

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MAY 29 2015

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number N. McIntosh St to the railroad on the north; Thomas St on the east;  
Church St on the south; S. Oliver St on the west

not for publication

city or town Elberton

vicinity

state Georgia code 105 county Elbert code GA zip code 30635

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

 22 MAY 2015  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature of the Keeper

7/14/15  
Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
See below	_____	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

Elbert County Courthouse (1980) (1 resource)  
 Elberton Commercial Historic District (1982) (see count below)  
 Elberton Depot (1986) (1 resource)

**Previous classification of resources within Elberton Commercial Historic District boundary:**

Number of Resources within district	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	43	2
Sites	1	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>2</b>

(Note: The above numbers are based on an estimate of counting parcels based upon the 1982 map, rather than resources. There is no resource count associated with the 1982 nomination.)

**Current classification of resources within previously listed Elberton Commercial Historic District boundary:**

Number of Resources within district	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	33	9
Sites	1	0
Structures	0	0
Objects	5	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>11</b>

Number of resources in **newly added areas** of Elberton Commercial Historic District (excluding one previously listed individual property – Elberton Depot):

Number of Resources within district	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	38	8
Sites	0	0
Structures	1	0
Objects	0	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>8</b>

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**Total Combined Number of Resources within district:**

Number of Resources within district	Contributing	Noncontributing
Buildings	71	17
Sites	1	0
Structures	1	0
Objects	5	2
<b>Total:</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>19</b>

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business; department store;  
 restaurant; professional; financial institution;  
 specialty store

GOVERNMENT: courthouse; post office; jail

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE:  
 monument/marker; theater

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related; road-related

LANDSCAPE: plaza

EDUCATION: library

HEALTH CARE: clinic

SOCIAL: meeting hall

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business; department store;  
 restaurant; professional; financial institution;  
 specialty store

GOVERNMENT: courthouse; post office

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE:  
 monument/marker; theater; museum

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related; road-related

LANDSCAPE: plaza

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic; Queen Anne;  
 Romanesque; Italianate; Renaissance

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:  
 Tudor Revival; Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival;  
 Classical Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
 AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco, Modern

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK; STONE: granite

walls: BRICK; STUCCO

roof: ASPHALT; TERRA COTTA; STONE: Slate

other:

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Elberton Commercial Historic District consists of the intact downtown commercial area that developed from the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries. Downtown streets are aligned in a grid pattern around the rectangular Sutton Square. The center of the square is an open lawn with historic and non-historic monuments, but no buildings. Most buildings facing the square are attached, two-story, brick stores or offices with a common setback from the sidewalk. These blocks are generally subdivided into long narrow lots fronting onto the main streets and backing up to service alleys. Exceptions to this arrangement include the Samuel Elbert Hotel, a large Tudor Revival-style building, and a Spanish Colonial Revival-style former gas station. The 1894 Romanesque-style courthouse dominates a large lot to the west of the square. Other stylistic influences represented in the district include elements of Italianate, Renaissance, Classical Revival, and Art Deco styles.

This boundary increase and additional documentation expands the district beyond the square, especially to the east and north, adding several community landmarks that were not included in the previous nomination. These include the 1910 Elberton Depot, the 1912 Neoclassical Revival-style U.S. Post Office, the 1897 First Baptist Church, the 1889 Methodist church (altered 1909) and its 1922 Sunday School wing, the 1950 Elbert Theatre, and the modern 1951 Elbert County Health Department building. The district retains a high degree of integrity.

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### Narrative Description

**The following description was written by Jennifer Willis in the *Historic District Information Form* "Elberton Commercial Historic District", July 6, 2011. It was edited by HPD staff and is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.**

The Elberton Commercial Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic commercial downtown of Elberton. It is located on a rise of ground at the center of Elberton's circular city limits. Principal city streets intersect at right angles in this area, creating a tight gridiron pattern of several blocks arranged around a central rectangular public square. The blocks are generally subdivided into long narrow lots fronting onto the main streets and backing up to the service alleys. Buildings are primarily late 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century two-story brick commercial structures. They are densely grouped within the district and share both party walls and a common setback from the sidewalks. Brick, the principal building material, is used structurally and decoratively in foundations, piers, load-bearing walls, pilasters, spandrel and parapet panels, segmental arches, string courses, and corbelled cornices. It is complemented by cast-iron columns in storefronts, stone foundations, and stone, terracotta, and pressed-metal ornamentation. Exceptions to these general rules include the free-standing Richardsonian Romanesque-style Elbert County Courthouse, the Tudor Revival-style Samuel Elbert Hotel at the corner of South Oliver and Public Square South, and the Art Deco-style Elbert Theatre.

#### Community Landmarks

The Elbert County Courthouse, built in 1894, was designed by architect Reuben Harrison Hunt in the Richardsonian Romanesque style (photographs 1 and 2). This is a two-story over basement brick building with a facade that features end pavilions with pedimented dormers. A large arched opening framed by granite

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marks the entrance to the building. On the second story above this entrance are six smaller arches that form an arcade. A square clock tower rises above the arcade and supports a lanterned dome. There is one noncontributing object, a plaque, on the lawn that highlights the history of the courthouse. There is one contributing object, a monument, dedicated to all Elbert County citizens who gave their life in the service of their country. The monument was given to the county by the VFW Post 5456 and dedicated in 1964. There are also three Georgia Historical Commission markers (contributing objects) located on the lawn. They include the following text:

#### OLD POST ROAD

This road is older than Elberton. Mail was carried over it by Post Riders before Falling Creek Church was built in 1788 and during Washington's Administration. Later a stage coach ran between Elberton & Lexington three times a week, stopping at the old Globe Hotel which stood on the site of the present court house in Elberton. Stocks for local merchants were brought over this road until 1878 when the first railroad came to Elberton. With the coming of Rural Free Delivery Mr. Giles made the first delivery in Elbert County over this road on horseback.

052-3 GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION 1955

#### ELBERT COUNTY

Created from Wilkes County by Act of Dec. 10, 1790, Elbert County was settled in 1784 by Gen. George Mathews and a group from Virginia and Carolina. The site of Petersburg, the original settlement and third largest town in Georgia in its day, is covered by the Clark Hill Reservoir. Nancy Hart, celebrated Revolutionary patriot, lived in this county. Elbert County was named for Gen. Samuel Elbert, Revolutionary soldier and Governor of Georgia (1785-1786). A native of South Carolina and resident of Savannah (1778) and Brier Creek (1779).

On Jan. 20, 1791, the first session of Elbert County Superior Court was held at the home of Thos. A. Carter on Beaverdam Creek, some 5 miles NW of here. George Walton, Georgia signer of the Declaration of Independence, was presiding judge. The Carter plantation house stands today. Nearby is the family cemetery. First officers of Elbert County were: Matthew Talbot, Clerk; Robert Middleton, Sheriff; Robert Cosby, Collector of Taxes; W. Higginbottom, Register of Probate; Thos. Burton, Receiver of Tax Returns; Richardson Hunt, Surveyor; James Tate, Coroner.

052-13 GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION 1959

#### GRAVE OF GENERAL WILEY THOMPSON

General Wiley Thompson, considered the ablest and most humane of the agents to the Seminole Indians of Florida, was ambushed and killed near the agency at Fort King, Florida, December 28, 1835, by Osceola and a band of warriors who opposed removal to the West. Some months later his body was brought to Elbert and reburied in the garden of his home, 4 blocks east of here (now Heard Street). Born in Virginia, September 25, 1781, General Thompson was reared in Elbert County. A militia officer in the war of 1812, in 1817 he was elected major general of the 4th Division of the Georgia Militia. A State Senator from 1817 to 1819, General Thompson resigned and served on the commission to determine the boundary between Georgia and Florida. After serving six consecutive terms as a member of Congress where he supported President Jackson's policy of Indian removal, he was appointed agent in September 1833.

052-14 GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION 1959

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The jail, completed in 1894, is currently used as a museum (photograph 3). The classically inspired two-story brick building has a front porch that protects the central entrance door. The door has a transom and sidelights. Windows on both floors are set within arched openings. The building has a decorative cornice and metal roof. A noncontributing object, a monument, dedicated to law enforcement is located on the grounds.

The United States Post Office was completed in 1914 in the Neoclassical Revival style (photograph 30). The design and construction of the post office was supervised by Philadelphia-born architect, Oscar Wenderoth, (1871–1938). Wenderoth served as director of the Office of the Supervising Architect, the federal agency that designed government buildings, from 1912 to 1915. The rectangular building is brick with stone columns and trim. Wide concrete steps taper at the glass entrance doors. Six Ionic columns define the large, slightly recessed, entrance porch. One addition to the rear of the building was built in 1949, and in 1956 there was a second addition to include a loading platform and a new mailing vestibule. This addition has pilasters and many similarities to the original building.

The sanctuary of the Methodist church, located at the corner of Church and Thomas streets, was begun in 1886 and completed in 1889 (photograph 28, left). Homer C. Mickel, a member of the church and a builder by profession, planned the structure. Luther Turner, also a church member, was a brick maker and bricklayer who donated the bricks for the building. In 1908 a storm caused considerable damage to the church. Mickel and William E. Wallis, also a member of the congregation, led the repairs to the building, which were completed in 1909. Repairs included removing the damaged steeple and covering the brick with stucco. The building has Gothic Revival elements including pointed arched windows and a steeply pitched roof. Additions completed in 1922 included additional space for Sunday school rooms. Educational buildings were added in 1952 and 1964. Another building was constructed in 1978; it is noncontributing.

The library building on Church Street was built for the dual functions of a library and the Masonic lodge (photograph 28, right). The architect was William W. Thomas, of Athens; M.B. McGinty was the contractor. The cornerstone of the library was laid in July 1891 and the building was completed in October. The two-story, brick building is Richardsonian Romanesque in style. The building is brick with granite surrounding the arched doors and windows. The building is now owned by the Methodist church.

The Elbert Theatre, built in 1940 and rebuilt in 1950 after fire destroyed the building, is located on the corner of South Oliver and West Church streets (photograph 8). The building is two stories and constructed of brick with a stucco façade. The front façade has a centrally located, recessed, entrance bay with three double doors with porthole windows. An awning supporting the marquee shelters this entrance bay. Horizontal striping on either side of the entrance bay is highlighted with black glass. Vertical striping on the stepped parapet continues the Art Deco style of the building.

The First Baptist Church sanctuary was built in 1897 (photograph 29). Reuben H. Hunt was the architect and D.M. Kenney was the builder. The large brick building is a Romanesque Revival-style sanctuary with granite foundation, stone trim, stained-glass windows which vary from small rectangular windows to large arched windows, slate roof, and arched door openings. Construction began on a new Sunday School Annex in 1929, which was completed in 1935. The brick annex is adjacent to the sanctuary; however it is attached to a larger and newer building within the church complex and is noncontributing.

The Elberton Depot, constructed in 1910, is a one-story, rectangular-shaped brick building with Queen Anne-style detailing (photographs 38-40). The roof has two brick chimneys and is constructed of fluted clay tile. It has large overhanging eaves that are supported by stick-style brackets. The north and south roof elevations have a gable with Palladian window, and the east and west roof elevations have a lunette window. These four gables are covered with shingles. The exterior windows and doors have lintels of vertically laid brick. All windows are one-over-one, and the wooden doors have horizontal panels with transom light above. The

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building is individually listed in the National Register (1986). The railroad tracks are counted as one contributing structure.

In October 1949, James M. Hunt released his rendering of a new Elbert County Health Center to be constructed on Church Street near the theatre. Hunt's modern design of the one-story building was constructed in brick and glass with a number of details in granite (photographs 6 and 7). The steeply sloping shed roofs define each section of the three-part building. The new clinic was constructed at a cost of \$60,900 and was dedicated on August 15, 1951.

### Commercial Buildings

Most of the commercial buildings are attached one- and two-story brick commercial buildings constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and are typical of commercial buildings constructed in Georgia during this time.

The buildings on South Public Square are attached one- and two-story brick commercial buildings. A four-story hotel anchors the southwest corner of the street (photograph 10). The Samuel Elbert Hotel, designed by Robert S. Pringle and Francis P. Smith of Atlanta, was completed in 1925. Arnold Construction Company was the contracting firm. The hotel has elements of the Tudor Revival style in the gables and arched openings on the first floor.

12 Public Square is a building made of Elberton granite and has engraved in the front center of the building "BANK" (photograph 12). The Bank of Elberton was the second oldest bank in the city. The one-story building has an arched door opening and an arched window opening. The date "1893" is located in the triangular pediment atop the building.

A more recent addition to this side of the square is an Art Deco-style building with black Carrara-glass panels across the front (photograph 12, right). The entrance is recessed. The building is located between the hotel and the granite bank building. This one-story building was built in 1937 by Joe Allen and Dr. D.N. Thompson. A pharmacy, operated by the Ward family, remains in operation.

The Bank of Elberton's third location at 25 Heard Street is a building that was designed by William E. Wallis (photograph 13, right). The two-story building, completed in 1920, is covered with cream-colored bricks that came from Wallis' brickyard in Harper, Georgia. The classically inspired building has a central entrance door with pediment. Located on either side of the entrance are engaged, fluted, Doric columns that support the cornice. This building is presently occupied by *The Elberton Star*.

Charles Fortson Herndon opened Herndon Store on the Elberton Square in 1910 (photographs 15 and 22). The building is located on the northwest corner of James and Heard streets. The two-story brick building has arched window openings and two storefront entrances. The outside of the building has a painted sign on the side that faces James Street. The sign advertises Herndon's Drugs.

Located on the north side of the square at 15 Heard Street is the 1903 Tate Building (photograph 13, far left). This two-story brick commercial building has paired arched window openings. A large arched entrance is centrally located on Heard Street. This building has a faded Wrigley's Spearmint Gum advertisement on the side of the building facing James Street.

The four-story commercial building located at the corner of Heard and N. Oliver streets was designed by A. Ten Eyck Brown of Atlanta and completed in 1920 (photographs 16 and 22). This four-story building has paired one-over-one windows. Classical details include pilasters, dentil molding, and quoins. Two storefronts are located on Heard Street. "First National Bank" is inscribed above the left storefront.

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The block of buildings located on the east side of North McIntosh Street between the square and Elbert Street is known as the Swift Block (photographs 31 and 32). Thomas M. Swift built these buildings c.1900. The block of buildings consists of attached one- and two-story brick buildings. There is decorative brickwork in the form of patterned arches, engaged columns, and rusticated stone on some buildings.

William E. Wallis designed a large, two-story commercial building on the west side of North McIntosh Street for William O. Jones in 1904 (photographs 19 and 23). The building has six bays with window openings divided by pilasters. It is topped by a parapet with small arches and pilasters. The building retains most of its original detail and recessed storefronts. Wallis used local bricks from Jones' Elberton Brick Company in Harper, Georgia, for the exterior and native Elberton granite for details such as the caps on the first floor pilasters.

The buildings on the west side of North Oliver Street (photographs 17 and 18) are attached two-story commercial buildings that date from the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century. The upper stories of these buildings include details such as brackets, dentil molding, plaster shields, and granite trim.

William O. Jones built the two-story Elberton Compress Building on the corner of Elbert and North Oliver streets in 1910. William E. Wallis was the architect of the building. An advertisement on the side of the building proclaims Elberton the "Granite Capital of the World" (photograph 33).

North of Elbert Street is part of the original mercantile district of Elberton. Buildings located on the west side of North McIntosh Street include two-story buildings that were built in 1900 and a one-story building that was built c.1930 (photograph 37). Some of the buildings have apartments on the second floor. There are two other buildings on this street that were built around the late 1950s (photograph 34). These buildings are small one-story buildings. One of the buildings has been painted blue over the original brick.

132 North Oliver Street was built in 1915 by the McLanahan Brothers (photograph 36). The one-story building is brick; part of the window/door opening has been infilled. A sign, centrally located below the cornice, reads "McLanahan Bros -1915 -."

There are several automobile garages within the district. The property at 142 North Oliver Street was built in the mid-1930s (photograph 35). Also the building at 143 Heard Street was built around 1950 as a garage, but has been repurposed as an office.

#### Public Square

The Public Square is centrally located downtown between Heard and Church streets. Rows of commercial buildings are located on all four sides of the square. Heard Street (entering the square from the east) and James Street (entering the square from the north) both dead-end into the square and create an atypical pattern for Georgia's courthouse squares.

The square formerly housed the courthouse before a new location across Oliver Street was chosen in the 1890s to build Elbert County's third courthouse. The first Elbert County Courthouse that was located on the square in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century was possibly built of logs. This courthouse was replaced by an early 19<sup>th</sup> century courthouse that was located in the center of the square.

The square was reconfigured in 1956 and today has two square green spaces with a brick walkway between the two. The two green spaces are edged with granite and are landscaped with trees, flowers, planters, lights, and benches. The Confederate monument, installed on the square in April 1905, is centrally placed on the walkway. This obelisk, of white bronze, has a Confederate soldier atop. It is a contributing object. A third section of the square facing Oliver Street is semicircular in shape and includes trees, shrubs, and a fountain

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dedicated to the Bicentennial. This fountain is a noncontributing object. The square is counted as a contributing site (photographs 4 and 5).

## Houses

There are two houses located within the district. The American Small House at 115 Heard Street was constructed in 1948. Another house is located on Thomas Street behind the post office. It has elements of the English Vernacular Revival style as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*.

Noncontributing buildings within the district include those buildings that have been significantly altered from their historic appearance or were constructed after the end of the period of significance. Examples include a row of buildings on South McIntosh Street where the historic façades have been covered by nonhistoric materials. Both of the churches within the district have additions that were built outside of the period of significance. These additions are noncontributing to the district.

Landscaping includes areas with granite installed in some sidewalk areas. A few of the sidewalks branch off to include planting beds with trees and shrubs. The lawn of the courthouse has grass and shrubs, while the adjacent jail includes a mature shade tree in the front lawn.

This district is mainly surrounded by residential areas. This district actually touches two separate historic residential districts in different places: the Elberton Residential Historic District (located south and east of downtown, listed in 1982) and the Forest Avenue Historic District (located west of downtown, listed in 2015).

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Architecture
- Commerce
- Community Planning and Development
- Politics/Government

**Period of Significance**

1878-1965

**Significant Dates**

1878 – railroad arrived

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

- Brown, A. Ten Eyck (architect)
- Hunt, James M. (architect)
- Hunt, Reuben H. (architect)
- Mickel, Homer C. (builder)
- Price, Hunter J. (architect)
- Pringle, Robert & Smith, Francis (architects)
- Stephenson, L.L. (contractor)
- Thomas, William W. (architect)
- Wallis, William E. (architect)
- Wenderoth, Oscar (supervising architect)

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**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the arrival of the railroad in 1878 and ends with the end of the historic period in 1965.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The city of Elberton was founded in the late 18th century, made the county seat in 1803, and platted by 1808. Its downtown gridiron street plan was located on high ground at the center of circular city limits. The arrival of the railroad in 1878 (to the north of downtown) and the success of Elbert County's granite industry in the late 19th century resulted in the development of the commercial district that is evident today. The Elberton Commercial Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its good intact collection of commercial buildings that reflect design and construction traditions commonly found in Georgia towns from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries. This includes many examples of the way small towns interpreted high-style architectural trends and incorporated them into their main streets. The district is also locally significant under Criterion A in community planning and development for its intact historic town plan that uses a grid of streets around a central square. In the area of commerce, the district's local significance under Criterion A derives from its role as the historic commercial center of Elbert County and the region. Typically the county seat filled this role, and provided for the day-to-day commercial needs of nearby rural residents, such as retail stores and offices and professional services. As the county seat, Elberton is also significant at the local level under Criterion A in politics/government for the presence of buildings directly related to activities and events associated with government, such as the county courthouse and the former jail. The period of significance from 1878 to 1965 includes the arrival of the railroad to Elberton and concludes with the end of the historic period.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Elberton Commercial Historic District is significant at the local level in the area of architecture because the commercial buildings are representative of architectural styles built in Georgia cities from the end of the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. Elberton has many good intact examples of commercial architecture that date from its period of greatest growth during the late 19th century into the 1960s. The central business district is concentrated in the blocks near the courthouse as is common in many of Georgia's county seats. Commercial buildings in the district include both freestanding and attached one- and two-story brick buildings. A couple of buildings are four stories tall. Other character-defining features of the late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings include simple rectangular forms; storefronts that face directly onto the sidewalk; a common setback; large display windows; and architectural ornament primarily on the front facades. Most of the buildings are one story in height and brick is the most common building material.

The Elberton Commercial Historic District is also significant in architecture for its community landmark buildings including the Elbert County Courthouse (1894), jail (1894), depot (1910), United States Post Office (1914), Methodist church (1889), First Baptist church (1897), library (1891), Elbert Theatre (1940), and the Elbert County Health Center (1951).

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Many prominent Georgia architects designed buildings in Elberton including A.Ten Eyck Brown, James M. Hunt, Reuben H. Hunt, Hunter J. Price, Robert S. Pringle, Francis P. Smith, William W. Thomas, and William E. Wallis.

#### A.Ten Eyck Brown

Albert Anthony Ten Eyck Brown, born in 1878 in Albany, New York, studied at the Academy of Design in New York and worked in Washington, D.C. and New York. Upon relocating to Atlanta in 1902, he collaborated with P. Thornton Marye on St. Luke's Episcopal Church. He also designed houses in the developing suburbs of Druid Hills and Ansley Park, where he resided. By 1924 Brown's architectural practice was well established and he had completed a number of residences, apartment buildings, and commercial structures. During the economic depression of the 1930s and the restrained aesthetic in building, Brown completed one of his most well-known works: the Art Deco Post Office Annex (now the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Building) in Atlanta.

James M. Hunt (1915-1993) was a member and fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Among his many designs in Elberton are the Elbert County Health Center, the reconstruction of the Elberton Theatre, and the 1966 First Baptist Church addition.

Reuben Harrison Hunt (1862-1937) was the architect for the Elbert County Courthouse and the 1897 First Baptist Church. Hunt was a senior member of the architectural firm of Hunt and Lamm of Chattanooga, Tennessee. He was a distant relative of James M. Hunt.

Hunter J. Price (1896-1959) was a graduate of the architectural school of the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech). Price became one of the most prominent architects in Elberton in the second quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His designs include the Rock Gym, the Elberton Country Club, Central Elementary School, church parsonages, the Auld Service Station, the Vocational Building of the Methodist church, as well as houses. He also worked along with J.J. Price as the local architectural representative on the Elbert County Hospital.

Robert S. Pringle (1883-1937), a South Carolina native, came to Atlanta in 1907 to work with W.T. Downing, a leading architect of Atlanta. Pringle practiced alone before partnering with Francis P. Smith in 1922. Pringle & Smith designed many hotels, office buildings, schools, houses, and industrial buildings primarily in Georgia, Tennessee, and Florida. In Elberton, they designed the Samuel Elbert Hotel in 1925.

Francis P. Smith (1886-1971) graduated in 1907 with a B.S. in Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects and president of the Georgia chapter of the AIA. He taught at Georgia Tech from 1909 to 1922 and was the first director of the Department of Architecture. He then began a practice with Robert S. Pringle in 1922, which lasted until 1934 when Pringle retired. At that point, Smith operated a solo practice until his son joined him in 1960.

L.L. Stephenson (1867-1948) worked as a building contractor. A native of Covington, Georgia, Stephenson learned the bricklaying trade at age 16. After working in Alabama and Tennessee, he returned to Georgia, and worked in Atlanta and Athens before arriving in Elberton in 1893. He was the contractor for a number of buildings in Elberton including the Elbert County Courthouse. He was praised by colleagues for his skillful work on the courthouse. During his time in Elberton he also operated a brick yard near Harper, Georgia. Then in 1900, he sold the brick company and moved to Birmingham, Alabama, where he operated another brick company and remained in the brick manufacturing industry until his death.

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William Edgus Wallis (1870-1920) was a contractor/architect for the W.O.Jones buildings, Day Block, several buildings on Oliver Street, Third Granite City bank, and the 1897 First Baptist Church. Wallis came to Elberton as an assistant for L.L. Stephenson in the mid-1890s to work on the courthouse, and remained in Elberton until his death in 1920. Wallis, known familiarly as Gus, learned architecture from correspondence courses, according to one account. Despite the lack of training in a formal architectural school, Wallis was a master builder of sweeping architectural vision. Wallis also worked on the renovation of the Methodist church and the First Presbyterian Church.

The district is significant in terms of commerce because of its role as the principal commercial center in Elbert County. Typically, the county seat filled this role, and provided for the day-to-day commercial needs of nearby residents, such as retail stores, offices, and professional services. The district housed offices related to important local businesses and industries, including the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century granite industry for which Elberton, the "Granite Capital of the World", is widely known in the United States.

The district is significant at the local level in the area of community planning and development because it represents the downtown commercial center of a historic county seat that was planned and developed in ways that are characteristic of such cities in northeast Georgia. Elberton was founded in the late 18th century, designated county seat in 1803, and platted by 1808. Its downtown gridiron street plan was located on high ground at the center of circular city limits. This early 19<sup>th</sup>-century framework then accommodated intensive late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial development fostered by the arrival of the railroad in 1878, the emergence of the granite industry in the late 19th century, and the growth of the surrounding community. The resulting downtown area embodied such characteristic features as a commercial square and streets lined with brick buildings.

The major road orientation, street grid pattern, and railroad line remain intact from the historic period. Commercial buildings surround the historic courthouse square, although the courthouse was no longer in the square after 1894. The majority of the buildings date from the beginning of the 20th century to 1965 and represent the evolution of commercial development in Elberton. As the city grew, residential development moved away from the commercial core to the periphery of the downtown. The growth of Elberton away from the central business district reflects the major periods of community development influenced by various social and economic factors. Most of the oldest residential areas of the town are located on main streets near the downtown. As the physical framework of the town expanded, later housing moved to the periphery.

As the county seat, Elberton is also significant at the local level in politics/government for the presence of buildings directly related to activities and events associated with government, such as the county courthouse and the former jail. Throughout much of Georgia's history, the county has been the most important and powerful form of local government. County governments made and enforced laws through county commissioners, sheriffs, and judges, who were traditionally the most important local political figures. County governments also provided essential public services including building and maintaining roads and water/sewer systems. They were responsible for administering important aspects of the legal system such as the court system, birth and death records, wills and probate, and property deeds and taxes. Through county school boards, they provided for public education throughout the county.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

**The following history was written by Jennifer Willis in the *Historic District Information Form* "Elberton Commercial Historic District", July 6, 2011. It was edited by HPD staff and is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.**

The town of Elberton, located in the Piedmont region of Georgia, was officially incorporated in 1803. According to local lore, a frontier settlement had formed there around a spring. The city was named for General Samuel Elbert of South Carolina who fought in the Revolutionary War. Soon after the incorporation of Elberton, the young town began to grow. The pace was slow at first and then accelerated rapidly with the appearance of the railroad. During the early period, city and county leaders constructed buildings required for the needs of the city, county, and federal governments. Most buildings were constructed around the public square.

After the Civil War, Elbert County remained wedded to the cotton industry and existed as a rural, agricultural community. Arrival of the Elberton Air-Line Railroad connecting Elberton to Toccoa in 1878 made it possible to transport the granite products and greatly accelerated growth of the industry. Beginning in the 1890s it was best known as "Granite City" and the "Granite Capital of the South" as it was transformed by the discovery and development of extensive areas of granite deposits. Commercial quarries supplied granite for building materials and railroad construction. The availability of granite also led to a major industry of carving monuments and sculptures. In the early 20th century, Northern entrepreneurs and skilled Italian laborers came to Elberton to participate in the boom. By the 1920s, Elberton's granite industry had overtaken agriculture as the economic centerpiece of the county. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the industry not only survived but also expanded, justifying the town's boast that it was the "granite capital of the world."

The first Elbert County Courthouse was built on the square in the late 18th century. This courthouse was replaced by an early 19th century courthouse that was located in the center of the public square. This second courthouse was replaced with the current courthouse, which is located across the street from the square. The Elbert County Courthouse was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The cornerstone reads on one side: E.B. Tate Chairman, J.W. Worley, J.M. McCalla, County Commissioners; R.H. Hunt Architect, L.L. Stephenson Contractor. The other side reads: Cornerstone laid by Grand Lodge of Georgia J.P. Shannon CM FH and AM May 3 AD 1894 AL5894. There is a dedication plaque for the Elevator Dedicated 1988. Listed are Commissioners Billy Brown, Chairman, Otis Childs, Vice Chairman, Georgia Mae White, Andy Cornell, Mac Thornton, Jr, Richard Rucker, James M. Hunt architect, and Joel H. Turner, Contractor.

The United States Post Office was in several temporary locations before the current government building was built. At different points in time, it was located in at least two different sites in the Swift Block on North McIntosh Street and in several other rented temporary locations. Finally, the United States government approved the construction of a new building for the purpose of housing a permanent post office on the southeast corner of Heard and Thomas streets.

The Methodist church in Elberton, Georgia, was founded in 1815 and was part of the Broad River Circuit. The first building was erected in 1820. In 1848, the Methodist church moved to its present location, and a frame building was constructed. In 1880, the church became a station church with its first full-time pastor. The current church building was constructed in 1889 with later additions.

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In 1891 Susan B. Allen, a member of the prominent Singleton Allen family, married Colonel Young L.G. Harris, a philanthropist from Athens. This marriage produced the union of private fortunes that made a new Elberton library possible. Mr. and Mrs. Harris formed the Harris-Allen Library Association, for the purpose of constructing a new library for the city. The library association then joined the Philomatheia Lodge #25, the Oliver Chapter #25, and the Free Masons to purchase a property for the library. They selected a lot on Church Street. This group planned a building to house a library and the Masonic lodge. The architect was W.W. Thomas, of Athens; and M.B. McGinty was the contractor. The cornerstone of the library was laid in July 1891, on a day of such fanfare that a writer described it as one of the most memorable days that ever passed in Elberton. The construction continued, and the building was near completion by October and opened soon afterward. The library closed in the 1930s after the namesakes died. Pauline Brewer Brown opened a small city library in the same building. After the construction of a new library for the city and county in 1969, this small library was closed again. The Masonic Lodge began to use the entire building until the construction of a new lodge building in 1995. In 2003 this building was purchased by the Methodist church and has been renamed the Jack R. Bozeman Building.

On October 23, 1939, Lanier Development Company purchased a lot on the corner of South Oliver and Church streets. On March 22, 1940 Lanier Development Company transferred the property to Publix-Lucas Theatres, Inc. These businesses were owned by William Jenkins and Arthur Lucas who owned theatres all over the South. The contract for the construction was given to Capital Construction Company of Atlanta. The theatre was equipped with accommodations such as the latest seating and air-conditioning when it opened on February 23, 1940. Newspaper articles emphasized how the Elberton theatre would serve as a model for future theatres developed by the company. Elberton was chosen as a site for the theatre because of its growth potential and patronage. Because this theatre was originally built in 1940, it had a separate ticket booth and entrance on the side of the building for African Americans. All white customers purchased their tickets inside. On August 8, 1950 the theatre was destroyed by fire. On August 11, 1950 local contractors began clearing away debris, and as soon as that was completed, Mathis Construction Company of Athens began construction of the theatre. The theatre was rebuilt exactly as originally built in 1940 and reopened on December 1, 1950. On October 31, 1986 United Theatre Enterprises, Inc. sold the theatre to Joe Mac Brown, Sr. By 1994 the City of Elberton had acquired the building from Joe Brown and began remodeling of the theatre. The building was remodeled to be as close to the original as possible. The outside of the building looks as it did on opening day in 1940.

The First Baptist Church was organized in August of 1860. The first sanctuary was located at the corner of Thomas and Elbert streets. By 1887 however, that sanctuary was not sufficient for the rapidly growing congregation. In that year, the lot on the corner of Thomas and Heard streets was purchased from E. Brewer Tate and a new building was erected. This new church building was constructed of wood, and not large enough to hold the growing congregation, and before long, it was time to build again. Planning for the First Baptist Church began in 1897 for a new sanctuary. To help with the cost, it was decided that the construction would be done by locals, under the supervision of a foreman. R.H. Hunt was the architect and D.M. Kenney was the builder. The building was finished in 1897 or 1898. There were no new additions erected until 1929, when construction began on a new Sunday School Annex. This was completed in 1935, and was sufficient until 1952, when the E. Brewer Tate House, used then as the pastorium, was torn down and the second Sunday School Annex was erected. In 1961 the congregation began looking at the future of the church. It was decided that the church needed a new sanctuary, more classrooms, more offices, and music facilities. James M. Hunt was chosen to design this new annex. Groundbreaking took place in February 1965, and the building was completed in April 1966. This addition remains in use today, housing the main sanctuary, choir room, nursery rooms, many Sunday school rooms, church offices, and more. Only a few years later, in 1985 the church decided to build a Family Life Center. This wing, completed in 1985, contains First Baptist's fellowship hall, kitchen, some offices and classrooms, and a youth room and youth offices. Plans were also

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initiated for another annex, which would include a gym/multi-purpose room. Groundbreaking on this building was in early 2001 and dedicated in March 2002. It was decided that the building would be called the "Recreation Outreach Center," or the ROC. The building is used as an activity center and is often used for banquets, parties, and dinners. These later additions are noncontributing to the district.

A group was elected by the Chamber of Commerce in 1924 to be the project directors for a new hotel to be named the Samuel Elbert Hotel. They were among the most progressive businessmen in the city: Thomas N. Colley, president; C.F. Herndon, vice-president; W.E. Bates, secretary; Z.C. Hayes, treasurer; Thomas H. Colley, assistant secretary; T.O. Tabor, Sr; Zach M. Copeland; Sam Patz; J.L. Heard; and H.P. Hunter. The committee went to Atlanta on Thursday, July 30, 1924 to confer with the architectural firm of Pringle & Smith with the full authority from the board to select the type of building they thought best suited for local hotel needs. Pringle & Smith were authorized to proceed at once with plans and specifications. They designed a Tudor-style, fireproof hotel with 46 rooms on the second, third, and fourth floors; each with a private bath and telephone, high-quality steel beds, and carpeted floors.

A large lobby, spacious dining room, and a barber shop were on the first floor of the hotel, and a ladies parlor was located on a mezzanine overlooking the lobby and dining room. The building was completed in 1925 by the Arnold Construction Company and was leased for 10 years by John Campbell (J.C.) Stiles and his brothers, Allen Stiles and Clifford Stiles. They established the Stiles Hotel Chain. J.C. also had hotels leased in Anniston, Alabama, and Union, South Carolina. The Samuel Elbert Hotel was bought by a local group on May 8, 1936. Peyton Hawes later bought the other owners out and owned the hotel himself until he sold it to Anchors Inc. (M.M. Witherspoon and Ralph Brashear). They renamed it the Samuel Elbert Inn on February 2, 1958. There have been some changes to the building over the years which include an alteration of the lobby, removal of the mezzanine, and transformation of the old dining room into office space. The fire escape was enclosed. In 1967 Frances P. Smith and his son Howard Smith designed the remodeling of the hotel as business offices for the Southeastern Power Association (SEPA), who occupied the building until 2001.

In October 1949, James M. Hunt released his design for a new health center. Hunt's modern, one-story building was constructed in brick and glass with a number of details in native granite. In this design, Hunt followed one of his stylistic tendencies and used a large amount of glass to permit natural light to fill the building. The building was constructed at a cost of \$60,900 and was dedicated on Wednesday August 15, 1951. Elberton used this building for about 50 years before deciding to build a new facility in 2000.

The Elbert County jail building is the second jail to be located in Elberton. In June 1893 it was decided that Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis, Missouri, the pioneer jail builders in the United States at the time, would build the new jail. The Pauly company designed new jails to be fireproof, to provide a clean environment with proper facilities for the inmates, and to provide living quarters for the jailers. The residence portion of the building was designed for the comfort of the family. From a front porch, one entered the staircase foyer, the office, and family kitchen on the ground floor. The stairs led to two family bedrooms on the upper level. The part of the building designed to house prisoners was quite different in its layout. It was located at the rear of the first floor where there was a cell for female prisoners and mentally incompetent prisoners. The main cell room was upstairs. Passage to this portion of the building was through a second staircase leading first through a basement and then upward to the jail department on the second floor. The design called for hardened steel cells and a new type of lock, which the jailers could open from outside the cell that provided state-of-the-art security and efficiency in 1893. The jail was completed in 1894 to house 24 inmates. Some additions were made to the building during the many years that it served as the county jail, but this building eventually became outmoded and was replaced by another building. The 1894 building is currently used by the Jim Ree African American Museum.

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The first bus station in Elberton was located in the Sinclair Service Station at the corner of Heard and South McIntosh streets. Then in 1946, Allen Scarborough constructed a new bus station on the northwest corner of Church and South McIntosh streets. Scarborough held a contract with the Atlantic Greyhound Company for bus service. This building is a three-story building that contained waiting rooms and was open 24 hours a day. In the front of the building, a shelter provided dry space for the loading and unloading of passengers.

In March 1904, a monument committee was organized to plan a Confederate monument to be placed on the square. The committee approved a statue to be made by the White Bronze Company of Bridgeport, Connecticut, for \$500.00. The white bronze statue was installed on the square on April 19, 1905 where it remains.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Elberton City Directories 1959-1967.

Davis, Joyce M. *The Architectural Legacy of Elberton*. [Elberton, GA]: Elbert County Historical Society, 2000.

Davis, Joyce M. *Historic Elberton*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2002.

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Howard, Hunt. Interview with Jennifer Willis. Elberton, Georgia. April 13, 2010.

McIntosh, John H. *The Official History of Elbert County 1790-1935*. Atlanta, GA: Cherokee Publishing, 1940.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1898 -1922.

Willis, Jennifer. "Elbert Commercial Historic District." *Historic District Information Form*, July 6, 2011. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)  
 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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary  
Increase and Additional Documentation)  
Name of Property

Elbert County, Georgia  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** approximately 17 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**  
**Datum if other than WGS84:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Latitude:</b> 34.112649 | <b>Longitude:</b> -82.866520 |
| 2. <b>Latitude:</b> 34.109860 | <b>Longitude:</b> -82.864546 |
| 3. <b>Latitude:</b> 34.107222 | <b>Longitude:</b> -82.866113 |
| 4. <b>Latitude:</b> 34.109593 | <b>Longitude:</b> -82.869908 |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary is indicated with a heavy black line on the attached National Register map, which is drawn to scale.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the intact, contiguous, historic resources associated with the downtown commercial area of the city of Elberton. The boundary increase adds properties such as churches, a theatre, a post office, the railroad depot, a former health center, and other resources that were not within the previous boundary.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist  
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date May 2015  
street & number 2610 Georgia Highway 155 telephone 770-389-7842  
city or town Stockbridge state GA zip code 30281  
e-mail lynn.speno@dnr.ga.gov

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary  
Increase and Additional Documentation)

Elbert County, Georgia

Name of Property

County and State

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

City or Vicinity: Elberton

County: Elbert State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Date Photographed: April 25, 2012

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 42. Elbert County Courthouse; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 42. Elbert County Courthouse; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 42. Jail; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 42. Public Square and monument; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 42. Public Square; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 42. Elbert County Health Center; photographer facing south.
- 7 of 42. Elbert County Health Center; photographer facing south.
- 8 of 42. Elbert Theatre; photographer facing north.
- 9 of 42. 10 Church Street; photographer facing east.
- 10 of 42. Samuel Elbert Hotel at Public Square and Oliver Street; photographer facing south.
- 11 of 42. Oliver Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 42. 10 Public Square; photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 42. 17-25 Heard Street; photographer facing north.
- 14 of 42. Corner of McIntosh and Heard streets; photographer facing southeast.
- 15 of 42. James Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 16 of 42. 1-3 Heard Street; photographer facing east.
- 17 of 42. Oliver Street; photographer facing north.
- 18 of 42. Oliver Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 19 of 42. Jones Building, McIntosh Street; photographer facing west.
- 20 of 42. McIntosh Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 21 of 42. McIntosh Street; photographer facing west.
- 22 of 42. Heard Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 23 of 42. McIntosh Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 24 of 42. McIntosh Street; photographer facing north.
- 25 of 42. 13-15 McIntosh Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 26 of 42. Church Street; photographer facing north.
- 27 of 42. East Church Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 28 of 42. Elberton First United Methodist Church; photographer facing southeast.
- 29 of 42. First Baptist church; photographer facing northwest.
- 30 of 42. United States Post Office; photographer facing south.
- 31 of 42. North McIntosh Street; photographer facing east.
- 32 of 42. North McIntosh Street; photographer facing east.
- 33 of 42. Elbert Street; photographer facing south.
- 34 of 42. North McIntosh Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 35 of 42. 142 North Oliver Street; photographer facing east.
- 36 of 42. 132 North Oliver Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 37 of 42. North McIntosh Street; photographer facing west.
- 38 of 42. Railroad tracks and depot; photographer facing northwest.

Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary  
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Elbert County, Georgia

Name of Property

County and State

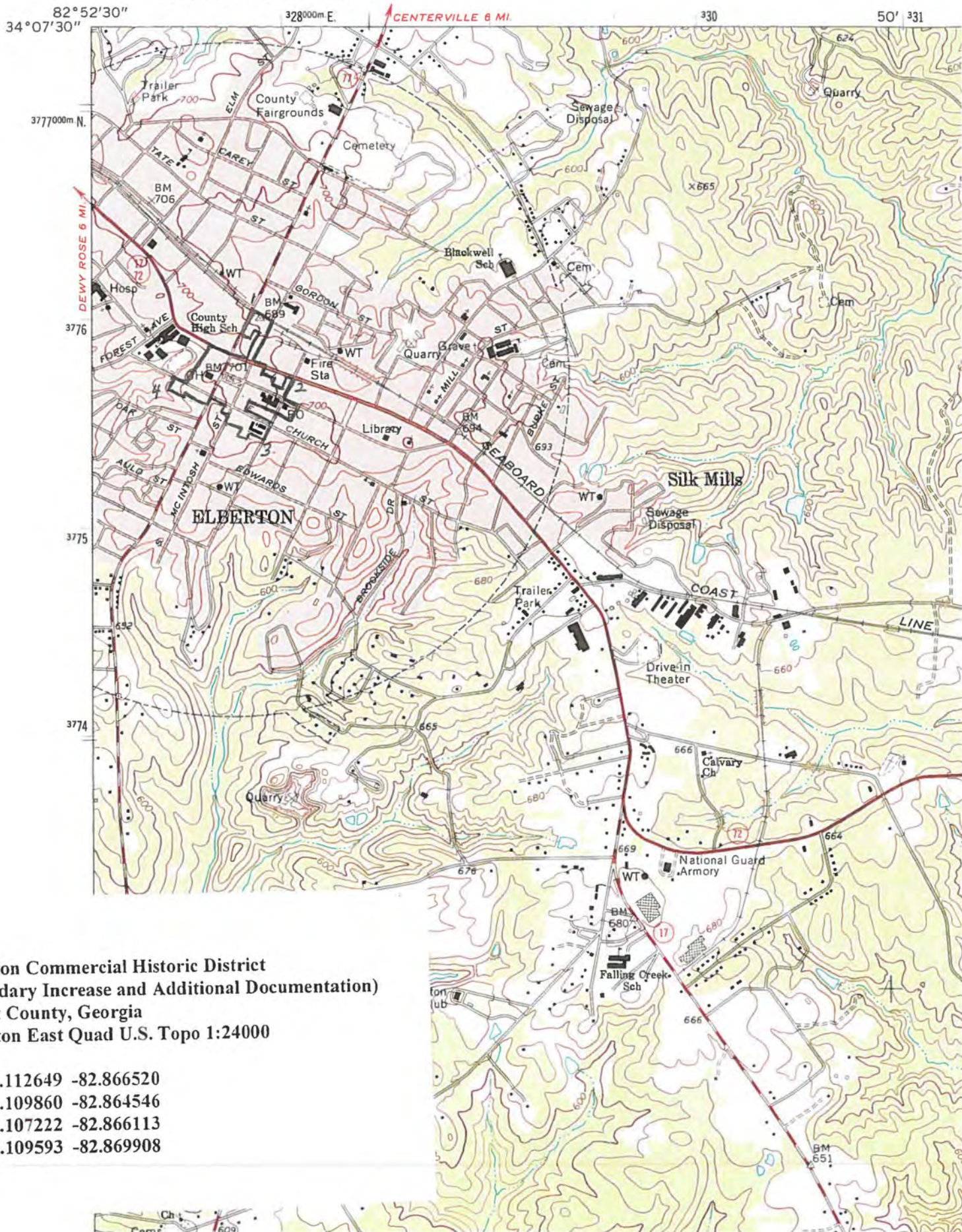
- 39 of 42. Railroad depot; photographer facing northeast.
- 40 of 42. Railroad depot; photographer facing north.
- 41 of 42. Alley behind North Oliver Street; photographer facing north.
- 42 of 42. Back of buildings along North Oliver Street; photographer facing east.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

4452 11 NW  
(DEWY ROSE)

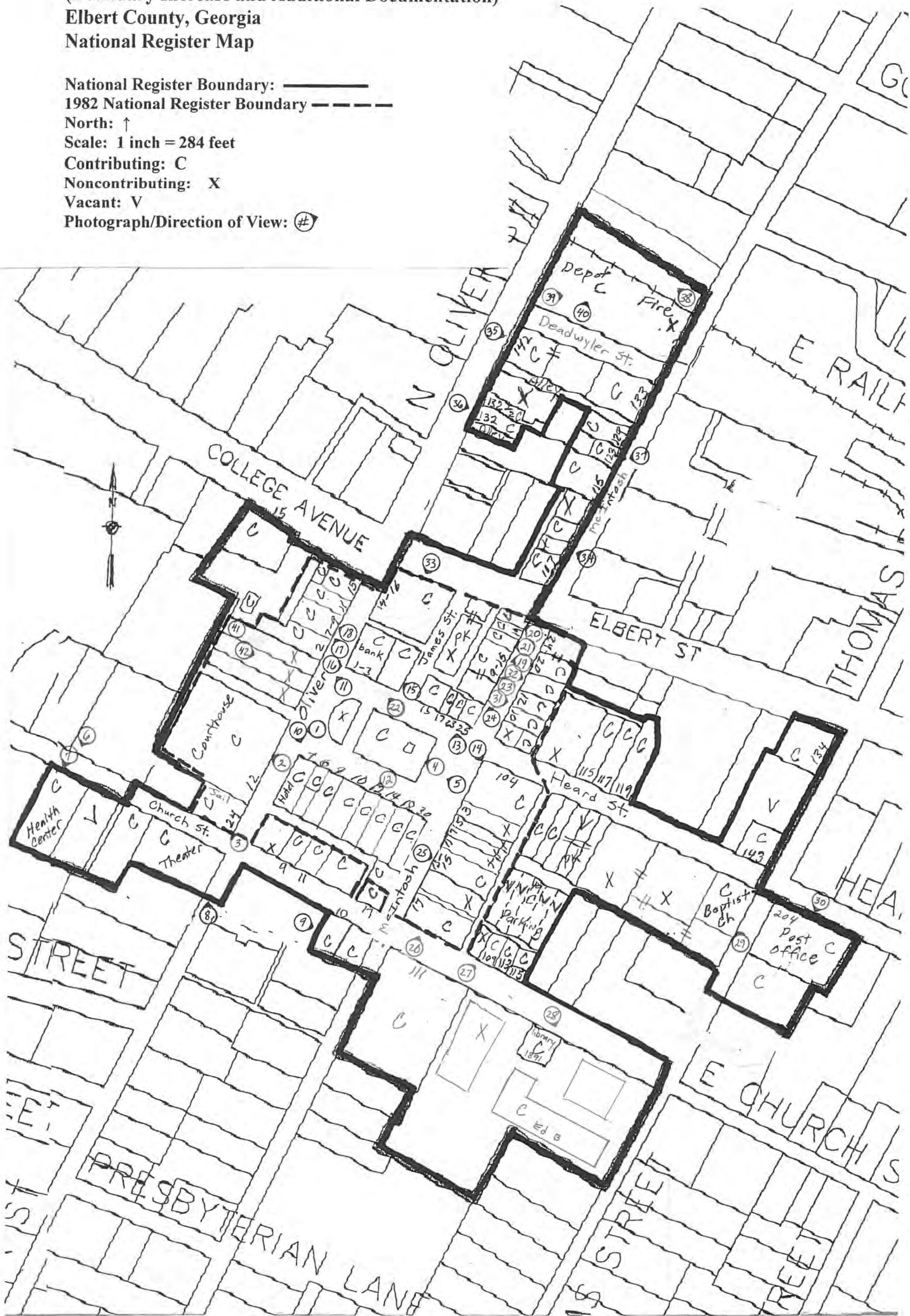


Elberton Commercial Historic District  
(Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)  
Elbert County, Georgia  
Elberton East Quad U.S. Topo 1:24000

- 1 = 34.112649 -82.866520
- 2 = 34.109860 -82.864546
- 3 = 34.107222 -82.866113
- 4 = 34.109593 -82.869908

**Elberton Commercial Historic District  
 (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)  
 Elbert County, Georgia  
 National Register Map**

National Register Boundary: **—————**  
 1982 National Register Boundary: **- - - - -**  
 North: **↑**  
 Scale: **1 inch = 284 feet**  
 Contributing: **C**  
 Noncontributing: **X**  
 Vacant: **V**  
 Photograph/Direction of View: **(#)**









JIM-REE MUSEUM



DEDICATED TO THE OFFICES OF ELBERT COUNTY FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE AND PERFORMANCE OF DUTY

ALTON McCARTY  
CHIEF DEPUTY OF ELBERT COUNTY  
1957 — 1979  
DAVID O. BRIDGES  
1970 — 1979

HIGHLY RESPECTED, ADMIRER AND LOVED BY THE SHERIFF, HIS CO-WORKERS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CITIZENS OF ELBERT COUNTY

ERECTED 1979  
CHARLES E. STANLEY, SHERIFF



ELBERT COUNTY  
TO HER  
CONFEDERATE DEAD

BY THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE BOARD OF  
PUBLIC WORKS



LIBERTY COUNTY  
TO HER  
CONFEDERATE DEAD

FOR SALE  
LANDMARK  
REALTY  
(912) 233-0311

SUTTON



ELBERTON  
BARBER COUNTY  
FAITH CENTER

ELBERTON  
ELBERT COUNTY  
HEALTH CENTER





ELBERT

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COTTON PATCH GOSPEL AUDITIONS  
APR 30 TH & MAY 1 ST  
600 PM - 800 PM ARTS CENTER

Church St



ED HI  
FIRE BA  
283 RE

TAYLOR

GRAVES

RICE

BROWN

HALL

SHIFLET



nancial

1st  
Franklin  
Financial



NORTH 17 WEST 72 ONLY NORTH 77



1898

DAWKINS

WARD'S PHARMACY

Welcome



THE ELBERTON STAR

ADRIAN'S A CUT ABOVE THE REST  
BARBER SHOP & MORE

25 NORTH PUBLIC SQUARE

The Elberton Star

Handicapped Parking





CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**FOR  
SALE**

**LANDMARK  
REALTY**

**706-213-1311**

David Powell





BANK FIRST NATIONAL BANK

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**  
Landmark Realty  
(706) 318-1295

**FOR SALE**  
LANDMARK  
REALTY  
706-213-1311  
David Powell

THE ALTERATION SHOP

NORTH 77

SOUTH 17 ONLY

← ATHENS  
WASHINGTON →

PROFitness

South of the Masonry



NORTH  
77

ONLY

WEST  
72

NORTH  
17

[Blank white sign]

millstone  
2000  
N<sup>o</sup> 7  
FOR SALE  
SARAH HALE  
1400 Sq. Ft.  
706-285-1304

9  
N. OLIVER

FOR SALE  
SARAH HALE  
1400 Sq. Ft.  
706-285-1304

SAVANNAH'S  
HAIR STUDIO

VIBRATIONS

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SARAH HALE  
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A three-story red brick building with a crenellated roofline. The second floor has four windows: a large three-pane window on the left, a narrow single-pane window in the center, and a three-pane window on the right. Each window is framed by decorative white masonry elements. The ground floor has a large window on the left with a white sign, a central entrance, and a smaller window on the right with a 'FOR SALE' sign. A black sign above the entrance reads '9 N. OLIVER'. The building is flanked by a yellow building on the left and a white building on the right.

A two-story yellow building with a red awning over the ground floor windows. The second floor has three arched windows. A black street lamp stands on the sidewalk in front of the building.

A two-story white brick building with a decorative cornice. The second floor has three rectangular windows. The ground floor has a large glass-fronted entrance. A black street lamp stands on the sidewalk in front of the building.

A silver sedan parked on the street in front of the white building.

[Blacked out white sign]

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9  
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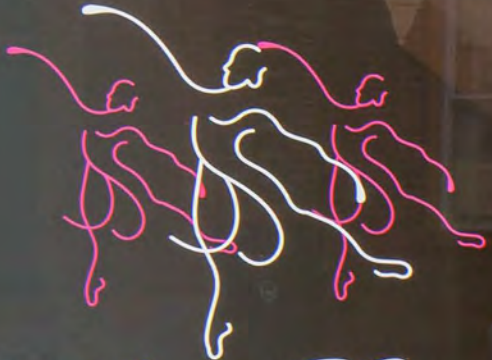
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times. Come observe &  
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10:00 AM  
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The Office

PB  
Patricia B. Brown  
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107 S. Church St. • 780-251-4997

Two-story brick building with two windows on the second floor and a white awning over the ground-floor entrance.

Teasley's

Red awning over the entrance.

Single-story brick building with blue awnings over the windows.





K. B.S. The Adventure continues!  
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ONE WAY

Blue textured wall section with a white door and a window with a white awning. A sign in the window reads "FOR SALE BY OWNER".

**ADRIAN'S**  
A CUT ABOVE THE REST

Window display with a barber pole graphic and the text "BARBER SHOP".

White door with a small address sign above it.

Window display with a barber pole graphic and a hairbrush graphic.



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase and  
NAME: Additional Documentation)

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Elbert

DATE RECEIVED: 5/29/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/01/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/16/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/14/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000411

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 7/14/15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA AOC  
REVIEWER W. D. ... DISCIPLINE H. ...  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 7/14/15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

April 24, 2015

United States Postal Service (USPS)  
Mr. Daniel B. Delahaye  
Federal Preservation Officer  
475 L'Enfant Plaza W, SW Room 6670  
Washington, DC 20260-1862

RE: United States Post Office, located at 204 Heard Street, Elberton, Georgia  
Elberton Downtown Historic District (Boundary Increase), Elberton, Elbert County

Dear Mr. Delahaye,

We are writing to inform you that the above-referenced historic district nomination was presented at our Georgia National Register Review Board meeting in August 2012. The United States Post Office located at 204 Heard Street is a contributing building located within the district. The Board recommended that the State Historic Preservation Officer sign the nomination and submit it to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for final review and listing in the National Register.

The 1914 United States Post Office is an excellent example of a Neoclassical Revival-style public building constructed in a small Georgia town. The design and construction of the post office was supervised by Philadelphia-born architect, Oscar Wenderoth, (1871-1938). Wenderoth served as director of the Office of the Supervising Architect, the federal agency that designed government buildings, from 1912 to 1915. The Elberton Post Office is a rectangular brick building with stone columns and trim. Wide concrete steps taper at the glass entrance doors. Six Ionic columns define the large, slightly recessed, entrance porch. One addition to the rear of the building occurred in 1949, and in 1956 there was a second addition to include a loading platform and a new mailing vestibule. This addition has pilasters and many similarities to the original building.

Our office is preparing the final nomination materials to send to the National Register. Enclosed is a copy of the portion of the nomination citing the property under your jurisdiction. If you wish to comment on the nomination, please send your comments to me before May 26, 2015, when we will forward the nomination to the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

William Hover  
Historic Resources Section Chief and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number N. McIntosh St to the railroad on the north; Thomas St on the east; Church St on the south; S. Oliver St on the west  not for publication

city or town Elberton  vicinity

state Georgia code 105 county Elbert code GA zip code 30635

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide X local

Signature of certifying official/Title: Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
\_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary  
Increase and Additional Documentation)

Elbert County, Georgia

Name of Property

County and State

The United States Post Office was completed in 1914 in the Neoclassical Revival style (photograph 29). The design and construction of the post office was supervised by Philadelphia-born architect, Oscar Wenderoth, (1871–1938). Wenderoth served as director of the Office of the Supervising Architect, the federal agency that designed government buildings, from 1912 to 1915. The rectangular building is brick with stone columns and trim. Wide concrete steps taper at the glass entrance doors. Six Ionic columns define the large, slightly recessed, entrance porch. One addition to the rear of the building occurred in 1949, and in 1956 there was a second addition to include a loading platform and a new mailing vestibule. This addition has pilasters and many similarities to the original building.

The sanctuary of the Methodist church, located at the corner of Church and Thomas streets, was begun in 1886 and completed in 1889 (photograph 28). Homer C. Mickel, a member of the church and a builder by profession, planned the structure. Luther Turner, also a church member, was a brick maker and bricklayer who donated the bricks for the building. In 1908 a storm caused considerable damage to the church and required repair. Mickel and William E. Wallis, also a member of the congregation, led the repairs which were completed in 1909. Repairs included removal of the damaged steeple and covering of the brick with stucco. The building has Gothic Revival elements including pointed arched windows and a steeply pitched roof. Additions completed in 1922 included additional space for Sunday school rooms. Educational buildings were added in 1952 and 1964. Another building was constructed in 1978; it is noncontributing.

The library building on Church Street was built for the dual functions of a library and the Masonic lodge (photograph 28). The architect was William W. Thomas, of Athens; and M.B. McGinty was the contractor. The cornerstone of the library was laid in July 1891 and completed in October. The two-story, brick building is Richardsonian Romanesque in style. The building is brick with granite surrounding the arched doors and windows. The building is now owned by the Methodist church.

The Elbert Theatre, built between 1939 and 1940, is located on the corner of South Oliver and West Church streets (photograph 8). The building is two stories and constructed of brick with a stucco façade. The front façade has a centrally located, recessed, entrance bay with three double doors with porthole windows. An awning supporting the marquee shelters this entrance bay. Horizontal striping on either side of the entrance bay is highlighted with black glass. Vertical striping on the stepped parapet continues the Art Deco style of the building.

The First Baptist Church sanctuary was built in 1897 (photograph 29). Reuben H. Hunt was the architect and D.M. Kenney was the builder. The large brick building is a Romanesque Revival-style sanctuary with granite foundation, stone trim, stained-glass windows which vary from small rectangular windows to large arched windows, slate roof, and arched door openings. Construction began on a new Sunday School Annex in 1929, which was completed in 1935. The brick annex is adjacent to the sanctuary; however it is attached to a larger complex and is noncontributing.

The Railroad Depot, constructed in 1910, is a one-story, rectangular-shaped brick building with Queen Anne-style detailing (photographs 39 and 40). The roof has two brick chimneys and is constructed of fired, fluted clay tile. It has large overhanging eaves that are supported by stick-style brackets. The north and south roof elevations have a gable with Palladian window, and the east and west roof elevations have a lunette window. These four gables are covered with shingles. The exterior windows and doors have lintels of vertically laid brick. All windows are one-over-one, and the wooden doors have horizontal panels with transom light above. The building is individually listed in the National Register (1986). The railroad tracks are counted as one contributing structure.

In October 1949, James M. Hunt released his rendering of a new Elbert County Health Center to be constructed on Church Street near the theater. Hunt's modern design of the one-story building was constructed in brick and glass with a number of details in granite (photographs 6 and 7). The steeply sloping

Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary  
Increase and Additional Documentation)

Elbert County, Georgia

Name of Property

County and State

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the arrival of the railroad in 1878 and ends with the end of the historic period in 1965.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

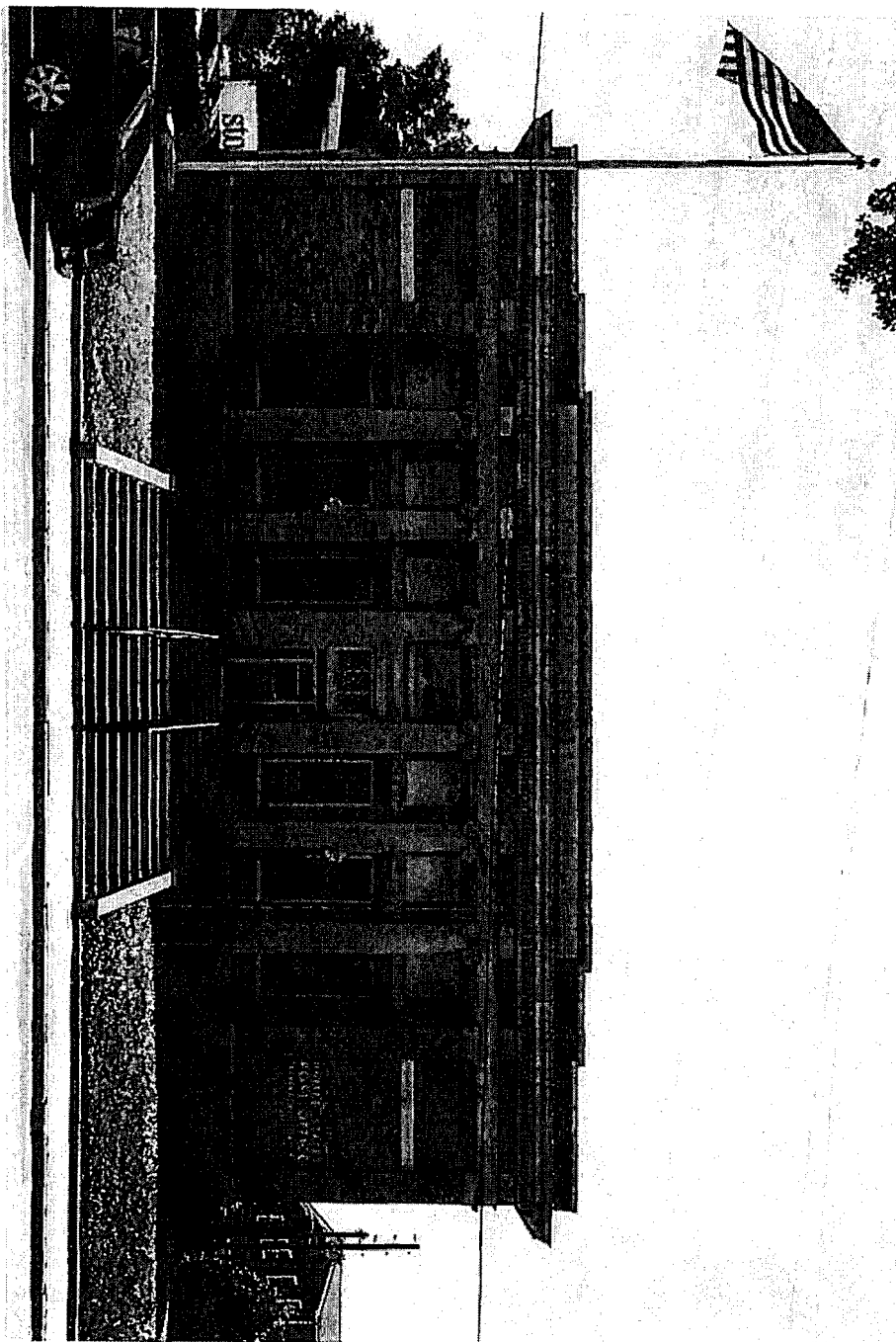
**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)**

The city of Elberton was founded in the late 18th century, made the county seat in 1803, and platted by 1808. Its downtown gridiron street plan was located on high ground at the center of circular city limits. The arrival of the railroad in 1878 (to the north of downtown) and the success of Elbert County's granite industry in the late 19th century resulted in the development of the commercial district that is evident today. The Elberton Commercial Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its good intact collection of commercial buildings that reflect design and construction traditions commonly found in Georgia towns from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries. This includes many examples of the way small towns interpreted high-style architectural trends and incorporated them into their main streets. The district is also locally significant under Criterion A in community planning and development for its intact historic town plan that uses a grid of streets around a central square. In the area of commerce, the district's significance derives from its role as the historic commercial center of Elbert County and the region. Typically the county seat filled this role, and provided for the day-to-day commercial needs of nearby rural residents, such as retail stores and offices and professional services. The period of significance from 1878 to 1965 includes the arrival of the railroad to Elberton and concludes with the end of the historic period.

**Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)**

The Elberton Commercial Historic District is significant at the local level in the area of architecture because the commercial buildings are representative of architectural styles built in Georgia cities from the end of the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. Elberton has many good intact examples of commercial architecture that date from its period of greatest growth during the late 19th century into the 1960s. The central business district is concentrated in the blocks near the courthouse as is common in many of Georgia's county seats. Commercial buildings in the district include both freestanding and attached one- and two-story brick buildings. A couple of buildings are four stories tall. Other character-defining features of the late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings include simple rectangular forms; storefronts that face directly onto the sidewalk; a common setback; large display windows; and architectural ornament primarily on the front facades. Most of the buildings are one story in height and brick is the most common material.

The Elberton Commercial Historic District is also significant in architecture for its community landmark buildings including the Elbert County Courthouse (1894), jail (1894), depot (1910), United States Post Office (1914), Methodist church (1889), Baptist church (1897), library (1891), Elbert Theatre (1940), and the Elbert County Health Center (1951).





HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 29 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

May 26, 2015

J. Paul Loether  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the nominations for **the Elberton Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase) in Elbert County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Original USGS topographic map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do  do not  constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Lynn Speno  
National Register Specialist

Enclosures