

PH0012874

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
 COUNTY: Dougherty
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: JUN 25 1974

1. NAME
 COMMON: Municipal Auditorium
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: 301 Pine Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN: Albany CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 2nd - Dawson Mathis
 STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Dougherty CODE: 095

3. CLASSIFICATION

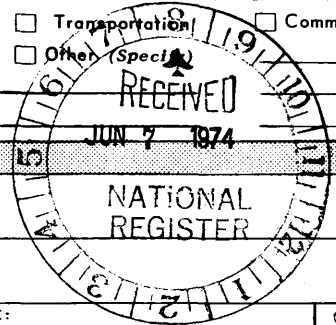
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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 (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: City of Albany
 STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse - 225 Pine Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN: Albany STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Record Room, Clerk of Superior Court
 STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse, 225 Pine Avenue
 CITY OR TOWN: Albany STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Georgia Heritage Trust
 DATE OF SURVEY: July 1973 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Georgia Heritage Trust, Department of Natural Resources
 STREET AND NUMBER: 270 Washington Street, S.W.
 CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Albany Municipal Auditorium, prominently located in downtown Albany, is on the northwest corner of North Jefferson and Pine Streets between North Jefferson and Flint Streets near the Albany City Hall and Dougherty County Courthouse. The square brick building, in a park setting, is reminiscent of designs such as Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple.

The main part of this building is a three story rectangle that is surrounded with cubes of various heights which are attached to the building. The main entrance, in the center section of the building, is denoted by the overhang of a marquee entrance that features diamond shaped projections above the top of the awning with geometric Art Deco patterns on them. The side entrances, in the one story cubes, also feature these overhanging shelters in a smaller and plainer style. These side cubes are flanked two story cubes on each corner of the building. Although the squareness of the main section of this building and of the side cubes make it appear severe, it does have some decorations such as the drip moulded brick bands that encircle the building near the top of the main section and the cubes. These bands of brick also vertically orient the windows and doors in groups of twos and threes, giving relief to the vast expanses of brick wall. These expanses of wall are also relieved by bands of marble that circle the building at the top of the main section and the side cubes. The Albany Municipal Auditorium may be compared with Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Church of 1906 because of these details; however, the Wright church is smaller, more unified in its squareness, and more focused on the windows under the eaves than the Albany Auditorium.

The Auditorium is entered through the main semi-circular foyer that was originally painted cream and gold with marble trim around the double doors to the orchestra, the galleries, and the smaller meeting rooms. This marble trim also extends along the base board of the floor throughout the building. Other doors with geometric Art Deco glass panels lead from the side entrances through short corridors to this foyer. The Auditorium, itself, is an oval that is entered from the foyer on a short axis. There are approximately 1,500 seats in this oval that are arranged in the orchestra, the lodge, and the two balconies; originally there were also four boxes on either side of the stage. Because of this short oval, the balcony seats are brought forward close to the stage. The only decorations in the auditorium are paired paneled columns supporting the balconies and moulding along such joints in the wall as the joint between the ceiling and the proscenium arch. The interior of the audience part of the Auditorium was, like its foyer, also painted cream and gold with marble trim. The dressing rooms were located at the sides of the stage and in the basement below the stage. There were also business offices located off this main section of the Auditorium in a wing extension of the two story cube at the rear of the building on the left side.

Today the Albany Municipal Auditorium is closed and vacant: the boxes on either side of the stage and the orchestra pit have been closed off and most of the cream and gold paint has peeled off the walls and ceilings throughout the building, but the exterior of the building has only had minimal changes during the 59 years since it was completed. It is still structurally sound, making the restoration simply a matter of repairs and painting.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c.1915

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Municipal Auditorium in downtown Albany, Georgia, built c.1915 to replace an older wooden building that housed the Chataqua Society activities, was designed by A. Ten Eyck Brown, a well known Atlanta architect. Presently the Municipal Auditorium is in danger of demolition and replacement by a more modern auditorium.

The need for a new auditorium in the early 1900's grew out of the many activities of the Chataqua Society of Albany, Georgia. This Society was founded by Dr. N. A. Duncan of Syracuse, New York, the secretary of the New York Society, who bought a plantation near Albany, Georgia, in 1888. The Society was designed to provide an informal method of education for people who had little formal education. After the movement officially ended during World War I, the auditorium continued to be used for Chataqua type events. The large stage of the auditorium was considered one of the best in the South during the early twentieth century. Many celebrities appeared on this stage, Sara Bernhardt, Maud Adams, David Warrick, and Henry Ford among others. Such musical events as the Al G. Fields Minstrels, Sousa's Band, and many Broadway plays attracted audiences from all over South Georgia to the Albany Auditorium. The building was also used for home talent shows, concerts by local musicians, high school graduations, and events of Albany State College and Albany Junior College.

The architect for this Municipal Auditorium, A. Ten Eyck Brown, designed many other buildings and homes in Atlanta and the Southeast, such as the Fulton county Courthouse and the Forsyth Theatre Building in Atlanta, the New Orleans Courthouse, the Western Kentucky Normal School in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and the southeastern branches of the Federal Reserve Bank. Mr. Brown was trained in New York and worked with the Supervising Architect's Office of the Federal Government in Washington before coming to Atlanta around the turn of the century. The squared off lines of the Albany Auditorium are typical of the style that Brown developed out of his training which was supposedly influenced by the early work of Frank Lloyd Wright, especially the Unity Church of 1906 in Oak Park, Illinois. Because the lines and proportions of Wright's Unity Church are much sharper and more compact than those of Brown's Auditorium, the Auditorium does not really seem to resemble the church on close comparison. The auditorium is much closer to the Werkbund Theatre by Henry van de Velde that was built in 1914 in Cologne, Germany because of the large blank spaces of wall that are broken by widely space groups of very small windows and the general appearance of the large rectangle surrounded by small geometric forms. The over-all appearance of the Albany Municipal

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlanta Historical Society. Biographical folder on A. Ten Eyck Brown.
 Encyclopedia of Modern Architecture. New York; Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers,
 1964, p. 314 and 322.
 "The Georgia Chapter" The Atlanta Historical Bulletin. No. 28, Vol. VII,
 September 1943. See index.
 Gunnels, Mrs. Wilfred, Secretary of the Southwest Georgia Historical Society.
 first draft of National Register form, on file Historic Preservation Section,
 Thronateeska Chapter, D.A.R. History and Reminiscences of Dougherty County,
 Georgia. Albany; Georgia: D.A.R., 1924
 Withey, H. F. & E. R., Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased)
 Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc. 1970. p. 80.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (continued)

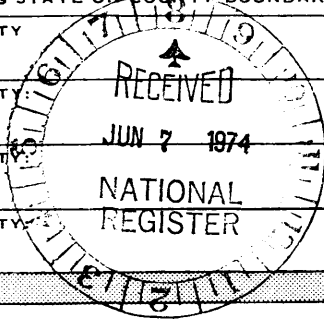
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 . .	0 . .		31 0 34 . 44 .	84 0 09 . 16 .	
NE	0 . .	0 . .				
SE	0 . .	0 . .				
SW	0 . .	0 . .				

UTM
 16/770061
 3497060

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 3 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS CX

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources DATE: March 28, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 703-C

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Mary Gregory Jewett</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>March 28, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Arthur H. Hays</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>6/25/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Mark A. Henry</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>6/21/74</u></p>
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Dougherty	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUN 25 1974	

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

Auditorium is one of severe simplicity for a building of this type during the early 1900's that almost approaches radically progressive design.

The Albany Municipal Auditorium has been an integral part of the cultural life of Albany for 59 years. As a structure originally built for use by the Chataqua Society of Albany, the auditorium represents well the efforts made at mass informal education during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century; as an architectural example, the auditorium displays a progressively modern approach in its streamlined, well coordinated design. Because of the building's local significance as a forward-looking early twentieth century auditorium and its impending proposed demolition, the auditorium greatly needs the prestige and protection that the National Register offers.

9. Bibliographical References (continued)

Macgregor, Elizabeth Z., personal inspection, Spring, 1974.
Stevens, Carole, Staff Researcher, Historic Sites Survey, Research for preparation of this form.

