1290 OMB No. 1024-0018

					/ *	PF(EIVED 2280		-
		OTED					A		
	NAL REGI								
Completing Nationa requested informat	e in nominating or rea al Register Forms" (i ion. If an item does ce, enter only the cat	National Reg not apply to	gister Bulletin 16 the property bei	 Complete each ng documented, e 	item by marking nter "N/A" for "Ne	"x" in the ap	e ^r ins f ructions in propriate box of "For functions	r by ente , styles, i	ring the naterials, and
1. Name of I	Property								
historic nan other name	ne Color s/site numbe		orial Schoo N/A	ol and Risley	y High Scho	lool			
2. Location		~~							
street & nur city, town county state	nber 1800 Brunswick Glynn Georgia	-	GA 127	zip code	31520			()	vicinity of
() not for p	ublication								
3. Classific	ation								
Ownership	of Property:				Category	of Prop	erty:		
 () private (X) public-le () public-s () public-fe 	tate				 (X) buildi () district () site () struct () object 	ct ture			
Number of F	Resources w	ithin Pr	operty:	<u>Contribu</u>	ıting	Ν	loncontril	buting	1
	buildings sites structures objects total			3 0 0 0 3			3 0 0 0 3		
	g resources evious listing		sly listed i	n the Natio	nal Regist	er: N/A			

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official W. Ray Luce Historic Preservation Division Director **Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer** 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 or bureau **National Park Service Certification** 5. 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: () see continuation sheet eper of the National Register Date

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL

Current Functions:

EDUCATION/SCHOOL

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/CLASSICAL REVIVAL/NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL OTHER/STRIPPED CLASSICAL

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
roof	Asphalt
other	N/Å

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Colored Memorial School and Risley High School are located on a large corner lot in a residential neighborhood near downtown Brunswick in Glynn County on the Georgia coast. There are three historic buildings on the nominated property: Colored Memorial High School, Risley High School (now Risley Elementary School), and I Street Elementary School (now the Jackson Building).

Colored Memorial School (photographs 1, 2, and 3), located in the northwest corner of the nominated property, was constructed in 1923. It is a two-story, frame, redbrick building with Neoclassical details. Character-defining features of the style include the symmetrical façade with central entrance, projecting entrance pavilion, two-story height, decorative entablature, and bays separated by pilasters (photograph 1). There is an original name panel "Memorial School 1922" over the front entrance (photograph 9). The only exterior ornamentation besides the panel is the use of some bricks to create a decorative cornice at the top around the entire building and the use of slightly different colored brick to create exterior room delineations.

The interior walls are wood frame construction with wood lath and plaster (photographs 5, 6, and 7), most of which is original. There are new walls, which were added during renovations that are wood frame construction with sheet rock. Each floor has a main north-south hall off of which the classrooms and other rooms emanate. The first floor contains classrooms, offices, and the auditorium (photograph 8). The latter contains its original seats and its original heart pine, tongue-and-groove floor, and beamed ceiling (photograph 8). The auditorium floor slopes from the back to the front where the stage is located. It is suspected that these same type of heart pine floors exist throughout the rest of the building that are currently covered with carpet and asbestos tile flooring in the hallways, classrooms and offices. The ceiling in the auditorium is also tongue-and-groove wood

Section 7--Description

painted white. Windows in the building are one-over-one double-hung-sash windows (photograph 9). The windows in the auditorium also have small nine pane transoms. The second floor contains classrooms and offices.

The school retains much of its original material but was renovated in the 1980s and again in 1994 and includes lowered ceilings and new floor coverings. Acoustical tile dropped ceilings have been placed throughout the building (photographs 4, 5, 6, and 7). The original 12-foot ceilings are present underneath the acoustical tile ceilings. The ceiling in the auditorium is approximately 15 feet high. Most of the original lighting fixtures and hardware were removed during an earlier renovation. The building was originally heated by a boiler system, but the system was rendered unusable several years ago.

Risley High School (now Risley Elementary School), located in the southwest corner of the nominated property, was constructed in 1936 by the Works Progress Administration under the New Deal. It is a two-story, frame, redbrick building with stripped Classical details (photographs 10, 11, and 12). Character-defining features of the style include the symmetrical façade with central entrance, projecting entrance pavilion, two-story height, and bays separated by pilasters (photograph 16).

The interior walls are wood frame construction with plaster over lath (photographs 13 and 14). The interior floor plan is very similar in plan to the Colored Memorial School. It has a central hall with classrooms on each side. There are also offices and a teachers lounge area located on the first floor. The existing floor covering is carpet in the hallways and classrooms on the first and second floor. This carpet was placed over asbestos tile. It is not know if this tile was placed over wood floors or directly onto a sub-floor material. It is suspected that the original floor material is pine tongue and groove flooring. The windows in the building were two-over-two double-hung-sash windows. Most of the top sashes of these windows have been masked out around the building to limit the amount of natural light coming into the classrooms (photographs 10 and 11). One of the windows has been removed from each room on the first and second floor to accommodate the new HVAC units (photograph 12). Small six panel transom windows are located at the top of the wall that is between the classroom and the hallway (photograph 13). These windows are side by side and some appear to still be operable. These windows would have originally been used to provide cross ventilation between the classrooms and the hallways. The school was originally heated by a boiler system that is still located in the basement. The original smoke stack for the boiler can be seen from the outside of the building. The original ceilings in the building are tongue and groove bead board ceilings. Acoustical tile drop ceilings were added during a 1980s remodeling (photographs 13 and 14). The most recent alterations were completed in 1993. These alterations included painting, new carpet, and other cosmetic repairs. The building retains much of its original historic character. The school retains its original stairs, stairwells, and bathroom partitions.

I Street Elementary School (now the Jackson Building), located in the northeast corner of the property, is a one-story brick building with a cafeteria that was constructed in 1944 (photograph 17). The classroom portion of the building features ribbon windows and six-over-six double-hung-sash windows. Portions of some of the windows have been filled in and window air conditioning units have

Section 7--Description

been installed. The cafeteria portion of the building features ribbon windows and a clerestory allowing natural light to filter into the space.

There are three noncontributing buildings on the nominated property. A media center (photographs 3 and 11) was constructed in the 1980s between Colored Memorial School and Risley High School. There are two storage sheds located in the southeast corner of the property.

Landscaping on the property includes mature hardwood trees (photographs 2, 9, and 17), palm trees (photographs 10 and 12), parking areas, a playground, and walkways leading to the sidewalk.

The Colored Memorial School and Risley High School complex now functions as the Risley Alternative Learning Center Campus.

8. Statement of Significance

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

() nationally () statewide (X) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

(X) A () B (X) C () D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) N/A

()A ()B ()C ()D ()E ()F	() G
-------------------------	--------------

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture Education Ethnic Heritage/Black

Period of Significance:

1923-1952

Significant Dates:

1923-Construction of Colored Memorial School 1936-construction of Risley High School (now Risley Elementary School) 1944-Construction of I Street School (now the Jackson Building)

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Francis L. Abreu, Public Works Administration-Architect, Risley High School

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Colored Memorial School and Risley High School campus is the principal historic school that served Brunswick's African-American students for the early through the mid-20th century. The Colored Memorial School and Risley High School campus is significant in architecture because it contains three surviving historic school buildings, all of which are intact and contain many of their original details, especially on the exterior. Colored Memorial School is a good and intact example of the Neoclassical style. Character defining-features of the style present on the building include the symmetrical facade with central entrance, projecting entrance pavilion, two-story height, decorative entablature, and bays separated by pilasters. A double-loaded corridor runs the length of the building on each floor. It also contains an original auditorium with its original seats, stage, and floors, Risley High School is a good and intact example of a building constructed in the Stripped Classical style. Character-defining features of this style are similar to those of the Neoclassical style with the absence of certain decorative elements such as the decorative entablature. Like Colored Memorial School, Risley High School has a double-loaded corridor that runs the length of the building. It is also significant as a product of New Deal funding, having been built with Public Works Administration money and designed by Francis L. Abreu, a noted architect who was later famous for work on nearby St. Simons and Sea Islands. All of the buildings contain large window openings, some of which have been partially covered, to allow for natural light and air to circulate through the buildings. Windows of this type are characteristic of early 20th century public schools in urban areas in Georgia. The campus is significant in education and ethnic heritage-black because the buildings and their institutions represent a long-standing role in African-American education on this site. beginning during Reconstruction in the 1860s and 1870s and continuing to the building of these current buildings in 1923, 1936, and 1944. Colored Memorial School, named in honor of returning African-American World War One veterans, and then the expansion of the campus with Risley High School in 1936, named for the Union officer who secured funding for the first school on this property, thus continuing his name and legacy, are the two principal schools. The site has been owned by the county board of education since 1900. Colored Memorial School was the first high school in the citv for black children and thus the first to include the eleventh and twelfth grades. After the new school was built in 1936, it became an elementary school. These three historic school buildings continue to be used for educational purposes. According to Carole Merritt in Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia, "the history of black educational resources in Georgia reflects the evolution of racially separate facilities, from the founding of private institutions after emancipation through the development of public schools in the twentieth century."

National Register Criteria

Colored Memorial School and Risley High School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of education and ethnic heritage/black for the typical activities that occurred as the African-American school in Brunswick during the historic period and under Criterion C in the area of architecture as good and intact examples of early to mid-20th century school buildings.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for Colored Memorial School and Risley High School begins in 1923, the construction date of the oldest building on the campus, and ends in 1952, the end of the historic period, throughout which these buildings served as the principal African-American public schools in the city of Brunswick.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Colored Memorial School, Risley High School (now Risley Elementary School), and I Street Elementary School (now the Jackson Building) are the three contributing resources on the nominated property. A 1980s media center and two storage sheds are the three noncontributing resources on the nominated property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

**NOTE: The following history was compiled by James Horton and Rudolph Smith, July, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The history of Colored Memorial School and Risley High School has to begin with a history of Brunswick and Glynn County. Glynn County was created in 1777 from the colonial parish of St. Patrick and St. David. It was named for John Glynn, a noted member of Parliament who befriended the colonies. Brunswick, the county seat of Glynn County, was created and a new two-story brick building was built in 1927 to serve as a home for Glynn Academy. This building was named Memorial Hall in honor of the men from Glynn County who served in World War I. This building, which still serves as a school building, underwent a major restoration in 1998. It serves as the anchor for the entire Glynn Academy Campus, which is in the Old Town Brunswick National Register Historic District.

In 1825, the commissioners had a survey done of town Commons. The survey reported that Town Commons consisted of 900 acres. Feeling that this was more than enough land to supply a steady stream of funds for Glynn Academy, the commissioners elected to sell another 300 acres with all proceeds going to the support of Glynn Academy. This new 300-acre tract of land was called New Town and allowed for the growth and development of Brunswick northward towards the Altamaha River. To maintain a sense of continuity between all the sections of Brunswick, New Town was also laid out in a series of streets and squares in a grid pattern.

During the 1840s and 1850s, Glynn County continued to develop as did Glynn Academy. However, African-American education was almost non-existent. The education for African-Americans that was

Section 8--Statement of Significance

available was being supplied by the plantation owners.

With the beginning of the Civil War, Brunswick was deserted and remained that way until the end of the War. During Reconstruction, organizations were established by the Federal government to assist the newly freed slaves of the South. The Bureau of Refugee, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands was one of these organizations.

The Freedmen's' Bureau, as it was more commonly known, was established in March 1865 to address all matters concerning refugees and freedmen within the states that were under reconstruction. The Bureau, a subsidiary of the War Department, was not appropriated a budget and had to work with the existing budget and staff of the War Department. One of the duties of the Bureau, under the heading of social services, was to establish schools and churches. Due to the lack of funds within the Bureau, funds were sought from charitable organizations from the north in order to set up these churches and schools.

Captain Douglas Gilbert Risley, a former Union soldier, was sent to Brunswick in May 1869 to serve as district commander of the sub-district office of the Freedmen's Bureau. Douglas Gilbert Risley was the son of Oliver W. Risley and Sally (Yale) Risley. He was born in Fredonia, Chantauqua County, New York in September, 1838. During the Civil War, he served as a sergeant in Company 9, Indiana Infantry, Union Army from April 19 to July 29, 1861. He was promoted to Captain of the 9th Indiana Infantry in September, 1861. He was honorably mustered out on May 30, 1863. He was made Captain of the 9 U.S.C.F on November 16, 1863 and served in this position until May 15, 1865 when he was honorably mustered out of the same group. He was promoted to Lieutenant of the 42nd Infantry on July 28, 1866. He was sent to Brunswick in 1869 and served with the Freedmen's Bureau until his retirement on December 30, 1870. He passed away on November 18, 1882 and was subsequently buried in Oak Grove cemetery in Brunswick, Georgia (this military history is from the General Army Register, pg. 832, National Archives, Washington, DC.)

Captain Risley, while serving in the Brunswick Freedmen's office, helped to secure funds for the purchase of land in Town Commons to be used as the site of the first public African-American school in Brunswick.

This school, built circa 1870, was originally called Freedmen's School and was a one-story wood frame structure that stood at the corner of H Street and Albany Street. The front of the school faced H Street. This school was later renamed Risley School in honor of Lt. Risley who worked so hard to establish it.

There were two divisions in the school, Risley Grammar and Risley Preparatory. Both of these divisions were housed in the same building for many years. The enrollment in both divisions during the late 1870's was approximately 420 African-American pupils. This made for crowded working situations within the school.

The original trustees of the Risley School realized that maintaining the school might be more than they could handle. In 1880, the trustees offered the school in a lease to the American Missionary

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Association for a period of twenty years. This would provide for sound management of the school and provide the local authorities in Brunswick time to establish sound management for the educational system of Brunswick and Glynn County. In May 1882, due to the petition of the local African-American men in Brunswick, the American Missionary Association transferred the Risley School back to the City of Brunswick. The American Missionary Association grew out of a committee organized in 1839 to defend the African slaves who mutinied against their Spanish owners and brought their slave ship into United States waters to seek protection. The American Missionary Association was incorporated in 1846 and by 1850 turned their attention toward establishing schools for freed slaves after the Civil War. The cooperation between the Freedmen's Bureau, the City of Brunswick, and the American Missionary Association, secured a firm foundation for the Risley School.

By the turn of the century, the Glynn County Board of Education had been established and the City of Brunswick transferred the Risley School to this organization. In 1903, the original Risley School was completely overhauled, re-roofed, repainted, and a large wall was added making one large classroom into three smaller classrooms. A workshop was added and the grounds were fenced.

By the turn of the century, the enrollment in African-American schools in Glynn County had doubled. Most of this increase was in rural schools. During World War I, the population of Brunswick increased due to shipbuilding jobs in the area. The prospect of better jobs brought many African-American families to Brunswick and this brought an increase in the school enrollment at city schools like Risley.

In 1920, Risley School was a double session school; with eight rooms for seventeen classes, half the pupils attended in the morning and the other half attended in the afternoon. The school was overcrowded and the Board of Education described the building as unfit for school purposes. In 1923, a new high school was built. The building is a two-story brick building with twelve classrooms, seven other rooms, and a large auditorium. The building was named Colored Memorial High School in honor of the African-American men who fought in World War I. Education for African-Americans improved by the addition of an eleventh and twelfth grade at the Memorial High School.

By 1930, the enrollment of the African-American schools was so great that it was necessary to rent a building to take care of the overflow of pupils. Due to the large number of pupils, the school board decided that a new building should be built. The original Risley School was torn down in the early 1930's to provide a suitable building site for the new school to be added to the Risley campus. Mr. George Wannamaker, superintendent of schools, assisted in securing a Public Works Administration grant of \$122,726.00 in October, 1935. In 1936, the school board received an additional grant and this raised the building fund to \$300,000.00. These funds, along with other local bond funds, were used to build three new schools in Brunswick. One of these schools was the new Risley High School located on the site of the old Risley School. This building was a two-story brick building of the same type and quality construction of the Colored Memorial School. It contained eleven classrooms, a science laboratory, a library, a stock room, a principal's office, a teacher's rest room, and four pupils rest rooms. When this building was completed it was named Risley High School. This school contained grades 9-12 and the Colored Memorial High School was used as a grammar school and

Section 8--Statement of Significance

contained grades 1-8.

When the original Risley School was torn down, some of the timbers from the building were used in the construction of a gymnasium. This new gymnasium, named the Carrie I. McIntyre Gym, was built directly behind the new High School and was located at the corner of H Street and Cochran Avenue (now know as Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard). It was constructed in the 1930s, and it was in use until the 1970's when it was torn down.

In 1944, a new classroom building was built on the campus. This building is a one-story brick building with a flat roof. The building was originally named the I Street Elementary School. It contained several classrooms and a cafeteria.

In the 1980s a media center was built between the Risley High School building and the Colored Memorial School. It was used as a library/media center until 1999 when it was vacated.

Risley High School continued to operate as a High School until 1955 when a new Risley High School was built further north on Albany Street. When the new high school was built, the original Risley High School reverted to being used as a grammar school. It is now used as an alternative learning center. The Colored Memorial School now serves as a home for a kindergarten program for young children in Glynn County.

Other than the rural schools, which were consolidated by this time, the Risley Schools served for many years as the only public schools for African-Americans in Glynn County. Around the turn of the century a private school was set up for the education of African-Americans. This school was named the Selden Normal and Industrial Institute and educated many African-Americans in Glynn County until it closed. The Selden Institute merged with another Selden Institute in Cordele, Georgia and became the Gillespie-Selden Institute.

Risley High and Colored Memorial stand as a landmark in Brunswick and Glynn County for the African-American community and the education of African –American youth in Glynn County.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Fuller, Colonel Tom. Former Risley High School Student. Interview by Darren Harper, January 22, 1997.

Harper, Darren. <u>Historic Property Information Form</u>. August, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental information.

Historic Architectural Plans for Risley High School and Colored Memorial School.

"History of Public Education in Glynn County" by J.E.B. (date of manuscript and exact author's name unknown.)

Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources: <u>A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and</u> <u>Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia</u>. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section, 1994.

Perry, Richard. Risley High School graduate and former teacher at Risley High School. Interview by Darren Harper, January 22, 1997.

Williams, Ruth. Former teacher at Risley High School. Interview by Darren Harper, January 22, 1997.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued date issued:
- () 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:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Fulleral agency
- () Lecal government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 453237 Northing 3446732

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the enclosed map by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes Colored Memorial School, Risley High School (now Risley Elementary School, Jackson Building/ I Street School, and the intact acreage historically associated with the school complex.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 date September 23, 2002
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Darren Harper, Preservation Assistant organization F. Larry Evans, Architect P.C. mailing address 807 Dartmouth Street city or town Brunswick state Georgia zip code 31520 telephone (912)262-0085 e-mail

- () property owner
- (X) consultant
- () regional development center preservation planner
- () other:

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) William Crosby, Associate Superintendent organization (if applicable) Glynn County Board of Education mailing address 1313 Egmont Street city or town Brunswick state Georgia zip code 31520 e-mail (optional)

Photographs

Name of Property: City or Vicinity:	Colored Memorial School and Risley High School Brunswick
County:	Glynn
State:	Georgia
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed:	May, 2001

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 18

- 1. Colored Memorial School, front (west) façade; photographer facing east.
- 2. Colored Memorial School, rear (east) façade and north façade; photographer facing southwest.
- 3. Colored Memorial School and Media Center; photographer facing northeast.
- 4. Colored Memorial School, interior, first floor; entrance doors; photographer facing southwest.
- 5. Colored Memorial School, interior, first floor; photographer facing north.
- 6. Colored Memorial School, interior, first floor, classroom; photographer facing southwest.
- 7. Colored Memorial School, interior, second floor; classroom; photographer facing northwest.
- 8. Colored Memorial School, interior, first floor, auditorium; photographer facing east.
- 9. Colored Memorial School; photographer facing northeast.

10. Risley High School (now Risley Elementary School), front (west) façade; photographer facing northeast.

11. Risley High School, rear (east) façade and north façade and Media Center; photographer facing southwest.

- 12. Risley High School, entrance detail; photographer facing east.
- 13. Risley High School, interior, first floor; photographer facing north.
- 14. Risley High School, interior, second floor, classroom; photographer facing north.
- 15. Risley High School, interior, first floor, stairwell; photographer facing east.

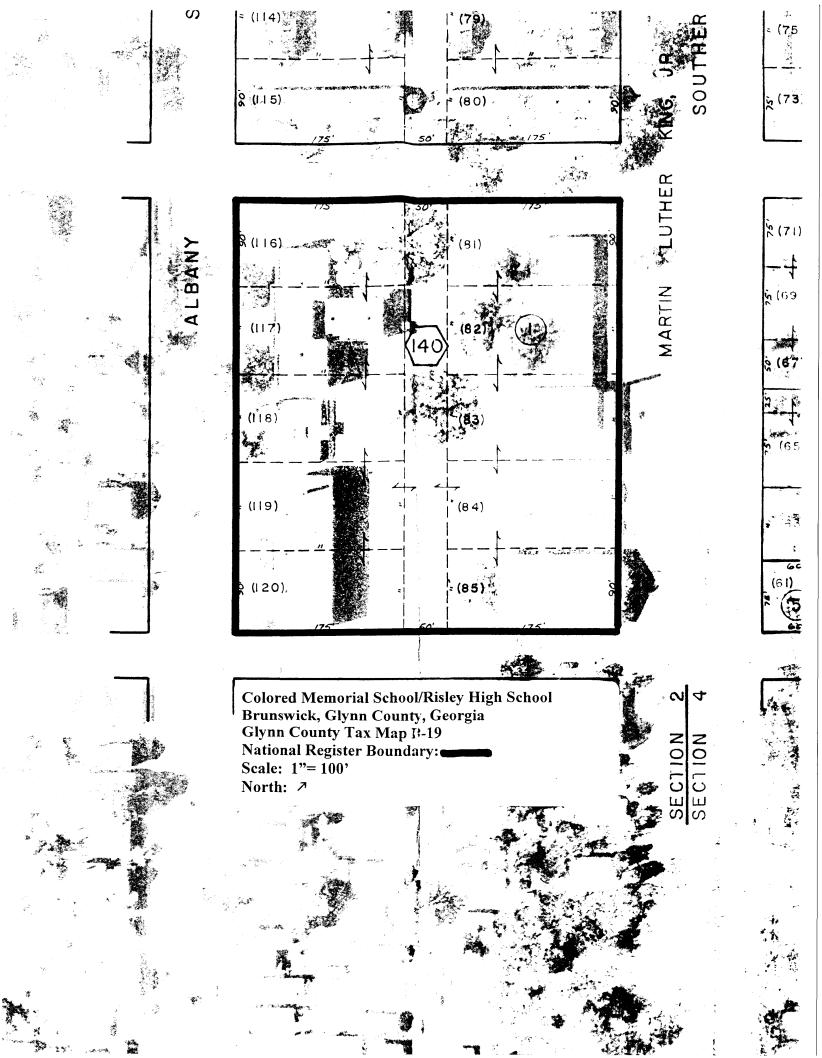
Photographs

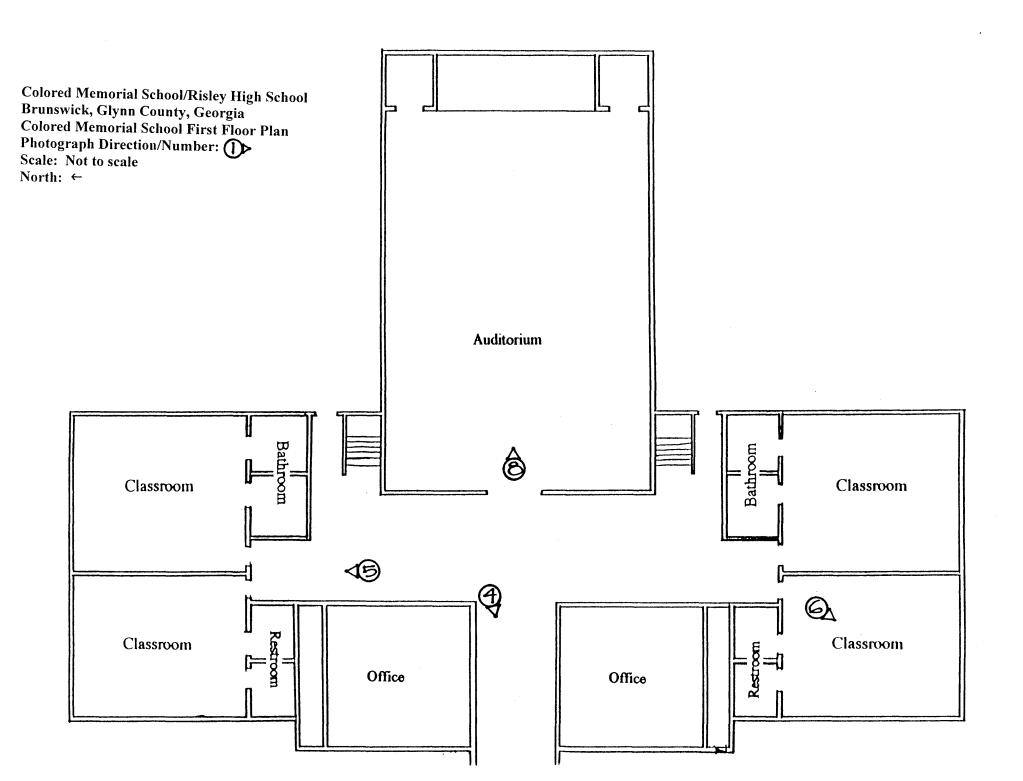
16. Risley High School; photographer facing northeast.

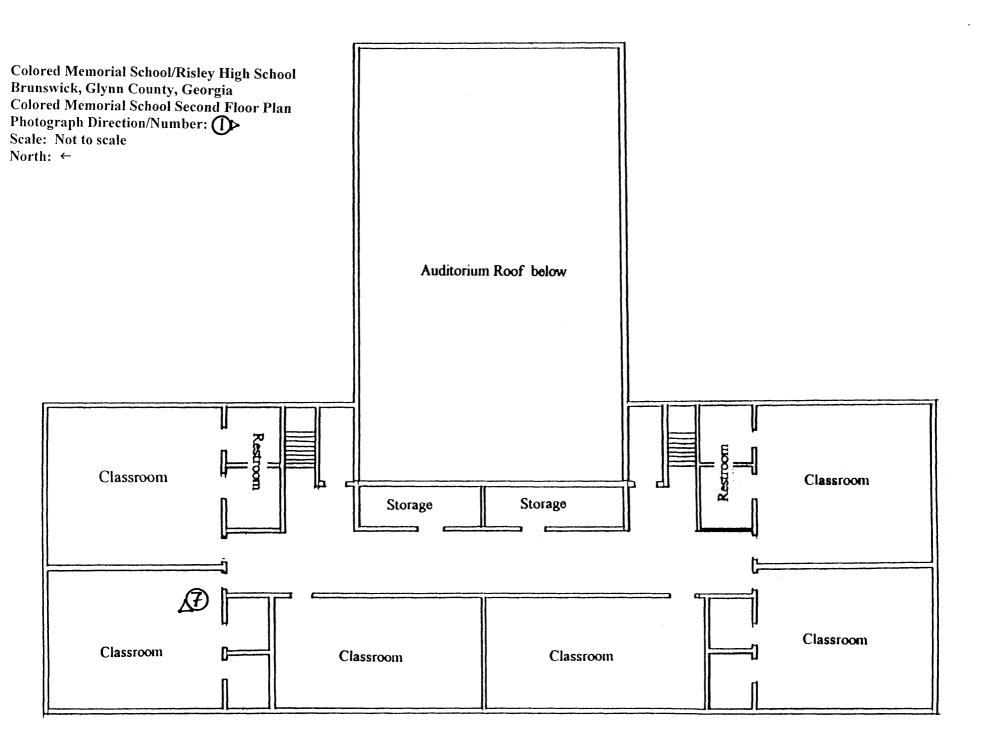
17. I Street School (now Jackson Building); photographer facing southeast.

18. Colored Memorial School (foreground), Risley High School (background, at right), and I street School (background, at left); photographer facing southeast.

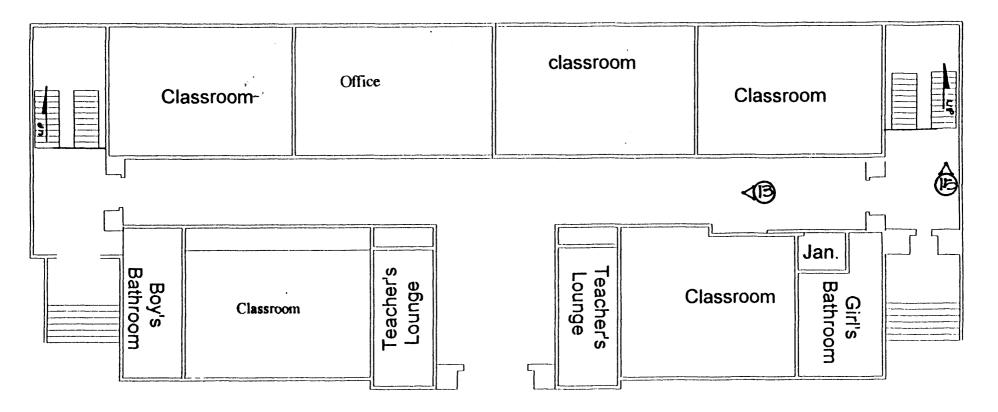
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



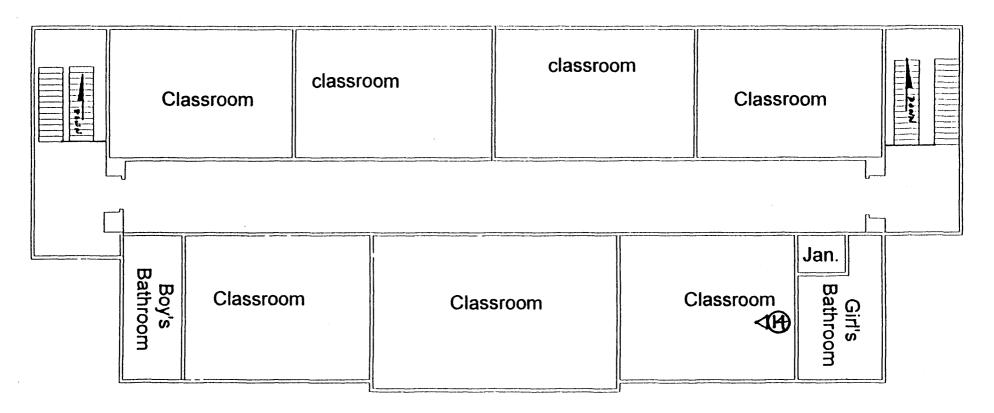




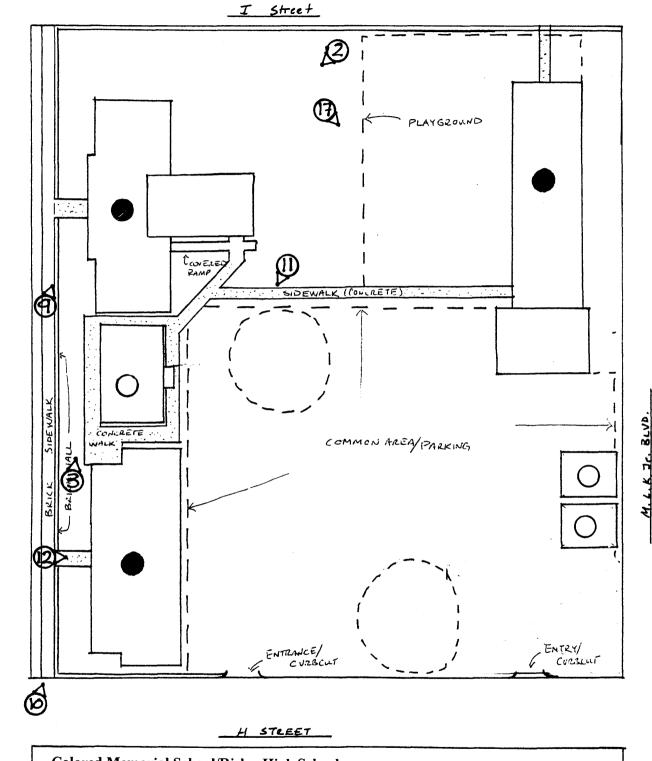
Colored Memorial School/Risley High School Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia Risley High School School First Floor Plan Photograph Direction/Number: ①> Scale: Not to scale North: ←



Colored Memorial School/Risley High School Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia Risley High School Second Floor Plan Photograph Direction/Number: Scale: Not to scale North: ←



,



Colored Memorial School/Risley High School Brunswick, Glynn County, Georgia Site Plan Contributing: ● Noncontributing: ○ Photograph Direction/Number: ● Scale: Not to scale North: ↑

ALBANY STREET

Ć

 \bigcirc