

454

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sylvester Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase)
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number The center of the amended portion of the district is located at the intersection of Main Street and Liberty Street.
city, town Sylvester () vicinity of
county Worth **code** GA 321
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31791

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	19	5
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	19	5

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of previous listing: United States Post Office--Sylvester

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 3--Classification

Number of Resources and Contributing Resources Previously Listed

The number of contributing buildings in the Sylvester Historic District as amended is increased by 19: 14 newly added buildings (boundary increase) and five reclassified buildings (additional documentation).

The number of noncontributing buildings in the Sylvester Commercial Historic District as amended is decreased by five, due to the reclassification of five properties from noncontributing to contributing through additional documentation.

The originally listed district contained 46 contributing buildings and 11 noncontributing buildings.

The district as amended (through the boundary increase and additional documentation) contains 65 contributing buildings, and 16 noncontributing buildings.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Richard Coates
Signature of certifying official

3.20.02
Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edna R. Beall 5/9/02

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/HOTEL
COMMERCE/TRADE/BUSINESS/DEPARTMENT STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/FINANCIAL INSTITUTION/BANK
SOCIAL/MEETING HALL/MASONIC LODGE
GOVERNMENT/POST OFFICE
RECREATION AND CULTURE/THEATER/MOVIE THEATER

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE/BUSINESS/SPECIALTY STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/BUSINESS/DEPARTMENT STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/RESTAURANT
GOVERNMENT/FIRE STATION
GOVERNMENT/GOVERNMENT OFFICE/MUNICIPAL BUILDING

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/COLONIAL REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/COMMERCIAL STYLE
MODERN MOVEMENT/INTERNATIONAL STYLE

Materials:

foundation Brick; Concrete
walls Brick; Stone; Wood
roof Asphalt; Ceramic Tile
other Limestone

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Sylvester Commercial Historic District is located in the core of the central business district of a small southwest Georgia county seat town. It is characterized by one-, two-, and three-story commercial structures built between the 1890s and the 1950s. The Sylvester Commercial Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 9, 1987. This nomination identifies additional contributing properties to be added to the existing National Register district.

The commercial district historically began as a narrow strip lining East Front Street and facing the Brunswick and Albany Railroad tracks (photograph 11). It was the station for nearby Isabella, the first county seat of Worth County. Originally called Isabella Station, Sylvester grew rapidly in economic importance in the 1890s, which caused the county seat to be established there in 1904. Sylvester was laid out in 1893 in a north-south and east-west gridiron plan. The overall pattern of land subdivision in Sylvester is modified within the district by the alignment of the railroad that was

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

completed in 1907. Two sets of railroad tracks cross at an angle south of the central business district causing Front Street to run northwest to southeast.

The historic district consists of commercial properties constructed from the late 1880s to the mid-20th century. The one-, two-, and three-story buildings feature masonry construction, three-bay front facades with storefront windows and main entrances, double-hung windows on the upper stories, cornices of corbeled brick, pressed metal, or cast iron, and flat roofs (photograph 2). The properties in the historic district as amended are located one block east of the existing National Register district. The identified contributing properties within the amended portion of the district include commercial buildings, a hotel, gas station, and the previously listed Sylvester Post Office. The commercial buildings within the Sylvester Commercial Historic District as amended were constructed during the same time period and exhibit the same character-defining features as the buildings in the previously listed district. The additional resources were not included in the original listing due to nonhistoric facades and materials that have since been removed.

Several community landmark buildings are located in the newly identified area. The United States Post Office (photograph 3), located at the corner of Main Street and Kelly Street, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 5, 1996. The post office is a rectangular, one-story building with Colonial Revival details applied to an International-style building form. The classical entrance surround, multi-light sash windows, English bond brick pattern, and other Colonial Revival elements accent the smooth, planar walls, plain window treatment, and flat roof that are more characteristic of the International style. The symmetrical five-bay façade is a feature of earlier colonial architectural styles. The interior is organized around a large workroom, with the postmaster's office, vault, swing room, and janitor's closet set against the south wall. The public lobby is located along the main (west) façade and features a marble wainscot and a mural of the cantaloupe industry in Southwest Georgia painted by Chester J. Tingle. The Woolard Hotel (photograph 1) is the largest building in the amended area of the district. At the time the existing nomination was written, the hotel was omitted from the National Register boundary due to the nonhistoric façade on the building. The nonhistoric materials have been removed and the significant architectural features of the building have been restored. The hotel consists of four attached two-story brick buildings constructed from 1900 to 1910; the first floor functioned as commercial space and the second floor served as the hotel. The attached buildings feature large display windows and main entrances, single and paired double-hung windows, recessed brick panels, brick corbeling and an arcaded corbel table along the cornice, and a parapet roof.

A gas station is located at the intersection of Main Street and Front Street (photograph 12). Built in the house with canopy style (Journal of American Culture, 1978) it is constructed of brick with wide eaves on the canopy and a tile roof.

Four previously noncontributing properties within the district have been reclassified as contributing resources. Properties located at 103 East Front Street and 107-109 North Isabella were reclassified from noncontributing to contributing due to the removal of nonhistoric metal coverings from the front facades of the buildings. The area outside of the district consists of modern commercial and industrial development.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The district contains no significant landscape features. All of the buildings were constructed on the front lot lines with sidewalks in front. Nonhistoric trees and foundation plantings have been planted in recent years.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance:

1893-1951

Significant Dates:

1898-Sylvester incorporated by State Legislature
1904-County seat moved to Sylvester

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

John M. Bullard, Builder
C.W. Hillhouse, Builder
Emil C. Seiz, Jr., Construction Engineer-United States Post Office
Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect-United States Post Office
Chester J. Tingler, Mural Artist-United States Post Office

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Sylvester Historic District as amended is significant in the area of architecture for its representative collection of intact 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings that represents prevailing design and construction traditions of small cities and towns in Georgia. They include freestanding and attached one- to three-story buildings. Character-defining features of these types of buildings include: freestanding or attached with party walls; simple rectangular forms; oriented to the street, usually in lines or rows with a common setback usually fronting directly on the sidewalk; storefronts with cast-iron or wood columns, large display windows with transom lights and wood or brick bulkheads; architectural ornament primarily on the front and sometimes side facades; parapet rooflines, some with recessed panels; second-story segmental-arched windows; and ornamented projecting cornices. Architectural styles represented by these buildings include good examples of the Colonial Revival, Commercial, and International styles. Characteristics of the Colonial Revival style are an accentuated front door with a decorative pediment supported by pilasters, symmetrical facade with a central door and multi-pane windows. Characteristics of the Commercial style include geometric form, storefronts with large display windows, parapet rooflines, second-story segmental-arched windows, and ornamented projecting cornices. Characteristics of the International style include a flat roof, windows flush with outer wall, smooth, unornamented wall surfaces, and an asymmetrical façade. The use of brick, both structurally and decoratively, as the principal building material, in conjunction with cast iron, stone, ceramic tile, pressed metal and wood also is characteristic of the way in which these kinds of commercial buildings were built during these periods in small Georgia cities. Other types of important commercial buildings are represented in the district. An early 20th century gas station representative of the house with canopy style is located within the district. The district also contains architecturally significant community landmark buildings including the United States Post Office and the Woolard Hotel. These are excellent local examples of the Colonial Revival and Commercial styles, respectively, as evidenced by their detailing and distinctive features. The materials used in the construction of these buildings are the same as those used in the construction of the commercial buildings in the district, however some of the materials such as stone and ceramic tile are used in applied ornamentation on the community landmark buildings. These buildings generally possess a high degree of craftsmanship as evidenced by architectural details common to the architectural styles represented in the district.

The Sylvester Historic District as amended is significant in the area of commerce as the historic commercial center of Sylvester and the surrounding county. Typically the county seat was also the principal commercial center in the county. Such commercial centers generally featured a range of retail stores, offices and professional services, warehouses, artisans, mechanics, entertainment and related services, and communications-related businesses. Extant buildings in the Sylvester Historic District represent many of these commercial activities including general merchandise, hardware, drug store, gas stations, banks, hotel, law offices, and, post office. Of special note locally are the Woolard Hotel and the United States Post Office. These historic buildings and the commercial activity they represent are directly related to the economic development and prosperity of the community and its surrounding region during the 19th- and early 20th-centuries. Sylvester's development was due in large part to the railroad which was completed in 1907 just south of the area that developed in the central business district.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

The Sylvester Historic District as amended is significant in the area of community planning and development for its intact historic town plan. This plan also reflects the designation of the community as the Worth County seat. In Georgia, generally, only county seat communities were laid out in this distinctive manner. Reinforcing the importance of the plan is the concentration of historic commercial and community landmark buildings around the square and along the principal streets which creates a clearly defined "downtown" or central business district. This pattern of development represents the traditional way in which Georgia's county seats grew and developed over time. The architectural development of the central business district also reflects some of the major periods of community growth and development and the major economic factors which contributed to the community's growth and development including the orientation of many of the commercial buildings to the railroad which was completed in 1907.

National Register Criteria

The Sylvester Commercial Historic District as amended is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of commerce as the historic commercial center of Worth County and in the area of community planning and development as a planned railroad community laid out in a grid iron plan. The district is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its collection of good and intact examples of late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings typical of small Georgia towns during the historic period.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the proposed historic district as amended begins in 1893, the year the town plan of Sylvester was laid out, and extends the end of the period from 1930 to 1951 in order to include buildings constructed through the end of the historic period that exhibit the same features as those in the original district.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources in the historic district as amended are those constructed during the historic period that are significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, and community planning and that retain historic integrity. These resources include commercial buildings in the commercial core of Sylvester and community landmark buildings such as the United States Post Office and the Woolard Hotel. Four of the 16 contributing resources are located within the previously listed historic district. These buildings were noncontributing due to nonhistoric facades that have since been removed.

Noncontributing resources within the district include those that were constructed outside the period of significance (photographs 5 and 10, left foreground) or have lost historic integrity due to nonhistoric facades and other nonhistoric treatments (photographs 1, foreground; 6, background; 7; 10, left

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

foreground; and 11, foreground).

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The buildings in the Sylvester Commercial Historic District as amended share the same developmental history as those in the original listing. The buildings in the amended portion of the district contributed to Sylvester's role as the governmental and commercial center of Worth County during the historic period. No substantial construction or growth occurred between 1930 and 1951, however Sylvester continued its role as the center of government and commerce in Worth County through the end of the historic period.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Browne, Ray B. and Russel B. Nye, editors. Journal of American Culture, Volume 1, Number 3. Bowling Green: Bowling Green State University, 1978.

Forgey, Paul. Historic District Information Form. November, 1997. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental Information.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York, NY: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Moffson, Steven. "United States Post Office-Sylvester." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. March, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental Information.

Thomas, Kenneth H., Jr. "Sylvester Commercial Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. June, 1987. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental Information.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () N/A

- () **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- (X) **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**
date issued: Woolard Hotel, August
- (X) **previously listed in the National Register** Sylvester Commercial Historic District; United States Post Office
- () **previously determined eligible by the National Register**
- () **designated a National Historic Landmark**
- () **recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
- () **recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) **State historic preservation office**
- () **Other State Agency**
- () **Federal agency**
- () **Local government**
- () **University**
- () **Other, Specify Repository:**

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4 acres (amended area)

UTM References (amended area)

A)	Zone 17	Easting 230879	Northing 3491351
B)	Zone 17	Easting 230867	Northing 3491160
C)	Zone 17	Easting 230639	Northing 3491172
D)	Zone 17	Easting 230649	Northing 3491360

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the proposed historic district as amended is indicated on the attached map by a heavy black line. The boundary of the existing National Register listed historic district is indicated on the attached map by a heavy dashed black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed historic district as amended includes four acres on the eastern edge of the previously listed Sylvester Commercial Historic District and includes the historic, intact, and contiguous resources in the downtown commercial core of Sylvester.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** March 20, 2002
e-mail holly_anderson@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Paul Forgey, Preservation Planner
organization Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center
mailing address P.O. Box 346
city or town Camilla **state** Georgia **zip code** 31730
telephone
e-mail

- () **property owner**
() **consultant**
(X) **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Paul Forgey, Preservation Planner
organization (if applicable) Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center
mailing address P.O. Box 346
city or town Camilla **state** Georgia **zip code** 31730
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Sylvester Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)
City or Vicinity: Sylvester
County: Worth
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August, 2000

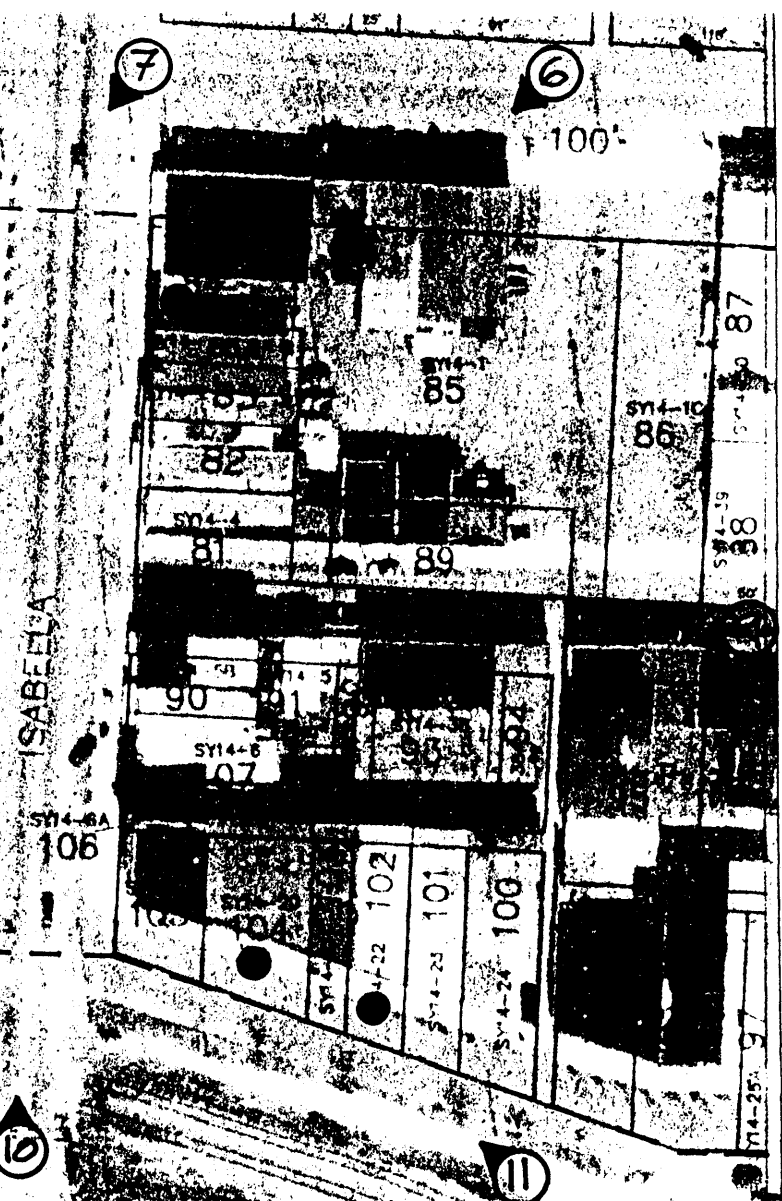
Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 15

1. Main Street, Woolard Hotel; photographer facing southeast.
2. Main Street; photographer facing southwest.
3. United States Post Office; photographer facing southeast.
4. Main Street; photographer facing south.
5. Kelly Street; photographer facing southwest.
6. Kelly Street; photographer facing southwest.
7. Isabella Street; photographer facing south.
8. Liberty Avenue; photographer facing west.
9. Liberty Avenue; photographer facing west.
10. Isabella Street; photographer facing north.
11. Front Street; photographer facing northwest.
12. Main Street; photographer facing north.
13. Front Street, fire station; photographer facing west.
14. Intersection of Main Street and Front Street; photographer facing southwest.
15. Front Street; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

70



Sylvester Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase)
 Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia
 Worth County Tax Map SY7
 Existing National Register Boundary: - - - - -
 National Register Boundary (Amended area): **█**
 Contributing: ● Noncontributing: ○ Vacant: √
 Photograph Direction/Number: ①
 Scale: 1" = 100' North: ↑ Map 1 of 2

	4
1	5
2	6
3	7
	8
	9
	10

WASHINGTON

ISABELLA

Keel
3722
Att
(



Sylvester Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation and Boundary Increase)

Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia

Worth County Tax Map SY14

Existing National Register Boundary: National Register Boundary (Amended area):

Contributing: ● Noncontributing: ○ Vacant: √

Photograph Direction/Number: 1

Scale: 1" = 100' North: Map 2 of 2

ED, INC.,

JNTY.

assume

acy