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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 Macon Railway & Light Company Substation
other names/site number North Macon Substation

2. Location

street & number 1015 Riverside Drive
city, town Macon () **vicinity of**
county Bibb **code** 021
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31201

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	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 previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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.

RICHAUD COXES
Signature of certifying official

9-17-06
Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Daniel J. Viana 11/9/06

for _____
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Industry/Processing/Extraction: energy facility

Transportation: rail-related

Current Functions:

Commerce/Trade: restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: early 20th-century industrial building

Materials:

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Metal

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Macon Railway & Light Company Substation is a two-story industrial building located on a bluff above the Ocmulgee River adjacent to Rose Hill Cemetery and north of downtown Macon. The substation is a large, brick building designed to house electrical equipment. Built in 1915, the substation was constructed as part of an existing Macon Railway complex of streetcar barns, machine shops, and boiler and engine rooms.

The substation is a two-story, L-shaped brick building with brick pilasters that frame each window and a stepped parapet across the front façade. The exterior remains mostly unchanged from its early 20th-century appearance except that transmission towers no longer stand against the east side of the building. The walls are laid in common-bond brick, and the main, or south, façade features a stepped parapet. Corbelled-brick arches frame the windows and doors.

The interior above the basement was built as a double-height space with an open plan that housed transformers, rotary converters, circuit breakers, and other equipment. The walls were plastered and the steel roof trusses were exposed. Since the late 1980s, the substation was used as a restaurant, which resulted in changes to the interior. A kitchen, bar, and dining room were added and part of a third-floor loft was constructed in the form of an open well that allows views through the full height of the space. The basement was subdivided into storage rooms. It was recently rehabilitated for further use as a restaurant. This rehabilitation was approved by the Technical Services Branch of the National Park Service on September 28, 2005.

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
Industry
Transportation

Period of Significance:

1915 –1955

Significant Dates:

1915 – Macon Railway & Light Company built a brick substation.

1928 – Georgia Power Company formed through the consolidation of four central Georgia power companies, including the Macon Railway Light Company.

1934 – Macon traded its streetcars for buses in return for a reduction in its electric light bill and a \$50,000 payout by Georgia Power.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Macon Railway & Light Company Substation is significant in the area of architecture as good example of an early 20th-century substation. Its plain exterior, which appears closer to a downtown commercial building, belies its function of housing technologically advanced electrical transformers and other equipment. Eventually, power companies eliminated substation buildings altogether in favor of outdoor substation equipment.

The substation is significant in the areas of transportation and industry because it was a critical component in a system that enabled mass transportation in Macon to move beyond mule-driven streetcars. The substation was part of a power system that provided the city with electricity and telephone service during the middle decades of the 20th century. The substation represents the development of a regional system for the distribution of electrical power. In the first decades of the 20th century, many of Georgia's cities built and operated their own, less efficient power plants. These include cities include Thomasville, Swainsboro, and Waynesboro.

National Register Criteria

A— The Macon Railway & Light Company Substation is significant in the area of transportation because it is a critical piece in a system that enabled mass transportation in Macon to move beyond mule-driven streetcars. The substation is significant in the area of industry because it was part of a system that provided the city with electricity and telephone service.

C— The Macon Railway & Light Company Substation significant in the area of architecture as good example of an early 20th-century substation in which its plain exterior, which appears closer to a downtown commercial building, belies its function of housing technologically advanced electrical transformers and other equipment.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1915 with the construction of the substation and ends in 1955 when the substation last functioned during the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Macon Railway & Light Company substation includes only one contributing building: the substation. There are no noncontributing resources associated with national register nomination.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Between 1895 and 1908, the Macon Railway & Light Company built a streetcar maintenance complex at the south entrance to Rose Hill Cemetery north of downtown Macon. The complex included streetcar barns and maintenance shops, some of which survive in altered condition.

In 1915, the company added a brick substation to house the transformers and other equipment needed to reduce the voltage of electricity it received from the Lloyd Shoals hydroelectric plant on the Ocmulgee River near Jackson. The high voltage was reduced to 600 volts and converted from alternating (AC) to direct concurrent (DC), which provided power to the city's streetcars, and later telephone and electrical service to the city.

In response to the increasing demand for electricity, a second brick substation was built on Turpin Street in south Macon.

In 1928, four central Georgia power companies, including the Macon Railway Light Company, were consolidated as the Georgia Power Company. In 1934, the city traded its streetcars for buses in return for a reduction in its electric light bill and a \$50,000 payout by Georgia Power. In Macon, Georgia Power Company operated the last electric streetcar in Georgia until May 1949. The rails and power lines were later removed.

In 1975, Georgia Power sold the substation to Harold Causey, who leased the building to various restaurants and nightclubs. The current owner purchased the property in 2001. The building was rehabilitated as a restaurant in 2005. The rehabilitation was approved by the Technical Services Branch of the National Park Service on September 28, 2005.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Battin, Maryel. Historic District Information Form. North Macon Substation Building. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, August 30, 2001.

Georgia Power Company archives, Land Department, Atlanta, Georgia.

Macon Telegraph, 1908, 1911, 1934.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Macon, Georgia, 1908, 1916, 1924. Washington Memorial Library, Macon, Georgia.

Wright, Wade H. History of the Georgia Power Company, 1885-1956, 1957.

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

- () **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- (X) **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**
date issued: The Technical Services Branch of the National Park Service approved the rehabilitation of the Macon Railway & Light Company Substation on September 28, 2005.
- () **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 0.75 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 253710 Northing 3636970

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic district boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the property and all of the intact resources historically associated with the Macon Railway & Light Company Substation.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven Moffson, Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** July 15, 2006
e-mail steven_moffson@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Maryel Battin
organization N/A
mailing address 348 College Avenue
city or town Macon **state** Georgia **zip code** 31201
telephone (478) 742-4414
e-mail N/A

- () **property owner**
(X) **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Brian E. Rood, F. Eugene Rood, Jr., Roberta V. Rood, and Robert Holman, Jr.
organization (if applicable): Briar Rose Building, LLC
mailing address P.O. Box 4083
city or town Macon **state** Georgia **zip code** 31208
e-mail (optional) cwbbwc@aol.com

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Macon Railway & Light Company Substation
City or Vicinity: Macon
County: Bibb
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 2006

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 16

1. Main and side façades, photographer facing north.
2. Main façade, facing northwest.
3. Main and side facades, photographer facing north.
4. Main façade, photographer facing northwest.
5. Side elevation, photographer facing northwest.
6. Side facade, photographer facing southwest.
7. Rear and side elevations, photographer facing northwest.
8. Interior, second floor, photographer facing north.
9. Interior, second floor, photographer facing south.
10. Interior, second floor, photographer facing north.
11. Interior, third-floor loft, photographer facing west.
12. Interior, third-floor loft, photographer facing north.
13. Interior, first floor (basement), photographer facing north.
14. Interior, first floor (basement), photographer facing south.
15. Streetcar maintenance complex on Riverside Drive, photographer facing northeast. This property was not included in the nomination because of owner objection and because its nonhistoric

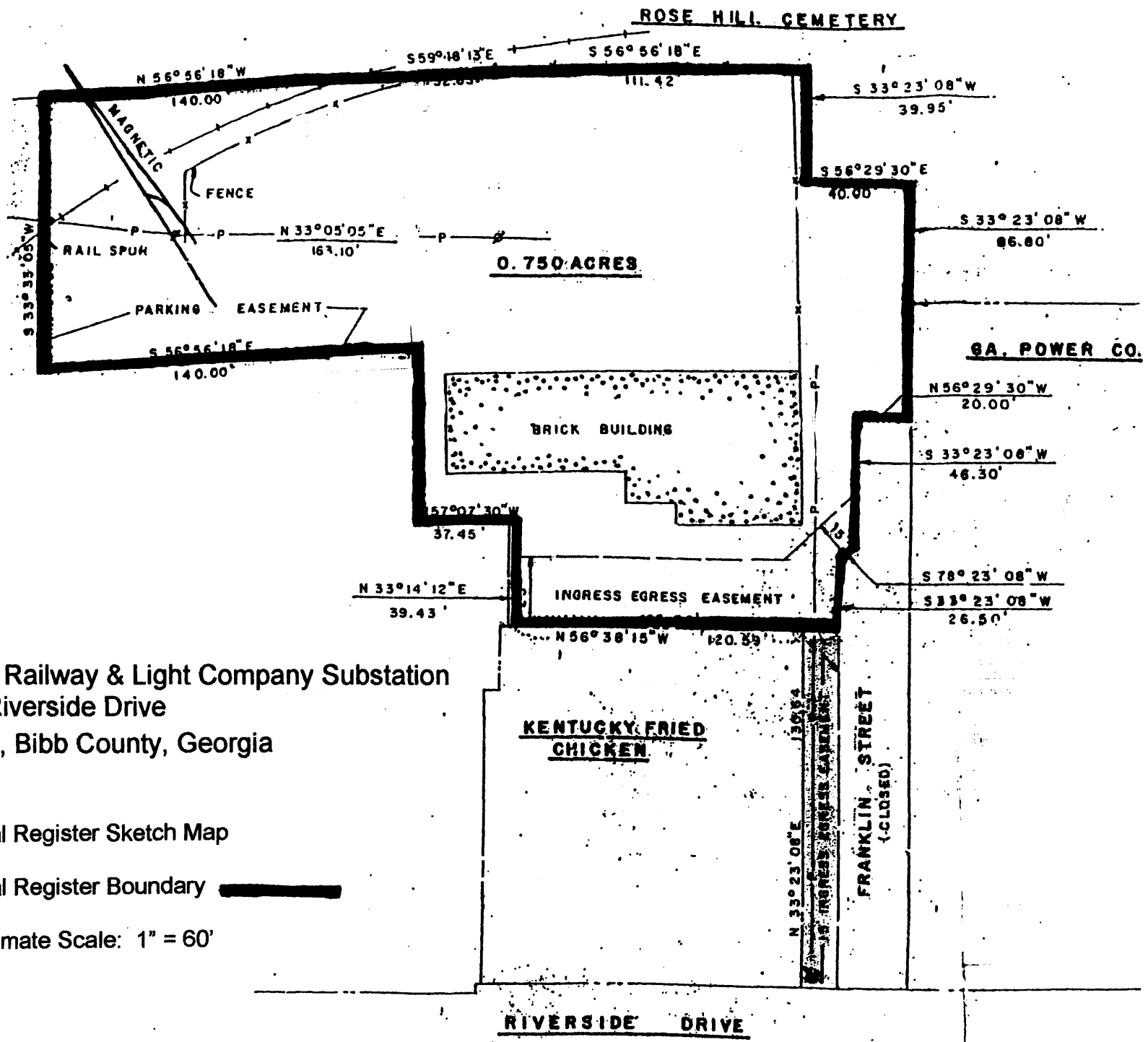
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

cladding renders it not eligible.

16. Rear view of streetcar maintenance complex, photographer facing northwest. The rear elevations retain a high level of historic integrity.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Macon Railway & Light Company Substation
 1015 Riverside Drive
 Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

National Register Sketch Map

National Register Boundary **—————**

Approximate Scale: 1" = 60'

Macon Railway & Light Company Substation
1015 Riverside Drive
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

Main Floor Plan

No Scale

