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DESCRIPTION	1			 		-
CONDITION	🔲 Excellent	🕱 Good	🔲 Fair	 ck One) eriorated	🗌 Ruins	🔲 Unexposed
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*if known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE (Object)

The General, an eight wheel American type (4-4-0) steam locomotive was built by the Rogers, Ketchum, and Grosvenor Locomotive Works (construction #631) and completed in December 1855. Its physical statistics are as follows: the locomotive and tender is 50' 10 and 1/4" long; the highest point, the cab roof, is 8' 1/2"; the four drivers are 62" in diameter and the cylinders are 15" in diameter with a stroke of 22". Tractive effort of this engine is rated at 8500 pounds.

The Georgia-owned Western and Atlantic Railroad bought the <u>General</u> for \$8,500 and under its ownership, the <u>General</u> served for some thirty years. The Union Raiders' theft of the <u>General</u> in April 1862 caused the engine to have minor repairs. Later in the Civil War, the <u>General</u> was heavily damaged by the explosion of an 81-car ammunition train when the Confederates were abandoning Atlanta after rail exits had been cut off. In 1865, the <u>General</u> was reported as "needing general repairs"; and in 1871, at the W & A Railroad Shops in Atlanta, the <u>General</u> was extensively changed. An extra steam dome, the ankle rails and the strap iron pilot disappeared and the engine was altered to its current configuration. It was also converted to burn coal, and provided with a diamond stack. Its last reported service was in March 1886.

By 1891 the <u>General</u> was condemned. It was restored and re-equipped with its distinctive balloon type stack in 1891-92 by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, which acquired the W & A Railroad by lease in 1890. To enable the historic locomotive to make public appearances under its own steam it was reflued in 1914 and again in 1961-62. The last extensive work was performed by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, having acquired the <u>General</u> in 1957 by merger with the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway. The engine was converted to burn oil and airbrakes were added to meet Interstate Commerce Commission requirements.

The W & A Railroad began numbering their locomotives in 1866 and the General was assigned number 39 as it was the thirty-ninth locomotive to be acquired by the railroad. Prior to this time locomotives were not numbered but named. About 1880 it was given the number it still carries, 3.

The L & N Railroad turned the <u>General</u> over to the State of Georgia in near running condition on February 18, 1972.



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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 Applicat	ole and Known) 1855,	April 12, 1862			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri	ate)			
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Conservation	Music	X Transportation			

The <u>General</u>, a steam locomotive, was built for service on the Georgiaowned Western and Atlantic Railroad by the Rogers, Ketchum and Grosvenor Locomotive Works of Paterson, New Jersey and completed on December 14, 1855. It was one of the principle locomotives in the Andrews Raid also known as the "Great Locomotive Chase" during the Civil War. It continued in service until 1886. Since the late 19th century, the General has been on display in traveling exhibits in Chattanooga, Tennessee and presently in Kennesaw, Georgia.

The Anderson Raid happened in this way: On April 12, 1862, a civilian James J. Andrews and 19 Union soldiers seized the General and three box cars at Big Shanty (now Kennesaw), Georgia and headed north toward Union lines. Their mission was to destroy the railroad and cut off communications from Atlanta, a major supply point for the Confederacy. In conjunction with the Raid, General Ormsby M. Mitchel was to move from Shelbyville, Tennessee, to Huntsville, Alabama, and then via the Memphis and Charleston Railroad to capture Chattanooga. The raiders were pursued by Confederates on foot, by push car and by three locomotives - the Yonah, the William R. Smith and the Texas. After a run of 87 miles, the General was abandoned two miles north of Ringgold, Georgia, for lack of fuel. The raiders attempted to make their way to Union lines but all were captured within a week. Eight were executed and the remainder either escaped from jail or were exchanged. Nineteen of the Union soldiers involved in the "Great Locomotive Chase" were awarded the Medal of Honor. This was the first presentation of the Nation's highest award for valor.

The <u>General</u> was soon back in service and was later used to transport ammunition during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. The locomotive was heavily damaged by exploding ammunition in the evacuation of Atlanta, September 1, 1864. It was repaired and in active service until 1886. In 1891 the <u>General</u> was in storage at Vinings Station, Georgia and was listed as "condemned, value \$1500." In 1891-2 the <u>General</u> was restored to its wartime character and began a career of extensive public display.

Except for occasional visits out of the state, the <u>General</u> was on display at Union Station, Chattanooga, Tennessee, from 1894 to 1961. In 1961 the L & N Railroad, by then having acquired the <u>General</u>, gave the locomotive to the State of Georgia. The City of Chattanooga contested this act because of the <u>General's</u> long association with the city. After a series of court (continued)

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Significance 8.

actions, the L & N Railroad's ownership was reaffirmed and the General was presented to the State of Georgia in February, 1972.

The General is now displayed in Kennesaw at the Big Shanty Museum. Interpretative exhibits and an audio-visual show, tell part of its exciting history. Never having lost its identity, this 53 ton locomotive is a vivid physical reminder of that daring Civil War event and of the era of the steam locomotive.

The story of the Andrews Raid has captured the imagination of Americans. Two films recounting this Civil War event have been produced: "The General", starring Buster Keaton (considered a silent film landmark); and "The Great Locomotive Chase," a Walt Disney film.

FEB 21 1973

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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