

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

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

For NPS use only
received JAN 18 1985
date entered FEB 14

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Athens College
and/or common Athens State College Historic District

2. Location

street & number 202-212 (even) and 311 (odd) N. Beaty Street and
central campus area roughly bounded by Beaty, Pryor
and Hobbs Streets NA not for publication
city, town Athens N/A vicinity of Congressional District 5
state Alabama code 01 county Limestone code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" 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
	<u>N/A</u> 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 Multiple Property Owners
street & number _____
city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Limestone County Courthouse
street & number Athens Square
city, town Athens state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1970-present federal state county local
depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission
city, town Montgomery state Alabama

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

Situated on a level campus shaded by ancient oaks, the Athens State College Historic District comprises primarily the original campus as it existed in 1924. Within the district are four examples of institutional architecture constructed between 1842 and 1924, and four adjacent houses/buildings (1845-1935) which have, or have had, connections with the college.

The focal point of the district is the massive Founders Hall (2). Built between 1842 and 1844 in the Greek Revival manner, the building and its various additions front onto a large lawn of huge oaks and pines. The rear of Founders Hall forms the apex of a tree-shaded quadrangle, roughly bounded on the sides by McCandless (3, 1914) and Brown Halls (4, 1912). The Georgian Revival Sanders Hall, constructed in 1924, sits at the easternmost edge of the district, while the houses are located along the western boundary of the district to either side of North Beaty Street.

The Athens State College Historic District is approximately 1½ blocks from the Robert Beaty Historic District (NRHP, 8-30-84) and includes approximately 8½ acres.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

1. Mrs. W.E. Estes
408 North Jefferson Street
Athens, AL 35611
2. Athens State College (Founders' Hall)
Dr. James R. Chasteen, President
Athens, AL 35611
3. Athens State College (McCandless Hall)
Dr. James R. Chasteen, President
Athens, AL 35611
4. Athens State College (Brown Hall)
Dr. James R. Chasteen, President
Athens, AL 35611
5. Athens State College (Sanders Hall)
Dr. James R. Chasteen, President
Athens, AL 35611
6. Dr. Angeline Nazaretian
212 North Beaty Street
Athens, AL 35611
7. Mr. and Mrs. Baylis Hightower
401 East Washington Street
Athens, AL 35611
8. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Cook
202 North Beaty Street
Athens, AL 35611

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ATHENS STATE COLLEGE HISTORIC DISTRICT: CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

1. McCoy-Estes House, 311 North Beaty Street, 1908. Irregularly - shaped one-story frame cottage with combination hip and gable roof (main roof truncated), and Queen Anne influence. The projecting porch, which is now enclosed, retains its original Tuscan colonettes.
2. Founders Hall, 1842. Two-story brick Greek Revival building with a later, Second-Empire dormered mansard roof and four in antis Ionic columns across the front. A central pedimented gable, topped by a bell tower, originally spanned the five bays of the porch. Both features were removed in 1892, when the roofline was changed to accommodate third-floor dormitory rooms. The loggia-like porch itself is recessed between outer bays articulated by heavy corner pilasters with molded caps and bases. Behind the columns there is a narrow balcony at the second-floor level running the full width of the portico with railing of modern steel. Three entries at each level, each enframed by classical architrave, open onto the portico.

At the rear of the Greek Revival portion of the building is a porch, now enclosed, for passage between the four wings of the complex. The other wings constitute later additions and include:

- A. Vaughn Hall (1896, 1907, 1912). Abutting the south elevation of the Greek Revival building, Vaughn Hall is three stories and has a flat roof. The original 1896 two-story addition contained a chapel on the first floor and dormitory rooms above. In 1907 a third floor was added and the wing was renovated again and the entry changed to face west to the front of the building. The wing has a heavy entablature at its roofline, with cornice of stamped galvanized metal, to tie it visually to the main building. The windows are mostly topped by segmented-arch brick lintels with a variety of muntin-bar patterns.
 - B. Houston Hall (1907). Two-story brick gabled roof (hipped at the west end) wing has segmented-arch window lintels and is centered behind the Greek Revival building. Wing contains part of the library and offices, originally built as dormitory rooms.
 - C. Library Wing (1845, 1907). Two-story brick, combination (half flat, half hipped) roof added in two sections. The 1845 section was originally added as living quarters for the head administrator and his family. The 1970 eastern portion of this wing, added as the Library, has a structural frame of steel beams and bar joists with a concrete floor. The wing has a four-step corbeled roof cornice, flat lintels at its windows, and is situated behind the northeast corner of the Greek Revival section of the building.
3. McCandless Hall (1914). Influenced by Beaux Arts classicism, the building is almost cubical and has three stories with an above-ground basement and a hipped roof, truncated to form a flat central section. The fluted wooden columns of the tetrastyled pedimented portico are of the Composite order, and are grouped in pairs near each corner of the portico, leaving a wide opening in the center. The cornice has deep flat-bottomed

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modillions and extends from the portico sides across to the corners of the front facade between the second and third floors. On the facade, the third floor is treated as a raised attic rising above the main cornice line and intersected by the modillioned pediment of the portico. A circular window pierces the tympanum of the portico, and the 6/1 double-hung windows are closely spaced to fit the small practice rooms on the second floor.

4. Brown Hall (1912). A "square of nine squares" plan, combined with the two stories and raised basement, produces a near cubic form and a Palladian design. The building is topped by a dormered, hipped roof and truncated to form a flat square deck. This brick cube is fronted by a wide tetrastyle pedimented portico with fluted Corinthian columns. The pediment is steep, and the narrow clapboard tympanum contains a pair of 1/1 windows which light a room built into the pediment. The attic floor contains four other finished rooms, each lit by a large pedimented dormer containing a pair of 1/1 windows. Under the pediment is a wide, simple wooden balcony. The entry is flanked by sidelights and a transom. In addition to the overall Palladian form and Corinthian portico, classical reference in the building's exterior details include a few small astragal mouldings at the architrave and cornice.
5. Sanders Hall (1924). Three stories with a hipped roof, common-bond brick walls articulated by limestone quoins and belt courses (every fifth course is alternating headers and stretchers instead of all-headers as is normally the case). The building has a rectangular plan and is Georgian Revival, with a limestone faced, broken-scroll pediment and frontispiece surrounding the main door. Late Georgian-style dormers with elegant arched windows break the front slope of the shallow hipped roof. Early photographs show a windowed cupola which is no longer evident.
6. Hightower-Nazaretian House, 212 North Beaty Street (ca. 1890). Irregularly-shaped one-story frame cottage with five-bay front (right two bays advanced, with abutting three-bay porch). Porch retains the original turned gouged porch supports and bracketed eaves.
7. Annette Apartments, 208 North Beaty Street (1935). Two-story apartment building with combination roof (gabled in front, flat in rear), recessed entry and brick end chimneys. A two-tiered portico is centered at the front elevation and supported by square paneled columns on both levels, grouped in pairs near each corner of the portico. The second floor balcony has wooden rails and balusters along the edge. Windows, grouped in threes, flank the portico on each level. The building contains four apartments.
8. Sloss-Pettus-Cook House, 202 North Beaty Street (ca. 1855). Two-story, clapboard, Greek Revival house with a hipped roof. The flat-roof portico is supported by four paneled columns, two at each side of the central entrance. A small wrought-iron balcony is on the second level and is supported by delicate scrolled braces. The doors on both levels have side lights, while the main entrance is surmounted by a transom.

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/ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1842-1924 **Builder/Architect** Hiram Higgins

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Education, Criterion A

The Athens State College Historic District is significant for its associations with the early development of advanced education for women in Alabama. Chartered by the Alabama legislature as the Female Institute of the Tennessee Annual Conference in 1843, the college is generally accepted as the oldest Methodist denominational college for women in Alabama and among the first wave of women's colleges providing advanced academics. Its course of study included the Natural Sciences and Mathematics, embracing the most advanced curriculum of the day and distinguishing the institution as a notable exception to the traditional 19th century resistance to expose women to the "more scholarly curricula" commonly offered in small Southern colleges for men. Additionally, the Athens State College main campus building, Founders Hall, completed ca. 1843, survives as one of the oldest buildings erected specifically for female higher education in the state and illustrates the stages of expansion associated with the early growth of the college.

Architecture, Criterion C

The Athens State College Historic District contains some of Limestone County's most distinguished institutional architecture. Particularly of note in the district is the 1842-44 Founders Hall (no. 2). Designed by Hiram Higgins (1802-1874), a prominent local architect, Founders Hall remains one of Higgins' most admired designs surviving as one of the few examples of his "free-spirited interpretations" of the Greek "in antis" portico. Eschewing the conventional temple-type facade, with projecting front portico, Higgins employed instead, an enormous recessed portico composed of four Ionic columns set between blind outer bays accented by heavy square piers. The central pedimented roof was topped by a square belfry. Unfortunately, these two features were removed in 1892 when the roofline was raised to make room for the third floor dormitory rooms presently incorporated in the Second-Empire mansard roof. Although the building has suffered several modifications and additions, these alterations have gained significance as late 19th century architectural concepts employed to suit the changing needs of the school and are associated with the continuing historical development of the college.

The Sloss-Pettus-Cook House is another Higgins construction. Illustrating the "Higgins legacy of Greek Revival design" in local residential architecture, the house was built ca. 1855, and is typical of the conservative Limestone County adaption of the Grecian form. While not as refined as Founders Hall, both Brown Hall (1912, no. 4) and McCandless Hall (1914, no. 3) have pleasing classical features and greatly contribute to the picturesque environs of the district. Resembling plates from Andrea Palladio's Second Book of Architecture, (1570, Italy), their classical pedimented tetrastyled porticos, hipped roofs and cubic forms clearly illustrate the BeauxArts Neoclassicism popular between 1900 and 1920. Other buildings in the district, including the fine 1924 Georgian Revival Sanders Hall, illustrate construction practices associated with the college's early twentieth century growth and development.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Edwards, Christine: Axford, Faye. The Lure & Lore of Limestone County, Alabama
 Tuscaloosa, AL. : Portals Press, 1978
 Moore, Mary : History of Athens College (1916)
 WPA, AL: A Guide to the State Historic American Building Survey (Founders Hall)
 Smoake, James Alfred. Antebellum Athens, AL: A Study of Some of Its Developments. Auburn, AL: 1947

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 8.62 acres

Quadrangle name Athens

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

1	6
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5	0	3	2	4	0
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3	8	5	1	3	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
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5	0	3	0	2	0
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3	8	5	1	1	6	0
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D

1	6
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5	0	2	9	7	0
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3	8	5	1	1	6	0
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E

1	6
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5	0	2	9	1	0
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3	8	5	1	3	2	0
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F

1	6
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5	0	2	9	2	0
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3	8	5	1	3	8	0
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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley Qualls, AHC / Dr. Mildred Caudle, Athens State College

organization Alabama Historical Commission date August 17, 1984

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 261-3184

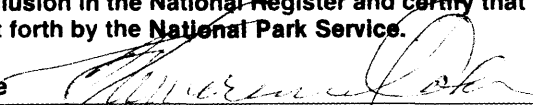
city or town Montgomery state Alabama

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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/14/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 2-14-85

for 
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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The following is a property description for a proposed historic district in the city of Athens, Limestone County, Alabama. The lot and block numbers and the street names used in this description are referenced from the 1914 map of the city of Athens, Alabama, which is recorded in Plat Book "A," Page 14, in the office of the Judge of Probate, Limestone County, Alabama.

Beginning at the intersection of the North right-of-way line of North Street (presently known as Hobbs Street) and the East right-of-way line of Beaty Street, thence in a northerly direction along the East line of Beaty Street a distance of approximately 650 feet to a point approximately 100 feet South of the centerline of Pryor Street,

Thence westerly a distance of approximately 140 feet to the West line of Lot 1-A, Block B-2,

Thence northerly along the West line of Lot 1-A, Block B-2, a distance of approximately 100 feet to the South side of Pryor Street,

Thence easterly along the south side of Pryor Street a distance of approximately 1055 feet to a point approximately 60 feet East of Sanders Hall on the Athens State College Campus,

Thence southerly a distance of approximately 240 feet,

Thence westerly a distance of approximately 365 feet to the West line of Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 4 West,

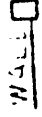
Thence southerly along the West boundary of Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 4 West, a distance of approximately 135 feet to a point on the North side of an extension of Bryan Street,

Thence westerly along the North side of Bryan Street a distance of approximately 350 feet, also being approximately 150 feet East of the centerline of Beaty Street,

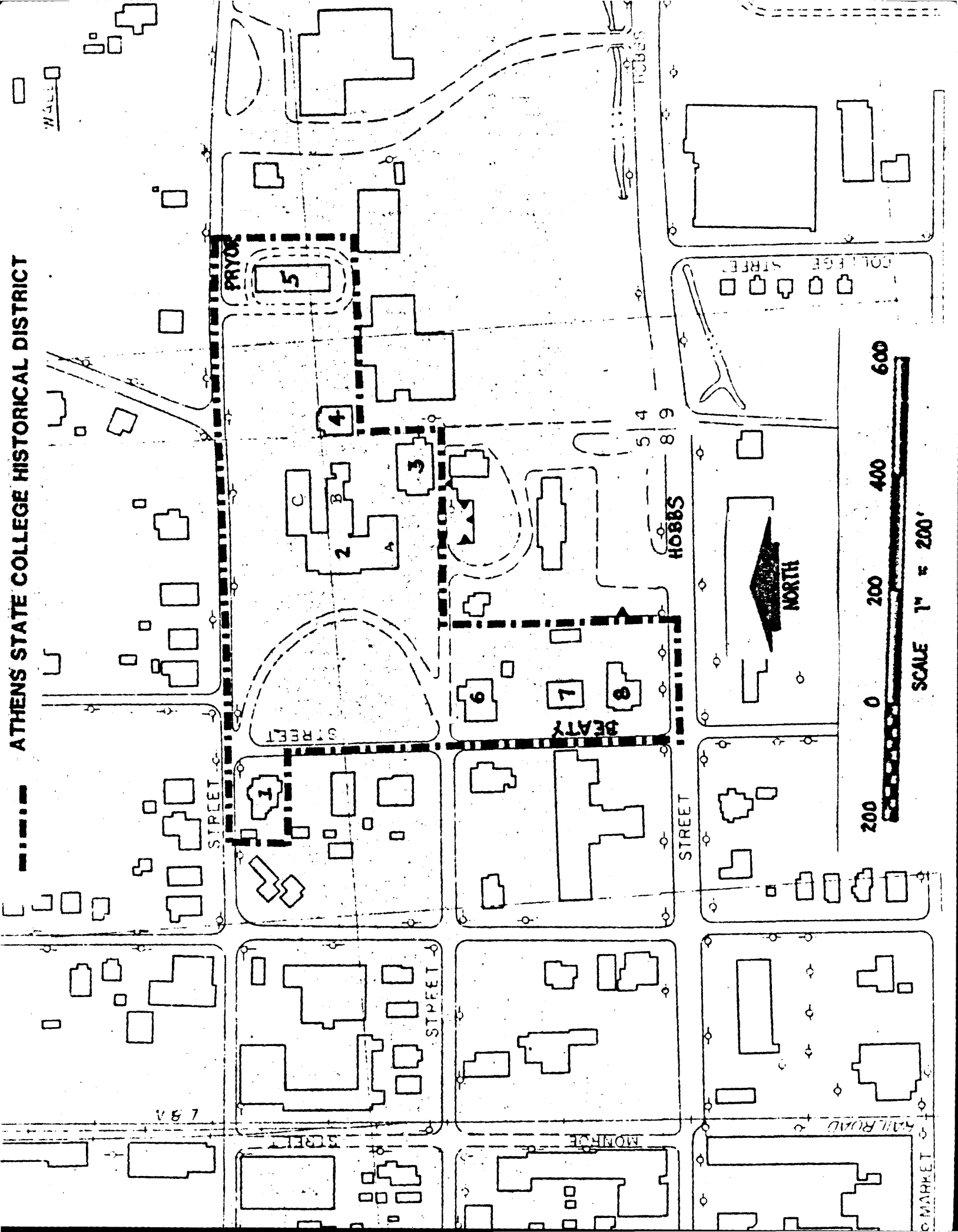
Thence southerly parallel to the centerline of Beaty Street a distance of approximately 385 feet to the North line of North Street (presently known as Hobbs Street),

Thence westerly along the North line of North Street a distance of approximately 225 feet to the Point of True Beginning and containing 8.62 acres, more or less, and lying partially in the Southwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 3 South, Range 4 West, and partially in the Southwest Quarter of Section 5, Township 3 South, Range 4 West, of the Huntsville Meridian in the city of Athens, Limestone County, Alabama.

ATHENS STATE COLLEGE HISTORICAL DISTRICT



WALL



PRYOR

5

4

2

C

B

A

3

6

7

8

STREET

BEATY

HOBBS

STREET

STREET

STREET

MONROE

RAILROAD

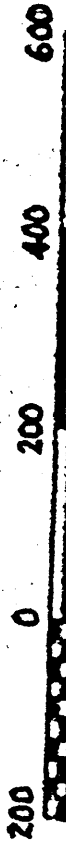
MARKET

COLLEGE STREET

5 4 8 9



NORTH



SCALE 1" = 200'

187