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PH0013188

Public Acquisition:

Private Residence

Federal

OWNERSHIP

□ Park

Religious

Scientific

Form 10-300 (July 1969)

1. NAME COMMON:

2. LOCATION

Sam Bailey Building

Sam Bailey Male Institute

North Side of East Poplar Street at

X Public

Private

☐ Both

☐ Government

Griffin-Spalding County Board of Education

Industrial

■ Military

■ Museum

AND/OR HISTORIC:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CATEGORY

(Check One)

Object

🔀 Building

Structure

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

CITY OR TOWN: Griffin STATE

Georgia 3. CLASSIFICATION

District

Agricultural

Commercial

■ Educational

Entertainment

OWNER'S NAME:

CITY OR TOWN:

CITY OR TOWN:

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

CITY OR TOWN:

STREET AND NUMBER:

Griffin

None

Griffin

OWNER OF PROPERTY

STREET AND NUMBER:

STREET AND NUMBER:

216 South Sixth Street

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Spalding County Courthouse

East Solomon Street

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Site

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

6th Congressional District

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	DESCRIPTION							
CONDITION	(Check One)							
	Excellent	☐ Good	🔀 Fair	Deteriorated	Ruins	Unexposed		
	CONDITION	(Check One)				(Check One)		
		⊠ Alter	ed	☐ Unaltered		Moved	Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Sam Bailey School is a two-story brick structure whose Italianate details reflect its 1870 date. The surface of this rectangular brick block is articulated by pilaster-like brick projections which define the bays vertically. These vertical elements support a horizontal brick projection which runs around the top of the building like an entablature. Arched window openings in the brick walls are capped by projecting brick arches These arches are round in the second story above elliptically on corbels. capped openings below. Contrasting with these brick elaborations of the wall surface, paired, white wooden brackets support a strongly projecting cornice. Further contrast with the rich, red brick is provided by the wide wooden window frames. The entrance bay of the West facade is distinguished by a balcony of turned balusters and panelled corner posts topped with urns. This feature is supported on curved brackets above the entrance doorway. A simple elliptical fan light and panelled pilasters frame this wide opening. Narrow double round arched windows within an arched opening contribute a vertical thrust to this center section which is picked up in the arched plate above in the gable.

Inside the school building much of the original detailing, such as rectangular transom lights and panelled doors, and a generously proportioned stairway, remains. When the interior was remodeled and modernized in 1957 four large rooms on each floor were subdivided into smaller classrooms. The original front stairway just inside the main entrance continues in service but the space in the opposite end which once housed a similar staircase has been utilized for new rest rooms.

A large parking lot abuts the structure on the north side and newer school buildings are located on its once generous grounds. The Sam Bailey Building itself, however, appears much as it did in the 1870's.

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PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	☐ 18th Century	20th Century
☐ 15th Century	17th Century	🔀 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1870		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)	
Abor iginal	🗷 Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	X Other (Specify)
☐ Historic	Industry	losophy	History
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	Science	
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☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
Commerce	Literature	itarian	Pr. A CO
Communications	Military	☐ Theater	MELEIVEN
Conservation	☐ Music	Transportation	S. 50 Cal

Sam Bailey School Building, constructed in 1870 fits the oldest public school building in Griffin. It is now incorporated into the high school campus and connected to other buildings by covered walkways, but has been in continuous use as a school since it was built. In addition to its veneration by the generations of Griffin citizens who attended school

there, this structure, built by one of the city's pioneer builders, stands as a significant architectural monument.

Sam Bailey School was built originally for the Griffin Male Institute. It was named for Sam Wesley Bailey, a banker and landowner who came to Griffin after the Civil War and contributed generously to the school's building fund. Plans for the project began in 1869 with the recommendation of the Committee on the Griffin Male Institute that a two-story building, 60 feet by 90 feet, be built. Estimated cost of the construction was \$15,000 plus \$3000 for equipment. Actual cost was \$17,047.40, of which amount the City of Griffin paid \$10,150, while the balance was paid by public subscription. The city also gave the land, Land Lot No. 56, a site that was originally set aside by the town's founder, Lawrence Lewis Griffin, as a parade ground. The construction was carried out by Gilman Jonathan Drake, who in addition to being active in the public education movement in Griffin, was one of the town's major builders. Drake had come to Griffin in 1857 from New Hampshire at the age of thirty as an itinerant carpenter. Before the Civil War he built many of Griffin's houses and after service in the Confederate Army returned to the city. In 1873 he founded the City National Bank and served as its president until his death By 1870, when he built Sam Bailey School, he was an experienced builder and was becoming a prominent businessman.

Coincidentally, Sam Bailey School was built in the same year that the first public school law was passed in Georgia. The school began, however, as a private school of six elementary grades. Two years later, Griffin tried unsuccessfully to establish a city system of public schools. With \$3500, raised in part by City Council appropriation, and a donation from the Peabody Fund for southern education, the plan was approved by the citizens of Griffin on June 24, 1872. Sam Bailey then opened on August 19, 1873 as a public school with seventy pupils. Insufficient funds brought an end to this beginning in 1877. Sam Bailey returned to private operation, although representatives of the City Council on its Board of Trustees maintained a quasi-public status. Eight years later the building was once again part of a public system. The public school system of Griffin was permanently established by an act of the legislature on December 24, 1884 which was ratified by the people of Griffin in March of

(continued)

Date

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Georgi a	
COUNTY	
Spalding	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 2 0 1973	

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

The first successful Board of Education was appointed in June of the Its first president, Dr. N. B. Drewry, had served the Confederate Army as a surgeon and was a forceful proponent of public education in Griffin. Drewry served until 1913. The trustees of the Griffin Male Institute donated the Sam Bailey Building to the board. At first only the primary grades occupied the building, but later a high school, added to the system in the late eighties, was taught in the building. As the system grew new buildings went up nearby and Sam Bailey reverted to six grammar grades. Later, as the system became even larger, Sam Bailey was utilized as a single grade, the seventh In 1953 the Griffin system was merged with that of Spalding County and the building became the junior high school of the new system. At the time, talk of tearing down the structure for a modern building met with sizeable opposition. Among the suggestions for its use were a museum and a band practice room. However, the greatest need was for classroom space; consequently the interior was renovated and remodeled. Subdivision of classrooms, conversion of one stairhall into rest rooms, and modernization of utilities was completed by 1957.

Sam Bailey, known by this simple designation, continues to serve its original function. The old parade ground on which it is located has now become a parking space and the large old oak trees that once surrounded it are gone. The architectural detail which gives the old brick building its distinctive character, however, remains to enrich the visual experience of later generations of Griffin citizens who now pass through its wide halls.

Form 10-301 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Spalding	
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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^	Georgia 13 Spalding	NAT. 1972	₽ 255			
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^	TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS					
	1. Property broundaries where required.					
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