

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0666084
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RECEIVED APR 3 1978
DATE ENTERED JUL 20 1978
DATA SHEET

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
Augusta Cotton Exchange Building
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Reynolds Street
CITY, TOWN
Augusta
STATE
Georgia
VICINITY OF
10th - Barnard
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
13
COUNTY
Richmond
CODE
245 ✓
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Office Youth Center

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Augusta Cotton Exchange Company, Inc.
STREET & NUMBER
755 Reynolds Street
CITY, TOWN
Augusta
STATE
Georgia 30902
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Richmond County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Greene Street
CITY, TOWN
Augusta
STATE
Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Georgia Department of Natural Resources County Architectural Survey, Richmond County, Georgia
DATE
1976 by Carolyn McLean
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section
CITY, TOWN
Atlanta
STATE
Georgia
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Augusta Cotton Exchange is a massive two-story brick building raised on a rusticated daylight basement. It is a rectangular mass that has been sculpted into three ornate units. The front unit is a square mass dominated by a corner entrance supporting a round turret. A series of steps that curve at the corner lead to the entrance porch. The focal point of the entrance is a cast iron Corinthian column which creates two portals to the pentagonal shaped porch. The column supports two lintels at the point where they form a perpendicular intersection. Quoins and cast iron scrolls make up the sides of the porch. The door is accentuated by a transom light, panels, paneled pilasters. There is a distinct transition from the corner lintel system to the rounded base of the turret. The base itself consists of an intricate series of mouldings. Two narrow windows are flanked by brick pilasters which rest on a moulded sill course above the base. The pilasters with stone capitals support a lattice which is superimposed on the brick facade. Above the lattice pattern a conical roof, which projects above the roof line, rests on a cornice with dentils and is topped with a finial.

The corner entrance and turret is balanced on each side by identical bays projecting from the central block that are perpendicular to one another. On the first level, four windows rest on a continuous stone sill course. The two central windows are adjoining and are separated from the two flanking windows by pilasters. These windows are also flanked by pilasters. Square transom lights further accentuate the central windows. Above the two flanking windows is a brick corbel which forms a transition from the first to the second story. The corbelling is enclosed above and below by stone mouldings and is continuous around the projecting bay. It is broken only by the transom lights and by four brackets which rest on the four pilasters. The second story is dominated by four horseshoe arched windows, each separated by pilasters resting on stone pedestals. The exterior pedestals are enlarged and contain scrolls. A continuous sill course at window level bands the projecting bay and below each window the brick facade corbels inward, thus creating the emergence of posts to support the pilaster system. These short posts are framed on the two corners of the bay by additional decorative scrolls. At the top of the windows and contiguous with the capitals of the pilasters is a small cornice. Posts continue above the pilasters and a finial stone moulding bands the projecting bay.

To the north of the unit just described is the second unit of the structure. It is continuous with the massing of the square block at the front and both constitute the main rectangular body of the structure. This unit consists of two bays articulated by two story segmented arches. Within each bay and on each floor there are four windows separated by pilasters and underlined by sill courses. On the first floor the pilasters rest on posts that are created by indentions in the facade beneath each window. Also, these windows contain square transom lights and are enclosed at the top by an integrated window cap system. The transition between the first and second stories involves a corbelling of the facade inward and then outward. Vertical emphasis is made by continuing a post up from the center pilaster through the corbelled facade. The windows of the second story contain arched transom lights. A stone cap on the pilasters at this level forms a transition between the pilasters and the arch brick on either side.

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The west projecting bay of the front mass, besides functioning as one of the two wings which surround the corner entrance, also acts with the third unit as one of the two projections which flank the second block. This balance helps to integrate the individual components into the total design of the Cotton Exchange. The third unit which is the extreme north portion of the structure contains the second entrance to the building. This entrance contains an in-atis portico with two rectangular cast iron columns which are articulated by panels and vertical beading. Quoins outline the sides of the portico and rest on two scrolled (cast iron) pedestals. Consoles project from the quoins which, along with the columns, support two segmented lintels. These lintels in turn support another lintel that spans the portal. The steps to the porch rise beyond the columns to two sets of double doors which are separated by a window. This window is framed by paneled pilasters. Above the porch, the brick facade corbels inward and then outward to a sill course upon which rest the second story windows. Like those of the two first story wings, this bay contains two windows which are adjoining and are separated from the two flanking windows by pilasters. All four windows have square transom lights. The two central pilasters rest on consoles which are integrated into the brick corbelling below. A small cornice caps the windows and coincides with the pilaster capitals. Above the corner pilasters rest two decorative scrolls. A final cornice which continues around the projection of this unit lies above the scrolls.

The building originally was topped by a mansard roof and contained dormered Paladian windows capping the three projecting bays, all of which has been lost from the existing structure.

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1886

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Augusta Cotton Exchange Building standing on Old Cotton Row on Reynolds Street is a monument to the early commercial development of the city and to an activity which not only provided the major economic base of the city over a long period, but also created a distinct character and rhythm in the life and culture of the city. The High Victorian building which housed this activity is a forceful and vigorous reminder of this past life. A 1912 photograph of Augusta merchants on the steps of the building, one of which still hangs in an office in the building, shows a mansard roof and old dormers which no longer exist. At that time, the Cotton Exchange was an interesting example of a blending of French Second Empire and Queen Anne styles in a commercial building. Even with this loss, the building remains an architectural gem.

The economy of the City of Augusta was to a great extent founded on the success of the cotton trade. The city's location on the Savannah River with excellent inland transportation available, together with the proximity of good agricultural land, helped establish the city as a center for cotton trade and manufacture. Cotton had been an important crop early in the city's history and by 1811 had superceded tobacco as the principal commodity. It was a natural place for the crop to become important -- Eli Whitney had invented the cotton gin not far from the city in 1793. By 1820, Augusta had become second only to Memphis as the largest inland cotton market in the world. The city soon became a cotton manufacturing center as well.

The city's first cotton factory, the Augusta Cotton Mills, was established in 1847. Post-Civil War development of both trade and manufacture was rapid. In 1872, a group of prominent merchants organized the Augusta Cotton Exchange; and, by 1878, 200,000 bales of cotton, representing an annual income of \$10,000 to \$12,000, were received and processed through its facilities. In 1885, there were eight cotton manufacturers in the city, and the 1880-1890 decade witnessed the most rapid growth with a 580% increase in production, the highest in the South. The cotton trade continued to flourish during the first half of the twentieth century. The 1912 photograph also recorded the celebration of the receipt of one-half million bales of cotton in the city. A guidebook written in 1938 boasts that on Cotton Row one could walk a mile on cotton bales, and that the Cotton Exchange ruled the activity of the block. Eventually, Augusta's economic dependence on cotton began to decline and by 1964 the city no longer operated an exchange. The group of merchants, however, still coordinates and regulates the cotton trading activities of the city, and maintains an office in the large structure.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sholes Directory of the City of Augusta 1886, (Augusta, 1886).
 Augusta City Newspapers, The Hand Book of Augusta, (Augusta, 1878).
 Augusta Bicentennial Pageant Book, (Phoenix Printing Co., Augusta, 1935).
 The Augusta Chronicle, Special Centennial Edition, (May 1885).
 , Secretary, Augusta Cotton Exchange, personal interview by Suzanne Turner,
 September, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Augusta East

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 7 | 4 | 1, 0 | 3, 7, 0 | 3, 7 | 0, 4 | 3, 4, 0

B | | | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | |

E | | | | | | |

F | | | | | | |

G | | | | | | |

H | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at the corner of Eighth and Reynolds Streets and running approximately 70 feet north along Eighth Street to a driveway; thence approximately 32 feet east; thence approximately 70 feet south to Reynolds Street; thence approximately 70 feet west with Reynolds Street to the point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon; Suzanne Turner, Consultant; John Compton, Architectural Intern

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources 1977

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S. W.

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia 30334

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3/22/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Charles A. Brown

DATE 7.20.78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *Walter Cole*

DATE 6.29.78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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The Cotton Exchange Building was constructed at the height of the development of both trade and manufacture. Begun within a few years of the organization of the Exchange, the building was opened in the mid-1880's. Iron columns for the entrance were cast in 1886 by the local foundry of Charles F. Lombard, which along with the foundry of his brother, George R. Lombard, were well-known and of good repute in the Augusta area for the manufacture of ornamental iron and for their machine works. The ornate cast iron entrance elements underneath the projecting round corner turret complement the vigorous brick and stone details of this typically High Victorian structure.

Although the offices of the present Cotton Exchange occupy only a small portion of the old building, many of the details of the past remain. A youth group now meets in the main room, but the original furnishings, including the black boards on which the prices were quoted, the old phone booths, and the Western Union counter, provide an effective visible tie to its past. The excitement and activity of its busiest days can be sensed in the empty room, and the building in which it is located stands as an effective and noble reminder of the time when "cotton was king" in Augusta.

