

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED DEC 30 1975  
DATE ENTERED MAR 26 1976

## 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 *W.H.*  
Campbell County Courthouse  
AND/OR COMMON  
Old Campbell County Courthouse

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER East Broad and Cole Streets  
CITY, TOWN Fairburn  
STATE Georgia  
VICINITY OF  
CODE 013  
COUNTY Fulton  
CODE 121  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
6th - John J. Flynt, Jr.

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Fulton County  
STREET & NUMBER 165 Central Avenue, S.W.  
CITY, TOWN Atlanta  
STATE Georgia  
VICINITY OF

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fulton County Courthouse, Old Campbell Deedbook G. P. 466  
STREET & NUMBER 136 Pryor Street, S.W.  
CITY, TOWN Atlanta  
STATE Georgia

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None  
DATE  
—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE

# 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		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Campbell County Courthouse is representative of 19th Century planning for county seat buildings. It is situated in a quiet residential area of Fairburn. Basically, its condition is still sound due to solid (sixteen inches thick) brick wall construction. Its red clay brick were molded and burned at nearby sites more than a century ago. Bricks are laid in Common American Bond. The courthouse was built and occupied as a county seat in 1871. A contract for its erection was let in April, 1871 to Smith and Brother, a contractor of Palmetto in Campbell County. Its construction, of local material put together by local workmen, cost some \$10,674.20. Later, in 1907, a remodeling job was done to add simple plumbing, heating and lighting fixtures. No exterior alterations have ever been made.

A full-width, two-story front portico, supported by four enormous columns (Tuscan Order) give its front facade a stiff Greek Revival appearance. The 20 foot high columns are three feet in diameter, molded of concrete. Against the front wall is a full-length, double-curved, wrought-iron-encased stairway. The stairway frames the main floor central (double-door) entrance and has a narrow landing in front of the central single doorway upstairs entrance. Both front entrances are arched and have fan-lighting. The upstairs doorway arch has an inscribed (1871) keystone. The main floor of the front portico is concrete and extends the full width of the building as do the front concrete steps.

The 40 foot by 60 foot building has four gables on its roof. Front and rear gables extend the full 40 foot width and two centered side gables are about 30 foot wide. The walls are ornamented at the top with 22 pairs (seven to each side and four to each end) of scroll-work corbels supporting buttresses for the gables. Five arched windows (six over six pane - some six feet high) are on each level of the side walls. Two windows of the same type are on each level of the rear wall and two more are placed on the upstairs front wall.

The interior offices have ten foot ceilings and plastered walls. A central eight foot hallway divides the main floor into two equal side divisions. In the courthouse days, there were three offices to each side with a central vault room on one side. In later years (after 1932) a branch of the Atlanta Public Library was housed here for thirty years (1940-1970) and some slight alterations to the office space was made on the main floor.

The upper floor served as the Campbell County Courtroom. The main courtroom extended some 45 feet from the front wall to the judge's chamber and jury rooms at the rear. The courtroom was adapted in the 1930's for a recreation center. Some dozen home-made pine benches made in 1869 for courtroom seating still remain in the old courtroom and the original judge's bench has been returned to the building.

The Fulton County Commission maintains the building and it is kept in fairly good repair. Excess coats of paint have flaked in many areas. To adapt the main floor for a proposed museum will require some extensive renovation and remodeling. The City of Fairburn and local garden clubs keep up the grounds.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

1871

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Campbell County Courthouse has been a landmark in the center of Fairburn, Georgia for 103 years. For 61 of those years it was the active county seat building of Georgia's 74th county, a typical rural Georgia county. This period was from 1871 to 1932 when Campbell County merged into Fulton County. For its entire existence, it has been an important community center and still remains as such. Its preservation as a symbol of a vanished Georgia County and as a repository for its records and relics will insure a continued respect for this important landmark.

A Georgia Historical Marker placed on the courthouse grounds in 1955 states: "This was the Courthouse of Campbell County at the time it merged with Fulton County January 1, 1932. When the county was created by Acts of the Legislature December 20 and 22, 1828, the site was at Campbellton on the Chattahoochee but it was moved to Fairburn in 1870. The county was named for Col. Duncan G. Campbell, one of the signers of the treaty made at Indian Springs in 1825 by which the Creeks ceded most of the land that later made up Campbell County." The county at first extended west of the Chattahoochee River taking in most of what is now Douglas County. A courthouse was erected at Campbellton in 1835. The building of a railroad (Atlanta and West Point) on the eastern edge of Campbell County created sentiment for the removal of the county seat. The legislature created Douglas County out of Campbell's area west of the river and gave Campbell some Fayette County land. Fairburn was chosen by popular vote and a courthouse was built here in 1871.

One of a very few county mergers ever effected in the United States was made in Georgia in 1931. Campbell County's merger (along with Milton County) was approved by the state legislature and by popular vote in that year. Campbell County ceased to exist on January 1, 1932. Its courthouse became the property of Fulton County and appeared to be slated for early demolition. It fell into a state of disrepair for several years. In 1933 community leaders of Fairburn led a fight to preserve it and secured a \$5,000 Federal Grant for its renovation as a community center. A community library and a recreation center were set up in the building. Such usage continued until 1970.

In late years, the courthouse has continued to serve as a meeting place for various organizations. Fulton County maintains Agricultural Extension offices here and has assumed full responsibility for its upkeep. The Old Campbell County Historical Society was organized here in 1971 and has taken on the chief effort for continued preservation of the landmark building. A Centennial was observed for it in 1971 and the Society began the custom of holding annual Campbell County Homecoming Days here. The Society has started a collection for a museum.

Architecturally, the courthouse is significant as one of the late vestiges of the mid

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Garrett, Franklin, Atlanta and Its Environs  
 Mason, James Walter, Campbell County History (included in Cooper's 1934 History of Fulton County.)  
 Candler and Evans, Cyclopedia of Georgia.  
 Parker, Judge J. Wilson Parker, Courthouses of Campbell County (An unpublished Manuscript written in 1935).

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,2,4	7,0,0	3,7	1,6	5,4,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
C							D					

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Courthouse grounds comprise a small city block enclosed by four streets. The property extends north from Cole Street some 80 feet along East Broad Street, thence east 380 feet along Pearl Street to Green Street, thence south for 70 feet along Green Street to Cole Street and thence 400 feet along Cole Street westward to point of beginning on East Broad Street.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

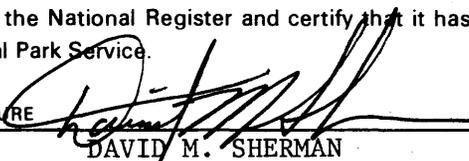
NAME / TITLE	Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian	(Fred Greer, Old Campbell Co Historical Society)
ORGANIZATION	Historic Preservation Section, DNR	DATE December 10, 1975
STREET & NUMBER	270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C	TELEPHONE 656-2840
CITY OR TOWN	Atlanta	STATE Georgia

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE  DATE 12/16/75

TITLE CHIEF, HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<u>Acting</u> DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>2/25/96</u>
ATTEST: <u>Robert B. Ketting</u> KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	DATE <u>3-21-76</u>

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** Significance      ITEM NUMBER 8      PAGE 2

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19th century high classical style in Georgia, being constructed only six years after the Civil War. In Georgia during this period there was relatively little construction and what there was related more to the eclectic style than to the purely classical forms exhibited in the Old Campbell County Courthouse.