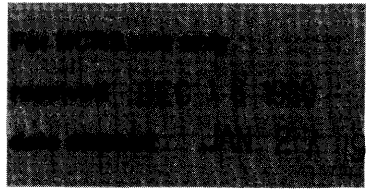


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Heard County Jail

and/or common Heard County Jail

2. Location Court Sq. and Shady Lane

street & number Corner of Court Square and Shady Lane not for publication

city, town Franklin vicinity of congressional district 6th - Newt Gingrich

state Georgia code 013 county Heard code 149

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Wayne Miller, Heard County Commissioner

street & number P.O. Box 55

city, town Franklin vicinity of state Georgia 30217

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. No deed due to courthouse fire in 1894

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Heard County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January, 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

4/

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

The Heard County Jail, built by Fred Wagner in 1880, is a vernacular version of the Romanesque style. The building sits on a high ridge overlooking the Chattahoochee River at the corner of Shady Lane and Court Square in Franklin. The nominated property includes less than one acre.

The exterior of the building, a combination jail and sheriff's residence, is made of red brick laid in American bond with decorative corbeling around the cornice. Square in form, the jail is capped with a high pyramidal roof. The two-story jail has a one-story front porch with four square wooden columns. At the entrance level, on the front facade, there is a central door with transom light and a one-over-one window to each side. On the second floor of the front facade, a central arched opening has one four-over-four window to each side. All windows on the second floor have metal bars for security. Directly above the arched window on the second floor is a pair of small arched openings in the tower. Originally, the jail had two interior end chimneys plus an interior chimney at the rear; today, the west chimney cap is gone. In the 1960s, framed shed additions were added to the east and west for storage. A framed shed addition to the rear was added in the 1930s as part of the sheriff's residence.

The interior of the building is a combination jail and sheriff's residence. Entering from the front, the residential area has a central hallway running the depth of the two front rooms on each side. These rooms, which were used as bedrooms, have corner fireplaces. One of the fireplaces has been paneled over. Behind the hallway is the kitchen and to the left is another bedroom. To the rear is a shed addition containing a bathroom and closets. To the right of the kitchen, directly behind the front bedroom, is the entrance to the jail. This room has a side entrance and contains the stairway leading to the jail upstairs. At one time, there was a well in this room which supplied water for the building.

The second floor, which is the jail, consists of one large room and two small rooms. The large room has two cells, each containing eight beds and a toilet. At the top of the stairs, in front of the "death cell," are the gallows and trap door. The release for the trap door is mounted on the stair rail. Each cell is made of heavy cast iron which was welded and bolted together inside the jail. To support the weight of the cells, the ceiling below is made of corrugated iron, iron beams and reinforced concrete.

The tower, which is known as the hanging tower, was not designed nor used for that function. Instead, it contained a large water tank. New plumbing was installed prior to 1940.

There are no extant outbuildings associated with the jail. In the 1930s, a garage was built west of the jail, but it was removed in the 1950s. The boundary of the nominated property is defined by the small rectangular city lot upon which the jail stands.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1880

Builder/Architect Builder: Fred Wagner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Heard County Jail is significant to the architectural and local history of Franklin and Heard County. In terms of architectural history, the building is a representative example of the simple late-nineteenth-century jail found in many of Georgia's rural counties. It is also the oldest extant public building in the county and a major historic landmark in Franklin. In terms of local history, it is associated with the county system of law enforcement administered through the joint office of sheriff/jailer.

Architectural History. The Heard County Jail is significant in terms of architectural history as a representative example of the simple late-nineteenth-century jail found in many of Georgia's rural counties. Its simple Victorian design, featuring compact massing with a hipped roof and tower, round and flat arched windows, and corbelled cornices, its limited range of simple, durable, fireproof materials including stone, brick, iron, concrete, and plaster, its plan which incorporates sheriff's residence and keep in one structure, and its furnishings, notably the iron cellblocks, water tower and plumbing, are characteristic features of the late-nineteenth-century county jail in Georgia, here realized on a modest scale appropriate to the rural nature of the county.

The Heard County Jail is also architecturally significant as the oldest extant public building in the county and a major historic landmark in Franklin. The jail was originally part of a late-nineteenth-century county courthouse complex which stood on the square in the center of Franklin. The first courthouse associated with the jail burned in 1894 and was replaced soon after. This courthouse itself was demolished in the late 1960s when a new county courthouse was built away from the square. The Franklin City Hall, situated near the jail, is a modern concrete-block building; the post office, dating from the 1950s, is likewise modern. Few historic commercial buildings remain on the square, and most of them have been modernized on the exterior at least. Thus, the Heard County Jail stands as a major historic landmark in the county seat.

Local History. The Heard County Jail is associated with the county system of law enforcement, administered through the joint office of sheriff/jailer, typical of small counties in Georgia. In Heard County, as in other rural counties in the state, the sheriff also served as the jailer and resided in the jail building. The Heard County Jail was used continuously as such from 1880 to 1965, when it was replaced by a new jail in the new courthouse. Eight different sheriffs

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bledsoe, Virgil, Interview conducted by Maurie Golsen-Williams on February 28, 1980, Chattahoochee-Flint APDC, Areawide Historic Preservation Study, April, 1976.
 Golsen-Williams, Maurie, On-site inspection, January 20, 1980.
The News and Banner, Heard County newspaper, April 6, 1984
 Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780. Mit Pr **ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Franklin, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary circumscribes the city lot upon which the jail stands and is outlined on the attached "property/sketch" map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title a) Maurie Golsen-Williams, Historic Preservation Planner
 b) Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian
 organization a) Chattahoochee-Flint APDC
 b) Historic Preservation Sec., Ga. DNR date October 15, 1980
 street & number a) 114 Church Street, P.O. Box 1363 a) (404)882-2956
 b) 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone b) (404) 656-2840
 city or town a) LaGrange
 b) Atlanta state 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

date 11/24/80

title State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Sally G. Odde
 Keeper of the National Register

date 1/27/81

Attest:

Wol Dink
 Chief of Registration

date 1/26/81

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

lived in the jail during the twentieth century, the most recent being the current sheriff, Virgil Bledsoe, who lived there from 1933 to 1943, when his father was sheriff, and from 1949 to 1965, while he was sheriff. According to Sheriff Bledsoe, the jail seldom housed more than a handful of prisoners, and no one was ever hanged there.

Preservation Interest. The Heard County Jail is currently unused by the county. The newly formed Heard County Historic Society is interested in preserving the structure and using it as a headquarters.

CHATTAHOOCI

Heard County Jail
Franklin, Heard County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

North: ↑

Scale: 1" = 200'

Boundary of nominated property: 

DEC 18 1988

JAN 27

FRANKLIN
IAP 3

