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 DATA

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Central Building, State Lunatic Asylum

AND/OR COMMON

Powell Building, or Central Building, Central State Hospital

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Broad Street, Central State Hospital Grounds

---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th--Williamson S. Stuckey

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Baldwin

CODE

009

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

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

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Administrative offices
 and hospital rooms

NAME

State Properties Commission

STREET & NUMBER

7 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baldwin County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Milledgeville

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Baldwin County by Bill Moffat

DATE

1975

___FEDERAL STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Original appearance as described in the Report to the Governor by the Commissioner appointed to determine upon the buildings necessary for additional accommodation of patients at the State Lunatic Asylum (now Central State Hospital) as published in the Milledgeville Southern Recorder dated 13 February 1855:

Original Exterior: "The present buildings are to be retained. The additional buildings are to be placed in front of them. The whole extent of the new front will be 486 feet. At the extreme right and left are buildings extending back 165 feet, and thence returning at a right angle to the existing buildings a distance of 71 feet. The front central building will be 103 feet front by 83 feet deep, fronted by a tetrastyle Ionic Portico, 16 feet deep and 47 feet front. This building will be ornamented with pilasters and entablature and surmounted by a dome 35 feet in diameter. The compartments adjoining the central building will stand back 38 feet from the front of said building, extending 141 feet from it to the right and left and will be 42 feet deep. The extreme wings will be 50 feet front by 62 feet deep, projecting 18 feet in front of the adjoining compartments. The buildings are proposed to be built of brick and cemented with matric (sic) and blocked, which will give them the appearance of brown sandstone. The appearance will be rendered pleasing by the several component parts being broken, thereby producing a good prospective outline."

Original Interior: "The interior of the central building will be divided into four stories and a basement story. In the basement will be the cooking and laundry departments, store rooms, etc., fitted up with all the modern improvements. The first story is to be devoted to the Officers of the Institution, and will contain an office, apothecary's shop, public parlor, a dining room, a matron's room, steward's room with closets, etc., and two reception parlors for the male and female patients to see their friends. The second story will be the Superintendent's dwelling, with all the necessary conveniences. The third story will be divided into rooms for the accommodation of a better class of patients who are nearly or quite convalescent. The fourth story will contain the chapel, two rooms to be used for the same purpose as those on the third story, and lumber rooms. The wings on the right and left of the central building will be three stories high, above the basement, and are to be devoted to patients' wards with a dining room and pantry adjoining, and a dumb waiter descending to the basement, an associated dormitory connected with an attendant's room, by a grated door, and a patients' parlor in every story in each compartment.

"The right wing to be for the male, and the left wing for the female department. These departments will be supplied with bathrooms, water closets, a wash room, clothes room, and a reception portico, for the use of patients in wet weather, in each story of the buildings. These stories will be 12 feet in height, and all patients' rooms 12 by 12 feet in the clear. In the corridor walls are to be constructed two flues for each patient's room, one for heated air, the other for ventilating the room. It is proposed to heat this part of the building by introducing steam pipes, with a hot air chamber in the basement story, the warm air to be carried through the flues above mentioned to the patient's room. A system of forced ventilation will be introduced

(continued)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC	—ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	—COMMUNITY PLANNING	—LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	—RELIGION	
—1400-1499	—ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	—CONSERVATION	—LAW	—SCIENCE	
—1500-1599	—AGRICULTURE	—ECONOMICS	—LITERATURE	—SCULPTURE	
—1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	—EDUCATION	—MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
—1700-1799	—ART	—ENGINEERING	—MUSIC	—THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	—COMMERCE	—EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	—PHILOSOPHY	—TRANSPORTATION	
—1900-	—COMMUNICATIONS	—INDUSTRY	—POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Health, mental	
		—INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Begun 1855
Completed 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Sholl and Calvin Fay

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

An unpublished manuscript by Peter G. Cranford written in June 1955 states that an act was passed on December 28, 1837 by the Georgia Legislature creating a state lunatic, idiot and epileptic asylum. It was the first institution in the world to include all three categories of patients. It was the fifth oldest institution exclusively for the insane in the South and the 14th in the nation.

The report goes on to say that the chief prototypes for the original hospital were those of Worcester and Charlestown, Massachusetts. It was decided to begin by building two separate buildings, 130' x 40', four stories high, parallel to each other, with the long axis running north and south, separated by a distance of about 224'. These two brick structures, built ca. 1840 are no longer standing.

Under an act approved February 18, 1854, R.D. Arnold of Chatham County, Philip Minis of Dougherty, Hines Holt of Muscogee, R.D. Moore of Clark, and A.M. Nesbitt of Baldwin were appointed to a commission "to investigate and determine upon the buildings necessary to be erected for the additional accommodation of lunatics at the lunatic asylum." They reported to the governor as follows as published in the Milledgeville Southern Recorder dated February 13, 1855:

"After a full investigation of the subject, it was unanimously agreed that it was necessary to provide accommodations for one hundred and fifty additional patients; and that some of them should be such as to be suitable for that class of patients able to pay, who are now forced to go to the institutions of other states, for want of proper accommodations in our State Asylum. Plans for such a building were advertised for, and at the meeting of the Commissioners, held on the 12th of June, Ult. the one submitted by Messrs. Sholl and Fay, architects of Savannah, was adopted, with such modifications as to interior arrangement as should be found most suitable for making the building a complete one in every respect. Every care and attention has been paid by these gentlemen to furnish a proper plan. They have visited the site of the buildings and have availed themselves of the advice of the present superintendent, Dr. Thomas F. Green, in planning the interior arrangement. The high and merited reputation which Dr. Green has attained in his specialty of Medical Science, the great care and attention he has paid to the proper arrangement of the interior of the Lunatic Asylum, and the extensive correspondence he has carried on with the Medical gentlemen of the United States, who like himself have devoted their whole time to the study and treatment of insanity have made his advice and cooperation most valuable and efficient. Messrs. Sholl and Fay have matured a plan which it is

(continued)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cook, Anna Maria, History of Baldwin County, Georgia, Anderson, S.C.: Hearn Printing, 19
 Cranford, Peter E., History of Milledgeville State Hospital, Augusta: 1955, an un-
 published manuscript located in superintendent's office, Central State Hospital.
 Georgia State Lunatic Asylum, Reports of Trustees and Officers, 1857-58 (no cover),
 located in State Library, Judicial Building, Atlanta, Georgia.
Southern Recorder, February 13, 1855.
 Personal inspection by Beth L. Reiter.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 3 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Milledgeville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 7 | 2 9 2 5 2 0 | 3 6 5 8 8 8 0

B | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary shall be formed by a line that connects points determined to be 50 feet from any and all exterior walls of the structure.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Beth Lattimore Reiter, Historic Preservation Planner/Kenneth H. Thomas Jr., Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

December 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, SW, Room 701

404-656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D., Acting Chief, Historic Preservation Section

DATE 3/20/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. ...
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 7-20-78

ATTEST: *Nathaniel ...*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 6-29-78

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by means of steam pipes at the top, causing a draft of air from the rooms. The attic story will be used for water tanks and ventilation apparatus.

"The whole building will be replete with all the modern improvements and conveniences, such as the introduction of water, water closets, baths and thorough ventilation; and when completed will, in all its apartments compare with any institution of the kind in America.

"In addition to its present capacity, the Asylum, when thus completed, will accommodate 150 patients in the wards with separate rooms, and about 30 in the associated dormitories besides thirteen patients in the rooms in the central building, capable of accommodating 193 patients."

Contractor's proposals were advertised in early 1855 and work began later that year. The building was occupied during the summer of 1858.

The present condition of the exterior of the building, with the exception of color, appears to be unaltered from its original appearance. The interior has, however, been altered numerous times. 1956 was the most recent major alteration when the interior stairs were removed and ceilings lowered. The patients' rooms in the wings are larger today. The wings are still used for patients. The central building no longer contains a chapel or staff living quarters, these spaces now being used for administrative offices and storage.

The basement of the present building contains admissions offices, maintenance, canteen, occupational therapy and recreation rooms.

The Wash House is located in the interior courtyard of the building (see sketch map). Tradition has it that a spring was here where the early patients went and washed. Later, a building was built over the spring and this became the official Wash House. The original part of the building is now used for the telephone exchange, and a modern addition has been added which is used as a storehouse for other equipment.

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confidently believed by the Commissioners, will render the building when finished, worthy of the State of Georgia and of the enlightened benevolence and liberality which have induced her to provide for that unfortunate class of our fellow beings who have been deprived of the light of reason."

In certain details the design of the Powell Building bears a strong relationship to Robert Mill's State Insane Asylum at Columbia, South Carolina, built a quarter of a century earlier. The projecting central pavillion with clerestory, the use of pilasters and arched windows indicates that Sholl and Fay were probably familiar with the earlier work.

Sholl and Fay: In 1852 Charles Sholl inserted the following advertisement in the Savannah Daily Georgian. "Charles Sholl, Architect, from London, offers his services to the citizens of Savannah to furnish designs, specifications and estimates for public and private buildings." He soon entered into a partnership with Calvin Fay of Buffalo, New York, who was in Savannah as the supervising architect for St. John's Episcopal Church, designed by Calvin Otis, an ecclesiastical architect from Buffalo.

Their partnership lasted about four years. By 1856 Charles Sholl, suffering some difficulty, was no longer a partner, and later Calvin Fay moved to Atlanta and became a principal in a firm known as Fay and Eichberg. Other buildings by Sholl and Fay in Savannah include the Jones Warehouse Range on the Bay, a medical college (demolished), an orphan home (demolished), and a hotel (demolished).

T.O. Powell: Theophilus Orgain Powell, for whom the Powell Building was later named, was the superintendent of the Georgia State Sanitarium from 1879-1907. He was born in Virginia in 1837, and he graduated from the Georgia Medical College in Augusta in 1859. He accepted an appointment as assistant physician at the Georgia State Sanitarium in 1862. He was elected superintendent of the institution upon the death of Dr. T.F. Green.

The Powell Building is significant because it was not only the world's first institution to jointly serve lunatics, idiots, and epileptics, but also continues in a similar capacity today by remaining the central focal point of Georgia's State mental hospital. With its antebellum facade relatively intact, it is a symbol of the State's continuing involvement with the wellbeing of her citizens.

Central Building/Powell Building, Central State Hospital, Baldwin County
Sketch Map showing boundary of the nominated property
in brown.

NOT TO SCALE

