtyard. Flemish bond was used throughout the building. Chimneys and foundations are also brick. The main block is two stories in height; the side and rear wings are one story. The front entrance faces south onto a semi-circular driveway. This symmetrical façade features a two-story portico with four Tuscan columns supporting a triangular pediment with an oval window. Other classical elements on the front façade include dentil molding, a hipped roof, flat arches with granite keystones, and sidelights and transom surrounding the main door. The central block includes a foyer, offices, and a staircase. The wings on the east and west sides (once separate women's and men's residential halls) have double-loaded interior corridors and open porches that run the length of the exterior. While the setting has changed, the building retains a high degree of integrity with few alterations. The former almshouse is located on a prominent hill on what is now the eight-acre campus of The Galloway School near a residential area in the Buckhead area of northwest Atlanta. This private school occupies a parcel of land surrounded by Chastain Park, a public city park with a golf course and other facilities.

Narrative Description

NOTE: Some portions of the following description were written by Marcia Kochel, head librarian of The Galloway School, as part of a Historic Property Information Form for "The Fulton County Almshouse (for White Residents)" prepared on July 18, 2012, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. The text was edited and revised by Historic Preservation Division staff.

Designed in the Neoclassical Revival style by the prominent Atlanta architecture firm of Morgan and Dillon, the former Fulton County Almshouse is the centerpiece of the eight-acre Galloway School campus. The government of Fulton County built two almshouses that opened in 1911. The smaller building at 135 West Wieuca Road housed African-American residents and is now the Chastain Arts Center. The large brick building at 215 West Wieuca Road, which is the subject of this nomination, was constructed as the Fulton County Almshouse for white residents. It is currently used by the private Galloway School as an administration and classroom building. The nomination includes only the historic building, because the setting is altered by several newer buildings that do not relate to the period of significance or to the history of the almshouse. The former almshouse has been preserved and rehabilitated, and thus retains most of its historic character-defining features, along with excellent integrity of design, workmanship, and materials.

The Fulton County Almshouse is located in a mostly residential area adjacent to Chastain Park in the northwest quadrant of the city of Atlanta, on a ridge overlooking Nancy Creek between Buckhead and Sandy Springs. The building sits on a hill facing southeast toward West Wieuca Road, with the city-owned park and golf course on the opposite side (south side) of the road. In 1911 it was on the far outskirts of Atlanta and overlooked a wooded, rural landscape. The grounds still feature large oak trees in the front yard, and a curving drive leads to the front of the building.

The Neoclassical Revival design is evident in the building's form and details, such as the prominent two-story portico with four Tuscan columns (photograph 1). The triangular pediment includes an oval glazed window

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with patterned muntins. A row of dentils extends around the eave line (photograph 3). A second-floor balcony is cantilevered over the front entrance (photograph 4). Sidelights and transom surround the main door. The exterior of the almshouse is a load-bearing wall system of Flemish bond with variations in the rich color of the hand-formed red bricks (photograph 6). A brick soldier course functions as a water table. The building's main roof is a hipped configuration. Some window openings have flat arches with granite keystones (photograph 4), and others have segmental arches (photograph 12). Most windows are wooden, double-hung, nine-over-nine sashes (photograph 6). There are three brick chimneys; two on the west elevation and one on the east elevation. Intact historic features include most of the windows, doors, transoms, fireplaces, and woodwork.

The building footprint is roughly square with an open courtyard in the center. The almshouse consists of four sections connected by sun porches enclosing the central courtyard. The sun porches are constructed of wood and glass (photograph 18). The two-story south wing, facing West Wieuca Road, is the main entry to the building. This center front block (with the portico) is two stories, and the other sections of the building are one story (photograph 2). The building floor structure is timber frame. Floor joists are typically 2 x 12 joists on 16-inch centers, which rest in pockets in the load-bearing brick walls. The northwest-facing interior courtyard façade of the two-story section features a semi-circular covered porch (photograph 9). The courtyard once contained dogwoods, fig trees, and a small goldfish pond. The pond has since been filled in and the courtyard now has oval walks connecting the north and south wings (photograph 10).

The almshouse superintendent's family resided in the second floor of the front section (photograph 17), which also housed administrative and nursing functions on the first floor (photograph 16). The two side wings with double-loaded corridors leading to the rear were the men's wing on the west and the women's wing on the east. These are now classroom wings (photographs 19 and 26). Each classroom was originally two residential rooms housing three to four people each with a fireplace and sink (photographs 24 and 25). There were once bathrooms and shower rooms toward the back of each wing. Further in the rear were the separate chapels for men and women, and the last rooms on each wing were infirmary wards. Between the two wings in the rear were the kitchen and dining rooms.

The interior of the south wing is comprised of a central northwest-southeast entrance hall which extends from the main entrance to the courtyard porch and to the interior staircase (photograph 13). This hall intersects with a perpendicular northeast-southwest corridor that connects to the sun porches, now enclosed, leading to the east and west wings (photograph 15). The staircase consists of two flights and an intermediate landing which overlooks the courtyard (photograph 14).

The southeast main room, designated on the attached "Sketch Floor Plan Showing Historic Uses" by a number [1], was the almshouse superintendent's office. Opposite this office were the living quarters of a nurse [5]. On the north side of the building were a drug dispensary [2], a public bathroom [3], the nurse's private bathroom [4], the superintendent's family dining room [6], a kitchen [7], and two sitting areas for the prisoners who did domestic work at the almshouse [8]. The two front rooms and the family dining room had fireplaces that are still extant but no longer working (photograph 16). Upstairs were the bedrooms and living spaces for the superintendent's family (photograph 17). This area of the building now holds the administrative offices of The Galloway School.

The east and west wings are connected to the two-story section by a pair of heavily glazed sun porches, now enclosed (photograph 18). The long wings feature external, deep-set, colonnaded porches to provide for ample shading (photographs 5, 7, and 8). Windows on opposite sides of the wings allow for natural lighting and cross ventilation. The east wing was occupied by the women residents (photograph 19), and the west wing was home for the men (photograph 26). The wings consisted of a double-loaded central corridor with the living spaces on both sides. Each room [9] could house three or four residents and included a fireplace and sink. Two bathrooms and a shower room were located at the end of the hallway [10], which led to a large chapel featuring vaulted plaster ceilings [11]. The last two rooms in each wing were infirmary wards for bedridden residents [12]. The east and west wings are now used as classrooms, most of which take up the

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space of two of the residents' rooms. The east wing chapel (photograph 20) and the wards (photograph 21) are part of the school library. The west wing wards are used as classrooms and the men's chapel is now the high school commons (photograph 23).

The north wing consists of a one-story T-plan building connected to the east and west wings by a pair of sun porches, now enclosed (photograph 11). A small, colonnaded porch on the north façade has also been enclosed. The north building was divided between a women's dining room [13], a men's dining room [14], and the kitchen [15], which included a dish room [16], a vegetable cooler [17], and a storage room [18]. The dining rooms shared a central fireplace opening to each room and also featured the vaulted plaster ceilings. To the north of the kitchen area were a "little store" where residents sold drinks and candy and a screened-in area for food storage (now enclosed, photograph 11). The women's dining room is now part of the school library (photograph 22), and the kitchen area and men's dining room are used as classrooms.

The building was originally heated with coal. In 1954, the building's coal furnace was replaced by a gas furnace and the fireplaces were closed off. Photographs from 1954 show radiators in the building, but it is not known when they were installed or removed. The north wing has a basement for mechanical spaces. The current heating system, a gas-fired hot water boiler, is located there now. The other wings all have crawl spaces to provide further natural cooling.

Beginning in 1969, The Galloway School operated in the original almshouse building and used portable classrooms on the grounds when necessary. In 1988 the Sims Early Learning Center was completed. The Sims Center connects to the Gresham Building on the north side of the east wing. (The original almshouse building is now the Gresham Building, named in memory of Richard C. Gresham, a mentor of founder Elliott Galloway.) The Arnold Building and the gym on the north side of the property were completed in 1996. The Chaddick Center for the Arts and the playground, to the east of the original almshouse building, were completed in 2005.

Few changes were made to the original almshouse during the rehabilitation of the property. Alterations include the removal of some interior walls to create classrooms from the former bedrooms, the lowering of ceilings in two corridors, and the addition of interior dormers in the attic of the west wing. The Galloway School converted the building to offices and classrooms without taking away from the architectural character. The exterior of the building in particular has seen very few changes. The original windows remain intact throughout the building, while new lighting fixtures were added and dropped ceilings were hung in the east and west wing corridors. The building was re-wired in the mid-1990s. In 2001 the attic above the west wing was converted into classrooms by adding four dormers to the courtyard side of the building, two stairwells, and an elevator shaft.

The original grounds of the Fulton County Almshouse included 1,000 acres and stretched down West Wieuca Road to encompass both the almshouses for black and white residents. The current grounds of the former almshouse for white residents include the 8.2 acres now owned by The Galloway School. (These grounds are not included in the nomination due to changes since the historic period.) The sloping front lawn features several tall oak trees, and the rest of the property has well-maintained walkways between campus buildings, newer tree plantings, and play areas for children. The north side of the property has a wooded pond and the perimeter of the property is hilly and wooded as well.

The surrounding setting has also changed significantly. The Galloway School is now surrounded by Chastain Park. The park includes a public golf course, baseball fields, a playground, the Chastain Arts Center, tennis courts, a swimming pool, an equestrian facility, a large amphitheater, and paths for walking and jogging. Although part of the busy city of Atlanta, the park features rolling hills, tall trees, and is an oasis of green most of the year.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

OTHER: Women's History

Period of Significance

1911-1963

Significant Dates

1911- construction of almshouse

1932- Jessie Clark (later Boynton) becomes superintendent

1963- almshouse closes, Boynton retires

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Morgan and Dillon

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the almshouse in 1911, and ends when it closed and the residents were moved to other facilities in 1963.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Fulton County Almshouse is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of social history and women's history and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The almshouse (also called Haven Home after 1932) was part of the county's early efforts to provide institutional care for elderly and indigent residents. After acquiring 1,000 acres for this purpose, Fulton County built two new almshouses in 1911. The nominated building was for white residents and another nearby facility was for African Americans. Initially constructed to house 145 women and men, the almshouse operated until 1963 with a population varying between approximately 45 and 200. The building is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of the use of the Neoclassical Revival style in an institutional building, and also for its design by the prominent Georgia firm of Morgan and Dillon. After rehabilitation for a new function by The Galloway School, the well-preserved building still retains its historic appearance and workmanship. The building is significant in the area of social history for its important role in caring for its impoverished and elderly residents who often had no other place to live. This is one of only two known extant examples of former almshouses in Fulton County. It is also significant in women's history for the contributions of the superintendent Jessie Early Clark Boynton (1902-1980) who ran the facility from 1932 to 1963. Her achievements included instituting recreational programs for the elderly, supervising the women prisoners who did domestic work at the almshouse, pioneering efforts at prison reform, and leading a large institution at a time when women were rarely given positions of authority in Fulton County government.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Social History

The Fulton County Almshouse is significant in the area of social history for its important role as an institution for impoverished elderly men and women in the early to mid-20th century. It reflects national trends as one of the various ways that social services were provided to U.S. citizens. The term almshouse was initially used in England. In the United States these institutions were often called poor houses or poor farms. They were places where indigent persons, who were usually also disabled or elderly, would be housed and cared for at public expense. However, they were not debtor's prisons. Almshouses were established in the late 1600s in Boston and in the 1730s in New York City and Philadelphia, and came later to the Southern states. The U. S. social welfare system evolved a tradition whereby county governments provided for the needy within their borders. Almshouses were increasingly common in the U. S. beginning in the middle of the 19th century, and began to decline after the Social Security Act took effect in 1935. The 1960s "Great Society" programs of the Johnson administration provided the impetus for the private development of elderly housing and nursing homes and contributed to the obsolescence of almshouses.

An almshouse was once the housing of last resort for elderly or disabled people who had nowhere else to go. The first almshouse in Atlanta (the county seat of Fulton County) was destroyed in the Civil War. The next location in the second half of the 19th century was in what was then a rural location at Peachtree and Piedmont roads. After that area started to develop into a residential district, the government of Fulton County purchased 1,000 acres even farther from downtown for two

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new almshouses to be built in 1911; the building in this nomination was for white residents, and another building nearby was for African-Americans. This occurred during the era of Jim Crow segregation when separate public facilities were commonplace in the South. The former almshouse for African Americans is now on a different parcel, owned by a different entity, and outside the boundary for this nomination. (It is currently used by the Chastain Arts Center.) In addition to using it as an almshouse, the county once housed black female prisoners in the rear section of the caretaker's house at the black almshouse. Some of these African-American women worked in the kitchen and did other domestic chores, such as cooking, cleaning, and caretaking, at the almshouse for white residents. These prisoners functioned as the staff for the white almshouse, under the direction of the superintendent and nurses.

Many poorhouses were also working farms where residents produced at least some of their food, if their health allowed. However, most residents at the Fulton County Almshouse were too old or infirm for manual labor. While previous almshouses had a more varied population, by the 1900s almshouses were mostly for elderly people. Part of the adjacent 1,000 acres owned by Fulton County was the county prison farm where prisoners worked in fields that are the present location of the Chastain Park Golf Course. This land supplied produce for the almshouse.

The almshouse building housed mainly elderly people, but also included residents with physical disabilities and illnesses. Residents lived independently in dormitory rooms or were cared for in four wards for bedridden patients. Two doctors visited weekly; a nurse lived on-site. The residents at the almshouse participated in many recreational activities such as musical performances, ceramics classes, quilt making, bus tours, and even poker games. Newspaper articles, photographs, and interviews seem to indicate that the residents were generally treated with dignity and respect, at least compared to similar facilities of the time.

Architecture

The Fulton County Almshouse is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of the Neoclassical Revival style in an institutional building in Atlanta. This style was popular in Georgia from the 1890s through the 1930s. It was part of a revival of interest in classically inspired design with a combination of both Greek and Roman details. A dominant full-height front portico is one of the major features, which is implemented in the almshouse with four Tuscan columns under a triangular pediment. The proportion and symmetry reflect a mastery of the style, along with details such as cornices with dentils, flat arches with keystones, and a main door with transom and sidelights. The building's imposing architecture shows the importance of the institution to the county; the wide porches on both sides reveal an emphasis on relaxation and comfort; and the large chapels and dining rooms show the importance of the residents' spiritual and social lives.

The almshouse was designed by the firm of Morgan and Dillon, though the specific architect is unclear. Thomas Henry Morgan (1857-1940), born in Syracuse, New York, came to Atlanta in 1878 as a draftsman with the architectural firm of Parkins and Bruce. In 1882 he and Alexander C. Bruce formed Bruce and Morgan, which lasted until Bruce's retirement in 1904. Morgan then joined with John R. Dillon (1872-1938) and together they designed college buildings at Georgia Institute of Technology, Agnes Scott College, and Oglethorpe University, as well as the Fulton County Courthouse, J. P. Allen Department Store, the Healey Building, and numerous other schools, churches, and public buildings. The firm was especially popular in the Atlanta business community, and designed many major commercial buildings in the city. Morgan was the first president of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which he founded in 1906. Known by many as the "Dean of Atlanta architects," he was also the first president of Georgia's state board that

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registered architects. Morgan's established social standing is indicated by his membership in such organizations as the Piedmont Driving Club (a charter member), the Capital City Club, and the Gate City Guard.

Women's History

The Fulton County Almshouse is significant in the area of women's history for the accomplishments of Jessie Clark Boynton (1902-1980), who ran the facility for over 30 years from 1932 to 1963, and lived on site until 1952. After the death of her first husband in 1932, she applied for his former job as superintendent, which was unheard of for a woman at that time. She was the first female department head for Fulton County, hired during the Great Depression at a time when women were much less likely to be employed outside the home. Boynton was also considered by some to be Georgia's first woman prison warden and a pioneer for the humane treatment of prisoners and the elderly. By all accounts she was highly regarded by Fulton County leaders and politicians and beloved by the residents and prisoners at the almshouse.

Boynton had some extraordinary achievements, including instituting recreational programs for the elderly, supervising the women prisoners who did domestic work at the almshouse, and leading efforts at prison reform, such as removing stripes from women's uniforms. Jessie Boynton personally helped the prisoners who worked at the almshouse find employment upon their release from prison. She instituted family visitation days in which the women prisoners' families and children could come to the almshouse on Sunday afternoons and meet in the dining hall. Most importantly, she led a large institution at a time when women were rarely given positions of authority in Fulton County government. Her biography is included in the following section.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

NOTE: Most of the following narrative was written by Marcia Kochel, head librarian of The Galloway School, as part of a Historic Property Information Form for "The Fulton County Almshouse (for White Residents)" prepared on July 18, 2012, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. The text was edited and revised by Historic Preservation Division staff.

At the turn of the 20th century, the government of Fulton County acquired 1,000 acres, which included present-day Chastain Park in the city of Atlanta, to build two new almshouses for the county's indigent and elderly. Prominent regional architects Morgan and Dillon, who were based in Atlanta, designed the buildings. Construction began in 1909 and was completed in 1911. According to an article in the *Atlanta Constitution* entitled "Inmates of Old Almshouse Go Over Hill to New House," residents moved into the new almshouse on January 11, 1911. From 1911 to 1963 the property at 215 West Wieuca Road served as the Fulton County Almshouse for white residents. In 1932 the almshouse was officially renamed Haven Home but, according to Charlene Leistl, daughter of the superintendent, most people continued to call it an almshouse.

Timeline of the Fulton County Almshouse

- 1911 The almshouse is completed and residents move in on January 11.
- 1911-1912 O. O. Fanning is superintendent.

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- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1912-1927 | A. Q. Turner is superintendent. |
| 1927 | J. O. McCrary is superintendent. |
| 1928 | Henry Clay Clark is superintendent; his wife Jessie Clark serves as assistant superintendent or "matron." |
| 1932 | Jessie Clark becomes superintendent after the death of her husband. At the time she had 5 children. |
| 1934 | Almshouse was officially named Haven Home as suggested by Mrs. W. B. Price-Smith and selected from more than 500 names submitted to a newspaper columnist. |
| 1936 | Jessie Clark marries Charles Boynton and continues her work as superintendent. |
| 1945 | Jessie and Charles have a daughter, Charlene Boynton, who grows up at Haven Home. |
| 1952 | The Boyntons move to a home in Sandy Springs but continue to spend much of their time at Haven Home. |
| 1963 | Jessie Clark Boynton retires on September 30; Haven Home closes and the residents move to Highview Home on Springdale Road, DeKalb County, Georgia. |

After it closed in 1963, the almshouse building served as an annex for Atlanta's Tuxedo Elementary School from the fall of 1963 until the spring of 1967. That year it provided stage set storage for Theater under the Stars productions; in 1968 it housed dance classes for the Atlanta Civic Ballet. In 1969, Elliott Galloway explored the abandoned and condemned building and saw the opportunity to refurbish it and turn it into a school. Although the city had ordered it torn down, it was owned by Fulton County, and the county was willing to enter a five-year lease with Elliott Galloway. In 1993, Fulton County sold a portion (8.2 acres) of the former almshouse property to The Galloway School, which continues to operate it as an independent school for students from age three through grade 12.

Since acquisition, The Galloway School has carefully preserved and maintained the original almshouse building, leaving the floor plan, windows, and exterior features largely intact. The school has added four additional buildings to the campus while maintaining the property's landscaping and wide, sloping front lawn.

Significant Activities: Care of the Elderly and Poor

The Fulton County Almshouse is part of the long history of how American institutions have cared for the poor. The first almshouses in the United States colonies were established in the late 1600s in Boston and in the 1730s in New York City and Philadelphia. Almshouses came later to the Southern states. The first Fulton County Almshouse opened in 1860 on the west side of Atlanta. The four-year-old almshouse was destroyed in the Civil War in 1864 and re-opened in a new location north of the city in 1869. In its early days it, like other almshouses in the country, served a variety of people including the elderly, the mentally ill, vagrants, children, families, and people in poor health. By the time the new almshouse on West Wieuca Road was completed in 1911, the institution had transformed from a refuge for poor people of all kinds to largely being a home for the elderly. At that time racial segregation was the norm, and separate buildings were built for black and white residents. In its early years the almshouse for white patients did not hold the 145 people it was built to house, but during the Great Depression the number of residents swelled to 200. After World War II the population declined until the 1960s when about 45 residents remained at the time of its closing. The

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Fulton County Almshouse for white residents, with its well-preserved exterior and interior, is an invaluable example of how the elderly were cared for in 20th century Atlanta.

People and Events Associated with the Property

The most accomplished person associated with the Fulton County Almshouse was its superintendent for more than 30 years, Jessie Clark Boynton. Her daughter, Charlene Leistl, was raised at the almshouse and now lives in Florida. A 2012 interview with Leistl and an unpublished document written by Jessie Boynton's five daughters provided much of the information about this extraordinary woman. A biographical sketch is provided in the section below.

Another group of people that worked at the almshouse were the black female prisoners who did most of the cooking, cleaning, and caring for patients. They came from a Georgia women's prison and were usually serving the last years of their sentences. According to Charlene Leistl, her mother carefully selected the inmates and placed them in jobs according to their abilities. Charlene remembers some who were outstanding cooks and others who would sing gospel music in the chapel. About 40 women worked at the almshouse at any given time and slept in a locked wing of the black almshouse to the east of the white almshouse. In spite of the fact that some were in prison for murder, there were few negative incidents. Jessie Boynton often helped the women find employment upon their release.

The almshouse residents were an interesting mix of people, despite being poor, elderly, and often unwanted by society. Through a handful of newspaper articles, stories from Charlene Leistl, and some historic photographs, we know a little bit about some of the residents. The majority were elderly and most either had no family that was able to care for them or refused to accept assistance from friends or family. It appears that residents could not have any personal assets—in fact after one woman's death it was discovered that she had \$1,733.36 in the bank and the county sued her estate for compensation for five years of room and board. Charlene Leistl recalls that residents came from all walks of life and that she could hold an intelligent conversation with almost all of them. A sampling of the residents and their backgrounds are listed below.

- According to a 1912 newspaper account, Jane Wood spent 45 years in the almshouse after falling on hard times and being deserted by her children. She was one of the original residents who moved from the old Fulton County Almshouse to this building in 1911.
- In 1920, Mary Logan was expelled and turned over to the police because she was "too mean to live among quiet and respectable poor folks." (From *The Atlanta Constitution*, March 19, 1920.)
- Ollie Brown, a blind woman, played piano well and often performed in the chapel.
- Stella Risk was a small woman with twisted legs who had a career with Goodwill Industries. She was an interesting person with a lot of stories to tell.
- Margaret Able, at age 14, was the youngest person to enter the almshouse. She had physical but no mental disabilities. She lived at the almshouse for many years and moved to a nursing home when Haven Home closed in 1963.
- "Colonel" James Hill served in the Confederate Army (as a private) and subsequently lost his farm in 1880 at age 53. He lived in the previous Fulton County Almshouse for more than 30 years and reluctantly moved to the new building in 1911.

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- Ernest Neal, honored as Georgia's second poet laureate in 1927, was a resident of the almshouse according to a 1941 newspaper article.
- "Old Man" J.C. King, a Civil War veteran, married an elderly woman in the almshouse when he was 70 years old. His "poorhouse bride" deserted him and the home but managed to get hold of his pension, leaving him stuck in the almshouse.

Biographical Sketch: Jessie Early Clark Boynton, 1902–1980

Jessie Early was born on a farm in Floyd County, Georgia, in 1902. She attended Andrew College in Cuthbert, Georgia, for one year before marrying Henry Clay Clark at the age of 16. He passed away in 1932 leaving her with five small children and another baby on the way. The couple had been employed at the Fulton County Almshouse since 1928, he as superintendent and she as "matron." In the midst of the Great Depression and at a time when Fulton County had no women department heads, she successfully applied for the job as almshouse superintendent. According to her daughter, Charlene, she went before the Fulton County Commissioners and told them that she would do the job for no salary for a month, after which time they were free to let her go if they did not approve of her work. She remained superintendent for more than 30 years.

Jessie married Charles Boynton in 1936, and they had one daughter, Charlene Boynton Leistl. By all accounts, Jessie was a remarkable woman who was loved and admired by both the residents and the prisoners who worked at the almshouse. According to her five daughters, she performed the job with love and enthusiasm, and was "mother to all of her 200 patients." She was a pioneer in instituting recreational programs for the elderly, with Haven Home offering activities such as ceramics classes, quilt making, bus tours, and even poker games. She had a good sense of humor, played the piano and sang, and attended to residents' pet guinea pigs, goats, dogs, and cats. Because she supervised the women prisoners who did the domestic work at the almshouse, she was Georgia's first female prison warden (though it was not an official title). These duties led her to work toward prison reform, and she was responsible for having the stripes removed from women prisoners' uniforms in Georgia. She was an active Democrat, and one of her daughters, Atlanta lawyer Marge Thurman, served as State Chairman of the Democratic Party.

Jessie's youngest daughter, Charlene, recalls, "The thing about my mother was she was just so down to earth. She was good to everybody and she could mix with anybody. I mean some people can only mix with the elite, or they can only mix with somebody that's not so smart. But my mother could get down or go up. You could throw her into any situation and she fit. That's what I'll always remember about her."

Jessie retired from Haven Home in 1963 and continued to be active in politics, her church, and civic organizations until her death in 1980. When reflecting on her mother's generous nature, Charlene recalls something Jessie wrote at the time of her retirement. She wrote, "It's not the facts and the figures and all these things I've done in my job that matter. What matters is my contact with the people and the lives I've affected by just loving them."

Jessie Clark Boynton was an extraordinary Southern woman. Although she finished her formal schooling at age 16, through hard work and tenacity she became the first and only female department head for Fulton County. At a time when women did not often work outside of the home, she had a long and distinguished career while raising six children to adulthood. Although her son died in his 20s,

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her five daughters all became college graduates and professionals. She was a social reformer both in her work with the elderly and in her volunteer work, which continued until her death in 1980.

Biographical Sketch: Elliott Galloway, 1920–2008

John Elliott Galloway was born on a family farm outside Wilson, North Carolina, on November 30, 1920. In 1925 his family moved to southern Georgia, to the town of Colquitt near the Alabama line. Elliott's father was a farmer and his mother was a school teacher. Education was important to his parents, but Elliott was more interested in football, Boy Scouts, and the Baptist Church. He grew up working on the family farm planting tobacco and cotton and knowing that he wanted to be a teacher, a coach, and a minister. He attended Wake Forest University and majored in English. He joined the Navy immediately after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. He married Katherine "Kitty" Warren just after finishing basic training in 1942, and they had four children together. He served in the Navy for 16 years before completing his B.A. at Wake Forest and attending Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He worked at Wake Forest University then returned to the Navy during the Korean War. In 1958 he was hired as a teacher and coach at The Westminster Schools in Atlanta. There he further developed his ideas about education, including learning at one's own pace; ideas that he had developed during his time in the Navy. He left The Westminster Schools to become headmaster at Holy Innocents' Episcopal Day School and the school thrived under his progressive leadership. At the age of 50 he decided he wanted to start a school that included two-year-olds through the 12th grade. He discovered the abandoned Fulton County Almshouse and opened the school in 1969. He was head of the school until 1990 but maintained an office there for the rest of his life. Physical fitness was important to Elliott Galloway, and at age 52 he started running and eventually completed 34 Peachtree Road Race 10-kilometer races, as well as Boston and New York marathons. His educational vision lives on at The Galloway School, which has an enrollment of more than 700 students. The Galloway School promotes itself as a community of learners where students are drawn rather than pushed into learning and where classes are student-centered.

(Biographical sketch largely taken from *Galloway: Vision to Legacy*, 2005 and from "Elliott Galloway: 1920–2008," *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, July 8, 2008.)

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
 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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. **Latitude:** 33.875072

Longitude: -84.393880

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary is indicated with a heavy black line on the attached National Register map/tax map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes only the historic building and a small buffer, because the surrounding grounds have been altered for use as a campus by The Galloway School. The historic setting is no longer retained due to the construction of new buildings and changes to the landscape since the 1970s. The surrounding grounds now contain multiple educational buildings, a parking lot, and play areas for children. Also, the original almshouse land stretched beyond the current property boundary to include the almshouse for black residents and more of the current Chastain Park. This nomination is focused only on the building that housed the former almshouse for white residents.

Fulton County Almshouse
Name of Property

Fulton County, Georgia
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Denise P. Messick, historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date December 2013
street & number 254 Washington Street, Ground Level telephone (404) 656-2840
city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30334
e-mail Denise.Messick@dnr.state.ga.us

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Fulton County Almshouse

City or Vicinity: Atlanta

County: Fulton

State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Date Photographed: December 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

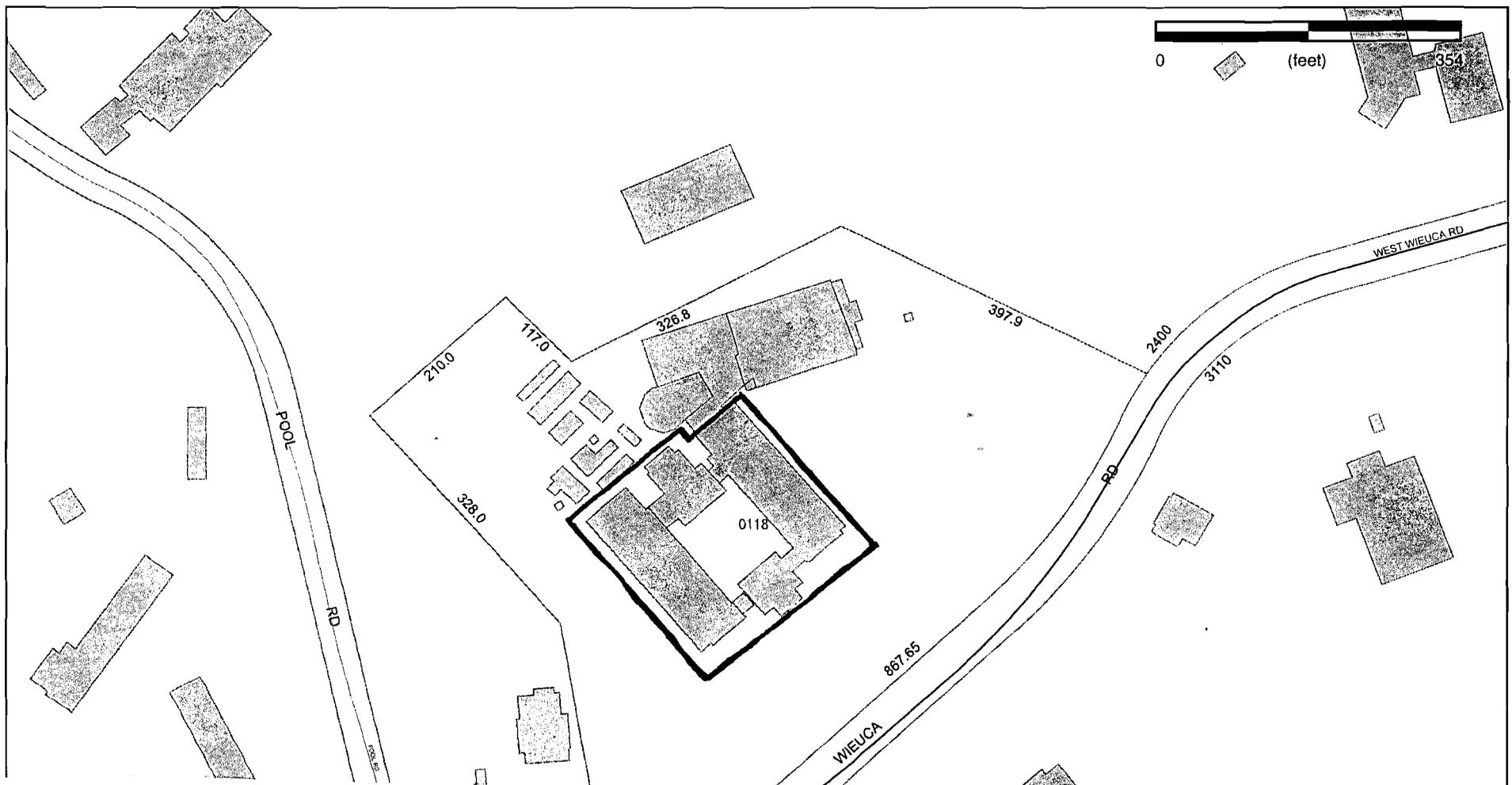
- 1 of 26. Front façade and portico. Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 26. Front façade and northeast elevation. Photographer facing west.
- 3 of 26. Front portico. Photographer facing north.
- 4 of 26. Front entrance. Photographer facing north.
- 5 of 26. Northeast elevation (former women's wing) and side porch. Photographer facing west/northwest.
- 6 of 26. Windows on front façade. Photographer facing northwest.

Fulton County Almshouse
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- 7 of 26. Southwest elevation (former men's wing) and side porch. Photographer facing north/northwest.
- 8 of 26. Side porch on southwest elevation. Photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 26. Rear of front central section, taken from interior courtyard. Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 10 of 26. Interior courtyard. Photographer facing west.
- 11 of 26. Rear center section. Photographer facing east.
- 12 of 26. Rear of former women's wing. Photographer facing east.
- 13 of 26. Entry foyer. Photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 26. Staircase on first floor of front center section. Photographer facing north/northwest.
- 15 of 26. Hallway in front center section. Photographer facing southwest.
- 16 of 26. Front office, former nurse's living quarters. Photographer facing south.
- 17 of 26. Second floor office in front center section. Photographer facing west.
- 18 of 26. Connecting corridor between front center section and former women's wing. Photographer facing southwest.
- 19 of 26. Hallway in former women's wing. Photographer facing northwest.
- 20 of 26. Former women's chapel. Photographer facing northwest.
- 21 of 26. Former women's infirmary. Photographer facing south.
- 22 of 26. Former women's dining hall. Photographer facing northeast.
- 23 of 26. Former men's chapel. Photographer facing west.
- 24 of 26. Former residential room on men's wing. Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 25 of 26. Former residential room on men's wing. Photographer facing east.
- 26 of 26. Hallway in former men's wing. Photographer facing northwest.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**FULTON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE
ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY MAP/TAX MAP**

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: —

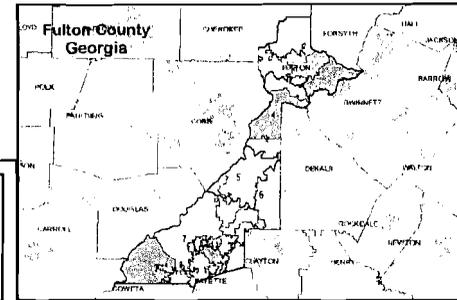
NORTH: ↑

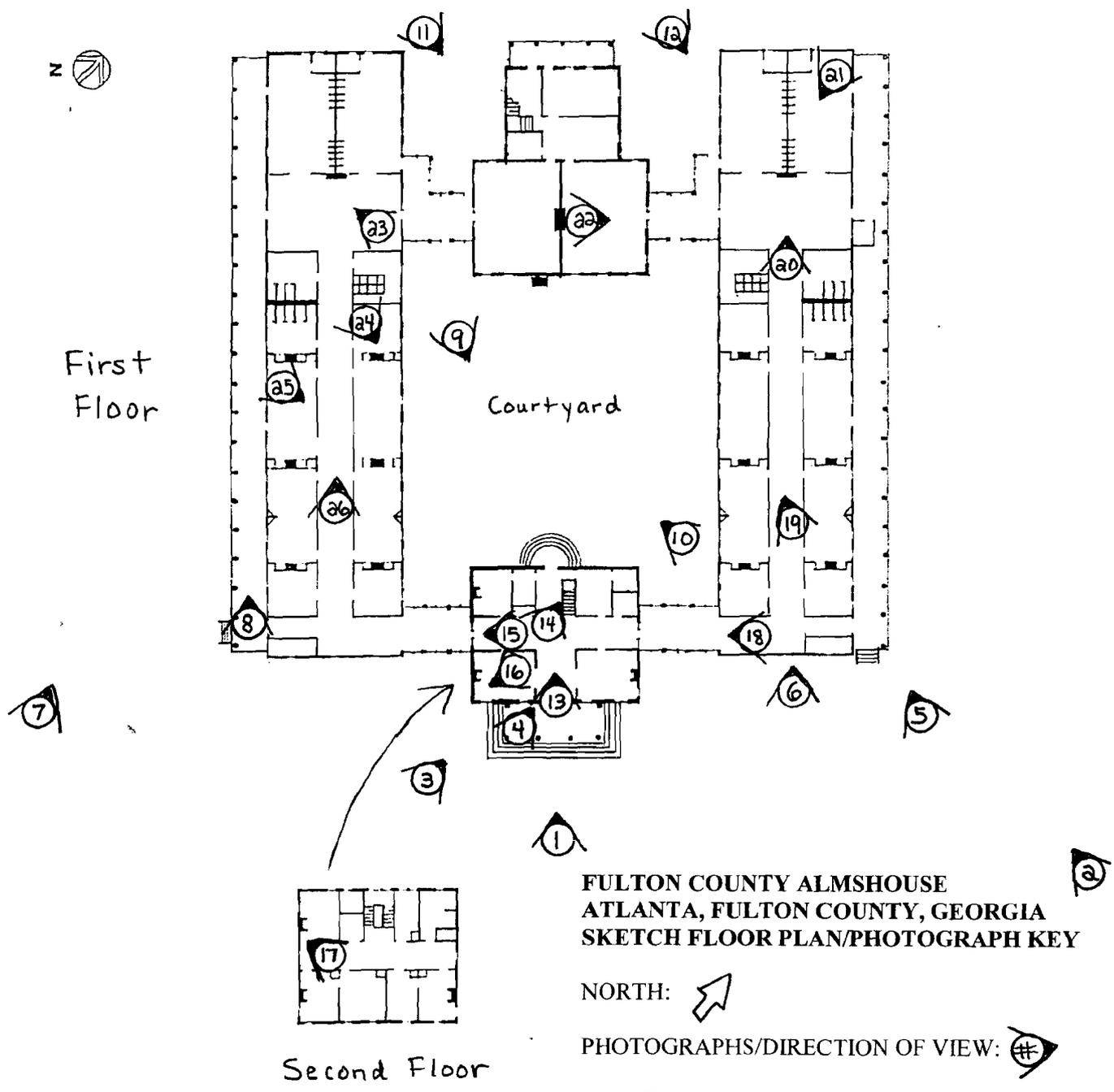
SCALE: 1 inch = 177 feet

SOURCE: Fulton County, Georgia,
Department of Environment and Community Development

08 The Galloway School, Inc.

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ad to be accurate, correct, or complete.





**FULTON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE
ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
SKETCH FLOOR PLAN/PHOTOGRAPH KEY**

NORTH: 

PHOTOGRAPHS/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 

SCALE: not to scale

SOURCE: Created by Bruce Morris, 1983
Modified by Marcia Kochel, 2012
Modified by Denise Messick, 2013

**FULTON COUNTY ALMHOUSE
ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
SKETCH FLOOR PLAN SHOWING HISTORIC USES**

NORTH: 

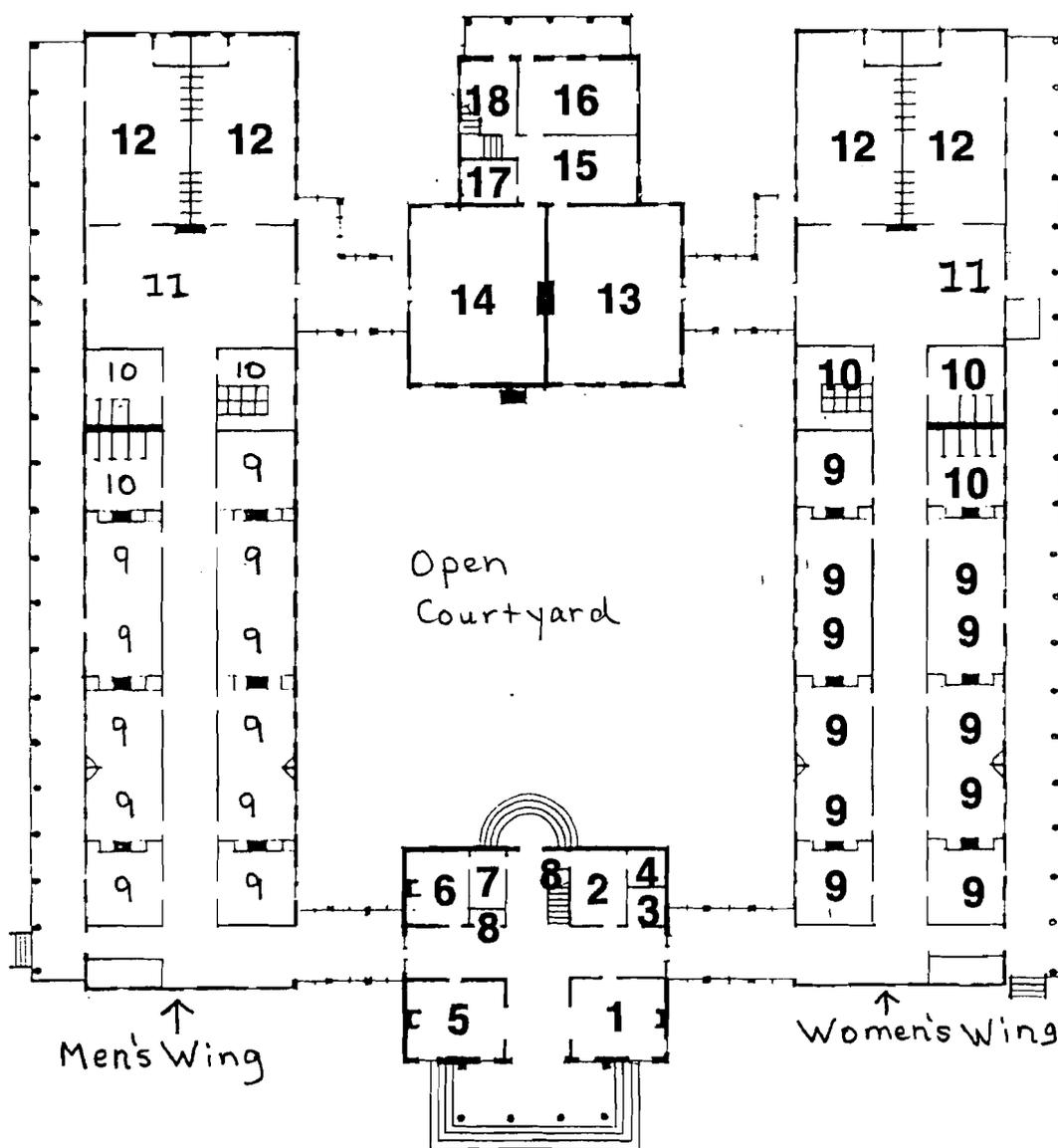
SCALE: not to scale

SOURCE: Created by Bruce Morris, 1983
Modified by Marcia Kochel, 2012
Modified by Denise Messick, 2013

NUMBERS KEY:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 – Superintendent's office | 10 – Resident's bathrooms/showers |
| 2 – Drug dispensary | 11 – Chapel |
| 3 – Public restroom | 12 – Infirmary wards |
| 4 – Nurse's bathroom | 13 – Women's dining room |
| 5 – Nurse's living quarters | 14 – Men's dining room |
| 6 – Superintendent's dining room | 15 – Main kitchen |
| 7 – Private kitchen | 16 – Dish room |
| 8 – Sitting area for prison workers | 17 – Vegetable cooler |
| 9 – Resident's rooms | 18 – Storage |

GROUND FLOOR PLAN





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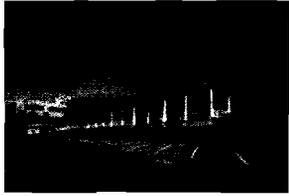
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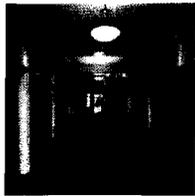
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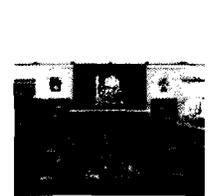
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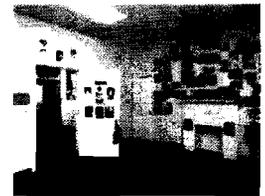
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