

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Hill Hall at Savannah State College

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Campus of Savannah State College not for publication

city, town Savannah vic. vicinity of congressional district First - Bo Ginn

state Georgia code 013 county Chatham code 051

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Franklin C. Dunham, Vice Chancellor of Facilities
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

street & number 244 Washington Street, S.W.

city, town Atlanta vicinity of state Georgia 30334

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Chatham County Courthouse

city, town Savannah state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	(interior)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Hill Hall is a three-story brick building with a mansard roof and eight Ionic columns on the front facade. The building is asymetrically arranged with dormer windows on the third floor,

The exterior brick walls are painted white and have not been altered save for the additions of fire escapes. There are modillions on the cornices and a palladian window in the pediment of the portico.

The interior of the building has been changed over the years. Originally designed to function as a dormitory, Hill Hall is currently used for administration, faculty offices and some classrooms. On each of the three floors, a large central hall runs the length of the building, and another hallway bisects the central hall on the second and third floors. The front portion of the first floor is divided into offices with "temporary" partitions; otherwise, the front portion of the first floor would form one large room. The second and third floors are divided into offices and classrooms. All floors have recently been covered with either carpet or tile. Air-conditioning has been added to the first floor and portions of the others. There are no significant interior decorations or ornamentation.

The nominated property includes only the building and a small portion of land around it which contains only the minimum of landscaping. There are no outbuildings or any other buildings associated with this nomination.

Hill Hall is the only historic building remaining associated with the college's founding. It is the only building on the campus being nominated, and the nominated property is only the land immediately surrounding it.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hill Hall at Savannah State College is significant in terms of Georgia's educational and architectural history. Educationally, it is significant since it was built in 1901 as a dormitory on the first publicly supported state college for blacks in Georgia. The college had been in existence ten years then. This building remains as the oldest extant building on campus. It was built by student workers, a feature also not found at many other Georgia colleges. Architecturally, it is significant as a good example of the use of the Neoclassical style of architecture predominate at the turn of the century in the building of many college buildings. This style being used for the most substantial building on campus recalled the values of education in previous civilizations that were recalled by this classical styling.

Hill Hall represents a major threshold in Georgia educational history. Following the passage of the Second Morrill Act of 1890 by the United States Congress, the Georgia General Assembly, in an act of November 26, 1890, established as a department of the state university a school for the education and training of black students. In 1895, another act named it the Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youths. The first session of the school was held in Athens, Georgia, in the summer of 1891. Later that year, it was moved to its present site in Savannah. It became part of the University System of Georgia in 1931. In 1936, it was renamed Georgia State College and in 1950 became Savannah State College. The initial educational program was agricultural, literary and mechanical, with its first degree awarded in 1898.

Hill Hall was constructed during the first six months of 1901, as evidenced by the Savannah Tribune. Instructor Thompson was in charge of the students who did the work. A Mr. Lee served as head carpenter. The name of the architect is unknown. The building was named for Walter B. Hill (1851-1905), who was Chancellor of the University of Georgia from 1899 to 1905. Hill Hall is the only remaining structure on the campus from this early period.

Originally built as a men's dormitory, it has also served as the college library and student center. Today, it houses administration, faculty offices and some classrooms.

Hill Hall is architecturally significant as an example of the Neoclassical style of architecture being used for the main building on a college campus. This style was prevalent for buildings around 1901 when Hill Hall was built. Many of the elements

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

College catalogs of Savannah State College
 Savannah Tribune, 1901 issues
 Draft nomination and research, Steven R. Smith

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Savannah, Ga.-S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7
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4	9	14	6	18	10
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3	15	4	12	8	18	10
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary will be a line drawn 10' from all sides of the building. It is all that is being nominated due to the lack of other historic buildings associated with the original campus.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

a) Dr. Steven R. Smith, Chairman, Historic Sites Committee
 name/title b) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. Historian, Historic Preservation Section
 a) Savannah Chapter, Association for the
 organization Study of Afro-American Life and History date March 15, 1980
 b) HPS, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources a) (912) 356-2338
 street & number a) P.O. Box 20338, Savannah State Coll. telephone b) (404) 656-2840
 b) 270 Washington St., S.W.
 city or town a) Savannah b) Atlanta state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/25/81

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Lynn A. Beale</u>	date <u>April 23, 1981</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Lynn A. Beale</u>	date <u>4/13/81</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

of the style can be seen in Hill Hall. The building has a pedimented portico with Ionic columns, modillions on the cornices and a palladian window in the pediment of the portico. The building is symmetrically arranged with simple detailed walls. The design reflects an eclectic approach rather than an academically correct building. Despite its efforts to recall the grandeur of a previous age, it is not a copy of any particular building. It is typical of the freedom expressed by Neo-classical styling to use the various combinations of elements for a new building.