

**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 Chattooga Academy

and/or common John B. Gordon Hall

2. Location

street & number 306 North Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town LaFayette ___ vicinity of congressional district 7th - Newt Gingrich

state Georgia code 013 county Walker code 295

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of LaFayette Contact: Grady McCalmon, City Manager

street & number City Hall, P.O. Box 89

city, town LaFayette ___ vicinity of state Georgia 30728

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Walker County Courthouse

city, town LaFayette state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title Walker County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1975 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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 Chattooga Academy is located on North Main Street, several blocks from the business district of LaFayette. The nominated property includes less than one acre of land.

The Chattooga Academy is a two-story, red-brick building of Federal design built in 1836. The front of the structure is symmetrical. Two separate doorways are lined with thin, flat molding. Windows flank the doorways on the first floor, while windows are located directly above the doorways and windows on the second floor. The lintels over the doors and windows are made of recessed brick covered with stucco. The keystones over the doorways are constructed of brick. Four windows are located on each end of the structure, two on each floor. The rear of the structure has four windows on each floor. All of the windows on the first floor have bars to prevent vandalism. Concrete sills were added to the windows in the 1920s.

The one-room-deep structure is almost void of interior architectural embellishment. The first-floor room has a fireplace at one end and a stairway at the other end. The fireplace was reconstructed and the stairway was constructed in the 1920s. The second-floor room has a wood-burning stove on one end and a rest-room was added to the other end in the early 1970s.

The landscaping in front of Chattooga Academy was completed by the LaFayette Area Chamber of Commerce in 1971. The cannon balls were moved from the town square when a road was constructed through the square. The brick walkways were also added by the Chamber of Commerce.

While not located on the property, a Coca-Cola warehouse was constructed several years ago on the south property line.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 1836 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Chattooga Academy is significant to the architectural and educational history of Georgia. It is a fine example of Federal-style architecture as well as early school architecture. It is believed to be one of the oldest academy buildings remaining in the state. The academy building was the site of the Battle of LaFayette during the Civil War. The building was named for John B. Gordon in 1925 by local women's clubs.

Architecturally, Chattooga Academy serves as a record of how the Federal style of architecture was carried out by the frontier settlers of northwest Georgia. The Federal design was slowly being utilized in rural areas in the late 1830s, while new architectural styles were being developed in the older areas of Georgia at the same time. The thin, flat molding around the doorways and the lintels and keystones are characteristic of the Federal style. Brick construction was uncommon in northwest Georgia in the late 1830s. Wood was the common construction material. There is some design pretension in the construction of the lintels and keystones. The Chattooga Academy serves as an example of early-nineteenth-century rural-school architecture. It is believed to be one of the oldest school structures remaining in Georgia.

The Chattooga Academy is significant to the development of education in rural northwest Georgia. Being one of the first academies to be built in northwest Georgia, Chattooga Academy stimulated the growth of education in an essentially frontier situation. In December, 1835, the Georgia General Assembly authorized the construction of an academy in Walker County. \$815 was appropriated for the construction of the school building. In December, 1836, trustees were chosen for the school and Chattooga Academy opened its doors as an educational institution in 1837-38.

The school was for boys and girls, and the early enrollment in 1838 included 15 males and 37 female students. Students from the county traveled to LaFayette to attend Chattooga Academy. The students would board in the homes of families close to the school. Among the early students was John B. Gordon (1832-1904), a famous Civil War general, United States senator and Georgia governor in later years.

It is not known when Chattooga Academy became known as LaFayette Academy. The name of the town of Chattooga was changed to LaFayette in December, 1836, but the academy retained its original name. It is believed that the school became known as LaFayette Academy prior to the Civil War.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Atlanta Constitution, January 9-14, 1904.

Boogher, Elbert W.G. Secondary Education in Georgia, 1732-1858. Philadelphia: S.F. Huntzinger Co., Inc., 1933.

[continued]

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Estelle, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are indicated by a heavy black line on the enclosed U.S.G.S. map.

See plat map

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 Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date October 28, 1979

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town 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 P. Lyon
Elizabeth P. Lyon

title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/29/79

For HCERS use only

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

Sally G. Olden
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/15/80

Attest:

W. A. Burke
Chief of Registration

date 2/14/80

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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During the Civil War, the academy was a temporary headquarters for Confederate General Braxton Bragg during the Battle of Chickamauga. It was also the site of fierce skirmishing during the Battle of LaFayette, a short time after Chickamauga.

The school building was used for educational purposes until the 1920s. In 1921-22, first and second grades were held in the "red brick academy" as the structure had become known. The academy was also used to supplement the overflow of students and as a music studio. When the new high school was built in the early 1920s, Chattooga Academy was no longer necessary to serve the educational needs of the area.

In 1924, three women's clubs purchased the academy building to use as a meeting place. The chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the Women's Club of LaFayette combined their efforts to remodel the structure as their meeting place. A series of fund-raising events occurred in an effort to raise the money necessary for remodeling costs. In mid-1925, the three organizations dedicated the building as John B. Gordon Hall, a memorial to a former student and influential Georgian.

The organizations used the building for various functions, but the highlight of the year was always the banquet held for surviving Confederate veterans. The huge party was held around Christmas time.

Due to vandalism and the extreme cost of maintenance, the women's organizations returned ownership of the structure to the Walker County Board of Education, which deeded the school building to the City of LaFayette.

In 1971, the Chamber of Commerce in LaFayette began renovation of the structure and presently occupies the structure.

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

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RECEIVED	DEC 06 1979
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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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LaFayette Area Chamber of Commerce publication.

Nye, W.S. "The Battle of LaFayette," Civil War Times, Vol. V, No. 3, June, 1966.

Sartain, James A. The History of Walker County, Georgia, Vol. I. Dalton: A.J. Showalter Co., 1932.

Tankersley, Allen P. John B. Gordon: A Study in Gallantry. Atlanta: Whitehall Press, 1955.

Walker County Messenger. Various issues.

Wert, Addie Augusta. Unpublished manuscript concerning John B. Gordon. Located at the Chamber of Commerce, LaFayette.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

SUPPLEMENT

CHATTOOGA ACADEMY/JOHN B. GORDON HALL
LaFayette, Walker County, Georgia

The attached map shows the boundaries of the nominated property. Please include this map in the Chattooga Academy/John B. Gordon Hall nomination.

Prepared By:

Kacy Ginn
National Register Researcher
Historic Preservation Section
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404/656-2840

Elizabeth A. Lyon

Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D.
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

2/8/80

Date

CHATTOGA ACADEMY/JOHN B. GORDON HALL
LaFayette, Walker County, Georgia
Plat Map
August 21, 1968
Scale: 1" = 20'
North: ↑

FEB 15 1980

GORDON HALL

LA FAYETTE CO GA
1968

WERT

John B. Gordon
30 Aug 1968



N 7° E
60.1'

90° 27'

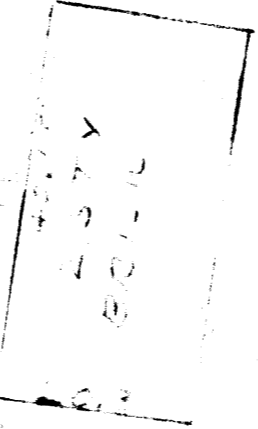
WATER LINE



14"
ELDER

S 82° 53' E
348.8'

WATER FRONT LINE



TO ST
174.3'

WARDLAW

348.8'
N 84° 05' W

60.0'
57.0'