

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JUN 26 1985
date entered AUG 29 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Shellman Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Centered on Pearl Street and Ward Street and East and West Railroad Avenues N/A not for publication

city, town Shellman N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Randolph code 243-

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (more than 50)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Randolph County Courthouse

city, town Cuthbert state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Randolph 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

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 Shellman Historic District includes Shellman's intact historic, residential, and commercial resources, several historic churches, a railroad depot, and the city cemetery. The district is laid out on flat land and is divided into four quadrants by Pearl Street which runs north and south and the railroad tracks, Ward Street, and East and West Railroad Avenues which form an east-west corridor. In the southwest quadrant is the irregularly shaped commercial area centered around a five-point intersection. In the other three quadrants are residential areas laid out with a modified gridiron plan.

The commercial area consists of one- and two-story brick buildings with party walls. They are densely grouped together around the five-street intersection. The buildings, which date from the 1890s to the 1920s, are all modest late Victorian-style commercial structures. Corbeled cornices, window openings with segmental or round arches, and cast-iron columns are the most prominent exterior details. Many buildings have intact storefronts. A 1900 bank, clad in marble on its front facade, is the most elaborately detailed commercial structure. The depot, located directly to the north of the commercial area, is a wood-framed building with board-and-batten siding.

Spread out to the north, east, and west of the commercial center are residential areas. Houses and two churches are located on varying size lots and are set back uniformly from the streets. The great majority of the historic houses are wood-framed. They vary in size from small one-story cottages to substantial two-story houses and in date from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries. Victorian Eclectic houses with modest detailing predominate. Typical features of these houses include asymmetrical plans, bay windows, and decorative shingle-work in gable ends. A few houses have porches trimmed with sawn and turned detailing; more have porches detailed with classical columns. In addition to the many Victorian Eclectic houses, there are good representative examples of Neoclassical- and Bungalow/Craftsman-style residences. A group of modest workers' houses, including a number with saddlebag plans, is located along West Railroad Avenue and Dean Street. Landscaping in the residential area consists of street trees and front yards informally landscaped with grass, shrubs, and shade trees. The cemetery, the railroad right-of-way along East and West Railroad Avenues, and a small non-historic park to the north of the depot provide grassed open spaces in the town. Non-contributing properties include a few recent commercial and industrial structures and a number of ranch houses and mobile homes.

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 checked="" 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 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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		Local history

Specific dates 1880s - 1920s **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Shellman Historic District is historically significant in terms of community planning and development, transportation, architecture, landscape architecture, commerce, and local history. In terms of community planning and development and transportation, the district is significant as a southwest Georgia town that developed as a result of the location of the railroad in the area. Architecturally, the district is significant for its representative examples of late 19th- and early 20th-century residential and commercial architecture which document typical small-town Georgia architecture. In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for its typical, informal, turn-of-the-century residential landscaping which documents landscaping practices of the period popular nationwide. In terms of commerce, the district is important for containing the historic commercial center of Shellman. In terms of local history, it is significant for containing the homes of a wide variety of Shellman's citizens who individually and collectively contributed to the town's development. These areas of significance support the district's eligibility under National Register Criteria A, B, and C.

Community Planning and Development and Transportation

Scattered settlement in the area that was to become Shellman began in the 1830s when the first white people moved here following the Creek cessions of 1826 and the Land Lottery of 1827. In 1859, the Southwest Georgia Railroad, under construction from Macon, Georgia to Eufaula, Alabama, was completed through the sparsely settled area that today is Shellman. A depot was constructed and the stop designated Ward's Station in recognition of John Ward, donator of the land for the depot. The Civil War and the ensuing economic depression of the 1870s discouraged the immediate development of Ward's Station, and not until the 1880s did the community begin to grow. In 1883 the settlement at Ward's Station was incorporated as Shellman. Development now became rapid and Shellman grew into a prosperous cotton shipping and mercantile center for the surrounding fertile agricultural areas. The boll weevil in the 1920s and the Depression in the 1930s halted Shellman's growth. However, diversified agriculture including peach, pecan, and peanut farming, introduced early into the Shellman area, made it possible for the town to continue as a viable farm community. Shellman is a good intact example of a southwest Georgia town that developed as a agricultural service and shipping center because of the railroad. The extant depot and the railroad right-of-way that cuts prominently through the center of town document Shellman's important ties to the railroad.

Architecture

In terms of architecture, Shellman Historic District is significant for providing examples of the types of historic buildings found in the small towns of Southwest Georgia. These structures reflect prevailing principles and practices of American architecture as they were interpreted by local carpenter/builders and a few regionally prominent architects. Most of the structures feature typical building materials and

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Mahan, Joseph B., Jr. "Historic District Information Form: Shellman, Georgia." On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 200 acres

Quadrangle name Shellman, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	7	2	6	6	2	0	3	5	1	6	5	1	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

B

1	6	7	2	6	9	6	0	3	5	1	5	7	2	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

1	6	7	2	5	8	0	0	3	5	1	5	4	5	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

D

1	6	7	2	5	1	0	0	3	5	1	5	7	6	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

E

1	6	7	2	5	1	0	0	3	5	1	6	0	3	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

F

1	6	7	2	5	8	4	0	3	5	1	6	1	1	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

G

1	6	7	2	5	8	4	0	3	5	1	6	8	0	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

H

Zone	Easting		Northing											

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated district, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, encompasses Shellman's contiguous intact historic resources.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources

date 4/3/85

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/30/85

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

Entered in the
National Register

Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

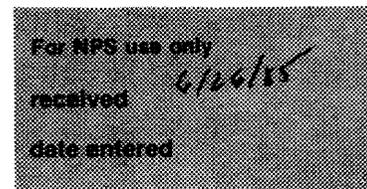
date 8/29/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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techniques, with load-bearing brick used in the commercial area and wood-framed construction with exterior weatherboarding used in the residential areas. Buildings date from the 1880s to the 1930s and include a variety of building types such as private residences, churches, stores, a bank, and a depot. Commercial buildings, which all postdate an 1894 fire, provide excellent intact examples of modest late Victorian commercial styling. Brick corbeling, parapet panels, round- and segmentally-arched window openings, and cast-iron columns are frequently utilized period details. Residential buildings provide good example of relatively high-style as well as modest interpretations of the Victorian Eclectic, Neoclassical, and Craftsman styles. Two architectural firms of regional importance, T. Firth Lockwood of Columbus, Georgia and Denis and Denis of Macon, Georgia are documented to have designed houses in town. A group of modest vernacular cottages provide examples of workers' housing in Shellman.

Landscape Architecture

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for its late 19th- early 20th century residential landscaping which features the informal use of trees, shrubs, and grass in individual lots to create a naturalistic and park-like setting which flows from one lot to the next. This type of landscaping is characteristic of that found in the residential areas of small towns and cities throughout Georgia and nationwide and represents accepted landscaping practices of the period. Street trees, a landscaped cemetery, and the grassed railroad right-of-way contribute to the town's overall historic landscaping.

Commerce

In terms of commerce, the district is significant for containing the principal commercial center for Shellman and south Randolph County. This area served as the center of day-to-day commercial activities in the community and its surrounding agricultural countryside. These activities included wholesaling and retailing, banking, and professional services. Shellman served as the shipping point for cotton and other agricultural products grown in the area. Its commercial structures, almost all constructed between 1894 and 1920, provide evidence of Shellman's period of greatest prosperity and commercial growth.

Local History

In terms of local history, Shellman is significant for containing the historic homes of a wide variety of the town's citizens who individually and collectively contributed to its history and development. The house of Z.T. Phelps, the town's first station master and first merchant, homes of other merchants, bankers, and doctors,

continued

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and a collection of houses associated with Shellman's working class are all located in the district. Together these document the life styles and events associated with the broad spectrum of Shellman's historic residents who together were responsible for molding the town's character.

SHELLMAN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Shellman, Randolph County, Georgia

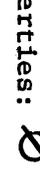
DISTRICT SKETCH MAP

Source: Lower Chattahoochee Area Planning
and Development Commission

Scale: 0 ——— 400'

North: ↑

District Boundary: 

Non-historic Properties: 

Intrusions: 

Photo Direction and View: 

