

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 6 1986

date entered MAR 6 1986

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

1. Name

historic Washington Commercial Historic District

and/or common same

2. Location

Portions of Robert Toombs Ave, Jefferson, Springs and Court  
street & number Streets, in the Central Business District N/A not for publication

city, town Washington N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Wilkes code 317

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input 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	N/A in process	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number

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

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Wilkes County Courthouse

city, town Washington state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Washington Commercial Historic District is comprised of the late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings located around the public square in the city of Washington. The district boundary includes a portion of Robert Toombs Avenue, and Jefferson, Spring, and Court Streets. Most of the buildings are two- or three-story brick structures, sited in a uniform setback behind the sidewalk, and share common party walls. Significant architectural features of the facades are cast-iron columns, original storefronts, segmental and round arched windows, corbeled brick cornices, brick pilasters, and stepped parapets.

Two buildings are individually listed in the National Register: the Fitzpatrick Hotel, c. 1898, and the Wilkes County Courthouse, c. 1904. The Fitzpatrick Hotel, located in the middle of the west side of the public square, is one of the largest and most decorative buildings in the district. It is a three-story, brick building with a Queen Anne style facade. The Wilkes County Courthouse, located on the north end of the public square, is a two-story, brick building with round arched blind openings on the upper level facades. Its roof was destroyed by fire in 1958.

Other buildings on the west side of the square, to the south of the Fitzpatrick Hotel, are the Hogue Building, the Dubose Building, and McMichael's Drug Store on the corner at the intersection with West Robert Toombs Avenue. All of these buildings were constructed in 1895 after the fire in that year which destroyed the entire block west of the square. To the north side of the Fitzpatrick Hotel are the Heard Building, also constructed in 1895, and the Lindsey Chevrolet Building, built in 1919.

The southern part of the district, along West Robert Toombs Avenue and the west corner of Spring Street, is comprised of five two-story attached buildings constructed in the late 19th century. The south side of East Robert Toombs Avenue between Spring and Jefferson Streets consists of eight attached buildings, all of which are two stories in height, with the exception of the Washington Loan and Banking Company Building which is three stories. An intrusion in the block is the Scarborough Building whose facade is covered with aluminum siding.

The southern part of the district on the north side of West Robert Toombs Avenue between Allison and Spring Streets consists of several attached one-story, brick buildings, constructed around 1896 by James Benson. They have identical roof lines and bracketed cornices. The two buildings immediately to the west of the Benson buildings are the Cozart Building, constructed around 1896 and a free-standing, one-story, brick structure built around 1900 by W. G. Cade. The block of buildings on the north side of East Robert Toombs Avenue between the square and Jefferson Street consists of two one-story attached brick buildings, constructed in the early 1900's. The Lindsey Block, in the block immediately to the east on East Robert Toombs Avenue, is comprised of two, two-story, brick buildings, constructed around 1909.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ 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) Social History
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1815 - 1930      **Builder/Architect** Several

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Washington Commercial Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, community planning, and social history.

In terms of architecture, the district is important for its collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings located around the public square. The building styles and types are representative of late Victorian small town commercial architecture common in Georgia and the southeast. Significant architectural features of the facades include cast-iron columns, original storefronts, segmental and round arched windows, corbeled brick cornices, brick pilasters, and stepped parapets. The district contains two large architecturally significant buildings, the Fitzpatrick Hotel, designed by James Golucke, and the Wilkes County Courthouse, designed by Frank P. Milburn which are individually listed in the National Register.

The district is important in the area of commerce for its retail, banking, and professional office establishments, hotel, stores, and markets that formed the historic commercial center for the citizens of Washington and surrounding communities. The district has been the City's center of business and commerce since the early 1800's, and it continues as such today.

In the area of community planning, the district is significant for its characteristic grid street configuration, which was created by Legislative Acts of 1780, 1783, and 1805, and developed originally as residential and commercial properties around the central square, that was laid out in 1815, after land was acquired for a courthouse. The present open area was established after 1904 when the former courthouse was demolished, and the present building was constructed at the north end of the square. There were several fires that caused redevelopment in the central business district throughout Washington's development, occurring in 1837, 1841, 1895, and the most recent one in 1958 that destroyed the roof of the courthouse. The development of commercial and residential structures around a public square is representative of the development patterns of many small towns, especially county seats, in the state and the southeast in the late 18th through the 19th centuries.

The district is important in the area of social history, for its association with many individuals, such as J.F. Jackson, T.M. Fitzpatrick, the Green Brothers, Dr. Robert Simpson, J.R. Lindsey, James A. Benson and others who owned or operated businesses in Washington in the 19th through the early 20th centuries. These property owners and businessmen were among the prominent social, political, and economic leaders of Washington. Their actions, individually and collectively, literally shaped the development of downtown Washington.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Eaton, Rodney. "Historic District Information Form-Washington Commercial Historic District." July, 1984. (On files at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 12 acres, approximately

Quadrangle name Washington East, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UTM References**

A 

1	7	3	3	8	9	6	0	3	7	3	4	6	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

1	7	3	3	9	0	2	0	3	7	3	4	0	0	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

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

D 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The boundary of the nominated district is based on the most intact area of history commercial buildings in downtown Washington. It is drawn to scale on the attached property - sketch map.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date 12-23-85

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/22/86

**For NPS use only**

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

James M. McPherson  
Keeper of the National Register

date 3/6/86

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

