

NOV 23 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Cedartown Commercial Historic District
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by East Avenue and South Philpot,
Gibson, and College Streets.
city, town Cedartown (n/a) vicinity of
county Polk code GA 233
state Georgia code GA zip code 30125
(n/a) not for publication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	65	19
sites	0	0
structures	1	0
objects	1	0
total	67	19

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1
(Hawkes Children's Library, 11-24-80)

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

11/19/92
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
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

Alonzo Byrum

12/24/92

() 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE; professional, financial institution, specialty store, department store, warehouse
GOVERNMENT; city hall, post office, courthouse
EDUCATION; library
DOMESTIC; hotel
RELIGION; religious facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE; theater
INDUSTRY; communications facility
TRANSPORTATION; road-related

Current Functions:

COMMERCE; professional, financial institution, specialty store
GOVERNMENT; post office, courthouse
RELIGION; religious facility
RECREATION AND CULTURE; theater
TRANSPORTATION; road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Italianate
Late Gothic Revival
Colonial Revival
Classical Revival
Tudor Revival
Art Deco

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	asphalt
other	stucco, metal, stone, terra cotta, wood

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Cedartown Commercial Historic District consists of the intact historic commercial area of downtown Cedartown that developed from the mid-19th century through the early 20th century. The downtown area is laid out in a grid pattern focusing on the north-south corridor of South Main Street. The courthouse square is located at the north end of the district and is the site of the courthouse and the former city hall. The railroad crosses the district near the south end.

The majority of buildings within the district are one- and two-story, attached brick commercial buildings that were constructed from the 1870s to 1942. These blocks of attached buildings line South Main Street from the courthouse square down to Ware Street and are the main focus of the district. (Photos 1-11) These typical small-town commercial buildings have details such as brick corbeled and pressed

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metal cornices, segmentally arched windows with hoods, cast-iron storefront columns, and stone and terra cotta ornamentation. Several buildings have historic scored stucco facades. At least one commercial building is constructed of rubble stone with a cut stone facade. (Photos 2 & 4) Stylistically, many of the buildings represent Italianate, Neoclassical Revival, and Art Deco influences typically found in small-town commercial building design. Many other buildings have very simple facades with only a few details and no stylistic references.

Landmark community and governmental buildings within the district include a theater, post office, former library, former city hall, and a church. The Art Deco-style West Theater is located on a secondary street in a small row of commercial buildings. (Photo 18) The theater's front facade is symmetrical with decorated panels to either side of a curved and pedimented central section. Ornamentation is Greek in character and includes statues carved in bas-relief, tiled panels in a Greek key pattern, and acroteria along the top of the central pediment. The building was constructed in 1941 and is still used as a theater.

The post office was constructed in 1914 and was designed by architect Oscar Wenderoth in the Neoclassical Revival style. (Photo 17) It is a one-story brick building with a flat roof. The front entrance pavilion is emphasized with brick pilasters supporting a classical entablature placed over round-arched openings and swag ornamentation. The brick of the front facade is laid in a diamond pattern. The building is still used as a post office.

The former Hawkes Children's Library was constructed in 1919 and designed by well-known Atlanta architect Neel Reid. (Photo 16) The building is a one-story, hipped roof, brick building raised on a stone basement. The entrance is recessed into a round-arched opening and is emphasized by Corinthian pilasters supporting a pediment. The library, constructed with funds provided by prominent Atlanta philanthropist A. K. Hawkes, is now owned and used by the Polk County Historical Society. The building was previously listed on the National Register on 11-24-80.

St. Bernadette's Catholic Church was constructed just north of the courthouse square in 1941. (Photo 14) It is a small rectangular brick church with steeply gabled roof, pointed-arched entrance, and small gabled cupola.

The former City Hall was constructed in 1935 and is now used as a courthouse annex. (Photo 12) It is located on the easternmost edge of the courthouse square, and Main Street veers around it so that it commands a view directly down South Main Street. The building was

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designed by architect Otis Clay Poundston in the Neoclassical Revival style. The two-story, hipped roof, brick building has a dominant pedimented entrance portico.

The current county courthouse is located in the middle of the courthouse square and was constructed in 1950 on the same site as previous courthouses. Sitting between the former City Hall and the courthouse on the courthouse square is a historic monument erected in 1906 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to honor Confederate veterans. (Photo 12)

Transportation-related resources that remain include a warehouse, a portion of the railroad corridor, a road bridge over the railroad, and several historic gas stations. The warehouse is a one-story brick warehouse located adjacent to the railroad tracks. It was built in the 1920s and was used as a wholesale grocery warehouse. The railroad depot stood along the tracks on the east side of Main Street, but is no longer standing. An arched concrete bridge was constructed c.1910 over the railroad tracks at College Street. The surface of the bridge is paved with stone, and it is still used for vehicular traffic. (Photo 19) Three gas stations constructed in the 1920s remain on South Main Street south of the railroad tracks (Photos 20-22), and another station is located on South Main across from the courthouse square. (Photo 13)

Also on South Main just east of the courthouse square, the telephone company building was constructed in 1924 and served as the telephone office and switchboard from its construction to 1936. (Photo 13) The building is a one-story, brick-veneered building with a residential appearance, but which was constructed as a business office.

The former Booz Hotel was constructed by the 1890s on the corner of College and Prior Streets. The hotel was a large two-story, wood-framed building with a two-level porch across its front facade. In 1927 the middle section of the hotel was taken out and moved to another location to be used as a residence, and has since been demolished. The two end sections of the hotel still stand in their original location. (Photo 15)

The district boundaries exclude nonhistoric commercial and community buildings immediately surrounding the downtown area as well as residential buildings.

8. Statement of Significance

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
Politics/Government
Transportation

Period of Significance:

1851-1942

Significant Dates:

1851 - town layout
1873 - arrival of first railroad
1914 - construction of post office
1919 - construction of library
1935 - construction of city hall

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Wenderoth, Oscar
Poundston, Otis Clay
Reid, Neel
Clay, A. L. and H. B.

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Cedartown Commercial Historic District is the historic commercial center of the city of Cedartown. The district was laid out in 1851 and has continued to develop up to the present. It is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, community planning and development, politics/government, and transportation. These areas support National Register eligibility under Criteria A and C.

The district is significant in architecture for its blocks of historic attached commercial buildings as well as its community, governmental, and transportation-related buildings. These buildings represent the building types and styles typically constructed in a small-town central business district from the 1870s to 1942. The attached commercial buildings are typical one- and two-story brick buildings with first-floor storefronts and upper-floor windows and cornices, with the majority showing influences from the Italianate and Neoclassical Revival styles. The landmark buildings include an Art Deco theater and Neoclassical Revival library, city hall, and post office, and represent the kinds of large community buildings often found in small Georgia towns.

The district is significant in commerce as the central business district that served the commercial needs of Cedartown and Polk County. As the county seat, downtown Cedartown has historically served as the center of commerce for the surrounding county. This significance is represented by the blocks of commercial buildings that remain within the district, as well as the presence of the railroad which spurred commercial growth in the late 19th century.

The district is significant in community planning and development for representing the commercial and governmental core of Cedartown's 1851 town plan. The town was laid out in a grid pattern around the courthouse square. In 1854 the city of Cedartown was officially incorporated. When the railroad arrived in the 1870s, commercial activity shifted its focus to South Main Street between the courthouse square and the railroad line. The historic grid pattern with courthouse square remains intact today and is represented within the district.

The district is significant in politics/government for the presence of government-related buildings such as the former city hall and the post office. Even though the existing courthouse, constructed in 1950, is nonhistoric, the courthouse square remains intact. These buildings

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and the square represent the local and federal political and governmental presence in the community.

The district is significant in transportation for its remaining railroad- and automobile-related resources, including a warehouse, historic bridge, and several gas stations. The railroad first came to Cedartown in 1873 and spurred a great deal of growth in the city. A second railroad arrived in 1890. The historic warehouse is located adjacent to the railroad tracks and was used as a wholesale grocery warehouse. The c.1910 concrete and stone road bridge over the railroad is an increasingly rare historic transportation resource. Four historic gas stations also represent the significance of road-related transportation in Cedartown.

National Register Criteria

The district is eligible under Criterion A for its historic development as the central business district and governmental center of the city of Cedartown and the surrounding county. It is eligible under Criterion C for its collection of historic commercial, governmental, community, and transportation-related buildings that are typical of small-town downtowns.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1851-1942. 1851 is the date of the town's layout, and 1942 is the 50-year cut-off date.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources include those resources that have historically been part of the central business district, were constructed from 1851 to 1942, and retain their architectural integrity. Noncontributing resources include those resources in the central business district that were constructed after 1942 or have lost their architectural integrity due to alterations.

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Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Prior to the founding of Cedartown, the surrounding area was inhabited by Cherokee Indians who established a settlement south of the present downtown area called Charley Town. A large natural spring located just west of downtown attracted both Indian and later white settlements to the area. Referred to locally as the Big Spring, this spring is still in use today as the source of Cedartown's water supply.

By 1826, L. H. Walthall was operating a trading post on the present site of the Methodist Church. The early 1830s brought many white settlers into the area, including the Peeks, the Priors, the Wrights, the Youngs, and the Brooks, and in 1833 a post office was established in the unincorporated village of Cedar Town. Between 1832 and 1834, settlers were terrorized by a local gang of outlaws called the Pony Club, who burned homes and ransacked farms. This group was finally brought under control, however, and was disbanded. By 1838, when the Cherokees were forcibly removed from Georgia, Cedar Town was surrounded by farms operated by white settlers. Most of these settlers purchased their land from Asa Prior, a wealthy landowner who willingly sold parcels to those interested in coming to the area.

By the 1850s, Cedar Town was a prosperous village with churches and schools. In 1851, the Woodlawn Female College was established on College Street. This institution would become one of the premier antebellum schools for female education. That same year, the State of Georgia formed Polk County out of Paulding County. Local citizens became determined to incorporate their town, and to this end, Asa Prior donated a twenty-acre tract bounded by present-day West Avenue, College Street, East Avenue, and South Main for use by the city. The land was divided and sold to the highest bidder. One block on the site of the present courthouse was reserved for use as a town square. In 1852, a courthouse was constructed on the square, and in 1854, the town of Cedar Town was officially incorporated by the State. The city limits were set at one mile in every direction from the junction of Main and Herbert Streets.

During the Civil War, Cedar Town suffered heavy losses. Kilpatrick's Cavalry burned the courthouse along with sixty-five other buildings. The city lost its charter and drifted without direction for about three years. In 1867, a new courthouse was built. At this time, town businesses were still located at the courthouse square, with the only exception being Philpot's Store on Main near West Woodland.

The 1870s proved to be Cedar Town's resurrection years. A movement to attract trade with neighboring Haralson County to the south led to the

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construction of a number of stores and commercial concerns along South Main. In 1873, Amos G. West established the Cherokee Iron Company, a large concern with a mine, a furnace, and a rail line for transport called the East and West Railroad. The endeavor was so successful that West came to be known as the "Georgia Iron King." In the late 1870s, a major fire destroyed most of the west side of Main Street. Most of the brick buildings standing today on that site north of West Avenue were built following this fire. Across Main, the 300 block was constructed by druggist T. F. Burbank in 1879.

The 1880s saw enormous growth for Cedar Town. The railroad was extended from Cartersville to the Alabama state line. The Cherokee Land and Improvement Company was formed in 1882 by Messrs. Baugh, Nelson, and Adamson to encourage both industrial and residential development in the city. The congregation of St. James Episcopal Church constructed a new board-and-batten sanctuary on West Avenue in 1883 through the generous contributions of the West family. In 1889, Dr. Everard Richardson developed the Richardson Block on the corner of South Main and Herbert.

The 1890s saw construction along most of South Main Street. The only exception was the block south of West Avenue on the west side. Although the Baptist Church sold their property in that block in order to move to the corner of College and Grace, that block did not fully develop until the late 1930s. The Booz Hotel at the corner of Prior and College was in operation during this decade. Two of the frame vernacular Victorian structures which made up the hotel complex still survive. A large brick complex housing the city's water works was built at the Big Spring during this period. (The water works are not included in this historic district proposal.) The movement to establish a water works had first been introduced by the Cherokee Land and Improvement Company almost ten years before.

The twentieth century would bring many changes to Cedar Town. Automobiles made their entry into local society in a very limited way in the first decade. Driving was difficult due to the lack of any paved roads, since Main Street was still dirt, having only planks nailed to cleats for sidewalks. The first section of Main Street was not paved until 1911. By 1913, Main Street was illuminated at night. Using light poles made locally, the city's Light and Water Company lit the section of Main between the railroad and East Avenue for fifty cents a night. This section of town was known as "The Great White Way". A Seaboard Railroad conductor once related that two Birmingham ladies bought tickets to Atlanta. As they passed through Cedar Town, they saw the "Great White Way" and thinking it was Atlanta, tried to disembark at the depot.

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Construction began in 1913 on the new post office building. A handsome, brick Neoclassical Revival structure, the building was completed in late 1914, and the construction process was documented by photographs extensively. In 1919, the city began building a library for the children of Cedar Town. This cultural institution was funded through a bequest of A. K. Hawkes, a prominent Atlanta philanthropist who willed extensive funds to establish children's libraries in many Georgia towns. Like the post office, this structure was also built of brick in the Neoclassical Revival style.

The twenties and thirties were a period of stabilization in the downtown district. A few buildings were modified, and structures were added in the 500 block of South Main on the west side. Streets continued to be paved, and residential development extended north along College and Cave Spring Avenues. Four automobile service stations still standing in the district were constructed in the 1920s. The forties and fifties brought architectural changes to the district. In 1941, the West Theater was constructed on West Avenue. The theater was designed in the fashionable Art Deco style, and is today one of the finest examples of that style in the northwest section of the state. St. Bernadette's Catholic Church constructed its sanctuary at the corner of College and East Avenue that same year. In 1951, the old Hardwick Bank at 411 South Main (then owned by the Liberty Savings Bank) was extensively remodeled, replacing the late Victorian brick front with a stone and glass Streamline facade.

More recently, demolition of historic structures in favor of more modern designed buildings has left significant holes in the district. The Woodlawn Female College and several other fine Victorian dwelling houses were finally completely demolished for construction of a shopping center and a service station. The majority of the 500 block of South Main on the east side has been demolished, and has been replaced by a parking lot and a city park. Almost the entire area along Philpot between East Ware Street and East Avenue has been demolished and has not been replaced by anything. Interest in the downtown district has been revived in the past year, however, due to the participation of the city in the Main Street Program. This program has encouraged improvements to downtown properties, and work on at least seven facades is either planned or underway at the present time. Artificial "modernizations" have been removed from several buildings, revealing the original historic brick or brick and stone facades.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Carithers, Julie. Historic Property Information Form, May 1, 1989, with supplemental information. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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):

Po-C-141 to Po-C-150

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 30 acres.

UTM References

- A) Zone 16 Easting 660950 Northing 3764935
- B) Zone 16 Easting 661220 Northing 3764940
- C) Zone 16 Easting 661230 Northing 3764175
- D) Zone 16 Easting 660965 Northing 3764170

Verbal Boundary Description

The district boundaries encompass the historic commercial center of Cedartown in an area roughly bounded by Wissahickon Avenue to the north, College Avenue to the west, Gibson Street to the south, and Philpot Street to the east.

Boundary Justification

The district boundaries encompass the intact historic central business district of downtown Cedartown and exclude surrounding nonhistoric commercial and residential areas.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Debbie Curtis, Architectural Historian
organization Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 14, 1992

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Cedartown Commercial Historic District
City or Vicinity: Cedartown
County: Polk
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1991

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street between Ware and Stubbs Streets; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street at Stubbs Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street between Stubbs and Herbert Streets, with former city hall in the background; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street at West Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street at Herbert Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street at Herbert Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 7 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street between Herbert and Woodland Streets, note historic scored stucco finish; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street at Woodland Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street between Woodland and Grace Streets, with former city hall in the background; photographer facing north.
- 10 of 23: Former Coca-Cola bottling plant on South Main Street between Woodland and Noyes Streets; photographer facing northeast.

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Photographs

- 11 of 23: Commercial buildings on South Main Street at Prior Street; photographer facing west.
- 12 of 23: Courthouse square with historic former city hall (now designated Courthouse #2) on right, 1950 courthouse on left, and 1906 monument in center, Prior Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 13 of 23: Former city hall on left, former telephone exchange office in center, and former gas station on right, South Main Street at Prior Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 14 of 23: Catholic church on College Street at Wissahickon Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
- 15 of 23: Former Booz Hotel on College Street at Grace and Prior Streets; photographer facing north.
- 16 of 23: Former Hawkes Children's Library on College Street between Grace and Prior Streets; photographer facing northeast.
- 17 of 23: Post Office on West Avenue; photographer facing east.
- 18 of 23: West Theater on West Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 19 of 23: c.1910 road bridge on College Street over the railroad; photographer facing northwest.
- 20 of 23: Historic gas station on right on South Main Street south of railroad tracks; photographer facing northeast.
- 21 of 23: Two historic gas stations on South Main Street south of railroad tracks; photographer facing northeast.
- 22 of 23: Historic gas station and commercial building on South Main Street south of railroad tracks; photographer facing northwest.
- 23 of 23: South Main Street at railroad tracks; photographer facing northwest.