

1164

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Opp Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Portions of Covington Avenue, Hart, Main, Whaley & College Streets not for publication N/A
city or town Opp vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Covington code 039 zip code 35218

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

8/29/01
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
 [] See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 [] See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the
No nal Register

10.29.01

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>62</u>	<u>13</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>62</u>	<u>13</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>religious facility/church</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>post office</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>city hall</u>
<u>AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>storage</u>
<u>AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>processing</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>business</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>RELIGION</u>	<u>church</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>city hall</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>business</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>specialty store</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>warehouse</u>
<u>VACANT</u>	<u>not in use</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NeoClassical Revival
Colonial Revival
other: one-story commercial block

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls wood: weatherboard
brick
other metal: tin
ceramic tile

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture _____
- Community Planning & Development _____
- Transportation _____
- Commerce _____

Period of Significance 1901-1951 _____

Significant Dates N/A _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder N/A _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) 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: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other state agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository _____

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Opp Commercial Historic District
County and State Covington County, Alabama

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property approx. 160 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1 16	570780 3461080	3 16	571210 3460860	5 16	570620 3460800
2 16	570930 3461080	4 16	571210 3460780	6 16	570620 3460880

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Jeff Mansell and Trina Binkley, AHC National Register Coordinator

organization Mansell & Company, Inc. date October 24, 2000

street & number Post Office Box 1112 telephone 843-521-1075

city or town Beaufort state SC zip code 29901-1112

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Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 2, 6, 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Opp Commercial Historic District
County and State: Covington County, Alabama

Opp Commercial Historic District

Section 2: Location

The district includes 104 College Street, 100 through 211 East Covington, 100 through 129 West Covington, 101 through 115 Main Streets.

Section 6: Function or Use (cont'd)

Historic Function

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: specialty store
TRANSPORTATION train depot

Section 7: Description (cont'd)

Architectural Classification

Art Moderne
Other: multiple story commercial block
Other: T-cottage
Other: No Style

**Opp Commercial Historic District
Architectural Description**

The Opp Commercial Historic District contains portions of Covington, Hart and Ida Avenues, and Main, Whaley, and College Streets. The Opp Commercial Historic District incorporates the original T-plan of the town. A common railroad plan, the T-plan has a distinctive look. The tracks of the railroad form the top of the T, with the passenger depot standing at the head of the town. Radiating from the depot is a single, primary commercial street that forms the stem of the T. In Opp, the primary commercial street is Main Street, running north-south and perpendicular to Covington Avenue, which runs parallel to the railroad. Main Street crosses Covington and continues south. Whaley and College Streets are located east of and parallel to Main Street, while Hart and Ida Avenues lie north of and parallel to Covington Avenue.

Typical of the T-plan, the top of the T separated the business of the railroad, and associated industrial activities, from everyday commerce. It further eliminated unnecessary – and dangerous – railroad crossings over the track. The stem of the T placed the most expensive real estate closest to the depot while lots that were farther away from the passenger station were sold more cheaply. Consequently, the first blocks of Opp, along Main and Covington, were the site of commercial businesses and professional offices. The latter blocks, along Hart, Ida, Whaley, and College Streets, were residential lots, and the location for churches, schools, and civic buildings. Today, the district contains portions of eight city blocks and includes commercial, residential, religious, governmental, and industrial buildings, as well as resources associated with transportation.

Located within the boundaries of the district is a collection of early-to mid-20th-century architecture, reflecting the district's period of significance, 1901-1951. Fifty-four of the commercial buildings are one-story and multiple-story commercial blocks, typical of commercial buildings constructed throughout railroad communities across Alabama in the first half of the 20th century. These commercial buildings usually contain single-leaf entrances flanked by large plate-glass display windows. Many of these buildings are embellished with decorative dentil work, brick or concrete stringcourses, and large, flat recessed panels. The district does contain a three-story commercial building, Dean's Pharmacy (#69) that is embellished with full-height pilasters. In those buildings that are two or more stories, the upper windows are typically double-hung-sash. A wonderful two-story metal cotton gin building (#30), reminiscent of Opp's agricultural heritage, is also located in the district along its eastern end on the northern side of the railroad tracks.

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Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Opp Commercial Historic District
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Due to the city's association with the railroad, one of the most significant resources in the district is the Alabama and Florida Railroad Depot (#73), ca. 1924. The depot has elements of the Craftsman style with wide overhanging eaves and pairs of decorative brackets. The doors, opening into the passenger terminal section of the depot, are capped by large multi-pane transoms and the windows are double-hung-sash. The City of Opp Municipal Complex (#68) and the former Opp Post Office (#64) are excellent examples of the utilization of the Colonial Revival style in the design of governmental buildings. The Municipal Complex boasts a hipped roof and twin entrances set in elaborate door surrounds with pilasters and pediments. The Post Office features a hipped roof crowned by a decorative cupola, stone lintels, brick stringcourses, and a flat roofed entrance porch with full entablature. The First Baptist Church (#63), ca. 1925, was designed in the NeoClassical Revival style with a pediment, full entablature, Doric pilasters, dentil work, and decorative stringcourses.

Three residential buildings are located within the district boundaries, showing that historic residential and commercial areas sometimes intermingled: a Colonial Revival dwelling, a two-story apartment building, and a T-cottage. The Hubbard residence (#66) features arched windows, gabled-end pavilions, and a recessed porch supported by classical colonettes. The T-cottage (#28) is typical of late-19th and early-20th-century vernacular architecture with its cross-gable roof, front-facing gable wing, and partial-width porch.

One of the most interesting buildings in the district is Covington Manor (#55), once a hotel and restaurant complex. This Art Moderne building used modern construction materials and techniques (steel and concrete) which further emphasized its modern-styled decoration: smooth wall surface, asymmetrical facade, horizontal decorative lines, flat parapet roof, curved corners, and use of glass blocks. The Art Moderne style was popular in the 1930s and 1940s for civic, public, and residential resources throughout Alabama: however, the Manor stands out as one of the best examples in the state.

The non-contributing resources in the district are primarily one-story and multiple-story commercial buildings that have been altered with the application of false store fronts. The facade of Covington Jewelers (Inv. #4) has been substantially altered with the application of stucco exterior wall material. While not historic, the SouthTrust Bank (Inv. #72) is a large two-story building that blends in with the surrounding architecture in regard to height, massing, and decorative detailing. Likewise the support building (#63) adjacent to the First Baptist Church is a nonhistoric noncontributing building.

Many of the non-contributing buildings in the district have the potential to be contributing resources with the removal of the false aluminum storefronts. The district contains 62 contributing structures and 13 non-contributing resources that were constructed during the district's period of significance, 1901-1951. The district retains a high degree of integrity in regard to design, feeling, craftsmanship, materials, location, and association.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological testing has been conducted, the potential for subsurface material remains is minimal; however, subsurface remains could reveal information that may be useful in interpreting the district.

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County and State: Covington County, Alabama

Opp Commercial Historic District
Historic Resource Inventory

The letters C and NC at the end of each entry denote Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources. Survey photograph roll and corresponding negative are found in parentheses.

College Street

1. 104 College Street, Dorsey Accounting-Scofield Insurance Agency, ca. 1940. One-story corner commercial building, four single-leaf plate glass entrance doors, one set an angle at corner, bands of multi-pane vertical windows. C (Roll #2-34)
2. 201 College Street, Atomic Exterminators, ca. 1940. Large one-story former warehouse, basically rectangular in shape, exterior sheathed in metal siding, main gable roof with attached flat roof rectangular wing, three-bay facade in rectangular block, central single-leaf entrance, flanking windows. C (Roll #2-35)

Covington Avenue

3. 100/112 East Covington Avenue, Evans Sales, ca. 1950. Large two-story triple commercial block, upper floor covered in metal siding, first floor consists of three single-leaf plate glass windows set amidst large plate glass display windows. Building might be considered contributing if the upper-story metal facade was removed. NC (Roll #2-7, 8)
4. 101/103 East Covington Avenue, Covington Jewelers, ca. 1920. Large one-story corner building, may have been two separate buildings combined into one, left section consists of tall brick pilasters embracing first-floor plate-glass entrance flanked by plate glass display windows, different brick beneath display windows indicates later renovation, right section contains seven small square display windows on first floor, stucco exterior. NC (Roll #2-2, 3)
5. 105 East Covington Avenue, Merle Norman, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, large recessed panel, full multi-pane transom above plate-glass windows, plate-glass entrance. C (Roll #2-4)
6. 107 East Covington Avenue, Opp Christian Book Store, ca. 1920. One-story commercial building, stucco exterior wall material, central single-leaf plate-glass entrance flanked by large plate glass display windows. C (Roll #2-5)
7. 109 East Covington Avenue, Steve's Maytag, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, double-block with altered first floor, upper floor contains two recessed panels with richly decorated dentil work and stringcourses, first floor covered with cedar shingles. Building has suffered loss of integrity. NC (Roll #2-6)
8. 111 East Covington Avenue, Kenwin, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building covered with stucco and embellished with stringcourses, tile applied to crest of parapet, recessed central single-leaf plate glass entrance flanked by large plate glass display windows. C (Roll #2-13)
9. 113/115 East Covington Avenue, Virginia Studio, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building covered with stucco and embellished with stringcourse, tile applied to crest of parapet, twin storefronts, two single-leaf entrances flanked by large plate glass windows, full-width metal awning. C (Roll #2-13)
10. 114 East Covington Avenue, Young's Flowers, ca. 1920. Two-story brick commercial building, first floor of facade covered with Carrara glass, centrally placed central single-leaf entrance flanked by large panes of plate glass, facade covered with aluminum siding, building has suffered loss of integrity. NC (Roll #2-7)

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11. 117 East Covington Avenue, Bama Best Flea Market/Junes Beauty Shop, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, plain brick facade, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, small ridge of tile applied to crest of parapet wall, two single-leaf entrances, metal awning. C (Roll #2-14)
12. 120 East Covington Avenue, Off the Top, ca. 1946-50. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, twin single-leaf entrances, two large plate-glass windows, metal awning across facade. C (Roll #2-8)
13. 122 East Covington Avenue, Hair Solutions, ca. 1946-50. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, twin single-leaf entrances, two large plate-glass windows, metal awning across facade. C (Roll #2-9)
14. 125-129 East Covington Avenue, Bob Taylor's Carpet One, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, ten-bay facade containing modern windows, exterior has been stuccoed, large hipped roof awning stretches across facade, loss of integrity to building. NC (Roll #2-15)
15. 126 East Covington Avenue, The Hair Gallery/The Sun Tanner, ca. 1946-50. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, plain facade embellished with simple decorative brick stringcourses, two single-leaf entrances separated by two large plate-glass display windows, metal awning across facade. C (Roll #2-10)
16. 128/130 East Covington Avenue. Commercial Block, ca. 1946-50. One-story double commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low brick parapet, decorative brick pilasters at each end, two single-leaf entrances flanked on each side by large plate glass windows, surmounted by multi-pane transoms. C (Roll #2-11)
17. 131 East Covington Avenue, Schofield Commercial Block, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low brick parapet, richly decorated cornice with brick dentil work and corbeling, central single-leaf entrance flanked by large plate glass windows, metal awning. C (Roll #2-19)
18. 132 East Covington Avenue, H. B. Paulk Grocery Loading Dock, ca. 1940. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, tall end brick pilasters flanking large single opening. C (Roll #2-16)
19. 133 East Covington Avenue, First Baptist Church – Recreation and Activities Center, ca. 1930. Large one-story brick commercial building occupying corner lot, single-leaf entrance flanked by large plate-glass windows set in corner, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, multiple door and window openings, building may have served as car dealership and garage. C (Roll #2-24)
20. 134 East Covington Avenue, H. B. Paulk Grocery Main Office, ca. 1920. Two-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, 4/5 bay facade, decorative brick work along cornice, slightly arched upper floor windows capped by brick arches, first floor features double-leaf entrance, multi-pane windows. C (Roll #2-17)
21. 136 East Covington Avenue, H. B. Paulk Warehouse, ca. 1940. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, decorative brick dentil and corbeling work along cornice, two double-leaf entrances. C (Roll #2-18)
22. 138 East Covington Avenue, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying brick parapet, central single-leaf entrance flanked by large plate-glass windows, surmounted by multi-pane transom. C (Roll #2-20)
23. 140 East Covington Avenue, J's Surplus and Salvage, ca. 1950. May be an earlier building with later brick veneer applied to facade, multiple openings of plate-glass windows and single-leaf plate glass entrances, former large garage opening enclosed. C (Roll #2-21, 22)

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County and State: Covington County, Alabama

24. 200 East Covington Avenue, Industrial Machine and Supply, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying brick parapet, centrally placed recessed single leaf entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows. C (Roll #2-25)
25. 202 East Covington Avenue, Donaldson Warehouse, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, band of decorative brickwork along cornice, three-bay facade, consisting of centrally placed double-leaf entrance, flanking subordinate openings. C (Roll #2-26)
26. 205 East Covington Avenue, Barr's Seafood, ca. 1950. Small one-story brick commercial building, flat roof, single plate-glass entrance door flanked by large plate-glass display windows. C (Roll #2-27)
27. 207 East Covington Avenue, ca. 1940. Small one-story brick commercial building, gable roof with false parapet wall, single-leaf plate-glass entrance with flanking plate glass window, metal awning, rear gable roof frame addition. C (Roll #2-28)
28. 209 East Covington Avenue, Vaughan Bowers Photography Studio, ca. 1905. One-story frame T-cottage, brick pier foundation, cross-gable roof with front-facing gable wing with boxed returns, interior chimney, partial-width shed roof porch supported by slender wooden posts, three-bay facade, centrally placed single-leaf entrance with sidelights. C (Roll #2-29)
29. 211 East Covington Avenue, Phillips Agricultural Supply, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind tall brick parapet, plain facade, central double-leaf entrance flanked by large plate-glass display windows, shed roof porch supported by tall wooden posts. C (Roll #2-30)
30. 212 East Covington Avenue, Opp Recycling Center/former Donaldson Cotton Gin, ca. 1950. Large two-story former cotton gin complex now used as a recycling center, structure sheathed in metal vertical siding, major gable roof pierced at regular intervals by four large round ventilators, facade and elevations pierced at regular intervals by small multi-pane windows, wooden loading decks on each side, shed roof overhangs on both floors, flat roof and gable roof wings on each elevation. C (Roll #2-31, 32)
31. 100 West Covington Avenue. Larry's Drug Store, Commercial Block, ca. 1915. One-story brick commercial building, brick stringcourse defines cornice, recessed brick panel, modern storefront with central double-leaf plate glass entrance flanked by plate glass display windows, side elevation fronts Main Street and is embellished with recessed brick panels under cornice, two single-leaf entrances, one double-hung-sash window, arched window and door openings with radiating voussoirs. C (Roll #1-30, Roll #3-19)
32. 101 West Covington Avenue. Deidres, Commercial Block, ca. 1940. Two-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, central plate-glass entrance door flanked by large plate glass windows, large metal awning across front, aluminum storefront obscures original brick facade. NC (Roll #1-32)
33. 102 West Covington Avenue. Denney Vision Care, Commercial Block, ca. 1915. One-story brick commercial building, identical to Structure #1, brick stringcourse defines cornice, recessed brick panel, modern storefront with central single-leaf plate glass entrance flanked by large plate glass display windows. C (Roll #1-29)
34. 103 West Covington Avenue. Anderson Oxygen, Commercial Block, ca. 1940. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, Carrara glass panels attached to facade, central single-leaf entrance flanked by large plate glass display windows, metal awning, aluminum storefront obscures original facade. NC (Roll #1-33)
35. 104 West Covington Avenue. SouthTrust Community Room, Commercial Block, ca. 1920. One-story brick building with stucco exterior wall material, flat roof, two-bay facade, single-leaf entrance, facade altered. NC (Roll #1-27)

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36. 105 West Covington Avenue. Commercial Block, ca. 1950. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof, plain brick veneer facade, central single-leaf entrance flanked by large plate glass windows. C (Roll #1-31)
37. 105B West Covington Avenue. Commercial, ca. 1915. One-story patented stone building, basically square with low-pitched hip roof with exposed rafter ends, three-bay facade, single-leaf entrance flanked by 6/6 double-hung-sash windows, no street number. C (Roll #1-26)
38. 106 West Covington Avenue. James Store, Commercial, ca. 1915. One-story brick building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, large rectangular panel, plate-glass window and single-leaf plate glass door. C (Roll #1-22)
39. 107 West Covington Avenue. Sun-Shack. Commercial, ca. 1970. One-story frame building, metal shed roof attached to large open space covered with metal truss roof, two-bay facade, modern metal door, former plate glass window enclosed. NC (Roll #1-25)
40. 108 West Covington Avenue. Alabama Furniture, ca. 1920. One-story brick building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, end brick pilasters flanking recessed brick panel, single-leaf entrance set to side of large plate glass display windows. C (Roll #1-21)
41. 109 West Covington Avenue, ca. 1950. One-story brick-veneered commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, central double-leaf plate glass windows, large plate glass windows. C (Roll #1-24)
42. 110 West Covington Avenue. ABC Store, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, flat end brick pilasters flank a band of heavy dentil work and recessed brick panel, first floor facade slightly altered, three-bay facade, single-leaf entrance, building still retains integrity. C (Roll #1-20)
43. 111 West Covington Avenue. Sharp Edge, ca. 1950. One-story brick building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying flat roof, central single leaf entrance, flanked by large plate glass windows, large metal awning across facade. C (Roll #1-23)
44. 113/115 West Covington Avenue. Jan's Hair Crafts & Hoomes Wallpaper, ca. 1950. One-story brick veneer double-commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low lying parapet, two single-leaf entrances flanked by large plate glass windows. C (Roll #1-15)
45. 114 West Covington Avenue, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, flat end brick pilasters flank a band of heavy brick dentil work set in recessed brick panel, central single-leaf plate glass window recessed between two plate-glass display windows surmounted by large multi-glass transom. C (Roll #1-19)
46. 116 West Covington Avenue, This N' That, ca. 1920. One-story brick double commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, recessed decorative brick panels, single-leaf plate glass entrance flanked by large plate glass windows surmounted by multi-pane transoms. C (Roll #1-18)
47. 117 West Covington Avenue, Computer Connection, ca. 1950. One-story brick veneered commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, facade embellished with vertical and horizontal brick stringcourses, central single-leaf entrance flanked by large plate glass display windows, small vents with ironwork covers located beneath windows. C (Roll #1-14)
48. 118 West Covington Avenue, Simply Southern Antiques, ca. 1920. One-story brick double commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, recessed decorative brick panels, single-leaf plate glass entrance flanked by large plate glass windows surmounted by multi-pane transoms. C (Roll #1-18)

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County and State: Covington County, Alabama

49. 119 West Covington Avenue, Messick Barber & Style Shop, ca. 1950. One-story brick veneered commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, decorative recessed brick panel, centrally placed plate-glass entrance bay flanked by large plate glass display windows. C (Roll #1-13)
50. 120 West Covington Avenue, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, large recessed panel embellished with highly decorative band of brick dentil work, a single-leaf plate glass entrance door flanked to the right by large plate-glass display windows, surmounted by three-light transom. C (Roll #1-17)
51. 121 West Covington Avenue, Zells, ca. 1950. Two-story brick veneered commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, upper story embellished with rectangular panel picked out by concrete panel, facade unfortunately altered by enclosure of first floor display windows, and alteration of windows. NC (Roll #1-12)
52. 122/124 West Covington Avenue, J&W Store and H & R Block, ca. 1920. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, large recessed panel embellished with highly decorative band of brick dentil work, two single-leaf plate entrance doors flanked by large plate-glass display windows surmounted by multi-pane glass transom windows. C (Roll #1-16)
53. 123 West Covington Avenue, Mindell & Kathy's Barber & Style Shop, ca. 1950. One-story commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, central single-leaf entrance flanked by plate glass display windows, surmounted by multi-pane transom, fronted by canvas awning. C (Roll #1-11)
54. 125 West Covington Avenue, ca. 1950. One-story brick veneer double commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, two single-leaf entrance doors flanked by large plate-glass windows surmounted by multi-pane transoms, large metal awning. C (Roll #1-10)
55. 126 West Covington Avenue, Covington Manor, Inc. Art Moderne, ca. 1931. This two-story building was constructed as a restaurant/hotel complex and is an outstanding example of Art Moderne architecture in southern Alabama. Two-story, basically rectangular in shape, concrete and steel construction, flat roof behind low parapet wall, the three-part facade is composed of a slightly-projecting wing and small narrow recessed wing flanking the principal facade plane, the slightly-projecting wing is located on the left of the facade and contains a band of five 1/1 double-hung-sash windows on the second floor and two single-leaf entrances on the first floor, small aluminum windows with four narrow vertically-oriented panes flank either side of the entrance doors, the small, narrow recessed wing on the far right of the facade contains a single leaf entrance on the first floor, the remainder of the facade is the principal entrance way for the building with a centrally-placed double-leaf entrance behind a recessed porch supported by three posts supporting a marquee, to the right of the entrance is a curved wall containing glass bricks and large plate glass windows, the second floor of the principal facade contains multi-pane windows sashes. C (Roll #1-6, 7, 8)
56. 127 West Covington Avenue, Modern One-Hour Cleaners, ca. 1950. One-story commercial building, brick veneer exterior wall material, L-shaped, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, bands of large single-pane windows, double-leaf plate glass entrance doors set in one end of "L", large metal awnings, secondary set of double-leaf metal doors. C (Roll #1-9)

East Hart Avenue

57. 104 E. Hart, Deane's Sickroom, ca. 1903. Large two-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet, rectangular stone panel resting below cornice, three-bay upper facade of double-hung-sash windows, first floor display windows and entrance bay surrounded by rectangular stonework arch, minor alterations and some deterioration has not reduced integrity or significance. C (Roll #3-5)

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58. 100 E. Hart, Covington County Health Center, ca. 1950. One-story brick and frame commercial building, commercial block, flat and shed roof, single-leaf entrances, plate-glass display windows covered with weatherboard. C (Roll #3-6)
59. 101 E. Hart Avenue, ca. 1940. Small one-story brick building, one-bay consisting of single-leaf entrance, metal awning. C (Roll #3-6)
60. 103/105 E. Hart, Nelson Realty, ca. 1940. One-story brick double commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low lying parapet, three recessed brick panels evenly spaced along facade below cornice, two single-leaf entrances flanked by large plate glass display windows, third storefront on right windows have been enclosed. C (Roll #3-3)
61. 107 E. Hart, ca. 1940. One-story brick building, identical to adjoining block, flat roof hidden behind low lying parapet, three-bay facade presently covered with weatherboard, east elevation pierced by series of garage doors. C (Roll #3-3)
62. 109 E. Hart, J. M. Jackson Automotive Dealership and Garage, ca. 1946. Large brick, concrete block and metal truss complex, rectangular block attached to large arched metal-truss garage section, main block has flat roof, three-bay facade, central single-leaf section, flanking plate glass windows, rear section features expansive multi-pane glass bays and large pierced openings containing metal hinged garage doors, later addition to rear of metal-truss section. C (Roll #3-4)
63. 110 E. Hart, First Baptist Church, ca. 1925. NeoClassical Revival. Large religious structure, two-story on full raised basement, hipped roof with central interior chimney, 5/5 bay facade, central pedimented columned Doric screen with four Doric pilasters embracing three stained-glass windows, twin double-leaf entrances with transoms flanking screen, elevations feature large semi-circular arched stained glass windows, two flights of steps flanking three bays on basement level, decorative stone panels, brackets and stringcourses, sympathetic rear addition. Lying to west of main sanctuary is large, separate two-story contemporary structure with a hipped roof. The building is basically rectangular featuring a fifteen bay facade with two double-leaf entrances. This inventory number contains 1 contributing and 1 non-contributing resource. C, NC (Roll #2- 35, 36 & #3 - 1)

Main Street

64. 101 N. Main Street, Opp Post Office, ca. 1939. Colonial Revival. One-story brick veneered structure, basically square, hipped roof topped by centrally placed cupola consisting of square lantern and elongated hipped roof, four bay facade, centrally placed double-leaf entrance surmounted by multi-pane transom, flat-roof entrance porch with full entablature supported by classically inspired square posts, 8/12 double-hung-sash windows topped by heavy stone lintels, brick stringcourse encircles entire building just below cornice line. C (Roll #3-6)
65. 103 A & B, N. Main Street, Apartment Building, ca. 1940. Two-story frame dwelling, front-facing gable roof, interior chimney, two-story gable roof porch set to left side, porch roof supported by tapered posts on tall brick piers, 3/5 bay facade, single leaf entrances and double-hung-sash windows. C (Roll #3-13)
66. 105 N. Main Street, Hubard Residence, ca. 1920. Colonial Revival. One-story frame dwelling, wood siding exterior wall material, hipped roof with two interior chimneys, two front facing wings separated by engaged roof porch supported by four classical colonettes, five bay facade, double-hung-sash windows topped by semi-circular arched transoms, central double-leaf entrance topped by transom, side addition. C (Roll #3-12)
67. 107 E. Main Street, former Church of Christ, Opp Multi-Purpose Center, ca. 1940. One-story frame dwelling, formerly a church, brick veneer exterior, front-facing gable roof with subordinate gable roof vestibule, plain facade with simple double-leaf entrance in classical enframement, brick stringcourse resting just above basement level. C (Roll #3-11)

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68. 108 E. Main Street, City of Opp Municipal Center, ca. 1935. Colonial Revival. Large three-story governmental building, basically rectangular, hipped roof pierced by three evenly spaced circular ventilators, 6/6 bay facade, first and second floors appear to be equal in height with third floor reduced in scale, third floor features 6 light stationary windows, first and second floors feature 6/6 double-hung-sash windows, building contains twin double leaf entrances (2nd and 5th bay positions) set in classical pedimented surrounds containing transoms and sidelights, 8 bay elevations with southern elevation containing two-storied bay window. C (Roll #3-9 & 10)
69. 101 South Main Street, Dean's Pharmacy, ca. 1903. Large three-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low-lying parapet wall, band of heavy brick work located along cornice line including band of dentils, facade divided into three parts by application of four flat brick pilasters, storefront on first floor contains recessed display windows and entrances, side elevation features 12 bays set into six divisions, each division of the wall surface framed by brick pilasters, decorative brick work and dentils encircles entire building. C (Roll #3-7 & 14)
70. 105 & 109 South Main Street, Cloud 9 & The Service Agency, ca. 1925. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, plain facade featuring two storefronts, each storefront contains recessed double leaf entrances flanked by large plate glass display windows. C (Roll #3-15)
71. 113 & 115 Main Street, MD's & Donaldson Accounting-Tax Service. Ca. 1925. One-story brick commercial building, flat roof hidden behind low parapet, facade of building is angled on the right side, tapering back away from street, two storefronts, left storefront features single-leaf entrance bay of plate glass set between two plate glass display windows, storefront to right contains single leaf plate glass display window set to left of large plate-glass display window, awning stretches across entire facade. C (Roll #3-16)
72. 112 SouthTrust Bank, ca. 1990. Large modern bank building, asymmetrical facade with five bay second story set to left of large six bay rectangular block, brick veneer first floor wall material with stucco on second level, decorative stringcourses below cornice and between first and second levels, multi-pane windows with transoms on first level, double-hung-sash windows on second level, classical *in antis* entrance bay framing recessed double-leaf entrance, paired classical colonettes supporting flat attached pediment. NC (Roll #3-18)
73. 210 South Main Street, Alabama and Florida Railroad Depot, ca. 1924. Large one-story frame passenger and freight railroad depot with large one-story freight and warehouse addition to the rear, wide overhanging eaves and decorative brackets, hipped roof, three-bay facade with central double leaf entrance, paired double-hung-sash windows, southern elevation of passenger depot contains three single-leaf entrances interspersed in the seven bays with single and paired double-hung-sash windows, southern elevation of warehouse contains three large bays opening onto loading platform, northern elevation of passenger depot contains three single-leaf entrance bays and single and paired double-hung-sash windows, the northern elevation of the warehouse also features three bays opening onto a loading platform, central interior chimney in passenger depot. C (Roll #1-2, 3, 4, 5 & Roll #3 - 21, 24)

Whaley Street

74. 101 Whaley Street, Christian Service Center, ca. 1950. Large one-story double-commercial block, flat roof hidden behind low parapet roof, twin double-leaf entrances flanked by large plate glass display windows, facade altered with the application of stucco, building suffers from loss of integrity. NC (Roll #2-23)

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Opp Commercial Historic District
Statements of Significance

Criterion A: Community Planning and Development/Transportation

The Opp Commercial Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Community Planning and Development & Transportation. Created in 1901, the city of Opp is located on the former L & N Railroad and the creation and development of the town is integrally related to this transportation network. In 1901, the L & N Railroad established a rail line, the Georgiana to Graceville branch, which passed directly through the future site of Opp. The railroad split with one arm traveling south and the other continuing east at a spot 15 miles east of Andalusia. Because this provided a good "turning around" place for trains and because it was already inhabited to a small degree, the little town of Opp was laid out with the encouragement of the railroad. Quickly, a commercial district arose along Covington Avenue, the street running parallel to the railroad, with Main Street running perpendicular to Covington and crossing the railroad line just east of the depot. Opp is an excellent example of a town whose development reflects the incorporation of the T-plan design. Stores, warehouses, industry, banks and commercial establishments were all located on a grid system within close proximity of the railroad line. The Opp Commercial Historic District is clearly oriented to the railroad and reflects the importance of this transportation network in the resulting plan and development of the town.

Criterion A: Commerce

The Opp Commercial Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Commerce. After the establishment of the Georgiana to Graceville branch line of the L & N railroad in 1901, a commercial district quickly arose along Covington Avenue and Main Street. The majority of resources are one- and multiple-story commercial block buildings that housed the primary commercial establishments of the City of Opp. By 1945, the district included a hotel, warehouses, a cotton gin, automobile dealerships, a wholesale grocery, service stations, a dry cleaner, restaurants, a movie theater, and a number of retail establishments. Today, the district includes commercial, civic, industrial, residential and religious buildings associated with the development of the City of Opp from 1901 to 1951.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Opp Commercial Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C: Architecture. Located within the boundaries of the district is a good and diverse collection of early-20th-century architecture reflecting the development of the city of Opp during its period of significance. The district includes commercial buildings, warehouses, processing facilities, governmental buildings, religious structures, and residences. Of particular note is Covington Manor, a former hotel and an outstanding example of the Art Moderne style. The Alabama and Florida Railroad Depot has Craftsman detailing. Other architectural styles include Neoclassical Revival, which can be seen in the First Baptist Church, and Colonial Revival as is apparent in Opp's 1939 Post Office and the Hubbard residence on Main Street. A couple of residential resources including a T-cottage and two-story frame apartment building can also be found within the district, evidence that residential and commercial/industrial areas of town once overlapped. The majority of commercial resources are one- and two-story commercial blocks, typical of the architecture found in scores of towns throughout America with large plate-glass display windows, flat roofs with parapets, decorative dentil work, brick or concrete stringcourses, and recessed panel work. The exception is one, three-story commercial building embellished with full-height pilasters.

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**Opp Commercial Historic District
Historical Narrative**

The following historical narrative is taken from *Covington County History, 1821-1976*, by Gus J. and Ruby R. Bryan, privately printed by the Opp Historical Society, 1983.

Opp, Alabama is located in Covington County in the south-central section of the state known as the "wiregrass." Created in 1821, Covington County was originally part of Henry County and included all of present Coffee County, a portion of Crenshaw County, and most of Dale and Geneva Counties. Covington's southern boundary is still marked by the northern line of the State of Florida, on the north by Butler and Crenshaw Counties, on the west by Escambia and Conecuh Counties, and on the east by Coffee and Geneva Counties. The present-day boundaries of Covington County were secured on November 24, 1866, encompassing an area of 1,034 square miles or 665,776 acres.

With Opp being located in the central section of Covington County, its history is tied closely with the timber, cotton, railroad, and textile industries. Founded in 1900 and named for the lawyer instrumental in bringing the railroad to the town, Opp was the successor to the small settlement of Hallton, a cross-roads located on the northeastern edge of the present city limits.

In 1880, Walker W. Patrick moved from Coffee County to homestead 160 acres of land. He constructed a home and operated a small community store at the northeast edge of the present city limits. In 1885, Dr. John A. Whaley traded his farm in Pike County to Walker Patrick for his land, home, and store. Whaley constructed a larger store and succeeded in establishing a post office for the convenience of the little settlement. Designated by the U. S. Government as Hallton, the post office was adjacent to the Elba, Andalusia, and Geneva roads. Whaley prospered and it was not long before Dr. Whaley built another store across the road from his first one. This store was soon rented to B. Redmon, who became the second merchant to operate in Hallton. He was followed by T. M. Campbell, who operated a saloon in the same building after Redmon vacated it. Andrew Wallace succeeded Dr. Whaley as postmaster of Hallton on October 12, 1899, and was serving in the capacity when the name of the office was changed to Opp on October 1, 1900, and moved to a new location on the recently completed railroad.

A lawyer for the Alabama and Florida Division of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad (L & N), Henry Opp lived and practiced in nearby Andalusia. In 1900, the Central of Georgia Railroad entered into litigation with the L & N Railroad in an attempt to block the L & N from surveying Central's right-of-way into Covington County. Opp successfully defended the L & N and the company was then able to complete the Georgiana to Graceville branch that passed south of Hallton. It was here that the railroad split with one section traveling south and the other continuing east to a spot some 15 miles east of Andalusia. This railroad split provided a convenient place for trains to "turn around," and with a little encouragement from the railroad, a new town was laid out. In appreciation and recognition for his successful legal maneuvers, the town was named for Henry Opp. Naturally, the Hallton post office was renamed Opp when it was moved closer to the railroad the following year. After the railroad cleared its right-of-way through what is now Opp, some of the residents of Hallton, as well as other nearby communities, realizing the possibilities of a new town, began to congregate at the railroad and to build homes, stores, and churches.

The town of Opp received its charter from the legislature on February 28, 1901 and was officially incorporated on July 12, 1902. The city limits extended one-half mile each way from the L & N Depot. In the early years of the 20th century, the population of Opp consisted primarily of railroad workers who resided in a temporary camp. By the time the railroad was completed and the first train arrived in the spring of 1901, several families were in residence. Stores and a saloon, constructed of rough pine boards, were constructed and the population in 1901 totaled twenty-one. These early commercial establishments were built facing the railroad, along what would become Covington Avenue, and by 1902, the commercial development for Opp had been established. An early account describes these early stores as "facing the railroad tracks, but they were not all together, and there were gaps between them. They all had little porches in front of them with wooden benches on which the customers could sit in the shade and visit or deposit their families until time to go home." Saloons were plentiful and were the most modern establishments in town. The street lights at night consisted of piles of brush or pine knots and slabs which burned brightly up and down the street. These fires were usually on the railroad side or across the street from the stores to keep down the danger of

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flying sparks igniting the wooden buildings. There were two trains a day: the No. 28 going northwest to Georgiana in the morning and the No. 27 coming southeast to Geneva at night.

The first industry in Opp was a turpentine still owned jointly by J. S. Rozier and J. S. Williams. Located just east of the present town, the turpentine still was a village within itself, an almost self-sustaining community. There were homes for the owners and the workers, a commissary for supplies, stables for the horses and mules, a "cooper" shop where rosin barrels were made, a glue house, and the still. Rozier and Williams worked the pines that were growing on what is now the main thoroughfare of Opp.

According to early sources, John Butler operated the first store in Opp. It was located in a side room of his three-room house that stood next door to where the present *Opp News* office now stands, just west of Covington Manor. Butler later sold his interest to Melody Adams and Jim Peoples. The firm of Peoples and Adams was considered to be the oldest business partnership in Opp. Adjacent to Butler's store was Opp's first school, a former cotton warehouse built by Frank Watson. Classes were held here from 1884 until 1901, when, due to the growing population, the school proved inadequate and a new school was constructed at the corner of College and Stewart Streets, northeast of the downtown commercial district. That same year, 1901, the first Opp paper, the *Opp Standard*, was printed.

Progress came quickly to Opp. The Covington County Bank was the first banking institution in Opp, organized in 1903. The bank was the first to occupy a brick building on the corner of Covington Avenue and Main Street, the site of Covington Jewelers. The brick bank building and the two adjoining it were some of the earliest brick buildings constructed on the northern side of Covington Avenue. Henry S. Terry established Opp's first telephone system on October 23, 1903 in a small wooden house located near Covington Manor Nursing Home and in 1906, a steam power plant was constructed to produce electricity for the small town. The town's first fire department was in operation by 1927. With improvements coming quickly, religious congregations soon followed. In 1901, a Methodist congregation was established, quickly followed by the Baptists in 1902. The Baptists erected a building in 1902 but by 1924, the congregation had outgrown the wooden structure and constructed the impressive Neoclassical Revival building that stands today. In 1902, an elaborate Victorian, two-storied frame school building replaced the old cotton warehouse. After the 1902 structure burned, a new school was constructed and in 1923, a high school building was erected. By the end of the 1920s, Covington Avenue, running parallel to the L & N Railroad, and the lower part of Main Street were filled with brick and wooden commercial buildings, including banks, saloons, professional offices, mercantiles, hotels, a movie theater, boarding houses, and pharmacies.

Opp was the center for a thriving agricultural and timber region, one that produced large amounts of lumber as well as cotton. Timber was one of the earliest industries in Covington County, a county consisting of 665,776 acres of heavily forested timber lands, particularly long-leaf yellow pine. During the initial survey of the L & N railroad land acquisition, P. Habercorn and a Mr. Elbrick noticed the thick growth of huge virgin pine timber. The surrounding land was a veritable continuous forest. In 1901, the large Berry Lumber Company was established in Opp. The Berry Lumber Company Sawmill and Planer operation was located just south of the railroad at the end of Whaley Street. Other lumber companies such as Miller Brent, Poley, Horseshoe Lumber, and Falco, were soon timbering the forests of Covington County, particularly the lands around Opp. In order to accommodate the large number of traveling men who came in the interest of timber and its by-products, Alex Hart erected the large and rambling City Hotel, located on the northern side of East Covington Avenue, on the present side of Kenwin and Virginia's Studio.

W. S. Spurlin had built the first cotton gin shortly after he came to Opp in 1900. Cotton gins were conveniently located adjacent to the railroad. In 1920, M. E. Donaldson moved the family gin from nearby Curtis to a tract of land located near the L & N railroad in Opp. Although the original gin burned in the early 1950s, the present Donaldson Gin, now used as a local recycling center, was constructed in 1953. With the arrival of cotton gins, cotton mills quickly followed. In 1921, a group of progressive citizens founded the Opp Cotton Mills and erected a complex encompassing 35,000 square feet. The buildings were erected on land lying west of the downtown commercial district. When founded, the mill had 5,000 spindles and 160 looms and employed approximately 100 people. Opp Cotton Mills thrived and by 1928, the company had doubled the size of the mill building. Management increased the number of spindles to 10,000, the number of looms to 320, and the payroll to 225. The Opp Cotton Mills proved so successful that in 1924, three local citizens established the Micolas Cotton Mill, a complex that covered 46,577 square feet and contained 190 looms, 7,200 spindles, 22 carding machines. Originally employing a workforce of 100 people, the Micolas Mill expanded in 1928, increasing its number of looms to 238 and its staff to 250.

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Despite the years of the Great Depression in the 1930s, Opp witnessed the arrival of numerous industries and businesses, including car dealerships, motion picture theatres, and furniture stores. One of the leading businesses to emerge in the 1930s was the H. B. Paulk Grocery Company. Paulk, a manager of the Mutual Grocery Company of Geneva, went into business for himself, establishing the present Paulk Grocery Company. He opened his business in its present location on East Covington Street. Additional space for his business was needed after only three years; Paulk subsequently added three additional buildings along East Covington Street, creating a floor space of 52,000 square feet. In 1931, Covington Manor, one of Opp's most important structures, was constructed in the Art Moderne style. A few years later, in 1933, the Opp Municipal Complex was erected. The complex was a Works Progress Administration (W. P. A.) project. In 1937, the J. M. Taylor Automobile Company became Taylor Parts & Supply Company, one of the South's leading automotive-wholesale businesses. The Danley Furniture Company had struggled through the late-twenties; but by 1933, was in a position to open a second store in DeFuniak Springs, Florida. By 1940, the company had put stores in Panama City, Port St. Joe and Marianna, Florida, although its headquarters remained in Opp. Until George Owens opened a movie theatre in 1919, the sole means of entertainment was meeting train No. 27 that rolled through Opp at 7:30 every night. By 1927, Owens had brought talking pictures to the small town and in 1936, he opened the Royal Theater, one of the most modern theatres in the entire southeast. At the end of the decade, in 1939, the U. S. Postal service erected an imposing Colonial Revival building on the town's Main Street.

In 1941, the WPA guide noted that "Opp's population was 2,918 and the city was recognized as a trading and shipping point for a large agricultural area that produced corn and cotton. Pine lumbering is the leading industry." Improvements were made throughout the 1930s to Opp educational facilities with the erection of the Westview Elementary School building. In 1948, a modern school was erected for Opp's African-American children. Until that time, black children had attended a number of small, one-room schools throughout the city limits. The 1948 school building remained open until desegregation in the 1960s. In addition to its schools, Opp's medical and health care facilities improved during the 1940s with the incorporation of the Mizell Memorial Hospital on November 29, 1945. Additional wings were added in 1958, 1965, and 1971.

The 1950s witnessed the creation and expansion of Opp's and Covington County's garment and textile industries. In 1951, A. J. Henderson purchased the company from a group of 15 local men. At that time it was strictly a manufacture of commercial outer-ware garments. In 1953, the plant, originally located on East Hart Avenue, was destroyed by fire. Three months later it re-opened at the location of Cummins Avenue and College Street. At this point the company began its growth which was to see it expand to it's position as one of the largest garment factories in the state of Alabama and among the top ten percent in the entire United States. In 1956, Covington Industries, Inc., was formed. Covington Industries was incorporated exclusively for the purpose of manufacturing garments for the federal government on a contractual basis. In the 1960s, however, the L & N railroad terminated services on the line between Opp and Florala. This line was abandoned in 1971 and the tracks were removed. The line now terminates at Samson in Geneva County, coming from Dothan, Alabama. With these changes, the Opp depot closed in the 1960s.

From the date of their creation, the Opp Cotton Mills and the Micolos Mill had prospered and both companies provided housing for their employees. The Micolos Mill owned 211 houses but in 1958, believing in the pride of home ownership, the houses were sold to the occupants on a 15-year plan at reasonable interest rates. Today, both mill villages still survive, lying west of the downtown commercial district. By 1977, the Micolos Mill occupied approximately 334,000 square feet with 39,908 spindles and 690 looms, employing approximately 650 employees. The two mills occupy 663,614 square feet of floor space and have in production 75,544 spindles and 1198 high sped looms. The electric power used to operate all the production machinery, and the air-conditioning equipment was one and a half times the power used by the entire city of Opp in 1970. As Covington County's largest taxpayer, the mills have a vital role in providing the monies for schools and other government services in the area.

Today, Opp is a prosperous city with the garment and textile industries playing a vital and important part in sustaining the local economy. The downtown commercial district remains the economic, financial, and governmental heart of the city.

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Section 9: Bibliographical References

Bryan, Gus J. and Ruby R. Covington County History 1821-1976. n.d. privately printed.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, various dates. Chadwyck-Healey, New York.

Section 10: Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Opp Commercial Historic District are delineated on the accompanying map, scale 1" = 200 ft.

Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Opp Commercial Historic District were drawn to include as many contributing and to exclude as many non-contributing resources associated with the historic development of the downtown commercial district of the City of Opp. Three residential resources were included in the district. Located on the fringes of the commercial district, these resources reflect the close proximity of residential neighborhoods in the early-20th century to the downtown commercial district.

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The information contained in items 1-5 is the same for all photographs.

1. Opp Commercial Historic District
2. Covington County, Alabama
3. Jeff Mansell
4. June, 1999
5. Negatives on file, Alabama Historical Commission

6. Inv. #20, H. B. Paulk Grocery Main Office, camera facing southeast
7. Photograph #1

6. Inv. #28, Photography Studio, camera facing north
7. Photograph #2

6. Streetscape, West Covington Street, camera facing west/northwest
7. Photograph #3

6. Inv. #55, Covington Manor, camera facing west/northwest
7. Photograph #4

6. Inv. #62, J. M. Jackson Automotive Dealership and Garage, camera facing west/northwest
7. Photograph #5

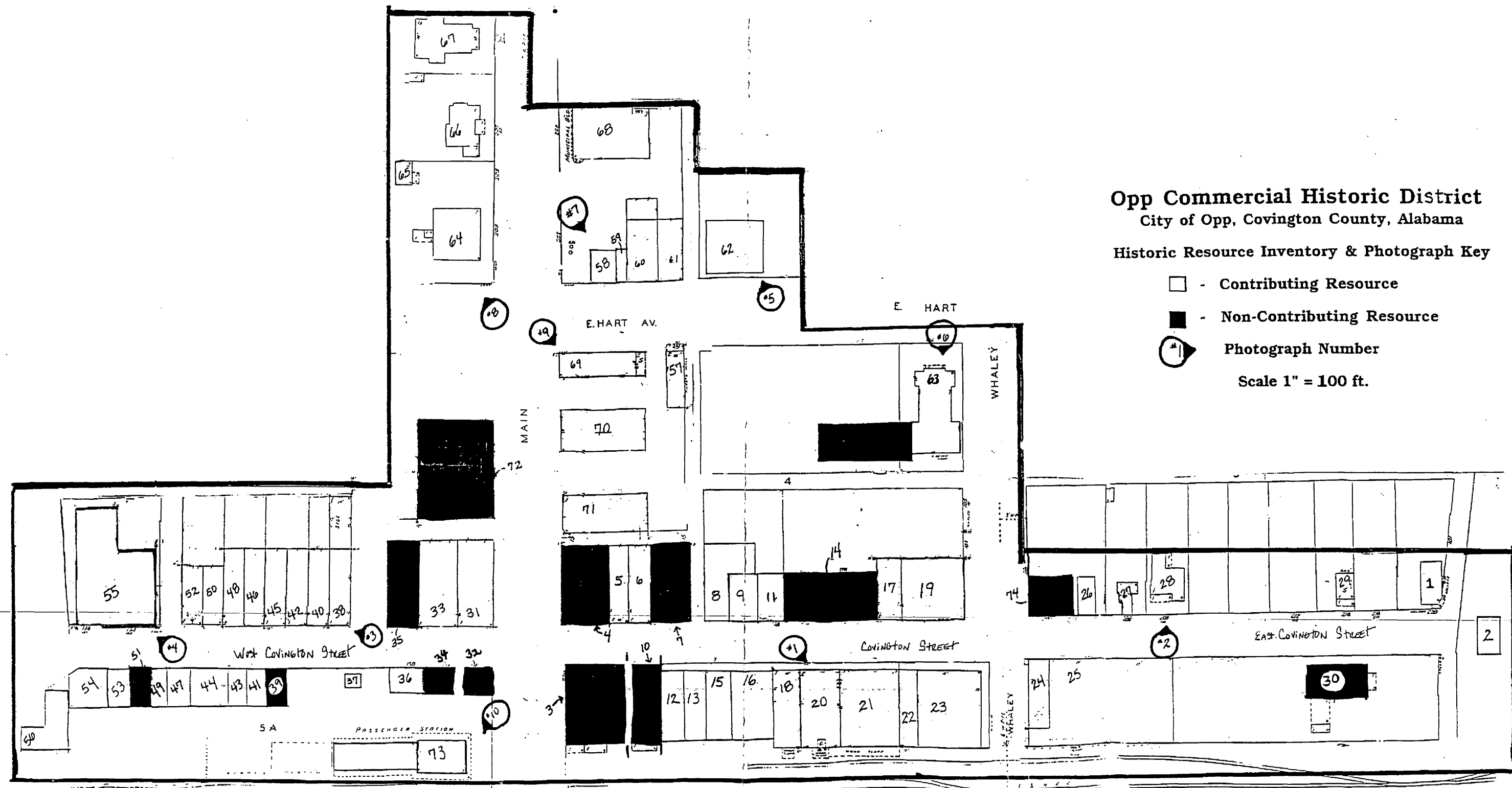
6. Inv. #63, First Baptist Church, camera facing south
7. Photograph #6

6. Inv. #68, City of Opp Municipal Center, camera facing east
7. Photograph #7

6. Inv. #64, Opp Post Office, camera facing west
7. Photograph #8

6. Inv. #69, Dean's Pharmacy, camera facing east/southeast
7. Photograph #9

6. Inv. #73, Alabama and Florida Railroad Depot, camera facing west
7. Photograph #10



Opp Commercial Historic District
 City of Opp, Covington County, Alabama

Historic Resource Inventory & Photograph Key

- Contributing Resource
- Non-Contributing Resource
- Photograph Number

Scale 1" = 100 ft.