

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 9 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Albany District Pecan Growers' Exchange

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 211-213 Roosevelt Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Albany N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Dougherty code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Harold Snelling and Mrs. Edward Vason Jones

street & number P.O. Box 802

city, town Albany N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Dougherty County Courthouse

city, town Albany state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title Albany, Dougherty County [See Continuation Sheet.] has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Albany District Pecan Growers' Exchange consists of a group of three buildings located at the corner of Roosevelt and Washington Streets to the north of Albany's downtown. At the west end of the complex, facing on Roosevelt Street, is a two-story brick commercial building built in 1922 as the headquarters of the Albany District Pecan Growers' Exchange. It is a load-bearing structure finished with red face brick on its front facade and common brick elsewhere. A minimum of brick detailing on its rather streamlined front facade includes wide, shallow piers dividing the building into three bays, a row of soldier bricks at the first-floor window-sill level, which continues around the side of the building, decorative brick work in the spandrels and above the central entrance, and a barely defined cornice/parapet. The roof is flat, and the windows are large nine-over-nine double-hung sash with roll-down metal shutters on the exterior. A concrete loading dock extends across the rear. The interior contains a basement with concrete floor and ceiling used for cold storage, and two open floors supported by wooden columns used for shelling and bleaching the pecans. Offices are located on the first floor in the southeast and northwest corners. To the east of this building and connected to it by a covered platform is a ca. 1902 brick warehouse that was purchased by the Pecan Exchange in 1922 for use as its grading and shipping facility. This one-story-with-loft, late-Victorian style building has segmental window and door openings and a gable roof that is masked at both ends by a high parapet. A concrete loading dock (a replacement) runs parallel to the railroad siding along the building's south side and is protected by the deep bracketed overhang of the gable roof. Doors on the north side of this building lead directly into a second brick warehouse with a hipped roof, built by the Pecan Exchange in 1932. The functional facade of this building, which fronts on Washington Street, repeats the segmental window and door openings of the earlier warehouse and ties in with the facades of the two unrelated commercial buildings to its north. Both warehouses have concrete floors (that in the ca. 1902 building is probably a replacement) and exposed brick walls.

Sidewalks flank the south and east sides of the complex. Two shade trees in front of the 1922 building provide the only landscaping. A modern office building is located to the west along Roosevelt Street. To the north are commercial buildings and some modest historic housing. To the east, at the end of Roosevelt Street, are Albany's historic railyards and depots (now the Thronateeska Heritage Foundation and listed in the National Register as the Albany Railroad Depot Historic District). To the south, across Roosevelt Street, is the remains of a historic commercial area associated with the railroad center.

Boundary

The nominated property, outlined with a heavy line on the enclosed map, contains the three buildings historically associated with the pecan exchange. The boundary follows the Roosevelt and Washington Street rights-of-way on the south and east, the north party wall of the 1932 building and the rear loading dock of the 1922 building on the north, and the west wall of the 1922 building on the west.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1902, 1922, 1932 **Builder/Architect** Architect for 1922 building: M.J. Reidy, Albany

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Contractor for 1922 building: A.E. Itner Company, Albany

The Albany District Pecan Growers' Exchange is historically significant in terms of agriculture and commerce because of its function as a major agricultural cooperative which served as a marketing outlet for the area's very important pecan crop. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criterion A because of its association with the early-twentieth-century development of the pecan culture in Georgia.

Pecan farming was introduced in southwest Georgia in the 1880s, and by 1905, several thousand trees were in cultivation there. Georgia quickly became the leading producer of pecans in the country, with much of the business centered around the Albany area. By the 1920s, with the decline of cotton production caused by the boll weevil, pecans had become the area's leading cash crop.

Early in the 1900s, growers began to band together in mutual interest and marketing organizations. In 1914, a joint committee from two of these groups presented a report recommending the advisability of organizing a cooperative marketing association that would stabilize prices, facilitate shipping, and promote the sale of pecans nationwide. One year earlier, in 1913, the Albany District Pecan Growers' Exchange had been chartered; this was followed in 1915 by the more ambitious National Pecan Growers' Exchange. Their purpose--the buying, grading, shelling, and selling of nuts--was identical. The organizations, which shared staff and facilities, began marketing in 1918 and by 1922 were in need of a new plant to handle over a half-million pecans annually. The Roosevelt Street (then North Street) property with its existing ca. 1902 warehouse and rail spur was purchased at that time, and a new, two-story office, storage, shelling and bleaching facility was constructed on the site. Grading and shipping were handled at the warehouse with its adjacent rail spur. The Albany District Pecan Growers' Exchange grew to become one of the largest, best-equipped, paper-shell pecan handling and bleaching plants in the country. It had much to do with making the area around Albany the most successful pecan-growing center in the Southeast. The Exchange prospered into the 1930s, when the second warehouse (1932) was built. In the 1940s, a serious drop in nut production caused by disease to the trees resulted in the failure of the cooperative. The complex of buildings has significance in Albany and the state as one of the most important extant historic properties associated with the growing and selling of pecans.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dixon, Sandra. "Historic Property Information Form: The National Pecan Exchange," October 1982. On file at the State Historic Preservation Office (the Historic Preservation Section), Atlanta, Georgia. This nomination is based on the information in this form.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 0.4 acres

Quadrangle name Albany West, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	7	7	0	3	2	0	3	4	9	7	3	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated property is described and justified in Section 7 and is marked on the attached "property/sketch map."

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date March 26, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/2/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Alvord Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/10/84

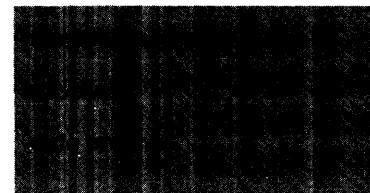
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Representation in Surveys
Continuation sheet and Bibliography

Item number 6 and 9

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

On May 11, 1983, the National Register Programs Division of the Southeast Regional Office of the National Park Service awarded a preliminary certification of significance to the Albany District Pecan Growers' Exchange (referred to in that document as the National Pecan Exchange).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bacon, Mary Ellen. Albany on the Flint, 1970.

City Directories, Albany, Georgia, 1907, 1922, 1925, 1932, 1942, 1945, 1949-50, 1952.

Merritt, Carole. "Pecan Culture: A Historical Context." On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Atlanta, 1983.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Albany, 1895, 1900, 1905, 1911, 1920, 1930.

Thronateeska Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. History and Reminiscences of Dougherty County, Georgia. Albany, Georgia: Herald Publishing Company, 1924.

Photographs

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in February 1983 still provide an accurate view of the property. No significant changes have been made to the structure since that date.