SCHOOL TYPES IN GEORGIA

One Room

A simple rectangular form, the one-room school is typically front-gabled with no windows in the façade. Surviving one-room schools were built mostly from 1900 to 1940 in rural areas and small communities of Georgia.

The two rooms of this school type, also known as a two-teacher school, are either separated by a central hallway or joined by a door or folding doors. A smaller third room was sometimes used as an entry vestibule or as a multi-function room, for storage of coats and lunches or for industrial training. Most remaining two-room schools were built between 1915 and 1940 in rural communities and small-to-medium-size towns.

Three Room

The popularity of the three-part school coincided with a building boom in schools from the 1920s through the 1940s. A projecting central entrance block, replaced sometimes with a recessed entrance, gives the appearance of three parts even though a main corridor, double-loaded with classrooms, extends the full width of the building. Typically three-part schools were side-gabled with a front-gabled entry, but hipped roofs were also used. This school type survives most in small-to-medium-size towns.

The three-part-with-wings school type has the three-part school as the main block with one or more wings in the rear, so that the overall shape is an E, T, or U. It should be seen as more than just an expanded three-part school, however, because the wings could serve specialized uses, such as cafeterias, gyms, or auditoriums. Three-part-with-wings schools were popular in large towns and in neighborhoods of cities from the late 1920s through the 1950s.
Two- and three-story schools were built before 1900 in Georgia towns and even rural settings, but they were rarities. Most of the taller schools were built in urban areas between then and the 1940s, when suburban growth lowered school heights again. Although these schools were all two to five stories tall and were organized by double-loaded corridors and vertical stairhalls, they varied in shape, from simple rectangles and hollow squares to E-shapes, U-shapes, and H-shapes.