

**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 Colbert Historic District

and/or common Colbert

**2. Location**

*Roughly bounded by 4th and 5th Sts., 4th and 8th Aves*  
~~Seaboard Coast line railroad tracks, Fourth Street,~~  
street & number Fifth Street, Eighth Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Colbert N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Georgia code 013 county Madison code 195

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple owners

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Madison County Courthouse

city, town Danielsville state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<u>    </u> excellent	<u>    </u> deteriorated	<u>    </u> unaltered	<u>  x  </u> original site	
<u>  x  </u> good	<u>    </u> ruins	<u>  x  </u> altered	<u>    </u> moved	date _____
<u>  x  </u> fair	<u>    </u> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Colbert is a small town in rural Madison County, Georgia, ten miles east of Athens, on the Athens-Elberton highway (S.R. 72). The Colbert Historic District consists of the intact historic portion of the community. It includes a commercial block, a depot, a hotel, houses, and a farm, most of which date from the 1890s to the 1920s.

The district is laid out in a long, narrow gridiron pattern south of the Athens-Elberton highway and the railroad tracks which parallel it. The commercial block fronts on Fourth Avenue just south of the railroad tracks, at the north end of the district. It consists of a row of five one- and two-story brick buildings datings from the 1890s through the 1920s. These buildings are modestly detailed with segmental and flat arched windows, shallow corbelled cornices, and wood and plate glass storefronts. The building at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Fourth Street features a corner entry with a free-standing metal column. Across Fourth Avenue from the commercial block and parallel to the railroad tracks is Colbert's 1892 wood-framed depot. It is a simple, straight-forward structure, with wide overhanging eaves. Behind the commercial block, to the south, are small wood and brick warehouses and a corrugated metal livery stable structure. Further south, fronting on Meadow Street (originally a narrow alley between Fourth and Fifth Avenues) is the 1892 Glenn Hotel, a two-story, hip-roofed, wood-framed structure with a wrap-around porch. To the east of all these downtown buildings are several historic wood-framed and log structures which have been moved to the area and a formally landscaped corner lot. South of Colbert's downtown stretches a residential neighborhood. This neighborhood consists of three blocks of single-family detached houses on relatively open lots along Fourth and Fifth Streets. These houses, for the most part, are one and two stories high and date from the 1890s to the 1920s. All are wood-framed. The majority are modest one-story late-Victorian cottages featuring irregular massing, hipped and gabled roofs, front porches, rear ells, and tall brick chimneys. Most are simply detailed, although some feature porch balustrades and brackets, sunburst patterns in gables, decorative attic vents, and window tracery. The oldest house in the district, the E. S. Hardman house, is a two-story plain-style structure, at the corner of Fourth Street and Fifth Avenue, dating from the mid nineteenth century. The largest and most architecturally imposing house in the district, the 1906 Hampton house, is located on Fourth Street at the southern end of the district; its Neoclassical styling features a monumental columned portico. On the eastern edge of the district, south of Fifth Avenue, stands Colbert's most impressive historic farmhouse, known as the Gaulding home-place or Twelve Oaks. This one-story late-Victorian farmhouse is sited on a low rise of ground and is accompanied by several historic outbuildings including a commissary. Throughout the residential area of the district, landscaping is open and informal, and the terrain is relatively flat.

There are few non-contributing properties in the district. With the exception of a new post office, the relocated wood and log structures, and the recently landscaped corner lot, these consist of non-historic houses and mobile homes. Most new development in the community has taken place to the west and north of the district.

Boundaries for the historic district have been drawn to include the intact historic portion of Colbert. To the north, the railroad and highway corridor, with its attendant new development, forms a boundary. Some historic development took place to the north,

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National Park Service**

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received  
date entered

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Continuation sheet      Description      Item number      7      Page      2

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but because of new infill development this area has not maintained its historic integrity. To the west of the district is an area of largely non-historic development. At the south end of the district is a small mobile home park. Beyond it, and to the east, are low-density, non-historic residential development and the open countryside.

# 8. Significance

<b>Period</b>	<b>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</b>			
<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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				

**Specific dates**      1890s - 1920s      **Builder/Architect**      Multiple builders

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Colbert is a good representative example of Georgia's small, turn-of-the-century, Piedmont-area railroad towns. Largely developed after the arrival of the railroad in 1892 but before the boll weevil ruined the area's cotton economy in the late 1920s, it featured a depot, hotel, downtown commercial buildings, a residential neighborhood, and outlying farms. The Colbert Historic District contains extant intact examples of all these locally important buildings, and it illustrates the way in which the community developed. It is therefore significant in terms of the town's history of architecture, commerce, community planning and development, transportation, and local history. In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its collection of generally modest historic commercial, residential, agricultural, and transportation buildings, which represents architectural styles and types, and construction materials and techniques, characteristic of Georgia's small, turn-of-the-century, Piedmont-area railroad towns. In terms of community planning and development, the district is significant for its gridiron street layout oriented at right angles to the railroad tracks. This is one of several gridiron patterns characteristic of Georgia's small nineteenth-century railroad towns. It is also significant for illustrating the way in which development historically took place, and the relationships among commercial, transportation, residential, and agricultural developments, that again characterize Georgia's historic railroad towns. In terms of commerce, the district is significant for its historic block of stores, warehouses, and hotel, which provided a variety of day-to-day goods and services to the town, its visitors, and its agricultural hinterland. In terms of transportation, the district is significant for illustrating the way in which the railroad fostered community planning and development through Georgia's Piedmont region during the second half of the nineteenth century. It is also significant for its depot, livery stable, and hotel, three important historic transportation-related structures. And finally, in terms of local history, the district is significant for containing the historic homes of many of Colbert's leading late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century citizens, including its businessmen, professionals, educators, religious leaders, and government officials. Thus, the Colbert Historic District meets National Register criteria A for representing a characteristic, turn-of-the-century railroad town, criteria B for its historical associations with important local people, and criteria C for its gridiron layout and its representative small-town architectural qualities.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Roush, Barbara, and Porterfield, Mildred. "Historic District Information Form: Colbert Historic District", July 7, 1983. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Atlanta, Georgia.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 46 acres

Quadrangle name Danielsville South, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	7
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2	9	6	1	4	0
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3	7	6	8	5	2	0
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B 

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2	9	6	1	9	0
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3	7	6	7	8	6	0
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C 

1	7
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2	9	5	8	5	0
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3	7	6	7	6	4	0
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D 

1	7
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2	9	5	6	4	0
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3	7	6	8	3	8	0
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E 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary is described by a heavy black line on the attached maps and is discussed under Section 7.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Cloues, National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources date April 19, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S. W. telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

# 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

title Elizabeth A. Lyon, Chief, Historic Preservation Section  
State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/20/84


For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Alvina Byers</u>	Entered in the <u>National Register</u> date <u>5-31-84</u>
Keoper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

Colbert Historic District  
Colbert, Madison County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP


Scale: 0 ----- 285'

North: ↑

Boundary of historic district: 

Intrusion: X

Non-historic property: ∅

Photograph and direction of view: 

State Highway 72

Railroad tracks

