

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Fulton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NHL**

1. NAME

COMMON:  
State Capitol Building

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Capitol Square

CITY OR TOWN:  
Atlanta

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Fulton CODE: 121

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	State Capitol	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Georgia

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
165 Central Ave., 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: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Fulton

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Capitol Square is five acres bounded on the west by Washington Street, on the north by Hunter Street, on the east by Capitol Avenue, and on the south by Mitchell Street. The Capitol may be entered from each side of the square but the main entrance, approached on a wide concrete plaza, is on the west facing downtown Atlanta. Dominating this façade is a four story heroic portico, the pediment being supported by six columns in the composite order. Six rusticated piers support the columns and one enters the second but main floor of the building by passing between these massive squares of stone. Above this pedimented portico a dome and lantern covered with gold leaf rise, topped by a female statue of Freedom holding a sword to her side and a lantern aloft. This main entrance block has two wings connected by wide hyphens. The rear façade essentially duplicates the front.

The greatest length of the building, north and south, is 347 feet and nine inches and the greatest depth through the center is 272 feet, 4 1/2 inches. The open rotunda extends from the second floor through the upper stories to a height of 237 feet and four inches, exclusive of the statue adorning the top of the dome, which is fifteen feet tall. The dome itself is 75 feet in diameter. Indiana oolithic limestone is the chief facing material. The cornerstone is Georgia marble.

Inside, Georgia marble has been used for floors, steps, and as a facing for walls to a height of several feet.

On the west side of the open rotunda above the entrance way and defined by the portico is the House Chamber, and on the east side is the Senate Chamber. Oak paneling in both chambers is a massive exercise in Florentine Renaissance motifs with an Eastlake Victorian flavor.

Off the north and south sides of the rotunda in the hyphen connecting the two office wings are two-story galleried lobbies with grand marble staircases, the whole lighted at the top by bands of round-arched clerestory windows. The galleries are supported by 42 columns in the Composite Order. Shades of blue are used throughout with architectural details highlighted by gold leaf. Statues, marble busts, portraits, markers, Confederate and other war flags and banners are displayed on every floor. Under the rotunda is a Hall of Fame with marble busts of the Georgia "Signers" and other illustrious citizens from the past. The fourth floor corridors have displays which comprise the Georgia State Museum of Science and Industry. Outside on the beautifully manicured Capitol grounds, under elms, oaks, and 10 magnolia trees, are numerous bronze statues and historical markers with here and there a veritable botanical garden of native flora in beds of flowers changed with the seasons.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1889

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |                                                  |                                                            |                                               |                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | History                                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | State Capitol                                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |                                               | _____                                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                                            |                                               | _____                                               |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Georgia has had five authorized Capitals, owned four Capitol buildings of which three were built by the State, one in the 18th century at Louisville and the other two during the 19th century, first at Milledgeville in 1807, and then the present one in Atlanta completed in 1889.

In 1887 when Atlanta became the official permanent State Capital, the city offered the state:

The square in the heart of the city known as City Hall Lot, containing five acres of land, bounded by a street on every side on which to locate and build a Capitol for the State.

This offer was accepted in 1879 and, in 1883, the State Legislature appropriated one million dollars for the erection of a Capitol under the supervision of a Board of five Commissioners, exclusive of the Governor who was designated as Ex-officio Chairman of the Board.

The Capitol Act specified that "all materials used in the construction of said building shall be those found and procured within the State of Georgia; provided that same can be procured in said state as cheaply as other materials of like quality in other states." The Commissioners selected by competition the design submitted by the architectural firm of Edbrooke (Willoughby J.) and Burnham (Franklin P.), of Chicago. September 24, 1884, a construction bid from Miles and Horne, Toledo, Ohio, for \$862,756.75 was accepted. Indiana oolithic limestone was the chief material specified in the bid and Georgia marble for the interior finish of walls, floors, and steps. (The Commissioners considered substituting Georgia marble or granite for the limestone, but deemed it "too expensive.") Begun October 26, 1884 and first occupied June 15, 1889, it cost \$999,881.57 leaving from the appropriated million dollars, \$118.43!

Although designed and completed during the era of High Victorian styles when stylistic mixing was fashionable, it is a monumentally classical domed and columned structure with a convincing atmosphere of architectural purity and design integrity. Several renovations have not altered the original design which could be called a stylistic exercise in the United States Capitol, Neo-Classical-Renaissance Revival manner.

The building's monumentality was enhanced in 1960 when 43 ounces of Georgia gold leaf were applied to the dome and lantern, adding an almost Baroque note to the otherwise classical sobriety of modern Atlanta's reminder of Republican Rome. As the Capitol from 1889 until the present moment, it continues to be the prime architectural symbol of the best aspects of the State's past, present, and future. (It and its landscape setting of lawns, walks, native flora, statues, monuments, and Georgia history markers are superbly maintained and at night dramatically lighted.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fortson, Ben W., Secretary of State, The State of Georgia and its Capitol. (Atlanta, 1970).  
 Garrett, Franklin M., Atlanta and Environs. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1954).  
 Miller, Paul W., ed., Atlanta: Capital of the South. (New York: Olver Durrell, Inc., 1949).  
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Personal Inspection, April 1971.  
 Sparks, Andrew, "Under the Capitol Dome," Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine, January 12, 1964.

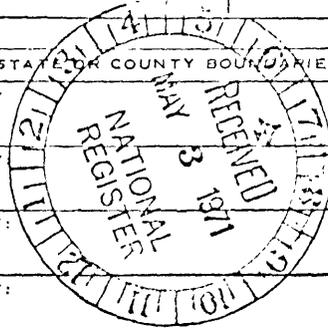
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33° 44' 53"	84° 23' 20"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: April 23, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 Mitchell Street, 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 April 27, 1971

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

NATIONAL LANDMARKS STATEMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

GEORGIA STATE CAPITOL

Begun in 1884 and completed in 1889, the Georgia State Capitol is a landmark in the history of 19th century American architecture because in style, form and plan it is a perfect expression and symbol of the idea of a Capitol building for the Capital of the New South, as Atlanta was called after Reconstruction. Reminiscent of the U. S. Capitol, it directly expressed Atlanta's new nationalism, when city leaders of the Georgia capital city were rebuilding and building-up the destroyed Confederate railroad center in a new image. They wanted to create an architectural symbol as Atlanta and the South began to join the mainstream of American life. High Victorian styles were rejected for a U. S. Capitol-like form of neo-classicism which would serve as a symbol of Georgia's rejoining the Union. This architectural nationalism, however, was forward-looking not only in terms of New South philosophy but also in prefiguring the "American Renaissance" style which culminated in the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 - itself said to be an expression of the nationalistic spirit of late 19th century America.

Atlanta became the official permanent State Capital in 1877. At that time, the city offered the state, "The Square in the heart of the city known as City Hall lot, containing five acres of land, bounded by a street on every side on which to locate and build a Capitol for the State."

This offer was accepted in 1879 and, in 1883, the State Legislature appropriated one million dollars for the erection of a Capitol under the supervision of a Board of five Commissioners, exclusive of the Governor who was designated as Ex-officio Chairman of the Board. The Commissioners with George Price Post of New York as final judge selected by competition the design submitted by the architectural firm of Edbrooke (Willoughby J.) and Burnham (Franklin P.), of Chicago. September 24, 1884, a construction bid from Miles and Horne, Toledo, Ohio, for \$862,756.75 was accepted. Indiana oolithic limestone was the chief material specified in the bid and Georgia marble for the interior finish of walls, floors, and steps. (The Commissioners considered substituting Georgia marble or granite for the limestone, but deemed it "too expensive.") Begun October 26, 1884 and first occupied June 15, 1889, it cost \$999,881.57 leaving from the appropriated million dollars, \$118.43.

In continuous use as a state capitol, housing the legislature and state government offices, it is today a prominent feature both historically, as one of the oldest major structures in Atlanta, and architecturally in Atlanta's ever-changing skyline.