

(County Jails of Ben Hill, Berrien, Brooks, and Turner Counties TR)

COUNTY: Brooks (code 027)

NO. 3

GEORGIA ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES SURVEY-INVENTORY FORM

I. IDENTIFICATION	<p>PROPERTY NAME: Brooks County Jail</p> <p>STREET ADDRESS: 200 S. Madison Street</p> <p>PRESENT OWNER: Brooks County Commission Chairman J.B. Thagard</p> <p>CITY: Quitman</p> <p>CURRENT USE: vacant</p> <p>U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Quitman, GA</p> <p>V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: Q 14 135 This is all the land that is associated with the jail.</p>	<p>HISTORIC NAME: Brooks County Jail</p> <p>CITY: Quitman ✓</p> <p>MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 272</p> <p>STATE: Georgia ✓ ZIP CODE: 31643</p> <p>ACREAGE: less than one acre</p> <p>U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17/E254870/N3408260</p>
II. DESCRIPTION	<p>ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Late 19th century Romanesque style county jail; one story high, rectangular plan, flat slate roof; constructed of common bond brick, with brick hood molds and lintels, three-bay formally balanced front (east) facade with central doorway framed with hood mold over iron-barred transom light, string course, circular vent; two-bay side elevations articulated by projecting square pilasters, corbeled brick cornice. "1884" inscribed on southeast corner of concrete foundation. Interior has a central hall with jailer's office and juvenile cells on right and left, leading to free-standing two-story level riveted steel strap cells with metal stairs.(CONT)</p>	
III. HISTORY	<p>ORIGINAL OWNER: Brooks County</p> <p>ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Simeon A. Remington</p> <p>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1884</p> <p>HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): The Brooks County Jail was built in 1884 by contractor Simeon A. Remington to replace a two story wooden 1867 jail which burned to the ground on June 17, 1880. Contract price was \$3870 for the building, and \$2000 for the steel cells. When completed, the jail was considered "one of the best in the state," and housed prisoners until 1980 when state fire and criminal justice codes could no longer be met. It is interesting to note that the county built the jail of brick and had it designed "fire proof" in response to public pressure after the first jail, which was uninsured, burned in 1880. The jail is now vacant, with Brooks (CONTD)</p>	<p>ORIGINAL USE: county jail</p> <p>HISTORIC ACREAGE: unknown</p> <p>DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: Interior renovation 1974; repainted 1976.</p>
IV. SIGNIFICANCE	<p>N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, law, politics/ government</p> <p>LEVEL: local</p> <p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Architecturally, this building is significant as the county's prime example of Romanesque style architecture. It is also significant for its fire-proof construction, with an arched corrugated metal ceiling and brick and concrete construction. In terms of law, the jail is significant as a representation of the history of law enforcement in Brooks County, and as the site for local execution. The jail represents periods in local history when prison labor augmented private enterprise, and later, the county government's public works program. In terms of politics/government, the jail is significant as one of the county's most (CONTD)</p>	
V. SOURCES	<p>FORM PREPARED BY: Haley Blanchard</p> <p>ADDRESS: 327 Savannah Ave Valdosta, GA 31601</p> <p>REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Brooks County, GA</p> <p>SOURCES OF INFORMATION: History of Brooks County, Georgia, 1858-1948 by Folks Huxford; Sanborn-Perris Map Co. 1895, 1900, 1912; Quitman Free Press, Treasures of Brooks County, UDC; personal interviews.</p>	

II. Description...continued

Metal plate on cell is inscribed "patented June 6, 1878 Pauly & Bro. St. Louis." A plate attached to the juvenile cell area is inscribed "Champion Iron Co. Kenton, Ohio." Execution platform and trap door have been cut away from metal floor of main cell area. Ceiling is arched corrugated metal; floor is concrete with some linoleum. Windows have 8 steel bars, steel mesh, and interior full length shutters. Interior has stuccoed brickmasonry walls; fireplaces have been bricked in and stuccoed. Jail is situated on small lot surrounded by chain link fence on a street one block south of the courthouse and business district, facing the city water tower. Small non-historic storage building is located directly behind the jail.

III. History...continued

County prisoners being housed in Valdosta, except for the jailer's office which is occasionally used. The Brooks County Historical Society has requested the county to donate the jail to them for use as a public museum, but no decision has been made.

IV. Significance...continued

important governmental building having served as the county's only jail from 1884 to 1980.

BROOKS COUNTY JAIL
Quitman, Brooks County, Georgia

Scale: 1' = 100'

Source: Brooks County Tax Assessors Office
Tax Map no. 14, parcel 135

Date: c. 1981

Key: The nominated property is marked by a
black and white dashed line.

North: ↑

