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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name West Point Commercial Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by 4th Avenue, 2nd Avenue, West 9th Street, and West 7th Street
city, town West Point () vicinity of
county Troup code GA 285
state Georgia code GA zip code 31833

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- (X) private
() public-local
() public-state
(X) public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	38	20
sites	0	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	39	20

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Richard Cores
Signature of certifying official

11-30-05
Date

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

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

(☒) entered in the National Register

Edson H. Ball 2/1/06

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: business
COMMERCE/TRADE: professional
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse
GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: business
COMMERCE/TRADE: professional
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
GOVERNMENT: post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style
MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials:

foundation	BRICK
walls	BRICK
	STUCCO
roof	ASPHALT
	STONE: slate
other	CONCRETE
	CERAMIC TILE
	GLASS

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7—Description

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located 16 miles southwest of LaGrange, the county seat of Troup County, the West Point Commercial Historic District is situated along the west side of the Chattahoochee River at the Georgia-Alabama state line. Despite frequent floods, fires, and tornados throughout the historic period, all of which have left distinctive marks on the built environment, the West Point Commercial Historic District continues to serve as a commercial center in Troup County and the surrounding areas in both Georgia and Alabama.

The district encompasses the intact, contiguous, historic commercial development of the city of West Point. The city was laid out in a gridiron plan with avenues trending parallel to the river and streets perpendicular to the river. The Atlanta and West Point Railroad (now CSX) forms the eastern boundary of the district and the Georgia-Alabama state line is on the western boundary. The boundaries of the district are roughly 4th Avenue on the west, 2nd Avenue and the railroad on the east, West 9th Street on the north, and West 7th Street on the south. The main commercial blocks face the avenues with a few one-story buildings facing the streets (see photograph 23 of 3rd Avenue and photograph 17 of West 8th Street). Many of the buildings and sidewalks are elevated as much as three feet in the district due to periodic flooding throughout West Point's history (photographs 10).

Historic commercial buildings in the district area are generally one- and two-story, attached, brick commercial buildings constructed in the late 19th through early 20th centuries. Most of the buildings within the district exhibit the simple detailing characteristic of the Commercial style including decorative brickwork, ornamental cornices, and transoms over the storefronts.

Good examples of late 19th-century commercial buildings in the district include the 1884 Lanier Building, the 1907 Neoclassical Revival-style Bank of West Point, the 1890 Heyman-Merz Building, and the 1884 Atkinson Building; these four two-story buildings form the core of the business district at the four corners of the intersection of 3rd Avenue and West 8th Street (photographs 1-5).

At three stories, the Lanier Building (also known as the First National Bank and Opera House, 800 3rd Avenue) was West Point's tallest building when it was constructed by brothers Ward Crockett Lanier and LaFayette Lanier in 1884 (photograph 4, right). A bank and several businesses occupied the first story. The general offices of the West Point Manufacturing Company were located on the second floor until 1950. The third floor served as the city's opera house, which seated 600 people and featured frequent live performances, including a production of *The Mikado* in November 1885. The third floor was completely destroyed by the tornado of March 28, 1920, and was never rebuilt (see Attachment 1). Today, the two lower floors house several business offices.

The Atkinson Building, located at 803 3rd Avenue, was constructed in 1884 by Nathan L. Atkinson, Sr., who owned most of the block at one time. A variety of businesses including Woolworth's have occupied the building throughout its history. Although the building has lost its decorative pediment and storefront, it still retains its historic massing and anchors a corner in the main intersection of downtown (see photograph 4 and attachment 2).

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7—Description

The Heyman-Merz Building (727 3rd Avenue) was built in 1890 by Heyman Heyman and Daniel Merz on the site of their first building, which was built in 1854 when the business was founded (photograph 1, left). The two-story building is an excellent example of a Victorian-era commercial building with elaborate, decorative brickwork. The loss of the building's triangular pediment is the only major change to the exterior since it was built. Heyman, Merz & Co. closed its business in 1928, and in the following years the building housed several businesses including J.C. Penney & Co. (see Attachment 3).

The former Bank of West Point is located at 726-730 3rd Avenue and was constructed in 1907 (photograph 3). The Neoclassical-style, two-story, brick building has a corner entrance with two-story monumental engaged Ionic columns on brick piers; arched windows; brick pediments and quoins; and a heavy cornice with modillions and dentils.

The oldest extant building in the district is the warehouse building located at the corner of 3rd Avenue and West 9th Street (photographs 10 rear, 12, and 13). The two-story brick building was constructed c.1870 and fills a city block. The rear of the building backs up to the railroad tracks for freight loading. The building retains its round-arched windows and parapet.

The former West Point Coca-Cola Bottling Company is located at 901 3rd Avenue (photograph 11). The two-story brick building has lost its storefront and decorative parapet but still retains its form, second-story, round-arched windows, and front façade corner and second-story windows.

The one-story brick building at 824 3rd Avenue is the former A & P Grocery store (photograph 10, front). The building has a long storefront with brick pilasters and round-arched windows, and decorative brickwork along the cornice. The sidewalk in front of the building is a good example of the raised sidewalks in downtown as a result of numerous floods.

The district has numerous good examples of one-story, attached, brick commercial buildings built at the turn of the 20th century in the Commercial Style. One example is the three-storefront building located at 700-704 3rd Avenue (photograph 21, right). The character-defining features of the Commercial Style seen in this one-story, brick building are the storefronts with transoms, brick pilasters separating the storefronts, and the decorative brickwork in the cornice.

Good examples of early 20th-century storefronts are seen in the buildings located at 701-709 3rd Avenue (photograph 19). This row of four storefronts is a good example of one-story, attached, brick commercial buildings with recessed entrances, transoms, and simple brickwork consisting of a panel above the storefront for the business name as opposed to the more decorative brickwork of the late 19th-century Commercial Style. Another good example of an early 20th-century commercial building is located at 818 3rd Avenue (photograph 9). The one-story, attached, brick building has a recessed entrance, transom, and retains its c.1930s Art Deco-style Carrera glass and aluminum display windows.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7—Description

One of the few commercial buildings built during 1930s and 1940s in the district is the one-story, brick, c.1940 Herren's Pontiac automobile building located on West 8th Street (photograph 15). The one-story, brick-and-stucco building has a rounded, Moderne-style front façade with rounded plate-glass windows. The building also features an auto bay door and multi-paned industrial steel windows.

Located at the corner of 4th Avenue and West 9th Street, the Batson-Cook Company building was built in 1940 and was designed by Georgia-born architect Henry J. Toombs (photograph 14). The building today looks essentially the same as it appeared in a photograph in a design book by the architectural firm of Toombs and Creighton in 1947. The one-story, freestanding, brick building has a flat-topped hip roof, a cornice with dentils, a three-window flat-roof dormer on the front façade, and paired six-over-six sash windows. The entrance portico has square brick posts, and an entablature with dentils and the company's name on it.

The one community landmark building in the district is the 1932 Neoclassical Revival-style United States Post Office located at 729 4th Avenue (photograph 16). The building was one of many post offices in Georgia built during the New Deal era and was designed by the supervising architect of the United States Treasury Department, Louis A. Simon. The post office is similar in design to the other 65 post office built across Georgia in the 1930s, but does not contain a mural. The Neoclassical Revival-style building is constructed of brick with a slate, flat-topped, hip roof. Neoclassical-style details on the building are brick quoins, cast-concrete lintels and cornice, a semi-circular portico with Corinthian columns, and a decorative arch over the entrance with an eagle design. The building is still being used as a post office.

Although not yet 50-years old and considered noncontributing at this time, the Goodwill building located on the west side of 3rd Avenue is a good example of an older building remodeled in the 1960s modern style that also retains its modern-style storefront with aluminum-framed plate-glass windows and decorative tiles (photographs 7 and 8).

Significant landscape features of the district are the historic raised sidewalks with continuous stair-steps along the curb (photographs 6, 17, 19, 22, and 24).

The historic core of West point is surrounded by nonhistoric development, the city of Lanett, Alabama, and vacant lots formerly occupied by historic commercial buildings. The CSX Railroad tracks form the eastern boundary of the district, and the only extant historic railroad building is the West Point Freight Depot located south of the district and separated from the downtown by nonhistoric development. The depot was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 24, 2005.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): ☒ N/A

☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance:

c.1870-1955

Significant Dates:

March 18, 1920—tornado hits downtown and most buildings are destroyed or damaged
March 15, 1929—severe flooding of downtown

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Simon, Louis A. —architect, U.S. Post Office

Toombs, Henry J. (1896-1967) —architect, Batson-Cook Building

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Located along the Chattahoochee River and Georgia's state line, West Point became a major transportation hub with the completion of the Montgomery (Alabama) and West Point Railroad in 1851 and the completion of a rail line connecting Atlanta to Montgomery, Alabama, through West Point in 1854. At the time, Alabama and Georgia railroads had different track gauges, which required all passengers, baggage, and freight to change trains in West Point. The influx of passengers and freight led to the incorporation of the city in 1854 and economic prosperity for the city until the Civil War. The last quarter of the 19th century was also a time of great prosperity for the city. Cotton mills and mill villages along the river and increased rail traffic brought a building and business boom to West Point, and the oldest buildings in the district date from the late 1880s through the 1890s. A number of devastating natural disasters affected the commercial area during the historic period, causing buildings and entire blocks to be rebuilt, including five major fires between 1870 and 1900, periodic flooding, and a 1920 tornado, which damaged most of the buildings downtown and destroyed the third story of the Lanier Building. The West Point Commercial Historic District continued to thrive throughout the early to mid-20th century due to the presence of the nearby mills in both Alabama and Georgia.

The West Point Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of architecture for its good collection of commercial buildings dating from the late 19th century through the early 20th century, which represent the common types and styles of commercial building constructed in Georgia. Commercial buildings in the district are generally late 19th- and early 20th-century, one- and two-story, attached or freestanding, rectangular, brick buildings with common setbacks along the sidewalks. The commercial buildings in the West Point Commercial Historic District possess the character-defining features of the Commercial-Style including recessed entrances in the storefronts, large display windows, wood or brick bulkheads, transoms, decorative brick parapets and pilasters, second-story segmental- and arched-windows, and decorative brickwork on the cornices.

The district is also significant in architecture for the one community landmark building in the district, the 1932 Neoclassical Revival-style United States Post Office. The building was one of many post offices in Georgia built during the New Deal era and is similar in design to the other 65 post office built across Georgia. In many small Georgia towns, the United States Post Office is the only representation of the federal government and national architectural styles of the time period. For the West Point Post Office, the character-defining features of the Neoclassical style are the brick quoins, cast-concrete lintels and cornice, a semi-circular portico with Corinthian columns, and a decorative arch over the entrance with an eagle design.

The district is also significant for the 1940 Batson-Cook Company building designed by Henry Johnson Toombs (1896-1967). Henry Toombs was born in Cuthbert, Georgia, and after service in the Navy during World War I, he studied architecture at the University of Pennsylvania and worked as a draftsman in the offices of Paul Cret in Philadelphia and McKim, Mead, and White in New York. Known for his Beaux-Arts designs, Toombs designed five Federal Reserve Banks (Atlanta, Birmingham, Jacksonville, Nashville, and New Orleans), the Fulton County Administration Building in

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Atlanta, Rich's Store for Homes in Atlanta, the Genealogical and Biographical Building in New York City, as well as numerous residential and commercial buildings. Toombs is best known as the architect for most of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's private building projects including the Val-Kill cottage and library on Hyde Park estate in New York and the Little White House and the Warm Springs Foundation complex in Georgia. He practiced architecture independently in Atlanta and Warm Springs from 1933 to 1942 and reopened his office in Atlanta in 1945 after serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He went into various partnerships including a partnership with William J. Creighton as the architectural firm of Toombs and Creighton from 1947 to 1949, then as Toombs & Company (1950 to 1955), then as Toombs, Amisano, and Wells until his death in 1967.

The district is significant in the area of commerce as the center of commercial enterprises in this area from the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries. The historic central business district represents West Point as a center of commerce for Troup County and also for the surrounding mill villages along the Chattahoochee River including mill villages in Alabama. The downtown was historically the primary location for the trading, buying and selling of goods, services, and commodities on a local and countywide basis. The historic intact commercial buildings within the historic district are representative of all types of commerce that contributed to the town's economy throughout its history.

The one- and two-story, brick, commercial buildings in the district are typical of small Georgia towns and represent the mercantile, professional, and banking businesses commonly found in downtowns. Downtown buildings consisted primarily of downtown commercial spaces with upstairs professional offices. The majority of these buildings were built during the late 1800s and early 1900s and contained groceries, jewelers, drug stores, and other merchants. In the early to mid-20th century, businesses centering on the use of the automobile such as gas stations and car dealerships were built in West Point. Many of the commercial buildings "bear witness" to the many natural disasters that have beset downtown West Point and this tangible evidence helps document the economic vitality of West Point in the face of adversity. Troup County is somewhat unusual in Georgia in having two major commercial centers—this one in West Point and another in LaGrange, the county seat. In most rural counties in Georgia, there is only one commercial center, usually the county seat, but sometimes a separate railroad town. The presence of these two commercial centers in Troup County appears to be directly associated with historic rail transportation and the need to change trains because of gauge changes at the Georgia-Alabama state line.

National Register Criteria

The West Point Commercial Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of commerce as the center of center of commerce in the western part of Troup County and the nearby Alabama and Georgia mill villages. The district is eligible for listing under Criterion C for good collection of commercial buildings dating from the late 19th century through the early 20th century, which represent the common types and styles of commercial building constructed in Georgia.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins c.1870 with the date of construction for the oldest extant building in the district and ends at 1955, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing buildings within the historic district date from the district's period of significance and retain their historic integrity. The commercial core of West Point is laid out in a gridiron street plan with freestanding and attached, one- and two-story brick commercial buildings. During the historic period, many of West Point's commercial buildings were damaged due to floods, fires, and tornados and therefore may have been altered or repaired to an extent greater than those in other cities in Georgia, but this has left a distinctive architectural legacy in the community. The noncontributing buildings were constructed after the period of significance or have lost their historic integrity from nonhistoric alterations. All buildings were evaluated by members of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's Survey and National Register staff in October 2003, and contributing or noncontributing status was determined according to the criteria of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.

The contributing structure is the raised sidewalks (counted as one structure) built as a result of frequent flooding of downtown West Point and the sidewalks are directly associated with the historic development of the city.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following developmental history was written by Stephen Johnson, West Point Historic Preservation Commission, consultant, and edited by Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division, "West Point Commercial Historic District," *Historic District Information Form*, June 18, 2003. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

According to local oral history, West Point began about 1828 as a small settlement called Franklin on the east bank of the Chattahoochee River. The main activity was trading with the Native Americans who lived on the west bank. The name of the town was changed to West Point in 1832, and the city was incorporated in 1854. It appears that businesses began to move over to the west bank of the river in the 1830s, since a wooden bridge was built across the river in 1839 and replaced the ferry. The bridge was most likely constructed by Horace King, a master African-American bridge-builder from Columbus, Georgia. The bridge connected present day West 6th Street (then called Bridge Street) with the main road into Harris County, Alabama, on the east side.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Rail transportation came to West Point in 1851 with the completion of the Montgomery and West Point Railroad. In 1854, the railroad from Atlanta was extended south to West Point, connecting Atlanta and Montgomery, Alabama. However, Alabama and Georgia railroads had different track gauges, which required all passengers, baggage, and freight to change trains in West Point. This was a small inconvenience compared to the new transportation service, and the use of the railroad by passengers increased rapidly. Downtown West Point benefited economically from the rail traffic in a significant way, and several hotels, livery stables, saloons, and other businesses prospered in the coming years.

Early businesses in West Point included general and dry goods stores and businesses related to the cotton-based economy of the area. Heyman, Merz & Company was established in 1854 and was large department store that sold dry goods, shoes, millinery, notions, clothing, trunks, and many other necessary items. The owners also operated a two-horse wagon, which they used to peddle goods all over the nearly rural area. The business closed in 1928. Possibly the longest-lived business in West Point began in 1850 as Eady & Miller. As Mr. A.M. Eady changed business partners, the firm underwent several name changes: Eady & Cherry, then A.M. Eady & Co. and finally Eady-Baker Grocery Company. They were one of the large cotton buyers, plantation supply merchants, grocers, and warehouse operators in West Point.

During the Civil War years, West Point escaped direct involvement until Easter Sunday, April 16, 1865. News of General Robert E Lee's surrender at Appomattox had not yet reached West Point, and Confederate forces were organized to defend the city against Federal forces led by General J.H. Wilson, which were sweeping across Alabama with West Point and Columbus as their main targets. The two sides came into conflict at Fort Tyler, West Point's defensive stronghold on a hill overlooking the town just over the Alabama state line. After several hours of fighting, the Confederate defenders were forced to surrender after their two commanding officers, Brigadier General Robert C. Tyler and Captain Celestino Gonzales, were both killed. In the aftermath of the battle, Wilson's forces burned both the 1839 wagon bridge and the railroad bridge across the river. Oral history states that a hospital was set up to care for the wounded in downtown West Point at the corner of present-day 3rd Avenue and West 9th Street. Casualties of the battle were buried in the town cemetery on the east side of the river.

After the Civil War, two cotton mills were built on the Chattahoochee River downstream from West Point, both beginning operations in 1869. In 1880, the West Point Manufacturing Company organized, which would later become known as West Point-Pepperell (now WestPoint Stevens, Inc.) The company's headquarters were located on the second floor of the Lanier Building (within the district) until 1950.

The Chattahoochee Manufacturing Company, later West Point Manufacturing Company, began in 1869 as a single textile mill on the Alabama side of the Chattahoochee River five miles below West Point, using water power from the river. They produced osnaburg as their first product and later produced single filling duck. The company was reorganized in 1880 as the West Point

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Manufacturing Company, and established offices in the Lanier Building. The mergers with Pepperell Manufacturing Company in 1965, and with J.P. Stevens in 1987, significantly increased the number of mills owned by the new company as well as the variety of textiles produced.

Newspaper accounts of the 1880s and 1890s indicate that West Point was a beehive of activity with cotton farmers from the surrounding areas bringing in their cotton to be ginned and sold. Several large cotton warehouses were built and business prospered from the cotton trade. Newspaper advertisements of the period show West Point merchants offering fine wares of all types: dry goods, clothing, fancy groceries, furniture, china, jewelry, etc. With the general economy of the country improving and railroads bringing large numbers of passengers, West Point's downtown flourished. West Point has never had a population of much more than 4,000 people and its large business district served the residents of mill villages in nearby Alabama as well as the rural populations of Chamber County, Alabama, and Troup and Harris counties in Georgia.

Some of the businesses that operated in West Point at the end of the 19th century are Atkinson & Reed, a cotton buyer and merchant business established in 1873 by Nathan L. Atkinson, Sr.; J.R. Scott & Co., a business that dealt in cotton buying, warehousing, groceries, wagons, cotton gins, and dry goods; and J.J. Hagedorn & Co., established in 1877 as a general store that carried a wide variety of household goods including furniture, carpets, china, crockery, glassware, clothing, and dry goods.

In the 1880s and 1890s, most of the business activity was located west of the railroad, and the area between the railroad and the river was almost entirely residential. During the late 1890s and early 20th century, improvements in technology enhanced the city. Fort Tyler was turned into the city's water reservoir and a water system supplied downtown businesses. Newspaper accounts relate the coming of electric lights, a sewage system, and the establishment of a telephone company. In the early decades of the 1900s, new types of businesses appeared in the district, including automobile agencies, gasoline stations, five-and-dime stores, and a movie theater.

A number of natural disasters occurred in the downtown area. There were at least five major fires between 1870 and 1900, which destroyed entire blocks or parts of blocks. The downtown was inundated by floodwaters from the Chattahoochee River numerous times including a significant flood in 1919 and most recently in 2003. The great flood of 1961 led to the construction of the West Point dam and lake. The raised sidewalks in downtown are a reminder of the frequent floods that merchants had to cope with; most of the sidewalks were probably built in the late 1880s or 1890s since the two buildings constructed in 1884 are not raised above street level.

The earthquake of August 31, 1886, centered near Charleston, South Carolina, was felt in West Point, but did very little damage. Another small earthquake was felt on April 29, 2003. The most damaging event was a tornado that struck the city on March 28, 1920. The tornado did considerable damage to a number of downtown buildings, destroyed two churches, and destroyed the third floor opera house in the Lanier Building (still extant and now two stories). Roofs and upper portions of buildings collapsed, and some buildings lost ornate parapets and decorative elements.

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Section 8—Statement of Significance

Some of the businesses operating in West Point during the early 20th century include the Stephenson Brothers photography studio on the second floor of the Eady-Baker building, who published a souvenir book of photographs of West Point and Lanett (Alabama) in 1901; the Batson-Cook Company, a major construction firm founded in 1915 and still in operation today; the Cohen Brothers ready-to-wear clothing and department store founded in 1911; and the City Drug Company founded in 1912 by Grady Webb, Sr., which was a large pharmacy and soda fountain on 3rd Avenue. The bank of West Point built its elaborate building on the corner of 3rd Avenue and West 8th Street in 1907. After the bank liquidated in 1917, the building houses the Lanier Insurance Company, doctors' offices, and a variety of businesses.

Other businesses in the 1910s and 1920s included Hengstler's jewelry store, which was founded in 1914 by A.W. Hengstler in 1914 as a watch repair shop in the corner of a barber shop and expanded into a jewelry, silverware, china, and gift shop that is still in business today; and Kessler's, an Atlanta-based five-and-dime store which advertised as a "5 cent to \$5 store" that opened in 1927 and closed in 1988.

The decline in cotton farming in the 1920s was balanced by improved transportation, and the mills of West Point Manufacturing Company continued running through the Great Depression, although most of the local population was hard pressed for cash. In 1934 during the Depression the downtown did gain one business, Skinner's Furniture Store, one of a chain of furniture stores in Georgia and Alabama. Most businesses survived and continued to prosper through the 1950s. By the end of the 1950s, West Point was again a prosperous community with all the store buildings occupied. By this time, five mill villages in nearby Alabama had become dependent on West Point to supply their shopping needs so West Point was more prosperous than many towns of its size. Beginning in the 1960s, however, many businesses closed or moved into Alabama to take advantage of the lower property taxes and greater population of the Alabama city of Lanett and the mill villages of Shawmut, Langdale, Fairfax, and River View, which were incorporated into the city of Valley, Alabama, in 1980. The construction of U.S. Interstate 85, bypassing West Point, accelerated the decline of downtown by reducing tourist traffic and making it easier for residents to shop outside of downtown. After three decades of gradual decline, downtown West Point is beginning to revive in the 21st century with the implementation of the Better Hometown program, the creation of the downtown historic district, and plans for civic improvements to encourage tourists and new residents.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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

- ☐ **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- ☐ **preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**
date issued:
- ☐ **previously listed in the National Register**
- ☐ **previously determined eligible by the National Register**
- ☐ **designated a National Historic Landmark**
- ☐ **recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
- ☐ **recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ **State historic preservation office**
- ☐ **Other State Agency**
- ☐ **Federal agency**
- ☐ **Local government**
- ☐ **University**
- ☐ **Other, Specify Repository:**

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 27 acres (acreage estimator).

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A)	16	669866	3639170
B)	16	669970	3639138
C)	16	669948	3638771
D)	16	669727	3638769
E)	16	669762	3639080

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the intact, historic, and contiguous resources associated with the historic commercial development of downtown West Point.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** November 30, 2005
e-mail gretchen_brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Stephen Johnson
organization West Point Historic Preservation Commission
mailing address PO Box 7
city or town West Point **state** Georgia **zip code** 31833
telephone (706) 643-7851
e-mail N/A

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Mayor
organization (if applicable) City of West Point
mailing address PO Box 487
city or town West Point **state** Georgia **zip code** 31833
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: West Point Commercial Historic District
City or Vicinity: West point
County: Troup
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November 2003

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 27

1. Northwest side of 3rd Avenue at West 8th Street; photographer facing north.
2. Northeast side of 3rd Avenue and West 8th Street; photographer facing northeast.
3. Southeast corner of the intersection of 3rd Avenue and West 8th Street; photographer facing southeast.
4. View of 3rd Avenue; photographer facing north.
5. Southeast corner of the intersection of 3rd Avenue and West 8th Street; photographer facing southeast.
6. View of 800 block of 3rd Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
7. View of 800 block of 3rd Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
8. Detail of Goodwill building, 813 3rd Avenue (noncontributing); photographer facing northwest.
9. View of 818 3rd Avenue; photographer facing east.
10. View of 824 3rd Avenue and warehouse building; photographer facing northeast.
11. View of 901 3rd Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
12. Intersection of 3rd Avenue and West 9th Street; photographer facing northwest.
13. View of railroad tracks and warehouse; photographer facing northwest.
14. View of c.1940 Batson-Cook building on 4th Avenue; photographer facing northwest.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

15. View of c.1930 auto dealership on West 8th Street; photographer facing northwest.
16. U.S. Post Office, 729 4th Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
17. 400 block of West 8th Street; photographer facing northwest.
18. View of 4th Avenue, outside of district looking into district; photographer facing northwest.
19. View of 3rd Avenue at the intersection with 7th Street; photographer facing northwest.
20. View of 3rd Avenue at the intersection with 7th Street; photographer facing north.
21. View of 3rd Avenue at the intersection with 7th Street; photographer facing northeast.
22. 710 3rd Avenue; photographer facing east.
23. 700 block of 3rd Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
24. 700 block of 3rd Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
25. View of 2nd Avenue along railroad; photographer facing north.
26. View of West 8th Street from railroad; photographer facing northwest.
27. 715-717 2nd Avenue; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Attachment 1:

**Lanier Building before and after cyclone of 1920, West Point
Commercial Historic District, Troup County, Georgia**



Attachment 2:

Atkinson building c.1930 (top) and present (far left), West Point Commercial Historic District, Troup County, Georgia



Attachment 3:

Heyman-Menz Building (later J.C. Penney Co.), during flood of March 15, 1929, West Point Commercial Historic District, Troup County, Georgia



Attachment 3:

Heyman-Menz Building (later J.C. Penney Co.), during flood of March 15, 1929, West Point Commercial Historic District, Troup County, Georgia