

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Dahlonega Commercial Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet Chestnut, Park, and Main Sts, N/A not for publication

city, town Dahlonega N/A vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Georgia code 013 county Lumpkin code 187

3. Classification

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u>N/A</u> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership (less than fifty property owners).

street & number _____

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Lumpkin County Courthouse

city, town Dahlonega state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys See continuation sheet

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Lumpkin County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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 Dahlenega Commercial Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic commercial and civic buildings in downtown Dahlenega. The district is situated on a low, irregular rise of ground at the center of Dahlenega's circular city limits. Central to the district is the public square, upon which stands the old Federal style county courthouse dating from 1836 or 1838 (now the Gold Museum). City streets, arranged in a rigid gridiron pattern, bisect the square on two sides and enter at right angles at its four corners. Lots along these streets, and around the public square, are rectangular in shape and relatively small in size. Buildings on these lots consist of one or two story wood-framed or brick-masonry structures, densely grouped within the district. The majority of these buildings are commercial and were designed originally as stores, banks, offices and a hotel. Many of the two-story structures historically and presently contained living space on the second floors. The wood-framed structures are freestanding, while most of the brick buildings share party walls. All observe a common setback from the street. The historic buildings around the square date from the mid-nineteenth through the early-twentieth century. Styles of architecture represented in the district include Federal, Italianate, vernacular Second Empire, Victorian Eclectic, and vernacular commercial. Principal exterior building materials are brick and wood; concrete block is used in a few instances. Many of the wood frame structures have full front two-story porches. Most brick structures have flat roofs and prominent cornices. Interiors in the district are finished with wood, plaster and pressed metal. Several non-historic commercial buildings are located in and around the district, and several front facades and storefronts in the district have been remodeled.

Boundary

The boundary of the Dahlenega Commercial Historic District is described by a heavy black line on the attached maps. It circumscribes the contiguous historic commercial and civic properties of downtown Dahlenega. To the southwest and southeast, new commercial development separates the district from residential areas. To the northeast new commercial development along Main Street is flanked by residential development. To the northwest is a residential area.

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| date entered |

Continuation sheet Location & Representation in Item number 2 and 6

Page 2

Existing Surveys

#2 Location

The Dahlonega Commercial Historic District, located in Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia, is an area which includes the old county courthouse and the surrounding historic commercial buildings on the public square.

#6 Representation in Existing Surveys

The old Lumpkin County Courthouse was listed in the National Register on August 26, 1971 as the Dahlonega Courthouse Gold Museum.

8. Significance

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input checked="" 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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates mid 1800s through
early 1900s.

Builder/Architect

Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dahlonega Commercial Historic District is historically significant in the areas of exploration and settlement, community planning and development, architecture, commerce, and politics and government. The district is the historic commercial and civic center of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County. It meets National Register criteria A, B, and C.

Exploration and Settlement and Community Planning and Development

In terms of exploration and settlement and community planning and development, the district is significant for its city plan, including the central public square and gridiron streets, which represents a typical approach to founding new county seats in unsettled parts of the state during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. In 1833 Dahlonega was surveyed and laid out in an area of dense forest to be the county seat of newly created (1832) Lumpkin County. The establishment of the town followed five years after the discovery of gold in the region and a huge influx of miners into the area. Dahlonega's early nineteenth century plan serves as a framework for more than a century of continuous commercial and civic development in downtown Dahlonega.

Architecture

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and civic buildings that represents prevailing historic design principles and construction practices. Popular styles such as Italianate, vernacular Second Empire, Victorian Gothic, and vernacular Commercial are well represented. The use of brick, both structurally and decoratively, in many of the buildings is characteristic of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture in Georgia. The presence of a number of historic woodframed commercial buildings, also dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, gives special significance to the district, since so few have survived in other towns in the state. Highlighting the district's architectural significance is the old Lumpkin County Courthouse (Gold Museum), one of the oldest courthouses in Georgia, and a fine example of vernacular Federal-style design.

In addition to these architectural qualities, the district is also significant because of its concentration of historic commercial buildings arranged according to a rectilinear pattern which creates a district historic downtown environment around the courthouse. This effect is enhanced by the relatively uniform scale and massing of the buildings, compatible ornamentation, and the regular siting of the buildings and the public square.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 5 acres

Quadrangle name Dahlonega, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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| 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 0 |
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| 3 | 8 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is described by a heavy black line on the enclosed property/sketch map and is justified in Section 7.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section

date Jan. 17, 1983

Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

street & number 270 Washington Street, S. W.

telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date Jan. 17, 1983

For HCPS use only

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

Linda McClelland

date 4/7/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*

date 4/7/83

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Commerce

In terms of commerce, the district is significant as the historic commercial center of Dahlonega and Lumpkin County since 1833. Established to meet the commercial and civic needs of one of the nation's first gold rushes, it subsequently served the needs of a county seat involved with agriculture, education, trade, recreation, and government. Such day-to-day commerce as retailing, banking, professional services, hotel accommodations, and entertainment took place in the district. A number of its commercial structures with first floor stores or offices and second floor living quarters reflect a common nineteenth century practice of "living above the store."

Politics and Government

In terms of politics and government, the district is significant as the historic seat of county government in Lumpkin County. The old Lumpkin County Courthouse (now the Gold Museum), which stands at the very center of the district, served as the county courthouse from its construction in 1836 or 1838 until 1965.

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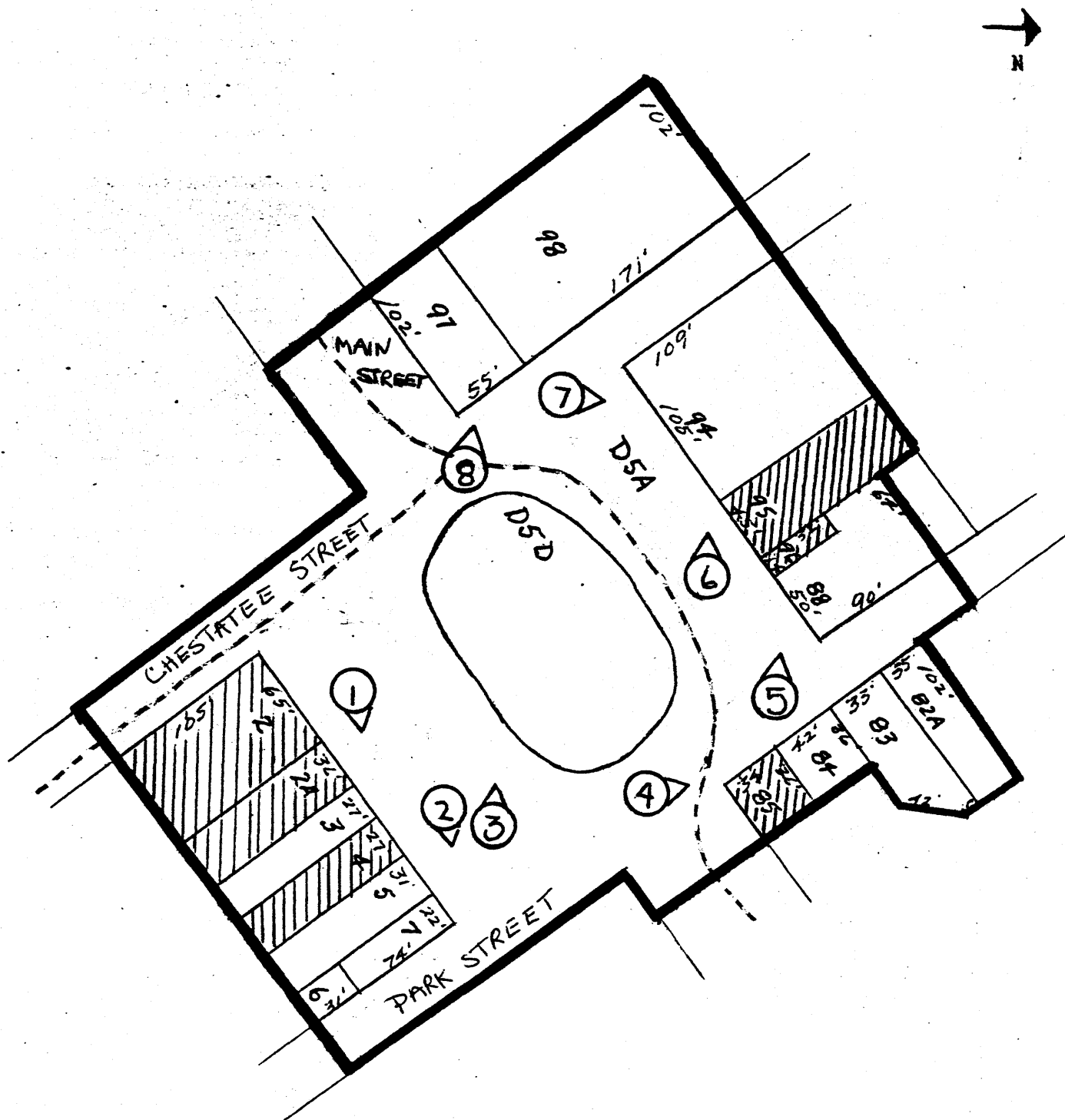
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Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9

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Jaeger, Dale. "Historic District Information Form. Dahlonega Commercial Historic District." Second Draft: June, 1982. On file, Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

"Public Square Historical District, Dahlonega, Georgia: A Survey of Properties" 1982. On file, Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.



DAHLONEGA COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia


SKETCH MAP

Source: Traced from County Tax Maps D5A & D5D

North: ———→

Boundary of Historic District: —————

Tax Map Boundaries: - - - - -

Non-historic property: 

Photograph and direction of view: 