

PH0035190

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE: | Georgia |
| COUNTY: | Clarke |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY DATE: | DEC 11 1974 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Athens Hardware Company

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Franklin House (Old Athens Hotel)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
464-480 East Broad Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Clarke CODE: 059

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" 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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input 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"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | |
| last occupant moved Oct. 1972 | | | |

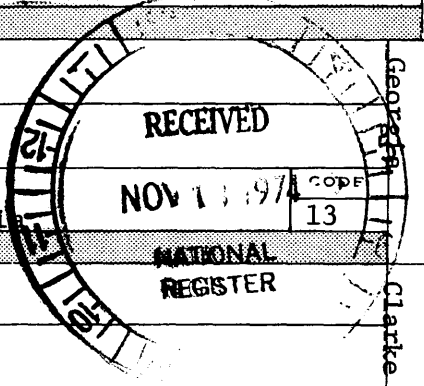
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Athens- Clarke Heritage Foundation, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:
280 E. Dougherty Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Clarke County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Athens Historic Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Special Collections Divisions, University of Georgia Library

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Athens

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE: DEC 11 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franklin House, a three-story brick structure located on the S.W. corner of Broad and Thomas Streets, was constructed in three stages from c. 1845-7 to c. 1860. Stage I, referred to as the "main structure", was constructed c. 1845-47. This portion provides the entire Broad St. facade and is considered as the major facade of the existing building, with a 75' frontage on Broad St. and a 50' frontage on Thomas. Stage II, essentially the S.W. quadrant of the existing building, appears to be a contemporary building of the "main structure." It may have been built at the same time or immediately after the main building. It was later connected to the main building and an addition to its rear added, the size of which indicates an assembly purpose, although smaller than a subsequent addition. Stage III, the subsequent addition referred to in the sentence above, comprises the S.E. quadrant of the existing building. Within this addition is a second floor ballroom with three fireplaces (the room is 70' x 30') and evidence of closed windows indicates this addition was added after Stage II, probably prior to 1860.

Architecturally, the structure exhibits both the Federal and Greek Revival styles, as well as a cast-iron front with which the original ground floor facade on Broad St. was replaced c. 1870. This modification illustrates the use of cast-iron facades in adapting buildings for commercial use. The Broad St. facade is three stories, exhibiting the cast-iron lower floor which features five entrances and the expanses of glass typically associated with the use of cast-iron. Centered above on the second floor, is a fully developed Greek Revival doorway (originally opening onto a porch or balcony no longer extant) which is lighted, trabeated, and with entablature and pilasters which feature the anthemion. Above this doorway, on the third floor, is a window with sidelights, completing a central facade composition. Remaining windows on the second and third floors are six-over-six and originally had blinds of a refined design which have been removed and stored in the building. Third floor windows exhibit a flat arch and those on the second floor display a stuccoed lintel above. The roof is the typical saddle roof, with the gable ends on the sides of the building where the brick walls rise over and above the gable ends, connecting the two chimneys to form a parapet wall extending above the ridge line of the roof. From a high point, the parapet (viewed from Thomas St.) steps down to join the sidewall, the lowest horizontal surface being of sufficient height above the edge of the roof, as seen from Broad St., to suggest the possibility of a balustrade having been employed atop the Broad St. facade.

The Thomas St. facade of the main structure exhibits a delivery door (centered) and two shuttered windows on the first floor, a lighted and trabeated door with entablature and pilasters on the second floor, above the delivery door, (originally the second floor doorway gave access to a pedestrian bridge providing access across Thomas St. to another building), and a window with sidelights above on the third floor and attic levels, all forming a central composition of the Stage I facade on Thomas St. Other windows on the second and third floors are as described for the Broad St. facade. From Broad Street, Thomas St. slopes downward to the south, providing space for a street level basement under the Stage III addition which exhibits a large arched opening for a delivery door.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1845-7

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" 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) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>history.</u> |
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Athens, as the seat of the state university, was the major cultural center of ante-bellum Georgia and attracted a steady stream of visitors from across the state and points beyond. This high incidence of visitation necessitated places of public accomodation in addition to that available in private homes. Franklin House, constructed ca. 1845-47, was one of the facilities which met this need.

In 1843, Maj. William L. Mitchell, member of the University of Georgia Board of Trustees, purchased the property at the corner of Broad and Thomas Street at auction from the University. It was on this property that he built the Franklin House, a building designed to accomodate merchantile establishments on the first floor and hotel facilities on the floors above. Opening of the hotel was announced on June 3, 1847 by advertisement placed by Mitchell in the Southern Whig, a local newspaper. However, earlier ads (Southern Banner - 1845, Southern Whig - 1846) announcing various commercial enterprises located "in Mitchell's new buildings" indicate that the Franklin House was probably completed prior to the June 1847 hotel announcement, possibly by 1845, with the initiation of merchantile activity preceding the hotel operation.

As a prominent local hotel, the Franklin House served as one of the focal points for social and commercial activity in Athens during its heyday. It was in this period, 1845-1860, that many of the city's great Greek Revival mansions were erected. Both Governor Howell Cobb and Alexander H. Stephens, who later became Vice President of the Confederacy, stayed at the Franklin House on their frequent trips to Athens. A recruiter made his headquarters in the Franklin House for several weeks in 1846 to attract volunteers for the Mexican War. In the Spring of 1853, subscriptions for \$3000 were raised to build Athens' first telegraph link to the outside world, connecting at near-by Union Point.

The Franklin House was popular with itinerant drummers and professional people. Classified ads of the 1840's and 1850's indicate the comings and goings of dozens of daguerreotype photographers, music teachers, dancing instructors, French teachers, lawyers, and dentists. Franklin House was an important headquarters for Whig politics in North Georgia. Maj. Mitchell was an influential figure in this party. Also, civic organizations, such as the Athens Masonic Lodge, met regularly in rooms on the second floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarke County Courthouse - deed records
 Trustee Minutes, 1835-1857, University of Georgia *
 Southern Banner - Southern Whig, 1845-1847 issues *
 Athens Historic Survey, 1968*
 "Athens Hardware", The Athens Review, Dec. 1972 (by John C. Waters)

HR
 17/280400
 3759820

* located in Special Collections Division, University of Georgia Library

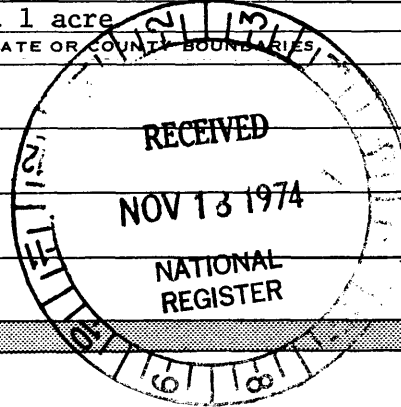
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| 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 TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | 33° 57' 28" | 83° 22' 24" | |
| NE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SE | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |
| SW | ° ' " | ° ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 1 acre

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: John C. Waters, Projects Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation DATE: June, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: 280 E. Dougherty Street

CITY OR TOWN: Athens 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: Jackson O'Neal Hand

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: Nov. 11, 1974

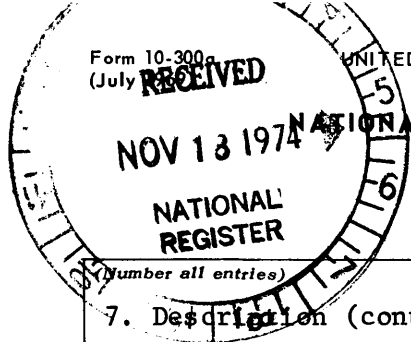
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. Marlowe
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/11/74

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12-9-74



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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| Georgia | |
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7. Description (continued)

The interior of the first floor, entering from Broad St. is divided into three approx. equal bays, the left bay having been the main entrance to Athens Hardware Co. The ceiling in this portion is of hand-hewn boards which are supported with cast-iron columns, added at the time the cast-iron facade was incorporated into the Broad St. facade. The second bay doorway provides access to a stairway leading up to the second floor and the ceiling here is plaster. The second and third floors feature a cross hallway with two connecting rooms forming the "corners" of each floor. The stairway from the second to the third floor and on the attic is located in the rear of the building and is the terminus of the central hallway. Doorways to the rooms on the two floors are on the cross hallway. Beneath the second floor stairway is the connection to the Stage II structure. Access to the second floor stairway is through a hallway created through one of the original rooms in the S.E. portion of the main structure with a connection to the last addition to the Stage II portion of the existing building. Fireplaces were originally wood-burning but have been converted for coal with the usual cast-iron arched openings. Mantels are simple Greek Revival, painted black. Interior surfaces on the second and third floors are plaster with remnants of wallpaper visible in some of the rooms. Doors have porcelain knobs and there is evidence of a painted grain having been applied to many doors and other interior woodwork. The stairway from the second floor upward reveals a delicate hand rail and a few surviving very splendid balusters indicating the original stairway was Federal in design. This stairway was fully detailed up to the attic level which is one open space where the pegged rafters can be seen under the roof.

Summary of Interior: The main floor was originally intended (and continued to be used) for merchantile purposes which would explain the fact that the Thomas St. facade of the first floor has few windows. The stairway from the street level assends alone to a large open cross hallway with the stair to the third and attic levels at the rear of the building making the second floor more a "piano nobile" than merely a second floor. The second floor northeast rooms are connected with a double doorway and elegantly trimmed, possibly a double parlor or sitting room for the hotel. The stairway with walnut handrail, delicate stair brackets, and thin, turned balusters is detailed all the way to the attic, indicating that this was a fine hotel, as compared with many which were detailed only at the main entrance. The second floor ballroom (Stage III) woodwork is very robust and elegant and the room is unusually large for a hotel the size of the Franklin House suggesting that it may have been added specifically for the use of the village of Athens or for University related social functions.

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

Mitchell, the original builder of the Franklin House, died in 1860 and all his property and Negroes were sold at public auction. J.W. Nicholson purchased the Franklin House for \$16,300. The hotel operation of the Franklin House is known to have continued through the War Between the States but no records of its operation beyond that time have been found. In 1865, the Franklin House became the home of the Childs-Nickerson Company which changed its name in 1885 to Athens Hardware Company, eventually occupying the total building known as the Franklin House. After 107 years of operation in the Franklin House, Athens Hardware Company was still renting the building from the last of several owners. In 1972, the company's affiliation with the Franklin House came to an end when it moved into a new building on North Thomas Street.

Historically, the Franklin House exemplifies the social and commercial history of Athens and surrounding areas from the period 1845-1972. Architecturally, it exemplifies the influence of both Federal and Greek Revival styles as well as the utilization of cast-iron for more efficient use of buildings for commercial purposes. Environmentally, the building exemplifies the scale and mass of 19th century commercial buildings and remains a landmark to modern-day Athenians, just as it has been to countless travelers and Athenians since its initial operation. Today, Franklin House is empty and the subject of much speculation regarding its future.

6. Representation in existing Surveys

Historic American Buildings Survey -(Ga.-1122)
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

