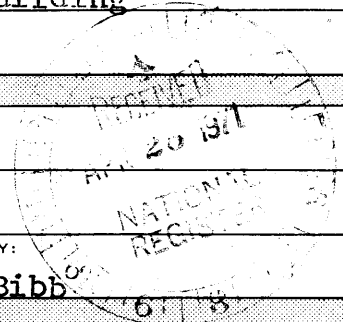


PH0022934

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: GEORGIA	
COUNTY: BIBB	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 718.13.0037	DATE 8/26/71



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mercer University Administration Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Coleman Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Macon

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Bibb CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Mercer University

STREET AND NUMBER:
Coleman Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Macon STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Bibb County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Macon STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: 1. The Historic Architecture of Macon by Carl Feiss and Russell Wright

* DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Middle Georgia Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
Macon Coliseum

CITY OR TOWN: Macon STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

* 2. Historical Survey by Middle Georgia Historical Society
1970 Local

STATE: GEORGIA

COUNTY: BIBB

ENTRY NUMBER: 718.13.0037

DATE: 8/26/71

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mercer University Administration Building is a superb example of Victorian Gothic style and construction that was so popular in this country in the late 1800's. It is a four story building constructed entirely of brick. No steel was used to support the mammoth towers and steeples.

The present appearance is identical with the original constructed in 1872-1874 except for the main steeple. In 1910, the original tower and steeple were damaged by fire and the steeple was replaced by one twelve and one half feet shorter than the original tower.

All floors are intact as they were originally designed and the exterior has been carefully preserved through the years to maintain the esthetics of Victorian Gothic architecture.

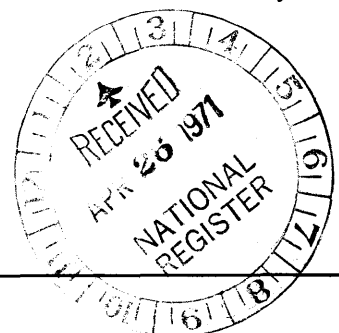
The architect for the building was G.P. Randall. At the April, 1872 meeting of the Georgia Baptist Convention W.J. Lawton, chairman of the building committee, reported to the Convention that his committee had met "often, and ...spent hours together looking into plans furnished by various architects in different parts of the nation, from which to select a suitable one for the University Building, finally agreed upon one, a model of which has been widely distributed among the friends of the institution throughout the State, and which was the work of the celebrated Gurdon P. Randall, of Chicago....."

Gurdon P. Randall was considered to be one of the outstanding architects of his time. He was a specialist in the design of colleges, churches, and other buildings as attested by the eight books he authored on this type of construction. His first book on college architectural construction was published in 1865 by Horton and Leonard of Chicago.

In Randall's book, Initiatory or Preliminary Steps to Building, published by Hazlitt & Reed, 1872 the author states on page 15 that "The main building of what I trust will be a very fine group, to be known as Mercer University, is now building from my designs, at Macon, Georgia." Mr. Randall also designed the first building at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. All of his books are in the Library of Congress. Those buildings which he designed and are still in use are considered classics for the period.

Randall had to modify his plans for this building after the Chicago fire of 1871 destroyed his earlier plans. It is said that in re-drawing his plans, influenced by the fire, he added several fire protection features such as sand between floors under the fireplaces, a widening of the outside walls, making the inside walls fireproof with solid brick construction, and provided a water well from the 4th floor down.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

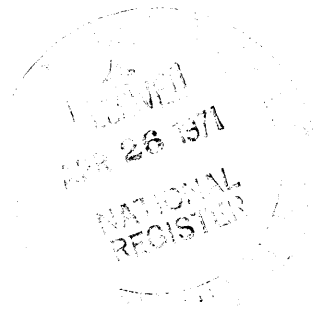
STATE	
GEORGIA	
COUNTY	
BIBB	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
718.13.0037	8/26/71

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

A fire in the observation tower (the tallest tower at Mercer) resulted in some changes in rebuilding it. Pictures of the building prior to this century show glass windows and some extra wood ornamentation. Pictures of the building after the turn of the century show the tower without glass windows and slight changes in the ornamentation.

The Mercer Board of Trustees has determined to faithfully restore the exterior of the building, and preserve the first two floors of the interior in its original form and to modernize the upper stories of the building; and it is understood that the Georgia Baptist Convention approved budgetary recommendation from the Executive Committee which will enable Mercer University to restore and preserve the building at a cost of approximately \$750,000. This is more than seven times the original cost.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

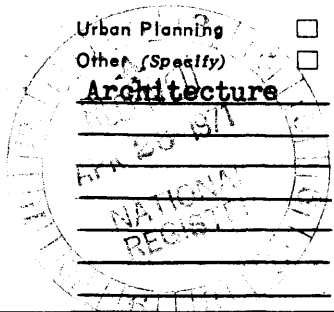
- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1872-1874

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> | Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Political <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi-
losophy <input type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Industry <input type="checkbox"/> | Science <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Architecture</u> |
| Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human-
itarian <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/> | Military <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | Music <input type="checkbox"/> | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Since its construction the towering Mercer Administration Building has been a Macon landmark and a Mercer symbol. It remains so to this day, facing 16 acre Tatnall Square Park, once seriously considered as the location of Georgia's capitol.

Mercer, one of the finest small religious colleges in the country, is under the control of the Southern Baptist Convention. It is the oldest theological institution in the South, and the third oldest in the United States.

On February 7, 1872, Hon. D.E. Butler, President of the Board of Trustees of Mercer University, delivered a speech at the ground-breaking ceremonies for the new buildings at that school. Named for the Rev. Jesse Mercer, a Baptist minister and Philanthropist, the college was founded as Mercer Institute at Penfield, Ga. in 1833. The school was chartered as Mercer University in 1837 and moved to Macon in 1871 after the city had contributed \$125,000 and nine acres of choice lots in the Tatnall Square section of the city for a campus. The law school, established in 1873, was admitted to membership in the Association of American Law Schools in 1922.

Graduates of Mercer (sometimes called "School of Statesmen") have asserted roles of leadership and service which can be equalled by few comparable schools. Some of these are:

- Walter F. George - former U.S. Senator for whom Mercer Law School is named
- Harry Stillwell Edwards - noted author
- Dr. James E. Paullin - former president of A.M.A.
- Blanton Winship - former U.S. governor of Puerto Rico
- North Winship - former U.S. Ambassador to South Africa
- Carl Vinson - for fifty years U.S. Congressman and chairman of the Military Affairs Committee for several years.
- Dr. Corbett Thigpen - renowned Psychiatrist and author of "Three Faces of Eve"
- Walter Cecil Dowling - former U.S. Ambassador to West Berlin
- Several justices of the Georgia Supreme Court and judges of the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Mercer Institute, which originally consisted of \$415 worth of hewed log cabins in the small country willage of Penfield has developed into a four-year University and Law School with an Administration Building of enduring beauty and structure that symbolizes Mercer in the minds of all who gaze upon it.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

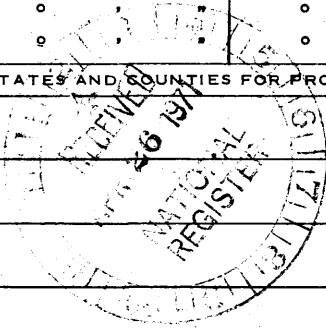
Dowell, Spright - A History of Mercer University 1833-1953
Minutes of the Baptist Convention of the State of Georgia, Georgia Baptist Convention, 1872
 King, Spencer Bidwell, Jr., "That Critical Year.....1873," The Mercerian, 1964, p. 12.
 Randall, Gurdon P., Descriptive & Illustrated Catalogue, 1867
 Randall, Gurdon P., Initiatory or Preliminary Steps to Building 1872

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32° 49' 53"	83° 38' 55"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
John J. McKay, Jr., President

ORGANIZATION: **Middle Georgia Historical Society, Inc.** DATE: **March 29, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Macon Coliseum

CITY OR TOWN: **Macon** STATE: **Georgia 31201** 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 Gregory Jewett
 Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: April 19, 1971

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

Ewert A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

AUG 26 1971

Date: _____

ATTEST:
William Pennington
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: **JUL 29 1971**

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE GEORGIA	
COUNTY BIBB	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 718.13.0037	DATE 8/26/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: MERCER UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

AND/OR HISTORIC: SAME

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

COLEMAN AVE.

CITY OR TOWN:

MACON,

STATE:

GEORGIA

CODE

13

COUNTY:

BIBB

CODE

021

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

MACON, GEORGIA ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY BY FEISS & WRIGHT.

SCALE:

1" equals 200 feet.

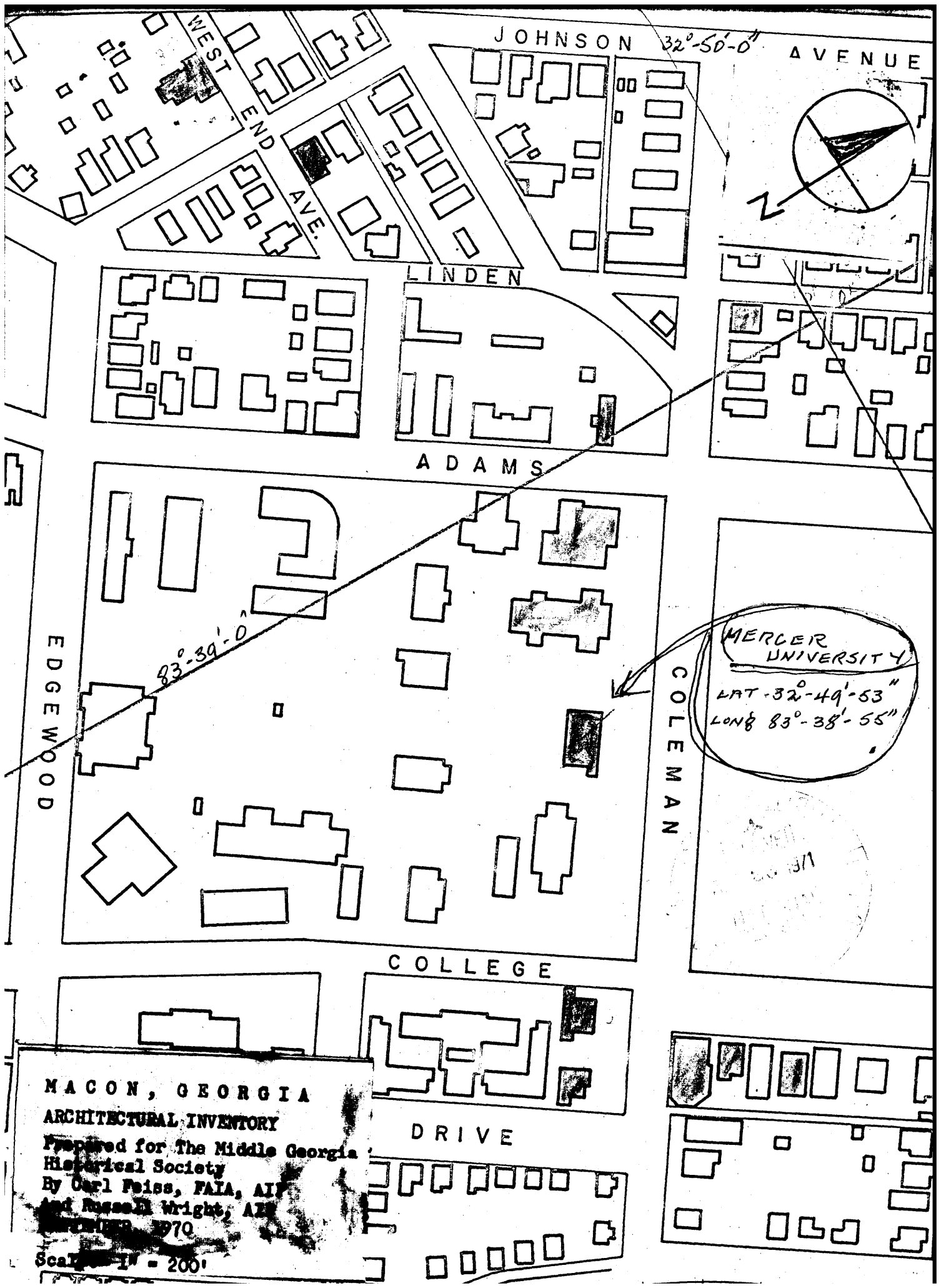
DATE:

SEPTEMBER 1970

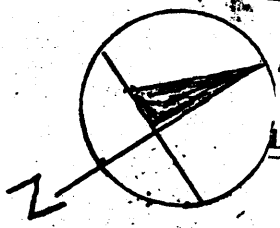
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.



JOHNSON AVENUE $32^{\circ}-50'-0''$



LINDEN

ADAMS

COLLEGE DRIVE

EDGEWOOD

COLEMAN

$83^{\circ}-39'-0''$

MERCER UNIVERSITY
 LAT $32^{\circ}-49'-53''$
 LONG $83^{\circ}-38'-55''$

MACON, GEORGIA
 ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY
 Prepared for The Middle Georgia
 Historical Society
 By Carl Feiss, FAIA, AIA
 and Russell Wright, AIA
 JANUARY, 1970

Scale 1" = 200'