

PH0020273

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Alabama</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Lee</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>MAY 22 1973</b>

1. NAME

COMMON:  
**Auburn Players Theater**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Presbyterian Church**

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**College Avenue at Thach Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Auburn**

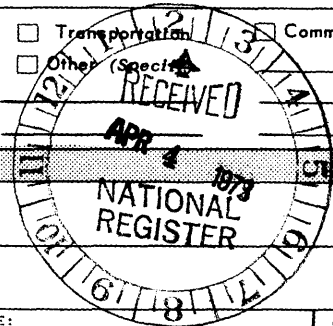
STATE <b>Alabama</b>	CODE <b>01</b>	COUNTY: <b>Lee</b>	CODE <b>081</b>
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
**Auburn University**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Auburn**

STATE:  
**Alabama**

CODE:  
**01**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
**Office of the Probate Judge  
Lee County Court House**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Opelika**

STATE:  
**Alabama**

CODE:  
**01**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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DATE

MAY 22 1973

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

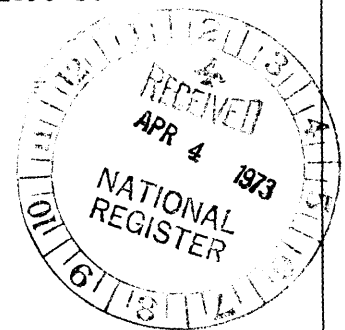
The Little Theatre building is designed in an early Gothic style with later embellishments of early Victorian. It is constructed of handmade brick laid in common bond. Structural members are hewn logs mortised and secured with square nails.

The structure is rectangular in plan with the main entrance a part of the truncated corner tower. A secondary entrance is to the left of the main entrance with additional entrances on each of the sides of the building.

The corner tower has two openings with Gothic arches which open onto a small entrance porch. The Gothic arches are repeated above the double entrance door. All windows and entrances have similar Gothic arches. The secondary entrance on the front is topped with a hood supported by brackets. This is a later addition.

The roof of the main block of the building is gabled while that on the tower is mansard. The end gable is faced with polygonal wood shingling which terminates before reaching the apex of the gable. Ornamental jigsaw work is located at the apex of the gable. Similar wood shingles cover the upper portion of the tower, terminated beneath the roof cornice. Originally, a spire rose from the roof, but it was removed in 1921.

The interior has been altered. Original interior walls were plaster, the ceilings and floors were wood. The gable and tower above the eave line are thought to be later additions probably ca. 1880's or 1890's.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

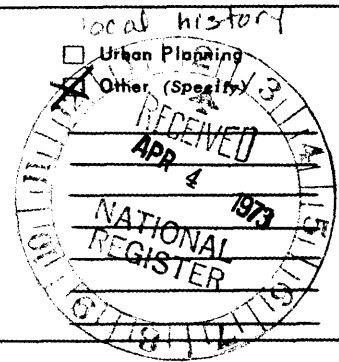
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Auburn University Little Theatre is the last remaining church of the early period of Auburn's development and one of the three oldest buildings in the city.

Edwin Reese, planter, architect and ruling elder of the newly established Presbyterian Church designed and constructed this building in 1850 for his congregation. The structure was built on the lot donated by John Harper, founder of Auburn. Bricks and labour were supplied by slaves from Reese's plantation.

The first meeting of the church was held September 13, 1851, and the first communion was served in 1852. Prior to the construction of the church, the local Presbyterians had been meeting in the Baptist Church and in the Female Academy.

As did many buildings in Alabama, the Church served as a Confederate Hospital during the Civil War. After the war, the Presbyterians continued to meet in the building and other denominations borrowed it for services just as the Presbyterians had earlier used the Baptist Church. From 1883 until 1888 the Episcopalians held monthly meetings there.

In 1887 the Old Main Building of the East Alabama Male College burned and the Presbyterians loaned the church building to the college for classrooms until Samford Hall was completed in 1888.

Alabama Polytechnic Institute purchased the building from the Presbyterian Church when a larger church was constructed in 1900.

For a few years the building was used as a kindergarten. Just before World War I the college converted the structure into offices for the YMCA, and during the war it served as the equivalent of a U.S.O.

In 1926 the church building was used as a theatre for the Auburn Players. Present plans call for the construction of a larger theatre and the University is considering other appropriate adaptive uses for the landmarks.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Birmingham News, May 2, 1965, "In One Hundred Fifteen Years: Players, Bandages and Grease Paint," by Janie Freeman.  
 Files of R. B. Draughon Library, Auburn, Alabama.  
Hollifield, Molly, Auburn, Lovliest Village of the Plains, Auburn Bulletin Publishing Company: 1955.  
 McMillan, M.C., "The Auburn Presbyterian Church, One Hundred Years", Auburn Bulletin Publishing Co., 1950.  
 Morrow, Anne Maria, A History of Drama at Auburn University, unpublished thesis, Auburn University, 1966.

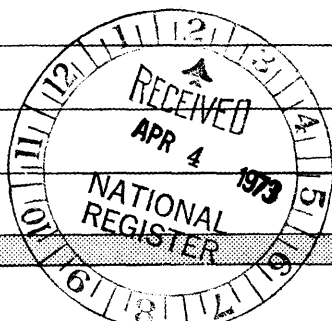
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		32	36	17
SE	° ' "	° ' "		85	28	51
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than 1**

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:  
**W. Warner Floyd**

ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **March 19, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**305 South Lawrence Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

**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 Wils B. Toward Jr.

Title SLO for Historic Preservation

Date March 28, 1973

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

Robert M. Utley  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/22/73

ATTEST:

Marcel Ford  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/18/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS