

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000720

Date Listed: 6/8/95

**Telfair County Courthouse and Jail
Property Name**

**Telfair
County**

**GEORGIA
State**

Georgia County Courthouses TR
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Mal M. [Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

6/13/95

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 3: This nomination is amended to show that the total count of contributing resources is 2, to correspond to the total number of contributing buildings.

Section No. 8: The nomination is also amended change the period of significance to 1902-1945, to include the construction date of the contributing jail and to remove 1904, the date the previous courthouse was constructed, as a significant date.

These changes have been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Telfair County Courthouse and Jail
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Courthouse Square
city, town McRae () vicinity of
county Telfair code GA 271
state Georgia code GA zip code 31055

() not for publication

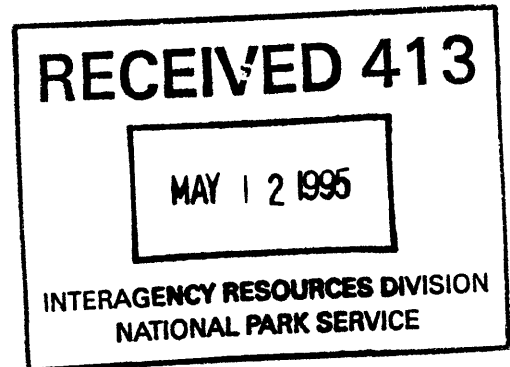
3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property

- (X) building(s)
- () district
- () site
- () structure
- () object



Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	2	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: County Courthouses in Georgia

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

5/09/95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

McJ M. Way 6/8/95

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for _____
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correction facility

Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT: courthouse
GOVERNMENT: correction facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation concrete/brick
walls brick
roof tile
other stone

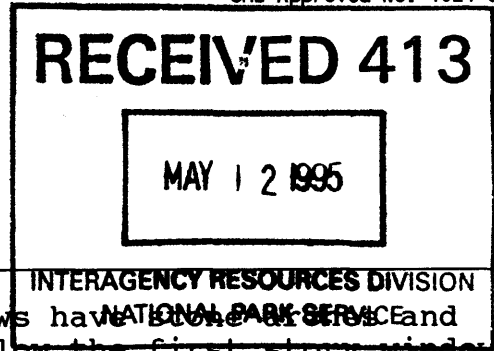
Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Telfair County Courthouse and Jail are located in the county seat of McRae in Middle Georgia, approximately ninety miles southeast of Macon, Georgia. The courthouse was rebuilt in 1934 using the walls of the 1904 courthouse. The building was designed by the Macon architectural firm of Dennis and Dennis.

The courthouse is a Colonial Revival-style, two-story, brick building with a basement, concrete and brick foundation, and brick chimney. The building is not rectangular but I-shaped with the front entrance on the narrow side facing southwest. It has a tile roof that is gable on the central portion and flat on the rear portion. The front is gabled above the central pedimented entrance portion and flat on each side. There is a simple cornice surrounding the front and rear portions demarcated with a stone beltcourse. The central portion's cornice is more prominent.

The entrance portion projects to provide for the *in antis* portico with the three arched entrances. There are paired, second-story pilasters with Corinthian capitals above the arched openings and in between the arched-shaped windows. There are stone decorative panels on the front facade. The entrances on the side and rear facades are pedimented with single light transoms above the glass double doors. The windows have varying lights and stone lintels. The front windows have flat brick arches and keystones on the second floor windows. The side and rear facades have stone arches with keystones above the arched windows on the first floor and a decorative marble band connecting the arches. The second floor windows have flat brick arches with keystones, except

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for the central portion whose arched windows have stone arches and keystones. There is a stone beltcourse below the first story windows.

The interior layout is a cross plan with hallways radiating from the center of the building to each entrance. The first floor contains county office space. The courtroom is on the second floor. There are two staircases in the front part of the building and a single staircase in the northeastern or rear portion of the hallway.

There are arched passageways, terrazzo flooring, wooden chair rails, steam radiators, original hardware and fixtures, and plaster ceilings. The vault on the first floor retains its classical-detailed, iron surround with pilasters. There have been some minor changes to some of the offices, such as the addition of wood paneled wainscoting to a room on the second floor. The basement is used for storage. It has solid brick walls and floors and arched passageways.

The courtroom has two double-door entrances, carpeted floors, and three sections of public seating. Its classical detailing includes pilasters along the walls, plaster ceilings with wood cross beams, a pedimented judge's bench, and wood door surrounds. The only changes to the courtroom have been the addition of lighting and the closing off of the balcony. There have been no major changes or additions to the interior or exterior of the courthouse.

The 1902 Telfair County Jail is a brick two-story brick building with a hipped roof and center front gable. There are four brick chimneys, and decorative brick detailing along the cornice. The front porch has been enclosed.

The Telfair County Courthouse and Jail are on flat terrain. The courthouse's landscaping plan is informal with a large lawn and mature oaks, magnolias, and pines. There is some small shrubbery around the building. Sidewalks radiate from each entrance to the street.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1904-1945

Significant Dates:

1902 - Construction of Telfair County Jail
1904 - Previous Telfair County Courthouse in McRae constructed
1934 - Courthouse fire and present courthouse completed

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Dennis & Dennis - architect
A. E. Aittner - contractor

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Telfair County Courthouse is significant in architecture as a good and intact example of a Colonial Revival-style community landmark type of building built during the 1930s. The classical style of architecture became popular for use in public buildings after the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 which featured the "White City," which was made up of classical style buildings that housed the exhibits. The use of classical elements in public buildings continued until the mid-20th century. Although the classical elements became more understated after the 1910s, the Telfair County Courthouse differs from other courthouses built during the Depression Era in that it has prominent stylistic elements, such as its *in antis* portico, paired pilasters, pedimented entrance bays, arched windows, and keystones.

The intact architectural features on the interior, such as the plaster walls, terrazzo flooring, the original hardware and fixtures, the and classically detailed courtroom, enhance the architectural significance of the courthouse.

Like other community landmark type of buildings, the Telfair County Courthouse is freestanding and, when built, it was the most elaborate and modern in McRae and reflected the architectural trends of the period. As a centerpiece for public gatherings, the courthouse provides a sense of place and cohesiveness for the citizens and symbolizes the permanence, stability, and strength of a county.

The courthouse is also significant in terms of architecture as a design of the prominent architectural firm of Dennis & Dennis, of Macon, Georgia. This firm is Georgia's oldest architectural firm established by Peter E. Dennis (1854-1929) in 1884. As of 1991, there were only fourteen older firms in America. John Cobb Dennis (1892-1965) was principal during which time the Telfair, Emanuel, and Peach County Courthouses were built. The firm is known for their designs of churches, auditoriums, city halls, courthouses, residences, and commercial buildings.

The Jail is also significant in terms of architecture as a good and intact example of a correction facility built at the turn of the century.

In politics and government, the courthouse and jail are significant because this area--containing the county courthouse and county jail--has been the center for county governmental activity since 1902 when

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the jail was built. In Georgia and throughout the South, county government has traditionally been the strongest form of local government. The present courthouse is the fourth courthouse in McRae and the sixth one in Telfair County. The jail is the first brick jail built in the county.

The Telfair County Courthouse is one of 19 Georgia courthouses built from 1930 to 1945. It is one of 7 courthouses that have not been documented as being funded by the federal government through one of its Depression Era relief programs.

National Register Criteria

The Telfair County Courthouse and Jail are eligible under Criterion A for their significance in the political and governmental history of Telfair County. They are also eligible under Criterion C as a good, intact examples of a Colonial Revival-style community landmark building and a turn-of-the-century correction facility.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The Telfair County Jail was constructed in 1904. The fifty-year cut-off of historical significance is 1945.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The courthouse and jail were built during the period of significance and retains its integrity. There are no noncontributing resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Telfair County was established on December 10, 1807 by Act of the Georgia Legislature from parts of Wilkinson County. Wheeler and Dodge Counties were formed with land from Telfair County. The county was named for Governor Edward Telfair (1735-1807), who was a supporter of the American Revolution and a delegate to the Continental Congress. The first officers of Telfair County were commissioned December 20, 1808.

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Jacksonville was the first county seat of Telfair County. From 1807 to 1812, the court met in private residences. In 1812, the first courthouse, a log building, was built. In 1860, it was replaced by a two-story, wooden building which was remodeled in 1924 by the First United Methodist Church in Jacksonville. The town was the center of a wealthy plantation economy and a landing for river traffic. However, in 1870 after the Civil War, McRae was named the county seat because of its location on the Macon and Brunswick Railroad. McRae was incorporated in 1874.

In 1872 or 1873 a frame building was built for use as a courthouse. It was replaced by the first brick courthouse in 1888 that burned around the turn of the century. The third courthouse in McRae was a 1904 brick building designed by architect Alexander Blair from Macon, Georgia and constructed by J. H. McKenzie's Sons from Augusta, Georgia. A Neoclassical Revival-style building with an elaborate cupola, it burned on February 9, 1934. Using the walls and similar detailing, the present Telfair County Courthouse was rebuilt in 1934. The architects were Dennis & Dennis from Macon, Georgia and the contractor was A. E. Aittner, from Albany, Georgia.

The first Telfair County Jail was built in 1874. The second and present jail was built in 1902 and is still used by the county as a correction facility.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mann, Floris Perkins, comp. History of Telfair County from 1812 to 1949, Reprint with new index by Margaret H. Cannon, Ph.D. Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1978.

Sharp, Leslie N. "County Courthouses in Georgia," Multiple Property Documentation Form, amended submission, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Pioneer. McRae, Georgia: Published by the Heart of Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission for The Pioneer Historical Society, 1978.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State Historic Preservation Office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 1.5 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 320970 Northing 3549240

Verbal Boundary Description

This nomination encompasses the property which includes the Telfair County Courthouse and grounds, as indicated by the heavy black line on the attached tax map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the all of the property owned by Telfair County at this location which includes the Telfair County Courthouse and grounds.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)
street & number 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 522-5022 **date** April 13, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

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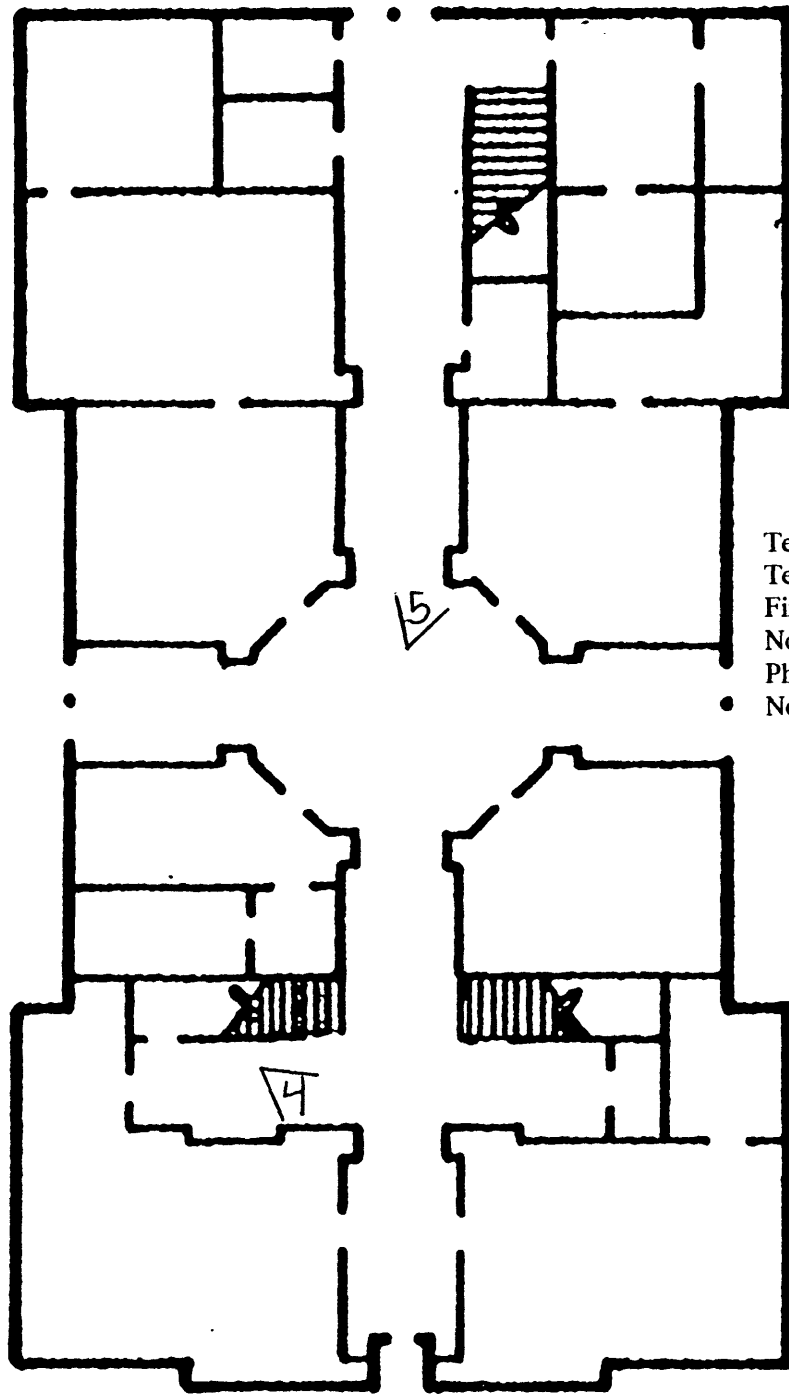
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Photographs

Name of Property: Telfair County Courthouse
City or Vicinity: McRae
County: Telfair
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1995

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 7: Telfair County Courthouse, front facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 7: Front and east facades; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 7: North and east facades; photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 7: Stairway; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 7: Hallway; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 7: Courtroom; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 7: Telfair County Jail; photographer facing east.



Telfair County Courthouse
 Telfair County, Georgia
 First Floor Plan
 Not to Scale
 Photographs: >
 North: ↑

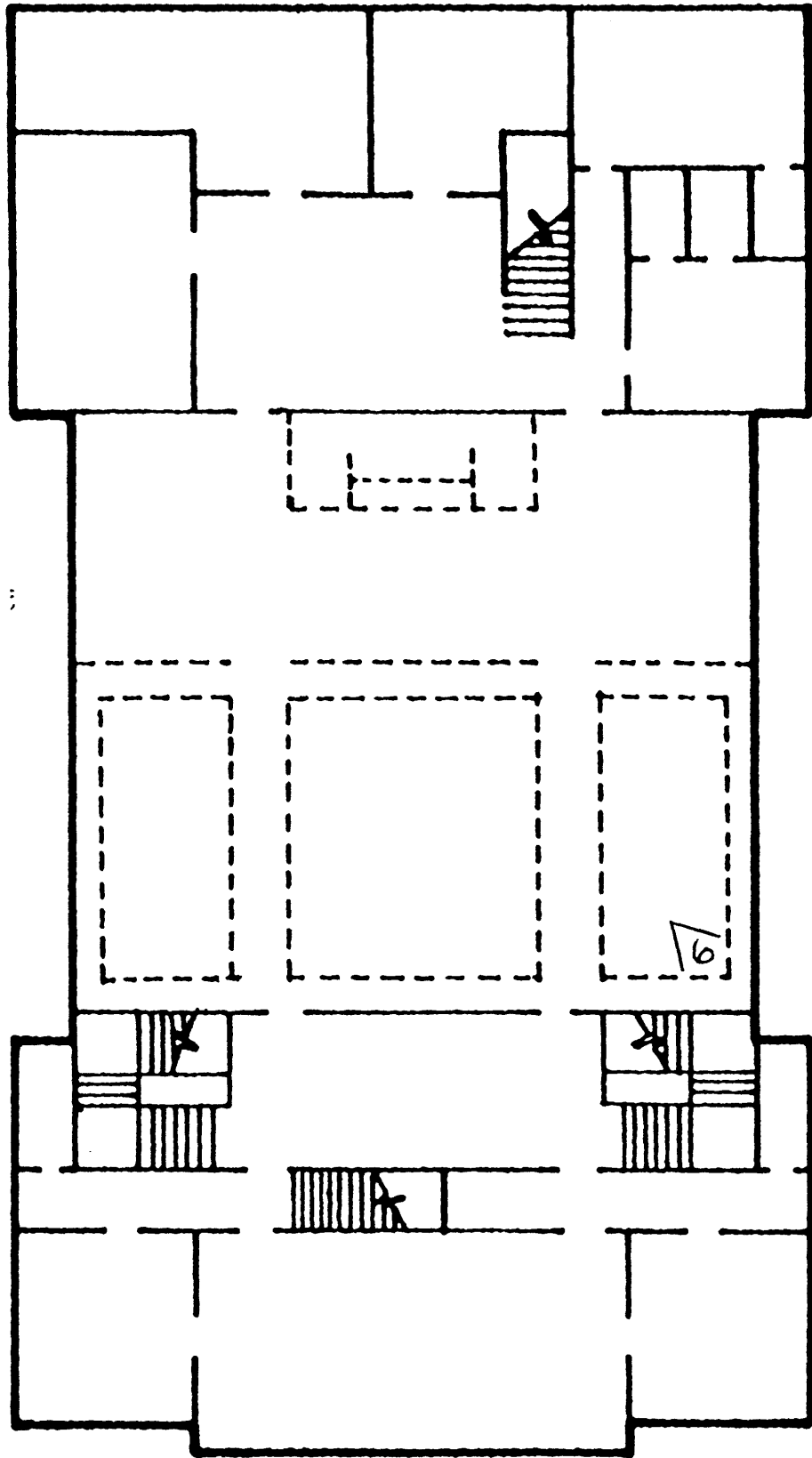
FIRST FLOOR

PHOTO #7 IS OF
 JAIL & COURTHOUSE

↗

↑

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Telfair County Courthouse
Telfair County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Not to Scale
Photographs: >
North: ↖

SECOND FLOOR



Telfair County Courthouse and Jail
Telfair County, Georgia
Tax Map
National Register Boundary: ———
Scale: 1" = 100'
North: ↑

14

61'(s)

16

PINE ST

341

28

S RAILROAD ST

N RAILROAD ST
SOUTHERN RAILROAD

6

OAK

8