

PH0013056

3rd Congressional District

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Muscogee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.5.10.0003	DATE 5/13/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
(a) CSS Muscogee (b) CSS Chattahoochee (Confederate Naval Museum)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Fourth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Columbus

STATE Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: Muscogee	CODE 215
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<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 type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Georgia Historical Commission (State of Georgia)

STREET AND NUMBER:
116 Mitchell St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
(a) Secretary of State's Office, State of Georgia
(b) Georgia Historical Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
(a) Capital Square
(b) 116 Mitchell St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
Federal State County Local

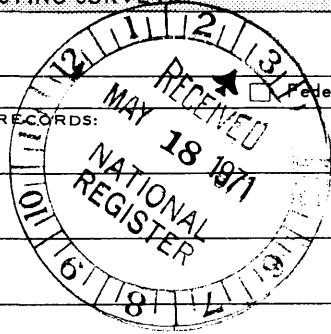
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Muscogee

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.5.10.0003

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Confederate Naval Museum is the repository of the remains of two gunboats constructed in Georgia during the War Between the States: the iron-clad Muscogee built at Columbus, and the wooden gunboat Chattahoochee constructed at Saffold, Early County, one hundred miles southward. Both gunboats were at the bottom of the Chattahoochee River from 1865 until they were raised in the 1960's. (Raised with them, and now displayed, were miscellaneous artifacts associated with each gunboat.)

ORIGINAL APPEARANCE:

Muscogee: Ironclad wood, approximately 200 feet long, twin propellers with four 7-inch and two 6.4-inch guns.

Chattahoochee: Contemporary accounts describe her as a wooden 130-foot, 3-masted, sail-rigged vessel of light draft, steam driven by double-propellers, and mounted with four broad-side and two pivot guns, one forward and one aft.

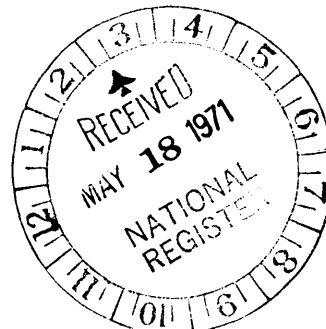
PRESENT APPEARANCE:

Muscogee: Basically what remains is 103 feet of the burned wooden stern and 74 feet of the mid-section. The fan-tail survives with some iron plating attached and the original twin propellers have been remounted.

Chattahoochee: A badly charred 32-foot section of stern with twin steam engines mounted.

After the gunboats were salvaged, the Commission commissioned Biggers, Scarbrough and Neal, AIA, of Columbus, to design a museum for displaying the hulks and related artifacts. Because this structure is not being nominated it will not be described but it should be noted here that the architects designed an imaginative and quite contemporary canopy for the salvaged gunboats.

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 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) 1862-1865 ; salvaged 1962 and 1964

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<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 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A large portion of the salvaged, iron-clad ram Muscogee, begun in mid-1862, is the prime exhibit of the Confederate Naval Museum. Designed as an armored, steampowered ram for coast defense and based on the prototype Virginia (or Merrimack), the Muscogee exemplified the type of vessel which was believed to be the most advantageous, both psychologically and tactically, in the guerrilla-type naval warfare the South was forced to wage. Although it was planned that she would defend the Chattahoochee and Apalachicola Rivers and eventually attack Lincoln's East Gulf Squadron, like her sister-ship the Chattahoochee, she saw only limited service.

Officially named the Jackson, she was fitted with a double propeller, was approximately 200 feet in length and was mounted with four 7-inch and 2 6.4-inch guns. Her potential threat to the East Gulf Squadron was never realized however, for in the spring of 1865 two weeks before her battery and armor were ready, General James H. Wilson's Federal raiders attacked Columbus destroying all war industries. The Muscogee's fate was described in the Union report: "When in flames the cables were parted and the gunboat, Muscogee alias Jackson, floated away." She sank 25 miles from Columbus in the river she was built to defend. A 103' stern section and a 74' mid-section are now on display at the museum, having been salvaged in 1962, one hundred years after she was begun.

Wilson's post-Appomattox raid also destroyed the Chattahoochee which had only recently been recovered from the river after an accidental explosion caused her to sink in 1863. First mentioned in 1861 and mounted in 1862 with four broadside and two pivot guns, this gunboat like the Muscogee saw only limited service. When the Federal attack came in April 1865, rather than being captured, the Chattahoochee was set aflame to sink into her namesake from which she had been salvaged only months before. A 32-foot section of her stern was recovered during salvage operations in 1964. Other distinguished artifacts recovered at that time were two steam engines, in excellent condition, the only known intact marine machinery from a Confederate vessel.

The recovery of the Muscogee and Chattahoochee represents a noble achievement. Volunteers, not professionals, accomplished a feat almost as amazing as the "miracle of improvisation" the Cotton Kingdom performed in attempting to fabricate a regular fleet of war vessels. For an agricultural people the attempt was not only resourceful but audacious. The South, never admitting limitations, made a heroic effort at building ships to defend her coastal waters and to keep her inland rivers open for navigation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files and Documents, Georgia Historical Commission.
 Kyle, Clason, "A Miracle of Improvisation," Columbus Ledger-Enquirer Magazine, January 11, 1970.
 William R. Mitchell, Jr., Personal Inspections.
 Naval History Division, Civil War Naval Chronology, 1861-1865. (Washington: Navy Department, 1971).
 Turner, Joel, "The Saga of the Muscogee," Georgia Magazine, Vol. VI, No. 5, (February-March 1963).

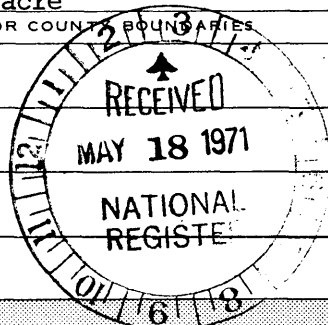
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		32 27 16	84 59 24	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO DATA
CX

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Ga. Historic Sites Survey
Nancy O'Hare
 ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: May 12, 1971
 STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., S.W.
 CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta 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 Jewett
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date May 12, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 9 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William J. Murty
 Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 12 1971