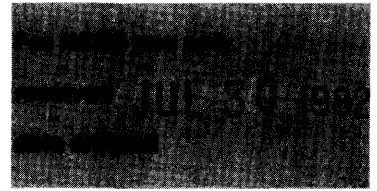


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 College Home/Smith Hall

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number campus LaGrange College not for publication

city, town LaGrange N/A vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Georgia code 013 county Troup code 285

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" 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	N/A 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

LaGrange College
name Walter Y. Murphy, President

street & number LaGrange College

city, town LaGrange N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30240

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Troup County Courthouse

city, town LaGrange state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date N/A ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records None

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

College Home/Smith Hall is a two story, rectangular brick building built in 1842, with 1887 additions to one side and the rear that are three stories high on their south or rear elevations. The original building has a four columned Doric portico and is nine bays wide. There is a one story frame porch on the northeast corner.

The exterior of Smith Hall is red, hand-moulded brick laid in common bond. The front door, centered in the original 1842 structure, has a four-pane transom and side lights of four panes each. The windows are six over six panes. The four Doric columns are stucco over brick. There is dentil motif on the tongue and groove cornice of the building and also on the portico. A small, one story Victorian porch with Eastlake details was added to the northeast corner of the original building; it is entered by a Greek Revival style door. An 1887 cornerstone is found at the juncture of the 1842 and 1887 structures on the front side of the building. The parts of the building that are below ground level on the front side, but above ground on the rear are stuccoed over brick giving them a distinct appearance from the main two story structure. The rest of the building sits on a stuccoed fieldstone foundation.

Smith Hall contains over 30 rooms in its interior. Each story has a hall 12 feet wide running north-south and two cross halls running east-west. The northernmost east-west hall is centered on the front entrance while the southernmost east-west hall finishes out the symmetrical arrangement of the expanded building. All rooms are entered from the various halls. At the front entrance there are main parlors on the left and right. The building contains hardwood floors, thick plaster walls, and many original doors with transoms above them. The ceilings are 16' high and the woodwork is mostly painted. There is little ornamentation, simple woodwork and many original hand-poured glass windows. The northeast front parlor (on the right as one enters) has been restored and includes many items commemorating the Marquis de LaFayette for whose home, LaGrange, the town and eventually the college were named. Stairs are at either end of the long hall. Those from 1842 are hand-hewn and those in the 1887 addition are tongue and groove.

College Home/Smith Hall is located on the west side of the quadrangle at the center of the campus of LaGrange college, which is atop a hill. The hill necessitated the buildings being two stories on one side and three on the other. The Hill is the highest point in the city. There are trees and an informal garden between it and other nearby structures. There are no outbuildings. Most of the surrounding structures are non-historic.

The changes to the building include the 1887 addition of the southern wing which more than doubled the capacity of the original College Home and was accomplished by extending walls, hallways and keeping a similar room arrangement. The two east-west wings were also added then. After these wings were added the entire present cornice of the building was added. The Victorian porch on the northeast corner is said to have been

(CONTINUED)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	7	Page	2
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added in 1891. In recent times restoration and modernization has taken place on the first floor including the restoration of the front parlor and the transformation of other rooms into campus offices. A modern student lounge is now on the ground level of the 1887 addition. A greenhouse that once was a porch-like structure on the front of the hall was also removed long ago, as were the original shutters.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in August, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1842, 1887	Builder/Architect	Unknown
-----------------------	------------	--------------------------	---------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

College Home/Smith Hall, built in 1842, is historically significant in the areas of architecture and education. It is significant architecturally because it was built c. 1842 to house a woman's school, then known as the LaGrange Female Academy. Designed with that specific function in mind, the central block reflects long halls with many rooms entering it on both floors and a main parlor off the front entrance. Academic activities took place at another building in downtown LaGrange until 1851 when construction began on an academic building on campus. Additions to Smith Hall in 1887 continued the original dormitory plan. The addition in 1891 of the Victorian porch reflected similar porches constructed at the same time as parts of new college buildings, thus indicating adjustments to trends of the era. The Hall is significant in the history of education because it exemplifies the transition of women's education at one location. The LaGrange Female Academy was incorporated in 1831 only a few years after the town itself. The school moved to this location in 1842 after this dormitory was built. In 1847 it became a degree-granting college under the name LaGrange Female Institute, and a name change in 1851 made it LaGrange Female College. Thus it joined the ranks of the few women's colleges in antebellum Georgia. The 20th Century brought a name change to LaGrange College and then co-education. Smith Hall has thus seen a long history from a strictly women's high school or academy to a full four-year, co-educational college. Since 1856 it has been owned and operated by the Methodist church. In 1981 the college celebrated 150 years as an educational institution. Its motto "Georgia's Oldest Independent School" refers to its continued existence as a privately-operated school (although not a college) for those years. College Home was renamed "Smith Hall" in 1911 for Mrs. Oreon Mann Smith (d. 1907) the late wife of Rufus Wright Smith, (1835–1915) who was president of the college from 1885–1915. She had been Lady Principal of College Home as well as head of the math department. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

ARCHITECTURE

College Home/Smith Hall, built around 1842, is significant in architecture as an early example of Roman Doric Revival, as one of the oldest brick buildings in the region, and for serving a multitude of functions related to the college throughout its existence.

College Home/Smith Hall is an excellent early example of the revival of classical styles that were popular prior to the Civil War in the South. The four Doric columns are of brick handmade by slaves on the site, and were plastered over sometime after 1900.

The original building as it currently appears exhibits characteristics of the classical style, such as bilateral symmetry of windows, doors with side lights and transoms, cornice dentil motif, and 6/6 windows. The plan consists of a wide central

(CONTINUED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name LaGrange, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	8	2	7	9	0	3	6	5	7	1	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is just the land upon which College Home/Smith Hall rests. It is virtually all that remains historically associated with the building due to modern structures and campus redevelopment.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date June 15, 1982

street & number 270 Washington St., S.W. telephone 404 656-2840

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/26/82

For HCRS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

8/26/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

hall intersected by a wide hall running lengthwise. Additions were made in 1887 which are compatible to the original building. A significant exterior addition is the Victorian Eastlake shed porch, which wraps around the northeast corner of the building.

College Home/Smith Hall has been continuously used for a variety of functions over the years. The structure was built by Joseph Montgomery in 1842. Mr. Montgomery and his brothers purchased the academy on Broad Street, and built this building on the hill as a dormitory. The building served a multitude of functions for the college, including a dormitory from 1842-1956. The catalogue of 1878 described the Boarding Department by stating that:

"...each room is furnished with a nice cottage set, consisting of two bedsteads, bureau with four drawers (one for each of the mates of the room), washstand, table, and a folding screen. Each boarder must furnish one pair pillowcases, half dozen towels. Neat and reliable chamber maid furnished to do the drudgery and thus aid the young ladies in keeping their room in perfect order!"

In 1887, \$10,000 was spent to double the capacity of College Home. In 1889, the enlarged structure was described as "a handsome brick building, 50 x 160 feet, two stories high to the north and three stories to the south. It contains 30 rooms for boarders, parlors, reading rooms, kitchen, store room, etc. and Dining Hall 30 x 60 feet. Each story has a hall, twelve feet wide, running the entire length of the building. The rooms for boarders are eighteen feet square with doors opening into these broad halls, and with two or more windows receiving air and sunshine from without." By 1889 the building had "waterworks," electric lights, and was described as a superior hygienic arrangement because it was thoroughly ventilated. The 1900 catalogue notes that College Home contained a "Home Chapel, gymnasium, baths, rooms for one hundred and twenty-five Boarders."

Beginning in 1957, the building was used only for administrative offices, a post office, bookstore, student center, dining hall, kitchen and classrooms. Today, College Home, known now as Smith Hall, houses the bookstore, post office, infirmary, student center, offices of campus Deans, campus clubrooms, a formal parlor, a guest suite and a faculty lounge.

EDUCATION

College Home/Smith Hall is significant in education as one of the oldest private college buildings in Georgia. It is the only reminder that the City of LaGrange was a college town in the nineteenth century.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

College Home/Smith Hall is the oldest building at LaGrange College, which is owned by the Methodist Church. For the first 54 years, all chief executives of the College were ministers with two exceptions. In fact, "no charge for tuition is made against the daughters of clergymen living by the ministry." In 1888 it was written, "A wholesome moral religious atmosphere has pervaded College Home the present year, and most of its inmates have been converted." A Visiting Committee made up of Methodist ministers would examine the students in history, natural sciences, mathematics and various other "abtruse sciences" at the end of each year.

College Home/Smith Hall is significant due to its continuous association with the development of education in the South. In the early nineteenth century, educated women in Georgia were traditionally sent away for school - perhaps to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, St. Charles, Missouri, New York City or Paris, France. After LaGrange Female College was established in Georgia, a pupil wrote, "Why send your Daughters Away to be Educated? ... It is important that we be educated among those with whom we expect to live.... I would go to France to be educated if I expected to live in France!"

LaGrange College has an early history of innovative educational methods. In 1848 the "novel" Plan of Instruction (instead of recitation and questions and answers) was implemented: "every pupil in either four regular classes, is required to write and lecture a day, alternately, on the several studies she is pursuing." First Senior Studies would include such subjects as "Trigonometry and Mensuration (Davies' Legendie), Astronomy (Olmstead), Natural Philosophy (Abercrombie's), Geology, Historical Reading and Essays, Composition, and the French Language." Emphasis was placed on training "the mind to think for itself, to investigate perseveringly, and to rely upon its own resources."

In 1878-79 the "novel Plan of Instruction was called "Object Teaching." The catalogue states, "we find by experience that whatever is demonstrated to the class is usually retained... the professors will all be furnished with necessary apparatus, for object teaching and demonstration. This kind of instruction partakes largely of the practical, and in this day, practicability is the watchword." In 1888, there were two literary societies, and the students had the opportunity to publish a literary magazine.

The system of education which characterized the College was "thorough, practical, highly moral, and philosophical." Professors were highly specialized, unlike many early colleges, and always had the most modern apparatus, such as microscopes, etc. In keeping with this progressive philosophy of education, LaGrange Female Academy, whose motto was "To Educate Woman is to Refine the World," officially accepted men as students in 1953, although they had attended earlier.

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 4

College Home/Smith Hall stands today as the only reminder that LaGrange was a college town in the early nineteenth century. LaGrange Female Academy was chartered in 1831 just three years after the town was settled. Southern Female College was organized in 1842 and Brownwood was established as an institute for young ladies in 1840. All three women's colleges were outstanding in their time, but LaGrange College is the only one which has survived into the late twentieth century.

LaGrange Female Academy was established when an act of the Georgia General Assembly was signed by the governor on December 26, 1831. This followed by only a few years the movement to increase educational opportunities for women. In 1825, a lawyer named Duncan G. Campbell presented a bill to the Georgia legislature entitled "An Act to Establish a Public Seat in this State for the Education Of Women." The bill failed, but six years later, a charter was granted to establish the LaGrange Female Academy as the first chartered school for young women in this state. (In 1836 The Georgia Female College was established in Macon. In 1843 its name was changed to Wesleyan Female College). Written in the catalogue of 1848 was:

"Who would raise a hand or voice to impede the onward progress of female education? Or rather, who would not lend a hand to advance the cause more rapidly? Connected with it are the best interests of society and of country. What parent can contemplate the prospect twenty years hence - behold the entire reformation that will then have been produced - the elevation of the entire sex to a higher standard of literary merit- and not feel deep solicitude for his own daughters who are then to act a new part in the new drama, and whose pleasure or pain will be proportioned to her mental cultivation or destitute?"

The catalogue went on to plead, "Parents: give your daughters a solid education and they will make better children, better wives, better mothers, and better members of society."

The education women received was more than just the fine arts of needlework, painting, and drawing, although these subjects were taught so every young lady "may amuse herself, manufacture her own rudiments, or, if necessity should require, make articles of value and thereby screen herself from more menial labor (catalogue of 1879)." Women were examined on Trigonometry, Mensuration, Astronomy, Ancient History, Philosophy, and Geology. In 1879, the Visit Committee's Report noted after examinations that "the marked individuality of thought and originality of expression were especially noticable." Those girls had evidently been trained to think for themselves, rely upon their own resources, and what is of equal importance, to write intelligently about what they had learned."

(CONTINUED)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number

8

Page

5

LaGrange Female Academy was what in later days would be termed a high school or college preparatory school. On December 17, 1847 it was chartered as the LaGrange Female Institute and thus became a degree-granting college or, in the terms of the day, a seminary. Alumnae are listed from the class of 1846. In 1851 another act of the legislature changed the name to LaGrange Female College. In 1934 it became LaGrange College and in 1953 went co-educational. In antebellum days women attending the four year college could enter anywhere from age 12 to 16 whereas men entering parallel schools were usually 14. For example, President Rufus Smith's daughters Maidee and Claire graduated at age 15 and 16 respectively in 1887 and 1890. In 1911 College Home was renamed Smith Hall in honor of Mrs. Rufus W. Smith. Although this specifically honors Mrs. Smith, who was Lady Principal for College Home and head of the math department, it also recalls the role the Smith family played during their years at LaGrange. Rufus Wright Smith (1835-1915) was a Georgia native who served as president of the LaGrange Female College for thirty years, 1885-1915. He had married in 1856 Miss Oreon Mary Elizabeth Mann who died in 1907. Of their eight children, seven were formally associated with the college as teachers. Euler B. Smith (1858-1931) served as secretary to his father and as a professor of English, Spanish and teaching. Hubert M. Smith (1862 - 1935) taught English and Latin and served as Vice President; Alwyn M. Smith (1865-1946) was director of music for many decades; Clifford Lewis Smith (1867-1936) started off as a violin teacher, taught natural science and book-keeping and later authored the History of Troup County (1935). Leon P. Smith (1869-1937) was a dean; Maidee (1872-1944) taught music for 12 years, succeeded her mother as Lady Principal and later taught religious education, and the last child Claire Lee (1874-1907) taught music before her marriage. The wives of Euler and Alwyn also both taught at the college.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

For NPS use only
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Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 2

Draft National Register Nomination, 1981 by Maurie Gail Golsen

Henry, Dr. Waights G. Jr. "A Brief History of LaGrange College" Commencement
Address on June 6, 1981 as published for the LaGrange College Sesquicentennial,
1831-1981.

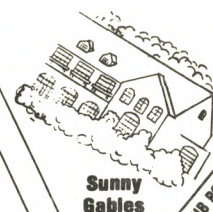
Annual Catalogue of the LaGrange Female College, 1887-1888 (LaGrange, 1889)

Lamar Dodd Art Center



Price Theater

LaGrange College LaGrange, Georgia

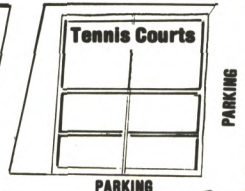


Sunny Gables

COUNTRY CLUB ROAD

FORREST AVENUE

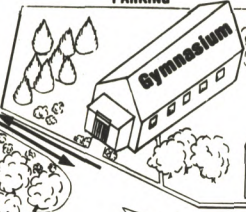
CAMPUS MAP BY SUSAN McGAHA
ADDITIONS BY JOHN LAWRENCE



Tennis Courts

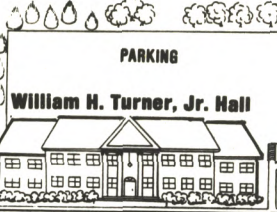
PARKING

PARKING



Gymnasium

Weights G. Henry, Jr.
Residence Hall



William H. Turner, Jr. Hall

Athletic Field

J. K. Boatwright, Sr. Hall



LOCATION MAP

COLLEGE HOME/SMITH HALL

LaGrange College

LaGrange, Troup County, Georgia

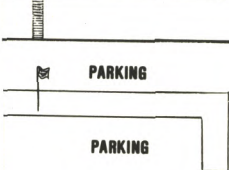
Scale: not to scale

Source: Public Relations Office, LaGrange

College

Date: c. 1981

Key: The nominated building is shaded on the map



PARKING

PARKING

Dining Hall



Warren A. Candler
Cottage



Smith Hall

PATIO

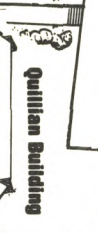


Harriet Hawkes
Memorial Hall



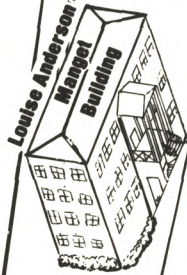
Fuller E. Callaway Student Center

Quillen Building

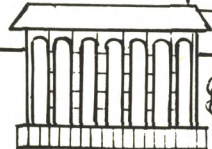


VERNON

PARKING



Louise Anderson
Mangel Building



Cason J. Callaway Science Building



Chapel



William and Evelyn Banks Library

BROAD STREET