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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in how to complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lake City Historic Commercial District

other names/site number 8CO685

2. Location

street & number Various n/a  not for publication

city or town Lake City n/a  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Columbia code 023 zip code 32056

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Suzanne P. Walker/Deputy SHPO 5/12/94  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

M. J. M. [Signature]

6/16/1994

Lake City Historic  
Commercial District  
Name of Property

Columbia Co., FL  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
48	14	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
50	14	Total

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

Historic Resources of Lake City, FL

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

1

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: specialty store  
 financial institution  
 Government: courthouse  
 post office  
 Religion: religious facility  
 Recreation & Culture: theater  
 Domestic: hotel

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: specialty store  
 financial institution  
 Government: courthouse  
 Religion: religious facility  
 Vacant: not in use

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Masonry vernacular  
 Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals  
 Modern Movement

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick  
 walls Brick  
 Stucco  
 roof Other: Tar & Gravel  
 other Ceramic Tile  
 Cast concrete

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c1884-1940

**Significant Dates**

c1884

1902

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

Milburn, Frank Pierce/Otis, Henry W.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Lake City Historic  
Commercial District

Name of Property

Columbia Co., FL

County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 13 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

C 1 | 17 | 342340 | 3341420 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
D 2 | 17 | 342430 | 3341420 |

E 3 | 17 | 342460 | 3340700 |  
Zone Easting Northing  
F 4 | 17 | 342310 | 3340700 |

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.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephen Olausen/Barbara E. Mattick, Historic Sites Specialist

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date May 1994

street & number R. A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

### Additional Documentation

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)

### Property Owner

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

name Sponsored by the Downtown Action Corporation, Sandra Tice

street & number P.O. Box 255 telephone (904) 755-9023

city or town Lake City state Florida zip code 32056-0255

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number 7 Page 1 Lake City Historic Commercial  
District, Lake City, Columbia Co., FL

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**SUMMARY**

The Lake City Historic Commercial District is located primarily along North Marion Street in an area roughly bounded by Railroad Street on the north, North Hernando Street on the east, Duval Street on the south, and North Columbia Street on the west. The boundaries encompass forty-nine contributing buildings (one contributing building, the Hotel Blanche, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990), one contributing structure, one contributing site, and fourteen noncontributing buildings. This yields a contributing ratio of 78 percent. Contributing buildings are representative of national trends in commercial architecture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district contributes to the **Historic Resources of Lake City, Florida** multiple property submission under property types F.2, **Historic Commercial Buildings of Lake City c1884-1940** and F.3, **Historic Public, Social, and Religious Buildings of Lake City, c1884-1940**.

**PRESENT AND HISTORIC PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Lake City Historic Commercial District consists of all or parts of twenty blocks in Lake City's downtown commercial area. Most of the buildings in the district front on North Marion Street (photo 1), which is part of U.S. Highway 441 and State Road 47. The topography of the district is flat, with almost no noticeable change in grade. Streets intersect at right angles, creating rectangular blocks. Most of the contributing buildings along Marion Street conform to a uniform setback of about eight feet from the curb (photo 2). Olustee Park (photo 3), a greenspace that occupies an entire city block in front of the Columbia County Courthouse, is landscaped with a variety of trees and shrubs, and offers an attractive break in the otherwise urban landscape. The site of Columbia County's 1876 courthouse and a park since 1902, Olustee Park is a contributing site in the district.

**Architecture in the Lake City Historic Commercial District**

The contributing buildings of the district embody a variety of styles and functions and date from between c1884 and 1940. Nearly all of the contributing buildings were originally constructed for commercial purposes, three were for government-related functions, and one was for religious use. The contributing structure is a bandstand located in Olustee Park

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(photo 3). The designs of the buildings in the district are consistent with architectural trends in towns and cities throughout Florida during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The majority have one- or two-part masonry vernacular designs (photos 2 & 4), although a significant percentage exhibit a definitive architectural style, including Classical Revival, Italian Renaissance, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, and Art Moderne. The district has a sense of historic time and place that is obvious and distinct from the areas that surround it.

The fourteen non-contributing buildings fall into one of two categories. The first consists of buildings that were constructed after 1940 that have no special historical significance. Those buildings either replaced structures that were razed or were built on lots that were left undeveloped during the historic period. The building at 601 North Marion Street, built in 1960, is a typical example of this type of resource (photo 5). The second classification of non-contributing buildings includes those constructed during the historic period that have been radically altered to the point where little or none of their original materials or architectural details remains. Keaton's Bike and Hobby Shop at 429 North Marion Street is an example of a radically altered commercial building that dates from the historic period (photo 6). As originally constructed in 1895, the building featured a corbelled brick cornice and storefront consisting of large plate glass display windows and a central entrance. Since World War II the building has undergone significant alterations, including the enclosure of the store front with concrete block and wood exterior fabric and the addition of an incongruous overhanging roof.

Two-part Masonry Vernacular Commercial Buildings

The Hotel Blanche and the former First National Bank at 200-220 and 201 North Marion Street, respectively, are the two best examples of two-part commercial design in Lake City. Constructed in 1902 and expanded in the 1920s, the Hotel Blanche is the largest building in the downtown commercial area (photo 7). It features a flat, built-up roof with a parapet and a decorative corbelled brick cornice. The three-story building consists of a central recessed block and two wings. The first story features a series of storefronts with plate glass display windows. Clad in stucco, the first story is visually distinct from the brick surfaced stories above. The upper stories feature symmetrical

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fenestration of paired and single sash windows. The corners of the building are defined by brick quoins. The Hotel Blanche was listed in the National Register in 1990.

The First National Bank (now the Community National Bank) is also a distinctive building in the downtown commercial area (photo 8). It was constructed in 1911 and is one of three historic bank buildings in Lake City. The most striking feature of the bank is its brightly colored buff brick trimmed with red brick stringcourses. The southwest corner of the building is clipped, giving the building an irregular shape. Like the Hotel Blanche, the First National Bank is three stories in height. Its first story originally housed several stores, while its upper stories served as offices. During the 1920s the upper stories were remodelled to accommodate a thirty-six room hotel.

The building at 328-330 North Marion Street, built in 1940 as a McCrory's Five and Ten, is a good example of a modern two-part masonry vernacular building (photo 9).

#### One-part Masonry Vernacular Commercial Buildings

The former J. E. Young Hardware Store (now Howell's Office Machines, Inc.) at 405 North Marion Street is an excellent example of a one-part commercial building (photo 10). Constructed in the early 1880s, it has a flat, built-up roof, corner pilasters with urn finials, and three bay store front. The building has been altered by the replacement of the original store front windows and entrances, but retains its elaborate decorative parapet.

Another good illustration of a one-part masonry vernacular design is located at 329 North Marion Street (photo 11), built c1912. It has a flat, built-up roof encircled by a parapet with a dentil brick cornice. A series of recessed panels is located between cornice and storefront. The northeast corner of the building is clipped and contains a double-door entrance with transom and sidelight surrounds. A large plate glass display window comprises the southern bay of the facade.

The buildings at the north end of the district (733-929 North Marion Street), all one-part masonry vernacular commercial buildings, were constructed during the city's expansion in the 1920s into the 1930s (photos 12 & 13). The brick building at 733-737 North Monroe Street (c1924) is a good example of this

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development, with its flat roof and parapet distinguished by narrow, horizontal, rectangular, recessed panels and a simple, molded cornice (photo 14). Many of the entrances to the individual businesses in the building remain. In 1930, the building was extended to 777 North Marion Street. The addition incorporated many of the same kinds of features displayed in the c1924 building.

**Classical Revival Style**

There are two buildings in the district that have Classical Revival style designs. The most distinctive, in terms of its size and detail, is the First Baptist Church at 206 East Orange Street (photo 15). Constructed in 1926, the church features an I-shaped plan with a flat, built-up roof, which is encircled by a dentil cornice. A pedimented gable roof overhang supported by fluted Corinthian columns extends from the center of the main facade. The facade features symmetrical fenestration of rectangular and round arched windows. Two quarter-turned staircases extend from the corners of the facade to double door entrances at the east and west ends of the facade. The exterior fabric is brick set in running bond. Fenestration consists of elaborate stained-glass, double-hung sash windows.

The other Classical Revival style building in the district is the Florida USDA Federal Credit Union at 502 North Marion Street (photo 16). Constructed as the Columbia County Bank in 1912, the building has a temple front consisting of a pedimented gable portico supported by fluted Ionic columns. The tympanum is adorned with bas relief floral designs and dentil molding. The facade is framed by corner pilasters and features a center entrance flanked by large double-hung sash windows. A decorative oval rosette window is located in the center of the facade, above the main entrance. The side bays of the building are divided by brick pilasters with masonry caps and bases.

**Beaux Arts Style**

One of the most impressive of all of Lake City's historic buildings is the Columbia County Courthouse at 145 North Hernando Street (photo 17). Constructed in 1902 according to plans by the architect Frank Pierce Milburn, the courthouse is the only example of Beaux Arts style architecture in Lake City. Milburn was also the architect for the Hotel Blanche and for the 1902 remodelling of the Florida State capitol. The three-story



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courthouse features a flat, built-up roof with a parapet and a decorative dentil cornice, which encircles the building at the roof line. It is a tri-part structure with a protruding central block. A pedimented gabled balcony extends from the center of the main facade. The pediment is supported by Ionic columns, which rise two stories above an extended entranceway which has three arched openings. The exterior fabric of the first story is rusticated concrete block. Windows in the first story are set in rectangular openings with splayed arches. Decorative terra-cotta crests adorn the second story windows of the central block.

In 1959, the courthouse was altered by removal of a dome, the addition of a rear concrete block extension, and the replacement of the original windows. The interior was also altered, but retains its original floor plan and some of its original features and finishes. In spite of these changes, the courthouse remains one of the most impressive buildings in Lake City and is a vital part of the historic downtown area.

Italian Renaissance Style

The former Lake City Post Office, built in 1931 at 35 North Hernando Street, is the sole Italian Renaissance style building in the district (photo 18). It has a two-story, U-shaped plan consisting of a main hip roofed rectangular unit with intersecting, hip roofed ells at the north and south ends. The roofs are surfaced with ceramic pantile. A one-story arcade spans between the two ells. Constructed of limestone, the arcade has five bays with round arch openings supported by fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. The building is accessed through three double door entrances, which are recessed under the arcade. The doors and casement windows that flank them are set in round arch openings and topped with transoms. The central unit and extending bays have brick exterior wall fabric. Decorative masonry quoins define the corners of the facade. Fenestration at the second story consists of paired casement windows with four lights.

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Art Deco

The former Gateway Theater at 508 N. Marion Street is a restrained example of the Art Deco style (photo 19). Constructed in the mid-1930s, the building has a flat roof and stucco exterior wall fabric. Identifying features of the Art Deco style present include smooth stucco exterior wall fabric and a marquis that extends from the center of the facade and is topped by a metal cylinder and spire finial. Three-part vertical moldings are located near the north and south ends of the facade. Two pairs of recessed doors serve as the main entrance to the theater. The side walls of the recessed entrance way are rounded, a feature that is common in contemporaneous Art Moderne style buildings.

Art Moderne

The former Nolan Cadillac Company Building at 600 North Marion Street exhibits a number of hallmark features of the Art Moderne style (photo 20). It is a one-story building with a flat, built-up roof. A tall parapet with stepped sides extends above the facade. The corners of the building are rounded and combine with the wide facade to produce a streamline effect. Decorative, curved glass block walls lead to a recessed double-door entrance, which is centered on the main elevation. The entrance is flanked by a line of large plate glass display windows that run the length of the facade and curve around the corners.

Olustee Park Bandstand

The Olustee Park Bandstand is the only contributing structure in the district (photo 3). It has a low pitched, octagonal, cone-shaped roof supported by brick columns. The base is constructed of poured concrete. It is accessed by stairs on the west side.

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Photos 2

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- 9     3) Barbara E. Mattick  
      4) February 7, 1994  
      5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, FL  
      6) 328-330 N. Marion Street, E facade, facing W  
      7) 9 of 28
- 10    6) Former J. E. Young Hardware Store (now Howell's  
      Office Machines, Inc.), 405 N. Marion Street, W  
      facade, facing E  
      7) 10 of 28
- 11    6) 329 N. Marion Street, W & N elevations, facing SE  
      7) 11 of 28
- 12    6) Streetscape of E side of the 800 and 900 blocks of  
      N. Marion Street, facing NE  
      7) 12 of 28
- 13    3) Barbara E. Mattick  
      4) February 7, 1994  
      5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, FL  
      6) Streetscape, W side of 800 block of N. Marion  
      Street, facing NW  
      7) 13 of 28
- 14    3) Barbara E. Mattick  
      4) February 7, 1994  
      5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, FL  
      6) 733-737 & 777 N. Marion Street, W facades, facing NE  
      7) 14 of 28
- 15    6) First Baptist Church, 206 E. Orange Street, N & W  
      elevations, facing SE  
      7) 15 of 28
- 16    6) Former Columbia County Bank (now Florida USDA  
      Federal Credit Union), 502 N. Marion Street, E & S  
      elevations, facing NW  
      7) 16 of 28

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CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES OF THE  
LAKE CITY HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

Address	Style	Date
101 East Duval Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1940
35 North Hernando Street	Italian Renaissance	1931
145 North Hernando Street	Beaux Arts	1902
310 North Hernando Street	Masonry Vernacular	1940
16 East Hillsboro Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1925
20 West Madison Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1925
22 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1935
24-26 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1926
28 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1906
30-34 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1906
102 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1924
104 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1924
106 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1902
124 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1890
130 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1884
134 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1884
200-230 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1902/1924*
201 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1911
301-303 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1902
321-323 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1920
327 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1920
328-330 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1940
329 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1912
402 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1906
405 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1884
408 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1917
409-415 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1925
412 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1900
419 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1925
422 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1900
502 North Marion Street	Classical Revival	1912
508 North Marion Street	Art Deco	c.1935
525 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1920
600 North Marion Street	Art Moderne	c.1940

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733-737 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1924
777 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1930
802 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1925
812 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1925
815 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1920
820 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	1930
817-823 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1925
827-829 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1902
901 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1924
915 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1920
917-921 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1925
926 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1935
928-930 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1935
929 North Marion Street	Masonry Vernacular	c.1920
206 East Orange Street	Classical Revival	1926
Olustee Park Bandstand	Masonry Vernacular	1922
Olustee Park	Site	c.1902

\* The Hotel Blanche was listed in the National Register in 1990.

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**NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES OF THE  
LAKE CITY HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**

110-114 North Marion Street  
120 North Marion Street  
302-304 North Marion Street  
315 North Marion Street  
424 North Marion Street  
425 North Marion Street  
429 North Marion Street  
482 North Marion Street  
515 North Marion Street  
504 North Marion Street  
601 North Marion Street  
621-635 North Marion Street  
701 North Marion Street  
803 North Marion Street

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**SUMMARY**

The Lake City Historic Commercial District is locally significant under Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce and Architecture. The district derives its primary significance from its association with the historic development of Lake City's downtown commercial center. Its buildings are representative of architectural trends in small cities throughout the nation during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district contributes to the Historic Resources of Lake City multiple property group under contexts II, III and IV in section E and property types F.2 and F.3 of the cover application.

**HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The period of significance for the district extends from c1884, the earliest documented date of construction for contributing buildings, to 1940, when the last buildings constructed prior to World War II were added. Some of the oldest buildings in the district are located at 124, 130, and 134 North Marion Street (photo 2). The former Lake City Pharmacy at 134 North Marion Street was constructed some time in the early 1880s and remained in continuous operation as a drugstore throughout the historic period. The upper story was used as offices for some of the city's most prominent lawyers and physicians. The building at 130 North Marion Street was constructed between 1885 and 1890 and housed a number of businesses during its history, including a grocery and tobacco store and the Lake City Commercial Bank. The former F. G. Henderson Opera House at 124 North Marion Street was also constructed between 1885 and 1890. One of four contributing resources significant in the area of recreation/entertainment, the building originally housed a dry goods store in its ground story, and a theater in its upper level, where operas and plays were staged.

Another building that dates from the early 1880s is the former J. E. Young Hardware Store (now Howell's Office Machines) at 405 North Marion Street (photo 10). Its high degree of facade ornamentation makes it the best example of one-part commercial architecture in the district.

The most prominent buildings in the district were constructed during the first two decades of the twentieth century when Lake City took its place as one of North Florida's leading

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commercial centers. In addition to typical masonry vernacular construction, many of the buildings constructed during that period exhibited popular contemporary architectural styles. Among them were the Columbia County Courthouse, Blanche Hotel, First National Bank of Lake City, and Columbia County Bank.

The Columbia County Courthouse at 145 North Hernando Street is significant as one of only three surviving historic government-related buildings in Lake City, as well as being the city's sole example of the Beaux-Arts style of architecture (photo 17). It was designed by prominent South Carolina architect Frank P. Milburn, who had recently completed a design for remodelling the State Capitol Building. Henry W. Otis, a contractor from Kingston, New York, was brought in to execute the elaborate design. Finished in 1902, the building replaced the former wood frame courthouse which was constructed in 1876 on the site where Olustee Park is located today. In 1920, W. B. Talley, a well-known Jacksonville architect, was hired by the county to design a bathroom addition on the rear elevation of courthouse. Although another significant addition was placed on the rear of the building in 1959, the original portion of the courthouse retains its integrity to a large degree. It remains in use as the main governmental facility for Columbia County.

While they were planning and erecting the courthouse, Milburn and Otis received another large commission. David W. Brown, a prominent local businessman and land holder, asked Milburn to draw plans for the Hotel Blanche at 200-220 North Marion Street (photo 7). Constructed in 1902, the hotel was built in response to the large numbers of tourists who entered the city on their way to points farther south. The Blanche, which was named for Brown's daughter, soon became the focal point for social activities in Columbia County. Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, the hotel played host to visiting dignitaries and was the site for all of the major political meetings in the county. The Blanche Hotel is significant for its association with Lake City's long history of tourism and was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1990.

The former First National Bank (now the Community National Bank) at 201 North Marion Street (photo 8) was constructed in 1911 by the Caldwell Construction Company of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, at a cost of \$20,000. The bank features a buff brick facade with corbelled red brick trim. As it was originally planned, the building was to be six stories in height. The Lake



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City Reporter wrote concerning the plans in February 1911 that "a skyscraper would be not only novel, but extremely attractive to a city of our size." Although the plans were scaled down to three stories, the bank became one of the most distinctive landmarks of Lake City's commercial area. In the 1920s, at the height of the city's land boom period, the upper two stories of the building were converted into a hotel.

The Columbia County Bank (now the Florida USDA Federal Credit Union) at 502 North Marion Street was constructed in 1912 (photo 16). The Columbia County Bank is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style. It features a temple front consisting of a pedimented gable portico with dentil molding supported by fluted Ionic columns. The Classical Revival became a popular design for bank and public buildings after the World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago in 1893. The monumental nature of the style promoted a sense of permanence and security that financial institutions sought to project.

Lake City experienced another period of significant development during the land boom years of the mid-1920s. Tourism and real estate speculation fueled a burgeoning local economy. The general prosperity was exhibited in a number of new buildings added to the downtown commercial area. The majority were small masonry buildings. Although several such buildings were erected in the original downtown core area, there was a marked expansion of the business district north along Marion Street, toward the railroad tracks (photos 21, 22, & 23).

One exception was the First Baptist Church at 215 East Orange Street (photo 15). The church is among the most impressive buildings in the district and is one of only two surviving historic religious buildings in Lake City. Lake City's First Baptist congregation traces its roots to 1843, when Staring Scarborough came to Alligator from Fort Gaines, Georgia. A devout Baptist, Scarborough organized a small congregation and constructed a log church on the south bank of Lake De Soto. Informal worship services were held there until Scarborough's death shortly before the Civil War. In 1869 twenty-two local Baptists banded together to form the First Baptist Church of Lake City and constructed a church building on East Duval Street. Under the pastorate of W. S. Rogers, who began serving in 1894, a drive was instituted for a new church in the early 1920s. The present building was completed in 1926 at a cost of \$75,000. It was designed in the Classical Revival style and is similar to a

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number of other contemporary Baptist church buildings in Florida, including the First Baptist Church of Gainesville. In the 1950s the facility was expanded by the addition of a two-story education annex to the east side of the building and a one-story Sunday school building on an adjoining lot on East Duval Street.

The only contributing structure in the district, the Olustee Park Bandstand, was also erected during the land boom period (photo 3). The bandstand and the park in which it is located have historically served as the city's primary outdoor gathering place. The block of land that forms the park was originally the site of the Columbia County Courthouse. After the construction of the present courthouse in 1902, the old building was removed and the block was dedicated as a city park. Between 1906 and 1912 several improvements were made to the greenspace, including the installation of winding brick paths, and a fountain. The bandstand was constructed in 1922 at a cost of \$1,100. Throughout the remainder of the historic period the bandstand and park hosted a variety of band concerts, political speeches, and other community events and celebrations. In addition, it serves as the site for a number of monuments erected to commemorate prominent local citizens and war veterans. The first such monument was placed in 1928 in memory of those who lost their lives at the Civil War Battle of Olustee, from which the park takes its name.

The collapse of the land boom and the onslaught of the Great Depression slowed development in the district. A few buildings were added to the north end of the district between 1930 and 1935, but only one new building was added to the original downtown area during the same period, the former Lake City Post Office at 35 North Hernando Street (photo 18). Constructed in 1931, the building is an excellent example of the Italian Renaissance style. It features a two-story, U-shaped plan with a central one-story limestone arcade. The arcade has round arch openings supported by fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. The Lake City Post Office is one of five identified post offices in Florida designed under the supervision of Federal Architect James Wetmore. Built in 1931, of Wetmore's Florida post offices currently identified, it is the latest, the least altered, and the only one that exhibits the Italian Renaissance style. It is now used as a courthouse annex.

During the latter half of the 1930s development in Lake City's commercial sector renewed at a moderate pace. A

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significant shift in architectural preferences had occurred since the land boom. Buildings constructed during the period exhibited less ornamentation than their predecessors. The "revival" styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries had lost much of their appeal and were replaced by modernistic designs. Evidence of this trend in Lake City is the Gateway Theatre at 508 North Marion Street (photo 19). Constructed about 1935, the theater is significant as the city's only example of Art Deco architecture and as one of four contributing resources in the district associated with the development of entertainment facilities. The building's Art Deco styling is expressed by its smooth stucco exterior and a triangular marquis that extends above the roofline and emphasizes the vertical orientation of the style.

Another building constructed at about the same time as the theater was the Art Moderne style Nolan Cadillac Company Building at 600 North Marion Street (photo 20). It is one of several buildings in the district that contribute to an understanding of the important role that transportation-related business and facilities played in the development of Lake City. It exhibits a number of hallmark features of the streamline Art Moderne, including a low, horizontal orientation, rounded corners, and the extensive use of glass in the form of large windows and glass construction blocks.

The most significant transportation-related building in the district is the former State Road Department Building at 310 North Hernando Street (photo 24). Lake City was named the site for the Second District Headquarters of the State Road Department, the forerunner of the Department of Transportation, when the department was formed in the late 1920s. The second district's responsibilities included design, construction, maintenance, traffic control, and planning for state roads in a sixteen county area that encompasses most of North Florida. The State Road Department Building was completed in 1940. It housed the headquarters for the Second District until a larger facility was constructed on South Marion Street in the 1950s. It was later sold to the city for use as a City Hall and presently serves as offices for a variety of community service organizations, including the Columbia County School Board.

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**ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The district has further significance under Criterion C in the area of architecture. It contains a diverse collection of architectural designs and styles that are representative of national trends in architecture during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are numerous examples of masonry vernacular commercial construction that provided functional space for business and a distinctive local character to the city's commercial landscape. A number of definitive architectural designs that were popular throughout the nation during the historic period, including examples of the Classical Revival, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, Art Deco, and Art Moderne styles, are also present. In addition, the district boasts two examples of the work of the regionally prominent architect Frank Milburn, the Columbia County Courthouse and the Hotel Blanche.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary is represented as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled, "Lake City Historic Commercial District".

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries encompass all properties in the downtown area associated with Lake City's historic commercial development, c1884-1940. Historic buildings just outside the district boundaries are residential. The district provides a sense of time and place that is separate and distinct from areas that surround it.

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- 1     1) Lake City Historic Commercial District  
      2) Lake City, Columbia Co., FL  
      3) Stephen A. Olausen  
      4) November 5, 1992  
      5) Historic Property Associates, St. Augustine, FL  
      6) Streetscape of the W side of the 10 and 100 blocks  
          of N. Marion Street, facing NW from the corner of  
          E. Duval Street  
      7) 1 of 28

**The district and items 2-5 are the same for the remaining  
photographs, unless noted otherwise.**

- 2     6) 124, 130, & 134 N. Marion Street, facing NW  
      7) 2 of 28
- 3     6) Olustee Park Band Stand, SW side, facing NE  
      7) 3 of 28
- 4     6) 915, 917-921, & 929 N. Marion Street, facing NE  
      7) 4 of 28
- 5     3) Barbara E. Mattick  
      4) February 7, 1994  
      5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, FL  
      6) 601 N. Marion Street (non-contributing), S & W  
          elevations, facing NE  
      7) 5 of 28
- 6     6) Keaton's Bike and Hobby Shop, 429 N. Marion Street  
          (non-contributing), E & N elevations, facing SE  
      7) 6 of 28
- 7     6) Hotel Blanche, 200-220 N. Marion Street, E facade,  
          facing NW  
      7) 7 of 28
- 8     6) Former First National Bank (now Community National  
          Bank), 201 N. Marion Street, W & S elevations,  
          facing NE  
      7) 8 of 28

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- 17 6) Columbia County Courthouse, 145 N. Hernando Street,  
W elevation, facing E  
7) 17 of 28
- 18 6) Former Lake City Post Office (now Columbia County  
Courthouse Annex), 35 N. Hernando Street, W  
facade, facing E  
7) 18 of 28
- 19 6) Gateway Theatre, 508 N. Marion Street, E facade,  
facing W  
7) 19 of 28
- 20 6) Former Nolan Cadillac Company Building, 600 N.  
Marion Street, E & S elevations, facing NW  
7) 20 of 28
- 21 3) Barbara E. Mattick  
4) February 7, 1994  
5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, FL  
6) Streetscape from W side of 400 block of N. Marion  
Street, facing NE  
7) 21 of 28
- 22 3) Barbara E. Mattick  
4) February 7, 1994  
5) Bureau of Historic Preservation, Tallahassee, FL  
6) Streetscape from E side of 900 block of N. Marion  
Street, facing SW  
7) 22 of 28
- 23 6) 926 & 928-930 N. Marion Street, facing SW  
7) 23 of 28



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- 24 6) Former State Road Department Building (now  
Montgomery Building), 310 N. Hernando Street, E  
facade, facing W  
7) 24 of 28
- 25 6) Streetscape of N. Marion Street, the southern fringe  
of the district showing non-contributing area  
beyond, facing S from the corner of E. Orange  
Street  
7) 25 of 28
- 26 6) Streetscape of N. Columbia Street, the western  
boundary of the district, showing non-contributing  
area beyond, facing N from the corner of W.  
Hamilton Street  
7) 26 of 28
- 27 6) Streetscape of N. Hernando Street, the eastern  
boundary of the district, showing non-contributing  
area beyond, facing N  
7) 27 of 28
- 28 3) Barbara E. Mattick  
4) February 7, 1994  
5) Bureau of Historic Preservation  
6) Streetscape from E side of 900 block of N. Marion  
Street, facing NW, toward railroad tracks near the  
N boundary of the district  
7) 28 of 28