

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **AUG 6 1985**

date entered **SEP 13 1985**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic County Jails of the Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission *TR*

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number (See attached inventory forms) N/A not for publication

city, town N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county (see attached inventory forms) code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> "Thematic Group"	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:Ch. of Commerce

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See attached inventory forms).

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Banks, Dawson, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Towns, Union and White

city, town Homer, Dawsonville, Gainesville, Hartwell, Dahlonega, state Georgia
~~Hiawassee, Blairsville, and Cleveland.~~

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (see attached inventory forms) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The county jails in the Georgia Mountains region, usually located in the vicinity of courthouse squares, are often, after the courthouse, among the community's most historically and architecturally significant buildings. Like the courthouses, these structures represent a respect for the law and community pride. When these counties were established in the early and mid-nineteenth century, the erection of public buildings was the priority. In most instances the construction of a county jail was the next order of business following the construction of the courthouse. Like courthouses, the building of a new jail was discussed by the local officials in public forums and the construction was reported with much fanfare in the local media. All the jails were touted to be the finest and most up-to-date buildings around.

The eight remaining historic jails in the Georgia Mountains area-- the Dawson, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Towns, Union, and White County jails, and the Banks County Jail (already listed on the National Register), can be divided into three architectural categories. The jails in Dawson, Lumpkin, and White counties are of Italianate design. The Banks County Jail and Hart County Jail exhibit details of Romanesque design. The jails in Hall, Towns, and Union are products of public works from the 1930s.

The Italianate jails-- Dawson, Lumpkin, and White-- were built in 1881, 1884 and 1901, respectively. Common characteristics include their two-story brick construction, hipped roofs, and brick pilasters. The Lumpkin and White county jails both have segmental arched windows. The Lumpkin County Jail is the most ornate of these jails and contains dentil molding and hooded moldings over the windows. A common Italianate feature, the bracket, is found only on the Dawson County Jail. All three of these structures have been altered to some degree. The Lumpkin and White county jails contain one-story frame rear additions and the Dawson County Jail contains a one-story block side addition. The simplicity of their original designs was also altered with the apparent additions of one-story front porches.

The jails of the public works period-- Union, Hall and Towns-- were built in 1934, 1935 and 1936 respectively. The Union and Towns county jails are almost identical and are built of rock with raised mortar joints. The craftsman design of these structures is reminiscent of their mountain location and association with public works projects. Both contain one-story rear additions. In contrast, the Hall County Jail is a three-story concrete structure of Art-Deco inspiration but is also a representation of another mode of public works architecture of the 1930s.

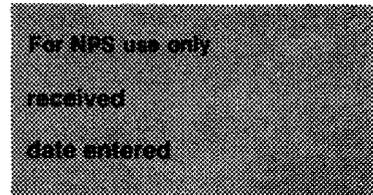
All of these structures, with the exception of the Hall County Jail, do not reflect their function through design. Several (Banks, Towns, and Union counties) appear almost residential in nature, while others (Dawson, Hart, Lumpkin, and White) are expressive of dignified commercial structures. The Hall County Jail is the only structure which visually states its institutional function. The Hall County Jail is also an exception in the concept of housing the jailer on the first floor and the prisoners on the second floor since it did not provide rooms for the jailer as the others did.

These jails displayed the latest advances in "fireproof" construction through their use of brick, rock, and concrete as exterior materials and the use of rock and concrete on the interior.

Records show that the jails were either designed by architects, builders, jail building companies, or local citizens: Dawson - M.B. McGinty, a builder

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from Athens; Lumpkin - Alonzo Johnson and Henry Ramsaur, local citizens; Hall - William J.J. Chase, an Atlanta architect; Banks - J.W. Golucke, an architect from Atlanta and Hart - the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri.

The Pauly Jail Company also supplied the cells for the Banks County Jail, where earlier cells by the Stewart Jail Works Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, were also used. Jail doors of steel, patented by "Cook and Heath" and apparently ordered from Atlanta, were used in the Dawson and Lumpkin county jails, both of which originally contained wood cells. The Manly Manufacturing Company was responsible for replacing the cells at Dawson County Jail in 1931. Of special note is the gallows and trap door preserved in the Banks County Jail but welded shut as a safety precaution.

The jails retain much of their original appearance. The major change has been one-story additions to rear and side facades. Interiors also remain fairly intact with major changes being cosmetic in nature. The cells in all but one jail (White County) remain intact.

PRESERVATION

The Banks County Jail has been rehabilitated since its inclusion on the National Register and is now used as a civic club meeting hall.

The Dawson County Jail housed prisoners until 1977 when a new jail was constructed in the county. Since the time, the jail has been leased to a private individual for use as an antique shop.

The Hall County Jail was vacated in 1981 with the construction of a new county jail. This structure remains vacant and plans for the future are uncertain.

The Hart County Jail is the only historic jail still in use as a jail. Funds are being solicited for a new jail.

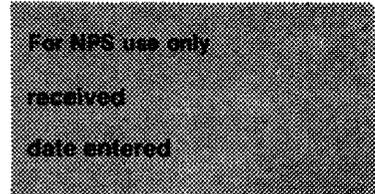
The Lumpkin County Jail was replaced by a new jail structure in 1964 and since that time has been used for various government offices. A Community Development Block Grant has recently been approved to fund the rehabilitation of this structure for use as a community service center.

Towns and Union County jails were used until the early 1970s when a new joint-use facility was constructed near the county line. Both jails were renovated in the early 1980s for use as city halls, simultaneously. Interestingly enough, this was done without each knowing of the other's actions. The Union County Jail is also used as headquarters for the Chamber of Commerce.

The White County Jail is currently used as a regional office by the Georgia Department of Transportation.

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METHODOLOGY

This nomination was prompted by requests from several counties that their historic jails be considered for National Register listing. It was decided that it would be an inefficient use of the planner's time to carry out several individual nominations when requests for the listing of other potentially-eligible jails might follow. For that reason the thematic approach was selected. A survey was carried out by the planner at Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission to determine which jails appeared to meet National Register criteria. Seven jails, eight including one previously identified and nominated, were found. The planner, with assistance from Retired Seniors Volunteer Program workers and her Historic Preservation Advisory Committee members, carried out the research. The planner prepared the nomination form. Other jails in the 13-county Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission region were not included due to their non-historic status.

The jails in Forsyth, Franklin, Habersham, Rabun and Stephens Counties were found to be built too recently to be considered for this nomination. The final form of this nomination was edited by the State Historic Preservation Office.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates See inventory forms **Builder/Architect** See inventory forms

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The County Jails of the Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission are historically significant in architecture and politics/government.

In architecture, these buildings display a variety of design styles used in jail construction from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. These styles include Italianate, Romanesque, Craftsman, and Art Deco. All of these jails were constructed of fire-proof materials, in this case brick, rock, and concrete, which reflect the concern for safety not offered in the earlier log and frame jails and a prosperity in these developing counties. The architecture also was expressive of the multipurpose uses of a jail. In addition to housing prisoners, space in the building had to be provided for the jailer's office, family living quarters, and cooking facilities. The overall concept in all but one of these structures (Hall County) was for the jailer and family to be housed on the first floor with cooking also carried out on this level and the prisoners housed on the second floor. In several instances cooking was originally done in a detached structure and this function moved into the structure through a later addition to the jail. These structures also represent the evolution of jail architecture from primitive structures in the early to mid-nineteenth century to buildings considered modern and up-to-date by the end of the century. Earlier jails in Lumpkin and White counties contained dungeons, while wooden cells were utilized in Lumpkin and Dawson counties. Around 1880, there appeared to be more concern for the health of the prisoners. New jails in Lumpkin and White counties provided for the prisoners to be housed on the second floor. Wood cells were replaced with metal cells in Lumpkin and Dawson jails, changes which allowed for better ventilation and light. These jails are also significant to works of a variety of people through their design - builders, such as M.B. McGinty; architects, such as J.W. Golucke and William J.J. Chase; local citizens, public works programs, and jail companies, such as Pauly Company of St. Louis, the Stewart Jail Works Company of Cincinatti, Ohio, and the Manly Jail Works Company of Dalton, Georgia.

In politics and government, these jails reflect the county government system which developed in the state of Georgia. Along with the county courthouses, these jails represented law, order, and a sense of community in pioneer counties in Georgia. In most cases the construction of the jail followed the building of the courthouse. The one exception in the Georgia Mountains area was in Lumpkin County where a permanent jail predated the building of a permanent courthouse. The reason appears to have been a concern for the expense generated by housing prisoners in nearby counties. These jails also prompted cooperation between counties which was not possible through courthouse structures. Prior to the construction of a permanent jail, most counties utilized a facility in an adjacent county to house their offenders. Later the loss of a jail through fire or deterioration would prompt the sharing of a nearby jail facility again. Through this cooperative arrangement, jail design appears to have also been shared. The first jail in Lumpkin County, according to Superior Court minutes, was built after the plan of the jail in Hall County. The existing jails in Towns and Union Counties are also extant examples of cooperation.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See attached bibliography)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property (See attached inventory forms)

Quadrangle name (See attached inventory forms)

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References (See attached inventory forms)

A	Zone	Easting	Northing	B	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See attached inventory forms)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

(A) Dale Jaeger, Preservation Planner
 name/title (B) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr, historian

(A) Georgia Mountains APDC
 organization (B) Historic Preservation Section, date
 Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

(A) Post office Box 1720
 street & number (B) 270 Washington Street telephone (A) (404) 536-3431
 (B) (404) 656-2840

city or town (A) Gainesville (B) Atlanta state Georgia (A) 30503 (B) 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Elizabeth A. Lyon*
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/11/85

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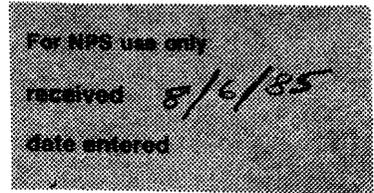
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation sheet for listings date
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Chief of Registration date

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Continuation sheet

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Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name County Jails of The Georgia Mountains Area Thematic Resources
State Dawson County and others, GA

Cover 9/13/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Dawson County Jail

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/13/85

Attest

2. Hall County Jail

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/13/85

Attest

3. Hart County Jail

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/13/85

Attest

4. Lumpkin County Jail

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/13/85

Attest

5. Towns County Jail

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/13/85

Attest

6. Union County Jail

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/13/85

Attest

7. White County Jail

Entered in the
National Register

for Keeper

Melora Byers 9/13/85

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

*not considered
- 50
AS*