United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only received JAN 5 - 1982 date entered

1. Nam	ie	•		
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nd/or common	Brewton Histor	ric Commercial Distr	ict	
2. Loca	ation βL	3 and U.S.	3/	•
treet & number	see continuati			not for publication
ity, town	Brewton	vicinity of	congressional district 1	
	abama co sification	ode 01 county	Escambia	code 053
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public privateX both Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status _X occupied _X unoccupied _X work in progress Accessible _X yes: restricted _X yes: unrestricted _no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
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	ation of Lec	gal Descripti		
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		Escambia County Cou	rtnouse	
treet & number	P. O. Box 557			No. of the last of
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<u> </u>			Surveys	
	resentation	i in Existing		
6. Rep	resentation a Inventory		operty been determined elegi	ble?yes _X_r
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6. Reputie Alabam	a Inventory resent		operty been determined elegi	

i. Desc	- i ption			
Condition		Check one	Check one	
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site	

moved

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

altered

ruins

__ unexposed

 \underline{X} good

____ fair

The Brewton Historic Commercial District contains the early commercial area of Brewton where the majority of the structures dates from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The scale and appearance of the area is little different from that of the 1920s. The district is primarily located along 2 1/2 blocks of St. Joseph Avenue, the main street of town, and a portion of Belleville, which intersects St. Joseph at a 45° angle. The railroad tracks (now L&N) bisect the middle of St. Joseph and form the focal point of the district. The depot, which was located at the corner of Deer and St. Joseph, was demolished in 1979.

Most of the buildings are one and two-story brick commercial structures, with narrow fronts and simple fenestration patterns. Ornamentation is limited, in most cases, to simple elaboration of structural elements. An exception is the beautifully-detailed Bank of Brewton, which utilizes terra-cotta tile with Renaissance Revival details. Construction is typical of that found in the slightly more prosperous communities throughout South Alabama.

Of the 47 structures in the district, 34 have been determined to contribute to the character of the area. The boundaries were drawn to include all of the adjacent structures in the commercial district that are 50 years of age, and to exclude modern development. Many owners are awaiting National Register approval to begin reconstruction of the porticos shown in photographs of the 1920s.

8. Significance

1700–1799	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art _X commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architecture law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater _X transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	SEE HO NAP	Builder/Architect	 	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

COMMERCE: The Brewton Historic Commerical District is significant as the largest commercial center between Montgomery and the Gulf Coast ports of Pensacola & Mobile during the early years of the 20th century. The timber industry which developed during the latter part of the 19th century in this area, brought enormous concentrated wealth and aggressive merchants to this rapidly growing town. Using advertising, catalogs and twice-yearly New York buying trips to bring back the latest in merchandise, firms like Luttrell Hardware and Robbins and McGowin General Merchandise served an area that included much of south-central Alabama and north-western Florida. The concentration of commercial buildings date primarily from the last decade of the 19th century to the end of the second decade of the 20th century -- Brewton's major period of prosperity.

ARCHITECTURE: The district contains representative examples of late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings common to the southern portion of the state, particularly in the smaller, but more prosperous towns. One structure, the Bank of Brewton, a classically-detailed structure with ornamental terra cotta tile, is one of the most elegant and refined structures to survive in the small towns of south Alabama.

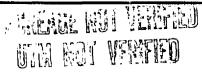
The district is significant for its strong associations with the timber industry of South Alabama, which the city grew up to serve and which continues to be its main industry.

Brewton began as a station on the Alabama and Florida Railroad. This line which linked Montgomery with the port cities of Mobile and Pensacola, was one of the major antebellum rail lines in Alabama. In 1861, the railroad constructed a small station house in the vicinity of several small communities and named it Newport Station, later renaming it for the first station manager, E. T. Brewton. Although the lumber industry had been established in the area as early as the 1840s and a mill built in the Brewton vicinity just after the war, it was not until the 1880s that large-scale exploitation of the long leaf pine forests was begun. Brewton, situated on the rail line, rapidly attracted the settlers of the smaller communities and became the center of the lumber industry in the area. During the decade of the 1880s, the population of the town doubled, leaving the town with a little over 1000 inhabitants in 1890. In 1883, the town captured the county seat from nearby Pollard, which had served as the political center since the creation of the county in 1868.

By the 1900, Brewton could boast of some of the largest stores in South Alabama. The January 18, 1900 Pine Belt News reported no vacant stores in Brewton. Large firms like Luttrell Hardware and Robbins and McGowin General Merchandise served an area that included much of South-central Alabama and portions of North-western Florida. In 1916, the population of the town had grown to 5,000 and enjoyed such modern amenities as an electric light plant, a waterworks, a fire department, sewers, five miles of paved sidewalks and a public park. The city was subject to flooding, however, and major

9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet



10. Geographical l)ata
Acreage of nominated property	
Quadrangle name <u>South Brewton</u> UMT References	Quadrangle scale1:2400
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Verbal boundary description and justi	fication
see continuation sheet	
- I m	
	ties overlapping state or county boundaries
state c	ode , county code
state c	ode ¹ county code
11. Form Prepared	By
name/title Jackson R. Stell/Histo	oric Resource Coordinator
organization Alabama Historical Con	mission date
street & number 725 Monroe Street	telephone 832-6621
city or town Montgomery	state Alabama
12. State Historic	Preservation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property	within the state is:
nationalsta	telocal
665), I hereby nominate this property for inc	on Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89- lusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated forth by the Haritage Conservation and Recreation Service.
State Historic Preservation Officer signature	- Hawerend She
title SHPO	date 12/20/89
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is in	cluded in the National Register
Nelson (B.)	Entered in the National Register date
Keeper of the National Register	Hautonae engles one.
Attest:	date

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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STRUCTURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

- 1. Rosemores (212 Belleville Avenue): 1903-1910; two story, brick, flat parapet with corbelled cornice and two recessed rectangular panels above three second floor windows with corbelled segmental arched, first floor has been altered with wood shingle canopy and wood paneling.
- 3. Mason Drugs (200-208 Bellevelle and St. Joseph): 1900; two story, rusticated cemented blocks, trapezoid shape, flat parapet with plain molding, second floor has two windows on corner and eight windows on sides, first floor has seen most bays filled in with paneling. Owner awaits National Register approval to restore the exterior to original appearance (now Willie's Place).
- 4. Bank of Brewton (137 St. Joseph Street): 1912; two story, brick with terra cotta facade, arched double doored entrance has flat suspended canopy, terra cotta work features flat paneled parapet with full entablature supported by elaborately paneled pilasters.
- 6. Moorman Drugs (133 St. Joseph Street): 1900, c. 1970; two story, brick, two round arched bays of first floor rebuilt c. 1970; three bays of second floor reglazed with plate glass and central round arched ventilator closed.
- 7. Old Fair Store Building (131 St. Joseph Street): 1898, c. 1970; two story, brick, c. 1970 first floor atlered with metal trim and plate glass while the original upper level of the facade is covered with aluminum; (now Weavers).
- 8. Firestone building (129 St. Joseph Street): before 1898, c. 1970; one story, brick, decorative brick molded cornice and recessed panel at attic level, lower level altered with aluminum and glass storefront. (Now Blackburn Accounting Office.)
- 9. Smart and Thrifty (127 St. Joseph Street): 1898-1903, c. 1965; two story, brick, decorative brick cornice and two recessed planes in parapet, corbelled brick drip moldings over four segmental arched windows of second floor; first floor altered c. 1965 with aluminum and glass storefront.
- Warden's (123-125 St. Joseph Street): c. 1892, c. 1965; one story, brick, decorative brick cornice and one recessed plane in parapet, altered c. 1965 with glass and aluminum storefront. (Now A. Plant Jewelry.)
- 11. Peoples Insurance building (119 St. Joseph Street): 1900, c. 1950; two story brick; facade altered with stucco c. 1950.

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- 13. Jackson's (117 St. Joseph Street): 1903, c. 1960; one story, brick, decorative brick cornice and recessed panel at attic level, entire front covered c. 1960 with aluminum and glass; all of upper portion of facade intact.
- 14. Hainje's (115 St. Joseph Street): 1902, c. 1960; two story, brick, aluminum applied c. 1960 over decorative brick cornice and five bay segmental arched windows with corbelled hoods, first floor altered with glass and aluminum storefront.
- 15. Henry Hill Jewelry (113 St. Joseph Street): 1898-1903, c. 1960; two story, brick, parapet has arched central section with recessed panel, double windows in each of two second floor bays; first altered with aluminum and glass.
- 16. Old Citizens Bank building (111 St. Joseph Street): by 1893, c. 1960; two story, brick; decorative brick cornice; facade has 3 segmental arched windows in second floor and aluminum canopy over glass and aluminum altered lower level (now vacant).
- 19. Building (103 St. Joseph Street): c. 1892, c. 1960; two story, brick, upper part of parapet altered and aluminum canopy; siding and plate glass added c. 1960 to lower level (now vacant).
- 21. May Candy building (90 St. Joseph Street): 1922; two story, brick, three segmental arched double doored opening on first floor and four segmental arched windows on second; a tin canopy over full-width concrete platform in front (now Brewton Iron Works).
- 23. B & W Auto Parts Store (102-104 Mildred Street): c. 1920; two story, brick, central recessed entrance with flanking plate glass show windows. Three second floor bays sealed.
- 24,25. Old Henry Hill Building (106-108 Mildred Street): c. 1898; one story brick, double building; decorative brick cornice, each side has recessed entrance, glass display windows and transom over all. (now vacant).
 - 28. Building (114 Mildred Street): c. 1920; one story, brick, decorative brick cornice extends over #29, transom over double bay facade which contains new windows and entrance (now vacant).
 - 29. Sef's Grocery (118 Mildred Street): c. 1910; one story, brick, shares same decorative brick cornice as #28; three bay facade has suspended aluminum awning (now Watson's Shoe Store).

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- 30. Building (121 Mildred Street): c. 1910; one story, brick, double store with #31, decorative brick cornice, recessed panel at attic level, central entrance with flanking store windows (now vacant).
- 31. State Farm Insurance (119 Mildred Street): See #30 except windows and door paneled.
- 32. Foshee Mercantile Building (100-102 St. Joseph Street): 1883; two story, brick; brick brought from Montgomery by train; oldest brick building in Escambia County; five bay second floor facade; lower level facade has double doored entrance with flanking show windows; (since 1909 operated Robbins and McGowin).
- 33. Robbins and McGowin Company (104 St. Joseph Street): 1909; three story brick, pressed metal cornice, facade has eight bay upper level and central double doored entrance with flanking display windows; oldest commercial business in Brewton--since 1892; see #32.
- 34. Farmers and Merchants Bank Building (108 St. Joseph Street): 1912, 1939; two story, brick with stucco; second floor added 1939; two bay lower facade and three bay upper; full-width suspended aluminum canopy over facade; trapezoid shape due to addition at rear (now vacant).
- 37. Roberts Motor Company (118-122 St. Joseph Street): 1924; two story, brick, simple flat parapet with three recessed planes at attic level; eight segmental arched windows on second floor facade, four bay lower facade (now Honda of Brewton).
- 38. Henderson House (106 Lee Street): 1911; Rusticated cement block, deck on hip roof with one large gabled dormer on north and west sides; hip roofed front porch supported with bracketed turned posts; five bay facade has central entrance with side lights and transom. Built next door to the family store, which has been torn down.
- 39. Brewton City Hall (212 St. Joseph Street): 1939; two story with raised basement and wings; brick; five bay facade with central entrance; excellent example of a W.P.A. public building in the Georgian Revival style.
- 40. Luttrell Hardware (220-222 St. Joseph Street): 1912; three story with one story wing at rear; brick, decorative brick work in cornice with large plow used as central ornamentation since 1930; facade has six windows with stone trim on upper levels; three bay lower facade with central entrance and flanking display windows; interior relatively unaltered and retains pressed metal ceilings and giant sky light; this and Robbins and McGowin (see #'s 32 and 33) were the largest stores between Montgomery and Mobile for many years (now Pensacola Mill Supply).

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- 42. Peoples Market Building (230 St. Joseph Street): 1912; one story, brick, rectangular shape with beveled corner entrance; flat parapet; glass display windows at St. Joseph Street and five bays at Deer Street; original metal covered canopy wraps around both sides of building (now vacant).
- 43. Jernigan Building (102 Deer Street): c. 1930; one story, brick and frame; wood facade with two bays, full facade canopy supported with wood posts (now Peoples Meat Market Office).
- 44. Henderson Potter's Barber Shop (104 Deer Street): by 1920; one story, brick, simple brick cornice, two bay facade altered with aluminum trimmed plate glass; full-width canopy extends over #'s 45 and 46. Henderson Potter, a black barber who wrote a history of Escambia County in 1941, had his business here (now vacant).
- 45. J. E. Daily's (106 Deer Street): by 1920; one story, brick, three bay facade altered with aluminum trim and glass, see #44 (now vacant).
- 46. Building (108-110 Deer Street): by 1920; 1 story; brick, double building; simple brick cornice, six bay facade, each side has central entrance with one window on each side, altered with aluminum trim and glass, see #'s 44 and 45 (now vacant).
- 47. Cedar Creek Mill Store (300 Deer Street): 1911; two story brick, simple brick cornice, suspended flat canopy that wraps around west and south sides rebuilt with wood post; upper level has four bays on east side and three on south side, composed of double windows with segmental arches; display windows and entries in southwest corner of building (now Sherrer Brothers).

STRUCTURES WHICH DONOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

- 2. Willie's Place (200-208 Belleville Avenue): 1950; one story brick, five-sided shape, flat parapet. Belleville facade has suspended flat canopy over metal trimmed show windows and single entrance. St. Joseph facade has central double doored entrance with flanking show windows and transom over all.
- 5. Building (135 St. Joseph Street): 1910, c. 1950; one story, brick, original curved facade consisting of two large round-arched openings is behind Perma-stone covering. Original facade extension with #6. Building would contribute to district if facade restored (now vacant).

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- 11. Jennings Building (121 St. Joseph Street): 1898, c. 1940; two story, brick. Facade was rebuilt c. 1940, removing all decorative brick work and installing seven new metal frame windows on second floor and aluminum and glass display windows and doors on lower level. See also #18. Restoration of facade could make building contributing element of district.
- 17. Elmore's (105-107 St. Joseph Street): by 1893; 1898, 1940. Two story, brick; believed to be second oldest brick building in Brewton, enlarged 1898; facade completely rebuilt 1940 removing all decorative brickwork and installing seven new metal frame windows on second floor, and aluminum and glass display windows and doors on lower level. See also #18. Restoration of facade could make building contributing element of district.
- 18. Elmore's (105-107 St. Joseph Street): by 1893; 1940; two story, brick. Since 1910 has been used as one business with #17.
- 20. Everage Building (101 St. Joseph Street): by 1893; 1898; 1940. Two story, brick. Believed to be second oldest brick building in Brewton. Enlarged 1898, facade completely rebuilt 1940, removing all decorative brick work. Second floor has two widely spaced windows and first floor recessed central entrance with glass and metal trim (now Everage's Living World Book Store). Restoration of facade could make building contributing element of district.
- 22. Old Brewton City Hall Building (100 Mildred Street): by 1893, c. 1948; two story, brick. Form 1910 to 1939 was city hall and fire department. Mildred Street facade and corner of structure rebuilt c. 1948, installing metal frame windows, flat metal canopy and metal trimmed plate glass display windows and entrance. Segmental arched openings still exist at St. Joseph Street and building could be considered as a contributing element of the district if facade restored (now Western Auto).
- 26. Brewton Music Center (110 Mildred Street): c. 1922, c. 1960; one story brick, double building, facade rebuilt c. 1960 with that of #27, eliminating all decorative brickwork and adding central metal trimmed plate glass door and flanking display windows (presently vacant). If facade restored, could be considered as a contributing element of district.
- 27. Chris Beauty Shop (112 Mildred Street): c. 1922, c. 1960; originally built and facade reworked as part of #27.

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35, Kerwins Auto Parts (112-114 St. Joseph Street): c. 1910, c. 1948; one story brick, 36. double building; facade was rebuilt c. 1948, eliminating all decorative brickwork and replacing with metal trimmed, central glass doors and flanking display windows; shallow metal canopy across full facade.

41. Building (228 St. Joseph Street): c. 1920, c. 1960; one story, brick, facade completely rebuilt devoid of ornamentation and with metal trimmed glass door and display windows. If facade restored could be considered as a contributing element of district.

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PAGE 1

PROPERTY	OWNERS

Dr. E. Rosemore 217 Belleville Avenue

Hubbard Owens P. O. Box 280

Margaret McMillan 429 Belleville Avenue

F. B. Lovelace 1407 Poplar Avenue

Henry Hill 113 St. Joseph Street

Brewton Iron Works P. O. Box 1228

Roy Stokes Trustee P. O. Box 954

Robbins & McGowin Co. 100-104-110 St. Joseph St.

Mrs. W. N. Roberts 3455 Belleville Avenue

Pensacola Mill Supply 3030 N. "E" Street Pensacola, Florida

Alma Dailey P. O. Box 152

Bob McMillan P. O. Box 810

Sammy Weaver P. O. 144

* Louise Henderson P. O. Box 554

Haynes Parker Rental P. O. Box 128

Isabell Burnett 714 Lovelace

T. C. Herd P. O. Box 379 Atmore, AL 36502

Gilbert Watson 118 Mildred Street

Mrs. R. M. Jernigan 1600 Belleville Avenue

* S. C. Henderson P. O. Box 2703

> D. P. Liles 3565 Bankhead Avenue Montgomery, Alabama 36111

T. R. Miller P. O. Box 708

Bank of Brewton P. O. Box 348

J. C. Blackburn P. O. Box 159

Earl Weaver 121 St. Joseph Street

Jernigan Estate, FNB P. O. Box 1467 Mobile, Alabama 36604

Ed. Everage P. O. Box 883

Devon Wiggins 100 Mildred Street

Jimmy Luttrell 119 Mildred Street

McMillan Trust P. O. Box 867

City of Brewton City Hall

W. Y. Jernigan 1308 Escambia Avenue

^{*} Do not have correct addresses

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- 1. Bicentennial Almanac, "201 years of American Progress as seen from Escambia County, Alabama." published in 1977.
- 2. "A Brief History of Escambia County, Alabama", by Henderson A. Potter, a colored man of Brewton, Alabama. 1941.
- 3. "A Short Historic Sketch of Brewton, Alabama", by Hon. James M. Davison 1922.
- 4. "Brewton, Alabama: economic Growth Paterns 1880-1900.", by Margaret Stone, 1970.
- 5. "The Code of Brewton, Alabama, Adopted July 3, 1907 with the Charter" published in 1908.
- 6. The Brewton Standard Heritage 76 edition. A historical review of Escambia County and its communities.
- 7. Old newspapers, Pine Belt News, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1904, 1903, 1912, 1912, 1928, 1929, 1933, 1938. 1939, 1940.

Standard Gauge 1900, 1901, 1903, 1904

8. "History of Robbins and McGowin," by John David Finlay, Jr., 1942. this was a college term paper written on the family business

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Beginning at the centerline of the L & N Railroad and its intersection with the centerline of St. Nicholas Avenue proceed northwest along the centerline of St. Nicholas Avenue 173 feet; thence N-42-E 430 feet; thence east 52 feet; thence S-68-E 68 feet; thence north 77 feet to the southeast corner of parcel #10 Block 6; thence east 30 feet to the centerline of Belleville Avenue; thence north 153 feet; thence east 30 feet to the northwest corner of parcel #6, Block 8; thence follow the north line of parcel #6 in an easterly direction 139 feet to a point on the west R. O. W. of St. Joseph Avenue; thence southeast 50 feet to a point on the centerline of the L & N Railroad; thence northeast along said Railroad 178 feet to a point of intersection with the centerline of Deer Street; thence southeast along the centerline Deer Street 203 feet to a point of intersection with the centerline of Commerce Street; thence northeast along the centerline of Commerce Street 140 feet; thence S-50-E 95 feet; thence S-40-W 140 feet back to the centerline of Deer Street; thence northwest along the centerline of Deer Street 70 feet; thence S-40-W 30 feet to the northwest corner of parcel #1, Block 9; thence continue along the west line of parcel #1 100 feet; thence along the south line of parcel #1 41 feet; thence southwest along the east boundary of parcel #6, 55 feet; thence N-50-W 120 feet; thence S-40-W 160 feet to the northeast corner of parcel #8, Block 9; thence along the north line of parcel #8 100 feet to a point on the east R. O. W. line of St. Joseph Avenue; thence southwest along said R. O. W. 240 feet to the southwest corner of parcel #5, Block 11; thence S-50-E 90 feet to the southwest corner of parcel #4; thence northeast along the west line of par-el #4 110 feet to a pt. on the centerline of Lee Street; thence southeast along this centerline a distance of 90 feet; thence southwest along the west line of parcel #3 220 feet; thence southeast along the south ling of parcel #3 46 feet; thence wouthwest along the east line of parcel #11 260 feet to the northwest corner of parcel #5, Block 12; thence 90 feet along the west line of parcel #5; thence northwest along the north line of parcel #14 110 feet; thence southwest 122 feet to the south line of parcel #14; thence northwest along this line 165 feet to the centerline of the L & N Railroad; thence northeast along said Railroad 212 feet to the point of origin.

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floods occurred in 1913, 1928, 1929, 1975 and 1977. After the 1928 and 1929 floods many merchants were forced to close their businesses due to heavy financial losses. The floods along with the Depression brought an end to the commercial prosperity of the town. Today Brewton still serves as the major commercial center for the surrounding area and as the headquarters for the T. R. Miller Lumber Company (established in the 1870s), one of the largest lumber companies in the Southeast.

