

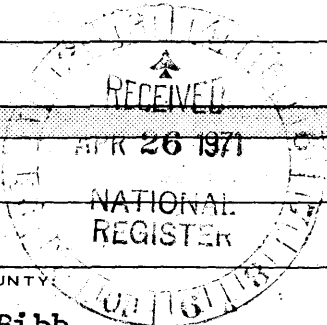
PH0002674

6th Congressional District

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>GEORGIA</b>	
COUNTY: <b>BIBB</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER <b>71.6.13.0015</b>	DATE <b>6/31/71</b>



**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Municipal Auditorium**

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**415 - 435 First Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Macon**

STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13** COUNTY: **Bibb** CODE: **021**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
**City of Macon**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**City Hall**

CITY OR TOWN: **Macon** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Bibb County Courthouse**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Macon** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approximately 1 acre**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: **1. The Historic Architecture of Macon by Carl Feiss and Russell Wright**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1970** Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Middle Georgia Historical Society**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Macon Coliseum**

CITY OR TOWN: **Macon** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

\* **2. Historical Survey by Middle Georgia Historical Society**  
**1970 Local**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Macon City Auditorium is located at the corner of First and Cherry Streets in downtown Macon. Construction was completed in 1925 at a cost of \$500,000 by Southern Ferro Concrete Company, Contractors for the project. The Architect was Edgerton Swartwout of New York with Dennis and Dennis Architects of Macon as Associates.

The building is basically square, approximately 175 feet along each side, and it stands approximately 80 feet high. The architectural style can best be described as simplified new classic Greek revival. This form was so prevalent in the South during earlier years that the Architect elected to use it as the style for the Macon City Auditorium.

The original design included, in addition to the Great Hall, two smaller halls, an art gallery and kitchen/serving area which were located in the basement. Basement areas no longer function in these capacities and have largely been replaced by offices and training facilities. Wide terraces at the same level of the Great Hall cover portions of the basement areas along First and Cherry Street, and provide outside congregating area. The design of the Great Hall which has a seating capacity of approximately 4,000 persons was based on very innovative ideas both in auditorium construction and acoustical consideration. The general plan is a square with a circular main hall. Stairs at each corner of the building lead from the main hall to a circular balcony. A colonade at the balcony level encompasses the building on the First Street and Cherry Street sides.

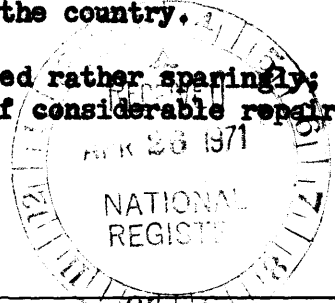
Principal construction materials used were reinforced concrete, steel, brick, hollow tile, copper and limestone. From the exterior, Indiana limestone is seen as the principal material, and the rhythmic series of arched entrances supporting the limestone columns at colonade level with Doric capitals and a fully developed Doric entablature provide an exciting view of a monumental building. It is unfortunate that the building's location precludes it from being seen anywhere except immediately adjacent to the site.

At the time of its completion the building was roofed with the largest copper covered dome in the world with a diameter of 152'-6". Originally a Gustavino masonry dome was envisioned to cover the auditorium area but cost considerations dictated that a copper covered steel framed dome be used instead.

The interior of the building is finished largely in plaster and Georgia marble. A relief design of festoons of peaches decorate the balcony parapet and a 10' high x 60' long symbolic mural by Don Carlos DuBois and Wilbur Kurtz over the stage proscenium depicts the development of Macon from DeSoto's visit in 1540 to World War I. The stage pipe organ was constructed by the M. P. Moller factory of Hagerstown, Maryland, and at the completion of the installation was one of the largest organs in the Southeast and tone-wise was reputed to be equal to any in the country.

In late years the building has been used rather sparingly; mostly for sporting events, and presently is in need of considerable repair work.

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**9. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian  16th Century  18th Century  20th Century   
 15th Century  17th Century  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1925

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input 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 type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

**This magnificent neo-classic Greek revival building has been the center of Macon's entertainment, cultural, and sporting events since its completion in 1925, and probably is the most outstanding edifice in downtown Macon.**

**Its architectural features and the great mural painting over the stage are symbolic of the area's many activities and outstanding importance here in the Heart of Georgia.**

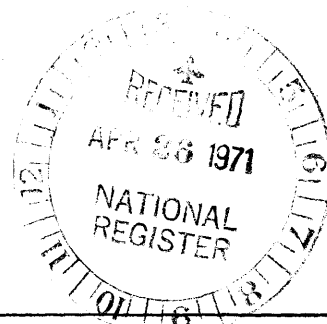
**Some of the nationally known personages and events with its commodious facilities include:**

- San Carlos and Pennsylvania Grand Opera Companies;**
- Chatauquas, Symphony Orchestras, noted musicians, speakers, celebrations;**
- Ignace Jan Padgrewski and Amelia Galli-Curci;**
- Josef Hoffman - famed pianist;**
- Colonel Robert L. Scott, Macon hero of the Flying Tigers, and noted author of "God Is My Co-Pilot";**
- Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, internationally known figure in aviation and combat pilot in two World Wars;**
- Funeral of W. L. "Young" Stribling - a close contender for the world's heavy weight boxing championship.**

**The new Coliseum and the restored opera house, and the Little Theater now accomodate to better advantage some of the activities previously using the auditorium, but it still plays an important part in Macon's activities and plans are being considered for revamping the interior for a downtown library, museum, civic center, or other similar uses.**

**The significant beauty and grandeur of the building itself should be preserved as a Macon Heritage landmark.**

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Macon Auditorium, Opening Program, November 23, 1925.

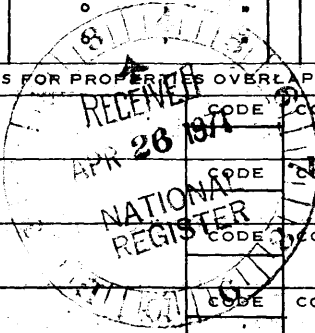
Young, Gholson & Hargrove. The History of Macon, Georgia 1823-1949.  
Macon, Georgia, 1950.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		32 ° 50 ' 15 "	83 ° 37 ' 55 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mr. John J. McKay, Jr., President**

ORGANIZATION: **Middle Georgia Historical Society, Inc.** DATE: **March 22, 1971**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**c/o Macon Coliseum**

CITY OR TOWN: **Macon** STATE: **Georgia** CODE: **13**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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:

National  State  Local

Name Mary Gregory Jewitt Title State Liaison Officer Date April 19, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
JUN 21 1971  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
William M. [Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register  
Date MAY 27 1971

NEW STREET

CHERRY

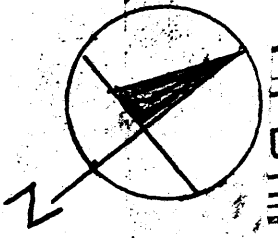
MULBERRY

WALNUT STREET

STREET

AUDITORIUM

32°-50' 15"  
83°-37' 55"



FIRST STREET

STREET

AVENUE

SECOND

STREET

MACON, GEORGIA

ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Prepared for The Middle Georgia  
Historical Society

By Carl Feiss, FAIA, AIP  
and Russell Wright, AIP

SEPTEMBER, 1970

Scale: 1" = 200'

THIRD

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

83° 32' 40"  
83° 32' 40"  
83° 32' 40"

MISSISSIPPI  
NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES  
1/18/83

