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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

RECEIVED 2280

1. Name of Property

historic name Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens
other names/site number N/A

FEB 23 2009

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2. Location

street & number Georgia Highway 341
city, town Chickamauga () vicinity of
county Walker code 295
state Georgia code GA zip code 30707

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property:

- () building(s)
- () district
- () site
- (X) structure
- () object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	0	0
sites	0	0
structures	1	2
objects	0	0
total	1	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

William Luce
Signature of certifying official

2-17-09
Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall 4.9.09

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Beall
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Industry/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing facility

Current Functions:

Recreation and Culture: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: Beehive coke ovens

Materials:

foundation Brick
walls Stone: Limestone
roof Earth
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Summary Description:

The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens are a battery of 36 beehive ovens located in a small city park north of Chickamauga in northwest Georgia. Chickamauga is a small town located in northern Walker County, Georgia, approximately 115 miles northwest of Atlanta and 15 miles southeast of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The town of Chickamauga is significant because of its association with the Battle of Chickamauga, which was fought September 19-20, 1863. Between September 16 and 19, 1863, Union General William Rosecrans used the Gordon-Lee Mansion in the center of town as his military headquarters for the Army of the Cumberland. The entire town served as a backdrop for the events of the Battle of Chickamauga. The Chickamauga Chattanooga National Military Park is located approximately one-mile north of Chickamauga.

The coke ovens are located in a small park on Georgia Highway 341 approximately one mile north of downtown Chickamauga. The two-acre public park includes a small creek and pond, two nonhistoric pump houses (which are not within the National Register boundary), two nonhistoric rail cars, interpretive signs, and picnic tables. The battery of coke ovens is aligned north to south along Coke Oven Creek and an abandoned railroad right-of-way to the west. The massive Burtco Tufing Carpeting Factory and warehouse is located to the south.

The battery of 36 brick, beehive-shaped ovens is 200-feet long. The ovens are six-feet tall and 12 feet in diameter. They are positioned close together in two parallel rows with 17 ovens on the west

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

side and 18 ovens on the east side. One coke oven is located at the south end of the battery. Some of the ovens are covered by an outer wall constructed of limestone blocks covered with earth for insulation.

Rails, now missing, on top of the earth-covered coke ovens carried coal tenders that supplied the ovens with coal. A small engine, called a dinky, pulled the coal tenders across the tops of the ovens. Brick supports between the ovens supported the weight of dinky and coal tenders. The ovens were charged from small holes in the tops of the ovens. The coal was heated with very little oxygen to remove impurities. The finished product, coke, was removed with long shovels from small openings on the front of each oven.

The coke was placed on earthen wharves to cool. The 20-foot-wide wharves extended the full length of the battery on both sides. The coke was then loaded into rail cars located along the edges of the wharves. The rail beds remain intact about three-feet below the wharves and, on the east side, railroad tracks remain in place. Two nonhistoric rail cars are located on the railroad tracks at the edge of the east-side wharf.

In the 1950s and 1960s, more than 100 coke ovens that were part of the original battery were destroyed by the construction of the Burtco carpet factory south of the surviving battery. In the early 1990s, the city of Chickamauga acquired the coke-ovens property for use as a historical and recreational park. Many of the remaining 36 coke ovens have deteriorated as the earth has eroded away exposing the brick domes and some domed ovens have collapsed. In June 2006, the outer wall on the sixth coke oven on the west-side battery was restored and the city continues efforts to preserve the battery of coke ovens.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Engineering
Industry

Period of Significance:

1897- c.1929

Significant Dates:

1897– The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company built company constructed 50 coke ovens in Chickamauga in north Georgia.

1899 – The company purchased a railroad to transport coal from its Durham mine on Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, to its coke ovens in Chickamauga.

c.1929 – The coal and iron company ceased coking operations in Chickamauga.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company coke ovens are significant in the area of industry because they are associated with the iron and steel industry in north Georgia, northern Alabama, and southeast Tennessee during the New South period between 1870 and 1929. The battery of 36 beehive coke ovens in Chickamauga is typical of the coke ovens that were built throughout the southern Appalachians. The Chickamauga coke ovens are among the few known to exist in Georgia. These coke ovens incorporated factory-like efficiency and railroad transportation to process vast amounts of coke and ship it to the iron and steel foundries of Chattanooga, Tennessee.

During the second half of the 19th century, Chattanooga was the hub of the region's iron industry. Chattanooga had two iron furnaces, including the Roane Iron Company, which was established after the Civil War to "re-roll twisted railroad iron." The Tennessee cities of Dayton, Tracy City, and South Pittsburg each had one furnace. Related industries in Chattanooga that relied on iron included the Vulcan Iron and Nail Works, Wasson Car Foundry Company, Chattanooga Boiler Company, Whelan Machine Works, Chattanooga Plow Company, Cahill Iron Company, Ross-Mehan Malleable Iron Company, and Casey and Hedges Manufacturing Company.

Steel production in southeast Tennessee began in 1876, and by 1887 steel was produced in Chattanooga by the Bessemer process. Steel production ceased in 1889 because of the drop in steel prices and the poor quality of the region's ore. In 1890, the Southern Iron Company attempted to produce steel in Chattanooga with imported ore, but it failed the next year. The nearby city of Vulcan, which had superior ore, became a center of steel production in southeast Tennessee, until the local iron and steel industry, beset by competition from nearby Birmingham, Alabama, declined at the end of the 19th century.

The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens are significant in the area of engineering because they are typical of the coke ovens that were built throughout the southern Appalachians. They represent the process of converting coal into coke, an important source of heat for iron and steel production. Similar coke ovens are located in southeast Tennessee and northern Alabama.

Coke is a byproduct of coal that is produced by heating coal at high temperatures in controlled conditions. It is the main fuel in the iron-smelting process and it is used to make steel in blast furnaces because it burns longer, hotter, and more evenly than coal. The conversion of coal into coke for the smelting of iron was first attempted in England in the 18th century. Before this time, the production of iron utilized large quantities of charcoal, produced by burning wood. As forests dwindled, the substitution of coke for charcoal became common in Great Britain, and later in the United States. Before the advent of large-scale coke making, coke was manufactured by burning coal in heaps on the ground in such a way that only the outer layer burned, leaving the interior of the pile in a carbonized state. In the late 19th century, brick beehive ovens were developed, which allowed more control over the burning process.

Beehive ovens were named for the hemispherical domes that circulated heat evenly throughout the oven. The shape was not limited to coke ovens but had long been used in the brick-making process.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Typically, the coke ovens were built in banks called batteries and covered with earth for insulation. Sometimes they were built into hillsides. The Chickamauga coke ovens are similar to those built throughout the Appalachian Mountains in the eastern United States and examples can be found in Alabama, Tennessee, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, although they are rare in Georgia. The Elkins Coal and Coke Company in Bretz, West Virginia, was among the last coke producers to use beehive coke ovens. The company ended its coking operations in 1974.

Andrew Mizerack worked at the Rochester and Pittsburgh Coal Company in Walston, Pennsylvania. He described the coking process, which was similar to the coking operation in Chickamauga: "A high grade of washed, crushed coal was loaded in special cars called 'larries,' which are pulled by small engines called 'dinkies.' A track ran across the top of the ovens. The larries dropped their load of coal into the ovens through a hole at the top. A worker known as "scraper" leveled off the top by reaching in through the door in the front of the oven so the coke would burn evenly.

"The coal," Mizerak continued, "was loaded, or "charged", into an oven that was between two hot ovens, so that the newly-charged oven could light itself by spontaneous combustion. When the coal, still wet from cleaning, was first charged into the oven, it would begin to steam. Next, the coke worker would put the damper on at the top, and seal the oven almost all the way up with bricks and mud. Gradually, the escaping smoke would turn blue, then thick yellow. About an hour later, the man knew the coal was ready to catch fire. Then it would explode, and you could see the fire spread all over the inside of the oven. When it had settled down, the man would take a tool called a hook and pull the damper back.

"The art of making good coke," Andrew continued, "was in controlling the damper and the height of the oven door to regulate the burning of the coal inside the oven. Usually in 72 hours, all the impurities were baked out of the coal, and good coke remained. On weekends, though, because we didn't work on Sunday, the coke was left burning 96 hours." To do that, less air was allowed into the oven, so the burning was slower. "To unload, or 'pull' the ovens, the brick door was taken down with the hook, and the coke was sprayed with water to stop the baking process. Last, the coke was lifted out with a fork, loaded into wheelbarrows, and dumped into the flatcars."¹

National Register Criteria

A – The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens are significant in the area of industry because they are associated with the iron and steel industry in north Georgia, northern Alabama, and southeast Tennessee during the New South period between 1870 and 1929.

C – The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens are significant in the area of engineering because they illustrate the process of converting coal into coke. The Chickamauga coke ovens are typical of the coke ovens that were built throughout the southern Appalachians. Similar coke ovens are located in southeast Tennessee and northern Alabama, but these are the only coke ovens in Georgia.

¹ Eileen Mountjoy Cooper, "History of Coke," *Coal Dust: The Early Mining History of Indiana County*. Special Collections and Archives, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, Pennsylvania, [2002].

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1897 with the construction of 50 coke ovens in Chickamauga by the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company and ends in c.1929, when the coal and iron company ceased operations in Chickamauga.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The coke ovens are the only contributing resource associated with this nomination. The coke ovens are counted as one contributing structure. The rail cars are not historic and are counted as two noncontributing structures.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

In 1891, the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company was chartered and the next year began to mine coal at its Durham mine on Lookout Mountain. By 1894, the company supplied coal throughout the region. In September 1897, the company constructed 50 coke ovens in Chickamauga. In 1899, the company purchased a railroad to transport the Durham coal to the coke ovens in Chickamauga. The coke was then sent north to fuel the iron industry in Chattanooga. As business increased at the turn of the 20th century, the company built 50 more coke ovens in Chickamauga. In the 1920s, as the Durham mine was playing out, the company ceased coking operations in Chickamauga.

This historical narrative was prepared by Paul Archambault in “Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens--Historic Property Information Form.” On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. 2006.

The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company coke ovens are significant in the context of the mining and coke industry that occurred between 1870 and 1930 in southeast Tennessee and northwest Georgia. The region was part of the Appalachian coal field that stretched from northern Pennsylvania to central Alabama in the Cumberland Mountain region.² This New South industry was initiated when the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad opened in 1854. The construction and expansion of the railroads ignited the coal-mining industry in Tennessee and northern Georgia in the second half of the 19th century.³

Coal and iron ore mining began in the region after the Civil War with operations in Tracy City (Grundy County, Tennessee), Sewanee (Franklin County, Tennessee), Shake Rag (Marion County, Tennessee), and on Sand Mountain (Dade County, Georgia). Sand Mountain was the only north Georgia mine in operation before the opening of the Durham mines on Lookout Mountain.⁴ The tonnage of coal in the Cumberland Plateau region increased from seven million tons in 1870 to 133 million tons in 1910.⁵

In September 1891, a charter was granted under Mayor Gordon Lee for the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company.⁶ The following year coal mining began at the Durham mines on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee, and by 1897, 50 coke ovens were in full operation in Chickamauga. The Durham coal seam, averaging over three-feet thick, provided coke for the iron and steel industry in nearby Chattanooga, which was a thriving industry from the late-19th century to the mid- to late-1920s. Industry in Chickamauga became more prevalent during the early 20th century as the landscape

² Carson Camp, *Dunlap, Tennessee Coke Ovens Website*. Available at: <http://www.cokeovens.com/coalfields.htm> and S. W. McCallie, *A Preliminary Report on the Coal Deposits of Georgia*. Geological Survey of Georgia: Bulletin No. 12 (1904): 37.

³ James B. Jones, Jr., “Social Control, Social Displacement, and Coal Mining in the Cumberland Plateau, 1880-1930.” Available at: <http://www.netowne.com/historical/tennessee/>

⁴ Camp, n.p., and McCallie, 61.

⁵ Jones, n.p.

⁶ Durham Mines and Coke Ovens Folder, LaFayette-Walker County Library, LaFayette, Georgia.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

changed dramatically in New South towns and cities from 1890 through the 1920s. Chickamauga made the transition from an agricultural town to a town with several industries and company housing.

After the Native American removal in 1838, a large influx of white settlers moved into Walker County, which at the time, included all of present-day Dade and Catoosa Counties, and parts of Whitfield and Chattooga County. Grist mills were the early industry in Walker County, as well as most of the north Georgia and southeast Tennessee region, during the early to mid-19th century. Agriculture, of course, was the primary occupation in Chickamauga and cotton soon became the most profitable crop.

The town of Chickamauga was named after a band of Cherokee and later known as Crawfish Springs.⁷ In 1836, James, Charles, and Thomas Gordon moved to Crawfish Springs from Gwinnett County, Georgia. James Gordon bought property from the Georgia Land Lottery and purchased about 2,500 acres around Crawfish Springs. He bought a grist mill and built a water-powered sawmill along West Chickamauga Creek.⁸ Gordon's daughter, Elizabeth, married James Morgan Lee, who eventually oversaw operations of the mills and general store. The business was eventually known as Lee and Gordon's Mills.⁹

After the Civil War in 1865, Chickamauga, along with the rest of the Southern states, was in a period of Reconstruction. The Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad in the 1850s provided new industrial opportunities in the Southeast, as the railroad expanded in the 1870s and 1880s. Gordon Lee, son of James Lee, sold most of the Gordon plantation to the Crawfish Springs Land Company shortly after his father's death in 1889. John T. Wilder, president of the Crawfish Springs Land Company and a close friend to the Lee family, envisioned an industrial town with furnaces, steel works, rolling mills, furniture factories, and other industries. The company established coal mines on Lookout Mountain and, later built the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company coke ovens and rail lines.¹⁰

Construction on the Chickamauga and Durham Railroad began in 1888 and was completed in 1892. That same year, mining began at the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company. Coal was delivered from the mines to several places in the South via the Chickamauga and Durham Railroad and the Chattanooga Southern Railroad.¹¹ The train traveled from Lookout Mountain near Lula Lake to Chickamauga, where it connected with the Chattanooga Southern junction.¹² Many times two engines were needed to pull the heavy loads of coal. During the 1890s, Gus Park served as the Chickamauga and Durham Railroad Company's engineer.¹³

Coal deposits in Walker County, Georgia, were located on Pigeon Mountain and the east side of Lookout Mountain, which contained the most valuable coal seams. The first shipments of coal to the

⁷ *Walker County, Georgia Heritage, 1833-198* (Dallas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1984), 18.

⁸ Raymond E. Evans, *Chickamauga, Civil War Impact on an Area: Tsikamagi, Crawfish Spring, Snow Hill, and Chickamauga* (Chickamauga, Georgia, 2002), 22-24.

⁹ Evans, 25.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 144 and *Walker County Messenger* 17 (25 January 1894): 4.

¹¹ *Messenger* 15 (1 September 1892): 8 and *Messenger* 37 (15 September 1892): 10.

¹² Durham Mines Folder; *Heritage*, 18 and *Messenger* 15 (1 September 1892): 8.

¹³ *Messenger* 16 (5 October 1893): 8.

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coke ovens in Chickamauga were made in 1897, when approximately 50 brick-and-stone ovens were constructed in Chickamauga.¹⁴ The Durham mines employed approximately 150 convicts and a small number of free workers. The mines were managed by Captain Paul Murphy, superintendent of the Chickamauga and Durham Railroad Company, H. T. Henderson, and T. B. Agerton.¹⁵ Each convict was expected to mine four tons of coal per day and for every ton after that, the convict was paid 50 cents. Miners used picks, shovels, and dynamite to extract the ore. Donkeys pulled the coal on carts called "dinkies."¹⁶ The mines produced a daily average of 700 tons of coal. One-fifth of the coal was used to produce coke.¹⁷

The mines were located eight miles southwest of Chickamauga and 12 miles southeast of Chattanooga. The Durham mining town included three boarding homes, a schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, icehouse, butcher, barbershop, movie theater, post office, and a gambling/pool hall.¹⁸ The Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company provided housing near Durham for the convicts and free laborers. Free miners and their families rented rooms in cottages for \$1.00 per room per month.¹⁹ The company furnished dwellings for the convicts, who were mostly black, in the countryside.²⁰

From the beginning of the mining operations, most miners were convicts. Mining companies leased convicts from prisons to perform the laborious work in the mines. Many men in the prisons were incarcerated for petty crimes so the companies could benefit from free labor, thus lowering the cost of coal. It was also discouraged unions and labor strikes among the free-white miners. The convict lease system eventually dissipated by 1900 and the labor force shifted from free to paid labor.²¹

In its first year of operation, the company delivered between 20 and 30 railroad-car loads of coal per day from Lookout Mountain. By the fall of 1892, the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company contemplated the possibility of building coke ovens near the town of Chickamauga.²² The following year demand for coal from the Durham mines increased and the company purchased a new 75-ton locomotive that could haul 40 to 45 loaded cars.²³ By late 1893, the company requested more engines and additional convict labor.²⁴ Roughly 486 tons of coal (18-car loads) arrived daily in Chickamauga.²⁵

Coke is a byproduct of coal and it is the main fuel in the iron-smelting process. It is used to make steel in blast furnaces because it burns longer, hotter, and more evenly than coal. Coking operations

¹⁴ *Messenger* 20 (23 September 1897): 1 and McCallie, 36.

¹⁵ *Messenger* 16 (31 August 1893): 2.

¹⁶ "Durham Mines Folder," LaFayette-Walker County Library.

¹⁷ McCallie, *A Preliminary Report on the Coal Deposits of Georgia*, pp. 34, 36.

¹⁸ Durham Mines Folder and Mines and Caves Folder, LaFayette-Walker County Library.

¹⁹ Evans, 169.

²⁰ *Messenger* 16 (24 August 1893): 4.

²¹ *Messenger* 16 (13 April 1893): 1; *Messenger* (14 July 1911); and Mine Organization/Durham Folder, LaFayette-Walker County Library.

²² *Messenger* 15 (1 September 1892): 8 and *Messenger* 15 (20 October 1892): 8.

²³ *Messenger* 16 (23 March 1893): 8; *Messenger* 16 (27 April 1893): 4; and *Messenger* 16 (18 May 1893): 8.

²⁴ *Messenger* 16 (16 November 1893): 1 and *Messenger* 16 (14 December 1893): 4.

²⁵ *Messenger* 17 (25 January 1894): 4.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

were established throughout southeast Tennessee and north Georgia to supply coke for the iron and steel foundries in Chattanooga.

Coke was produced in beehive-shaped coke ovens. First, the coal was dumped from rail cars into the charging hole at the top of the oven's dome. It was heated with little oxygen to remove all the impurities. The finished product, coke, was removed with long shovels from the small, front opening and placed on the loading wharf to cool. Once cooled, the coke was placed in rail cars located on the edge of the wharf and sent to the iron and steel foundries in Chattanooga.²⁶

In 1894, the company surveyed property north of downtown Chickamauga for the location of coke ovens.²⁷ First, the company built a few experimental coke ovens in Durham, Tennessee.²⁸ Early in 1897, the company constructed coke ovens in Chickamauga. By September of that year, 30 coke ovens were built and 20 more were in the process of being built by a workforce of approximately 100 men.²⁹

During the late 1890s, Chickamauga transformed its rural estate, which belonged to the Gordon and Lee families, into a planned community, which was platted by the Crawfish Springs Land Company. With the establishment of the coke ovens, the Chickamauga Manufacturing Company, and later, the Crystal Springs Bleachery Company in 1907, the community grew.³⁰ From 1900 to 1910, Chickamauga's population increased from 92 to 312 residents with nine businesses, a bank, three churches, a school, and a new city hall.³¹

Chickamauga, which had been known for agriculture, developed an industrial economy based on the success of the manufacturing and mining and coke industry. The Chickamauga Manufacturing Company opened their operations in the fall of 1899 and by May of 1900 was in full swing filling orders for berry crates, boxes, butter firkins, and baskets. In 1903, the company was reorganized and it expanded in size and in its workforce.³² The Lee and Gordon gristmill was restored in 1897 and reopened for business in early 1898.³³ In 1907, two businessmen, D. A. Jewell and A. S. Bowen, were granted a charter for the Crystal Springs Bleachery, and by 1909, the business was in full operation and the first worker houses completed.³⁴

In 1899, the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company changed its name to the Chickamauga Coal and Coke Company in recognition of its new management. The company was led by C. E. James, J. R. Rice, and Eugene Thomasson. The company planned to construct 150 to 200 new coke ovens at a

²⁶ Mines and Caves Folder, LaFayette-Walker County Library.

²⁷ *Messenger*, 17 (25 October 1894): 4 and *Messenger*, 17 (15 November 1894): 4.

²⁸ *Messenger* 18 (11 April 1895): 4.

²⁹ *Messenger* 20 (23 September 1897): 1.

³⁰ McDonald, Section 7, Page 1; *Messenger* (9 July 1909): 4; and "Crystal Springs Bleachery Organizes at Chickamauga" (18 July 1907) in Albert J. Mullis, "Old Clippings" Scrapbook, Southeast Tennessee Development District Historic, Chattanooga, Tennessee.

³¹ *Heritage*, 18 and Evans, 181.

³² *Messenger* 23 (24 May 1900): 1 and Mullis (4 June 1903).

³³ *Messenger* 20 (28 October 1897): 1.

³⁴ *Messenger*, (9 July 1909): 4.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

cost of approximately \$200,000. However, the company only built 50 more ovens and the company began to sell mining land on Lookout Mountain to J. W. English Jr. of Atlanta in 1909.³⁵ Coke production in Chickamauga steadily decreased in the 1920s. Near the time of the Great Depression, the seam of coal on Lookout Mountain diminished and operations shut down. The Chickamauga coke ovens ceased operations in the 1920s and attempts in later years to restart mining operations at the Durham mines ended in 1947.³⁶

The property was mostly abandoned until it was purchased by the Walker County Water and Sewer Authority in the mid-1970s. In the early 1990s, the water authority donated the coke ovens and almost two acres to the city of Chickamauga for use as a historical and recreational park. The city established a wetlands demonstration project and built interpretive signs that explain how coal was converted to coke, the importance of the coke industry in Chickamauga, and how coke supported the iron and steel industry in the Southeastern United States.

³⁵ Mullis (12 November 1909).

³⁶ Durham Mines Folder, LaFayette-Walker County Library.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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<http://www.bledsoe.net/cokeovens/index.htm>

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McDonald, Annie. *Chickamauga, Georgia—National Register Form*. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, 2004.

Walker County, Georgia Heritage, 1833-1983. Dallas, Georgia: Taylor Publishing Company, 1984.

Walker County Messenger, 1892-1894.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register**
- previously determined eligible by the National Register**
- designated a National Historic Landmark**
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.82 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 655850 Northing 3861010

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire intact parcel historically associated with the Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven Moffson
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 31, 2008
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Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Paul Archambault
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e-mail N/A

- () **property owner**
- () **consultant**
- (X) **regional development center preservation planner**
- () **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) John Culpepper
organization (if applicable) City of Chickamauga
mailing address P.O. Box 69
city or town Chickamauga **state** Georgia **zip code** 30707
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens
City or Vicinity: Chickamauga
County: Walker
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 2008

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 26

1. Battery of coke ovens (east side), photographer facing southwest.
2. Detail of coke oven, photographer facing southwest.
3. Detail of coke oven (rebuilt oven door), photographer facing southwest.
4. Battery of coke ovens (east side), photographer facing northwest.
5. Battery of coke ovens (east side), photographer facing northwest.
6. Battery of coke ovens (east side), photographer facing west.
7. Detail of coke oven, interior.
8. Detail of coke oven, interior.
9. Detail of coke oven, interior.
10. Detail of coke oven (rebuilt oven door), photographer facing southwest.
11. Detail of coke oven, photographer facing southwest.
12. Detail of coke ovens, photographer facing northwest.
13. Battery of coke ovens viewed from top of ovens, photographer facing northwest.
14. Detail of coke ovens viewed from above, photographer facing north.
15. Detail of coke oven, photographer facing west.
16. Battery of coke ovens (west side), photographer facing northwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

17. Battery of coke ovens, photographer facing north.
18. Detail of coke oven, charging hole.
19. Detail of coke oven, charging hole, photographer facing northeast.
20. Detail of coke oven, photographer facing north.
21. Battery of coke ovens (west side), photographer facing southeast.
22. Battery of coke ovens (west side), photographer facing northeast.
23. Battery of coke ovens (west side), photographer facing north.
24. Detail of coke oven, photographer facing north.
25. Detail of coke oven, photographer facing southwest.
26. Detail of coke oven, photographer facing southwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Chickamauga Coal and Iron Company Coke Ovens
 Chickamauga, Walker County, Georgia

Sketch Map

National Register Boundary 

Approximate scale: 1 inch = 35 feet

