

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



280

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Summerville Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Centered around Commerce St., Georgia Ave., and Washington Ave.

☐ not for publication

city or town Summerville

☐ vicinity

state Georgia code GA county Chattooga code 055 zip code 30747

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Richard Crass

3-22-12

Signature of certifying official Title: Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
57	20	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
60	20	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

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: city hall, post office, courthouse,
correctional facility

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional,
financial institution, specialty store, department
store, warehouse

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related, road-related

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility, waterworks

HEALTH CARE: medical business/office

RECREATION: theater, auditorium

LANDSCAPE: natural feature

SOCIAL: meeting hall

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, hotel

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: city hall, post office, courthouse,
correctional facility, government office

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional,
financial institution, specialty store, restaurant,
warehouse

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related, road-related

HEALTH CARE: medical business/office

RECREATION: sports facility, auditorium

LANDSCAPE: natural feature

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Renaissance

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Classical Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Italian Renaissance

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Commercial Style

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: BRICK, CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

WEATHERBOARD

roof: ASPHALT

other: STONE

METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Summerville Commercial Historic District encompasses about eight blocks in downtown Summerville, the county seat of Chattooga County in rural northwest Georgia. The area is relatively flat, located between a series of ridges. Town Creek flows through the district. Downtown streets form a gridiron pattern with some deviation near the railroad. The railroad line itself, which came through in 1888, forms part of the eastern boundary of the district. U.S. Highway 27 in Summerville follows the western route of the historic Dixie Highway, established as one of the first transcontinental roads. It came through Summerville in the late 1920s. The majority of contributing buildings are one- and two-story brick stores and other commercial establishments constructed between the 1890s and 1963. Many buildings are attached with uniform setbacks along the sidewalks. The district is anchored by three important buildings – the 1909 Chattooga County Courthouse, the 1937 U.S. Post Office, and the 1918 depot built by the Central of Georgia Railroad. A significant commercial building is the large, two-story corner building that housed Arrington Drug Company. Built in 1894, it features brick pilasters, brick corbelling, and intricate brick details in the cornice. Two former theaters date from the early 20th century. The 1953 Farmers and Merchants Bank building is a good example of Modern architecture. There is also a 1959 jail and sheriff's office. The last major commercial building was a 1963 Western Auto store. The district has a few historic warehouses and wholesale businesses near the tracks, including the 1920 brick Taylor Mercantile Company. The Montgomery Knitting Mills property includes a historic water tower. Another resource is the site of "Big Spring," known today as Willow Spring, which was one reason for the establishment of a town on this location. Water still pours from the underground spring, which is now the location of a small park. While the district is primarily commercial, the oldest building is the c.1880 Moyers house, a small wood-framed Central Hallway Cottage. This reflects the fact that the downtown area was once partially residential.

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

Narrative Description

Note: Portions of the following description were written by Bamby Ray (then Ray & Associates, consultants) as part of a draft "Summerville Commercial Historic District" National Register of Historic Places Registration Form dated August, 2008, on file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.

Summerville has been the county seat of Chattooga County since just after the county's founding in 1838. The Summerville Commercial Historic District includes the downtown commercial area, which functions as the historic retail, business, and government center for the county. Also included is an area near the railroad, which has the historic depot and other rail-related buildings such as warehouses. Dates of contributing buildings in the district range from c.1880 to 1963, but most date from the first half of the 20th century. The town of Summerville was established in 1839 and was first laid out in a gridiron pattern by D.C. Hunter in 1840. No historic resources remain from this era, but the town continues to use the original street grid in its downtown core. The first buildings included the county courthouse and jail, both of which were replaced by successor buildings. The commercial district grew up around these anchors and the railroad, which arrived in the late 1880s to the east of the central business district.

The town is located near the center of Chattooga County, a sparsely populated rural county in the northwest corner of Georgia. Downtown Summerville is relatively flat, although surrounded by hills and ridges. In 1839 several spots were considered for the location of the county seat, but Summerville may have been chosen because it was the site of an excellent spring. Big Spring (or later Cleghorn Spring), known today as Willow Spring, lies within the northern boundary of the historic district and is noted on Hunter's 1840 map. Water still pours from the underground spring (photograph 9), which is now the centerpiece of a small park (the only park in the district). The spring was uncovered in 2001 after years of neglect, and is considered a contributing resource to the district (listed as a site). Water from the spring becomes Town Creek as it flows through the town, eventually joining the Chattooga River.

The main commercial area lies along Commerce Street, part of U.S. Highway 27, also known as Martha Berry Highway (photographs 2, 4 and 29). This was also part of the historic Dixie Highway. Along with Washington Avenue, Commerce Street is the widest street downtown. The intersection of Commerce and Washington is the heart of the district (photograph 8). This is where the county courthouse has always been located. Summerville does not have a delineated town square, as is the tradition in most county seats in Georgia. Instead, the courthouse sits at a corner facing the two most prominent streets, with major entrances at both streets. Most of the larger (two-story) commercial buildings are also near this corner (photograph 6).

Using Darlene Roth's *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types* (1989), Summerville fits into the category of "crossroads towns with railroads." The town formed at the convergence of two older roads. The railroad postdates the founding, so that the orientation of the town is not toward the railroad. Summerville's rail line lies away from the main center of town, and skirts the east side of the previously developed grid. Yet, according to Roth's description, in this type of town "the railroad is an important part of the physical development or patterning of the layout of the town and usually accounts for the development of a set of railroad related structures – depot, warehouses, freight sidings, service buildings, even backtracks and switching tracks."

The Summerville Commercial Historic District is anchored by three important buildings that each has a high degree of integrity -- the 1909 Chattooga County Courthouse, the 1918 Central of Georgia Depot and the 1937 United States Post Office. The present courthouse is the focal point of the community (photographs 1 and 8). It is the second or third one on its site, which was designated for that purpose in the original plat map of 1840. The first courthouse may have been a log building, but sometime in the 1840s James Hitchcock built

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

a brick courthouse. By 1909 a new courthouse was needed. The cube-like two-story design by the Bryan Architectural Firm of St. Louis, Missouri, reflects the popular use of the Neoclassical Revival style in large public buildings. The contractor was Falls City Construction Company. Concrete block is the main building material, covered with a granite facing. There are grand porticos on three sides, each with four Corinthian columns and a highly decorated pediment. The domed clock tower rises above the center in three stages. The courthouse was listed in the National Register in 1980 as part of the thematic nomination "County Courthouses in Georgia."

The Summerville Depot lies between the railroad and Town Creek on East Washington Avenue (photograph 11). The present building is the third depot in its location. The first was probably built shortly after the railroad came to Summerville in 1888. Documents indicate that it was replaced with a "very simple and very small" depot in 1897. That building burned in 1917, and the present depot was constructed the following year. It is an excellent example of a combination railroad passenger and freight depot built by the Central of Georgia Railroad. The one-story frame building has a rectangular shape, weatherboard siding, and a hipped roof with wide eaves. It has been rehabilitated and retains a high degree of integrity with intact ticket rooms, passenger waiting rooms, and a large freight room at the north end. The building now serves as the headquarters of the Chattooga County Historical Society, and was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 19, 1992. The adjacent railroad line is considered a contributing structure in the Summerville Commercial Historic District.

Summerville's post office was once located in the block north of the courthouse, but in 1937 a new facility was built along Commerce Street south of Georgia Avenue. This contributing building still serves as the town's post office (photograph 28). The square one-story building has a brick veneer exterior with a five-bay symmetrical façade and a cupola extending from the center of the roof. It is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style in a small government building. Constructed under the Public Works Administration, it has a cornerstone indicating that Louis A. Simon was the supervising architect. Builders were Beers Construction Company and Ray M. Lee Company of Atlanta. The lobby contains a mural painted by Doris Lee in 1939, entitled "Georgia Countryside," which was commissioned by the Section of Fine Arts in the Procurement Division of the U.S. Treasury Department. While 33 paintings were commissioned for post offices in Georgia during the New Deal, this is one of the few that remains intact in its original setting.

In its early years, the downtown area of Summerville was partially residential, reflecting the fact that it was a small town of approximately 350 persons in 1870. As Summerville grew during the first half of the 20th century, downtown became almost exclusively commercial, and it retains that commercial character. The only residences within the historic district today are a small set of apartments that were built in 1939 on Commerce Street just south of Georgia Avenue (photograph 3), and three houses behind them at 91 Georgia Avenue. Two former residences on Economy Street behind the post office now serve other purposes. The c.1880 Moyers house once stood where the post office is now. This Central Hallway Cottage (photograph 13) was moved a short distance c.1937 in order to make a lot available for the post office. Because the move occurred during the period of significance, this is a contributing building.

The majority of the buildings in the district are one-story brick stores built after 1920. A few two-story buildings anchor important corners or other areas. Most buildings are contributing to the district (57 out of a total of 77 buildings), although there have been various alterations. The most common changes are new storefront windows. Some buildings have been painted, and many have awnings of some kind. Most are plain with no distinct architectural style, but there are a few elements of several late 19th- or early 20th-century styles, such as revivals of Italian Renaissance or classical motifs typical for commercial buildings.

Along Commerce Street, almost all the buildings are attached. They directly abut the sidewalk, which is concrete with granite curbing. There is no vegetation or landscaping in front of the commercial properties on Commerce Street. Historic photographs show that small trees once lined portions of Commerce Street and

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

the courthouse grounds in the 1950s and earlier. On the north end of Commerce Street, the sidewalk is raised above the street level with a series of wide steps (photograph 20).

The two-story brick building on the corner of Commerce Street and Washington Avenue north of the courthouse was built in 1894 as a pharmacy, replacing a building dating from the 1840s. Known as the Arrington Drug Company building (later the Jackson Drug Company), it is the second oldest contributing building in the district. It features a decorative cornice and a corner pediment with the name "Arrington" (photograph 6). The adjacent building to the north was constructed two years later in 1896 and for many years it was a hardware store. Today it serves as a gymnasium.

The two-story c.1920 Selman-McGinnis Drug Company, located on Commerce Street to the south of the courthouse, was another pharmacy that operated as a family business for several decades (photograph 15, far right). Further south on the same block is another two-story building, originally built in 1917 as the Summerville Inn (photographs 14 and 16, center). It later served as a hospital from 1927 until 1948 (the first public hospital in Chattooga County). Sometime in the 1960s, it was converted to a commercial building and covered with a metal "slipcover" and awning on the front, along with a glass and aluminum storefront. For this reason, the former inn/hospital is considered noncontributing.

The former Montgomery Knitting Mill is a contributing building dating from 1928. It once housed an important industry on Commerce Street that employed many local residents. The windows were bricked-in as part of a 1941 remodeling and expansion (photograph 24). The water tower behind the mill is a contributing structure. The contributing building to the north of the mill that now houses "Pop's Place" restaurant was once a Ford dealership, and still retains its large showroom windows (photograph 25, right).

There were two contributing buildings in downtown Summerville that were once theaters. The Royal Theater at the northeast corner of Commerce Street and Georgia Avenue was built in 1927. It closed after the larger Tooga Theater opened in 1947 on the north end of Commerce Street (photograph 7). The Tooga is now the Dandee Denson Shrine Auditorium.

There are a few example of mid-20th-century architecture downtown. One that is notable is the Farmers & Merchants Bank on the corner of Commerce Street and Washington Avenue, which served the community for many years beginning in 1953 (photographs 21 and 22). This starkly modern two-story building (with Moderne elements) stands in contrast to the more traditional buildings around it. In 1959, a new jail and sheriff's office were constructed next to the courthouse using inmate labor. The sheriff's office resembles a ranch house with an attached two-story jail section (photograph 19). Behind it is the current ("new") jail, a noncontributing building constructed in the 1970s.

The current city hall was constructed in 1955 using the designs of the Atlanta firm of Ayers and Godwin (photograph 17). The building was remodeled and expanded in the mid-1970s. The pitched roof was added in 2003, but it retains enough integrity to be contributing to the district. The building that is now the Chattooga County Courthouse Annex was constructed as a Western Auto Store in 1963, replacing an earlier store (photograph 18). This was the last major retail store built in the downtown area. Western Auto was a chain store that sold replacement auto parts, but evolved into general retail merchandise such as hand tools, small appliances, and guns. The building still has its character-defining plate-glass storefront and metal awning, and is a reflection of the commercial architecture of its period.

Economy Street, which is one block east of Commerce Street, marks a change in the character of the historic district. On Economy Street and along the railroad tracks near the eastern boundary of the district the buildings are primarily warehouses and wholesalers and a former mule barn. With the exception of the 1920 Taylor Mercantile Company/Echols Plumbing/Western Union building (photograph 12) across the railroad tracks from the depot, most of these buildings were constructed after World War II. The historic district boundary is drawn to exclude two or three that were built after the mid-1960s. A former glove factory from

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

1947 is on the south end of Economy Street, and a former mattress factory faces 1st Avenue on the north side. Both are contributing buildings.

There are two contributing gas stations in the district. The oldest is the former Standard Oil station near the post office, dating to c.1935 (photographs 26 and 27). Another station, located on the northeast corner of Commerce Street and 1st Avenue, appears to date to the 1950s.

In addition to noncontributing resources mentioned in previous paragraphs, there are two banks dating from the 1970s, one on Washington Avenue at Economy Street, and one on Commerce Street at 1st Avenue. Other noncontributing buildings include a few older stores that have been significantly altered (for example the second building from the left in photograph 10 and the "Wearable Art" building in the middle of photograph 6). Overall, the district has good integrity, and still reflects its historic character as the county seat and commercial center.

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

TRANSPORTATION

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1880-1963

Significant Dates

1888-first railroad arrived

1909-construction of present courthouse

1918-construction of present depot

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bryan Architectural Firm, St. Louis, Missouri

Ayers and Godwin, Atlanta, Georgia

Falls City Construction Company

Beers Construction Company

Simon, Louis A., supervising architect of the U. S.

Treasury Department

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins c.1880 with the construction of the first buildings that are still extant in the district. It ends with the construction of the last major commercial building, the 1963 Western Auto Store (now the courthouse annex). This period represents the major commercial activity that spanned several decades in downtown Summerville.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Summerville Commercial Historic District is being nominated at the local level of significance under Criteria A and C for its role as the center of commerce, transportation and government for Chattooga County and the surrounding area. The town of Summerville was established in 1839 as the county seat of Chattooga County. Major growth was spurred by the arrival of the railroad in 1888. The town soon became a shipping center for chert, iron ore, and logs, as well as farm produce. The Summerville Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of architecture for its representative collection of commercial and government buildings that reflect design and construction traditions commonly found in Georgia towns. Most retail establishments date from the 1920s and later and retain their historic integrity. There are also a few significant earlier buildings, such as the large corner Arrington Building (c.1894) with its decorative brick cornice and Italianate details. Other good examples of architectural styles include the 1937 Colonial Revival-style post office and the 1909 Neoclassical Revival-style courthouse. In the area of commerce, Summerville's significance derives from its role as the historic commercial center of Chattooga County. Typically the county seat filled this role and provided for the day-to-day commercial needs of nearby rural residents, such as retail stores and offices and professional services. As the county seat, Summerville is also significant in politics/government for the presence of buildings directly related to activities and events associated with local county government, such as the courthouse and jail. The district is significant in the area of transportation for the role of the railroad and the depot (1918), which served both passengers and commerce until the 1950s. It is also significant for automobile transportation related to the Dixie Highway (U.S. Highway 27). This road was widely viewed as a way of spurring growth in the communities along its route.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Summerville Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of commerce at the local level because as the central business district, it represents the town as the focal point of commercial activity in Chattooga County. The downtown was historically the primary location for the trading, buying, and selling of goods, services, and commodities on a local and countywide basis. The intact historic commercial buildings are representative of all types of commerce that contributed to the town's economy throughout its history. By the 1890s some of the commerce was also related to the railroad line with its depot on the edge of downtown, allowing for commercial activities associated with both passengers and freight. Automobile-related businesses, such as the c.1935 service station at Commerce Street and Georgia Avenue, were also built along the Dixie Highway (Commerce Street in Summerville).

Through the 20th century, the economic focus changed from the trading of agricultural products to more diverse retail and service industries. The Arrington Drug Company building (1894) anchors the prominent

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

corner of Commerce and Washington streets and is a good example of commercial architecture. For many years, it co-existed with the nearby McGinnis Drug Company, and the two businesses took turns being open on Sundays afternoons. These pharmacies also had soda fountains, and sold cosmetics and sundries. The one- and two-story brick buildings along Commerce Street represent the mercantile, professional, and banking businesses that were historically found in Georgia's cities.

Commercial centers like Summerville generally featured a range of retail stores (general merchandise, dry goods, groceries, drug stores, millenaries, apparel/clothing, service/gas stations), offices and professional services (including banks, lawyers, doctors), wholesale establishments and warehouses (warehouses, offices), artisans, mechanics, and tradespeople (liveries, blacksmiths, automobile repair), entertainment and other services (restaurants, theaters, hotels), and communications-related services (post office, telegraph office, telephone exchange, newspaper office/press). Saturday was once a busy day in Summerville when rural farmers would come to town to do their shopping, banking, and socializing. Historic photographs also show residents from surrounding communities and rural areas coming into Summerville in large numbers for special events such as the county fair, the 4th of July parade, Christmas shopping, and festivals related to the rodeo.

Extant historic buildings in the Summerville Commercial Historic District represent many of these historic commercial activities. One example is the Farmers and Merchants Bank constructed in 1953 at the important intersection of Commerce Street and Washington Avenue. Another is the Tooga Theater, a relatively large theater built in 1947 that provided more seating than the older Royal Theater (1927). These and other historic buildings, along with the commercial activity they represent, reflect the economic development and prosperity of the community and its surrounding region. Of special note locally was Frank Prince's Western Auto Store that operated for several decades in two different locations. It sold a variety of general merchandise before large "big box" retailers appeared on the outskirts of town.

The Summerville Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of politics and government at the local level as the county seat of Chattooga County and because of the presence of buildings directly related to activities and events associated with county government. Georgia's General Assembly incorporated Summerville and made it the county seat of the newly created Chattooga County in 1839. The street grid was laid out by D.C. Hunter in 1840 near the site of a spring, including specific lots already designated for a courthouse and jail.

Throughout much of Georgia's history, the county has been the most important and powerful form of local government. County governments made and enforced laws (through county commissioners, sheriffs, and judges), and provided essential public services including building and maintaining roads, water and sewer systems, and sometimes electrical and/or gas systems. They were responsible for administering important aspects of the legal system including courts, birth and death records, taxes, wills and probate, and property deeds. Through county school boards, they provided for public education throughout the county. County commissioners, sheriffs, and judges traditionally are the most important local political figures. In Summerville, county government is represented by the Chattooga County Courthouse (1909), located in the middle of the commercial area. Summerville's current city hall was constructed in 1955 at a site near the courthouse. The 1959 sheriff's office and jail are also nearby. The 1937 post office represents the role of the federal government in Summerville.

The Summerville Commercial Historic District is significant in architecture at the local level for its good collection of relatively intact early to mid-20th-century (mostly commercial) buildings that represent prevailing design and construction traditions of small cities and towns in Georgia. Several periods of architecture are represented in the buildings in the district. Most dates of construction tend to reflect Summerville's greatest period of growth and development between 1920 and 1950. While most buildings are relatively plain with no

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

distinct style, design influences in the district include elements of late Victorian styles and classical influences. A few Italianate features such as decorative cornices and round-arched upper windows can be seen on Commerce Street. There are also a couple of examples of modernism, such as the Farmers and Merchants Bank (1953) and the former Western Auto Store, now the courthouse annex (1963).

Blocks of attached commercial buildings along Commerce Street range in height from one to two stories. Character-defining features include party walls; simple rectangular forms; common setbacks fronting directly on the sidewalk; first-floor storefronts (some with large display windows), upper-floor windows (some with segmental or rounded arches) on the few two-story examples; parapet rooflines with cornices or recessed panels; and the use of architectural ornament primarily on the front walls. A good example of a larger building is the prominent Arrington Drug Company building. The use of brick, both structurally and decoratively, also is characteristic of the way in which these kinds of commercial buildings were built during these periods in small Georgia cities. If these buildings had architects, their names are not known.

The Neoclassical Revival-style Chattooga County Courthouse (1909) is an architectural focal point for Summerville, and one of the most ambitious buildings in Chattooga County. The Bryan Architectural Firm of St. Louis, Missouri, designed it based on a similar courthouse in the southeast Georgia town of Baxley. The Chattooga County Board of Roads and Revenue had requested this design based on a visit to Baxley. The Summerville Depot (1918) is a good example of sturdy utilitarian architecture with a design intended for the pragmatic use of space for passengers and freight. It was built by the Central of Georgia Railroad. As one of the few wooden buildings downtown, it was similar to many early 20th-century depots and also represented the optimism of new opportunities for the emerging town of Summerville.

The federal government architecture of the Great Depression is represented by the Colonial Revival-style post office (1937). Communities throughout the United States have post offices that were built in the late 1930s or early 1940s as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs. The federal Public Works Administration was responsible for the construction of over 60 of these post offices in Georgia. Because they were based on standardized architectural plans, many tended to have very similar façades and floor plans. The Colonial Revival was a popular style for the smaller post offices.

The Summerville Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of transportation at the local level of significance for the railroad-related activities that occurred during the historic period and for the enhancement of the city's role as a commercial, agricultural, and rail-related center in Chattooga County and the surrounding area. The arrival of the railroad in 1888 was a catalyst for growth. It served both passengers and freight until the 1950s. The extant passenger and freight depot built in 1918 by the Central of Georgia Railroad represents the commercial success that Summerville experienced in the early 20th century. The railroad's role is also represented by the concentration of warehouses and light industrial development near the rail lines, as well as the rail lines themselves. The railroad was responsible for the city's role as a transfer point for minerals taken from the nearby mountains. The Summerville Commercial Historic District is also significant for automobile transportation related to the Dixie Highway (U.S. Highway 27). This road was widely viewed as a way of spurring growth and tourism along its route, and it did result in the construction of gas stations and other automobile related businesses along Commerce Street.

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Note: The following historical narrative was written by Bamby Ray (then Ray & Associates, consultants) as part of a draft "Summerville Commercial Historic District" National Register of Historic Places Registration Form dated August, 2008, on file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division (HPD). An addendum was provided in a letter dated September 2, 2009. The text was edited by HPD staff.

Chattooga County was established December 28, 1838, when Governor George R. Gilmer signed legislation creating the county from the southern portion of Walker County and the northern portion of Floyd County.¹ The justices of the county's new inferior court were empowered to select the site of the county seat, purchase the necessary land, divide it into lots, sell those lots, and use the proceeds to build a courthouse and jail. On December 21, 1839, the state's General Assembly incorporated Summerville and made it the permanent county seat. The town was originally chartered as Selma, but changed its name to Summerville on March 11, 1840.

Three locations for the county seat had been considered, but the deciding factor was probably "Big Spring," now known as Willow Spring, in Summerville. Although there were several other springs in the area, this one was known for reliably producing excellent water. Another factor in the selection of this site was the owner of the spring who, according to local history, offered free use of the spring as a water supply for the town. This was General John F. Beavers, who on March 23, 1839, sold the county 90 acres for \$20 an acre.² The Summerville Commercial Historic District is located in the eastern third of this land.

John Fluker Beavers is referred to as the "Father of Summerville" by county historian Robert Baker. Beavers, an early (1834) settler in the Chattooga County area, was a farmer and one of the prime movers in the creation of Chattooga County. When the county was formed, he was the largest landowner and was also active in civic and political affairs. Beavers left Georgia in 1853, moving to Texas where he remained for the rest of his life.³

When Summerville was laid out, the main street, Commerce Street was made wide enough to accommodate white mulberry trees planted down the center. This was the brainchild of David Taylor, Jr., another early resident of Summerville. The intention was to establish a silk culture industry, and the trees were planted on both sides of the road as well as the center, giving welcome shade in the summer, but no revenue. They were eventually removed, and replaced by telephone poles.⁴

Chattooga County grew rapidly in the 1840s, and by 1850 Summerville had a population of 248. In 1849 it was reported that the town had "a handsome brick court-house, jail, two hotels, five dry goods stores, two or three churches, one or two schools."⁵ None of those buildings remain standing today, but the original gridiron street plan is intact. By 1850 the county already had an intricate system of roads, but it remained largely agricultural up to and beyond the Civil War.

¹ Robert S. Baker, *Chattooga: The Story of a County and Its People*, p. 42.

² Ibid. p. 44.

³ Ibid. pp. 33-35.

⁴ *The Heritage of Chattooga County, Georgia 1838-2006*. Waynesville, N.C.: County Heritage, Inc., 2006, p. 14.

⁵ George White, *Statistics of the State of Georgia* (1849), quoted in "Chattooga County History."

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

The Civil War and the years afterward marked a low period for Summerville and Chattooga County. The town was occupied by Union forces in 1863 and their presence continued on and off for the rest of the war. After the war, poverty was the rule, and it took until 1870 for Summerville to approach its 1860 population of 350. The making of moonshine and bootlegging were profitable, and lawlessness and violence were the result. The town was reincorporated in 1874, but the half mile boundaries were not enlarged at that time.

The path to some minimal prosperity began slowly in the 1880s but was given a boost by the arrival of the Chattanooga, Rome and Columbus Railroad (Chattanooga, Rome, and Southern in 1897, then Central of Georgia in 1901), which was completed through Summerville in 1888. This line connected northwest Georgia to Columbus via Rome. A depot was constructed in 1897. It burned in 1917 and was replaced by the current depot in 1918. The railroad would prove vital for transporting people and freight, as industry began to be as important as agriculture.

At the turn of the 20th century, economic conditions were improving in Summerville and the county was moving away from its original agricultural base. Attempts were made to mine different types of minerals and rocks in nearby mountains, and the mining of chert proved to be the most profitable. According to a 1901 article in the *Summerville News*, Summerville had shipped 100 cars of chert to other sections of the county and had also shipped 150 cars of iron ore and 65 cars of logs. It was also becoming a shipping center for peaches, strawberries, and apples.⁶ The Chattooga County Bank was formed in 1905, and the Summerville Cotton Mills were organized by John D. Taylor in 1906. Textile mills brought a new spurt of growth to the town, with the population increasing to 1,003 by 1920.⁷

In 1906 the *Summerville News* began suggesting that a new courthouse was needed in Summerville, and a \$55,000 bond issue was proposed in December 1908. The Board of Roads and Revenue, who were in charge of the project, saw the new Appling County Courthouse and were so impressed that they returned and ordered plans identical to that building. The new Neoclassical Revival-style courthouse was designed by the Bryan Architectural Firm of St. Louis, Missouri. The cornerstone was laid on July 15, 1909 and the building was completed two months later.⁸

Several of the buildings constructed in the 1920s are still in existence. The Taylor Mercantile Company/Echols Plumbing/Western Union Building on East Washington Avenue across the railroad tracks from the depot is a good example. It originally served as the warehouse for the Taylor Mercantile Company, and was where they stored everything - including caskets.⁹ Another building originally dating from the 1920s is the Montgomery Knitting Mill building on Commerce Street. The mill was chartered in 1927, and opened on February 1, 1928 with 12 knitting machines. It was very successful, and in 1941 they expanded the building to the south. At the same time the front of the original mill building was remodeled, and the windows were bricked-in. The mill continued to prosper until a downturn in the 1960s that led to its closing at the end of 1977.¹⁰

The Dixie Highway runs through Summerville as U.S. Highway 27. One of the first multi-state routes, it ran from Michigan to Florida through Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The Dixie Highway was an outgrowth of the "good roads movement" when the country's roads were in deplorable condition, and new roads were seen as a way of promoting automobile tourism and

⁶ Cook, *History*, p. 128.

⁷ "Chattooga County History."

⁸ Baker, *Chattooga*, pp. 106-108.

⁹ Strickland, Steven, email to Nell Farrar, dated May 2, 2008.

¹⁰ Baker, *Chattooga*, p. 669-671.

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

economic development. At an organizational meeting of the Dixie Highway Association in 1915, the concept of separate branches was agreed upon to placate representatives from Southern states who wanted what they perceived as a way of spurring growth in their communities. Therefore there is an eastern and a western route through north Georgia between Chattanooga and Atlanta. Summerville lies on the western route.¹¹ The end of World War I provided an impetus toward completion. A "passable" route over the whole length was established but the route was not paved until 1929.¹² The portion of the highway that runs through Summerville was paved even later (c.1933) according to Robert Baker. Unfortunately for Summerville, more tourists would pass through the eastern route which had more roadside attractions and Civil War sites, as well as the motor courts and gas stations that came with automobile travel.

When the new Summerville post office was built in 1937, the c.1880 George Jacob (Jake) Moyers House, which occupied the site, was moved some 100 feet to a location behind the post office. It is the oldest extant building in the historic district. (Moyers had been a tanner and a "great proponent of temperance".¹³)

Summerville's population grew steadily after 1930, reaching 1,358 by 1940, and 3,973 in 1950. Summerville was on the route of the Greyhound bus line, which stopped at the McGinnis Drugstore until a bus depot was constructed on West Washington Street in 1949. (This building has been significantly altered and is outside the district boundaries.) For many years there were as many as 12 buses (6 northbound and 6 southbound) going through Summerville every day.

There was considerable building activity in Summerville in the years following World War II. As the town grew, residential development moved outward and the downtown area became increasingly commercial. The growth of the town resulted in the need for new public buildings. A new jail and sheriff's office was built next to the courthouse in 1959. Before that time, the sheriff lived at the jail. He and his family occupied an upstairs apartment, and the sheriff's wife cooked food for the prisoners.¹⁴

After the railroad ceased passenger service through Summerville in 1950, freight service also declined. Downtown became less of a retail hub with the growth of suburbs and shopping centers outside the central business district. By the mid-1960s, the Summerville Commercial Historic District area had most of the buildings that it has today. The activities of city and county government continue to be a major reason for people to come downtown, even though most retail services have moved elsewhere.

¹¹ The Society for Commercial Archeology, "Drivin' the Dixie: Automobile Tourism in the South." Tour Guide, 1998, p A-13.

¹² Ibid. p. A-54.

¹³ Strickland, Steven, email to Nell Farrar, dated May 2, 2008.

¹⁴ Email, Brenda Lanier to Bamby Ray, dated April 29, 2008.

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Baker, Robert S. *Chattooga: The Story of a County and Its People*. Roswell, Ga.: WH Wolfe Associates, 1988.

Caldwell, Wilbur W. *The Courthouse and the Depot: A Narrative Guide to Railroad Expansion and Its Impact on Public Architecture in Georgia 1833-1910*. Macon, Ga.: Mercer University Press, 2001.

Chattooga County Heritage Book Committee. *The Heritage of Chattooga County, Georgia 1838-2006*. Waynesville, N.C.: County Heritage, Inc., 2006.

"Chattooga County History." Typed manuscript, 12 pages, n.d. On file at the Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, Rome, Georgia.

Cook, John H. "A History of Chattooga County." Unpublished manuscript, 1936.

"County Courthouses in Georgia" thematic National Register nomination. On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia. Listed 1980.

McCollum Greg. "Chattooga Photo History." <http://chattoogaphotohistory.com/welcome.html> (accessed February 17, 2012).

Roth, Darlene. *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. 1989. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Sears, Joan Niles. *The First One Hundred Years of Town Planning in Georgia*. Atlanta: Cherokee Publishing Company, 1979.

The Society for Commercial Archeology. "Drivin' the Dixie Highway: Automobile Tourism in the South." Bound Tour Guide, 1998.

Thomas, Kenneth H. "Summerville Depot." *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, December 13, 1991. On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ 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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

*Summerville Depot (listed 1992) and County Courthouses in Georgia (listed 1980)

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 35 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Note: The following references use 1927 North American datum, as indicated on the submitted USGS map.

1	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>651690</u> Easting	<u>3816800</u> Northing	3	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>651790</u> Easting	<u>3816070</u> Northing
2	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>652080</u> Easting	<u>3816600</u> Northing	4	<u>16</u> Zone	<u>651390</u> Easting	<u>3816370</u> Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary is indicated with a heavy black line, drawn to scale, on the attached National Register map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the intact, contiguous, historic resources associated with the downtown commercial area of the city of Summerville.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Denise Messick, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date March 2012
street & number 254 Washington Street, Ground Level telephone (404) 656-2840
city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30334
e-mail Denise.Messick@dnr.state.ga.us

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Summerville Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Summerville

County: Chattooga

State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Date Photographed: May 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 29. Chattooga County Courthouse, Commerce Street façade. Photographer facing west/northwest.
- 2 of 29. Commerce Street (Martha Berry Highway) at southern end of district. Photographer facing north
- 3 of 29. 9929-9933 Commerce Street. Photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 29. West side of Commerce Street at Georgia Avenue. Photographer facing north.
- 5 of 29. Commerce Street south of Georgia Avenue. Photographer facing north.
- 6 of 29. West side of Commerce Street north of Washington Avenue. Photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 29. Shrine Auditorium at 10111 Commerce Street. Photographer facing west/northwest.
- 8 of 29. Chattooga County Courthouse, Commerce Street and Washington Avenue elevations. Photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 29. "Big Spring" at Willow Spring Park, Commerce Street and 1st Avenue. Photographer facing north/northwest.
- 10 of 29. 25-39 East Washington Avenue. Photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 29. Summerville Depot, 111 East Washington Avenue. Photographer facing northwest.

Summerville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Chattooga County, GA
County and State

- 12 of 29. 145 East Washington Avenue. Photographer facing northeast.
- 13 of 29. House on Economy Street, at south end of district. Photographer facing south.
- 14 of 29. 9985, 9987-9991, and 9999 Commerce Street. Photographer facing northwest.
- 15 of 29. West side of Commerce Street, between Georgia Avenue and courthouse. Photographer facing northwest.
- 16 of 29. Former hotel and hospital at 9987-9991 Commerce Street. Photographer facing west/northwest/
- 17 of 29. City Hall at 120 Georgia Avenue. Photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 29. Chattooga County Annex, former Western Auto Store at 120 West Washington Avenue. Photographer facing southwest.
- 19 of 29. Sheriff's office and "old jail," west of courthouse. Photographer facing south/southwest.
- 20 of 29. 10118, 10112, and 10098 Commerce Street. Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 21 of 29. 10050 Commerce Street. Photographer facing southeast.
- 22 of 29. 10050 Commerce Street. Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 23 of 29. 10014-10038 Commerce Street. Photographer facing southeast.
- 24 of 29. Former mill at 10014 Commerce Street. Photographer facing southeast.
- 25 of 29. 10020-10038 Commerce Street. Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 26 of 29. Southeast corner of Commerce Street and Georgia Avenue. Photographer facing southeast.
- 27 of 29. 9950 Commerce Street. Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 28 of 29. U. S. Post Office at 9922 Commerce Street. Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 29 of 29. Commerce Street, south of Georgia Avenue. Photographer facing northeast.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Summerville Commercial Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Chattooga

DATE RECEIVED: 4/06/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/27/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/14/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/23/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000280

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5.16.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 1 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 2 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 3 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 4 of 29



**Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 5 of 29**



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 6 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 7 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 8 of 29



**Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 9 of 29**



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 10 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 11 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 12 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 13 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 14 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 15 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 16 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 17 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 18 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 19 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 20 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 21 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 22 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 23 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 24 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 25 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 26 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 27 of 29



Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 28 of 29



**Summerville Commercial Historic District
Chattooga County, Georgia
Photograph 29 of 29**

$$\begin{array}{r} 4) 16 / \\ 651390 / \\ 3816370 \end{array}$$


Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked. Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown.



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

AMS 3952 IV NE—SERIES V845

SUMMERVILLE COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
CHATTOOGA COUNTY, GEORGIA

NATIONAL REGISTER MAP


National Register Boundary: 

Contributing: ●

Non-contributing: ○

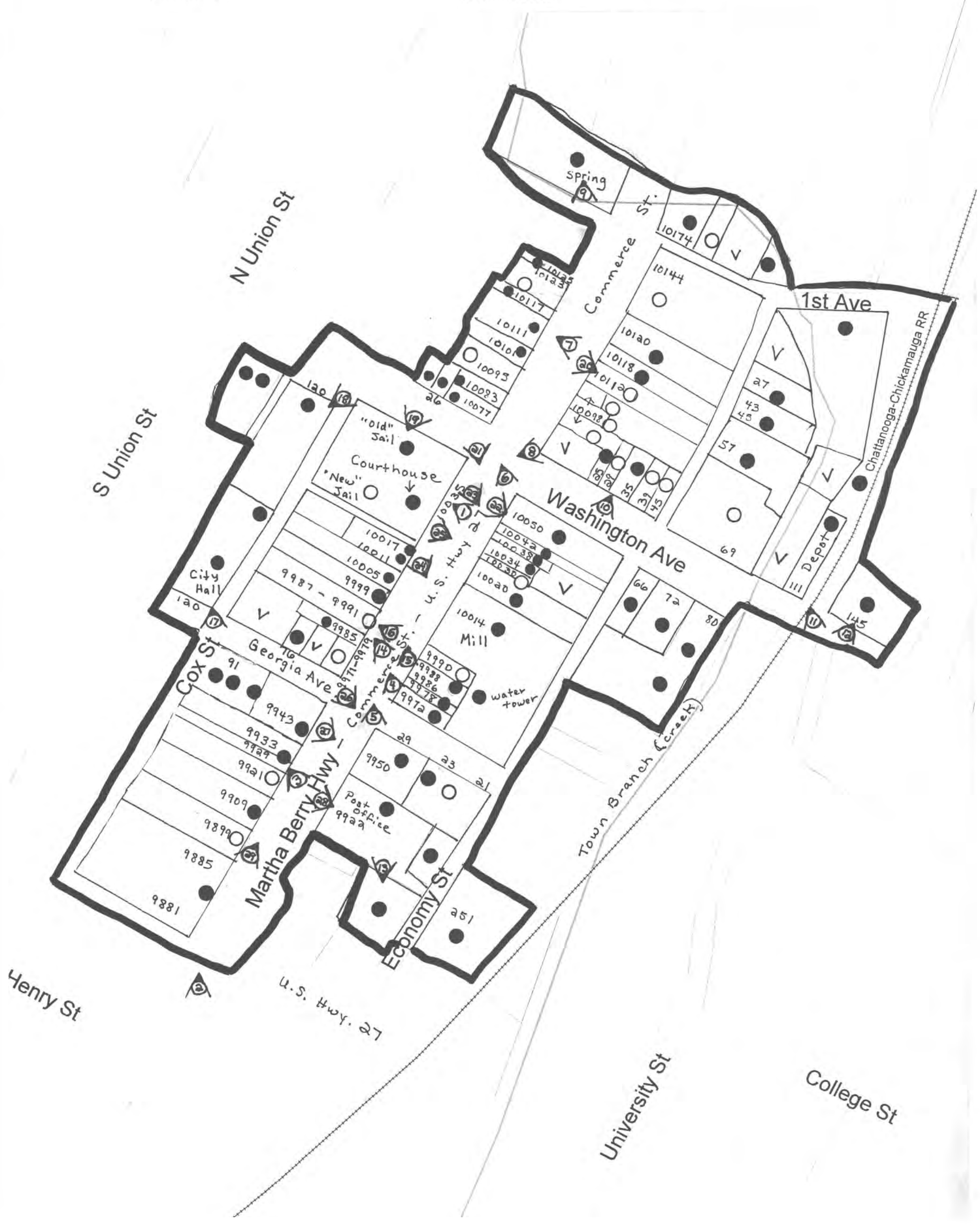
Vacant: ∇

North: 

Photograph/Direction of View: 

Scale: 1 inch = approx. 200 feet

Source: Northwest Georgia Regional
Commission





HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

February 27, 2012

Mr. Dallan C. Wordekemper, CCIM
Federal Preservation Officer
Real Estate Specialist
United States Postal Service
475 l'Enfant Plaza, SW
Suite 6670
Washington, DC 20260-1862

RE: United States Post Office, located at 9922 Commerce Street, Summerville, Georgia
Summerville Commercial Historic District, Summerville, Chattooga County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Wordekemper:

We are writing to inform you that the above-referenced historic district nomination was presented at our Georgia National Register Review Board meeting in June 2010. The United States Post Office located at 9922 Commerce Street/Martha Berry Highway/U.S. Highway 27 is a contributing building located within the district. The Board recommended that State Historic Preservation Officer sign the nomination and submit it to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, for final review and listing in the National Register.

The 1937 United States Post Office in Summerville is a good example of Colonial Revival-style public building constructed in a small Georgia town. The one-story, square, brick building has a five-bay symmetrical façade, Colonial Revival-style door and window surrounds, cornice with dentils, and square cupola atop a metal roof. The post office was built under the auspices of the Public Works Administration and was designed by Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect for the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The building is essentially unchanged since its construction during the Great Depression and also retains its 1939 lobby mural entitled *Georgia Countryside* by artist Doris Lee. For these reasons, the United States Post Office in Summerville contributes to the significance of the Summerville Commercial Historic District.

Our office is preparing the final nomination materials to send to the National Register. Enclosed is a copy of the portion of the nomination citing the property under your jurisdiction. If you wish to comment on the nomination, please send your comments to me before March 27, 2012, when we will forward the nomination to the National Register.

Sincerely,

Richard Cloues
Historic Resources Section Chief and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER



DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

March 28, 2012

J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find enclosed the following nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for your consideration:

Decatur Downtown Historic District, DeKalb County, Georgia
Summerville Commercial Historic District, Chattooga County, Georgia

Sincerely,

Gretchen Brock
National Register & Survey Program Manager