

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

**Name:** Savannah Powder Magazine

**Location:** Near 4131 Ogeechee Road, Savannah, Chatham County

**Description:** The Savannah Powder Magazine is located on the south side of Ogeechee Road, also known as Highway 17. Constructed in 1898, the Savannah Powder Magazine served as a municipally owned powder magazine for the City of Savannah. The brick Gothic Revival building is one-story in height and topped with an original crenelated and corbeled parapet. Original metal leader heads and scuppers perforate the parapet in four locations with corresponding original metal downspouts which are no longer extant. Two distinct elements define the Magazine's massing, a rectangular room facing north and a larger elongated-octagonal room facing south. Crenelated entrances are centered on the north and south elevations, featuring iron door frames which historically housed exterior iron doors and wood frame screen doors. Between both rooms on the interior is an open segmental arch doorway aligned with the two exterior entrances. The building currently does not have a roof; its interior brick barrel vaults are exposed on the exterior and covered in vegetation.

**Acres & Boundary Explanation:** 15.01 acres. The National Register boundary is comprised of the historic and legal property boundary.

**Period of Significance:** 1898-1971

**NR Criterion & Area of Significance:** Criterion A, Politics/Government and Criterion C, Architecture

**Statement of Significance:** The Savannah Powder Magazine, constructed in 1898, is significant under National Register Criterion A in the area of Politics/Government because its construction is directly associated with the rapid expansion Savannah experienced throughout the nineteenth century and is the only powder magazine in the history of Savannah that was specifically designed, and purpose built to safely store dynamite along with the traditional explosive of black powder. It was one of several public works projects the city undertook to improve the safety and quality of life of its residents. The property is also significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a good, representative example of late nineteenth century powder magazine construction specifically for the storage of black powder and dynamite. The design, construction, and materiality of the magazine took into consideration the relatively new invention of dynamite. The Savannah Powder Magazine features safety measures utilized in the construction of powder magazines such as the asphalt coated interior, iron vents in the walls and ceilings, and unique features such as light boxes vented through the twelve-inch-thick exterior brick walls.

**Suggested Level of Significance:** Local

**Sponsor:** The nomination is sponsored by the City of Savannah and nomination materials were prepared by Landmark Preservation Consulting, LLC

