

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Georgia Industrial Home

2. Location: 4690 North Mumford Road, vicinity of Macon, Bibb County, Georgia.

3a. Description: Georgia Industrial Home is located approximately 5 miles west of downtown Macon. The facility was chartered on January 20, 1899 as a nondenominational home for indigent children who had been rejected for placement by denominational and fraternal homes. The district today includes a cluster of six buildings surrounded by substantial wooded and open acreage that formerly housed the facility's agricultural operations. Mumford Memorial Hall, the c.1899 administrative center, is a symmetrical two-story brick Neoclassical Revival style building with a dominant full-height front portico with classical columns, central entrance and dormer, hipped roof, and 9/9 windows with stone sills. There are five extant cottage buildings in the district, each built before 1963 and having replaced an earlier residential cottage that formerly stood on the site. All the cottages are one-story brick buildings that contain variations of bedrooms, bathrooms, a common or recreation area, a kitchen area, and office space. One cottage has a raised entry and cross-gabled roof, while the other cottages exhibit elements of the Colonial Revival style, such as a centrally located entrance sometimes elaborated by a pediment supported by simple columns. Noncontributing resources in the district date to outside the period of significance and include a basketball court, gazebos, storage buildings, and a climbing wall. The district retains its semi-rural setting and has a high level of overall integrity. Now known as the Georgia Industrial Children's Home, the facility continues to provide residential services to youth in need today.

3b. Period of Significance: c.1899-1967

3c. Acreage: 159 acres

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary is the intact and contiguous acreage that was associated with the institution during the period of significance.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture and Social History

4c. Statement of Significance: The Georgia Industrial Home was established in 1899, a time when orphanages were common as societal awareness of the need for helping disadvantaged children increased. Although not the only orphanage in the area at the time, it appears to have been the only one not associated with either a religious or civic organization and strived to accept all children. The idea for the home was initiated by Reverend William E. Mumford, a Methodist minister who worked for several years to gather support from various public officials and organizations throughout Georgia, as well as neighboring states. A Board of Trustees, which included many of Macon's prominent figures, was formed to govern the facility. The campus was designed to both house children in need, and teach them an industrial trade through which they could earn a living as they became adults. Over the years, the program included agricultural ventures like raising livestock, dairy farming, and pecan growing, as well as domestic skills including cooking and sewing. The use of cottages to house children in a home-like setting was unusual in the early-20th century when most homes of this type provided dormitories in large institutional buildings. The Georgia Industrial Home appears to be one of the first facilities of its kind in the Macon area to house children in cottages prior to 1909 national recommendations. While the facility's original cottages were lost during the mid-20th century, the extant cottages represent the evolution of the campus during the period of significance and have perpetuated the original cottage plan. The Georgia Industrial Home is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of an institutional campus for an orphanage with supporting buildings such as Mumford Hall, which is a representative example of Neoclassical Revival style architecture, and residential cottages with Colonial Revival elements. It is also significant in the area of social history for its open acceptance of children regardless of religious background, and its early use of residential cottages in an orphanage setting.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The district is being nominated at the local level of significance for its contributions to the social welfare of Macon and Bibb County, and for the architecture of its campus.

5. Sponsor: The proposed nomination is sponsored by the property owner, Georgia Industrial Children's Home Foundation Inc. The nomination materials were prepared by consultant Maryel Battin.