• This version is written with the assumption that the new marker will be placed on a
berm in the park area on front campus.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF WEST GEORGIA
FOUNDED 1906

In January, 1906, the Georgia Legislature approved establishment of The Fourth District
Agricultural and Mechanical School which opened here with 95 students in January 1908
under the leadership of Principal John Holland Melson. In 1933 the state withdrew
support from its agricultural high schools and also Bowdon College, eleven miles west of
here. As a result, this school was reorganized as West Georgia College, a junior unit of
the University System of Georgia.
It became a senior college in 1957 under President Irvine Sullivan Ingram who headed
the institution from 1920 to 1960. This was the longest administrative tenure in the
history of the University System.
Originally there were two brick buildings: Melson Hall, immediately east of this site, and
the Administration Building, which was located on this site. Adamson Hall, just west of
here, was added in 1917 and is being restored in 2002. The two-story frame structure
located 150 yards east of here was built c. 1845 as the plantation house of Thomas
Bonner. In April, 1865, the house was raided by Federal cavalry under Brigadier General
John T. Croxton whose campsite was at a road-forks one mile west of here. The house
became the first women’s dormitory on campus. Until 1817 its location was 150 yards
west of this point.
The McIntosh Stone, located in this park, was the official logo for West Georgia College
from 1980 to 1997 after being moved to campus in 1916. Other information is displayed
at its base.
The John F. Kennedy Interfaith Chapel, built in 1893, served as Carrollton's Episcopal and later Catholic church before it was donated and moved to the campus in 1964. Attorney General Robert Kennedy gave the dedication speech for the chapel, which is located just east of here.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt delivered the commencement address here in 1929 and Jimmy Carter participated in Ward Pafford's inauguration as the fourth president here in 1971. West Georgia College became the State University of West Georgia in 1996.

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Georgia Historical Commission

2002