Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 24 1977
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
~~The~~ Historic District ~~of the~~ Georgia Institute of Technology

AND/OR COMMON
The Old Campus of Georgia Tech

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
225 North Avenue — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Atlanta — __ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
5th - Andrew Young

STATE
Georgia

CODE
13

COUNTY
Fulton

CODE
121

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	X EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	X SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Georgia Institute of Technology

STREET & NUMBER
225 North Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Atlanta — __ VICINITY OF

STATE
Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Office of the Vice-President for Finance, Georgia Tech

STREET & NUMBER
225 North Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Atlanta

STATE
Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Historic District of the Georgia Institute of Technology, is situated on and around the crest of "the Hill", the highest elevation of the school's original nine-acre campus. Comprised of twelve buildings described in greater detail below, the old campus Historic District is an attractively landscaped cluster of mixed-period classroom, dormitory and administrative brick buildings. The "random" siting of these structures around the centrally positioned Administration Building (Old Academic Building) has created urban spaces that are at once intimate and stimulating and seldom found today. Hundred year-old trees shade these red brick structures and enhance the sense of spacial enclosure created between buildings. An asphalt roadway, Uncle Heinie Way, wraps itself around the Administration Building forming a "loop" and provides both service and vehicular access to the buildings in this portion of the Campus. A new plaza, Harrison Square, (1968), which has both a hard surface of brick and concrete as well as an open green space, was created after the demolition of the Old Shop, a near-twin to the adjacent Administration Building. The old campus is defined by North Avenue on the South, Grant Field, a 55,000 seat football stadium on the East, Third Street on the North and Cherry Street on the West.

ADMINISTRATION (OLD ACADEMIC)BUILDING
Bruce and Morgan, Architects
1888

A good example of the work of the well-known Atlanta architectural firm of Bruce and Morgan, the present Georgia Tech Administration Building is the focal point of the Old Campus. Designed to serve as an "Academic Building" this neo-Romanesque inspired Victorian red brick structure remains as one of the tallest buildings on the campus. Four stories high it appears taller due to the fact that not only is it sited on the highest elevation, but it also has a seven-story-high central tower topped with a high pitched roof. The front facade of the Administration Building is representative of the general architectural composition of the facades of this building. In mass, the front elevation is composed as a central four-story block with hipped roof and tall central tower that projects from the face of the building so as to create a porch on the main floor. This "central block" is then flanked by two side extensions of the building, the left one, treated in a late Romanesque-like manner has a front end gable with tourelles while the right side is treated as a simple side wing with pitched roof and a pedimented gable dormer. The windows in all the blocks are symmetrically placed with respect to their particular block and all are of the 1/1 variety, all windows are set in simple, rectangular wooden frames with the exception of the third floor windows in the main block of the building where the tops of the windows are rounded off to appear arched. The central entranceway is a metal storefront-type glass door set under a double Romanesque arch in the tower of the building. These arches are supported by brick piers on either end and by a single, distinctive, pink marble column at midpoint. Above the arches, on both the second and third floors are windows set in groups of three; this pattern is continued on the fourth floor but here the windows are topped with a round arch divided vertically into three glass panels. The tower continues to the sixth floor when there are three small 1/1 windows set adjacent to one another. Above this point begins the elaborate brick cornice of the tower with its corner tourelles and central gable-end also flanked by turrets with conical "candle-snuffer" roofs; the gable is broken only by a small semi-circular three-part window. In front of the cornice is suspended the large neon letters spelling out "TECH" which replaced earlier light bulb version installed in the nineteen twenties. The tower is topped by a high pitched slate roof.

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THE CARNEGIE BUILDING
1906-1907

Located immediately adjacent to the east side of the present Administration Building (1888) the Carnegie Building served Georgia Tech as its first Library. Erected under the auspices of the Carnegie Corporation, this two-story red brick building is a good example of the Beaux-Arts Classical style so popular with the Carnegie Foundation for library facilities. The front elevation is divided into three parts, a typical arrangement for this style, with the central portion, serving as an entrance, being brought forward for visual emphasis on this part of the facade. This entrance, strictly classical in derivation, has a two-story portico of red brick with two limestone ionic columns in antis, both of which rest on large limestone and brick bases; the cornice above these columns bears a plaque of cast bronze inscribed with the words "Carnegie Building" and is flanked by two limestone swags. Above the cornice and set into the limestone-coped brick parapet wall is a large cut stone slab bearing the words "Georgia School of Technology" and flanked on both sides and top by highly decorative cartouches. The doorway, set against the recessed wall of the entrance portico, consists of a set of metal-framed double glass doors that are inserted into an elaborately carved archway whose keystone contains a sculpted face from which emanates swags that run across the brick wall above. The arch is infilled above the doors by a Roman bath-inspired window lite. On the second floor, above the front door and separated from it by a band course of limestone, is a double window with a single window pane that is set into a very heavy stone frame; this window is flanked by a similar, though single, window on each side. The windows across the remainder of the facade run through both of the building's two stories; there are three such windows in the facade to either side of the projecting entrance bay. These windows are separated by brick pilasters while the edges of the building are defined by larger, giant-order pilasters of brick.

The Carnegie Building, serving initially as a library was designed to house all of Tech's library needs in a single facility containing two small reading rooms and stacks to accommodate 20,000 books. The facility rapidly outgrew its usefulness due to its space limitations and by 1960 had been remodeled by Georgia Tech, at a cost of $90,000, for use as offices by both the Vice-President of Academic Affairs and the President of the Institute.

LYMAN HALL LABORATORY OF CHEMISTRY
1905

Built in 1905, the Lyman Hall Laboratory of Chemistry is a two-story red brick building located directly behind the Carnegie Building (1906) and adjacent to the A. French Building (1898) on the Old Campus of Georgia Tech. Built utilizing mill construction, the Lyman Hall Lab stands as one of the most interesting buildings of the Old Campus, especially when compared to those around it; contrasting with the plain, characterless facades of the French and Knowles Buildings, Lyman Hall is intriguing in that hidden behind its small, almost European-scale front facade is a rather large, laboratory

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facility which for its day could not be considered to be lacking in any way.

Executed in a neo-Romanesque revival style, Lyman Hall is five bays in width, with each bay separated by giant-order pilasters which rest on a common marble and brick base; the middle three bays project slightly so as to make the centrally located entrance more prominent. The entrance to the building is set back five feet under a shallow arch that has a decorative terra-cotta keystone and is set on elaborate terra-cotta pilaster capitals; the doorway consists of a pair of large paned glass and wood doors simply treated. Above this entrance and set between the two giant-order pilasters of the center bay of the building, is a large plaque, executed in terra-cotta, which bears the name of the building. The first floor windows, of the 1/1 variety are typical of the times and are set in simple wooden frames utilizing the marble coping of the giant-order pilaster base as sills. The lintels of the windows are more ornate, however, and use a jack arch that is terminated on top by a long strip of terra-cotta molding that at each end terminates in a volute. The windows of the first floor, like those of the second floor, are set in pairs. Second floor windows are also of the 1/1 variety, possess marble sills and simple wooden frames but unlike the first floor windows are fabricated with the upper halves rounded off so as to completely infill the neo-Romanesque round arch lintels. Each arch, at its spring point, rests on simple terra-cotta pilaster capitals that are set in flush with the facade. The cornice of Lyman Hall is classically inspired, and consists of two narrow moldings, a plain entablature, all of which is topped by dentil molding above which the eave projects on consoles. The pedimented gable of the building also possesses the same dentil molding and console supported eaves; the roof of Lyman Hall is a low-rise hipped roof and is covered in slate.

On the interior, the Lyman Hall Chemistry Labs have received only one major renovation, that one following the disasterous Winecroft Hotel fire in Atlanta which caused a crackdown in fire-code enforcement and thus produced changes in this building. Due to the fact that dangerous organic chemistry labs were being held in this structure, all open stairwells were walled up and both heavy metal fire doors and a sprinkler system were added.

The first and second floors of the building house Chemistry related activities while the basement of the building is currently being used by an Air Force ROTC detachment. The first floor has two classrooms, each of 40 student capacity, and one large lecture hall for 200 people. On this floor are also found two freshman chemistry laboratories, a solution room for chemicals and offices for professors. On the second floor are two additional labs, only one of which is in use. Also found on the second floor are offices for graduate assistants and a chemical stockroom; the remainder of the floor is presently non-functional due to structural problems.

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THE EMERSON CHEMICAL LABORATORY
Bush-Brown and Gailey, Architects
1925

Made possible through funds generated by the Greater Georgia Tech Campaign of 1921, the Emerson Labs were built as an addition to Georgia Tech's first chemistry building, the Lyman Hall Laboratory of Chemistry, in 1925. This addition, designed in a simplified version of the Jacobethan Revival style, matches the three story height of the adjacent Lyman Hall Labs and creates a small courtyard space between the two buildings. The main entrance to the Emerson Building faces south at the side of the Knowles Building (1897), projects slightly from the remainder of the facade, and is the most decorative portion of the structure. Executed a la Beaux-Arts the ornate stonework around the entrance consists of a gable with boxed cornice and returns set on consoles that at the scotia bears an elaborate cartouche containing a superimposed "GST", the initials for the Georgia School of Technology. Under this console-supported gable, set into a cut stone facade, is a three-foot deep barrel vault infilled between stone quoins with red brick; the keystone of the exterior arch of the vault is replaced by another console which blends into another cartouche above which bears the name of the building. The doors to Emerson are glass and wood and are set beneath a six-light vertically divided transom that infills the arch form of the barrel vault. Surmounting this doorway is a single light window (now containing an air-conditioner) set in a heavy stone frame that terminates above the window in a gothic arch. The facing of Emerson has been executed in a red brick utilizing a Flemish bond and limestone for all decorative work, window frames, copings and string courses. On both the east and west facades the brick work is carried above the third floor to create a series of run-on gables broken only by a single small rectangular window in the center of each; two such gables form and define the main (front) portion of the building as viewed from the east. The remainder of Emerson consists of a lateral 3-story laboratory wing that extends along the east side of the building to the rear. This wing is broken only by a gable-end bay window extension near the back of the building which runs through all three floors.

A. FRENCH BUILDING
Lockwood, Greene and Company, Boston
1898

Completed in 1898, the French Building was initially designed to house the School of Textile Engineering. Located near the center of the Old Campus of Georgia Tech, this red brick structure stands directly behind the Administration Building (1888) and adjacent to the Lyman Hall Chemistry Laboratory (1906).

The overall, straightforward and no-nonsense educational philosophy of early Georgia Tech is readily seen in the design of this factory-like building. Utilizing mill construction, the architects, Lockwood, Greene and Company of Boston, designed the facade so as to have almost no ornamentation. Standing three stories in height, the front facade of the building is characterized by its numerous segmented arch windows which have radiating brick-patterned lintels (made of four courses of brick headers) and

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rough-cut granite slab sills. The entrance to the building is of the split-level type, which due to the sharp slope of the site led the architects to arrange for the entrance to the building to be placed about mid-point in the elevation and to have stairways both up to the main floor and down to the ground floor. This main entrance on the exterior consists of a pair of wood and glass doors placed beneath a two-part transom (one a 6 x 2 lite rectangular transom, the other a radiating fan-lite version) all of which are set into a round arch opening that rises through a story-and-a-half. This entrance way is unusual in the sense that the brick which frames the opening is not square-cut but rounde This entrance arch also possesses the only marble keystone to be found on any of the buil ing's facades. The cornice for the French Building is relatively light, made of wood tha has been painted white, as with all of the wood trim of the building, and is supported by a series of wooden "brackets" that are actually extensions of the oak rafters of the roof oak rafters, beams, and columns have been used throughout to form the primary structural system of this building.

The interior of the 32,200 square foot A. French Building is still very similar to its initial layout of 1898. Only minor changes have been made, the largest alteration being performed in 1947 by the firm of Bush-Brown, Heffernan and Gailey; this renovation, costing $15,000, consisted primarily of classroom/office space changes necessary when the building was converted from the School of Textile Engineering to the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering. Two fire escapes, of metal construction, were also added at thi time, one on the east and one on the west side of the building.

JOSEPH WHITEHEAD INFIRMARY (Now Dean of Students Building)

Located on Cherry Street, just north of what is presently Harrison Square (1968), the Joseph Whitehead Memorial Infirmary was built in 1910 in a style that can best be described as a Georgian variant. This two-story, red-brick building rests on a three-foot high coped marble base. It has a central entrance portico of one-story supported by two fluted columns topped with Tuscan capitals, a full and classically correct entablature and an eave supported with relatively flat consoles; the roof of the portico is typically flat. The doorway to the building is set within a round arch which rests on two short pilasters. Larger, full-height pilasters flank the archway and the entrance door, set in the opening, is of the glass store-front variety. Lower floor windows are of the 2/2 variety and are set into segmented arch brick lintels which have both keystones and end-stones of marble; sills on all windows are also of marble. The second floor of the forme Infirmary is separated from the lower floor by means of a marble and brick string course. Upper floor windows, also of the 2/2 variety, are set in simple, white painted wooden frames. The entablature of the cornice of the building is of brick, set as headers and separated both above and below the cornice line by a string course of stretchers. The entablature sports ten terra-cotta and cast stone decorations of a geometric pattern, four of which have beneath them triangular-shaped slabs of marble set in the facade. The cornice is of wood and is supported by double consoles spaced every two to three feet the roof to the building is hipped, covered in slate and is broken at the edge on the nor and south sides of the building by high brick chimneys.

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THE D. M. SMITH (OLD PHYSICS) BUILDING
Francis P. Smith, Architect
Robert and Company, Associated Architects
1922-1923

Executed in an eclectic style that first made its appearance in the United States at Princeton University in 1913, the D. M. Smith Building was designed with a subtle blend of both classical and Gothic elements. This Collegiate-Gothic style building stands three stories in height, not including its full daylight basement-ground floor. Its exterior entrance details, complete with Ionic columns and a bracketed pediment, the finials above the cornices of the pitched roofs, and the cartouche ornaments found in the gable-ends of the building all reflect the classical influence on the facade. However, even though this building possesses certain classically inspired details, it must be pointed out that the Gothic style is the dominant of the two used in the design, as is seen in the bay windows on both ends of the front facade, the white limestone sills of all the building's windows, the band courses contrasted with the large brick surfaces of the building elevations, and the emphasized verticality of the pitched, slate roofs.

In both plan and elevation, the key characteristic of the D. M. Smith Building is its symmetry. Circulation patterns, such as the halls, stairways and entrances, are all symmetrical about the General Laboratory on the ground floor, and repeat themselves on the first and second floors about the central Lecture Hall and even on the third floor which has no large, central space. Symmetry of window arrangement on all floors has produced consistent elevations but some peculiar room treatments such as a bay window in the student's toilet on the third floor.

When completed in 1923, this reinforced concrete building housed: 3 electrical laboratories, 1 physics lab, 2 halls, 2 libraries, 3 architectural drafting rooms, 2 civil engineering drafting rooms, 2 photometry rooms, 2 physics research rooms, 2 studios, 8 classrooms, 1 x-ray room, 6 apparatus rooms, 1 workshop, a Director's Laboratory, 1 chemistry room, a switchroom, a pendulum tower, an architectural supply room, and 9 faculty offices. Since 1923, the Smith Building has been altered only once, in April 1970, when the firm of John W. Cherry and Associates renovated the interior of the central Lecture Hall, Room 105, adding a curved, suspended ceiling to the two-story space, wall-to-wall carpeting and a vinyl wall covering.

SAVANT BUILDING

A simple brick structure, the Old Electric Building is symmetric in design and is representative of many of Tech's early structures. A central entrance of cut limestone is composed of two simple but broad pilasters topped by a simple and undecorated entablature and cornice, the former bearing in dark metal letters the present name of the building "D. P. Savant". In front of this entrance, on two short podiums stand two electric lights on cast iron posts and bases that date from 1911, a gift of the graduating class of that year. Immediately adjacent to the entrance and separated only by a thin strip of the red brick which faces the building is an 8/8 window; four

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such windows are found to either side of the entrance and nine more on the second floor. The windows of both floors have limestone sills and jack arches, the latter being treated in a rusticated manner. The third floor is separated from the first two floors by means of a limestone string course which projects slightly under each window to form a sill. These third floor windows are of the 4/4 variety vertically divided. The entablature of the building is a narrow band of limestone and is topped by a simple console supported eave of some three feet in depth.

JANE AUSTELL SWANN DORMITORIES - 1901

Extremely classical in derivation, this three story former dormitory has a symmetrical red-brick and cut limestone facade complete with a central two-story Tuscan portico. This portico, supported across the front by four doric columns and on the facade by two Doric pilasters, is simple but massive. The cornice and entablature are proportionately correct with the frieze bearing the name of the building cut into the stone. The columns sit on the base of the porch with steps placed between the three-foot diameter columns to give access to the ground level. A central doorway (now a glass storefront door) is found under the portico with an 8/8 window to each side and three of the same above. Both the doorway and the windows on all floors except the third have stone sills and jack arch lintels. The third floor is like the Savant Building next door, separated from the first two levels by means of a cut-stone string course which doubles as a sill for each of the eleven windows on that floor. The entablature of the building is of limestone and is plain while the cornice sports a copper gutter decorated every 12" with an acroterions.

KNOWLES BUILDING

Standing in stark contrast to the west stands of Grant Field which rises behind it like a colossal stage backdrop, the Knowles Building with its simple form and detailing is clearly typical of many of Georgia Tech's early buildings. Built originally as a long, low two-story dormitory with full daylight basement that once overlooked Tech's athletic field on the far eastern extreme of the campus, the Knowles Building today appears much as it did in its heyday. A centrally located door, approached by means of a wide, shallow roofless porch, is found in the center of the once symmetrical facade. Paired windows of the 2/2 variety stretch to either side of this doorway with the same arrangement (with a window instead of a door) on the second floor. Two projecting "side wings" each contain a door that opens on to the porch and two 2/2 windows on the front facade. The roof is hipped and covered with folded seam lead while all of the exterior walls are of red brick.

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JOHN SAYLOR COON MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BUILDING
King and Walker, Architects
1911

Beaux-Arts Renaissance Revival in style, the John Saylor Coon Mechanical Engineering Building, located at the corner of Ferst Drive and Cherry Street represents the first enlargement of the original nine acre campus of Georgia Tech. The building, built of red brick with decorative elements of terra-cotta, actually consists of two parts built in three phases over differing time spans. The first, the original Mechanical Engineering Building, built in 1911, is a three-story block that initially contained faculty offices and classrooms; the second portion of the facility is a long fourteen-bay, two-story high wing that was added over the years 1919-1929 to house needed shops, laboratories and drafting rooms. The third part of the Mechanical Engineering Building is the Research Laboratory. Located behind the original block and subsequently added shop wing, this lab was erected to increase research space. All of the buildings are of red brick and have had extensive interior alterations.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	X__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	X__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X__ARCHITECTURE	X__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	X__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Historic District of the Georgia Institute of Technology, commonly known as the Old Campus of Georgia Tech, is significant in the areas of architecture, education, engineering and science, as well as landscape architecture. As one of the major engineering institutio in the United States today (it ranks 8th), Georgia Tech, founded in 1885, has long been a driving force in the southeast in the area of technological training and innovation for continued industrial and scientific expansion.

Born as the result of a conversation between Nathaniel Edwin Harris, a prominent Macon, Georgia attorney and Major J. F. Hanson, manufacturer, Georgia Tech's beginnings - at least conceptually - can be traced back to early May, 1882. At that time Major Hanson met with his friend Harris to explain the need for a technological school in Georgia. Hanson argued that such a school would be mandatory in Georgia if the state was to be provided with the educated manpower and leadership necessary for a continued industrial expansion. Harris agreed and in the course of the conversation remarked that "I would rather be the author of a law establishing such a school than to be Governor of Georgia." But, as it worked out, Harris became both author of the law and governor of the state. The immortal Henry Grady, of the Atlanta Constitution, joined forces with Harris and Hanson, picking up the cudgel and likewise fighting vigorously for the creation of the school that was to become the Georgia School of Technology.

"Georgia Tech was founded in that period when the general cry for industrialization was finding a response in the establishment of engineering schools in all parts of the Nation." The actual resolution introduced before the Georgia legislature was passed on November 24, 1882 and then "Governor Alexander H. Stephens immediately appointed a commission of ten men to visit and study the leading engineering schools in the United States. On recommendation of the committee the general assembly in 1885 appropriated $65,000 for the establishment of the Georgia School of Technology."

One of five competing cities which also included towns like Athens, Macon, and Penfield, Atlanta made the high bid of $130,000 in land and money for the site of the new school. A professor from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute of Massachusetts was engaged to organize Georgia's first engineering school and in 1887 construction of the first building was begun on a five-acre tract purchased from the Peter's Land Company; Richard Peters later donated an additional parcel of land to bring the size of the original campus to nine acres.

Dr. Isaac Hopkins, who had offered the first technological course ever taught in the south at Emory College in 1884, was chosen as Georgia Tech's first president. The school opened on October 3, 1888 with a total enrollment of 84 students. Formal "installation services" were held at the De Give Opera House.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wallace, Robert, Dress Her in White and Gold, (Georgia Tech Foundation, 1969)
Brittain, Marion L., The Story of Georgia Tech, (1948).
Records of the Georgia Tech Archives, Price-Gilbert Memorial Library, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta
Files of the School of Architecture, Architectural Library, Georgia Institute of Technolog
Consultation with Dr. Elizabeth Lyon, Chairman, Atlanta Urban Design Commission Advisory Committee on Historic Sites, Structures and Districts.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	16	741 ~~490~~ 370	~~3740000~~ 3739-930
B	16	741 ~~490~~ 380	3739660
C	16	741220	3739660
D	16	741220	~~3740000~~ 3739-930

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Intersection of centerline of North Avenue and Cherry Street, proceed north to intersectic of centerline of Uncle Heine Way. Follow centerline west to intersection with alley running behind the Coon Mech. Engineering Building. Follow alley to north and turn east along walkway on north side of the Mech. Eng. Bldg. At intersection with Cherry Street, follow Cherry north to intersection with Third Street. Follow centerline of Third Street to Alley behind D. M. Smith Building. Follow Alley, along centerline, around Steam Plant to line parallel with the rear of the Lyman Hall-Emerson Chemical Laboratories. Follow behind

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES (cont.)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
H. Lee Dunagan, Consultant to Atlanta Urban Design Commission, Advisory Committee on Historic Structures, Sites, & Districts

ORGANIZATION
Atlanta Urban Design Commission

DATE
August 19, 1975

STREET & NUMBER
City Hall

TELEPHONE
634-0830

CITY OR TOWN
Atlanta

STATE
Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X 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

DAVID M. SHERMAN

TITLE Chief, Historic Preservation Section

DATE 5-15-77

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~ KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/23/78

ATTEST: ~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

DATE 8-23-78

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The Old Campus

The Old Campus of Georgia Tech is significant for more than just the design of the building of which it is comprised. For whereas the buildings within this portion of the campus are not necessarily outstanding works of architecture, the most important quality of "the hill" is its sense of space and time. As is evident in the placement of the buildings within the Old Campus, little thought was actually given to the future expansion of the then young technological school. Instead, the site planning was carried out in such a manner as to meet the immediate and pressing needs of the school. This practical approach to siting has created what is, today, the Old Campus' most significant quality: its sense of space. The scale of the buildings appears almost European when experienced from points along the narrow circulation paths within the area. These paths, obviously pedestrian at one time, have now been asphalted to allow administrators to park their cars "at their doorways" which contributes, of course, to a visual destruction of the harmony found within this portion of the Tech campus. However, the spatial qualities are so much stronger than this visual blight that one still "feels" the space even though he recognizes that the cars "do not belong" and are out of place. The balance of the buildings in this area is so delicately arranged, both around the existing terrain and undesireable surrounding intrusions that the removal of a single building would totally destroy the character of this district and would render it much less significant.

The "harmony" found within the Old Campus is attributable to the fact that almost all of the buildings located there are "turn-of-the-century", 1885 - 1923, and all exhibit a consistent approach in design and construction. However, the consistency does not include dull repetition of style or form and this in itself is significant.

The Administration Building: Let by a contract on May 5, 1887 to Angus McGilvray who bid $43,250 to construct this building designed by Bruce and Morgan, the old Academic Building was completed by 1888. This structure once housed Tech's Library, President's Office, Classrooms, and other academic facilities. It was remodelled in 1963-64 on the interior with major alterations. It's best known feature is its "Tower" with the word TECH emblazoned on each of its four sides electrically lighted at night, making it a landmark in Atlanta

The Carnegie Building: Donated by Andrew Carnegie to Georgia Tech on March 12, 1906, this building served the school as a library until November of 1953. Construction was officially begun on this building on November 21, 1906 and the facility opened in September 1907. Columbia University contributed 700 books to Tech around the time of the opening and Julius L. Brown later donated an additional 3000 books from his estate along with other gifts.

The Old Infirmary: Presently used as the Dean of Students Building, the Old Infirmary is significant in that it was a woman's organization, the Women's Federation of Clubs in Atlanta, that assisted then President Kenneth G. Matheson in raising the money to build the health facility. In November 1909 Mrs. Joseph B. Whitehead, widow of the man who had made his fortune in bottling Coca-Cola, contributed $5000 and by the summer of 1910, $15,000 had been contributed and construction began.

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(Rev. 10-74)

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A. French Building: Erected in 1897 by a philanthropist from Pittsburgh, Aaron French, this building was initially Tech's School of Textiles. French helped to establish the school with a generous contribution of money and machinery. The building was converted, in 1949, for use by the School of Industrial Engineering and was renovated with a $15,000 grant from the Rich Foundation.

Knowles Building: A former dormitory erected in 1897 through the assistance of Clarence Knowles, a local resident who had helped to secure the initial $20,000 needed from the state legislature to begin construction of this building, Tech's first planned dormitory. It has been remodelled three times: 1924, 1947 (when converted to office use) and again in 1964. Currently in danger of demolition, this building provides a significant barrier to what would otherwise be a monsterous intrusion, the Grant Field stadium.

D. M. Smith Building: Built by the Carnegie Foundation at a cost of $250,000 in 1923, this building was the first structure to establish an architectural style that was used consistently for all Tech's buildings. For twenty years, the style of this building - a variant of English collegiate - was used with great regularity after having been decided on by Professors Skinner and H. Bush-Brown of Tech's School of Architecture. Initially designed to house Architecture and Physics, the building now houses Social Sciences, Psychology laboratories and mathematics offices.

Lyman Hall Laboratory: Built in 1905-06 under legislative appropriation of $10,000, the Lyman Hall Lab was Georgia Tech's first Chemistry Building. Named after Lyman Hall, a president of Georgia Tech, this neo-Romanesque revival structure was completed at a cost of $20,000. Hall, who changed Tech from a small trade school into a major engineering institution, died two months prior to the cornerstone laying of this building which had been a pet project of his for some years.

Swann Dormitory: Erected through the contributions of James Swann of New York, this $30,000 building was opened in late 1901; an additional $5000 towards the construction of this "memorial" building was donated by William Randolph Hearst. Built as a memorial to Swann's wife, Janie Austell Swann, the structure is presently used to house the Department of Modern Languages. Some renovation was undertaken in 1964.

D. P. Savant Building: Formerly the Old Electrical Engineering Building, the Savant Building was built in 1901 and is named after Domenico P. Savant. Two incandescent electric light standards, 1911, frame the entrance of this building and were a gift of the graduating class of that year.

Emerson Building (1925): Built in 1925, as an addition to the Lyman Hall Laboratory of Chemistry through the use of funds generated by the Greater Georgia Tech Campaign of 1921, the Emerson Labs are named in honor of Dr. William Henry Emerson who served as head of the Department of Chemistry from 1888 until his death in November, 1924. As part of the school' original faculty Emerson constantly sought to bring better facilities to the school and this $100,000 structure provided a badly needed lecture hall and laboratories for both the Depart ments of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.

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Originally site of the "Shacks", two-story wood-sided buildings that had been used since the beginning of Georgia Tech as dormitories, the Emerson Building serves both to terminate the northeast corner of the old Tech campus and to further define the space created by encircling the centrally located Administration Building (1888). Emerson is also vital in preventing the adjacent, concrete and steel West Stands of Grant Field, a 58,000 seat stadium, from being considered a definite intrusion on the integrity of the historic district.

John Saylor Coon Mechanical Engineering Building (1911): Beaux-Arts Renaissance in style, the Mechanical Engineering Building, located at the corner of Ferst Drive and Cherry Street represents the first extension to Tech's original nine acre campus. Built with the aid of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce who raised $22,000 towards the total $178,000 cost of the entire facility, the building was erected in several stages. The first three of its five units were up by 1912; in August 1919 the legislature appropriated $100,000 for the remaining two units of which one was erected by 1920 while the other was not completed until 1938

John D. Rockefeller Y.M.C.A. Building: Donated by means of a $50,000 gift of John D. Rockefeller in February of 1910, the Rockefeller YMCA was built at a cost of $75,000 of which $25,000 was donated by friends of the school. Used today as a center for Architectural Research, this building is soon to be renovated for use as a National Alumni Headquarters. Like the Administration and no-longer extant Old Shop Buildings, this structure was designed by the firm of Morgan and Dillon, a carry-on of the old Atlanta architectural firm of Bruce and Morgan.

Georgia Tech has had far too many "firsts" and outstanding personages associated with engineering and engineering education to recount all of them here. One of the oldest radio stations in the U.S., WGST, founded in 1923 by the Honorable Clark Howell was a gift to Tech in that year. Georgia Tech was also one of the first six schools in the United States to establish and maintain a Naval ROTC program (founded 1926). Personalities associated with the school include such famous people as Bitsy Grant (tennis); Bobby Jones (golf); Ivan Allen, Jr. (politics; mayor of Atlanta); John Heisman (football coach); Charles Lane (humorist); Chip Roberts (Assistant United States Treasurer); and Y. Frank Freeman (Paramount Pictures magnate).

Thus, Georgia Tech is significant in the fields of architecture, education, engineering and science. It possesses the valuable resource of turn-of-the-century buildings which not only reflect the schools attitudes towards education at the time (straightforward and without adornment) but provide a sense of space and intimate enclosure that one seldom finds today. Within these historic structures, men both great and small, from Dr. Hopkins who presided over the school in 1888 as its first president to John Young who walked the moon in 1969, taught or were taught and each contributed significantly to the overall development of Georgia Tech. As a whole, the Old Campus reflects an attitude and a time and place that in itself is rare. This is attributable in part to the fact that the Old Campus has no serious intrusions within its boundaries and as a result allows one to explore a technological college campus of the late nineteenth century.

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Schuyler, Montgomery, "Architecture of American Colleges, VIII, The Southern Colleges", Architectural Record, Volume 30, 1911.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

labs to a line parallel with the western edge of Grant Field; proceed along this line to the northern edge of North Avenue at which point proceed east to a point opposite the eastern edge of the Old Rockefellar YMCA; at this point proceed south to the rear lot line of the YMCA. Proceed along rear lot line to the center line of the raodway on the West side of the YMCA. Proceed north along roadway to the Centerline of North Avenue. Proceed along centerline of North Avenue to intersection of centerline of Cherry Street to close.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Photographs ITEM NUMBER PAGE

The Historic District of Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Fulton County
Photographs by: David J. Kaminsky
Date: Summer, 1976
Negatives filed at: Department of Natural Resources

1. Whitehead Building, looking east.
2. Carnegie Building, looking north.
3. D. M. Smith Building, looking east.
4. Lyman Hall, looking north.
5. J. S. Coon Mechanical Engineering Building, looking northwest.
6. Rockefeller YMCA, looking southwest.
7. Administration Building, looking north.
8. Knowles Building, looking northeast.
9. A. French Building, looking northeast.
10. Savant Building and Swann Building, looking southwest.

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CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER PAGE

AMENDMENT
HISTORIC DISTRICT OF THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Following are the responses to the questions raised by the National Register office regarding the Historic District of the Georgia Institute of Technology. A new boundary/sketch map is attached.

1. The southeastern corner of the boundary should have been drawn as per the boundary description (see new map diagram attached). There is no significance to the landscaped area.

2. The area included within the boundary of the nominated district should be ten (10) acres. The land area of the Coon Mechanical Engineering Building and of the Rockefeller YMCA account for the acre added to the original 9-acre campus.

3. The map diagram submitted with the nomination form included marks enclosing buildings which were later dropped from consideration. Please see new map diagram attached.

4. Harrison Square is the landscaped area immediately west of the French Textile Building and is marked with an asterisk on the new map diagram attached.

Prepared By:

Martha Norwood
Historic Preservation Section
Department of Natural Resources
270 Washington Street, S. W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 656-2840

May 25, 1978

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

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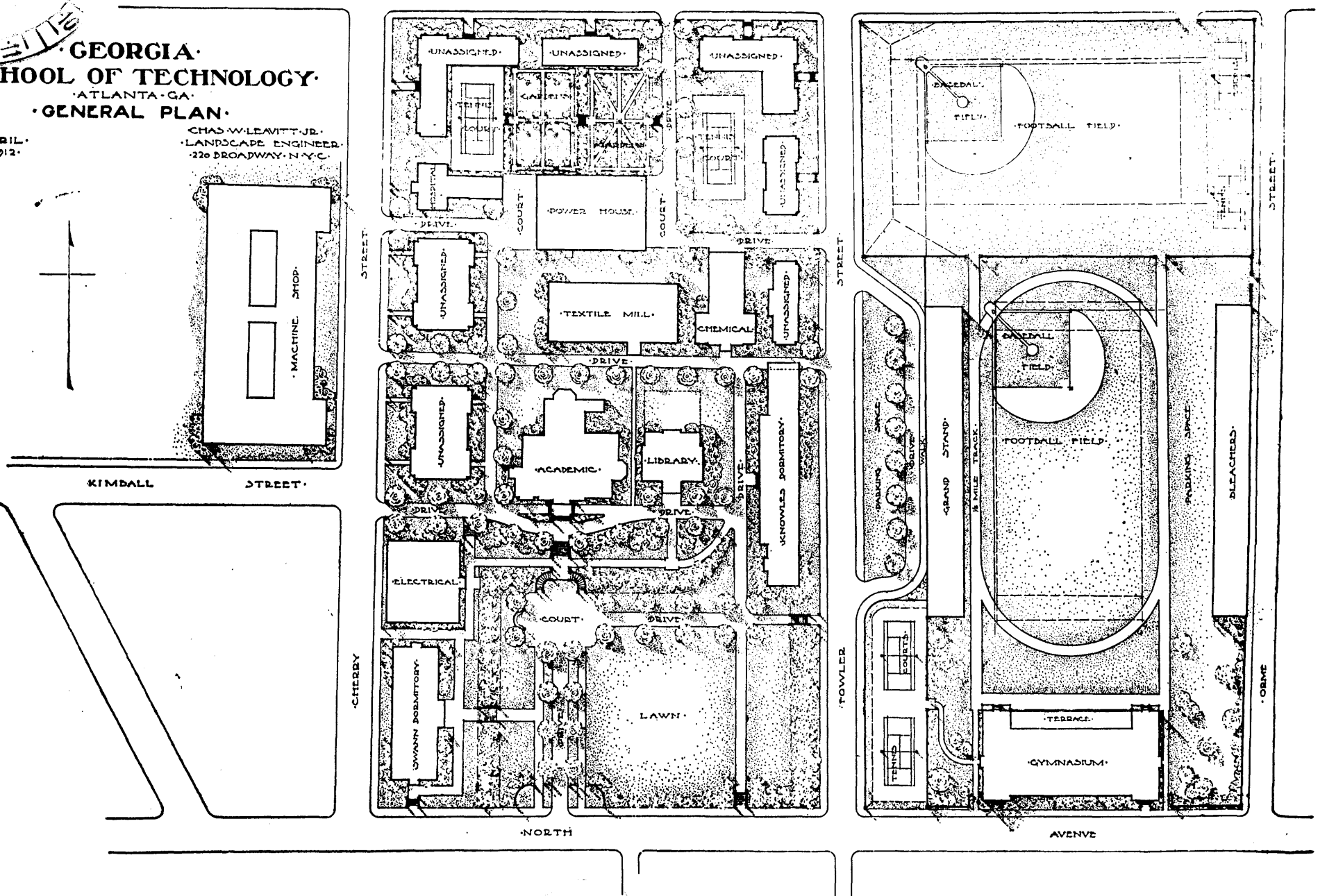
GEORGIA SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY

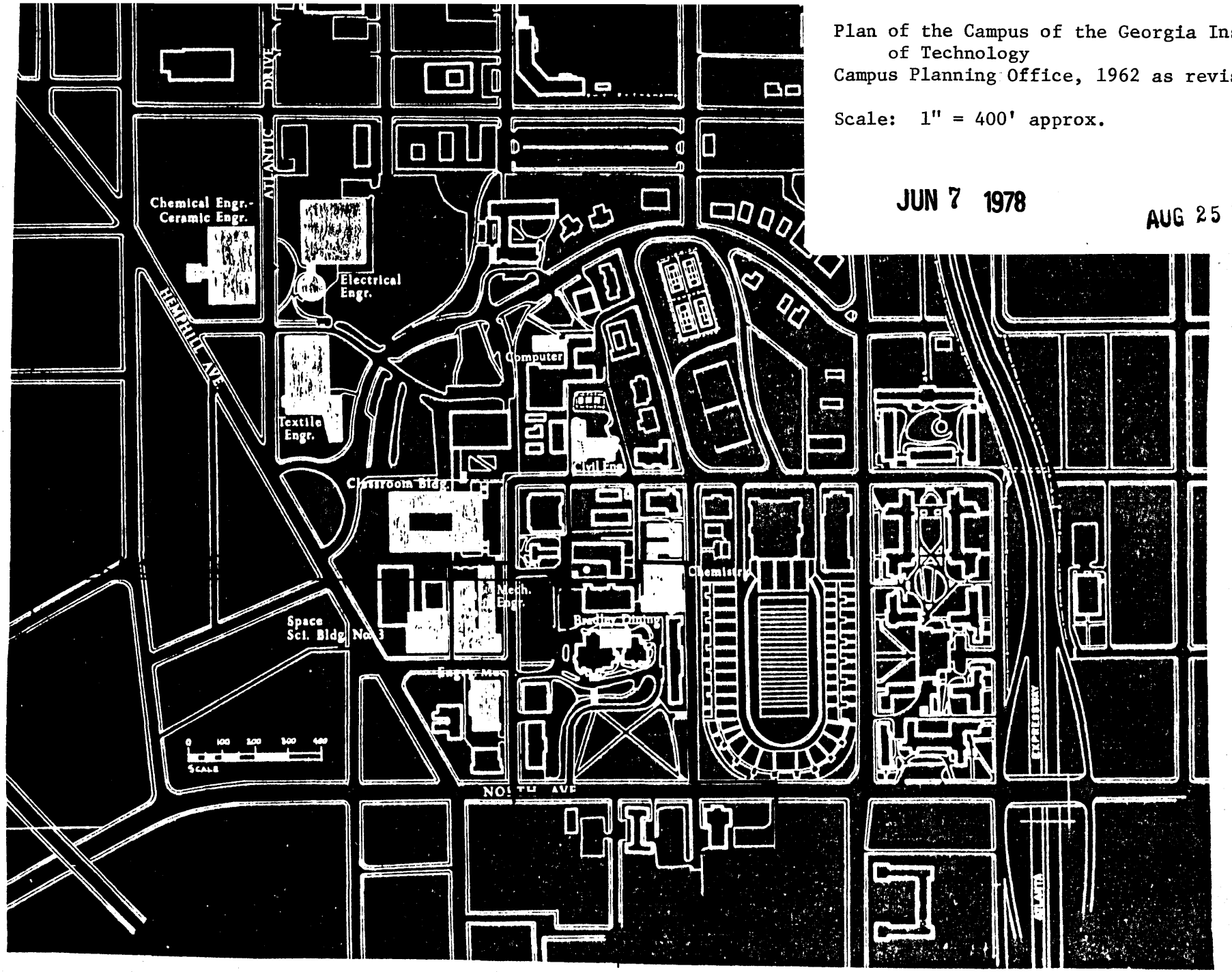
ATLANTA GA

GENERAL PLAN

APRIL 1912

CHAS W LEAVITT JR
LANDSCAPE ENGINEER
220 BROADWAY N Y C





Plan of the Campus of the Georgia Institute of Technology
Campus Planning Office, 1962 as revised

Scale: 1" = 400' approx.

JUN 7 1978

AUG 25 1978

GEORGIA TECH HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES ARE CENTERLINES OF STREETS AND ALLEYS (except east boundary, a portion of south boundary back of 14th and north boundary back of Chemistry Bldg.

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Plan of the Campus of the Georgia Institute
of Technology
Campus Planning Office, 1962 as revised

Scale: 1" = 400'

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