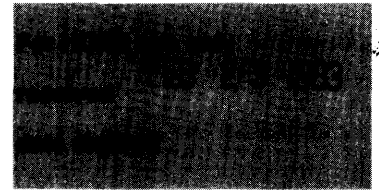


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



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

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

1. Name

historic Pelham Commercial Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

Roughly bounded by ^{RR tracks,} Church, Blythen, Jackson Sts, and Hand Ave.

street & number See continuation sheet N/A not for publication

city, town Pelham N/A vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Georgia code 013 county Mitchell code 205

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Mitchell County Courthouse

city, town Camilla state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pelham Commercial Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic commercial and civic buildings in downtown Pelham. The district is located on a low rise of ground at the center of Pelham's circular city limits. City streets in the district are laid out in a slightly irregular gridiron pattern, creating long, narrow blocks. These blocks are largely subdivided into long, narrow, rectangular lots fronting onto the principal streets and backing up to alleys or service courts. Buildings on these lots are for the most part one or two story masonry commercial structures dating from the late nineteenth to the early twentieth century. They are densely grouped within the district and share party walls and common setbacks from the streets. Styles of architecture represented in the district include Italianate, Victorian Eclectic, Commercial, Renaissance Revival, and Beaux-Arts. Brick, the principal building material, is used structurally and decoratively in foundations, piers, load-bearing walls, pilasters, spandrel panels, parapets, segmental arches, string courses, and corbeled cornices. It is complemented by cast-iron columns and plate glass in storefronts, and stone, terra-cotta, pressed metal, and wood detailing. Some buildings feature interior timber frames; others retain their historic wood, plaster, and pressed metal finishes. At the northern edge of the district is the Hand Trading Company, an extraordinary four-story concrete-framed commercial-style building featuring extensive terra-cotta and brick exterior detailing and a four-story interior atrium capped by a dome with copper-framed glass skylights. To the west of this building are the Carnegie Library of Pelham and one of Pelham's two brick railroad depots. Pelham's second railroad depot, now used for city offices, is located along the eastern edge of the district. Low brick warehouses occupy the western part of the district. A historic hotel anchors the district's southwest corner. A few non-contributing buildings are located in the district, and some storefronts and front facades have been remodeled.

Boundary

The boundary of the Pelham Commercial Historic District is described by a heavy black line on the attached maps. It circumscribes the contiguous historic commercial downtown of Pelham. To the east and west new commercial development separates the district from historic residential neighborhoods. A corridor of recent commercial development extends to the north. On the south is located an area of non-historic warehouses.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Location

Item number 2

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Pelham Commercial Historic District, located in Pelham, Mitchell County, Georgia, is an area in the central business district bounded approximately by the Seaboard Coast Line railroad tracks on the east, Jackson Street on the south, Church Street and Blythe Street on the west, and Hand Avenue on the north.

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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

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

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pelham Commercial Historic District is historically significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, and community planning and development. It meets National Register Criteria A, B, and C.

Community Planning and Development

In terms of community planning and development, the district is significant as a representative example of the small commercial centers that developed along the railroad tracks during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the Wiregrass region of southwest Georgia. These commercial centers were founded to meet naval stores, timber, agricultural, and industrial needs, and they became the focal points for developing communities in this previously unsettled part of the state. Pelham grew up around a flag station on the South Georgia and Florida Railroad which was completed through the area in 1868. The town is somewhat unique in its association with one powerful individual who served as its principal developer and virtually controlled its growth. Judson L. Hand (1851-1916) arrived in Pelham in 1872, soon after the railroad, setting up a saw-mill which grew into one of the largest naval stores operations in southwest Georgia. As Pelham's first mayor, leading businessman and chief promoter, he was responsible for donating land for the first church and school, and having the town (incorporated in 1881) platted and auctioned off in lots (in 1883). A commissary established by Hand in 1876 developed into a prosperous agricultural furnishing company which further expanded into the Hand Trading Company, said to be the world's largest rural department store. Hand was the town's major employer and benefactor who donated the land and much of the money to make possible the Carnegie Library. His influence completely colored Pelham's development. Its historic commercial area has grown little since his death in 1916.

Commerce

In terms of commerce, the district is significant as the commercial center of Pelham and the surrounding countryside since its settlement in the last third of the nineteenth century. The district served as the center for such day-to-day commercial activities as wholesaling and retailing, banking, professional services, hotel accommodations, and entertainment, and it included the offices and warehouse of Pelham's cotton factors. The district also contained Pelham's leading civic facilities such as City Hall and the Carnegie Library, and its two railroad depots with their freight and passenger services. The district's commercial significance is highlighted by the Hand Trading Company, an extraordinary commercial emporium in southwest Georgia.

Architecture

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its fine collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and civic buildings that represents

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 13 acres
 Quadrangle name (1) Camilla, Georgia Quadrangle scale 1:24000
(2) Pelham, Georgia

UMT References

A	1 6	7 7 1 5 8 0	3 4 4 7 0 1 0	B	1 6	7 7 1 6 3 0	3 4 4 6 7 8 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 6	7 7 1 3 2 0	3 4 4 6 6 0 0	D	1 6	7 7 1 3 0 0	3 4 4 6 7 5 0
E	1 6	7 7 1 4 1 0	3 4 4 6 7 5 0	F	1 6	7 7 1 3 8 0	3 4 4 7 0 0 0
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification: The boundary is described by a heavy black line on the enclosed sketch map and is justified in Section 7.

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 Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher
Historic Preservation Section
 organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date January 18, 1983
 street & number 270 Washington Street, S. W. telephone 404-656-2840
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 title State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/7/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Delores Byers</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>3/24/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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

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

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

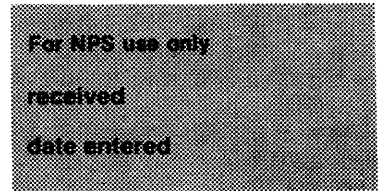
Item number 8

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prevailing design principles and construction practices of the time. Popular styles such as the Italianate, Victorian Eclectic, Commercial, Renaissance Revival, and Beaux-Arts are well represented. The use of brick, both structurally and decoratively, in conjunction with cast iron, stone, terra cotta, pressed metal, and wood, is characteristic of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture in Georgia. This architectural repertoire is a fine example of what could be accomplished by designers and contractors working within a range of building materials, designs, and techniques during this period, and it represents the way in which high-style architecture was locally interpreted in small Georgia cities. Highlighting Pelham's historic commercial architecture is the Hand Trading Company, an extraordinary example of early twentieth century Commercial-style architecture, built in 1916 by Walker and Chase, a firm of Atlanta architects. The Neoclassically styled Carnegie Library, constructed in 1908, is the most outstanding of Pelham's civic buildings.

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical Reference Item number 9

Page 2

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Dixon, Sandra. Historic District Information Form: Pelham Commercial District. May, 1982. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

Hand, J. L., Interviewed by Sandra Dixon in Pelham, May 2, 1982.

Pelham Journal. City of Pelham, Georgia Centennial. Pelham, Georgia.

Rogers, Marion D. The Building of A Town. Tallahassee, Florida: Rose Printing Company, 1976.

PELHAM COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
91 Pelham, Mitchell County, Georgia

SKETCH MAP

North: ↑

131 Scale: 0 100'

Boundary of Historic District: —

Non-historic structure: ○

Intrusion: X

False facade: ~~~

Demolished Structure: X

97 Photograph and direction of view: ↗

