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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.

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1994
NATIONAL REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name Oglethorpe University Historic District
other names/site number NONE

2. Location

street & number 4484 Peachtree Rd., N.E.
city, town Atlanta
county DEKALB code 089
state Georgia code GA zip code 30319

(N/A) vicinity of

(N/A) not for publication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	4	3
sites	2	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	7	3

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

6/16/94
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Mary M. [Signature] 8/16/94

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

[Signature]
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Education/college

Current Functions:

Education/college

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival\Collegiate Gothic

Materials:

foundation	Granite and masonry
walls	Granite and masonry with limestone trim
roof	Tar and gravel system; variegated slate shingles
other	Leaded glass moldings; steel and hollow tile frame

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The historic core of the Oglethorpe University campus is the Oglethorpe University Historic District. It presents the distinctive appearance of an English college along Peachtree Road in north Atlanta. Fronting Peachtree Road are, from right to left, Phoebe Hearst Memorial Hall, a landscaped quadrangle, the Lupton Hall with its clock tower, and the Hermance Stadium facade. At the end of the quadrangle in the distance is Lowry Hall, now the new Philip Weltner Library. All academic halls are gabled 2-1/2 story buildings with basement levels with visible windows.

Since Georgia is "stone country," Oglethorpe University was mainly constructed of high quality blue granite, quarried in Elberton, Georgia. The irregular cuts of stone are cemented with masonry. Indiana limestone was used to trim the portals, windows, and copings. Decorative angels and gargoyles also are made of limestone. The fenestration is markedly gothic with limestone tracery and lead moldings holding individual glass panes in place. Each academic hall bears some sort of inscription, written by Thornwell Jacobs, carved into the limestone over the entrance portals. Jacobs' inscriptions are also carved on panels above the windows to Hermance Stadium. The various cornerstones are marked also. The roofs of the academic halls have center sections which are flat and scarcely discernible. The main appearance of the roofs are steep slopes which extend down to the eaves of the long sides of the buildings. This section is covered with heavy variegated green slate shingles. Traverse gables and dormer windows intersect this portion of the roof. The dormers are executed in limestone which sets them off against the green slate. The overall impression is one of sturdiness and Oglethorpe University was declared a Civil Defense fallout shelter in the early 1960's. The

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familiar black and yellow signs are displayed still at the doors of Phoebe Hearst and Lupton Halls.

The historic district of Oglethorpe University was completed by 1929. A photograph of the campus taken from the Peachtree Road angle in the 1930's demonstrates clearly that essential architectural integrity has been maintained. The exterior of the granite buildings has scarcely changed and has been cleaned periodically. In the 1970's some changes were added, executed in granite, that match the motif of the campus. A wrought iron fence set in granite was constructed around part of the perimeter of the campus. The fence seals off the original landscaped entrance driveway, between Hearst and Lupton Halls. The new entrance, between Lupton Hall and Hermance Stadium, is marked by a granite security gatehouse, the MacConnell Gatehouse erected in 1987, executed in collegiate gothic design. Flags festoon the gatehouse and the top of the stadium. (Originally there was a flagpole on the university quadrangle.)

Judging from older photographs, the quadrangle is no longer as lush as it once was, but still gives the resemblance of an English garden. Inside the fence there is a perimeter road that leads to a newer part of the campus, outside of the historic district because it contains relatively new, non-historic buildings. Outside the fence and facing Peachtree Road is a handsome sign with a granite foundation, which proclaims "OGLETHORPE UNIVERSITY Founded 1835." By 1992 the campus frontage had been shortened considerably due to the extensive widening of Peachtree Road.

Across Peachtree Road from the campus (and outside the historic district) the landscape has changed dramatically. Here the Oglethorpe University train station, completed by 1919 and designed by Morgan and Dillon to match the campus, once stood. The building was demolished in the 1970's to make way for MARTA, the rapid transit system. A rapid transit sound wall and MARTA tracks between Brookhaven and Chamblee stations now parallel the still used Southern Railway track area.

INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Phoebe Hearst Memorial Hall

As one faces the historic district of Oglethorpe University from Peachtree Road one sees farthest to the right PHOEBE HEARST MEMORIAL HALL. Originally named "Administration Building", this hall was built in 1915. In 1947 it was rededicated and given its present name in honor of the mother of publisher William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951), an Oglethorpe benefactor.

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Hearst Hall is the only historic campus building without a tower form. Its roof line is expressed with gables on the corners and dormers in between. There are a variety of window treatments with some double-hung arrangements and others set into intricate arched tracery. This first building was originally designed to be all-purpose in its function, according to floor plans in the 1919 Bulletin of the university. On the lower level was a dining hall and storage rooms. On the first floor were classrooms and laboratories primarily. The top two floors were for student dormitory rooms.

The entrance to Hearst Hall is a heavy recessed gothic arch, situated off center on the right of the building as one approaches it. Directly inside is the Great Hall, designed as a large living room for students and faculty. It resembles an English country manor, and remains much the way it was in 1915. The Great Hall features beautifully detailed oak panelling, a tile floor, and an impressive staircase. The room is supported by wooden polygonal columns which are stained to match the panelling. A main feature is a handsome limestone trimmed fireplace against the back wall. Over the mantle hangs a replica of the only contemporary portrait of James Oglethorpe (1696-1785), the Founder of Georgia and the school's namesake. A projecting window bay off the room extends the gathering area. This bay area was originally the university registrar's office. Off the front part of the Great Hall is a handsome seminar room with a brick fireplace and oak bookcases with glass doors. This room was originally the office of Dr. Thornwell Jacobs (1877-1956), founder of the reconstituted Oglethorpe University.

Directly under the Hearst Hall entrance steps, in the basement of the building, is the much publicized Crypt of Civilization. This sealed chamber is the first multi-millennial time capsule ever conceived and one of the largest in the world. It was a scientific effort to preserve for posterity a complete cross-view of daily life in the twentieth century as well as an encyclopedic depiction of civilization since the time of the ancient Egyptians. The chamber was ceremonially sealed in 1940. It is behind a huge stainless steel door about 14 feet high. The door holds a stainless steel plaque with instructions that the Crypt is not to be opened until the year 8113 A.D. The Crypt door no longer presents a massive appearance because of a lowered ceiling. Ostensibly the chamber is in the exact same condition as in 1940, when the Crypt was sealed. The Crypt of Civilization is so unique and singular that it will be detailed elsewhere.

Other than the Crypt of Civilization and the Great Hall, Phoebe Hearst Memorial Hall has been extensively remodelled since the 1970's. On the lower level near the Crypt is the university bookstore. The first

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and second floors include mainly classrooms, and faculty offices are on the top floor.

Lupton Hall

Directly across the landscaped quadrangle from Hearst Hall is LUPTON HALL. This second-oldest building on the campus was constructed to meet the growing needs of the revived Oglethorpe University. The donor for this building was John Thomas Lupton, a Coca-Cola bottler in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Lupton was a staunch supporter of Oglethorpe from 1914 to 1933. This is revealed in the correspondence between Mr. Lupton and Dr. Jacobs. In 1919 Lupton made an initial contribution of \$50,000 for a new building to honor his family. Lupton continued to pay installments as a building slowly evolved according to Jacobs' plan.

The building is unusual in that it was constructed in three separate vertical 2-1/2 story buildings which also have basement levels. Each section was used according to plan after completion. There are thus three separate entrances, and three separately dated cornerstones. The first was laid on June 30, 1920, in honor of J. T. Lupton's mother, Rebecca Catherine Lee Lupton. The Lupton generosity inspired another donor to contribute \$5000 for the building's most distinctive feature, a clock tower approximately 100 feet high with chimes. The two dials on the clock on the north and east faces of the tower are illuminated at night. The top of the tower has fortress battlements. The Lupton Hall tower clock is unique in Atlanta. In 1972 the Lupton Hall bell system was augmented by the addition of a newly-cast 30 bell carillon, cast in the Netherlands. At the time it was reportedly one of the world's ten working carillons. It is played at commencements and other ceremonies. An octagonal tower flanks the square bell tower just to the south of the east facade. It rises slightly higher than the bell tower and has the same battlement form.

The second cornerstone of an evolving Lupton hall was laid on April 4, 1925. It was dedicated to J. T. Lupton's son, Carter Lupton. In the second section were located classrooms and the Oglethorpe University Press. It was one of the first collegiate press operations in the Deep South. It was directed by Dr. Jacobs who had learned the printing trade during his boyhood. Between 1926 to 1943 the Press printed numerous books and informational bulletins of high quality production. Almost all are extant in the University archives today and serve as excellent original sources.

The third cornerstone of Lupton Hall was laid on August 26, 1925. It was dedicated to J. T. Lupton's wife, Elizabeth Lupton. This section's entrance leads into an attractive 300 seat auditorium with

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the original oak trimmed stage. A lowered, acoustic-tile ceiling now covers the original oak trimmed beams. The auditorium is still frequently used for plays and concerts. Originally Lupton Hall's third part lower level was used as an "athletic section." It had a gymnasium, showers, and one of the University's two indoor swimming pools. Classrooms were on the second floor. The top floor was used for dormitory rooms. Today they have only slight modifications and serve as faculty offices. A large lavatory on the top floor reflects its old dormitory function.

By 1926 the three sections of Lupton Hall were completed into a unified gothic structure approximately 60 x 180 feet in size. Outside fenestration, like at Hearst Hall, is varied. The building features unusually large double-hung windows set in limestone frames. Lead moldings divide the panes into approximately 6 x 8 feet panels. There are also bay windows on the east and west facades. Thornwell Jacobs called Lupton Hall with its clock tower his "triple dream come true" and the "finest college building in the south." The James E. Oglethorpe crest can be found in the leaded glass exterior doors. In the entrance of the first section of Lupton Hall is a room originally designed to be the crypt for Oglethorpe's remains, were they to be brought to Georgia from England. It is now an office.

Today Lupton Hall's first two floors are primarily used for administrative offices. The first floor was once the library. It still has a limestone trimmed fireplace and polygonal columns supporting a high ceiling. All features reflect that the space was once used as a reading room. Visitors to Lupton Hall almost invariably get lost when they enter and leave the building, with its three sets of stairs, since not all sections of the horizontal interior floors are connected with hallways, the building's interior has an idiosyncratic quality that is often noted.

Hermance Stadium

To the left of the Lupton Hall bell tower (as one faces the hall from Peachtree Road) is another landmark, HERMANCENCE STADIUM, also fronting Peachtree Road. In 1919 F. W. Woolworth Co. executive Harry Hermance pledged \$50,000 for the construction of the first section of an "athletic stadium and Greek theatre." On May 29, 1926 the cornerstone was laid. On October 26, 1929 the first section was formally dedicated in a football game against the University of Dayton. (In the 1920's and 1930's Oglethorpe competed against major colleges, including Georgia Tech and the University of Georgia, in baseball and football.)

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Dr. Thornwell Jacobs envisioned an athletic arena resembling the "Roman Colosseum made of granite." The initial section of about 5000 spectators capacity was to be the first of seven other parts that would form a unified "bowl." This plan was never realized after Hermance lost his entire fortune in the Stock Market Crash of 1929.

Hermance Stadium was not part of the original Morgan and Dillon design for the Oglethorpe campus. But the architects did design a highly unusual stadium in gothic design that matches the academic halls. The existing stadium's exterior is constructed of blue granite with limestone trim. The facade is a series of arches separated by buttresses. The four central arches have stone-carved inscriptions over them. The inscriptions express Thornwell Jacobs' philosophy on athletic endeavor. The eave is expressed as battlements which match the Lupton Hall towers.

The interior of the stadium is constructed of stair style seating made of rubble cement. The stadium crowns a natural amphitheater that was originally covered with virgin forest. The grassy field has been markedly improved since 1991, when baseball was reestablished at Oglethorpe. The diamond is "redbrick" hard dirt and the grass outfield is verdant. A new home run fence was constructed in 1992.

Lowry Hall - Philip Weltner Library

From Peachtree Road if one looks between the Lupton Hall clock tower and Hearst Hall, one sees a gothic building, LOWRY HALL, set apart at the far end of the quadrangle. The building was named after Emma Markham Lowry. She was the wife of Robert Lowry, a prominent member of the Atlanta business community. He served as president of the Lowry Banking Co. and the Atlanta Home Insurance Co. This academic hall was built in 1926 to house the School of Commerce. The top floor held dormitory rooms. When Lowry Hall was completed, the Oglethorpe University Press was moved from Lupton Hall to the new building. Later the building was converted to a science facility with chemistry laboratories. In the 1970's it became the library.

The first drawings of Lowry Hall show that the building was to extend further north which would have placed the entrance in the center of the facade. For decades the entrance portal was on the east facade about one-third the distance from the right extreme. Lack of funds meant that the building had to be used in an incomplete form.

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In 1991-92 Lowry Hall was remodeled and expanded considerably with the help of the R. W. Woodruff Foundation. A new cornerstone was added to the new section. The cornerstone reads THE PHILIP WELTNER LIBRARY. It includes a formal reading room with an atrium, a glass enclosed reading room, and an after-hours reading room. The limestone tracery on the original rear facade, notably a decorative angel pediment, highlights the atrium of the attractive addition. On the third floor is the Oglethorpe Museum which opened in the fall of 1992. The new addition and library space was dedicated September 17, 1992. The extensive additions which are executed in granite and limestone with a slate roof match the original building almost identically. The additions have expanded the building so that the entrance portal, over which there is engraved LOWRY HALL, is now in the center of the building. Marking the new addition, which is scarcely discernible, is the cornerstone and a skylight.

The original and expanded appearance of Lowry Hall - Philip Weltner Library is expressed by gothic revival details similar to that of Lupton Hall. The entire building is dominated by an original tower form with battlements, which is now in the center of the academic hall. The library was named after Philip Weltner, the distinguished prison reformer and educator. As successor to the Oglethorpe presidency after Thornwell Jacobs in 1944, Weltner was one of the nation's leaders in the establishment of a general education "core" curriculum for which Oglethorpe received national recognition.

INDIVIDUAL NON-HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Faith Hall

Faith Hall was begun in 1941 as designed by the successor firm to Morgan and Dillon. Only one floor of the original design was ever completed. It was renovated in 1972. It houses the student health center, arts studios and lecture rooms on the upper level, that facing the quadrangle. On the lower level is the maintenance facility. It is considered non-historic due to its many changes.

Goslin Hall

Goslin Hall was built in 1971 and is thus a non-historic building. It was built to be the science center, housing the science and psychology departments and laboratories.

MacConnell Gatehouse MacConnell Gatehouse was built in 1987 and is thus a non-historic building.

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LANDSCAPE PLAN

Unifying the academic halls in the Oglethorpe University Historic District is the landscaped academic quadrangle. It was designed in October, 1914 by landscape engineer Charles W. Leavitt, Jr. (1871-1928) of New York City. The grassy quadrangle heightens the school's resemblance to an English college. The quadrangle is laid out on a central axis, starting with the old formal driveway to the campus. Now inside the security fence, the drive ends in a cul-de-sac between Lupton and Hearst Halls. The drive has a planted island with two gothic lampposts on either end. The entrance is marked with a granite ashlar which reads "The Maud Jacobs Driveway 1920." It was named after Thornwell Jacobs' wife. However, because of the drive's distinctive shape it is known as "the Thermometer." This shape is especially apparent from an aerial view. On the quadrangle, sidewalks radiate from planted areas. Stretching from the driveway, the quadrangle's axis ends at the entrance facade of Lowry Hall - Philip Weltner Library.

The Oglethorpe University property is surrounded by Peachtree Road on the southeast; the landscaped Lanier Drive with a planted island on the northeast; Woodrow Way on the north; and Windsor Parkway on the southwest. The historic district fronts Peachtree Road. Of the five streets surrounding the entire campus, three (Lanier, Woodrow, and Hermance) are named after significant figures from the history of Old Oglethorpe or the revived institution.

SUMMARY

In summary, the Oglethorpe University Historic District, especially the battlements of the Lupton Hall clock tower and Hermance Stadium, have remained as a singular appearance on Peachtree Road for over six decades. Thornwell Jacobs referred to the beautiful buildings as "the Silent Faculty" which would inspire students. At night the buildings are illuminated by floodlights, which gives a most impressive appearance. The Atlanta Georgian once remarked that the Gothic Revival designed halls were "built for the ages" and Oglethorpe University intends to maintain them as well as possible.

8. Statement of Significance

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
Education
Landscape Architecture
Social History

Period of Significance:

1915-1943

Significant Dates:

1915, Initial laying of cornerstone of revived Oglethorpe near Atlanta, GA
1919-1933, Philanthropic generosity of J.T. Lupton; Involvement in major intercollegiate athletics
1915-1929, Laying of cornerstones within campus historic district
1930, Bernard Baruch saves campus from foreclosure
1931-1934, Radio Station
1932 Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt at Oglethorpe for commencement address
1936, Crypt of Civilization in Scientific American
1940, Crypt of Civilization sealed

Significant Person(s):

Dr. Thornwell Jacobs, minister, educator, and time capsule innovator. (included in the Dictionary of Georgia Biography)

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Architects: Morgan and Dillon (Thomas H. Morgan and John Robert Dillon) of Atlanta
Builder: George Clayton
Landscape Architect: Charles W. Leavitt, Jr., of New York City

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Oglethorpe University Historic District is significant in architecture as a good example of the use of the Late Gothic Revival\Collegiate Gothic style to create an early 20th century college campus reminiscent of an earlier English college. Native granite was used and still remains, as do many important details such as the Great Hall in Phoebe Hearst Hall; and the clock tower, interior columns, fireplace and theater of Lupton Hall. It is significant as a design of Morgan and Dillon, Atlanta's premier architectural firm at the time. Thomas H. Morgan was one of the founders of Georgia's AIA chapter and of the State Board of Certification of Architects. Their entire plan was never carried out.

The campus is significant in education because the school represents a movement to revive an earlier antebellum college established near Milledgeville (then Georgia's capital) under Presbyterian auspices by reviving and relocating it to the metro-Atlanta area (the current state capital), where there was a great need for a liberal arts school for white men. This came about due to the pioneering efforts of Dr. Thornwell Jacobs (1877-1956), a landmark educator, who in 1912 began the campaign and secured the support of 42 Atlanta civic leaders to found a school, preceding Emory University and others. During Dr. Jacobs' presidency, the school was known for athletics, notable philanthropic support from such luminaries as William Randolph Hearst, and giving many honorary degrees including ones to President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Amelia Earhart. It was also the first school to house a time capsule and has remained as the headquarters for time capsule information ever since.

The district is significant in landscape architecture because it is a documented work of Charles W. Leavitt, Jr., of New York City. He is a nationally-known landscape engineer who is listed in the National Park Service's new Pioneers of American Landscape Design. The main surviving elements of Leavitt's 1914 plan (in conjunction with the architectural firm of Morgan and Dillon) include the front entrance drive with its thermometer shape, the layout of the three historic buildings and the placement of the stadium, the quadrangle itself, and the campus' frontage on Peachtree Road, which created the "silent faculty" of which Dr. Jacobs often spoke. All of the main features in the 1914 plan have survived and are being maintained.

The campus is significant in social history because it contains, in the basement of Hearst Hall, the world's first attempted large time

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capsule, often said to be a museum of popular culture of the era. Known as the Crypt of Civilization, it was described in the **Guinness Book of World Records** (1990 edition) as "the first successful attempt to bury a record of this culture for any future inhabitants or visitors to the planet Earth." It differed from earlier time capsules and corner stones from its sheer size, and remains today both one of the largest as well as the most extensive one ever built. It is the only historic time capsule of its size in the United States. Sealed in 1940, it is set to be reopened in 8113 A.D. Oglethorpe University has long been the source for Time Capsule information and currently is headquarters of the International Time Capsule Society founded in 1990. The Crypt of Civilization is featured in the Encyclopedia of Library Information and Science (1988) in which Dr. Jacobs is called the "father of the modern time capsule". He is credited with the idea of a major time capsule, although he did not invent the term. He announced his idea in 1935 and it was published in Scientific American in November, 1936. The capsule is a 20 foot long, 10 foot high chamber with granite walls. The capsule's contents are described in many works and consist of common articles of everyday life as well as collections of "ancient works", that is over 800 books on microfilm, and scale drawings of inventions, photographs, and motion pictures. An analysis of these can be found in "Modern Time Capsules" in Library and Culture, Summer 1992.

National Register Criteria

The Oglethorpe University Historic District meets National Register Criterion A because it is part of the broad patterns of American history as a center for higher learning, being specifically reconstituted in 1915 in Atlanta, the state capital, to continue the tradition of an earlier, Presbyterian supported private school for men. Given the times, this meant white men, but was supported by many prominent financial backers in Atlanta and elsewhere, since there was felt to be a need for a men's liberal arts college in the state's capital. It also meets this criterion because of the Crypt of Civilization, the large "time capsule" sealed in 1940. The announcement of its planning in 1936 by university president Thornwell Jacobs set of the modern American time capsule movement. When it was sealed in 1940 with a large amount of American history and memorabilia in it, including much related to the 1930s, it remained until recent times the largest time capsule chamber. It still remains the largest historic time capsule in America and the product of the first idea of creating such a statement of our civilization.

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Oglethorpe University Historic District meets Criterion B because it is associated with the lives of significant persons in our past.

The person most associated with the revived Oglethorpe University is Dr. Thornwell Jacobs, the founder and first president. Born in 1877 in Clinton, South Carolina, Jacobs was from a significant family in southern higher education. His father, William P. Jacobs, founded Presbyterian College, still active in Clinton, S.C.

Engraved on his tombstone in Clinton, South Carolina, are the two achievements for which Dr. Thornwell Jacobs most wanted to be remembered: he refounded Oglethorpe University and originated the Crypt of Civilization. Indeed, many of the achievements of Jacobs' career, particularly his own associations with philanthropists, are related to the history of Oglethorpe University. Time capsule expert William Jarvis of Washington State University in his monograph in the Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science (1988), has called Jacobs the "father of the modern time capsule," and perhaps for this he is most famous. The life of Thornwell Jacobs merits articles in The Dictionary of Georgia Biography (1983) and the National Cyclopedia of American Biography (1935).

The Oglethorpe University Historic District meets Criterion C because the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of Late Gothic Revival\Collegiate Gothic architecture and the sound method of construction possesses high artistic values.

The four intact buildings on the Oglethorpe campus are good examples of Collegiate Gothic architecture on a southern college campus. The extraordinary use of local materials and superior craftsmanship make Oglethorpe University an enduring architectural and historic resource. The campus is significant regionally because it was the work of the prominent Atlanta architectural firm of Morgan and Dillon. Thomas Henry Morgan, senior member of the firm, was founding president of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and founder of the State Board of for the Examination, Qualification, and Registration of Architects. He was the first registered architect in Georgia. He was also architect of the granite Burns Cottage (1911) (NR). With Morgan's partner John Robert Dillon, their firm designed several Atlanta landmarks, including the J. P. Allen Building, the Old Fulton County Almshouse (now Galloway School), and the Healey Building (NR), the first three academic buildings at Agnes Scott College, and many others.

The landscape architecture of Oglethorpe University is significant on a local level because its "Preliminary Study Plot Plan of October 1914" was executed by Charles W. Leavitt, Jr. (1871-1928) of New York.

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During his career was a landscape engineer and city planner Leavitt designed and supervised the layout and construction of many parks and campuses. Among his other works in Georgia are the grounds of the University of Georgia, the Berry School in Rome, Georgia, and the city-planned acres added to Brunswick, Georgia.

The National Level of Significance was selected for this nomination because of the Crypt of Civilization. It was the first time capsule to be conceived and discussed on a national level as evidenced by the article published in the November, 1936 issue of Scientific American. For a long time it was the largest time capsule. It has been included in the Guinness Book of World Records (1990 edition and earlier editions) as "the first successful attempt to bury a record of this culture for any future inhabitants or visitors to the planet Earth." It has been the object of several historical articles and is still considered today a unique example of the time capsule concept.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

1915-1943: This is justified as the period of time from the laying of the cornerstone of the first campus building through the end of the administration of Dr. Thornwell Jacobs, the founding president of the new Oglethorpe University.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The three historic academic buildings and the historic Hermance Stadium are the contributing structures and are all relatively intact. The three non-contributing buildings are Faith Hall and Goslin Hall, which were included for the sake of the boundary and are non-contributing due to changes and age, and the new gatehouse, built in 1987. The two contributing sites are the landscape plan and the athletic field. The contributing structure is the Crypt of Civilization.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The history of the Oglethorpe University Historic District must begin with a brief discussion of the earlier institution from which came its institutional and cultural roots. The original or "old" Oglethorpe University had originally been chartered in December, 1835 by the Georgia Legislature for Georgia Presbyterians and constructed soon afterward on the outskirts of Milledgeville, Georgia, then the capital

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of Georgia. Oglethorpe was the oldest denominational institution of higher education in the Deep South according to Ablea Godbold in The Church College of the Old South. It preceded by a year the wave of religious-based institutions chartered in 1836. Its faculty included the first academician to hold the Ph.D. in Georgia, James Woodrow, and famed geologist Joseph LeConte. Its most distinguished alumnus was poet Sidney Lanier, who graduated in 1860. The school invested its endowment in the Confederacy and was said to have "died at Gettysburg." It was forced to close at the end of the Civil War as Federal forces arrived in Milledgeville in the fall of 1864. Although all the historic buildings are now gone, the last surviving one, Thalian Hall, was placed on the NR in 1978 and demolished in 1990. In the 1870's Oglethorpe University, which has been always near the capital of Georgia, was briefly and unsuccessfully established on the site of the present Atlanta City Hall.

When the idea to create a new Oglethorpe University in Atlanta developed, it did so in the mind of Dr. Thornwell Jacobs. Set to be president of Oglethorpe from 1915 to 1943, Dr. Thornwell Jacobs, wrote a letter to his Executive Committee on May 6, 1914, which set out goals for aesthetic standards in the construction of a revived institution. Jacobs noted "an exceptional architectural opportunity" for the revived institution to design a "living memorial" to James Edward Oglethorpe, the founder of Georgia. According to documents filed on April 24, 1914 in Fulton County, Atlanta, C. H. Ashford of the Silver Lake Park Company deeded a 48.16 acre tract of land in DeKalb County to Thornwell Jacobs. Jacobs paid the nominal sum of \$10.00 with the proviso, among others, that the land be used "for educational purposes." At the time Peachtree Road was a dirt avenue which cut through virgin forest and thus the college was located on the outskirts of the city of Atlanta. Ground was broken on the campus in 1914 and the cornerstone of the first building was laid on January 21, 1915. The buildings were designed by the premier Atlanta architectural firm of Morgan and Dillon. The landscape engineer was Charles W. Leavitt, Jr., of New York City. The revived campus opened with one building (the Administration Building, in 1947 renamed Phoebe Hearst Memorial Hall) in the Fall of 1916.

From 1913 to 1915 the revived Oglethorpe University was refounded at its present location by Dr. Thornwell Jacobs (1877-1956), who was a Presbyterian minister. The laying of the cornerstone in 1915 was done in the presence of Oglethorpe alumni of 1860 and 1861, symbolically connecting the old university with the new.

Dr. Jacobs had been influential in the development of higher education in Atlanta. In 1909 he began a successful campaign as executive director to raise \$150,000 for Agnes Scott College for women in

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Decatur. In 1910 Jacobs wrote a significant article, "Shall We Irrigate an Educational Sahara" that appeared in the Presbyterian of the South. This article commenced a campaign to raise funds from individual Presbyterian congregations. Jacobs had lamented the real lack of higher education opportunities for white men in Atlanta. (Oglethorpe's land donation from C.H. Ashford in 1914 stipulated "a University for white students only, that is, for students other than of African descent....") Jacobs applauded black education at Atlanta University and touted Atlanta as the coming educational center of the New South. (Later, by 1920, Emory University was newly established in Atlanta.)

Oglethorpe University reflected many broad patterns of independent higher education under Thornwell Jacobs's presidency. As reported in the Atlanta Journal on March 1, 1912, Thornwell Jacobs had secured the support of 42 prominent Atlanta donors who contributed \$1000 a piece for the refounding of Oglethorpe University. Some of the outstanding Civic and business leaders who contributed were: Ivan Allen; J. W. English; Samuel Inman; John K. Ottley; [Governor] Hoke Smith; and J. P. Stevens. The school never realized a Presbyterian affiliation because of bylaws that required independence from church courts. And in the 1920's Oglethorpe was branded a center of heresy for teaching the Darwinian theory of Evolution, which was done with Jacobs's consent.

By 1920, when it graduated its first class, it was non-sectarian, and, like most other Southern universities, was all white.

In the 1920's and 1930's Oglethorpe University entered "big time" athletics. The Oglethorpe University nickname "Stormy Petrels" is unique in American intercollegiate athletics. In 1924 and 1930 Oglethorpe won the southern intercollegiate baseball championship. The school was not as successful in football, but did defeat Georgia Tech in 1926 and the University of Georgia in 1929. So important were these victories that they are forever recorded in stone on the walls of Hermance Stadium. But by 1931 Dr Jacobs was disillusioned with the expense and corruption of intercollegiate athletics. He became an articulate critic publishing syndicated articles in the New York American. Oglethorpe University is associated with the lives of several sports personalities significant in our past. Luke Appling, enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York, was Oglethorpe's greatest athlete. He was perhaps the greatest player to go from college to the major league players and he is enshrined in the Georgia Sports Hall of Fame.

In the 1920's and 1930's Jacobs cultivated institutional support from notables who helped finance educational innovations. These

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philanthropists included publisher William Randolph Hearst, financier Bernard Baruch (who saved the institution from foreclosure during the Great Depression), and Coca-Cola bottler J.T. Lupton. In 1931 Oglethorpe began perhaps the first college radio station, WJTL, named after Lupton. The station, which offered both entertainment and college credit courses, lasted for about three years. Beginning in 1928, the Oglethorpe University Press published a small but influential poetry magazine entitled Bozart and Contemporary Verse. A London newspaper is said to have referred to Bozart as "the leading magazine of verse." It had more subscribers in New York City and abroad than in Atlanta. The Bozart editor was Oglethorpe's Ernest Hartsock, who had the unique title of "professor of poetics." In 1929 Hartsock was recipient of the annual award for excellence presented by the American Poetry Society. It recognized Hartsock's piece entitled "Strange Splendor." The Atlanta Journal paid for his way to New York City to receive the award. The following year Hartsock died of anemia at the age of 27.

Oglethorpe was known for the controversial practice of awarding numerous honorary degrees. Recipients included former president Woodrow Wilson in absentia at the first graduation in 1920, Baruch, Hearst, Walter Lippmann, Amelia Earhart, and Joseph P. Kennedy. Perhaps most significant was Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1932 he delivered the Oglethorpe commencement address. In one of his most important speeches, FDR called for a "bold persistent experiment." Roosevelt thus revealed a philosophy for the upcoming New Deal.

In 1940, on the eve of World War II involvement by the United States, Thornwell Jacobs sealed the Crypt of Civilization, not to be opened until 8113 A.D., on the Oglethorpe University campus. The Crypt was the first time capsule sealed on a college campus. Oglethorpe University's Crypt of Civilization has long been described in the Guinness Book of World Records (1990 edition) as "the first successful attempt to bury a record of this culture for any future inhabitants or visitors to the planet Earth." The time capsule contains a "museum" of academic information and popular culture.

The idea for Oglethorpe University's unique time capsule was first put forward by Dr. Thornwell Jacobs in an article entitled "Today-Tomorrow: Archaeology in 8113 A.D." in the November 1936 issue of Scientific American magazine. Jacobs called for the preservation of artifacts, microfilms, and other artifacts in a "running story" to record civilization from its origins through the middle of the twentieth century.

Jacobs chose the year 8113 A.D. for the projected opening of the Crypt for a specific reason. By 1936, 6177 years of recorded civilization

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had elapsed, if one used Egyptologist James Breasted's benchmark date of 4241 B.C. Jacobs projected forward 6177 years from 1936, thus arriving at the year 8113 A.D. He hoped that scholars would be able to examine a "midpoint in human history" if the Crypt were to be opened at the appointed time.

Jacobs believed a university setting, which can survive political and social turmoil, was almost ideal for the location of the Crypt. He believed Atlanta, situated on bedrock granite of the Appalachian Mountains, offered rare geologic stability. He believed that the sturdy granite buildings would last from "two to five thousand years" and that certainly the foundations would last even longer as an archaeological ruin. Jacobs had been inspired by the openings of the Egyptian royal tombs, especially that of King Tut in 1922.

The Crypt of Civilization was a good faith effort to preserve artifacts scientifically. It was implemented by archivist T. K. Peters, a scientist and inventor of the microfilm camera. After the Crypt project, Peters headed up the preservation of the Confederate flags in the Georgia State Capitol. The door to the Crypt was designed by Craig M. Bollman, at the time with American Rolling Mill Co. of Middletown, Ohio. He selected stainless steel as the only substance that would stand the forces of water, fire, and corrosion.

The federal government helped in two significant ways. The Bureau of Standards gave expert consultation of the preservation of the objects in a hermetically sealed environment. After the crypt was sealed behind its stainless steel door, the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey mapped the location. A marker was placed on the highest part of the campus, on one of the Lupton Hall towers, in 1941. The Crypt location was inspected by government officials in 1969 and 1991. There is no doubt that Thornwell Jacobs in a unique attempt projected Oglethorpe University as an archaeological site 6000 years into the future.

Since the 50th anniversary of the Crypt, the Oglethorpe administration has taken seriously the admonition on the time capsule's door, which bears the names of Jacobs, Gov. Eugene Talmadge, and Pres. Franklin Roosevelt, to leave the chamber "inviolable" until 8113. In 1990 Oglethorpe made a thorough investigation of the time capsule, based on four cartons of archival documents. Media interest continues yearly, with articles in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Atlanta Constitution, and other publications. Electronic media, including CNN and ABC have covered the Crypt. In 1991, Scott Simon of National Public Radio did a 22 minute piece from Atlanta on the Crypt and other time capsules in America.

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February 12, which is celebrated in Georgia as "Georgia Day" in honor of the founding of the colony of Georgia by Gen. James E. Oglethorpe in Savannah on February 12, 1733, is celebrated on the Oglethorpe University campus as Founder's Day.

Oglethorpe University continues as a viable academic institution with a 1992 enrollment of 1100. It has been non-sectarian since 1920 and coeducational since the 1920s. It has, for some time, been open to students of all races and still seeks to provide a liberal arts education.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Selected Bibliography

Biographical Sketches

"Jacobs, Thornwell"; "Lanier, Sidney"; "Hartsock, Ernest"; "Woodrow, James"; in Dictionary of Georgia Biography (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 1983).

"Jacobs, Thornwell," in The National Cyclopedia of American Biography (New York: James T. White and Co., 1935).

Monographs

Paul Stephen Hudson, "The 'Archaeological Duty' of Thornwell Jacobs: The Oglethorpe Atlanta Crypt of Civilization Time Capsule," Georgia Historical Quarterly (Spring 1991).

Paul Stephen Hudson, "Flight of the Stormy Petrel: The Glory Years of Oglethorpe University Athletics," Atlanta History: A Journal of Georgia and the South. (Summer 1992).

William Jarvis, "Time Capsules," Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science (New York: Marcel Dekker Co., 1985).

Thornwell Jacobs

Thornwell Jacobs, Step Down Dr. Jacobs: The Autobiography of an Autocrat (Atlanta, Georgia: Westminster Publishers, 1945). Includes diaries, correspondence, press clippings, and major articles of Thornwell Jacobs.

Thornwell Jacobs, "Today-Tomorrow: Archaeology in 8113 A.D." Scientific American, November 1936.

Oglethorpe University Archives

Architectural Plans, annuals, bulletins, books, catalogues, historical sketches, photographs, scrapbooks. (Many published sources by Oglethorpe University Press), 1916-42.

Crypt of Civilization Archives, Cartons I-IV.

Paul Stephen Hudson, The Oglethorpe Crypt of Civilization Time Capsule (Atlanta, Georgia: Oglethorpe University, 1990) Extensive bibliographic notes included.

T. K. Peters, The Story of the Crypt of Civilization Atlanta, Georgia: Oglethorpe University Press, 1940).

Oral History Sources

Extensive interviews with Oglethorpe University Community members: Thomas Chandler, Librarian Emeritus.

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Mr. Elgin MacConnell, former Oglethorpe administrator, son of two Oglethorpe faculty members.

Mr. George Stewart, Oglethorpe University Archivist.

Mr. Stephen Schmidt, Alumnus of 1940, Oglethorpe athlete, student of Thornwell Jacobs, and longtime Trustee.

Numerous alumni on Alumni weekend gatherings, 1980-1992.

Dr. David Thomas, Professor of History, Oglethorpe University, author of unpublished manuscript on history of Oglethorpe University 1835-1985.

Dr. Judson Ward, Professor Emeritus of History, Emory University.

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- 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 There are on file the Department of Transportation's Request for a Determination of Eligibility with the National Register draft form being prepared by Dale Jaeger, 1985. Michael Jones, a Georgia Tech graduate student, also completed a draft National Register nomination in 1985 as part of a course, "Preservation and Conservation".

- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University** Oglethorpe University Archives
- Other, Specify Repository:** Atlanta Historical Society\Atlanta History Center (Architectural Plans in collection of Morgan and Dillon.)

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

less than 10 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 746800 Northing 3751200

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundary Explanation: The nomination consists of the portion of the current campus that includes the historic buildings and landscaping.

Oglethorpe University Historic District lies partially in both land lots 273 and 276, in the 18th District of DeKalb County, according to Deed Book #85-98.

The boundary for the Oglethorpe University nomination is drawn to scale (1" = 200') on the attached aerial photograph of the campus.

In general terms, the boundary is as follows:

On the south, the boundary follows the northern right-of-way of Peachtree Road.

On the east, the boundary follows the northwestern side of Lanier Drive north of Peachtree Road, then runs along the western edge of the parking lot on the east side of Phoebe Hearst Hall, then following a terrace or berm across an open expanse of lawn between Phoebe Hearst Hall and the nonhistoric Traer Hall (excluded from the district), then parallel to and just to the west of Traer Hall to a point in the woods where it meets the northern boundary line.

On the north, the boundary runs east-west immediately behind (to the north of) the new addition to the rear of Lowry Hall/Weltner Library, between the building and the adjacent parking lot further north (which is excluded).

On the west, the boundary follows the eastern edge of a campus road immediately west of Faith Hall and Goslin Hall (two nonhistoric buildings included in the district because of their proximity to the quadrangle). The boundary then runs west, from the southeastern intersection of the campus road and the Field House parking lot, across the northern edge of an athletic field just south of the Field House, to an unnamed street west of the athletic field and Hermance Stadium. It then follows the eastern edge of the unnamed road to its intersection with Peachtree Road.

South of the nominated property are Peachtree Road, rapid rail tracks, and railroad tracks. East of the nominated property is Lanier Drive, several parking lots, and nonhistoric buildings including Traer Hall and Goodman Hall. North of the nominated property, directly behind Lowry Hall, excluded from the nominated property, is a new three-level parking lot and a cleared, graveled area. West of the nominated

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property are nonhistoric athletic facilities north of the Field House, a parking lot associated with the Field House, and the Field House itself, as well as currently undeveloped land along the unnamed street west of Hermance Stadium.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the extant contiguous historic resources associated with Oglethorpe University: three historic campus buildings (Phoebe Hearst Hall, Lupton Hall, and Lowry Hall), Hermance Stadium and its related athletic field, the "quadrangle" south of Lowry Hall, and the landscaped "front yard" with its "thermometer" drive fronting Peachtree Road. Excluded from the district are parking lots and nonhistoric buildings wherever possible.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian, based on work by Paul
Stephen Hudson, Registrar and Lecturer in History, Oglethorpe
University
organization Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of
Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler St., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 15, 1994

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Photographs

Name of Property: Oglethorpe University Historic District,
including the Crypt of Civilization
City or Vicinity: Atlanta
County: DeKalb
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March, 1993

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 20: Hermance Stadium; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 20: Hermance Stadium, interior from top of Lupton Hall;
photographer facing south.
- 3 of 20: MacConnell Gatehouse toward Lupton Hall, Hearst Hall to the
right; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 20: Lupton Hall on the left, Hearst Hall on the right;
photographer facing north.
- 5 of 20: Entrance driveway and quadrangle, Lowry Hall in distance;
photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 20: Entrance driveway/landscaping from top of Lupton Hall;
photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 20: Entrance driveway from top of Lupton Hall; photographer
facing northeast.
- 8 of 20: Hearst Hall; photographer facing north.
- 9 of 20: Hearst Hall from top of Lupton Hall; photographer facing
northeast.
- 10 of 20: Entrance door to Crypt of Civilization, bottom floor of
Hearst Hall; photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 20: Great Hall on the first floor of Hearst Hall; photographer
facing north.
- 12 of 20: Lupton Hall with carillon; photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Photographs

13 of 20: Lupton Hall entrance to first section; photographer facing west.

14 of 20: Carillon (1972) atop Lupton Hall; photographer facing east.

15 of 20: Quadrangle looking toward Lowry Hall; photographer facing northwest.

16 of 20: Rear of Lupton Hall with auditorium entrance; photographer facing southeast.

17 of 20: Lowry Hall/Philip Weltner Library; photographer facing northwest.

18 of 20: Rear of Lowry Hall/Philip Weltner Library showing modern extension in center; photographer facing northeast.

19 of 20: Interior, entrance first floor of Lowry Hall; photographer facing southeast.

20 of 20: Interior, first floor, rear of Lowry Hall/Philip Weltner Library showing original rear facade enclosed within new library reading room; photographer facing southeast.