

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

****** Fayette County Courthouse District

AND/OR COMMON

Fayette County Courthouse District

2 LOCATION roughly a area between Peyton and Caine Sts, and Luxapalilla St

STREET & NUMBER Portions of the blocks along Temple Avenue between the railroad and Luxapililla Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Fayette

VICINITY OF

4

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Fayette

CODE

057

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple, public and private

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fayette County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Temple Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Fayette

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Preservation, West Alabama Planning and Development Council

DATE

June, 1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Technical Information Service, 2285 Royal Port Road

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

Virginia 22151

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fayette County Courthouse Historic District is a collection of (25) commercial structures which center around the 1912 Neo-Classical courthouse. Most of the buildings were constructed shortly after the fire of March 24, 1911 that destroyed the business district and they depict Fayette, as it was in the first quarter of this century. The historic district is located on both sides of Temple Avenue, the main street of Fayette, and the six blocks included in it still account for a large number of the town's commercial establishments. *26 Search*

On the southwest corner of Temple Avenue and James Street is the William M. Cannon building (1), a large brick two-story structure that has four main bays, the center two have pedimented parapets. Across James Street is the Old Citizens Bank building (2) which is a two-story brick edifice of two bays, pedimented parapets and similar to the William M. Cannon building with iron grillwork covering square holes in the facade for attic ventilation. Next to this is the S.J. Cannon Drug Store (3), the first building built in this block, which is a brick two-story structure with corbelled brick molding in the cornice above which is an arched pediment capped with limestone. The present Citizens Bank building (4) is adjacent to this; designed in the International style its overall shape is outlined in limestone with brick screening walls and marble panels suspended in glass window walls.

The next structure on the west side of Temple Avenue is the Propst building (5), which is a long narrow two-story brick building with sides facing Columbus Street and the Courthouse as well as Peyton Street; it has late Art-Deco stucco decorations on the upper level.

Next is the Fayette County Courthouse (6) situated in the middle of a small park; it is symmetrical in plan with classical elements in the details. The most outstanding feature of the building is its columned cylindrical dome which is centered on the roof; this is one of the focal points of the town of Fayette. The courthouse is a two-story building of buff colored brick with a wood frame gabled roof. The main entrance, from Temple Avenue, has a pedimented portico supported by four large two-story Ionic columns. The building has brick quoins at the corners and stone window lintels. The first floor has a cross shaped hallway with offices on all sides and the second floor contains the main courtroom in the center of the building with small jury rooms and offices on each side. In rooms where the ceilings have not been lowered coffered plasterwork can be seen.

Facing the courthouse park is the Wright and Smith building (7), a small severely plain two-story brick structure. Adjoining the latter is the Howton building (8), which is next to the Western Union Building (9); both are small one-story structures, with interesting brick work in the facades. Across an open space from this and also facing the courthouse park is the Neo-Classical Fayette County bank (10), a two-story brick edifice with limestone columns on the east and south sides. The J.A. Branyon building (11) next door has a mesh metal screen covering the original brick facade of the second floor and the first floor is radically altered.

On the East side of Temple Avenue is the Masonic building (26) at the corner of Luxapalilla Street. This two-story brick structure has a Spanish influence apparent in the use of wrought iron flower box brackets and arched attic ventilation openings. On

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the southside of this is the Ford Auto building (25) a one-story severely plain brick structure of three bays. Adjacent to the latter is the Goodwin Block (24) a one-story brick building with recessed brick planes for ornament. Next is the two-story Jones and Peters (23) building, its upper level has been covered with metal screening and the lower level altered completely. The W. A. Anderson building (22) and the Auto Sales building (21) are both one-story brick with corbelled brick work in the cornice. Adjacent is the two-story Turner Hotel (20) of four main bays with pedimented parapets.

South across Columbus Street is the one-story stone and stucco Old Post Office building (17), with parallel bracketed cornices. Behind the Old Post Office on Columbus Street is the Putnam Building that was built for the Dixie Theatre, where many Fayette countians saw their first moving picture show. Next to this is the two-story cement block Nuckols building. Adjacent to the Old Post Office on Temple Avenue is the one-story brick Rose and Gullett (16) building; its corbelled brick cornice molding is similar to the S.J. Cannon Drug Store building across the street. On the south side of the former is the Walker Brothers building (15), the only building built after the fire with a deep metal cornice.

Across James Street is the Berry Brothers building a very plain unadorned brick building and on its south side the five-story William M. Cannon Wholesale Grocery building (13). The latter was built for a hotel, but because it had a wooden structural system which the city fire code prohibited, it was used for a warehouse, a purpose it still serves.

The present Southern Railway Depot (12) was built to replace the frame structure that had survived the 1911 fire. With low hipped roofs and deep bracketed eaves it owes much of its design to the orient.

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Inventory of Historic Structures Located Within the Fayette County Courthouse Historic District

1. William M. Cannon Building (101-105 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, two-story, dark red brick. The facade is segmented into four bays by wide brick piers. The end bays have crenelated parapets and the center bays have pedimented parapets. The glass areas of the lower level have been redone and the second floor has four windows in each bay with single pane sashes. The attic level has square openings with metal grillwork for ventilation. The structure is basically unchanged (now Hodges Department Store).
2. Old Citizens Bank Building (201-203 N. Temple Avenue): 1915, two-story, yellow brick. The facade has end and one center pier, behind the latter is the wall that divides the building into two business sections. Each lower level section has double center doors, solid pane show windows and transoms above. The second floor sections have three windows, each segmented by pilasters. The exterior is basically unaltered (now the Cobblestone and McCaleb's Barber Shop).
3. S.J. Cannon Drug Store (205 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, two-story red brick with limestone trim. The facade parapet has an arched pediment capped with limestone, beneath which is a corbelled brick molding. The second level has four windows with single pane sashes and is unaltered; the lower level has been completely changed (now Prater Realty and Insurance).
4. The Citizens Bank Building (207 N. Temple Avenue): 1955, International Style, one-story limestone, brick and marble. Limestone bands the corners and the flat roof line while the walls are brick tile to a screening height of eight feet; above this are window walls with suspended marble panels. The entrance is in a full height recessed area at the corner.
5. Propst Building (301 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, two-story brick with later Art-Deco stucco decorations is greatly altered (now Fred's Discount Store).
6. Fayette County Courthouse (311 N. Temple Avenue): 1912, Neo-Classical, two-story, brick.
7. Wright and Smith Building (315 N. Temple Avenue): 1945, two-story red brick. The facade has a flat parapet, five single pane windows across the upper level and two doorways and three windows on the lower level (now Thomas & Roberts Accountants and Nolen & Ensley Attorneys).
8. Howton Building (317 N. Temple Avenue): 1928, one-story buff brick. The stepped parapet has a brick cap below which is a projecting molding of the same and five diamond shaped stones. The display window and entrance door have been altered (now First National Bank bookkeeping offices).

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9. Western Union Building (319 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, one-story, yellow brick. The facade has three square recessed panes above the recently altered entrance and display window (now First National Bank accounting offices).
10. Fayette County Bank (321 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, Neo-Classical, two-story, yellow brick. The structure has engaged limestone Tuscan columns on the East and South sides. Each bay has double windows with single pane sashes; the lower level windows are set in arched openings. The main entrance is in the diagonal that cuts the corner of the building, which has been only slightly altered (now the First National Bank).
11. J.A. Branyon Building (323-325 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, two-story brick. The upper level of the facade has a recent metal screen and the lower is now entirely glass (now Berry's Department Store).
12. Southern Railway Depot - Fayette (No. 1 N. Temple Avenue): 1913, one-story red brick. The depot has low hipped rooflines with deep bracketed eaves. All door and window openings have segmental arches. The only alteration is the wooden loading platform has been replaced with a cement one.
13. William M. Cannon Wholesale Grocery Building (100-102 N. Temple Avenue): 1928, five-story, red brick. This is the tallest building in Fayette, it was intended for a hotel but due to its wooden structural system failed to meet the town's fire code and was converted to a wholesale grocery business. The upper four floors have six windows in each of the two basic sections created by the wide center and end piers. The first floor has solid pane display windows and entrances with transoms. The structure is not noticeably altered.
14. Berry Brothers (104 N. Temple Avenue): 1912, one-story, brick. The facade is extremely plain with a molding of brick dentals. The center doors have been replaced and the transom covered in aluminum (now First Federal Savings and Loan).
15. Walker Brothers & Company (200 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, two-story, yellow brick. The facade has a bracketed metal cornice that is arched in the center. The second floor has four round-arched windows that have been sealed, while the first floor has been covered in a new facing (now Weems and Taylor Furniture).
16. Rose and Gullett (204 N. Temple Avenue): 1912, one-story, brick. The facade has a corbelled cornice above the slightly altered show window and entrance (now Weems and Taylor Furniture).

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17. The Old Post Office (206-208 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, one-story, cut stone and stucco. The main entrance is in the diagonal area that cuts the corner and the facade is marked by a flat parapet below which are two bracket-supported levels of projecting moldings. The exterior is basically unaltered (now Bolling Drugs and Sample Shoe Store).
18. The Putnam Building (110 E. Columbus Street): 1914, two-story, brick painted green. Built for the Dixie Theatre this structure has four windows set in recessed planes on the second floor. New surfaces cover the first floor level (now J. & J. Fabrics).
19. F. A. Nuckols Building (112 E. Columbus Street): 1912, two-story, cement block. The facade has a shallow projecting metal cornice at the top, four windows on the second floor and a wide center opening on the first floor with a smaller openings for display windows on each side (now Fayette Furniture).
20. Turner Hotel (303-306 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, two-story yellow brick. The Temple Avenue facade has a parapet of four pedimented sections all of which are capped with limestone. Upstairs windows have single pane sashes. The upper level is unaltered, but the first floor level has been altered (now the Ben Franklin Store, Anderson Hardware and Central Drug Store).
21. Auto Sales (308 N. Temple Avenue): 1918, one-story brick. The facade has a corbelled brick cornice at the top of the parapet, while the show windows entrance and transoms have been altered (now Sterman's).
22. W. A. Anderson Building (312 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, one-story brick. The facade has a corbelled brick cornice similar to the Auto Sales building. The display window and entrance are recent alterations, but the transom area has been unaltered (now the Quality Shop).
23. Jones and Peters (314-316 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, two-story, yellow brick. The front upper level of this double business building has been covered in metal siding and the lower level completely changed (now Lorch's and Fashion Center).
24. The Goodwin Block (318-322 N. Temple Avenue): 1911, one-story, brick. This building has a flat parapet and is divided into three main business sections by brick piers. Each section has three square openings in the attic level and/a/cornice below supported by dentals. Alterations have been slight (now Robbie's Men's Shop).
25. Ford Auto Sales (324-330 N. Temple Avenue): 1923, one-story brick. This structure has a flat parapet and wide piers which divide it into three main bays. The display windows and entrances have recently been altered and over these are large unaltered recessed planes in each bay (now Standard Furniture and Western Auto).

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26. Masonic Building (332-334 N. Temple Avenue): 1922, two-story brick. The parapet is flat below which are a series of rounded arches with some open to provide ventilation for the attic. The second floor has three triple windows with transoms; the sashes have six panes each. The first floor transom, display windows and doors have all been altered recently (first floor Robbie's Gifts, upstairs Masonic Hall).

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 type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The majority of the buildings in the six downtown blocks of Fayette were built shortly after the disastrous fire of March 24, 1911, that destroyed the entire business district. Fayette was and is the center of Fayette County politics and commerce. Within the district have been located for over half a century the Fayette County Courthouse and the most important commercial establishments in the county. Although several buildings have been altered and intrusions do exist the district still retains the appearance and character of the first quarter of this century.

The Fayette Banner of April 6, 1911 states that every merchant who had recently been burned out was back in business in temporary quarters. At this time the town council passed an ordinance requiring all new construction to be of brick, stone or concrete to lessen the chances of another great fire. All buildings within the district are brick, some with stone trim, with the exception of the Old Post Office (1911), which is cut stone and stucco, the concrete block F.A. Nuckols Building (1912) and the present Citizens Bank building (1955) of limestone, brick and marble.

The Walker Brothers building (1911) was the only structure built with a deep bracketed metal cornice so popular on buildings of the last half of the nineteenth century. The Nuckols building (1912) does, however, have a shallow bracketed metal cornice. The Old Post Office building (1911) and the Fayette County Bank (1911) both have entrances in the diagonal areas that cut the corners and both, as well as the Goodwin Block (1911), have projecting cornices below flat parapets. While the majority of the buildings have flat facade parapets the Turner Hotel (1911), the Old Citizens Bank (1915) and the William M. Cannon (1911) buildings have pedimented parapets and the S.J. Cannon Drug Store (1911) has an arched one. The courthouse (1912) and the Fayette County Bank (1911) were the only structures in the district built in the Neo-Classical style. The Southern Railway Depot (1913), built of brick with low hipped roofs and deep bracketed eaves was greatly influenced by the styles of the orient and is one of the finest examples remaining in Alabama. Dominating the entire district is the William M. Cannon Wholesale Grocery building constructed in 1928; it was originally intended for a hotel, but failed to pass the city code, due to having a wooden structural skeleton rather than a steel one. In style the latter building has a slight Spanish influence noticeable in the tiled projecting cornice at the top of the parapet. This district is unique architecturally because the majority of structures were built near the same time to replace buildings destroyed in the 1911 fire. They, therefore, reflect the architectural characteristics of commercial edifices being erected in small towns of moderate income, throughout the South, during the first quarter of the twentieth century.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sesquicentennial, (Vol. I), September, 1969, Published by the Fayette County Historical Society

150 Yesteryears, (Vol. II), January, 1971. Volume II Published by the Fayette County Historical Society with the cooperation of the Fayette County Broadcaster.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 7

UTM REFERENCES

<i>C</i> 1,6	4,2,2,8,9,0	3,7,2,7,1,4,0	<i>D</i> 1,6	4,2,2,9,0,0	3,7,2,7,4,4,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
<i>A</i> 1,6	4,2,3,1,0,0	3,7,2,7,4,2,0	<i>B</i> 1,6	4,2,3,1,0,0	3,7,2,7,1,4,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The ^{south} southern boundary of the Fayette County Courthouse Historic District, begins at the southwest intersection of South Caine Street and the Southern Railroad. From there it runs west along the railroad to the southeast intersection of the latter with South Temple Avenue. From this point it runs north to the southwest corner of the William M. Cannon Wholesale Grocery building and from there west across Temple Avenue to the southwest corner of the William M. Cannon building, thence north along the rear property line

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jackson R. Stell

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

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

Miss B. Howard Jr.

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

Jan. 28, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/30/98

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

James L. Payne
Charles [unclear]

DATE

7-28-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Fayette owes its existence and growth to the fact that it was chosen as the location for the county courthouse. For years, in fact, the community was known as Fayette Courthouse. The present courthouse (1912) was built on the same site as its predecessor (1892) which burned in 1911. The Fayette County Courthouse houses the offices of all county officials and all county business is conducted here; it, therefore, is the center of all political activities within the county. Although modern conveniences have been added for the sake of comfort the exterior has been maintained with no alterations.

When the Georgia Pacific Railroad from Columbus, Mississippi to Birmingham, Alabama was built in 1883 through Fayette County, it passed about one mile from the courthouse. A number of merchants then moved their business establishments to what was called "Latona" or "Depot Town". The courthouse was moved to this location in 1891-92 and "Old Town" soon passed from the scene to be replaced by the present Fayette.

The first quarter of the present century Fayette County was dependent upon the agricultural products of small to medium size farms and timber related industries. Fayette County was never a part of the great plantation system. In 1914 the town of Fayette had about twenty five merchants, a number of gins and grist mills, five blacksmiths, a bottling works, three drug stores, two large saw mills, one oil and fertilizer factory, two banks, two weekly newspapers, three restaurants, three barber shops, two jewelry stores, one moving picture show, one stove and heading mill, etc. Fayette was thus the social and commercial hub of the county and the structures within this district were where the majority of these activities were conducted.

The second quarter of this century saw buildings constructed on most of the vacant lots in the six blocks under consideration here. The periods of growth were just before the Great Depression and immediately preceding the Second World War. Most of the structures are extremely plain in style with no distinguishing characteristics.

Presently, the six blocks of the district still comprise the majority of the Fayette business district, but the commercial district is growing North on Temple Avenue and East on Columbus Street.

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Looking Back, (Vol. III), December, 1974. Published by the Fayette County
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of the latter to where it meets the southern property line of the Propst building. The boundary then runs west to the southwest property line of the latter structure, thence north along Peyton Street to the intersection of a line that runs ~~west~~ along the northern property line of the J.A. Branyon building to the east right of way of Temple Avenue. It then runs north to the northwest corner of the Masonic building, thence east along the northern boundary of the said building to the northeast corner of the same. From there it runs south in a straight line along the east property line of the Masonic building to the intersection of the latter with the southern right of way of Columbus Street, thence ~~east~~ along the same to the northeast corner of the F.A. Nuckols building, thence ~~north~~ ^{south} along the eastern boundary of the same to the southeast corner of the same structure. It then runs west along James Street to the intersection of an intersecting line running north from the southeast corner of the William M. Cannon Wholesale Grocery building. From there it proceeds south along this said line to the southeast corner of the William M. Cannon Wholesale Grocery building; thence east along the southern line of the latter building to the west right of way of Caine Street and thence south to the beginning.

Handwritten:
11-76

Jayette County Courthouse Historic District

district boundary ---
no scale

