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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 Blakely Court Square Historic District
other names/site number N/A

452

2. Location

street & number Roughly centered on the Early County Courthouse and bounded by Powell Street, Smith Avenue, and Church and Bay streets.

city, town Blakely () vicinity of
county Early code 099
state Georgia code GA zip code 31723

() not for publication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	72	21
sites	0	0
structures	2	0
objects	2	1
total	76	22

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of previous listing: Early County Courthouse listed September 18, 1980.

Name of related multiple property listing: n. a.

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.

W. Ray Luce
Signature of certifying official

3.9.02
Date

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

Edson H. 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:

Commercial/Trade: business, financial institution, department store, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse.

Government: courthouse, city hall, correctional facility, post office.

Recreation and Culture: theater.

Religion: religious facility.

Current Functions:

Commercial/Trade: business, financial institution, department store, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse.

Government: courthouse, city hall, correctional facility, post office.

Recreation and Culture: theater.

Religion: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Gothic, Italianate.

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival, Classical Revival.

Modern Movement: Moderne, Art Deco.

Other: Stripped Classical.

Materials:

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Glass

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Blakely Court Square Historic District is a small commercial downtown centered on the Early County Courthouse in extreme southwest Georgia. The courthouse is situated on a slightly raised knoll with gentle downward slopes leading to the edges of the historic district. The town, laid out in 1826, represents a variation of the Sparta plan in which the courthouse occupies the Court Square at the center of the plan with streets radiating from the four sides of the square (photos 1-3).

Surrounding the square are one- and two-story attached brick commercial buildings and several large warehouses from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The development of Blakely was limited by several geographic constraints. During the 19th century, a swamp that prevented development was located on the east side of the Court Square. To the north of the square is a local landmark called the "Big Ditch" that provides drainage for the area.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Development in downtown Blakely, therefore, concentrated around the Court Square, on north and south Main streets, and River Street to the west. Streets lead into the square from the north, south, east, and west as well as smaller streets on the northwest and southwest corners which were added later. Lots in the district are set in a grid-iron pattern.

The Early County Courthouse, which is located in the center of the Court Square, is the largest and most monumental building in the historic district (photos 1-5). Designed by the Atlanta firm of Morgan and Dillon and built in 1905, it is a Neoclassical-style building with pedimented entrances on the north and south facades and surmounted by copper dome. Four clock faces are incorporated into the drum of the dome. The brick courthouse includes brick quoins and marble details, such as colossal columns and sills and keystones above the windows. Most unusual are the fourteen corbel-capped chimneys that survive intact. The visual effect of the courthouse, set on the highest point of land in Blakely with its block-like massing, chimneys, and dome, is that of a Palladian villa. The Early County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The four-acre Court Square is grassed with large and small oak and cypress trees and foundation plantings around the courthouse. Monuments on the square include: the Confederate monument, which is a stone obelisk (photo 7), the war veterans monument from that comprises two stone tablets topped by an eagle and an eternal flame (photo 5), and the stone peanut monument erected in 1954 and dedicated to one the region's most important crops (photo 8). Another significant feature of the square is the 100-foot tall Confederate flag pole located on the northwest corner of the square (photo 7). The wood flag pole, which was erected in 1861 to celebrate Georgia's secession from the union, was given by given to the city by Peter Howard, an early southwest Georgia pioneer.

The Court Square is surrounded by mostly one- and two-story brick commercial buildings. These buildings, many of which share party walls, were built from the 1880s to the 1920s (photos 7-8, 13-15, 22-23, and 30). Typically, these buildings feature metal-and-glass storefronts with segmentally arched windows above. The buildings are ornamented with stringcourses, corbeled cornices, pressed metal cornices, and stone trim. The Alexander Building on the south side of the Court Square is an exceptionally intact brick commercial block (photo 13). It features three 19th-century storefronts supported by cast-iron piers. The nine-bay second story is divided into three bays by brick pilasters. The cornice is distinguished by corbeled brickwork and pressed metal parapet that includes the name of the building. Adjacent to the Alexander building is the Blakely Theater, built in 1936 in the Colonial Revival style (photos 13-14). The theater includes its original marquee and an elaborate Palladian window above the entrance. These mostly attached commercial buildings surround the courthouse on three sides and visually define the Court Square (photos 4-8).

The east side of the Court Square developed later than the other sides of the square because of low-lying swamp lands. As it developed in the 1920s, freestanding commercial buildings rather than commercial building blocks were constructed. The east side of square includes the Blakely City Hall and Fire Department, constructed in 1939 in the Colonial Revival style (photo 29). It is a three-part brick building with a pedimented portico in the center and two fire truck bays in the north wing. South of city hall is an outstanding example of a historic Streamlined Moderne gas station built of enamel-

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

clad metal panels (photos 31-32). The north bay has been filled the but the building remains largely intact.

In addition to commercial buildings, the historic district includes several warehouses that were used to store peanuts. Three are located on Victoria Street: one on the south side of the street features a brick stepped end wall and a metal bow-truss roof (photo 16); two set side-by-side on the north side are brick with gable roofs (photos 17-18). The largest warehouse is located north of city hall and features a stepped parapet and moriitor roof (photo 28).

In addition to the courthouse and city hall, community landmark buildings in the historic district include the Stripped Classical-style post office designed by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury in 1937. The post office, which remains in use, includes the mural, "The Land is Bought from the Indians" by Daniel Putnam Brinley (photos 11-12). The Early County Jail, another community landmark building, is a brick Art Deco-style building with an elaborate marble entrance (photo 20). The jail was designed in 1940 by H. L. Holman, Jr., and built by John B. Stokes. Two churches are located in the historic district: the brick Gothic Revival-style Blakely Episcopal Church in the northwest corner of the district and the larger Gothic Revival-style Baptist church on River Street (photo 21 in background).

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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
Community Planning and Development
politics/government
commerce

Period of Significance:

1826-1940

Significant Dates:

1826 – Blakely made the seat of Early County.

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Holman, H. L., Jr. (architect)
Jay, W. T., (builder)
Morgan and Dillon (architects)
Stokes, John B. (builder)
U.S. Treasury (architect and builder)

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Blakely Court Square Historic District encompasses the intact historic plan and historic commercial, and community landmark buildings associated with the development of downtown Blakely. The historic district is significant in the area of architecture because of its excellent examples of attached commercial buildings located around the Court Square and on the radiating streets. These are mostly one- and two-story brick buildings constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The community landmark buildings are outstanding examples of the types of landmark buildings found in Georgia's county seats. These buildings include the Neoclassical-style Early County Courthouse (1905), the Stripped Classical United States Post Office (1937), the Colonial Revival-style Blakely City Hall and Fire Department (1939), the Art Deco Early County Jail (1940), and two Gothic Revival-style churches.

The historic district is also significant in the area of community planning and development for its variation of the Sparta-type plan with the Early County Courthouse in the center of the square and one street radiating from the center of each street that bounds the square. Blakely conforms with the Sparta plan in that the courthouse is located on the highest and most prominent site. This plan is strongly represented in Blakely where the Sparta plan survives intact with only two small streets having been added in the northeast and northwest corners of the square.

The historic district is also significant in the area of politics/government because it is center of political and governmental activity for Early County as represented by the Early County Courthouse and jail, the city hall and fire department, and the post office.

The historic district is also significant in the area of commerce because Blakely developed as the center of trade and commerce for Early County from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century. The theme of commerce is represented in the commercial building located around the square and on the radiating side streets.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

National Register Criteria

A—Because the historic district is an excellent example of the Sparta-type town plan and because it developed as the center of politics/government and commerce for Early County from 1826 to 1940.

C—Because the historic district includes excellent examples of commercial buildings and community landmark buildings that representative of those built in Georgia county seats from the 1880s to 1940.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1826 when Blakely was established and laid out in the Sparta-type plan as the seat of government for Early County and ends in 1940, the year the last historic property, the Blakely City Hall, was constructed.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources in the historic district are those constructed between 1826 and 1940 that are significant for the themes of architecture, community planning and development, politics/government, and commerce and which retain historic integrity. This includes commercial and community landmark buildings in the district. The contributing structures are the Sparta plan of streets and the Confederate flag pole. Contributing objects are the Confederate monument and the war veterans monument.

The noncontributing buildings were built after 1951 or have lost sufficient historic integrity so that they no longer convey their historic significance. Noncontributing buildings include the Blakely Fish House, which has been altered over time (photo 16) and commercial buildings with facades that have been altered or covered with modern materials (photos 15 [right center], 22 [far right], and 24 [left]). Several buildings in the historic district are noncontributing because they were built within the last fifty years (photos 32 [far left] and 33 [far left]). The peanut monument, erected in 1954, is a noncontributing object.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Developmental History or Historic Context (as appropriate)

(Prepared by Paul Forgey, Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center)

In 1825, five commissioners were appointed to select a permanent site for the Early County seat of government. One of those five commissioners, Benjamin Collier, offered 25 acres of his land located in the center of Early County for the creation of the town of Blakely.

Early County was created by an Act of the state legislature in 1818. This area in southwest Georgia was part of the Creek Treaty of 1814. The county is named for Peter Early (1773-1817), who was a successful judge, state senator, governor, and congressman in Georgia.

Between 1818 and 1825, Superior Court was held in various residences in the county. The house of Robert Jackson served as the site of the Inferior Court session in 1821. Superior Court met at the home of Richard Grimsley that same year. In 1824, court was held at the home of Jonathan Neal on Pachatila Creek. When Baker County was formed from the eastern portion of Early County in 1825, a new location was needed for the courthouse and jail, which were within the new Baker County lines.

Early County remained a frontier until the Creek Indians were removed across the Chattahoochee River in 1836. Andrew Jackson's forces came through the county as they pushed into Florida. Early maps show the path Jackson made on his way to St. Marks, Florida. The trail, called the Three-Notch Trail, was cut by a detachment of Jackson's men on their way to Fort Scott in Decatur County. Jackson's path went along the west bank of the Flint River from Fort Early. Highway 39 follows the Three-Notch Trail and passes through Blakely.

Fort Gaines, on the Chattahoochee River, was the first settled part of the county in 1816. Blakely is 20 miles east of Fort Gaines and 40 miles north of Bainbridge, another early settlement. The original settlers of Blakely included men who had fought the Indians including Col. Buchannon and Mr. Winn Sheffield.

General Robert Taylor drew a land lot in Early County in the 1820 Land Lottery. He owned 14,500 acres of land, which he subdivided into seven plantations. He lived in Savannah, Morgan County, and Athens and served in the Georgia Militia between 1841 and 1845. When he died in 1859, 186 of his 307 slaves lived in Early County. His estate was auctioned in 1860. His son Richard lived in Early County continuing his agricultural interests there after his father's death. Many of the African-American slaves in Early County were brought there by the Taylor family.

Benjamin Collier offered land in 1825 for use as a county seat. The land was in the center of the county and close to the Chattahoochee River. The new county seat was named for Captain Johnson Blakely, a young naval hero of the War of 1812. His brig, the *Wasp*, was lost at sea after several successful engagements. Blakely, a native of County Down, Ireland, was voted a gold medal by

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Congress, and his home state, North Carolina, educated his child at state expense. The new town on southwest Georgia frontier was another tribute to his military career.

The town of Blakely is set upon a knoll with branches on the north and south and sloping terrain to the east and west. A large swamp to the east hindered development in that direction until the 20th century. Blakely is near the crest of a watershed that divides the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers. The ground is mostly level with a slight hill at the courthouse square.

By its charter, the town was laid as a square with each side a mile long. The courthouse square was the center of development with log buildings built around it facing the square. Benjamin Collier had a tavern to the south of the Court Square on Main Street, around which some development grew. The town served as the seat of government and as a farming and market center. Commissioners were appointed to select a route from the courthouse square to Porter's Ferry on the Chattahoochee River. The Chattahoochee had year-round boat traffic between Columbus and Apalachicola, Florida. Porter's Ferry was located conveniently to Blakely, which allowed for increased commerce.

The first store in Blakely belonged to John or Winn Sheffield. John Jones started construction of a log building on the east side of South Main Street (originally called Cuthbert Road) which William March, a lawyer, completed and occupied by 1827. In 1828, Joel Perry opened a store in the same building. By 1827, a log building was constructed to serve as the Early County Courthouse and the next year a post office was located in Blakely.

In 1829, Benjamin Collier sold his land along South Main to William Phillips. During the 1830s South Main Street only had two houses. James Buchannon's house faced Court Square, and Anthony Hutchins' house and store faced west on South Main Street. Hutchins was one of the first merchants in Blakely, having moved from Bainbridge in 1830. He was also a landowner and farmer, as well as accumulating property along the Chattahoochee River. This property is still owned by his descendants. The early settlers of the town were merchants, farmers, and land developers, taking advantage of the opportunities of a newly opened area. In 1832, a merchant named Col. Jack Perry became clerk of the Superior Court and in 1833 was named postmaster.

Peter Howard arrived in Blakely in 1837 and soon built a frame store on the south corner of Court Square and River Street, on the west side of the square. He purchased Collier's land on South Main Street from Phillip's widow and began selling land and building houses. He was also active in agriculture as well as the grocery business.

In 1836, the log courthouse was sold for \$13.00 and moved. A new courthouse was built at the cost of \$1,995. In 1857, a third courthouse was constructed on the Court Square. The builder was Judge Thomas Williams. Until 1905, the courthouses were built on the east portion of the square.

A residential area separate from the commercial development did not take shape immediately. Both stores and houses were grouped around the square. In the 1840s, James Buchannon's house on the east side of the Court Square was owned by Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Howard. The Howard house also

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

was the location of Dr. Howard's dental office. In 1841, the square included the homes of the Doster's, the Mann's, the Thompson's, and Mrs. B. Chancey Wade and the Platt Hotel. In 1849, Blakely was described as having 25 to 30 families, a courthouse, a jail, two stores, two hotels, and one church.

In 1854, the *Albany Patriot* commented that Early County was "fast filling up with substantial planters." The fine timber and land attracted cotton planters and lumbermen. In September 1854, a meeting was held to discuss expanding the railroad into Early County. In October, a meeting of the directors of the Southwestern Railroad in Americus was attended by delegates representing Early County, including Dr. Hugh Nesbitt, Col. J.E. Maxwell, A. S. C. Alexander, and General Robert Taylor.

In 1855, Benjamin Fryer arrived in Blakely and purchased a store on the west corner of North Main and Court Square. In 1856, the widow of William Phillip sold the Collier land on South Main Street to Peter Howard who developed it. James Buchannon and Co. had a two-story building that was used as a Masonic Hall. In 1859, the oldest existing business was founded, the *Early County News*, which was as located on the east side of South Main Street. The paper remained in the same family for four generations. Grouby, the paper's founder, was also Blakely's postmaster during the Civil War.

Blakely's preparation for the Civil War was shown in two overt activities. In May 1861, a political meeting was held on the courthouse grounds. Whigs and Democrats publicly put their differences aside to unite against the North. Soon afterward, Peter Howard gave the county a 90-foot tall long leaf pine tree from his property north of town. The tree became a flag pole for the Confederate flag. Eighteen inches in diameter, 90-foot tall spliced with ten extra feet to make it an even 100 feet, this pole remains on the courthouse grounds.

The Early Guards Company G, 13th Regiment of the Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Evans Brigade, Gordon's Division of the Army of Northern Virginia was the first company to leave from Early County in 1861. The Early County Volunteers, who left in 1862, were subjected to heavy fighting and losses. A cavalry unit organized and enlisted men in Blakely in July 1863. During the war, company drills were held in a field north of the Old Academy on South Main Street.

After the Civil War, Blakely remained primarily a market for farmers in the county and the center of political activity. The economy was dependent upon farm product prices. It was not until 1894 that diversification and improved farming techniques brought on by the Populist Movement, that the economy began to improve.

In 1871, Blakely was incorporated as a town. By 1873, it had 300 people. The Court Square had five stores, several offices, hotels, livery stables, and dwellings. There was no attempt to separate the uses of the area; development was concentrated in the center. Many stores and offices on the square had fenced yards to keep out livestock that roamed the streets. As late as 1877, hogs were observed on the courthouse grounds.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Especially important to the economic growth of this period were the lumber and turpentine industries. In 1873, the Southwestern Railroad line was completed from Albany to Arlington. The railroad drew the timber industry deeper into south Georgia, facilitating the transport of timber and naval stores to markets elsewhere.

When the railroad reached Blakely in 1881, a depot was built on North Main Street (no longer extant). In 1884, a new hotel building was constructed on the east side of the square to serve rail passengers. By 1886, the railroad had constructed three warehouses, and cotton receipts had increased from 2,000 to 4,500 bales that year. Most of the development in the downtown area was directed toward the railroad depot. On Main Street, houses were shaded by water oaks. The new Baptist church was built on Line Street (Church Street), which at this time had been open only a few years. About 1889, the streets around the square were paved as well as North and South Main Street. The population exceeded 1,000.

In the 1890s, Arthur Powell and Frank Jones were appointed to name the streets of Blakely. Eventually, the downtown street names changed through usage. Cuthbert Road became Cuthbert Street, Fort Gaines Road became College Street, Howard Landing Road became River Street, Bainbridge Road was Main Street, Columbia Road became Columbia Avenue, and Line Street is now Church Street. Line Street was so named because it marked the original land lot line, hence its name.

By the 1890s, several lawyers' offices were located on the Court Square, including J. E. Sherman, P. D. DuBose, and J. S. Sherman. Saloons were outlawed and alcohol was purchased from the dispensary on South Main Street in the Brunson Building. Mr. and Mrs. Roswell C. Smith constructed a brick building on the west corner of North Main Street and the Court Square, where the first log building had been located. This building served as a drug store. The present store on the corner of Victoria and the Court Square was built during the 1890s.

The 1890s was the period in which most of the existing downtown buildings were built in Blakely. These buildings replaced houses, which were moved off of the square as the space was needed for commercial development. The earliest commercial buildings were wood-frame and were later replaced by the existing brick buildings.

In 1893, the Bank of Blakely was founded. On River Street, Wade Powell constructed a building for the telephone company. It is on the west side of the square next to the Georgia telephone repair service building and owned by the Magnolia Lodge, Order of the Eastern Star. The *People's Voice* was founded in 1894 as an organ of the Populist Movement. It later became the *Blakely Reporter*. L. C. Strong built a drug store on North Main Street in 1894. A wood building was built on the northwest corner of the square by J. B. Jones and David E. Lee in 1895. Later that same year, the north side of the square burned.

In 1896, Walter Thomas Dry Goods Store was built by Charlie M. Deal, and a two-story building was constructed for Livingston Hardware. In 1899, Col. James Buchannon, one of the original settlers,

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

had a two-story building in town. The second floor was used for the Masonic Hall and the first floor used for Dr. Doster's drugstore. In 1900, Blakely was incorporated as a city with a municipal authority consisting of a mayor and four councilmen. Prosperity increased as the timber industry grew and diversification materialized.

On the north side of the square, E. L. Fryer built a two-story livery stable, which was later used as a hardware store by J. T. Tower. Fryer later built a store between this building and the bank on the corner. There were four buildings on the east side of the square in 1900. On the southeast corner was Dr. R. B. Doster's house. Two two-story, frame hotels were located on the east side between Magnolia and McDonald streets. The Thompson Hotel was moved to the back of its lot when construction began on the new city hall in 1939.

Built in 1903, the First National Bank is a brick building with marble details at the south corner of the Court Square and River Street. Georgia Telephone later occupied the building and it has been extensively renovated with the exterior covered with a metal façade.

The town's first opera house was built in 1904 by Arthur Powell. The Powell Opera House was built by architects Biggers and Crisp from Columbus and had seating for 750. The brick, three-story building was located on the northwest corner of the Court Square and River Street. A three-bay storefront was on the front façade. Professional offices and the main floor of the opera occupied the second floor, and the third floor was a balcony and dressing rooms. The building burned in 1907 and sat in ruins for several years. In 1910, it was rebuilt as a two-story office building, utilizing the remains of the original structure.

In 1904, a two-story, brick building was constructed north of the opera house and housed Peter's Drug Store on the first floor and offices on the second. Also in 1904, a two-story brick building was constructed on the corner of South Main Street and Court Square by Wyatt Alexander. Also in 1904, the following businesses came to Blakely: Flowers Lumber Company, a cotton seed oil mill and fertilizer plant, a creosote factory, and a peanut industry, which was the first in the county. A water and electric plant was also built that year.

Blakely's current courthouse was constructed in 1905 on the center of a four-acre square at a cost of \$50,000. The architects were Morgan and Dillon of Atlanta and the contractor was W. T. Jay of Shellman, Georgia.

During World War I, the lumber business and related industries contributed greatly to Blakely's economy. These industries would also help support the local economy through the Great Depression. When the Depression hit Blakely in the 1930s, the local economy suffered, but several building projects were undertaken during this period. In 1929, a new movie house was built on the northwest side of the square. Although still extant, the exterior and interior have been altered. Several brick buildings were constructed on the north side of the "Big Ditch", replacing the newspaper office owned by Jack Powell. On the southwest side of the Court Square, three stores were constructed in the early 1930s.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

There were three significant New Deal projects enacted in Blakely. First, the post office was built in 1937. The building includes the mural "The Land is Bought from the Indians" by Daniel Putnam Brinley. The second New Deal project was the construction of the Blakely City Hall and Fire Department by the Federal Emergency Administration in 1939. The third project was the development of nearby Kolomoki State Park by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the early 1940s.

In the past few years, Blakely has taken steps to encourage the rehabilitation of downtown businesses. During the last ten years, a substantial number of commercial buildings have had their false-fronts removed to reveal the historic facades. More recently, in 1993, the courthouse was restored with the use of more than \$2 million of Special Local Options Sales Tax funds. In 1994, the sidewalks around Court Square were repaved. In 1995, a group of concerned citizens formed Court Square Development, Inc. (CSDI), whose mission is to promote, retain, and recruit businesses in the historic commercial area. Through CSDI's efforts, the city has adopted a sign ordinance targeted at the downtown and created a low-interest loan pool for historically appropriate rehabilitation. This has improved the business climate in the commercial district and led to several rehabilitations.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Dixon, Sandra. Historic District Information Form. Blakely Court Square Historic District. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, 1982.

Forgey, Paul. Historic District Information Form. Blakely Court Square Historic District. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, 1998.

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

- () **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- () **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:**
- () **previously listed in the National Register**
- () **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 Approximately 30 acres

UTM References

Point	Zone	Easting	Northing
A)	16	696270	3473300
B)	16	696530	3473340
C)	16	696770	3472950
D)	16	696500	3472820
E)	16	696250	3473020

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic district boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Sparta plan of streets and the intact concentration of commercial and community landmark buildings historically associated with the development of downtown Blakely.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven Moffson
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 31, 2001
e-mail steven_Moffson@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) not applicable

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

- property owner**
 regional preservation planner
 consultant
 other:

Property Owner or Nomination Sponsor Name and Address

name (property owner or contact person) n. a.
organization (if applicable) Court Square Development, Inc.
mailing address P.O. Box 180
city or town Blakely **state** Georgia **zip code** 31723
e-mail n. a.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Blakely Court Square Historic District
City or Vicinity: Blakely
County: Early
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 1999

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of Photographs: 33

1. South Main Street, photographer facing north.
2. South Main Street, photographer facing northeast.
3. South Main Street, photographer facing north.
4. Court Square, photographer facing northwest.
5. Early County Courthouse and Court Square, photographer facing northwest.
6. Court Square, photographer facing northwest.
7. Court Square with Confederate monument and Confederate flag pole, photographer facing west.
8. Court Square with peanut monument, photographer facing northwest.
9. Liberty Street, photographer facing northwest.
10. South Main Street, photographer facing northwest.
11. United States Post Office, South Main Street, photographer facing northwest.
12. United States Post Office, interior, mural in lobby.
13. Court Square, photographer facing southwest.
14. Blakely Theater, Court Square, photographer facing south.
15. Court Square, photographer facing northwest.