

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 04000242

Date Listed: April 2, 2004

Property Name: Wesleyan College Historic District

County: Bibb

State: Georgia

none  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for*   
Signature of the Keeper

April 2, 2004  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

Criteria Consideration G is hereby added to reflect the several buildings on the campus that have achieved significance within the past fifty years.

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The Georgia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

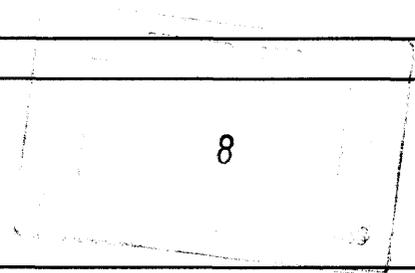
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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Wesleyan College Historic District  
other names/site number N/A



## 2. Location

street & number 4760 Forsyth Road  
city, town Macon (N/A) vicinity of  
county Bibb code 021  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31210

(N/A) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

### Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	22	6
sites	0	0
structures	3	2
objects	1	0
total	26	8

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A  
Name of previous listing: N/A  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Richard Cloves 2.12.04  
Signature of certifying official Date

for W. Ray Luce, Ph.D.  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Daniel J. Linn  
4/2/04

for \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

EDUCATION/college

### Current Functions:

EDUCATION/college

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Georgian Revival

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	brick, concrete
<b>walls</b>	brick, wood
<b>roof</b>	asphalt shingle
<b>other</b>	marble, wood, metal and concrete

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Wesleyan College Historic District consists of approximately 30 buildings, most of which are contributing. The 1928 historic campus is on the north side of Macon, in the suburban neighborhood of Rivoli, and the buildings are built in the Georgian Revival style with all of them bearing a similarity of design. The central, open, quadrangle parallels Forsyth Road. Around this quad can be found Tate and Taylor Halls (1928 classroom buildings), the Porter Gym (1928), the original Candler Library (1928), and the Porter Fine Arts Building (1955). Just to the northwest is a second, closed quadrangle that is the dormitory complex, which contains the Olive Swann Porter Building (1928), a large, 3-story, red-brick structure with a Mount Vernon-style portico. The Porter Building connects to the Persons Hall Dormitory (1928) via a loggia, and adjoining these two are Banks Hall and Wortham Hall, two additional dormitories, also 1928. Newer dormitories, just across a roadway, but in the same area, are Jones Hall (1959) and Hightower Hall (1963). The Willett Library (1968) sits near Forsyth Road across the entrance road from Tate Hall. Huckabee Hall (1957), the infirmary, sits between the dorms and the fine arts building. At the northernmost part of the campus, with a driveway to Forsyth Road, is Bradley House (1918), a private home purchased and added to the campus in 1954 to be the President's Home. Near there are three historic barns and one new barn connected by pathways to the stable and horse riding area with its riding ring and equestrian center, and the modern Mathews Athletic Center, both noncontributing. There are three historic houses along Tucker Road. The Murphey Art Building (1964) and the reconstructed Anderson Cabin are also on the campus, along with a modern 1998 noncontributing dorm and a 1998 noncontributing apartment building and new parking lots and 2001 gates on the southernmost corner of the campus at Forsyth and Tucker Roads. Historic 1936 entry gates are at the main entrance near Tate Hall.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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There is a historic sundial in front of the Porter Fine Arts Building. It was a gift of the Class of 1928. There is also Foster Lake created in 1949 in the middle of the campus, between the dormitory area and the sports complex area.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION:**

Wesleyan College is located in the suburban neighborhood of Rivoli, on the northern outskirts of Macon, Georgia. The Wesleyan College Historic District includes the entire 200 acre campus of the school. The core of the present campus was built between 1927 and 1928 as a new location for the school, founded in 1836 as Georgia Female College. The purchase of this site for a new campus represented the decision to move the school from central Macon when it outgrew its original downtown location.

The new campus was planned as a unified design from the beginning, and later additions to the school have continued to follow the original master plan. The resulting consistency of design throughout the campus makes this school an architectural delight. The park-like feel of the campus is obtained by the large grassy expanses of the central quadrangle, part of the original landscape plan by the Atlanta, Georgia, firm of J. Leon Hoffman. Massive live oaks line the quadrangle. Mature magnolias, Japanese maples, ginkgo, flowering quince, dogwood, tea olive and other species of hardwoods contribute to the overall design. Foundation plants include azaleas, boxwood and hollies. The arboretum at the back of the campus is a native hardwood forest with deer, rabbit, fox, raccoon, possum and many species of birds.

All the buildings within the confines of the college property were built from 1928 until 1968, when the last major buildings built to fill out the original 1928 plan were completed and are considered historic and contributing to this nomination. This includes a number of buildings which were acquired when donations and acquisitions of land and buildings expanded the original acreage of the college by almost a third in the 1950s. Three other buildings which date from the 1950s and three from the 1960s, while not yet 50 years old, were constructed closely following the 1928 campus master plan and are also considered to be contributing. The majority of the buildings that make up the Wesleyan College Historic District are Georgian Revival-style academic buildings surrounding the central quadrangle, which serves as the focal point of the campus and is the setting for major outdoor activities.

Approximately half the land included in the Wesleyan campus is a forest preserve/arboretum and remains undeveloped. The developed campus comprises the eastern half of the area and is located along the west side of Forsyth Road. Housing developments are located to the north and south of the college campus. The "core campus" is set in the southeast corner of the property. At the northern edge of the campus are a large lake, the sports complex, and another area which includes the riding ring and equestrian center and pastures. (Photos 30 and 31.) This section, along with the President's House just east of it, was donated to the college in 1954. (Photo 34.)

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The core campus is dominated by an open central quadrangle running northwest-southeast, with a smaller rectangular grassy area offset on the southwest side. Large trees line the central quadrangle. (Photos 5 and 6.) Classroom buildings are situated on the east side of this quadrangle; the former Candler Library (now the Alumnae Building) is on the northwest end. (Photo 3.) The Willett Library is located nearby, on the north corner of the quadrangle. (Photo 2.) The Porter Gymnasium is located on the southeast corner of the central quadrangle (photos 9 and 10), and two new buildings, a dormitory and an apartment building, both non-contributing, have been added at the south end. (Photo 8.) In the center of the grassy area on the west side of the central quadrangle is the Porter Fine Arts Building. (Photo 12.) A large multi-purpose building, the Olive Swann Porter Building, containing offices, reception rooms, and a dining hall is located at the western edge of the central quadrangle. (Photos 14 and 15.) Access to a second, enclosed quadrangle and the attached dormitories is through a loggia which dominates the east elevation of this building. (Photos 17 and 18.) A recent addition, the Mathews Athletic Center, is a sports center, located near the playing fields to the west of the original campus. (Photo 31.) Other newer buildings are sited west of the central quadrangle. The Anderson Log Cabin, reconstructed to replicate the original, is located in the wooded area to the southwest of the main campus. (Photo 29.)

The original campus, dating from 1928, is comprised of Porter Gymnasium, Taylor Hall, Banks Hall Dormitory, Wortham Hall Dormitory, the Olive Swann Porter Building, Tate Hall, Persons Hall Dormitory, the Candler Library Building, and the Physical Plant which includes the boiler house, maintenance shop and laundry. Each will be discussed in more detail below. All of the red brick buildings are constructed in the Georgian Revival style popular with academic institutions in the 1920s. Overall, the historic core of the campus retains the look and feel of a college, centered on the landscaped open central quadrangle.

Just after the original buildings of the campus were completed, the Great Depression hit the country in 1929 and created uncertain economic times, which greatly affected private colleges. It was not until 1955-1956 that expansion of the school justified further construction. Three additional buildings were built then, following the original master plan, and expansion of the college has continued steadily since. Those added in the 1950s are Porter Fine Arts (1955), Huckabee Hall (1957), and Jones Hall (1959). See below for more details.

The last building program, which completed the 1928 plan, consisted of the completion of Hightower Hall and the new Physical Plant in 1963, the Murphey Art Building in 1964, and the Willett Library in 1968. See below for more details.

Only minor exterior changes have been made to some of the buildings. An Americans with Disabilities Act ramp was installed on Persons Hall Dormitory; steps were added to the rear of the Candler Library/ Alumnae Building; and a fire escape and elevator were added to Taylor Hall.

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**DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDINGS:**

Facing the central quadrangle are the following buildings:

The **Porter Gymnasium** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photos 9, 10 and 11) is a two-story red brick Georgian Revival-style structure with gable roof adorned with cupola and weathervane. The building was named for James H. Porter, of Macon, a trustee and benefactor of the college. The weathervane features girls in basketball attire. The gymnasium houses a swimming pool on the lower level and large gym space on the main level. Windows on the north facade of the second floor are large multi-light arched windows with wood surrounds. Glass block windows are located on the south facade. Four small dormer windows protrude from the upper story. The lower story windows are small rectangular multi-light windows. Small, saddlebag structures that house classrooms and a small gym are located on either end of the building. The trim is marble throughout the building.

**Taylor Hall** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photos 6 and 7) is a red brick two-story Georgian building with a gable roof. Taylor Hall was built as a classroom building. It still maintains that function today, housing classrooms, laboratories and offices. The building was named for Robert Jenks Taylor, of Macon, a trustee and benefactor of the college. The central portion of the main facade is recessed about five feet from the side wings. The side wings have five wood multi-light windows on each floor. The center of the gable is pierced by a half-lunette. A double wood multi-light entry door with multi-light transom is located in the center of the building. There are seven wood multi-light windows on each floor in the central portion of the building. The steps and window and door surrounds are marble. Keystone details over the windows provide ornamentation.

**Tate Hall** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photo 5) is a mirror image of Taylor Hall. Built for classrooms, Tate still serves that purpose today, along with administration functions. Tate Hall was named for Colonel Sam Tate, a trustee and benefactor of the college. Colonel Tate was from Tate, in north Georgia, a town noted for the Tate Marble quarry owned by he and his family.

The **Candler Library Building** (1928, designed by Philip Shutze) (photos 3 and 4) housed the library until 1968 when the Willet Library was constructed. The two-story Candler Building has a portico with four Ionic columns. Curving stairs on either side provide entry to the upper story main level. The lower level of the portico has three arches; a doorway through the central one accesses the lower level. A concrete stringcourse and keystones over the windows provide additional decorative elements. Today the building is used as the Alumnae Center. The original reading rooms on the upper floor are now used for receptions. The building was given by Judge John Slaughter Candler of Atlanta and named in memory of his parents, Samuel and Martha Beall Candler.

The **Olive Swann Porter Building** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photos 14 and 15 ) is a large red brick three-story structure whose main feature is the Mount Vernon portico on the southeast facade. This portico, which was built as an exact replica of the portico at George Washington's home in Virginia, has two-story square columns, large arched windows on the second floor, and smaller window and door openings on the first floor. The northeast facade of the building has a smaller

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portico. Windows on this facade are rectangular wood, multi-light, with keystone ornamentation. The Olive Swann Porter Building continues to house admissions functions, a small chapel, and the Anderson dining hall. The building was given to the college by a trustee, James Hyde Porter, and named for his wife, Olive Swann Porter, of Macon.

This building connects to Persons Hall Dormitory via a loggia on the northeast facade, which is the other main feature of the building. The Palladian-style opening through the center of this wing of the Olive Swann Porter Building is known as the loggia. A metal railing and metal staircase lead to the lower level from the loggia. There is a large broken pediment over the loggia entrance. The windows on the lower level have a keystone detail above the windows. The columns, stairs, and trim are marble.

**Persons Hall Dormitory** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photo 15) is connected by the loggia on the northeast side of the Olive Swann Porter Building. A first-floor date parlor and reception area were originally entered through the loggia. All dates were received and students signed out in that area. Built as a dormitory, Persons is still used as such. The main entrance of this red brick Georgian Revival-style building has a two-story portico with gable roof. From the side, the three stories of the building can be seen. The only detail on the sides is the keystone motif over most of the windows and the broken pediment at the front of the building. All trim is marble. The building was given to the college by Robert and Ogden Persons of Forsyth, Georgia, and named in memory of their mother, Mary Barry Persons (Class of 1869).

Adjoining the Olive Swann Porter Building and Persons Hall Dormitory are Banks Hall and Wortham Hall Dormitories which form the enclosed quadrangle.

**Banks Hall Dormitory** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photos 17, 18 and 19) is a three-story red brick Georgian Revival-style building with a two-level portico on the southeast facade. The lower level of the portico is accessed through a series of arches. The rest of the portico is two-story with a triangular pediment and square columns. Keystone details over the windows and doors provide ornamentation. The windows are six-over-six, wood multi-light windows. The southwest corner of the building has an arched portico entryway. Built as a dormitory, it is still used as such today. Banks Hall Dormitory was named for William Nathaniel and Mary Evelyn Wright Banks (Class of 1914), trustees and benefactors, of Grantville, Georgia.

**Wortham Hall Dormitory** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photos 20 and 21) is the mirror image of Banks Hall Dormitory. It also continues in use as a dorm. The building was given to the college by Nettie Dunlap Wortham (Class of 1875), trustee and benefactor, of Macon.

The original **Physical Plant** (1928, designed by Walker & Weeks) (photo 25), which is located behind the gymnasium, included a boiler house with smokestack, a laundry, and the maintenance shop. The laundry building is a red brick one-story structure with gable roof. The laundry is currently being used as a workshop and for storage. Windows are metal multi-light. The brick boiler house is a rectangular structure with a small brick addition completed in 1945. A large expanse of multi-light

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windows faces south. The building is currently used for storage.

The original campus plan included several other buildings that were not constructed in 1928. Three of these buildings were built in the 1950s during a time of school expansion and are considered as contributing to the historic district. These three buildings are the Porter Fine Arts Building, Huckabee Hall, and Jones Hall Dormitory.

The **Porter Fine Arts Building** (photos 12 and 13) was built next to the gymnasium in 1955-1956. Porter Fine Arts was designed by W. Elliott Dunwody, a Macon architect whose firm, Dunwody & Oliphant, had been involved as associate architects during the original construction program. Dunwody adhered to the original architectural design for this building. The simple Georgian Revival-style red brick building has a two-story portico with unbroken pediment. Five wooden doors, the central one with a pediment, permit entry into the lobby. Designed to be used for music and theater, it is still used as such today. The auditorium was renovated in 1980, and sound absorbing material was removed for better acoustics. New paint and carpet were also added. The building was named for members of the Porter family, of Macon, benefactors of the college.

In front of the Porter Fine Arts Building is a historic sundial donated by the class of 1928, the last class to graduate at the old campus. (Photo 13.)

**Huckabee Hall** (photo 22), also designed by Dunwody, was constructed in 1957 as the infirmary, and is still used as such today. This simple one-story red brick Georgian Revival-style building has multi-light windows and a central door with fanlight. A portico with Ionic columns shelters the entrance. There have been no major changes to the interior of the building. Huckabee Hall was given to the college by Leo B. Huckabee, of Macon, a college benefactor and trustee, in memory of his parents, William Allen Huckabee and Hassie Charlotte Townsend Huckabee.

**Jones Hall Dormitory** (photo 24), designed by Dunwody and constructed in 1959, also followed the original architectural design, although its location within the campus was slightly changed from the original plan. Jones is a three-story red brick Georgian Revival-style building with two-story portico over the first floor arched entry. Windows are multi-light with no ornamentation on the front. The back of the building has wings with pierced pediments and decorative concrete panels. The rear entry is a white two-story wood entry with Ionic columns and fanlight over the door. Built as a dormitory, it is still used as such. There have been no major changes to the interior of the building. The building was named for C. Baxter Jones and Carolyn Cater Jones (Class of 1917), of Macon. Mr. Jones was a trustee of the college, as well as the college attorney.

In the last major building program in which the buildings are considered historic, and which rounded out the original campus plan, three other buildings were built. These include the Hightower Hall Dormitory, the Willett Library, and the Murphey Art Building.

**Hightower Hall Dormitory** (photos 22 and 23), built in 1963, was designed by Dunwody, and resembles the Jones Hall Dormitory of only a few years earlier. It is a three-story with raised

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basement, red brick, Georgian Revival-style building. It has a loggia for its entrance. Hightower was named in honor of Julian Hightower and Grace Laramore Hightower (Class of 1920), of Thomaston, Georgia. Mrs. Hightower was a trustee, and both were benefactors.

The **Murphey Art Building** (photo 28). This building was built in 1964 and designed by Dunwody. It is a one-story, red brick building reminiscent of an English Georgian-style orangery. It has four elaborate pilasters with three round-arched windows under a blank "entablature." It was named in honor of Valeria McCullough Murphey (Class of 1948), of Macon. She was the first woman and first alumna to chair the Board of Trustees and was also a benefactor

The **Willet Library** (photo 2), was designed by the Macon architectural firm of Dunwody & Associates, completed in 1968 and opened in 1969 to be the campus library, replacing the Candler Library. The Willett Library is a two-story with a high basement, Georgian Revival-style building, with the northeast entrance on the second floor via an elaborate divided or double staircase with decorative railing. The entry door at the top of the stair contains an elaborate entrance doorway with a mock balcony above. The northeast facade has paired pilasters. Willett named in honor of Lucy Lester Willet (Class of 1881), of Atlanta, and given by her son, Lawrence Willet, of Atlanta.

Other contributing buildings, which were not part of the original campus, include:

The **Bradley House** (photo 34), used as the President's home today, was built in 1918 for George and Annie Robertson Kinnett, founders of Kinnett Dairy. The architect is unknown. The two-story brick home features a well-balanced facade with a sunporch on one side and a porte-cochere on the other. The front porch is capped by a wood balustrade. Minor changes to the home, including updating the kitchen and bathrooms, have occurred over the years. A small den was also added on the back of the house. Overall, the house retains its original Colonial Revival design. The house is named for the W. C. Bradley Foundation of Columbus. The Foundation purchased the property and then donated the 66-acre property on which the house, riding ring, and equestrian center is sited to the college in 1954.

There are three **Old Barns** (photos 32 and 33) that are associated with the Bradley House. They are constructed of hollow core tile, painted yellow. Built c.1918, two of these simple structures were originally used as chicken houses and the third as a barn. Today they are used for storing feed and equipment for the horses.

The three **Knox Houses** (photo 27), built in the 1940s, are small one-story frame buildings, painted white. They were originally used for faculty housing. The three houses, each approximately 1,000 square feet, are located on the southeast side of the campus and face Tucker Road. They were given to the college in 1952 by the Knox family who built them as part of a development project. Today they house a day care center, a senior citizens' center, and an artist's studio. There have been no major changes to the buildings.

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There are historic **main entrance gates** near the Willett Library that were added in 1936. They were placed by Phi Mu sorority in honor of the college's centennial as an institution that year. (Photo 1.)

Non-contributing buildings and structures within the boundaries of the historic district were built later than the cut-off period of 1968 when the original campus plan was completed and are thus not considered historic or contributing. Most represent a very recent phase of campus development.

They are the following:

**Corn Hall** and the **South Apartments** (photo 8) were built in 1998 following the same Georgian Revival-style design in use throughout the campus. The **Mathews Athletic Complex** (photos 30, 31 and 32) was completed in 1999. The **Anderson Cabin** (photo 29), located in the arboretum, is a reconstructed replica of the original cabin. There is also a **New Barn** (photo 31, far right) near the old barns, and a **New Physical Plant**. (Not photographed.)

There were a set of new **secondary entrance gates**, at the south entrance off Forsyth Road, near Taylor Hall, dedicated in 2001, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the two sororities there that became Phi Mu and Alpha Delta Pi. The names of the two sororities are on the left brick post, and the name of the college on the right one. (Photograph 7.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**  N/A

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

Architecture  
Community Planning and Development  
Education (within the larger context of women's history in Georgia)  
Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance:**

1928-1968

**Significant Dates:**

1928 - Occupation of campus on Forsyth Road; oldest buildings constructed  
1954 - Bradley Foundation donates 66 acres, including the 1918 Kinnett/Bradley House (President's House)  
1968 - completion of Willett Library, last building in the original campus plan

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Walker & Weeks, of Cleveland, Ohio, with Dunwody & Oliphant of Macon, Georgia, as associate architects. Principals: Frank E. Walker (1877-1949) and Harry E. Weeks (1871-1935).

1928-Banks Hall Dormitory  
1928-Olive Swann Porter Building  
1928-Persons Hall Dormitory  
1928-Physical Plant  
1928-Porter Gymnasium  
1928-Tate Hall  
1928-Taylor Hall  
1928-Wortham Hall Dormitory

Philip T. Shutze, of Atlanta, Georgia:  
1928-Candler Library Building

J. Leon Hoffman Company, of Atlanta, Georgia:  
1928-Landscape design

W. Elliott Dunwody, of Macon, Georgia:  
1956-Porter Fine Arts  
1957-Huckabee Hall  
1959-Jones Hall Dormitory  
1963-Hightower Hall Dormitory  
1968-Willet Library

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Wesleyan College Historic District is significant in architecture because the campus was designed by the firm of Walker and Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio, and retains all the original buildings built based on the 1928 campus master plan. Frank E. Walker (1877-1949) and Harry E. Weeks (1871-1935) were Massachusetts natives and MIT graduates who joined the Cleveland, Ohio firm of J. Milton Dyer in 1905. They established their own architectural practice, Walker & Weeks, in 1911. The firm, which was Cleveland's foremost architectural firm in the 1920s, specialized in bank buildings, constructing more than 60 throughout Ohio. They did other buildings in Georgia, including the Melhana Plantation in Thomasville, and the Tate House in Pickens County. The Wesleyan buildings are good examples of the use of the Georgian Revival style for a college campus, with the use of red brick, stone, and cast concrete elements of the style. The use of the same style for all the major buildings resulted in a visually unified campus. The buildings are unified around a central quadrangle that is the open focal point of the campus, with an adjacent, enclosed quadrangle, the focal point of the dormitory area. Both quadrangle forms have their roots in earlier European campus planning. The master plan for the 1928 campus on the outskirts of Macon reflected prevailing campus designs and was tied together through its unified architecture. The original Candler Library (1928) is significant as a work of Philip T. Shutze (1890-1982) of Atlanta and contains a magnificent second floor reading room now used for events. Several of the later buildings are significant as the works of Macon architect W. Elliott Dunwoody (1893-1986), including the Porter Fine Arts Building (1955), Huckabee Hall (1957) built as the infirmary, the Jones (1959) and Hightower (1963) dormitories, the Murphey Art Building (1964) and the co-design of the Willet Library (1968).

The campus is significant in the area of landscape architecture for its well-planned site and well-maintained plantings. Designed in 1928 by the Atlanta landscape firm of J. Leon Hoffman (1889-1982) and Company, the original landscaping plan was developed along with the architectural master plan by Walker and Weeks, and the two were intended to complement each other. Hoffman, a pupil of the great American landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted, designed many gardens, grounds and other developments throughout his long career. Early in his career, he supervised Olmsted's work on the Biltmore House in Asheville, North Carolina, and the Druid Hills suburb in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1915. His work took him to many parts of the country including Florida, Texas and California. In Georgia his work included designs at Callaway Gardens near Pine Mountain; Avondale Estates, Morningside, and Garden Hills, all subdivisions in Atlanta; and Shirley Hills, Ingleside, Forsyth Circle, Stanislaus Circle, and Callaway Terrace in Macon. He often featured the Wesleyan plan in his catalog. The Wesleyan landscape plan emphasized the academic, secluded nature of a college campus in a pleasant setting, with all the buildings laid out around an academic quadrangle and then juxtapositioned with a residential quadrangle. The trees planted throughout the campus at appropriate locations helped pull all the aspects of this plan together. Overall, the planned landscape at Wesleyan College is among the most intact examples of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century campus landscaping in Georgia.

An area just north of the present library, consisting of a grove of cherry trees, was designed by noted Macon architect Ellamae Ellis League, who attended Wesleyan College. Early in her career as an

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architect, League worked for the architectural firm Dunwody & Oliphant, associate architects for the initial construction of the campus. League, who practiced as an independent architect in Macon for more than forty years, was the first female Fellow of the American Institute of Architects from Georgia.

The Wesleyan campus is significant in the area of community planning and development for its master plan by Walker and Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio, which was developed in the 1920s, specifically for this site, and has been followed closely in later development of the campus including the buildings built in the 1950s and 1960s. The trustees purchased the land for the college once it became clear that a new larger campus was needed, selected an architectural firm to prepare a plan for the campus, and adhered to the plan in later development. It represents the era in which men's, women's and co-educational schools were moving to "more healthful" suburban locations, and the planned campus became the norm. Because it has remained true to the original plan, the campus serves as a fine physical example of this aspect of college planning. The plan for Wesleyan included two styles of quadrangle design, the open and the enclosed. The Wesleyan campus core is a large open central quadrangle, a form whose history dates to the mid-sixteenth century in Cambridge, England where it was first used as a health measure. The shape of the enclosed quadrangle, which forms the dormitory area behind the Olive Swann Porter Building, dates to medieval times when such a setting was viewed as a protection or line of defense. The enclosed quadrangle was also influenced by the layout of many monasteries where so much learning had been preserved, and whose design therefore became associated with education. This cloistered world remained the traditional seat of learning until modern times. At Wesleyan, the dormitories and administrative functions are located in the enclosed quadrangle area. The setting of buildings around a central quadrangle was viewed as the ideal for American campuses and was widely adopted. Overall, the Wesleyan campus is among the most extensive and intact early 20<sup>th</sup>-century planned campuses in Georgia with little if any incompatible new development or intrusive parking lots that characterize many other college campuses.

The campus is also significant in education, and within the broader historic context of women's history in Georgia, for being an important Methodist-supported women's college, carrying on the tradition of college-level education for women at this new campus. The institution, Wesleyan College, was founded in 1836 as a college for the higher education of women. It was chartered by the State of Georgia in 1836 to grant college degrees to women. Due to the persistence of local Macon citizens and their religious convictions regarding the value of higher education, the college was brought into existence in Georgia before the Civil War, at a time when most people thought that women had no need to be educated. Macon was chosen as the site due to its central location within the state. The school opened in downtown Macon in 1838 and awarded its first degrees in 1840 to students who had transferred from nearby Clinton Academy. The diploma awarded to Catherine Brewer Benson, the first graduate, in 1840 stated: "... embracing all the Sciences which are usually taught in the Colleges of the United States, with such as appropriately belong in its most ample range...." The current campus, laid out in 1928, continued the strong tradition of women's education in a four-year college and was supported by the Methodist church. It has remained throughout the historic period a woman's liberal arts college. A nationally recognized college, Wesleyan's longevity attests to its

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strength and significance in the realm of women's higher education. Wesleyan has remained at the forefront of women's education by continuing its focus on the liberal arts and especially the sciences. It is one of only 52 women's colleges in the country today; in 1960 there were 259.

**National Register Criteria**

This nomination meets National Register Criterion A because the Wesleyan College Historic District falls within the broad patterns of American History in the areas of women's education as a center for women's education on this campus since 1928. It is one of only a few private women's colleges remaining in Georgia. The nomination meets National Register Criterion C because the majority of the buildings are good examples of the Georgian Revival style that presented the collegiate look in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and retain their original details. The original campus plan and buildings were designed by well-known Cleveland, Ohio architects Walker & Weeks. All of these buildings retain their classical details in the columns, porticos, and arches of their original design. Campus planning and development, with specific attention to landscape details, make this campus a fine example of a new campus of the 1920s. It meets this criterion also for the work of Philip T. Shutze in the design of the Candler Library Building, also 1928, and his use of classical detailing on the interior.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

Criterion Consideration G does not apply to this historic district nomination even though the period of significance extends to 1968. The district encompasses a historic college campus that was planned and largely developed according to the plan more than 50 years ago. The great majority of the contributing buildings comprising the historic district—22 of 28, or 79%—were built more than 50 years ago. The six remaining contributing buildings are integral parts of the historic district, and they conform to the overall historic plan for the campus in terms of their function, placement, size, massing and arrangement, architectural style, and building materials. They represent the completion of the campus as it was planned in the 1920s. Virtually no building took place on campus for 30 years following the extended completion of the original building campaign. Recently constructed buildings dating from the late 1990s are compatible with the historic campus but were not envisioned as part of the original plan.

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**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance dates from 1928, the year the Rivoli campus opened, until 1968 with the completion of the Willett Library. Because the Willett Library and other buildings built between 1954 and 1968 completed and rounded out the original 1928 campus plan by Walker and Weeks, it was felt important to extend the period of significance to include these buildings. All of the major buildings built from 1928 to 1968 are in the original Georgian Revival style and conform to the original campus plan. Together, they continue and complete the look of the campus, the unified look intended by the original architects and campus planners, Walker and Weeks, of Cleveland, Ohio.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

**Contributing:**

Buildings:

22: Banks Hall Dormitory, Bradley Barns (3), Bradley House, Candler Library Building, Hightower Hall Dormitory, Huckabee Hall, Jones Hall Dormitory, Knox Buildings (3), Murphey Art Building, Persons Hall Dormitory, Olive Swann Porter Building, Physical Plant, Porter Fine Arts, Porter Gymnasium, Tate Hall, Taylor Hall, Willet Library, Wortham Hall Dormitory

Structures:

3: The campus plan, Foster Lake (1949), original 1936 gates,

Objects:

1 The Sundial in front of Porter Fine Arts Building.

**Non-Contributing:**

Buildings:

6: Anderson Cabin, Corn Hall Dormitory, Mathews Athletic Center, New Barn, New Physical Plant, South Apartments,

Structures:

2: The riding ring/ equestrian center and the new 2001 gates.

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**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

Introductory Notes

The Wesleyan College Historic District consists entirely of the 1928 campus and its additions. The heritage of the institution goes back nearly a century earlier with its incorporation in 1836 as the Georgia Female College and with the college's long association as the oldest women's college in the United States, if not the world. Due to the fact that none of the buildings on the present campus nor the land dates back to the earlier campus, no claim is made in this nomination or in this essay to that history as far as the significance of this district goes. But it is important in setting the context for the present nomination at the present campus to note the important history of the institution and how it started out as a college, rather than growing from a seminary or academy as did so many other future women's colleges. It is also important to point out not just the survival of this institution but also its growth, against the many odds that faced other women's institutions, which put it in the position of needing a new, larger campus, as Wesleyan did, in the 1920s.

Because in this nomination we are not claiming significance for the school's history from 1836 to 1928, no attempt is being made here to verify through outside sources, although none is known to refute or supercede the statement, that the Georgia Female College/Wesleyan College was chartered as the first degree-granting college for women in the United States and perhaps in the world. The college's current literature states: "Chartered in 1836, Wesleyan was the very first college in the world to grant degrees to women" and "First for Women." While many institutions claim an earlier date, research of their promotional literature on the Internet points to their origins as a seminary or lower level institution rather than beginning as a college, as did Wesleyan. Wesleyan's creation, as the Georgia Female College, as will be shown below, was the culmination of a growing interest by Georgia leaders for over a decade in creating an institution of higher learning for women to be equal to the University of Georgia, the state-supported college for men. At Wesleyan's centennial commemorative events in 1936, the President of Vassar College, in New York, Henry N. MacCracken, declared: "I am here in behalf of woman's colleges to affirm that Wesleyan is the first college for women. I am glad to pay honor to the Magna Charta of education for women." (quoted in Akers, 1976, p. 157.)

History of Wesleyan College

(NOTE: The following historical narrative was researched and written by Wesleyan College's consultant, Ray and Associates, with minor additions and edits by Historic Preservation Division staff.)

Founding the College

Wesleyan College was chartered by the State of Georgia on December 23, 1836 as the Georgia

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Female College, through the efforts of Macon citizens and the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. It was later asserted to be the first college in the world chartered to grant degrees to women. The college was declared a United Methodist Church Historical Landmark in 1992.

In Georgia, a growing interest in education in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, fueled by Revolutionary War idealism, spurred creation of academies to educate the state's children. At the grammar school level, academies, primarily built for the education of boys, emphasized the arts and sciences, as well as the classics for college preparation. Some were coeducational; others were founded and operated by women as female academies. However, there was no college to receive these female graduates. In 1829 there were 90 academies in the state, by 1850 there were 219. While the original plans for what became Georgia Female College, were for a seminary, the Reverend Elijah Sinclair's proposal for a college won out instead. The term "seminary" was commonly used at the time to refer to a post-grammar school; however, a seminary did not confer degrees.

The Honorable Duncan G. Campbell (1787-1828), a lawyer, a one-time principal of a female academy in Wilkes County, and later a state legislator from Wilkes County, first introduced the idea of a public institution of higher learning for women to the Georgia Legislature in November of 1825. His goal was to establish an institution for women that would equal that for men. The measure introduced by Campbell passed the State House of Representatives but was rejected by the State Senate. The idea was revived again by his son-in-law, the Honorable Daniel Chandler, in 1834 in his commencement address at the University of Georgia. When the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Church convened in January of 1835 in Macon, the idea of establishing a woman's college was introduced. With the interest of Macon citizens, a committee was appointed in June of that year to report to the Georgia Conference on their proposal for such an institution. On January 13, 1836, the Georgia Conference voted to accept the Georgia Female College and approved plans for Emory College for men in Oxford, Georgia, the same day. This was reported in Macon's *Georgia Messenger* that same month, on January 21, 1836. The article stated that the conference, the governing body of the Methodist church in Georgia, "by a unanimous vote, we understand, has taken this Institution under its fostering care and appointed the following gentlemen as trustees." The men named included Bishop Andrews, Lovick Pierce, Ignatius A. Few (who would also be the first president of Emory), and several important local Macon men. Thus from the beginning, the school was tied to the Methodist church and to Macon. Only a few issues later the appointment of a building committee was announced. The newspaper also contained announcements during that year of the creation of numerous academies and seminaries but no other colleges.

In Georgia, colleges for men had been established as early as 1785. Most schools and colleges in Georgia and the rest of the country at the time were affiliated with a religious institution. Only a few were supported by individuals or state government. Many of the conservative citizens of Georgia perceived no need to educate women. However, fueled primarily by religious zeal, and a need for more women to be trained as teachers, the educators won.

Once approval for the college was granted, Dr. George Foster Pierce, a Methodist minister who became the first president of the college, traveled with others around the state soliciting money to

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build the college buildings. Frontier conditions existed throughout much of the state. Travel and communication were slow. Roads were poor, and the railroads were only beginning to be built. Steamboats were a favored means of transportation, with four regularly docking on the Ocmulgee River at Macon. Macon, founded in 1823, was a small town surrounded by farmland. Macon was viewed as an ideal site for the college because of its central location within the state and because of its position as the boundary between the old and new territories of the state. Milledgeville was the state capital; Atlanta was just being settled as the railroad workers' community of Terminus.

Most women in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century were either illiterate or received a very basic schooling, possibly at home under a tutor or at a nearby academy, which was usually both sexually and racially segregated. Some of these Georgia academies had received land grants from the state; others were private institutions. Classes taught were different for each sex. Boys studied the classics and math; girls studied English, writing, and math. Their education was considered inferior to the boys, even at the time. Often boys were sent out of state to finish their education; girls usually stayed home.

Some of the female academies in Georgia were Monticello Female Academy, LaGrange Female Academy, and Mount Salubrity near Augusta; there were also academies in Milledgeville, Sparta and Washington. The curriculum for girls was justified by the need to mold their morality, character, and heart. While schooling was considered necessary to increase a girl's social status, it did not increase her economic status. Generally, at that time, only marriage could do that. Seminaries, really a finishing school intended for the upper classes, provided the only opportunity for any higher education for women. Having no other model, colleges in the United States would build their foundation upon these seminaries, many of which later evolved into colleges.

At the time of Wesleyan's founding in 1836, only one other college in the world granted degrees to women - that was a school in Brazil. Great Britain did not have a women's college until Girton College was founded at Cambridge in 1869. Oberlin College in Ohio was the first college to admit both women and blacks to its programs in 1833. However, the education of women at Oberlin was not equal to the men's education. Most of the women were tracked through a special course of study designed with women in mind.

Before the Civil War (1861-1865), there were a small number of colleges in the United States that granted four-year degrees to women, most of which developed from academies or seminaries. They were Oxford Female College in Ohio (1852), Illinois Conference Female College (1854), and Ingham University in New York in 1857. Besides Wesleyan, schools that were founded as women's colleges before the Civil War were Mary Sharp College in Tennessee (1850), Elmira College (1855), and Vassar (1861).

Not until after the Civil War did the majority of women's schools or seminaries become colleges, including Wells (1868), Smith (1871), Wellesley (1875), Mt. Holyoke (1888), Barnard (1889), Converse (1890), Randolph Macon (1891), Radcliffe (1894), Sweet Briar (1901), and Hollins (1911).

The course of study at Wesleyan, as at other women's colleges, was not initially equal to that of men.

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The entrance requirements were not as stringent, otherwise there would have been few candidates for admission in the early years of higher education for women. As acceptance of the idea of educating women gained ground, so did the level of education that was given them.

Numerous other women's "colleges" in Georgia followed throughout the decades preceding the Civil War - Greensboro Female College, Monroe Female Collegiate Institute, Georgia Female College at Scottsboro, Lutheran Female Institute, Rome Female College, Woodland Female College, and Madison Female College. The term "college" was used loosely in the South. Most of these colleges were not boarding schools, but rather served their surrounding areas. They were largely different in name only from the academies. The education of women in Georgia and the South for the most part remained conservative in nature, adhering to tradition to keep women in the place which God intended.

### The College Begins

Two years after receiving its charter, Georgia Female College (Wesleyan) opened in December 1838 in downtown Macon on Encampment Hill, housed in a Greek Revival structure. The building that housed the school was a two-story Greek Revival-style building with cupola, constructed by Elam Alexander in 1836-1838. The Greek Revival style was commonly used for all types of schools in the late antebellum period. [This building is no longer extant.]

Ninety young women enrolled the first day and by the end of the first term in July 1839 there were 168 women. The original course of study included English, French, history, mathematics, science, philosophy, and Bible study. In contrast to the men's course of study, there were no Greek and Latin requirements; however, those languages, in addition to Spanish and Italian, were optional. The emphasis on science by the faculty appears to have been very forward-thinking. The study of French was also considered a departure from normal courses of study in college, either men's or women's. The school granted its first degrees in 1840 to students who had transferred from Clinton Academy. The first woman to receive her degree, by virtue of alphabetical order, was Catherine Brewer of Augusta.

A national financial downturn in the late 1830s and early 1840s threatened the financial health of the college. The president, Dr. William Ellison, and six friends of the college bought the building. Then in 1843, the Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church assumed responsibility for the college, at which time the name was changed to Wesleyan Female College in honor of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism. In 1919, the name was shortened to Wesleyan College, and in the same year the school was admitted to the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States. At that time, the standards of the Association replaced those of the Methodist Church. The college has remained private ever since, affiliated with but no longer under the control of the Methodist Church.

In an effort to create more space, the college expanded its original structure so that by 1860 there were new wings on the original building, a new chapel, and a new dining hall. In 1880, a large

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monetary gift from a northern banker, George I. Seney, who wanted to aid Christian higher education in the South, enabled the college to increase its space once again. Seney also gave buildings at Emory University at Oxford, Georgia, and to the Lucy Cobb Institute in Athens, Georgia. This time, architects Parkins and Bruce of Atlanta were hired to redesign Wesleyan Female College. The result, a Victorian edifice with towers and a mansard roof, completely changed the appearance of the original Greek Revival school. The last major addition to the original campus was a gymnasium, approved in 1909. [None of these Wesleyan-related buildings are extant.]

Wesleyan was noted during its first 90 years for many landmark events. Among its other firsts, Wesleyan was home to the first Alumnae Association (1859) and the first sororities. The Adelpian Society was founded at the college in 1851. In 1905, the society obtained a charter to become nationalized and changed its name to Alpha Delta Pi sorority, which is still a very viable national sorority. The Philomathean Society was founded in 1852; it later became Phi Mu and went national in 1904. It too remains a major national sorority.

Wesleyan's early graduates included the first woman in Georgia to receive a degree as a doctor of medicine, Dr. Mary McKay, an 1878 graduate. Viola Ross Napier, the first woman to argue a case before the Georgia Supreme Court, was a member of the class of 1901 and her portrait hangs in the Georgia State Capitol. Sara Frazier (1894), first woman elected to the Tennessee legislature, was a Wesleyan graduate.

In 1897, the president, Dr. John D. Hammond, proposed an office of the dean of faculty to be established. The first dean in the country had been appointed at Harvard in 1870.

As befitted a college with strong ties to the church, some of the graduates from the mid-1800s became leaders in mission fields, including Mary Houston Allen (1858), who was the first graduate to go to a foreign mission field. Laura Askew Haygood (1864) became the first woman missionary sent out by the Southern Methodist Missionary Board. Haygood also helped found Girls' High School in Atlanta and the McTyeire School in China. Other graduates taught Sunday school or became ordained ministers, directors of Christian education, or college professors in religion. At the local level, Wesleyan graduates helped found the conference missionary societies in the North and South Georgia Conferences and served as the first presidents of the societies. Leadership in the church has been a strong focus for many Wesleyan graduates and continued the tradition and partnership of Wesleyan College and the United Methodist Church. The church supported the college from the beginning, and continues to play an important role in campus life today, although the formal affiliation ended in 1919.

#### The Need for Expansion Grows and Land is Secured in the 1920s

By 1921, the downtown campus consisted of seven buildings. Most of these were multi-functional, housing both classrooms and dormitory rooms. A chapel was constructed separately, as was a gymnasium in 1917 to replace the earlier one housed in the attic of the main building. A gymnasium for women was considered very forward-thinking at that time, and reflected the progressive leadership of the college. [None of the above-mentioned buildings are extant today.]

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But the school had outgrown its space again, and plans were being made to move the college to a new location. Land in the suburb of Rivoli on the outskirts of Macon was offered to the college for a new campus. A new larger, modern campus was felt to be the solution to campus growth and achievement.

The nominated property, the Wesleyan College Historic District, is also known as the Rivoli Campus, a name more commonly used when there were two campuses and the original buildings still survived in downtown Macon, Georgia. The following is a history of the nominated property:

Wesleyan College moves to the Rivoli Campus

The Rivoli campus was designed by architects Walker & Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio, with associate architects Dunwoody & Oliphant of Macon, Georgia, and landscape designer J. Leon Hoffman Company of Atlanta, Georgia. Philip T. Shutze, also of Atlanta, designed the Candler Library Building. Construction began on February 16, 1927, with Southern Ferro-Concrete Company as builders. The college opened on schedule with nine completed buildings in the fall of 1928. The downtown campus was then used as a Conservatory of Music and Fine Arts from 1928 until 1953, at which time all the functions from both campuses were combined at the Rivoli location. In 1962, the downtown Conservatory campus was sold to the U.S. Postal Service; the buildings burned in 1963 and are no longer extant. The current main U.S. Post Office in downtown Macon was built as a replica of the original Greek Revival-style George Female College/Wesleyan College building.

The quadrangle design of the Rivoli campus reflected the early 20<sup>th</sup> century design of the ideal college campus. The intimate, enclosed feel of the quadrangle was viewed as an appropriate setting for higher learning, and it was used in both men's and women's campus design. The layout of the dormitories in the enclosed quadrangle behind the Olive Swann Porter Building is fairly unusual and most likely reflected the all-female, church-affiliated nature of the 1928 campus. Access to these dormitories could more easily be monitored and the young women students protected. The two latest residential buildings, a dormitory and an apartment building, both non-contributing properties built in 1998, are located at the south end of the open central quadrangle, which is a far more accessible site.

There is very little expression of the enclosed plan for a campus in the United States. In most campus settings, especially those in cities, the buildings form a line along the street with their main entries facing inward into a college yard or open area. The architects, Walker & Weeks of Cleveland, Ohio, were very probably influenced in their Wesleyan plan by the design of their alma mater, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), which features a type of partially enclosed quadrangle.

Like most new campus designs of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Wesleyan followed certain criteria deemed essential for success: campuses located at the edge of towns, large amounts of open space, a park-like setting, and ample space between buildings. Beauty was considered important as a refining influence for the student as well as playing a role for sentimental appeals to alumni. A level site plan for the campus was regarded as ideal, and a formal, but compact, design scheme was considered well-suited to such a space. When planning a new campus, additional space for the growing needs

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of the college was also considered essential. Wesleyan's formal park-like campus away from the center of town was the ideal in 1920s campus planning.

Following the social beliefs of the day, the interiors of the dormitory buildings were typical for women's campuses of the time. A main front door led to public rooms which provided a gathering space that could be supervised. Dormitory rooms were small, providing only essential living space. It was believed that equal-sized dormitory rooms helped to foster a more equal social footing among the women.

Although the basic campus design for Wesleyan could be for a men's, women's, or co-educational college, there are some aspects of the plan for this school which can be seen as relating specifically to its use as a women's college: 1) The layout of the dormitories in the enclosed (sequestered) quadrangle behind the Olive Swann Porter Building. This building also housed the dining room and administrative offices. The entrance to the dormitory area was through a loggia which bisected the building, and allowed college administrators to screen visitors and protect the young women attending the school. 2) The first floor date parlor and reception area in Persons Hall Dormitory, which is attached to the Olive Swann Porter Building. 3) The weathervane on the gymnasium, which features girls in basketball attire. 4) Small dormitory rooms to promote equality.

The original core of the campus was designed by the Cleveland, Ohio, architectural firm of Walker & Weeks. Frank E. Walker (1877-1949) and Harry E. Weeks (1871-1935) were Massachusetts natives and MIT graduates who joined the Cleveland, Ohio firm of J. Milton Dyer in 1905. They established their own architectural practice, Walker & Weeks, in 1911. The firm, which was Cleveland's foremost architectural firm in the 1920s, specialized in bank buildings, constructing more than 60 throughout Ohio. Most of their commercial, public and religious structures were designed in the classical revival styles. Major projects in Cleveland included the Bingham Company Warehouse (1915); the Public Auditorium (1922); the Cleveland Public Library (1925); Epworth-Euclid United Methodist Church (1928); and the Cleveland Municipal Stadium (1931). Weeks died in 1935, and Walker continued his connection with the firm until his death in 1949. The firm briefly continued under its original name, headed by Howard Horn and Frank Rhinehart. However, around 1953 it was changed to Horn & Rhinehart. Walker and Weeks designed at least two other properties in Georgia that are on the National Register, the Melhana Plantation near Thomasville, and the Tate House in Pickens County. The firm is the subject of a book, *A Cleveland Legacy: The Architecture of Walker and Weeks* (Kent State University Press) by Eric Johannesen

W. Elliott Dunwody, designer of Porter Fine Arts, Huckabee, Jones, Hightower and Willet, was a Macon, Georgia, native who began his architectural career upon graduation from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in 1915. His work included buildings at Mercer University, University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Georgia College, as well as churches throughout the state and numerous homes in the Macon area. As a community leader, he was involved in various causes in the Macon area including the Boy Scouts, Rotary Club, Red Cross, YMCA, and the First Presbyterian Church. His death in 1986 left a void within the Macon community. He began his association with Wesleyan's Rivoli campus as a partner of the firm of Dunwody and Oliphant, architects, who were the local associates for Walker and Weeks in 1928.

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Philip Trammell Shutze, designer of Wesleyan's Candler Library Building, was born in Columbus, Georgia, in 1890 and was raised in Atlanta and West Point, Georgia. He was educated at Georgia Tech, Columbia University, and the American Academy in Rome. Upon finishing his schooling in 1920, Shutze returned to Atlanta where he joined the firm of Hal Hentz and Neel Reid. Considered to be one of America's finest classical architects, Shutze made his mark in Atlanta with the design of many fine homes, apartments, and commercial buildings. Projects of note in the 1920s and 1930s were the redesign of the Citizens and Southern Bank building, the Calhoun House, Rich's Department Store, Atlanta Athletic Club, Edward Inman House (the Swan House), and Glenn Memorial Church at Emory University. Later projects included the Academy of Medicine, Emory University Hospital, Daniel House, Grady High School, and the Grady Hospital Chapel. Shutze received numerous awards and design merits before his death in 1982 at the age of 92.

The college completed the original campus construction in the fall of 1928. The property had been acquired as part of the Greater Wesleyan Fund of the Greater Wesleyan Expansion Program begun in the early 1920s. The Rivoli Campus was among many sites visited by the committees working toward the building of a new campus. The president of the college was asked to secure real estate options for purchase on two parcels on the north side of Macon along Forsyth Road. The property was purchased in January 1923. A campaign to raise \$1 million was begun. A fund-raising firm was hired. Everyone praised the proposed new campus location. Financial downturns caused delays and in 1925 the campaign was still raising money and a building committee was appointed that summer with the goal to open in the fall of 1927. By December 1925, the building committee was already talking with the Walker and Weeks firm of Cleveland, Ohio, about creating plans. Once the pre-existing lease on the Rivoli property expired in 1926, the college took over the property and ground-breaking ceremonies were held on May 28, 1926. (Akers, 1976, pp. 150-154.)

The core of the campus was built and opened in September 1928, before the Great Depression hit the United States a little over a year later in October 1929.

In 1936, the college celebrated the centennial of its incorporation as the Georgia Female College by the Georgia Legislature with a series of festivities throughout the year. The pageant held on May 30, 1936, was one of the larger events. At this event, the speech of Daniel Chandler from 1835, on female education, mentioned above, was used as the basis for the pageant. The climax of the year of celebration was on October 23, 1936, with a procession of alumnae and students, as well as the faculty and officers, and trustees, as well as other dignitaries. Included were representatives of 221 colleges from around the world. It was at this event that the president of Vassar made his comments, quoted above, about the significance of Wesleyan College in women's education. (Akers, 1976, pp. 156-157.)

Despite the euphoria of the centennial celebrations, financial problems stemming from the Depression would haunt the college for years, hampering any further building expansion and the completion of the original college campus until after World War II. On March 27, 1939, Wesleyan corporation had acquired title to the property from the bond holders. Those who helped the college come out of its financial crisis were commemorated with tablets honoring them and placed around the campus on March 30, 1942. (Akers, 1976, p. 159.) It was not until May 24, 1950, that the then-

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president of the college announced that all financial obligations had been satisfied, and he presided over a bond-burning ceremony and the dedication of the college buildings on October 25, 1951. (Akers, p. 160.)

Even though it was a woman's college, the presidency continued to be held by men until 1997. Among those men who were president at the Rivoli Campus, best known to Methodists would have been Bishop J. Arthur Moore, president in 1941.

In 1949, Foster Lake was created on the campus. It was given by Roy G. Foster in memory of his wife, Lula Lee Foster, an alumna. The next big phase of campus growth came in the 1950s. In 1954, the W. C. Bradley Foundation of Columbus, Georgia, purchased and donated to the school the Kinnett home, north of the original campus, and 66 acres of land. The house was renamed Bradley House and became the home of the college president. Associated with the house were three historic barns which survive.

Shortly after this began the second building phase which added the Porter Fine Arts Building in 1955, Huckabee Hall (the infirmary) in 1957, and Jones Hall Dormitory in 1959, to the campus, all fitting into the original campus plan.

The next building phase, and the one that rounded out the original plan, began in the 1960s and included the additions of Hightower Hall Dormitory in 1963, the New Physical Plant (1963), the Murphey Art Building in 1964, and the Willet Library in 1968.

In February 1963, the old campus buildings that remained in downtown Macon burned, removing the last link to the original campus of the school.

The college has continued moving forward since the 1950s. Integration began in 1966 and the ever-changing opportunities for women have contributed to the strength of the college. Today Wesleyan remains a college for women, one of the few schools able to survive post-World War II economic and discrimination pressure to become coeducational. Like Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Georgia, Wesleyan had strong alumnae support and a large enough student base to enable it to remain an all-women school. Many of Wesleyan's women graduates are entering once male-dominated professions such as medicine, business and law. Polls indicate that as many as 80% of graduates from women's colleges expect to continue their education with post-graduate degrees.

Notable alumnae since moving to the Rivoli campus in 1928 include: Hazel Raines (1936), the first woman in Georgia issued a commercial pilot's license; Antoinette Jennings (1971), first woman President of the Florida Senate; and Janice Mays (1973), first woman to serve as staff counsel and director of the House Ways and Means Committee. Eleanor Boatwright, first historian of Georgia women, was also a Wesleyan graduate. A number of Wesleyan alumnae have been inducted into the Georgia Women of Achievement, a honorary recognition begun in 1990 to commemorate women who were important to Georgia history.

The college was declared a United Methodist Church Historical Landmark in 1992.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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In 1997 the college appointed its first woman President, Nora Kizer Bell (died 2004), to lead the school into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With the ever-changing and growing needs of schools today, the college has moved forward with new construction and improvements. New construction on the campus, designed to meet the needs of educating women today, blends with the old creating a seamless vista for the young woman of today and tomorrow. In 2003, Ruth Austin Knox (class of 1975) was named president, becoming the first alumna to hold that position.

In April, 2004, the college will again hold a major celebration, in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the new campus as part of its annual Alumnae Weekend.

This National Register nomination was sponsored by the State Historic Preservation Office as part of its Georgia Women's History Initiative. The college has been a cooperating partner in compiling supporting documentation.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Akers, Samuel L. *The First Hundred Years of Wesleyan College*. Macon, Georgia: Beehive Press, 1976.

Corley, Florence F. "The Presbyterian Quest: Higher Education for Georgia Women," *American Presbyterian* Vol. 69 (2), Summer 1991.

Boas, Louise S. *Woman's Education Begins*. Norton, Massachusetts: Wheaton College Press, 1935.

Dowling, Elizabeth Meredith. *American Classicist – The Architecture of Philip Trammell Shutze*. New York: Rizzoli Publications, 1989.

*Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* web page.

Horowitz, Helen Lefkowitz. *Alma Mater*. New York: Alfred Knopf Press, 1984.

Klauder, Charles Z. and Wise, Herbert C. *College Architecture in America*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929.

Newcomer, Mabel. *A Century of Higher Education for American Women*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1959.

Orr, Dorothy. *A History of Education in Georgia*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1950.

Turner, Paul V. *Campus: An American Planning Tradition*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1984.

Unpublished application for Wesleyan College to be designated as an historic site by the United Methodist Church.

Woody, Thomas. *A History of Women's Education in the United States*. New York: Octagon Books, 1966.

Young, Ida. *History of Macon, Georgia*. Macon, Georgia: Lyon, Marshall & Brooks Press, 1950.

Note: All unpublished material can be found at the Wesleyan College Archives.

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University The Wesleyan College Archives
- Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      approximately 200 acres

### UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 245530	Northing 3640857
B)	Z17	E246351	N3640435
C)	Z17	E246019	N3639990
D)	Z17	E245297	N3639538
E)	Z17	E244926	N3640071

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are the entire, intact current legal boundaries of the campus. The district boundary is marked on the enclosed map.

### Boundary Justification

The Wesleyan College Historic District comprises the entire historic Wesleyan college campus. It is bounded by Forsyth Road on the east, Tucker Road on the south, a Covington Drive subdivision on the north and woods to the west. It is marked on the enclosed map.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101  
**city or town** Atlanta      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840      **date** January 27, 2004  
**e-mail** ken\_thomas@dnr.state.ga.us

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)**      (N/A) not applicable

**name/title** Bamby Ray and Lynn Speno  
**organization** Ray & Associates  
**mailing address** 328 7<sup>th</sup> Street, NE  
**city or town** Atlanta      **state** GA      **zip code** 30308  
**telephone** 404-607-7703  
**e-mail** bbray57@mindspring.com

- property owner**
- consultant**
- regional development center preservation planner**
- other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Cathy Snow, Alumnae Office  
**organization (if applicable)** Wesleyan College  
**mailing address** 4760 Forsyth Road  
**city or town** Macon      **state** GA      **zip code** 31210-4462  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

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## 12. Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Wesleyan College Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Macon  
**County:** Bibb  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** September 2003

### Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs:

1 of 34: Historic entrance gates; photographer facing southwest.

2 of 34: Willett Library, northeast facade; photographer facing southwest.

3 of 34: Candler Library Building, southeast facade; photographer facing northwest.

4 of 34: Interior of second floor, former reading room, Candler Library Building; photographer facing northwest.

5 of 34: Tate Hall, southwest facade, and quadrangle; photographer facing northeast.

6 of 34: Quadrangle, with Candler Library Building in distance, and Taylor Hall at the right; photographer facing northwest.

7 of 34: Taylor Hall, northeast facade facing Forsyth Road, and new entrance 2001 gates, with the two pillars dedicated to Alpha Delta Pi and Phi Mu sororities, respectively; photographer facing southwest.

8 of 34: New entrance gates, looking toward Corn Hall and the new apartments; photographer facing southeast.

9 of 34: Porter Gymnasium at left; photographer facing southwest.

10 of 34: Porter Gymnasium, northwest facade; photographer facing south.

11 of 34: Interior of Porter Gymnasium; photographer facing southwest.

12 of 34: Porter Fine Arts Building, front facade; photographer facing southwest.

13 of 34: Porter Fine Arts Building, front facade, with Class of 1928 Sundial in front; photographer facing southwest.

14 of 34: Olive Swann Porter Building, southeast facades; photographer facing southwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 12--Photographs

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15 of 34: Olive Swann Porter Building looking toward loggia opening and then Persons Hall (dormitory) at the far right; photographer facing west.

16 of 34: View from loggia between the Olive Swann Porter Building and Persons Hall (dormitory), looking toward the Candler Library Building; photographer facing northeast.

17 of 34: View from loggia between the Olive Swann Porter Building and Persons Hall (dormitory), looking toward the enclosed quadrangle at Banks Hall (dormitory); photographer facing southwest.

18 of 34: View of the enclosed quadrangle, with the Olive Swann Porter Building on the left, and Banks Hall (dormitory) in the center and to the right; photographer facing southwest.

19 of 34: Banks Hall (dormitory), southeast facade, and the southeast facade of Olive Swann Porter Building; photographer facing northeast.

20 of 34: Banks Hall (dormitory), southeast facade looking toward other portion and loggia; photographer facing northwest.

21 of 34: Loggia of Wortham Hall (dormitory) looking back toward Banks Hall (dormitory) and its loggia; photographer facing southeast.

22 of 34: Huckabee Hall (infirmary) on left, Hightower Hall (dormitory) on right; photographer facing west/northwest.

23 of 34: Hightower Hall (dormitory) on left, Jones Hall in distance, Banks Hall loggia on right; photographer facing northwest.

24 of 34: Jones Hall (dormitory) with Foster Lake to left; photographer facing west.

25 of 34: Physical Plant; photographer facing northeast.

26 of 34: Physical Plant, with Porter Gymnasium to right; photographer facing southwest.

27 of 34: Knox Houses along Tucker Road; photographer facing southwest.

28 of 34: Murphey Art Building, front facade; photographer facing southwest.

29 of 34: Anderson Cabin; photographer facing southwest.

30 of 34: Foster Lake with modern Mathews Athletic Center in distance; photographer facing southwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 12--Photographs

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31 of 34: Equestrian center/riding ring area of campus, with Mathews Athletic Center in distance, and new barn to the right; photographer facing southwest.

32 of 34: Equestrian center/riding ring area and Mathews Athletic Center in distance, historic barn to right;  
photographer facing southwest.

33 of 34: Historic barns; photographer facing west/northwest.

34 of 34: Bradley House, front facade; photographer facing west.

(HPD WORDPERFECT form version 11-03-01)

NPS Form 10-900-a  
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

OMB Approved No. 1024-0018

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8—Statement of Significance**

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**Property Name: Wesleyan College Historic District**

**County: Bibb County**

**State: Georgia**

**Criteria Consideration G**

The Wesleyan College Historic District meets Criteria Consideration G because it contains a number of contributing buildings which have achieved significance within the past 50 years. These buildings are all the works of architect W. Elliot Dunwody (1893-1986), of Macon, Georgia. Mr. Dunwody served as one of the associate architects in conjunction with Walker and Weeks, the Cleveland, Ohio, firm that designed the campus plan and the original buildings in 1928. The new campus opened shortly before the beginning of the Great Depression of the 1930s, and thus the campus was not able to expand until after World War II. The vision of the original plan by Walker and Weeks was continued, buildings were built to fulfil the full intent of the plan during the 1950s and 1960s as funds became available, the student body continued to increase, and more dormitories were needed. The architectural style of the original buildings was also continued. The buildings that were built in the 1950s and 1960s culminating with the Willett Library in 1968, were all the works of W. Elliott Dunwody, a local Macon architect, who had worked closely with the college from the inception of the new campus and was involved with the original plan and building construction. Those buildings that come under this consideration are: Porter Fine Arts Building (1955), Huckabee Hall (1957) built as the infirmary, Jones (1959) and Hightower (1963) dormitories, the Murphey Art Building (1964), and the co-design of the Willett Library (1968). Two of these appear in J. Leon Hoffman's undated "General Plan of the Campus" landscape plan. A "proposed chapel" is shown in the location of where the Porter Fine Arts Building was later built, and a "proposed administration building" in the location where the Willett Library was later built. This indicates that these campus locations were reserved from the earliest decades for important buildings that would round out the building needs of the campus. The proposed "Greater Wesleyan College" plan dating from 1935 and drawn by the original planner/architects Walker and Weeks has a building proposed in the location of where the Willett Library was not built for another thirty years, as well as other buildings that have to date never been built at the proposed locations.