

1378

**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 Comer Historic District  
other names/site number n/a

**2. Location**

street & number City of Comer  
city, town Comer (n/a) vicinity of  
county Madison code GA 195  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30629

( ) not for publication

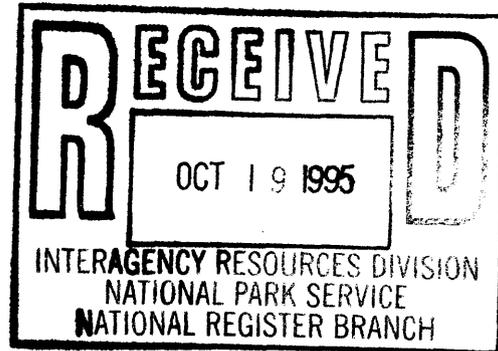
**3. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

**Category of Property**

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



**Number of Resources within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	171	47
sites	1	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	174	47

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

*Mark R. Edwards*

Signature of certifying official

*9/21/95*  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

entered in the National Register

*Guy M. Rapsley*

*11/21/95*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/hotel  
COMMERCE/specialty store  
COMMERCE/financial institution  
COMMERCE/business  
COMMERCE/professional  
COMMERCE/department store  
COMMERCE/restaurant  
SOCIAL/meeting hall  
GOVERNMENT/post office  
GOVERNMENT/city hall  
EDUCATION/school  
RELIGION/religious facility  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
AGRICULTURE/storage  
TRANSPORTATION/road related

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/hotel  
COMMERCE/specialty store  
COMMERCE/financial institution  
COMMERCE/business  
COMMERCE/professional  
COMMERCE/department store  
COMMERCE/restaurant  
SOCIAL/meeting hall  
GOVERNMENT/post office  
GOVERNMENT/city hall  
RELIGION/religious facility  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
TRANSPORTATION/road related

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne  
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic  
LATE VICTORIAN: Folk Victorian  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Italian Renaissance  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

### Materials:

**foundation** brick; concrete; stone  
**walls** brick; wood; metal; stone; synthetic  
**roof** asphalt; metal  
**other** stone

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Comer, Georgia is located in Madison County in Northeast Georgia about twenty miles northeast of Athens on State Highway 72. The Comer Historic District consists of intact commercial, residential, and community buildings which form the historic core of the city of Comer.

The small town of Comer developed around the railroad with the streets running parallel and perpendicular to the rail lines. The historic commercial area is at the center of the district at the intersection of Main Street and the railroad tracks. Comer is an example of a cross-rail plan town, meaning it developed around the intersection of the railroad and a major road.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

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The buildings within this commercial area include one- to three-story attached buildings and single-story freestanding buildings. There are Commercial Vernacular Victorian buildings with decorative brickwork and/or cast-iron or pressed-metal storefronts and front facades and simpler 20th-Century Commercial-style buildings. Few changes have occurred to the storefronts, which have large display windows.

At the corner of Park and Center Streets is the c.1870 first brick commercial building in Comer. It was called the Smith building after its builder James (Jim) Smith of Smithsonia and used to house the D.W. Porterfield's Grocery and Meat Market. With a marble-veneer front, the old Comer Bank building was constructed in 1900. The three-story building on North Avenue has an elaborate historic metal facade. There are also several warehouses adjacent to the railroad tracks which were used to store local agricultural products.

Surrounding the commercial center, the residential area contains a good collection of the house types and architectural styles popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Gothic, Italianate, Neoclassical Revival, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, English Vernacular Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, and Minimal Traditional. Georgian, single pen, Queen Anne, New South, gabled ell, bungalow, and American Four Square are the house types represented.

The large majority of houses are wood-framed, however, there are a number of brick houses, and several stone houses. The architecture of the residential sections is generally understated, as typically found in small rural communities. The Victorian influence is predominant with the classical and Craftsman influences represented. The oldest house in the district is at 205 Madison Street. With a mansard roof and dormer windows, it was built in c.1870 and still has an intact, single-pen, tenant house on the property.

The historic community landmark buildings include the 1892-1893 First Baptist Church of Comer, the 1914 Comer Methodist Church, the c.1910 Comer Woman's Club, the Shannon Lodge, the c. 1936 Comer High School, and the 1938 gymnasium built by the WPA. The Baptist Church is a brick building with a metal roof, tower, and buttressing. The Methodist Church is a front-gabled, brick building with a portico, plain-capital columns, segmentally arched window openings with keystones. With a residential look, the Woman's Club is located on Georgia Avenue in the middle of the neighborhood south of the commercial district. Formerly the Presbyterian Church, Shannon Lodge is now used by the Masons and is a front-gabled brick building. Comer High School is a brick building with a broken-pitched hipped roof with a front-entrance portico. A wing was added to the building in 1956 when it became the Comer Elementary School. Now the school is being

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

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used as a church. Once having weatherboard siding, the Gymnasium is a large rectangular building with synthetic siding.

The historic Comer Cemetery is in the southern part of the district. It contains both historic and recent graves. The markers are mostly granite with wrought iron fences or granite curbing surrounding the family plots.

Overall the district is solid with relatively few noncontributing resources. The noncontributing buildings in the district include buildings not yet fifty-years old or buildings which have been altered extensively. The noncontributing buildings include nonhistoric ranch houses, mobile homes, freestanding stores, and gasoline stations, as well as the extremely altered city hall building.

The district is a level area with no major changes in topography. The houses generally have medium to large grassed lawns and informal landscaping including mature trees and shrubs. There are concrete sidewalks, granite curbing, and a landscaped median on Main Street in the center of the district.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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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  
Community Planning and Development  
Transportation

**Period of Significance:**

1870-1945

**Significant Dates:**

1870 - Earliest surviving building associated with the community  
1893 - Incorporation of Comer

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

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**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

E.T. Hale, First Baptist Church of Comer

**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Comer Historic District is a small town district with residential, commercial, community, and agricultural buildings. The district represents the historic commercial and residential center of the city of Comer. The district is significant in architecture, commerce, community planning, development, and transportation.

The district is significant in architecture for its historic commercial, residential, and community buildings constructed from the 1870s into the 1940s. The residential buildings are an excellent collection of the styles and types of houses constructed from the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s in a small Georgia town. The styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Gothic, Italianate, Neoclassical Revival, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, English Vernacular Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, and Minimal Traditional. Georgian, single pen, Queen Anne, New South, gabled ell, bungalow, and American Four Square are the house types represented. All of the above have been identified as important Georgia styles and types in Georgia's Living Places: Historical Houses in their Landscaped Setting. Extremely rare for Georgia is the intact single-pen cottage located at 205 Madison Street which gives the Comer Historic District additional architectural significance.

The commercial buildings are good and intact examples of the types of masonry commerce-related buildings that were built in the late 19th and early 20th century. The commercial buildings are typical of the types of masonry buildings constructed in small Georgia towns for commercial use. These buildings are one- to three-story attached masonry buildings and one-story freestanding masonry buildings, with some of the attached buildings having pressed-metal, cast-iron, or stonefronts. Highly unusual for a small town in Georgia, the presence of the extremely elaborate three-story building with the metal front and the marble veneered bank building contributes to the significance of the district for its commercial architecture. The warehouses in the district represent functional architecture which was built for utilitarian purposes and not for beauty.

The district is also significant for its community landmark buildings which include the 1911-1912 First Baptist Church of Comer, the 1914

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

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Comer Methodist Church, the c.1910 Comer Woman's Club, the c. 1936 high school, and the 1938 gymnasium built by the WPA. These freestanding buildings are good examples of the type of landmark buildings that were constructed in a small Georgia town and are typical of the types of religious and educational facilities constructed in small Georgia communities.

The district is significant in commerce for its historic central business district that served the commercial needs of Comer and the surrounding areas. This commercial activity is represented by the remaining historic commercial buildings. The commerce-related buildings include an old bank, drugstore, business and professional offices, restaurant, retail stores, and agricultural-related warehouses.

The district is significant in community planning and development for its representation of the development of the small railroad community of Comer. It is also significant as a good example of a railroad community with an intact cross-rail type town plan that also features elements of a railroad strip plan with development along the railroad and the parallel and intersecting roads. The cross-rail community is identified as a significant type of Georgia town plan in Darlene R. Roth's 1989 study, Georgia Community Development and Typology of Community Types. The town plan was drawn by engineer A.W. Jones, who was hired by the townspeople. The town of Comer began to develop after the coming of the Georgia, Northern, and Carolina Railroad (GN&C) just before the Civil War. The historic commercial area is at the center of the district at the intersection of Main Street and the railroad tracks. The community grew up along both sides of the rail line, as the railroad was the commercial lifeline of the town. Comer was incorporated in 1893.

The district is significant in transportation for the very important role of the railroad in the town's existence and development. The arrival of the GN&C Railroad during the mid-century stimulated the development of Comer and lead to Comer being the agricultural and commercial center of the area. Cotton was the major crop shipped during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Associated with the presence of the railroad, there once existed cotton gins and a cotton oil mill; some warehouses are extant. The remaining rail lines, warehouses, intact town plan, and commercial buildings represent the transportation history of Comer. Also related to transportation, there is an extant building which once housed a livery stable at the corner of Gholston and Park. Although once found throughout the state, livery stables are now a rare resource.

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

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**National Register Criteria**

The Comer Historic District is eligible under Criteria A and C for its significance in the commercial, developmental, and transportation history of Comer and for its variety of architectural styles and types from the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

**Period of significance (justification)**

The earliest building dates to 1870 and 1945 marks the fifty-year period of historical significance.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The contributing resources were built before 1945 and retain their historic integrity. The two contributing structures are two historic water towers. The contributing site is the Comer Cemetery. The noncontributing resources were either built after 1945 or have undergone extensive alterations. However, the two warehouse buildings in photograph #30 have not yet been documented to be contributing and are therefore noncontributing.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

**NOTE:** The following history was prepared by Mark David Leon, "Comer Historic District," Historic District Information Form, 13 May 1993. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Comer, Georgia is located in the southernmost portion of Madison County, one-and-one-half miles north of the south fork of the Broad River. Its elevation is 581 feet above sea level. The City of Comer is located in an area of the Georgia Piedmont known for its fertile sandy-clay loam soil, a soil which lends itself well to agriculture. Highway 72 (Sunset Avenue), which runs east and west through Comer, has historically brought traffic through town from South Carolina. Highway 98 (Gholston Street) connects Comer with Danielsville, the county seat of Madison County. Highway 22 (Main Street) connects Comer with Lexington, the county seat of Oglethorpe County. Comer has always been the center of trade for the area, drawing people regularly

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

---

from as far as eight miles away on the south, and four to six miles away on all other sides.

The present City of Comer was incorporated by an Act of the Georgia Legislature in 1893, which was approved on December 13 of that same year. The bounds of the city were laid out from a point within fifty feet of the former site of the city's train depot, where Main Street crosses the present Seaboard Railroad tracks, to a distance of one mile. Prior to this time, the town was known locally as "Honey Pond." This name came from the dense swampy area to the northeast of the present town, which was full of undergrowth, pines, and a few hardwoods. Several of the hardwoods in this marshy area were rotted and hollow, which allowed numerous colonies of bees to settle in them, thus giving the area its name. After the Civil War, all the land in this area was owned by the Comer family, and it was they who lent their name to the city when it was incorporated. When it was incorporated, Comer was known as the "Town of Comer" but, for some unknown reasons, this was changed by an Act of Legislature on August 5, 1913 to the present City of Comer. At the time of its incorporation, Comer had a population of 1,000 inhabitants, 70% of which were listed as white, and another 30% which were listed as non-white. The city's present population is still approximately 1,000 individuals.

The Georgia, Northern, and Carolina Railroad (GN&C), which ran from Hamlet, North Carolina to Atlanta, Georgia, runs through the middle of town, parallel to present-day North Avenue. The GN&C was purchased by the Seaboard Airline in 1890.

Comer is unusual among small towns in Georgia because it is actually a planned community. When the town was platted out, an Engineer by the name of A.W. Jones was hired to draw out the map of the town, and lay off the streets.

The land of the Comers was gradually divided up and sold off over time, and by the late-19th century, most of the property fell into the hands of four families--the Gholstons, Thompsons, Rows, and Moons. Of these families, only the Gholstons remain in Comer. These families were the people primarily responsible for establishing the hotels, stores, and cotton-related facilities in the city. All the business in Comer from the time of its first settlement catered to the cotton-producing farmer. In 1895, there were two cotton gins, a roller mill, a livery stable, two blacksmith shops, a cottonseed oil mill, and several small fertilizer plants in Comer. At the same time, there were two hotels in Comer which served the "drummers" and cotton buyers who regularly came into town on the train. Both of the hotels were wood-frame structures, and have subsequently burned. The empty block at the eastern end of North Avenue, and the parking lot across the

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

---

street from the main commercial block on North Avenue mark their former locations. At this time, the City of Comer had 25 operating businesses. Most of the commercial buildings were made of brick and are still standing today. None of the original historic wood-frame commercial buildings still remain.

Compared to most small towns in Georgia, Comer is also unique because, with several small exceptions, Comer as a cohesive town remains largely intact from the 1890s. Development in Comer took place during the twin heights of the railroad and cotton in Georgia. There are only a few buildings remaining in town built in the years prior to 1890, and there are precious few in the center of town built after 1920. Of the buildings built before the 1890s, there are none left that pre-date the Civil War. During the height of cotton in the area from 1890-1911, Comer thrived and prospered. Comer was cotton, for a lack of a better description. Jere Ayers, a life-long resident of Comer, and editor of the Comer News recalls as a child being able to walk the length of a city block in Comer, entirely on the tops of stacked cotton bales, without once touching the ground. Mr. Ayers' father, C.B. Ayers, founded the local newspaper, the Comer News, in 1913.

Cotton production in Comer remained steady even after the coming of the Boll Weevil. James Knox Gholston, youngest son of the Gholston family, was an intrepid farmer and businessman, kept cotton growing in the area. In 1908, Gholston gained control of the Comer Oil Mill, gin, and fertilizer plant. At this point in time, the other wealthy families of Comer faded from the scene. With the coming of World War I, agriculture began to flourish again, until prices dropped again in the 1920s. In 1918, with even more money coming in, Gholston built the water system in Comer, which the City of Comer now owns. Approximately 2,000 feet of water mains were laid in town for the businesses, and the protection of private property. So confident of this system was Gholston, that he was never known to carry and fire insurance. Needless to say, there are no Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for the City of Comer.

In 1895, W.C. Birchmore built the first telephone system in Comer. Prior to this, there were only two generator-type phones in the area-- one in Comer, and one in a store in Danielsville. The original switch board is still in existence, filling the parlor of the house which originally housed it at 209 Madison Street.

Proper education has always been important to the residents of Comer. In 1870, a small wooden structure was built for a school on the present Highway 72, near the eastern city limits sign, and well outside the boundaries of the proposed historic district. This building no longer remains. In 1906, a bond was floated, and a brick

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

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structure was built on the west side of town, at the southeastern corner of the intersection of College Avenue and Pine Street. This building no longer exists, being replaced in function by the c.1936 school located at the intersection of College Avenue and Highway 72. This structure has been added to several times, but is currently occupied by the King's Way Bible Church. The gymnasium, which was built across College Avenue from the school in 1938, was constructed by the WPA. There is a structure identical to it located in the Colbert Historic District, west of Comer on Highway 72.

Comer has always been a good city in which to own a business. The first business in Comer was built where the Gholston Power House is today by Milton McCurdy of Paoli. McCurdy then built a store and house under the same roof, which was located at the Grady G. Moon house. The reported former location of this structure is now occupied by the U.S. Post Office, on the southeast corner of Highways 98 and 72. At present, there are few unoccupied historic commercial buildings in Comer. Some of the buildings have been continually occupied since their construction in the 1890s. All of the businesses operating in the proposed district are in the downtown area, with several located in the fine historic block fronting North Avenue, north of the railroad tracks. At the west end of this block, there used to be a large wood-frame building which housed McKenzie Furniture and Undertakers, but this site is now occupied by a small early 1940s-era structure, which was originally, and still is, occupied by a doctor's office. The building just to the east of this on North Avenue originally housed the post office, and was subsequently an African-American restaurant, and in the 1950s, became a dry cleaning establishment, which is its present use. The next building down the block, at #211, is a two-story structure which originally housed a dentist's office downstairs, and two apartments upstairs. Next to this building is the old Comer Bank building. This fine marble-faced structure was constructed in 1900, but the bank failed in the 1930s. In the 1950s, it was occupied by a gift shop, and today is occupied by a hair salon. The new two buildings, which are on the west side of Center Street, were originally dry goods stores. Across Center Street, at 303 North Avenue, is the former People's Bank building. The storefronts at 305-307 housed the Barber Shop and the Comer Drug Store. It later housed the Hub Store, which was a general store. Until recently, 309 North Avenue housed a grocery operated by Mr. Rudy Mann, a long-time resident of Comer. The Comer Hardware store was in the three-story building next to Rudy Mann's at 311 North Avenue. This building, with its elaborate historic metal facade, is presently a photographic studio. The third floor was once used by the Masonic Lodge and the Woodmen of the World as a meeting place. The two-story building with the non-historic 1960s metal facade at the end of the block (313 North Avenue) was originally two buildings, housing a drug store and a large general store. The second floors of these buildings

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

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housed a printing office, a doctor's office, a dentist's office, a beauty shop, and one apartment. When the Bluebell Incorporated Overall Plant came to Comer around 1940, they converted these two buildings into one, and used it as their factory. It is now unoccupied.

Center Street, which runs between North Avenue and Highway, is locally referred to as "Chicken Alley" because, in Comer's early days, the former D.W. Porterfeld's Grocery and Meat Market, at the Southwest corner of Park Avenue and Center Street, would barter chickens and eggs for needed goods. The alley was teeming with chicken coops, including one which was reputedly two-stories tall, which gave the alley its local name. The building which housed Porterfeld's store was the first business to be made out of brick in Comer. It was called the Smith building, after its builder, James (Jim) Smith, of Smithsonia. The bricks were made by day laborers and convicts on Smith's plantation. Several buildings in Comer reportedly were made from Smith's bricks, but this is undocumented. All of the wooden structures on the alley are now gone. Center Street was the core of much of Comer's business. Mr. and Mrs. Will Ed Johnson once ran a grocery and furniture store on the alley. There was a bank on the south end of the alley, a cloth shop, and a cotton buyer. Joel J. Moore ran the second store opened in Comer, which was also located on Chicken Alley.

On the east side of Main Street, at the end of North Avenue, there is a large block of eight stores in an early 20th-century brick building. At the north end of this block, at the corner of Highway 72 and Main Street, there was originally a small wooden store run by Tom Cigar. This store was used as a cabin until the present block of stores was built on the site. These stores have historically not rented as well as those on North Avenue, but are now all occupied. Presently the Comer News, drug store, and several other businesses occupy these stores. The 1930-era structure across Main Street from this block, at the corner of Highway 72, now houses a video rental store, but until the mid-1980s it housed Comer's Ford dealership, which was its original use.

Originally, all the land in the area of Comer was owned by Willis Arnold. He married Miss Luticia Gholston during the Civil War. When he died, she inherited his property, and subsequently married Fulch Comer, after whom Comer is named. The first house in Comer was his, the Fulch Comer house, which was located on the southeast side of town. No remnant of it remains, as it was torn down. The J.L. McMurray house was later built at the site, at 208 Madison Street. The house located at 205 Madison Street is occupied by Jere Ayers, who runs the Comer paper, as previously mentioned. It is unique within the bounds of the proposed district, because it still possesses

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8**

---

several circa 1890-1900 tenant houses, which housed servants for the house.

The residences of Comer are located in three main areas--in the Laurel Avenue/College Avenue/Gholston Street, along Main Street and Georgia Avenue, and along Madison Street. These residential structures are almost uniformly one of two house types: Queen Anne cottages or Gabled-Ell cottages. There are several early Craftsman-influenced houses but not many.

The large houses in Comer are very few in number. There are two large, well-preserved Queen Anne houses on Madison Street. As mentioned earlier, one of these still possesses in its parlor the original switchboard for Comer's first telephone system, and the other, at 206 Madison Street, is the newly-restored Davison-Compton house. There are two large two-story houses built by the Gholston family on Highway 72, at 506 and 504 Sunset Avenue. These two 1920s-1930s are unique in Comer, as they are the only Colonial Revival structures in town, and are also the only historic houses made of brick. Most of the houses built in the 1890s--which is almost all of Comer's residential buildings--still stand today.

There are two historic churches in the district. The First Baptist Church of Comer is located at the southeast corner of Main Street and Pine. This Gothic Revival structure was built in 1911-1912, while Rev. P.W. Davis was pastor. The Comer Methodist Church is located on the east side of Main Street, approximately one-fifth of a mile from the center of town. It was constructed while Rev. T.M. Sullivan was pastor, 1914. It cost \$7,000 when it was built.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Leon, Mark David. "Comer Historic District," Historic District Information Form, 13 May 1993. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

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

- ( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ( ) 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:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Md-Co-1 through Md-Co-136

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approximately 205 acres (acreage estimator)

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 303400 Northing 3771810  
B) Zone 17 Easting 303870 Northing 3771840  
C) Zone 17 Easting 304360 Northing 3771190  
D) Zone 17 Easting 304180 Northing 3770100  
E) Zone 17 Easting 303630 Northing 3770100  
F) Zone 17 Easting 303200 Northing 3770700

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Comer Historic District is indicated on the attached tax maps with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

**Boundary Justification**

The Comer Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic resources within the city limits of Comer, Georgia.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building; 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** September 1, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Comer Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Comer  
**County:** Madison  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** December 1995

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 48: North Avenue commercial block; photographer facing north-northwest.
- 2 of 48: Northeast corner of Main Street and North Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 48: Southwest Corner of Park and Center Street, D.W. Porterfield's Store, c.1870; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 48: West side of Main Street, near cemetery; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 48: West side of Main Street, south of Georgia Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 6 of 48: West side of Main Street, north of Georgia Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 48: West side of Main Street, looking toward railroad tracks and downtown Comer.
- 8 of 48: Old water tank, north of railroad tracks, west of College Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 48: West side of Gholston Street, north of North; photographer facing north.
- 10 of 48: North Avenue commercial block, Bank of Comer in the center; photographer facing north.
- 11 of 48: Madison Street, south of Forrest Avenue; photographer facing north.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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- 12 of 48: Tenant house at 205 Madison Street; photographer facing north.
- 13 of 48: Looking north on Madison Street, north of Forrest Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 14 of 48: 205 Madison Street, c. 1870; photographer facing west.
- 15 of 48: East side of Madison Street, 206 Madison Street, Davison-Compton House; photographer facing north.
- 16 of 48: West side of Madison Street, 207 Madison Street; photographer facing west.
- 17 of 48: Comer Cemetery off of Main Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 18 of 48: Comer Cemetery; photographer facing north.
- 19 of 48: West side of Madison Street, 209 Madison Street, W.C. Birchmore House; photographer facing north.
- 20 of 48: South of South Avenue, one block west of Main Street; photographer facing north.
- 21 of 48: West side of Willow Street; photographer facing north.
- 22 of 48: Corner of Madison Street and Sunset Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 23 of 48: South side of Sunset Avenue, 506 and 504 Sunset Avenue, Gholston Family Houses, c.1925; photographer facing southwest.
- 24 of 48: East side of Madison Street, north of Sunset Avenue, 506 Madison Street (left); photographer facing northeast.
- 25 of 48: North side of Laurel Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 26 of 48: Looking west on Laurel Avenue, 501 Laurel Avenue (right); photographer facing north-northwest.
- 27 of 48: Corner of Prince Street and Oak Street; photographer facing north.
- 28 of 48: Corner of Sunset Avenue and Poplar Street from Sunset; photographer facing east-northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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- 29 of 48: South of South Avenue, one block west of Main Street; photographer facing north.
- 30 of 48: Warehouses, north side of railroad tracks, west of Main Street (these buildings have not yet been documented to be contributing); photographer facing north.
- 31 of 48: Shannon Lodge (chartered 1895) formerly the Presbyterian church, northwest corner of Main Street and Pine Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 32 of 48: Southwest corner of Main Street and Laurel Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
- 33 of 48: West side of Vine Street; photographer facing north.
- 34 of 48: Gholston Street, northern tip of district; photographer facing north-northeast.
- 35 of 48: 615 College Avenue, south of Sunset Avenue; photographer facing west.
- 36 of 48: WPA Gymnasium, c.1938, corner of Sunset Avenue and College Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 37 of 48: Former Comer High School, c.1936, College Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
- 38 of 48: West side of College Avenue, north of Pine Street; photographer facing north.
- 39 of 48: 615 College Avenue,, west side of College Avenue, north of Holly Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 40 of 48: 716 Gholston, east side of Gholston looking through to Laurel Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
- 41 of 48: West side of Gholston Street, north of Sunset Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 42 of 48: 607 Gholston Street, west side of Gholston Street at the corner of Pine Street; photographer facing north.
- 43 of 48: Comer Methodist Church c. 1914, east side of Main Street, second block south of Georgia; photographer facing northeast.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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- 44 of 48: First Baptist Church of Comer c. 1892-3, southeast corner of Pine Street and Main Street; photographer facing east.
- 45 of 48: Corner of Gholston Street and Park Avenue, originally Gholston livery stables; photographer facing northeast.
- 46 of 48: East side of Main Street, commercial block south of Sunset Avenue, granite curbing and grassed median; photographer facing northeast.
- 47 of 48: East side of Oak Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 48 of 48: Center Street, sign reads Hafin Bros. Garage; photographer facing northeast.

# Comer, Georgia

## Madison County

-  - MAP CO-5A; 1 OF 8
-  - MAP CO-6; 2 OF 8
-  - MAP CO-5; 3 OF 8
-  - MAP CO-2; 4 OF 8
-  - MAP CO-7; 5 OF 8
-  - MAP CO-7A; 6 OF 8
-  - MAP CO-3; 7 OF 8
-  - MAP CO-4; 8 OF 8

Comer Historic District  
 Madison County, Georgia  
 Key to Tax Maps (1-8)  
 National Register Boundary:   
 Scale: 1 : 10,000  
 North: As Indicated

Scale 1:10,000



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