OMB No. 1024-0018

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.

1. Name of Prope	rty
------------------	-----

historic name	Cochran	Municipal	Building	and Scho	ol
other names/site n	umber	N/A			

2. Location

street & nur city, town county state	nber Corner of Dy Cochran Bleckley Georgia code	code GA 02		reet 31014	() vicinity of
	Ū				
() not for p	ublication				
3. Classific	ation				
Ownership	of Property:		Ca	ategory of Pro	operty:
() private(X) public-le() public-s			(X ((building(s)districtsite	
() public-fe	ederal		(()structure)object	
Number of F	Resources within Pr	operty:	<u>Contributin</u>	g	Noncontributing
	buildings		2		1
	sites		0		0
	structures		0		0
	objects		1		0
	total		3		1
			4 N. 4	Desister N/	٨

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.

Signature of certifying official

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

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- $(\sqrt{)}$ entered in the National Register
- () determined eligible for the National Register
- () determined not eligible for the National Register
- () removed from the National Register
- () other, explain:
- () see continuation sheet

Date



keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

SOCIAL/CLUBHOUSE/SOCIAL CLUB GOVERNMENT/CITY HALL GOVERNMENT/FIRE STATION EDUCATION/SCHOOL EDUCATION/LIBRARY RECREATION AND CULTURE/AUDITORIUM

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/CIVIC/VOLUNTEER SERVICE ORGANIZATION GOVERNMENT/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY/POLICE STATION GOVERNMENT/GOVERNMENT OFFICE/MUNICIPAL BUILDING GOVERNMENT/COURTHOUSE RECREATION AND CULTURE/AUDITORIUM

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/COLONIAL REVIVAL

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Brick
roof	Asphalt
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Cochran, the county seat of Bleckley County, is located in central Georgia. Cochran Municipal Building and School are located on a large corner lot in downtown Cochran just east of the Bleckley County Courthouse. Two buildings, constructed at different times, make up the school campus (photographs 1, 13, 16, and 24).

The earliest extant building (photographs 2, 4, and 13, foreground) on the nominated property was constructed in 1928 to supplement a two-story brick school built in 1913 (no longer extant). It also originally served as Cochran City Hall, the Cochran Fire Department, a public library location, and a meeting space for the Cochran Women's Club. Constructed by John H. Mullis, a local builder, and J.P. Arnold, the one-story, rectangular building is wood-framed with a brick veneer and asphalt shingle roof (photographs 4, 13, and 14). The building features Colonial Revival details such as a symmetrical façade (photograph 2), paired and single nine-over-nine double-hung-sash windows (photographs 2, 3, 4, and 14), and parapet walls (photographs 3, 14, and 15). The entry (photograph 2) features an arched entry with recessed double doors, multi-light transom and sidelights, and a

Section 7--Description

half-round transom (photographs 2 and 6). There is a second loggia-type entry at the northeast corner of the building (photograph 5) that accessed the classroom portion of the building.

The interior includes an auditorium that features a stage and dressing rooms, decorative lunette windows in the end gables, exposed trusses, and original seating (photographs 7, 8, and 9). There is a central hallway with former city offices on either side (now used as offices for the Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce) (photographs 6, 7, and 22). Classrooms were located on the opposite side of the auditorium from the city offices (now used as the Bleckley County Arts Alliance) (photographs 10, 11, and 12). The walls are plaster (photographs 6, 7, 11, and 12). Doors are paneled and feature transoms (photographs 6, 7, 11, and 12). The floors and window trim are wood. In 1946 a portion of the building was remodeled to serve as a lunchroom (photograph 12).

The 1942 building (photographs 1, foreground, 16, 17, and 18) was begun in 1940 by a Works Progress Administration crew and was completed in 1942. Designed by Dennis & Dennis of Macon, it was constructed as an elementary school to accommodate the need for more classrooms. The one-story, rectangular building is wood-framed with a brick veneer and standing asphalt shingle roof (photographs 16 and 18). Like the earlier building, the 1942 building features Colonial Revival details such as symmetrical façade (photograph 17), twelve-over-twelve double-hung-sash windows (photographs 18 and 19), gable returns (photographs 17 and 18), and a cupola (photograph 18). There is an arched entry that is recessed and features double entry doors and a multi-light transom (photograph 17). A second entry is located on the southwest façade of the building (photograph 18). This entry, although more elaborate with a broken pediment over a recessed double-door entry, a swag, and a circular gable window, is the secondary entry into the building.

The primary entrance opens into a central double-loaded corridor (photograph 20) with classrooms on each side (photographs 21 and 23) now used as Cochran Police Department offices. The walls are plaster with chair rail (photograph 20). Doors are paneled and feature transoms.

A 1910 Confederate monument (photographs 1, 13, 16, and 24), which originally stood in the center of town at the corner of Second Street and Beech Street northwest of the current site), was moved to its present location in front of the 1942 building in the 1940s.

Landscaping on the property includes a level lawn, mature trees, foundation plantings, sidewalks, and a nonhistoric parking lot. The Bleckley Public Library, constructed in 1986 on the site of the 1913 school building, is also located on the property.

8. Statement of Significance

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

() nationally () statewide (X) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

(X) A () B (X) C () D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) N/A

() A	() B	() C	() D	() E	() F	() G
()	()-	() -	()-	() –		() -

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture Education Politics and Government Women's History

Period of Significance:

1928-1952

Significant Dates:

1928-Construction of the municipal building 1942-Construction date of the school building

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

John H. Mullis-builder (1928 building) J.P. Arnold-builder (1928 building) Dennis & Dennis-Architects (1942 building)

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Cochran Municipal Building and School were constructed between 1928 and 1942 to serve as municipal offices and serve the educational needs of the white children of the Cochran community. The complex is significant in the area of <u>architecture</u> as a good and intact example of a school constructed over time for a small Georgia community. The 1928 building was constructed to enhance the existing 1913 school (non-extant) by adding classroom space and an auditorium that was also used as a municipal facility. Built in the Colonial Revival style the character-defining features of the building include the symmetrical façade, projecting pavilions, single and paired windows, and an arched entry. The 1942 building, designed by Dennis and Dennis of Macon, Georgia, was constructed by a Works Progress Administration crew to provide more classroom space. The character-defining features of the Colonial Revival-style building are the symmetrical façade, gable returns, and cupola.

Cochran Municipal Building and School are significant in the area of <u>education</u> for their functions as the educational facilities for the white community in Cochran, the Cochran Public Library, and the typical activities that occurred there during the historic period. The site has been used for educational purposes since the late 19th century.

Cochran Municipal Building and School are also significant in the area of <u>politics and government</u> for their uses as City Hall and the fire department for the town of Cochran and for other municipal activities that occurred there during the historic period. The auditorium has been used since 1928 by the Cochran City Schools and the City of Cochran for various civic and cultural programs, including numerous plays, concerts, and other performances. The auditorium provided the only large capacity performance space in the Cochran community.

Cochran Municipal Building and School are significant in the area of <u>women's history</u> as the meeting place for the Cochran Women's Club. Women's clubs are among the most important civic institutions associated with women's history in Georgia, and their meeting places are important local historical landmarks.

National Register Criteria

Cochran Municipal Building and School are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of education for the typical activities that occurred as the only school for the white community in Cochran during the historic period, in the area of politics and government for serving as the community's city hall, fire station, and other municipal roles, and in the area of women's history as the meeting place for the Cochran Women's Club. Cochran Municipal Building and School are also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of an early 20th century community school campus that was constructed over time in Georgia.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for Cochran Municipal Building and School begins in 1928, the construction date of the earlier building, and ends in 1952, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The two contributing buildings included in the nominated property are the 1928 municipal building and the 1942 school building. The contributing object included in the nominated property is the Confederate monument on the lawn of the 1942 building. The noncontributing resource on the property is the nonhistoric Bleckley County Library on the site of the former 1913 school.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

**NOTE: The following history was compiled by Robin B. Nail, Preservation Planner, Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Development Center, December, 2002. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The City of Cochran began as the community of Dykesboro in Pulaski County in the early 1830s. Its name was changed to honor Judge Arthur E. Cochran, a noted jurist and former president of the Old Macon and Brunswick Railroad, prior to its incorporation in 1869. Bleckley County was carved from Laurens County and Pulaski County in 1912, and Cochran was selected as the new county's seat of government.

In 1872, local resident and large landowner Burrell B. Dykes donated a one-acre site on the corner of present-day Third Street and Dykes Street (current location of the Cochran Public Library) to a group of trustees with the stipulation that it be used for public education. Martha Ann Academy, named for Dykes' daughter, was established on the site shortly thereafter. Located in a wood-framed building, the school operated for approximately 20 years.

Some years later, the Cochran High School was completed on the same site in 1913. It was a massive two-story brick structure with a basement described in the December 16, 1915 *Cochran Journal* as "strictly up-to-date, modern in its every appointment ... [and] the pride of the city." In addition to the required classroom space, the school had " a good working physical laboratory, and a splendid library of assorted literature," along with a faculty described as "second to none."

In 1928, a new Cochran City Hall and auditorium with four classrooms to serve the adjacent Cochran High School was constructed on the corner of Second Street and Dykes Street. Voters approved 154 to 27 a \$7,000 bond issue for much needed school improvements and \$18,000 for a new city hall and auditorium earlier in the year. Noted local builder, John H. Mullis, who built the Bleckley

Section 8--Statement of Significance

County Courthouse, the Cochran Baptist Church, private residences, and many other fine local buildings, constructed the facility. In addition to housing city hall, the Woman's Club and the first local public library utilized rooms in the front of the building.

On April 25, 1929 at 4:00 p.m. a tornado struck the Cochran area. According to eyewitness accounts, everyone downtown tried to get to the new brick auditorium building for safety. Seniors at Cochran High School were in the auditorium at the time practicing for the play "High Flyers." Fortunately for the community, the tornado passed north of town, and downtown Cochran and the building was spared. The Class of 1929, consisting of 14 students, was the first to graduate in the auditorium, which held high school commencement ceremonies for the next 33 years until construction of the new high school gymnasium in 1963. As early as the late 1930s, the city leased the auditorium to the firm of Martin and Thompson for movie theatre use.

By 1938, the Cochran School System was in need of additional facilities, and some of its existing buildings needed renovations. The city condemned the existing basketball court located in the wooden gymnasium (constructed to accompany the 1913 building) between the city hall/auditorium and courthouse (current site of the 1942 building). The Cochran City Council agreed on November 28, 1938 at a special meeting to accept 45 percent of the needed funding for school renovations from federal assistance, however Works Progress Administration construction did not begin until November 6, 1940. Under the leadership of Superintendent T. M. Purcell, the architectural firm of Dennis and Dennis in Macon, Georgia, prepared the plans and specifications for the buildings, including an eight class-room grammar school building on the site of the wooden gymnasium; a new brick high school gymnasium (no longer extant) located behind the new grammar school building facing Third Street, and major remodeling of the 1913 high school building consisting of removal of the deteriorated second floor, and resulting in a total of twelve classrooms on the first floor and in the basement. All three buildings were connected to the City Auditorium with continuous corridors, forming two ells. Despite delays in beginning construction, the project was completed on schedule in 1942 at an approximate cost of \$85,000. Cochran School Board Chairman T. L. Bailey described the successful project as resulting in one of the most convenient and best school plants for a town the size of Cochran in the entire state." He further observed that, "It is splendidly arranged and will have room enough for many years to come."

Shortly after World War II, in 1946 or 1947, classroom space on the Dykes Street side of the auditorium/city hall building was renovated for lunchroom use. It had folding walls that could divide the space into three rooms, which may have been used to separate the students by grade as all levels from first grade through 11th, and then 12th, used the facility.

Tragedy struck the Cochran School campus January 25, 1961 when the Cochran Gymnasium burned causing an estimated \$75,000 in damage. Although the gym was destroyed, only minimal damage occurred to the Cochran Elementary School (the former 1913 Cochran High School) to which the gym was connected.

By the mid-1950s, overcrowded school facilities were again an issue in Cochran. The number of white students had reached 836 (563 grammar school, 273 high school) by November 4,1955 with 30

Section 8--Statement of Significance

teachers. The Negro School had 10 teachers for the 284 pupils (228 grammar school, 56 high school). A new white high school was constructed, and the previously existing facilities were used by the elementary grades. Full school integration took place in Cochran in the fall of 1970. And after many years of discussion and debate, the separate Cochran and Bleckley County school systems merged in 1977.

Following the City of Cochran's move to its new city hall about a block away in 1970, the auditorium fell into a period of disuse for approximately 20 years. Only the rooms containing the public library continued to be used until the 1986 construction of the new library behind the auditorium on the site of the original Martha Ann Academy and the 1913 Cochran High School. By the 1980s, interest in bringing the auditorium back to life was on the rise and stabilization was begun with installation of a new roof and upgraded electrical system. An Auditorium Restoration Committee was formed in 1991 to work with the Cochran City Council to oversee the auditorium's renovation. Further improvements have been made, including the addition of central HVAC and new handicapped accessible restrooms. The Cochran-Bleckley Arts Alliance currently leases the space behind the auditorium, while the local Chamber of Commerce and Family Connections social services agency have offices in the front of the auditorium building. The auditorium itself also continues to be used for various cultural, fundraising, and other programs.

The City of Cochran presently uses the former grammar school (I 942) building for municipal functions, including the Cochran Police Department and Magistrate Court.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bailey, T.L. "Accomplishments of Cochran Public School in Past 17 years." *The Cochran (GA) Journal*, 1942, n.p.

Barlow, Lonnie W. "Cochran City Auditorium." Program delivered at dedication of renovated auditorium, undated.

Bleckley County Elementary School. A Salute to Bleckley County: Past - Present - Future. 1976. (Bicentennial Project)

"Cochran High School." The Cochran Journal. December 16, 1915, n.p.

Davidson, Russell L., Chairman, Auditorium Restoration Committee, Cochran-Bleckley Arts Alliance. Facsimile response to Robin B. Nail, December 15, 2002.

Hawkinsville Chapter of the DAR, sponsor. *History of Pulaski and Bleckley Counties, Georgia, 1808-1956.* Vol. 1, J.W. Burke Co., Macon. 1957.

Heart of Georgia Planning and Development Commission and Cochran-Bleckley Bicentennial Committee. *Heritage Trail Bicentennial Edition, Cochran and Bleckley County, 1976.*

Hendricks, Jr., Barney, comp. Cochran High School 50th Reunion Book (Class of 1942). 1992.

Johnson, Antoinette F. and Lauder, Linda Pettey, eds. *Our Heritage Bicentennial Pictorial History*. Cochran-Bleckley County, May, 1976.

Killebrew, Mayor Charles. Cochran City Hall and by telephone. Interviews by Robin B. Nail, June, 2001 and December 30, 2002.

Loftin, Bernadette Kuehn. *The Cochran Community: Development, Continuity and Change*. Uchee Trail Publishers, 1999.

Nail, Robin B. <u>Historic Property Information Form</u>. December, 2002. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental information.

The Purple and Gold (Cochran High School annual). Vol. 2. Photocopy located at Bleckley County High School Library, Cochran, Georgia.

Telephone interviews with the following: Jimmy Jones, Russell L. Davidson, and Barney Hendricks, Jr., Cochran, Georgia. Interviews by Robin B. Nail, December 30, 2002.

Whipple, Bennett. "Memories of the Cochran City Auditorium and School Chapel." March 5, 1992. Prepared for Cochran High School's Class of 1942's 50th Reunion.

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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:

- (X) 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 2.5 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 278498 Northing 3585603

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the attached map by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary of the nominated property includes the 1928 building, the 1942 building, the Confederate monument, and the land historically associated with the buildings. Land associated with the former 1913 school building also has been included even though it is now the site of a modern library.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 date May 12, 2003
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Robin B. Nail, Preservation Planner organization Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Development Center mailing address 331 West Parker Street city or town Baxley state Georgia zip code 31513 telephone (912)367-3648 e-mail

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Mayor Charles Killebrew organization (if applicable) City of Cochran mailing address P.O. Box 8 city or town Cochran state Georgia zip code 31014 e-mail (optional)

Photographs

Name of Property:	Cochran Municipal building and School
City or Vicinity:	Cochran
County:	Bleckley
State:	Georgia
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed:	December, 2002
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 24

1. Cochran Elementary School (now Cochran Police Department), at left, Cochran City Auditorium, at right, and Confederate monument, center; photographer facing east.

2. Cochran City Auditorium Building (now Cochran-Bleckley Chamber of Commerce and Bleckley County Arts Alliance), front (southwest) facade; photographer facing northeast.

3. Cochran City Auditorium Building, southeast façade; photographer facing north.

4. Cochran City Auditorium Building, southeast façade; photographer facing southwest.

5. Cochran City Auditorium Building, northeast corner (Bleckley County Arts Alliance entrance; photographer facing northwest.

6. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, entrance hall; photographer facing south.

7. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, auditorium entrance; photographer facing northeast.

8. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, auditorium; photographer facing northeast.

9. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, auditorium, ceiling detail; photographer facing southeast.

10. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, Bleckley County Arts Alliance; photographer facing east.

11. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, Bleckley County Arts Alliance; photographer facing south.

12. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, Bleckley County Arts Alliance; photographer facing southwest.

Photographs

13. Cochran City Auditorium Building, foreground, and Cochran Elementary School Building, background; photographer facing northwest.

14. Cochran City Auditorium Building, northwest façade, background, and Cochran Elementary School Building, northeast façade, at right; photographer facing southeast.

15. Cochran City Auditorium Building, northwest façade, background, and Cochran Elementary School Building, northeast façade, at right; photographer facing southeast.

16. Cochran Elementary School Building, foreground, and Cochran City Auditorium Building, background; photographer facing east.

- 17. Cochran Elementary School Building, northwest façade; photographer facing southeast.
- 18. Cochran Elementary School Building, southwest façade; photographer facing northeast.
- 19. Cochran Elementary School Building, northeast façade; photographer facing northwest.
- 20. Cochran Elementary School Building, interior, entrance hall; photographer facing northwest.
- 21. Cochran Elementary School Building, interior, classroom; photographer facing west.
- 22. Cochran City Auditorium Building, interior, office; photographer facing southeast.
- 23. Cochran Elementary School Building, interior, classroom; photographer facing north.

24. Cochran City Auditorium Building, foreground, and Cochran Elementary School Building, background; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

SITE LAYOUT	rT	• • •	Cochran Municipal Building a Cochran, Bleckley County, Ge Site Plan	orgia
			Photograph Direction/Number Scale: Not to scale	()
	BLECKLEY COUNTY		North: 7	
	COURT HOUSE	· · ·		
	CONTROUSE			i -
				•
				· · · · · ·
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
		• • • • •	· · · · · · · · · ·	• • • • •
	¥	• • •		
				•
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •				
		-	· · · · · · · ·	، من معنی معنی منطق ا
	COCHRAN	• • • • • • • • • • • • •	· <u> </u>	
	POLICE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	DEPARTMENT			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
1			PARKING LOT	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
				2
Coxb				
Ä				
J.				
		U		
		F		BLECKLEY
				COUNTY
				LIBRARY
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	COCHRAN CHAMBER OF COMM	FREE - MITY A	UDITORIUM BLECKLEY	nan a san an a
	COCHEMIN CHAMIDER of Comme			
			ARTS	
			ALLIANCE	
		· · · ·	I	
				ана станата и простока се станата се станата се се станата се станата се станата се станата се станата се стана По станата се станата с
				. <u>En .</u>
		DYKES STREE		a Anna an an an an Anna Anna Anna Anna Anna an Anna Anna
·····			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	ting ting ting ting ting ting ting ting	
			,	
	1 1 I		I	-



-SECOND STRFF



Cochran Municipal Building and School Cochran, Bleckley County, Georgia Cochran Police Department-Floor Plan Photograph Direction/Number: Scale: Not to scale North: 5



