

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 3 1976
DATE ENTERED JUN 3 1976

**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
 Auburn University Historic District
AND/OR COMMON
Auburn University

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
On campus / Auburn University campus NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Auburn III
STATE VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE
Alabama 01 Lee 081

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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
Auburn University
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE
Auburn Alabama
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lee County Courthouse after 1867, Macon County Courthouse before 1867
STREET & NUMBER
Ninth Street Between Avenue A & B
CITY, TOWN STATE
Opelika Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Building Survey/Auburn Heritage Association Survey
DATE
1953/1974 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS AHA Headquarters
CITY, TOWN STATE
P. O. Box 2248, Auburn 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

The Auburn University Historic District occupies 14.5 acres in the northeast quadrant of the campus and is located on gently rolling wooded land. The district adjoins the Auburn business section at its northeast corner and two of the cities major streets, College and Magnolia form the north and east boundaries of the district.

The structures encompassed by the district are primarily late 19th and 20th Century revival styles. The architectural focal point of the district is Samford Hall, a Neo-Romanesque structure with substantial massing, well articulated ornamentation and a dominant four-sided clock tower.

The physical unity, strength and vitality of the district is based on certain common materials and the different applications found for each. Red brick load bearing walls are used almost exclusively, and extensive use is made of limestone for ornamentation on sills, lintels, and belt coursings. Terra-cotta ornamentation is found on both Samford and the Music buildings. A verticality found in the fenestration acts to unify as well as to provide a commonality of scale, and a heavily wooded park along S. College Street gives further unity to the area.

Though using similar material the one intrusion within the district, Biggins Hall, is primarily horizontal and causes a slight disruption in the cohesiveness produced by the 19th and 20th Century revival buildings and the setting.

(Description continued)

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Inventory of Historic Structures Located Within the Auburn University Historic District:

1. Samford Hall (N.W. Corner Thach and South College): 1888, Neo-Romanesque, three-story, red brick, extensive use of terra cotta and limestone for ornamentation.
2. The Lathe (N. of Samford Hall): Early 1860's.
3. Langdon Hall (W. Side of South College, north of Samford Hall): 1846, two-story, frame, remodeled in 1892 to one-story brick, Doric portico.
4. Music Building (W. Side of S. College, north of Langdon Hall): 1887-1888, Neo-Romanesque, two-story, red brick, use of terra cotta and limestone ornamentation.
5. Broun Engineering Hall (Faces north on W. Magnolia): 1906-1910, four-story central section with three-story wings, east and west wings have pilasters supporting simple pediments, central portion has portico with Doric columns supporting a well articulated pediment.
6. Mary E. Martin Hall (S.E. Corner Thach and Mell): 1908, reserved Neo-Baroque, four-stories, brick and limestone, two story addition.
7. Music Annex (Power Plant): 1905, two and one-half story brick structure with mansard roof, pilasters and ornamental brick cornice work.
8. Langdon Shops (Rear of Langdon Hall): Early 20th Century, one-story, red brick.
9. Biggin Hall (S. College Street): 1951, four-story, contemporary, red brick structure (Architecture Building).

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The district encompasses the earliest section of what is now Auburn University and includes the buildings constructed during the early and formative years of Alabama's Land Grant College. With one exception (Biggins Hall, 1951) the eight buildings in the district date from the 1880's to the early 1900's and reflect the revivalist architectural styles of that period. Also included in the district is a mid-19th Century lathe donated to the college in 1936.

Agricultural and mechanical education in Alabama began with the establishment in 1872 of a land grant college under the 1862 Morrill Act. Although the site of the school had been strongly contested, in February of 1872 the Agricultural and Mechanical College, the first land grant college in the south separate from a state university was established at Auburn. This location for the new school had been prompted by the donation of a campus by the East Alabama Male College, a Methodist sponsored liberal arts school on the verge of economic collapse.

During the early years the orientation of the institution remained predominately literary and classical. However, the early directors, recognizing the importance of conducting agricultural experiments, had established a college farm of 16 acres and made arrangements to experiment with cotton and corn in the Tennessee Valley.

But it was not until 1883 that the college, under pressure from the Farmers Alliance and the strong leadership of President William L. Broun, embarked on an era of growth and became the pioneer institution in technical education in the south. The state's financial aid to the college was extended and a tax on fertilizer was established to support and maintain the experimental farm.

New buildings were added to the campus; Langdon Hall, a Chemistry and Pharmacy Building (Music Building), and Samford Hall. Langdon Hall, which was constructed as the auditorium of the Auburn Masonic Female College and was the site of several debates between William Lowndes Yancey and Alexander H. Stephens, was disassembled and moved to its present location in 1883. The Chemistry and Pharmacy Building was constructed in 1887-1888 and in the same year Samford Hall was constructed to replace the main building of the campus which had burned a year earlier.

In 1890 a department of biology, the first in the south, was added and two years later the school admitted its first women students.

During the next 14 years the college was further expanded by the establishment of the departments of mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, mining engineering,

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Auburn Theatre Restored to Original Function of Chapel." The Plainsman.
26 September, 1974.

Auburn University: A Brief History. Auburn, Alabama: Auburn University Press, n.d.
Edwards, Charles Wesley and L.B. Williams et al. Lengthening Shadows: A Profile of
People and Buildings of Alabama University. 1971, n.p.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 14.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	6,4,2	2,6,0	3,6,0,8	1,3,0	B	1,6	6,4,2	2,6,0	3,6,0,8	4,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
<i>1/c</i>	1,6	6,4,2	4,6,0	3,6,0,8	4,8,0	D	1,6	6,4,2	4,6,0	3,6,0,8	1,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The northern boundary of Auburn University Historic District starts at the southeast corner of the intersection of South College and West Magnolia and runs westward along West Magnolia for a distance of 700 feet; then south 400 feet; then east 150 feet; then south to West Thach Street; then westward along West Thach to the intersection of Mell Street; thence 200 feet south; thence east to South College Street, thence north along South College to the point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

February 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

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

Mills B. Toward Jr.

TITLE

SHPO Ala

DATE

Feb. 23, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

6/3/96

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHIOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST *Acting*

DATE

6-2-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

RRR for WJM 6-2-76

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veterinary science, pharmacy and horticulture. In view of new curriculum in the fields of the sciences and the arts, the 1899 legislature followed action of the Board in changing the name of the institution to the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

The first decade of the 20th Century saw the college embark on a program of construction during which the remaining designated buildings in the district were constructed: Broun Engineering Hall, 1906-1910; the power plant (Music Annex) in 1905; and the library, 1908, now Mary Martin Hall.

In 1960 the school became Auburn University and has continued traditions of studies in the arts, sciences and vocations.

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Auburn Printing Company, 1958.

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University Press, n.d.

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University Press, 1959.

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Irvine, Paul. Auburn's First 100 Years: 1856-1956. Auburn, Alabama: Auburn
Printing Company, 1956.

McMillan, Malcolm, Cook. Auburn Church: One Hundred Years. Auburn, Alabama:
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