

PH0013137

10th Congressional District
Robert G. Stephens

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Georgia
COUNTY:	Richmond
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973



1. NAME

COMMON:
Augusta-Richmond County Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Academy of Richmond County *Use this name*

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
540 Telfair Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

STATE Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: Richmond	CODE 245
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees of Richmond Academy

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Richmond County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Augusta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Augusta, Inc. Building Survey* HABS**

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966-7* 1934-6** ** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Historic Augusta, Inc.* Library of Congress **

STREET AND NUMBER:
* 506 Telfair Street

CITY OR TOWN:
* Augusta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Richmond

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 11 1973

DATE: APR 11 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

** Washington

D.C.

08

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The earliest portions of the building used originally by the Academy of Richmond County and presently part of Augusta Museum, was constructed in 1802. This Academy was established in 1785 as the first such institution of its kind and appears today much as it did in 1856-7 when William Henry Goodrich was in charge of remodeling the original structure in the Tudor-Gothic Revival style. The exact appearance of the original structure is not known but it is believed that the central section of the present building (45'x36') is probably the 1802 portion of the building. External alterations made in the mid-nineteenth century include the addition of two wings (33'x100'), the dripstone of molded brick above all of the windows, and the cast iron clustered columns on the front facade portico.

A c.1880 engraving of the Academy shows the two story building very much as it exists today. The building is made of brick, stuccoed and scored to resemble stone blocks. On both sides of a recessed central portion are two lower, rectangular wings joined across the central portion of the front facade by a portico. This one story portico has Tudor arches supported by clustered columns. Steps lead to the entrance of the portico. Crenellated parapets define the perimeter of the portico and roof's edge. Below the crenellation is a molded brick cornice followed by a dripstone of molded brick above the windows. All windows have six-over-six lights except in the higher central portion where there are nine-over-nine lights. A side facade shows a small projecting one-story portico, with the same crenellation and Tudor arches as across the front facade.

Presently the stucco covering on the bricks is flaking in some places, but the building is otherwise in sound condition. A foyer was created in 1969 with the addition of glass panels between the columns of the front portico.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1802, 1856-7

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | | <u>Museum collections</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | | <u>represent various</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | | <u>fields</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Academy of Richmond County is significant not only for its very fine Tudor-Gothic design, but as a part of a district which holds some of Augusta's oldest structures. It is also a monument to the first act of legislation in regard to public education, as well as a structure having served as a military hospital during the Civil War, as a library, and presently as a museum. It is one of few major landmarks of the Gothic Revival style in Georgia. (The old Capitol building at Milledgeville, c. 1805, was an early national example in that mode.)

The Academy, now the Augusta Museum, is part of the historical 500 block of Telfair and Walker Streets, which includes the Medical College building, already on the National Register. Some of the oldest buildings in Augusta are to be found here. To the east of the museum lies an open grassed tract, covered with shade trees, long a temptation for many of those looking for land on which to build new administrative buildings for the growing city and county government.

Historically, the Academy is a hallmark for Georgia public education system. The earliest legislation in regard to public education in Georgia is found in an act for "laying out reserve land in the town of Augusta into acre lots, the erecting of an academy or seminary of learning... July 31, 1783. In order to obtain the means for such an undertaking so soon after the Revolutionary War, the town commissioners were directed to lay out these reserve lands (obtained from forfeiture of unimproved royal grants and the Public Reserve) into lots and sell them. The proceeds from these sales were, among other things, to erect an academy. The Academy was opened March 25, 1785, and is said to be "the oldest seat of learning in the United States with the exception of Yale, Harvard, and Princeton." It was visited and complimented by George Washington in 1790. The first Academy building on Bay Street which Washington visited, deteriorated, causing the school to be closed until a new building on Telfair Street was completed in 1802. This building is a portion of the present structure.

The Academy continued in successful operation until after the Battle of Chickamauga when it was used by the Confederate authorities as an administrative building for a hospital. The Academy was reopened as a school in 1868 and occupied until 1926.

From 1929 until 1960, the Young Men's Library Association used the ground floors of the building. During these years, the Museum collection

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Augusta Herald, March 4, 1968.
 Bell, E.L., "Old Augusta's Oldest Homes," Augusta Magazine.
 Cumming, Mary G. Smith, Two Centuries of Augusta. Augusta: Walton Printing Co. 1926, pp. 34, 49.
 Historic American Building Survey
 Jones, Charles Edgeworth. Education in Georgia. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1889. pp. 17-19.
 Jones, Charles and Slem Dutcher. Memorial History of Augusta, Georgia, Georgia Heritage Series No. 3. Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason and Co., 1890 (Reprint, Spartanburg, S. C., 1966.) p. 157.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(continued)

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33° 28' 12.345	81° 57' 45 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

UTM
 17/410570
 3703600
 CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey
 ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: _____
 STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell Street, SW
 CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: Mary G. Jewett
State Liaison Officer
 Title: _____
 Date: Aug 4 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert D. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 4/11/73

ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 4.3.73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

was displayed on the upper floors. At present the entire building is given over to the Augusta Museum collection.

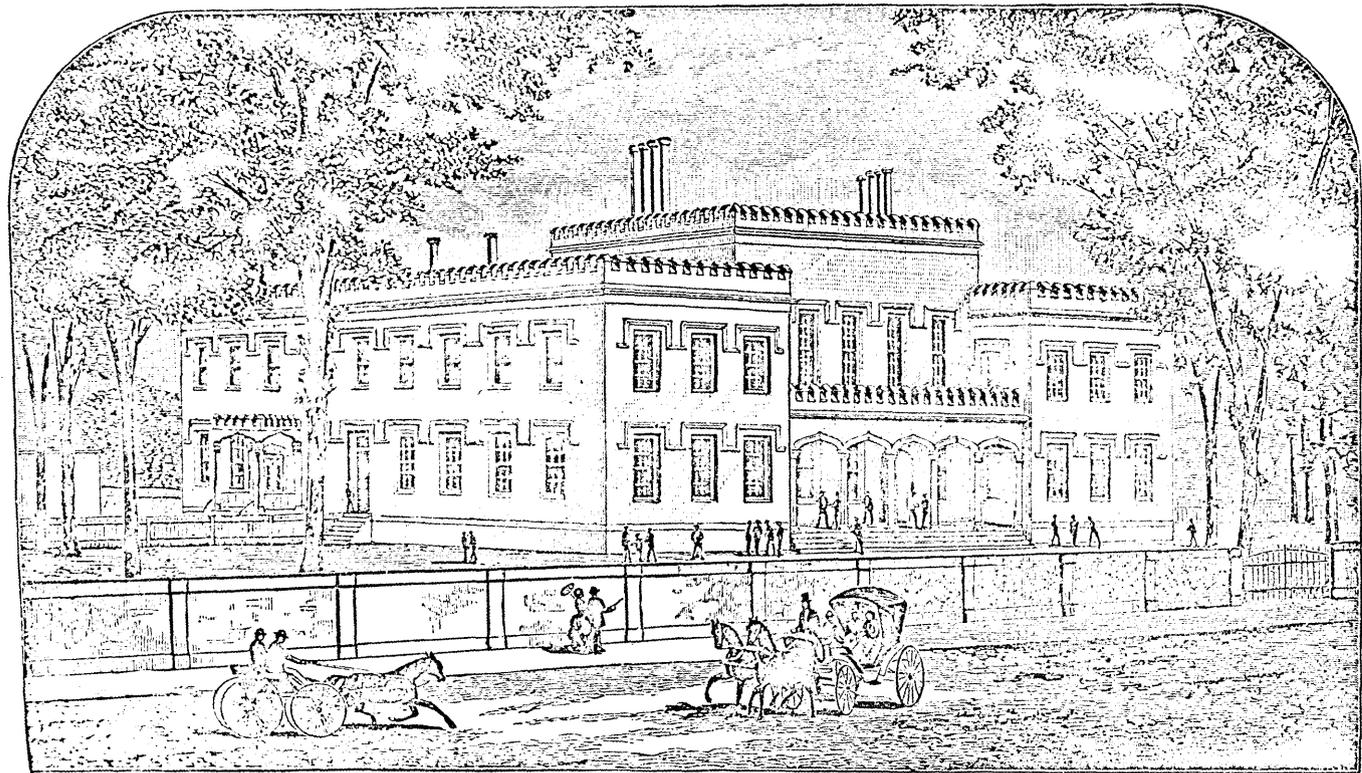
The Board of Trustees of the Academy of Richmond County still oversees the uses of the Academy building since this structure was given to be used continuously for educational purposes.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hill, Raymond D., Executive Director, Historic Augusta, Inc. Presented first draft of National Register form, on file at GHC.

Nichols, F.D., Early Architecture of Georgia. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1957).





ACADEMY OF RICHMOND COUNTY.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

Georgia	
COUNTY Richmond	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 11 1973

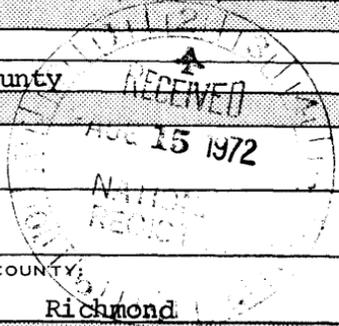
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: The Augusta Museum
AND/OR HISTORIC: Academy for Richmond County

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 540 Telfair Street
CITY OR TOWN: Augusta
STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Richmond CODE: 245



3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Jones, C.E., Education in Ga. Washington: Gov't. Printing Off., 188'
DATE OF PHOTO: p. 18.
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Xerox copy of engraving of c. 1880 Academy of Richmond County