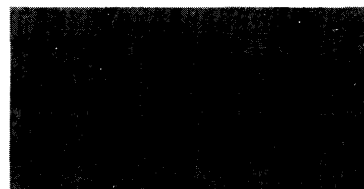


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Administration Building, South Georgia College

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 900 block College Street not for publication

city, town McRae vicinity of congressional district 8th-Billy L. Evans

state Georgia code 013 county Telfair code 271

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Marguerite C. Smith, President, Pioneer Historical Society, Inc.
Mrs. Billy W. Walker President, Telfair Art Association, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 368

city, town McRae vicinity of state Georgia 31055

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court
Telfair County Courthouse

street & number
city, town McRae state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Telfair County, Georgia
title Historic Structures Field Survey: has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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

The Administration Building of South Georgia College is a two story rectangular brick building with an attached auditorium wing and a third level containing an attic room and a tower. It is built of load bearing brick masonry around a heavy timber frame. The main rectangular block of the building is divided into two portions by the central recessed entrance which consists of a two story entrance with double doors on the first level and a balcony on the second. The recessed entrance is highlighted by two columns. The four original openings of the central tower/cupola have been closed in recent times. The roof still retains the original tin roofing, although two of the original chimneys have been broken off and not repaired.

There are four unornamented classrooms on each of the two levels of the main block and an office area on the second level on the front side adjoining the balcony. The auditorium is perpendicular to the main block. The first floor seating area is entered on either side of the main stairway while the balcony and the upper floor classrooms are entered by a Y-shaped central stair that is entered just inside the main entrance on the ground level.

The auditorium has been connected to other, modern, elementary school buildings on the adjacent but non-nominated property by a one story brick, fully enclosed walkway. The auditorium has had all of its windows sealed but it is still used for entertainment functions. It still retains its interior features although it was adapted from a college to a high school auditorium in the 1930's. Its ceiling is noteworthy for its wood and steel articulated trusses.

The nominated property surrounding the building is very small under the terms of the donation. The school system maintains a grammar school on the rest of the block. A separate c. 1950 boiler room is on the southeast portion of the nominated property.

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	1892	Builder/Architect	unknown
-----------------------	------	--------------------------	---------

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Administration Building of South Georgia College is significant in the history of architecture and education. In architecture it is significant as an example of the main building of a co-educational institution that was organized and sponsored by the Methodist Church. The building's architect is unknown; but its design incorporated almost all necessary school functions, as it was the only campus building at the start. The architect's use of brick and simplistic details for this late Victorian building emphasize the un-ostentatious approach the church sought for the curriculum itself. The strict Christian ethics to be taught at South Georgia College appear to be outlined in the earliest photographs of the building. It certainly gave the impression of a building where authority was imposed and was modeled, no doubt, after earlier college buildings within the state and elsewhere. The campus never appears to have been laid out with any landscaping plan. There was no axis to the school, no quadrangle, grouping of buildings or a "front circle" as found in other schools erected during the same time.

The building is significant in the history of education in Georgia because of the role the school played in the South Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church. The need for a school of higher education in the region crystalized at a meeting of the Conference in May of 1891 in nearby Montgomery County. Once the Conference decided to sponsor a school that included two years of college, several towns vied for the honor of its location. At the annual conference in 1892, McRae won the vote, since it offered the best proposal and had a "high moral tone." The erection of the first building (the Administration Building) began immediately. It was formally accepted by the South Georgia Conference when the school opened in January of 1893 with an enrollment of 65 students.

The site chosen was a fifteen acre plot between the towns of Helena and McRae on a high elevation and accessible to two different railroads. The Administration Building cost \$20,000 and originally included eight large classrooms as well as rooms devoted to art, music, reading, and a library.

Reverend W. A. Huckabee, the president and foresighted instigator who had seen the need of a school to serve the region, was chosen as its first president and served two years.

(Continued)

AUG 13 1980

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cotter, Mrs. Necia Powell, "A Brief History of South Georgia College, 1892 through 1928", typescript, 1980, for the National Register files.
 Mann, Floris Perkins, History of Telfair County (1949)
The Pioneer: The History of the Pioneer Area in the Heart of Georgia (1978)

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre
 Quadrangle name McRae, Georgia Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>3196810</u>	<u>3549380</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is all that is owned by the current owners as recorded in Telfair County, Georgia Deed Book 6R, p. 147-8 and Plat Book 5, p. 183. It is marked on the enclosed plat by a heavy black line.

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian; Richard Cloues, architectural historian
 organization Historic Preservation Section date May 16, 1980
Department of Natural Resources
 street & number 270 Washington St. 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 Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date 8/1/80

For HCERS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Joseph W. Ray date 10/16/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Curt D. Buse date 10/16/80
 Chief of Registration

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

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



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

By 1907 the school's enrollment reached 550. The co-educational institution helped shape students from "rough diamonds" to educated men and women. Intoxicating drinks, gambling, dancing, and wild conduct were specifically prohibited.

Although called a "college" from the beginning, it really housed three academic levels. In 1898-99 there were five grammar or primary grades that met from 8:15 to 4:00 daily. The "Academic Department" provided two years of high school and the collegiate department, three years, including studies in advanced mathematics, English, several sciences, as well as Latin and Greek. In 1913 the departments were rearranged, placing seven grades in the primary, four in the secondary, and two at the college level. In 1915 grades one through seven became the McRae-Helena Graded Public Schools.

Besides the regular literary curriculum, other departments existed to broaden the students' horizons. They began by adding music, art, elocution, and manual (or vocational) arts. Later were added a teaching program, business and domestic science departments. Graduates of the college went to senior colleges if they chose.

The cost of attending was always kept at a minimum in order to attract and keep students, many of whom had very little financial means and had to go to the closest school, if at all. Board was \$95 a year in 1910 and \$195 in 1927, the last year. Tuition began at \$27 a year in the college and was only \$60 in 1927.

By the time the school reached its end in the 1927-28 school term, the campus had expanded to include: a brick science hall with twelve classrooms; a 36-room girls dormitory with dining room, built in 1911; a two story boys dormitory; the president's home; a teachers' cottage; a building for the business and domestic science departments; and an infirmary. Two literary societies were also formed, one for men and one for women.

The end of the South Georgia College came at the close of the 1927-28 school term after the South Georgia Conference withdrew its backing. The last college graduating class totalled six.

There were many reasons for the decline and demise of South Georgia College. Three major ones were: the lack and mismanagement of the funds; the loss of enrollment caused by the opening of nearby institutions, especially the state junior college system; and the loss of academic standing due to a lack of endowment.

(Continued)

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

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



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

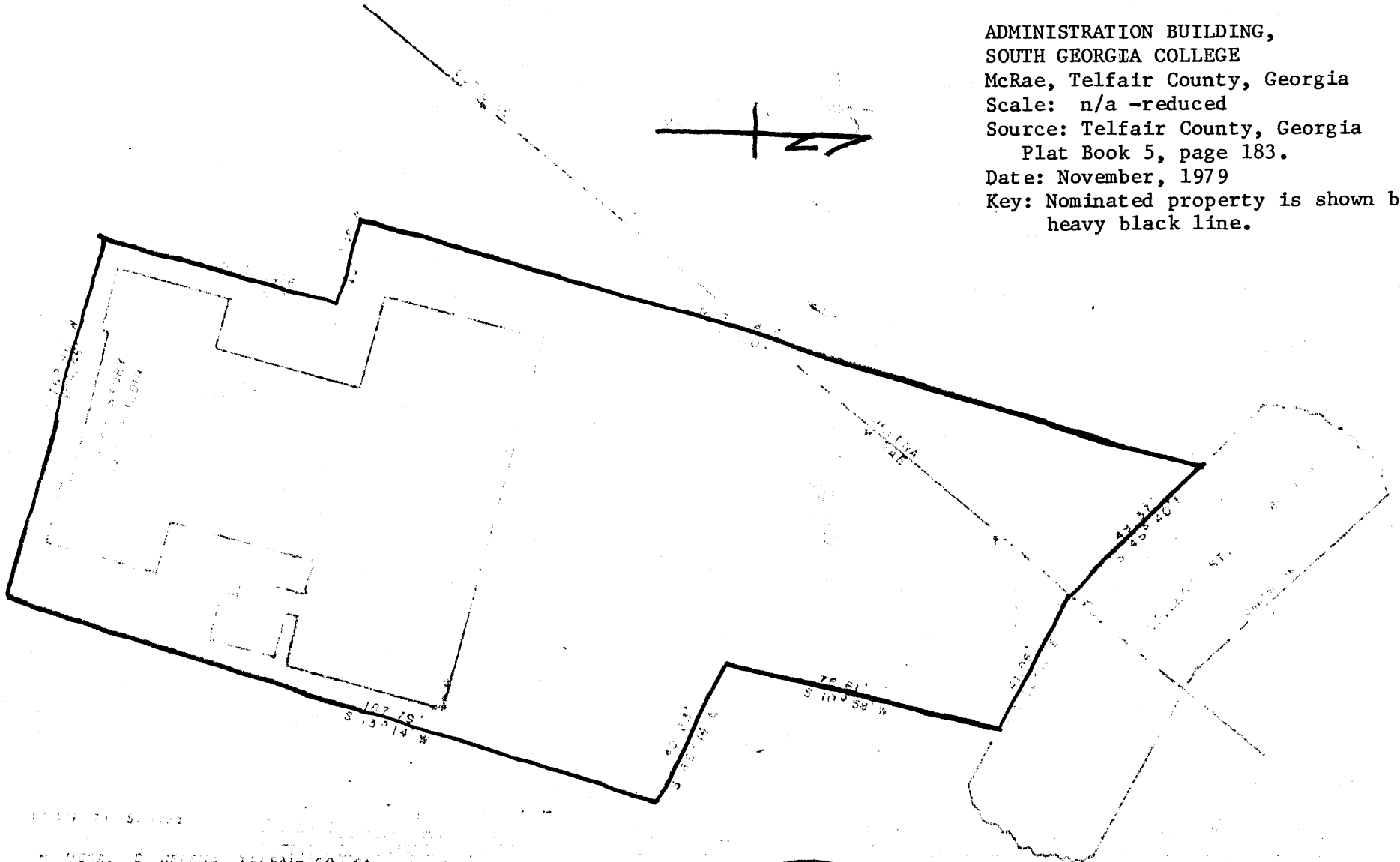
Efforts by local citizens and alumni to raise money and keep it from closing were not sufficient. Thus, the Conference decided to close the school and throw its support to four schools with better chances of survival - a senior men's and women's colleges (Emory and Wesleyan) and junior men's and women's colleges (Emory at Valdosta and Andrew) in the South Georgia Conference. Without Conference support, the school had no choice but to close.

The Administration Building was sold in 1929 to the local school district and became the high school until the 1960's when it became a primary school for grades one through four. Other modern school facilities were built around the Administration Building as all the other college buildings vanished. Today two rooms of the Administration Building are used for primary grades.

In December of 1979 the title for this building was transferred to the current owners "for those public purposes as contained in their charters...to promote the arts and the appreciation of the arts, and to promote historical interest and preservation in Telfair County...."

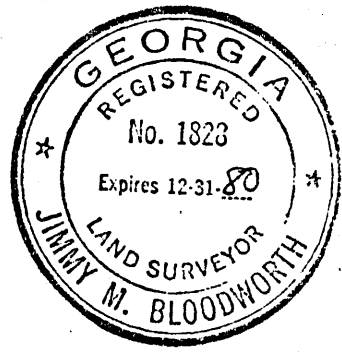
A college of the same name exists today in Douglas, Georgia, and is part of the University System of Georgia. This school was originally Douglas Agricultural and Mechanical College from its creation in 1906 until its name change in 1927 and 1929. There was no transfer of South Georgia College from McRae to Douglas.

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
 SOUTH GEORGIA COLLEGE
 McRae, Telfair County, Georgia
 Scale: n/a -reduced
 Source: Telfair County, Georgia
 Plat Book 5, page 183.
 Date: November, 1979
 Key: Nominated property is shown by
 heavy black line.



W. MORGAN C. DEAN, TELFAIR CO., GA
 SCALE 1" = 40' 10"

In my opinion, this plat is a correct representation
 of the land platted and has been prepared in
 conformity with the minimum standards and
 requirements of law.
Jimmy M. Bloodworth
 Jimmy M. Bloodworth Land Surveyor
 Georgia No. 1828



GEORGIA, TELFAIR COUNTY
 OFFICE CLERK SUPERIOR COURT
 Filed for record at 9:00 O'Clock A.M.
 9th day of January 1980
 Recorded January 9 1980
 Plat Book 5 Page 183