

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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GEORGIA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name: Georgia School for the Deaf Historic District, Cave Spring, Floyd County, Georgia

Location: East of Little Cedar Creek on either side of Padlock Street

Acreage: 4 acres

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary of the Georgia School for the Deaf Historic District is described by a heavy black line on the attached map of the Cave Spring multiple-resource area. This boundary circumscribes the intact historic campus of the school. Buildings, landscaping, driveways, and paved courtyards are included. Newer, non-historic buildings and grounds to the south and east have not been included.

UTM References:

L	Zone 16	E653680	N3775220
M	Zone 16	E653805	N3775220
N	Zone 16	E653805	N3775040
O	Zone 16	E653670	N3775040

Description:

The Georgia School for the Deaf Historic District consists of four historic buildings, one non-historic building, a landscaped yard, and sidewalks, driveways, and paved courtyards. The district is located on the floodplain at the very foot of hills to the east. Fannin Hall is the largest of the buildings in the district. Located to the west, with its axis running north and south, Fannin Hall is a long, narrow, rectangular, two-story brick building with a mansard roof and attic dormers. A one-story mansard-roofed addition is attached to the north end, and a short ell and a recessed wood porch are affixed to the rear (east side). The front (west) doorway features a broken-scroll pediment, and the cornice is modillioned. Sash windows are simply framed. The brick is laid in common bond.

The current appearance of this building is largely the result of extensive remodeling in the 1930s. When first built in 1849, the building was a simple,

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gable-roofed brick structure. In 1850, a rear ell was added, and in 1856-57, the south end of the structure was extended. During the 1880s, the small addition to the north end of the structure -- a principal's residence -- was built, and the entire building was lavishly ornamented in the Victorian Gothic style. In the 1920s, the building was again remodeled, this time in a Colonial Revival manner, resulting in its present appearance. In 1947, the east ell was shortened to make way for a new dormitory. The structure is currently being renovated. In front of Fannin Hall, to the west, is a rectangular-shaped landscaped yard. Featured here are trees, shrubbery, a broad lawn, sidewalks, a driveway, and a Georgia historical marker.

East of (behind) Fannin Hall, arranged at right angles, are three dormitories surrounded by sidewalks, driveways, and paved courtyards. Southernmost among them is Freeman Hall, built in 1907. Freeman Hall is a long, narrow, two-story brick building with a hip roof and gables. Brick is laid in the common bond and is used for segmental arches over windows and doorways. The cornice features brackets and a fascia board. The front (west) end has a one-story porch with brick columns at the ground floor. The middle dormitory, located just north of Freeman Hall, is similar to it in terms of design and construction, lacking only the front porch and fascia boards, and having more uniformly sized windows. The northernmost dormitory is a non-historic structure, having been built after World War II, but it is compatible in scale and building materials. The fifth building in the district is located across Padlock Road. Built in 1894 as an industrial arts facility, it is two stories high, cruciform-shaped in plan, and built of brick laid in the common bond. The style is Romanesque Revival, with a strong medieval fortress connotation. Round-arched entryways, flat-arched lintels, and corbels are the principal design motifs, executed in brick. A post-World War II, brick-veneer, two-story addition has been attached to the west corner of this building.

Significance:

Architecturally, the Georgia School for the Deaf Historic District is significant for its various types and styles of institutional buildings. These represent the kinds of structures built by the state to serve as facilities for educating handicapped children. Fannin Hall is especially noteworthy in this regard, for its history of architectural development reflects more than a century of institutional building design in Georgia. Part of it is also the original Georgia School for the Deaf building. The industrial arts building, even with its new addition, can still be seen as the finest example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in the multiple-resource area.

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for its

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landscaped west yard, which is the only surviving historic part of the campus landscape and which manages to give some sense of the character and appearance of the turn-of-the-century landscaped campus.

The Georgia School for the Deaf is primarily significant in terms of the education of deaf students in Georgia. The school was the tenth state-operated and state-supported school for the deaf to be established in the United States. Organized by the Georgia legislature in 1847 as the Georgia Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, the school began the education of deaf children in Georgia. The school was organized out of the Hearn Manual Labor School (later Hearn Academy), where O.P. Fannin began the education of deaf children in 1846. The school has been in operation since its inception in 1847 in its Cave Spring location and has offered varied services to the community. The school's curriculum included shoemaking and printing, services that were utilized by the Cave Spring community. The continued growth of the school resulted in the building of facilities to accommodate the students and provide for the most modern trends in the education of the deaf. After changing the name of the school in 1858 to the Institution for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb and again in 1892 to the Georgia School for the Deaf, the school has been a factor in the growth of Cave Spring and in the education of the deaf-handicapped in Georgia.

Property Owner:

Mr. Jim Whitworth
Georgia School for the Deaf
Administration Building
Cave Spring, Georgia 30124