United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

Name

historic Pickens County Jail

and or common

street & number

Location

Same

North Main Street

city, t	own Jasper		N/A	vicinity of	
state	Georgia	code	013	county	Pickens
3.	Classifica	tion			

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	<u> </u>	<u>X</u> occupied	agriculture	museum
X building(s)	private	unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	educational	private residence
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	N <u>/A</u> in process	_X_ yes: restricted	government	scientific
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
		no	military	X other: Storage

Owner of Property 4,

name	Pickens	County	Commission	n; Fred K.	Stancil,	Jr., (Commissioner	
street &	number	Pickens	County Co	ourthouse,	211 North	Main	Street	

city, town Jas	per	N <u>/A_</u> vicinity of	state	Georgia 3	30143
5. Loca	ation of Lega	I Description			
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. Super	ior Court			
street & number	Pickens County Cou	rthouse			

city, town Jasper

date

Representation in Existing Surveys 6.

Historic Structures Field Survey: Pickens County, Georgia title

has this property been determined eligible? ___

____ federal X state ____ county ____ local

__yes_X_no

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

Atlanta city, town

1976

state Georgia

DEC 1 5 1983

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received

date entered

N/A not for publication

code

227

7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
X good	ruins unexposed	_X_altered

1

Check one X_____ original site _____ moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pickens County Jail is a two-story, brick and marble, rectangular-shaped building with a one-story front porch with marble columns, a one-story rear porch with wooden posts, and two marble turrets on the front facade above the porch. The marble facade, porch columns, and turrets are done in a rusticated style. The two chimneys, located on the northeast and southeast, are articulated by concrete stringcourses. All windows have simple, plain lintels. Those on the second floor are part of the frieze. Windows on the second floor have bars on them.

The first floor consists of jailer's quarters, including two rooms on the front and a booking room and kitchen on the rear. A separate rear entrance leads to the cell entrance area which includes a metal stairway, food passage hole and peephole.

The jailer's quarters have smooth plaster walls, vaulted corrugated-metal and concrete ceilings, and original wooden mantel pieces.

On the second floor, there are two areas of jail cells, a bull pen, and the hall that contains the stairway and the trap door in the floor for the gallows. There are bathroom facilities within each cell area and the bull pen. The original cells are constructed of lapped metal strips welded together. The floor is concrete and the ceiling is vaulted corrugated metal and concrete

The jail rests on a corner lot in downtown Jasper with little or no landscaping and no remaining outbuildings. There have been very few changes to the building.

8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

William L. Landrum and Son, Contractors Lee W. Prather, Stonemason

Statement of Significance

The Pickens County Jail is significant in <u>architecture</u> as a good example of a building built to be a county jail but with the additional feature of incorporating the use of local materials (in this case, marble) for the decorative features of the front facade. This reflects the plentifulness of the material in this part of the state. The jail is also significant as a work of James W. Golucke (1865-1907) of Atlanta, who specialized in designing courthouses and jails throughout Georgia. The remaining intact jailworks were by the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Missouri, one of two firms who supplied most of the similar works throughout the state. In <u>local history</u>, the structure is significant as the second county jail, and the first of fireproof construction, which was from 1907 until the 1980s the county's only jail.

Historical Narrative

Pickens County was created in December, 1853, and Jasper was named the county seat. Until that time, all incarceration and other jail activities had taken place in either Cherokee or Gilmer counties, the parent counties, and their respective county seats.

The authorization for the construction of this jail came when the county commissioners deemed an earlier rock jail, built in the 1850s, insufficient for the needs of the county. By the turn of the century, Pickens County grand juries had condemned the rock jail for several years as unsanitary, "unsafe, uncomfortable, and [in a] deplorable condition." However, little was done until the spring of 1906. The prime mover in getting a new jail built seems to have been Dr. William B. Tate. He served as foreman on one of the last grand juries to condemn the rock jail and on the last two citizens committees appointed by the grand juries to build a new jail. He was also foreman on the grand jury of April, 1907, that approved the new jail, describing it as "conveniently located, [in] good condition, [and] stylishly and stoutly constructed with all the modern conveniences, both to the health and good keeping of the prisoners. This reflects much good credit to the Gentlemen of the Building Committees of same as well as to every citizen of the county."

J. W. Golucke and Company were the jail's architects, and the contractors were William L. Landrum and Son. The steel work (bars and cells) were installed

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Pool, Will, "Draft Historic Property Information Form," 1983.

Davis, Robert S., Jr., "Pickens County Jail," brief narrative, 1982, copy on file in the Historic Preservation Section

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property <u>less than one acre</u>

Quadrangle name <u>Jasper</u>, Georgia

UT M References

A 1 6 Zone	735940 Easting	3 8 1 7 0 20 Northing
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G		

B Zone	Easting	Northing
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F		
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Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is all that has been historically associated with the county jail and all that is considered the jail lot by the owners.

	s for properties ove	rlapping state o	or county boundaries
state N/A	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. Form Pre	pared By		
name/title Kenneth H. The	omas, Jr., Histo	rian	
	eservation Secti artment of Natur		date December 5, 1983
strèet & number 270 Washi	ington Street, S	.W.	telephone (404) 656-2840
city or town Atlanta			state Georgia 30334
The evaluated significance of the second s	his property within the	e state is:	
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Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

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by the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, Missouri. Luther Cartwright was sent to Jasper by the Pauly Company specifically to do the metal work and while there married and, eventually, settled in Jasper. The sophisticated marble work on the front of the jail was done by Lee W. Prather, a local stone worker. The marble came from the Delaware Quarry in nearby Marble Hill, the first Georgia marble quarry. It had been opened ca. 1836 by Henry Fitzsimmons, the foremost pioneer in the marble industry in this state.

J.W. Golucke was a Georgia native who is best known for his numerous courthouses and jails throughout the state and the Southeast. This particular jail is one of his finer works, since it includes a marble facade, rarely found in Georgia. It is also one of his last works, as he died the year it opened.

The Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company was a well-known firm that specialized in the construction of steel jail cells and jail buildings. Based in St. Louis, Missouri, the firm provided its services to Midwestern and Southeastern states, for the most part. After almost 100 years in jail construction, the company went out of business in 1964.

This county jail, like others, was used to house prisoners awaiting trial and while serving some sentences. It would have been the only county-maintained jail during its time and was significant because of its fireproof construction, a major need for jails at the close of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century. This particular jail retains its working gallows, probably one of the few remaining in Georgia. No record has been found to suggest that anyone was ever officially executed here. The most regular residents of the jail were the sheriffs and their families, who were allowed to live here as part of their salary.

The jail has needed only minor repairs since its construction. A barn on the property was demolished in 1955. Discussions for a new jail began in the 1960s, but plans did not materialize until court suits by inmates brought changes. A new jail was then built at another location and opened in 1982. This jail then became a storage area.

These areas of significance support property eligibility under the National Register criteria A and C.





