

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ashburn Commercial Historic District
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Along Main Street, roughly between Murray and Monroe
Avenues
city, town Ashburn (n/a) vicinity of
county Turner code GA 287
state Georgia code GA zip code 31714

(n/a) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	41	8
sites	0	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	43	8

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

7/8/92
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

~~Entered in the~~
~~National Register~~

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Alan Byer 8/18/92

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet _____

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE:business

GOVERNMENT:courthouse, post office, correctional facilities

INDUSTRY:peanut oil mill, waterworks

TRANSPORTATION:rail-related

Current Functions:

COMMERCE:business

GOVERNMENT:courthouse, post office, correctional facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN:Romanesque

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:Commercial Style

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:Spanish Colonial Revival,
Neoclassical Revival

Materials:

foundation brick
walls brick, stucco
roof asphalt
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Ashburn Commercial Historic District is the historic downtown business district of Ashburn, a small south Georgia town located in Turner County. The district represents the commercial core and encompasses the city's heaviest concentration of historic commercial and industrial structures dating from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. The district also includes the previously listed county courthouse and county jail.

The Ashburn Commercial Historic District consists of approximately four blocks of commercial and industrial buildings located in the center of the city. The commercial core is divided into rectangular blocks of streets and alleyways with a linear orientation along the railroad tracks. The buildings are of masonry construction, some with decorative brick corbeling, stucco, cast-iron vents and columns, segmentally arched windows, and rare surviving examples of wood awnings with brackets (photographs 1-6).

The district contains some outstanding examples of turn-of-the-century, commercial storefront architecture. The former Sconyers Furniture Center building is a two-story, brick building with Victorian Commercial style features such as, segmentally arched windows, brick corbeling, a recessed storefront, cast-iron columns, transoms, and bulkheads (photograph 5). The Shingler Building at 120 E. College illustrates the Stripped Classical style with its symmetrical and restrained design elements and features pilasters, masonry ornamentation, and wood awnings with brackets (photograph 3).

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National Park Service

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Two historic banks are in the district, the one-story, brick, 1913 Turner County Bank located at the corner of College and Gordon Streets (photograph 4), and the one-story, 1906 Ashburn Bank, the only structure within the district with a marble facade (photograph 5).

One of the oldest commercial buildings is a one-story, 1898, brick structure along Main Street. Formerly a telegraph office, the building features large, segmentally arched windows and brick corbeling.

The commercial section also contains warehouse structures and includes a former car dealership, and an auto service and tire repair shop (photograph 1, 8). An example of an early 20th-century gas station is located at the corner of Monroe Street and Main Street. The building is an example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style with stucco walls and a tile roof (photograph 8).

Across the railroad tracks is the early 20th-century industrial section of Ashburn and includes a peanut oil mill warehouse, waterworks, and the city's first jail. The warehouse and pumphouse are rectangular, utilitarian, brick structures with large door openings and segmentally arched window and door openings. Two historic structures--a circular, concrete reservoir and metal watertower--are part of the city's waterworks (photograph 9). The city jail is a one-story, brick building with a gable roof. (photographs 9, 10).

Government buildings in the district are represented by the post office, the county courthouse and county jail, all located along College Avenue. The 1939 U.S. Post Office is a brick and masonry building with Stripped Classical detailing. It was designed using plans from the Supervising Architect, Louis A. Simon. The 1907-08 Turner County Courthouse is a Neoclassical Revival style building designed by Alexander Blair and Peter Dennis. The 1906-07 Turner County Jail, located next to the courthouse, was designed by Wagoner and Dobson of Montgomery, Alabama using Romanesque style detailing and continues to serve as the county jail.

Noncontributing buildings within the district boundaries include a few nonhistoric buildings constructed after the period of significance and historic buildings that have been extremely altered. Vacant lots are also found within the district.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development/Transportation
Politics/Government
Industry

Period of Significance:

1889 - 1942

Significant Dates:

1889

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Alexander Blair - Turner County Courthouse
Peter E. Dennis - Turner County Courthouse, Ashburn Bank, Turner
County Bank
Louis A. Simon - U.S. Post Office
Wagoner and Dobson - Turner County Jail

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Ashburn Commercial Historic District is representative of a small-town commercial center that developed from the late 19th through the early 20th centuries.

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its very intact collection of late 19th-, mostly early 20th-century commercial and industrial buildings. Some of the styles represented in the district include Victorian Commercial, Stripped Classical, Neoclassical Revival, and Spanish Colonial Revival. Brick corbeling, stringcourses, decorative brick and masonry detailing, tile, segmentally arched windows and doors, and parapet walls are common details found on these commercial structures. Many of the commercial buildings retain details such as the large plate glass storefronts, transom windows, and wooden awnings with brackets.

Prominent buildings within the district include the McKensie Building and the Shingler Building, both two-story, brick commercial buildings which represent the important commercial enterprises found in the downtown business district. The former Ashburn Bank is an example of a marble facade structure. A series of one-story, commercial buildings along College Avenue exhibit stucco and tile ornamentation. The post office, county courthouse, county jail, and the former city jail are all free standing buildings, and are examples of governmental buildings in small Georgia cities inspired by early 20th-century architectural trends. An early 20th-century gas station is an example of the "house with canopy" type gas station with stucco walls and a tile roof.

The district is also important for its collection of industrial architecture located across the railroad tracks from the historic commercial section. The peanut warehouse and the waterworks pumphouse building represent the type of early 20th-century structures used for utilitarian purposes.

In terms of commerce, the district is significant as the historic commercial center of Ashburn and the surrounding area. The majority of buildings housed a variety of stores, warehouses, and offices that provided day-to-day commercial activities including retailing, wholesaling, banking, and professional services to the residents of Ashburn and Turner County. The city's first car dealership, a car repair shop, and a former gas station illustrate the influence the automobile had on the community and the commercial establishments it created during the early 20th century. Ashburn's commercial

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businesses continue to fill the needs of the community in retail and service oriented capacities.

In terms of community planning and development/transportation, the district is significant for the linear orientation of its street and alleyways and for the rectangular commercial blocks that were laid out in an 1889 city survey. The railroad first came to Ashburn in 1888, and provided an impetus for the town's growth. The city was first surveyed in 1889 by the Georgia Southern and Florida Railroad. Known as the "Patton Survey," the city's twenty block grid pattern was divided in its center by the northwesterly course of the railroad bed. Land located to the east and west of the railroad was divided into four rectangular blocks. A system of intersecting streets and alleys continued the pattern for five blocks along the railroad line. The original survey was enlarged by architect Peter E. Dennis in 1898. The Dennis survey increased the town plan to encompass fifty-two blocks of varying sizes. The railroad also contributed to the growth and development of Ashburn as a major transportation route for shipping lumber and peanuts.

In terms of industry, the district is significant for the historic peanut oil mill warehouse, and the city's waterworks that represent the historic industrial infrastructure of the city. The peanut storage warehouse represents a specialized type of historic industrial facility used for the storage and shipping of the area's peanut products. The location of the industrial section along the railroad contributed to the historic development of Ashburn as an important shipping center. The historic waterworks pumphouse, watertower, and reservoir represent the early 20th century city services that were provided to the citizens of Ashburn.

In terms of politics and government, the district is significant for its four important public buildings--the post office, the county courthouse, the county jail, and the former city jail--which represent the presence of the federal, county, and city governments in Ashburn during the early 20th-century. The 1939 post office is one of the few major buildings constructed in Ashburn during the 1930s, and reflects the economic stimulation that federal programs were designed to provide during the Depression. These four buildings represent three different levels of government, and their day-to-day operations in the community.

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National Register Criteria

These areas of significance support this district's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

This district meets Criteria A as it is associated with the events making a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The historic commercial, industrial, and governmental buildings concentrated within a rectangular block plan along the railroad, reflect the variety of needs in a growing community. The commercial buildings, industrial, and governmental buildings show the economic vitality of a growing community from the late 19th century to the early 20th century.

The district meets Criteria C for its relatively intact concentration of late 19th- and early 20th-century buildings representing particular styles, plans, and construction methods commonly used during this timeperiod. The historic central business district contains excellent examples of historic one- to two-story, attached, commercial architecture that were characteristically used in small town development in Georgia. Examples of historic early 20th century storefront design--with bulkheads, large display windows, cast-iron pilasters, transom windows--are still extant as well as rare surviving examples of wooden awnings with brackets.

Period of significance (justification)

1889 - establishment of the town; town plan
1942 - 50 year cut-off

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing

Buildings - 41
Structures - 2 (concrete reservoir, watertower)

Noncontributing

Buildings - 8

9. Major Bibliographic References

Overby, George and Tinker, Nancy. "Ashburn Commercial Historic District." Historic District Information Form, June 1986. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (x) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 16 acres

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 248370 Northing 3510960
- B) Zone 17 Easting 248660 Northing 3510970
- C) Zone 17 Easting 248640 Northing 3510480
- D) Zone 17 Easting 248300 Northing 3510680

Verbal Boundary Description

The Ashburn Commercial Historic District in downtown Ashburn, is an area along Main Street bounded by Murray and Monroe Avenues. The proposed district boundary is indicated by a heavy black line drawn to scale on the district plat map.

Boundary Justification

The proposed district is drawn to include the concentrated area of relatively intact historic commercial, industrial, warehouse, and institutional structures that together constitute the historic downtown of Ashburn. Excluded from the district are areas of nonhistoric development, and severely altered historic buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Raflo, National Register Coordinator
organization Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** 6/15/92

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Photographs

Name of Property: Ashburn Commercial Historic District
City or Vicinity: Ashburn
County: Turner
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 1991

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 10: Streetscape view of Main Street, north of College Avenue; photographer facing northeast.

2 of 10: Intersection of College Avenue and Main Street, the McKensie Building; photographer facing east.

3 of 10: Intersection of McLendon Street and College Avenue, the Shingler Building; photographer facing north.

4 of 10: Intersection of Gordon Street and College Avenue, Turner County Bank; photographer facing west.

5 of 10: Washington Avenue streetscape, former Ashburn Bank and Sconyers Furniture Center; photographer facing northeast.

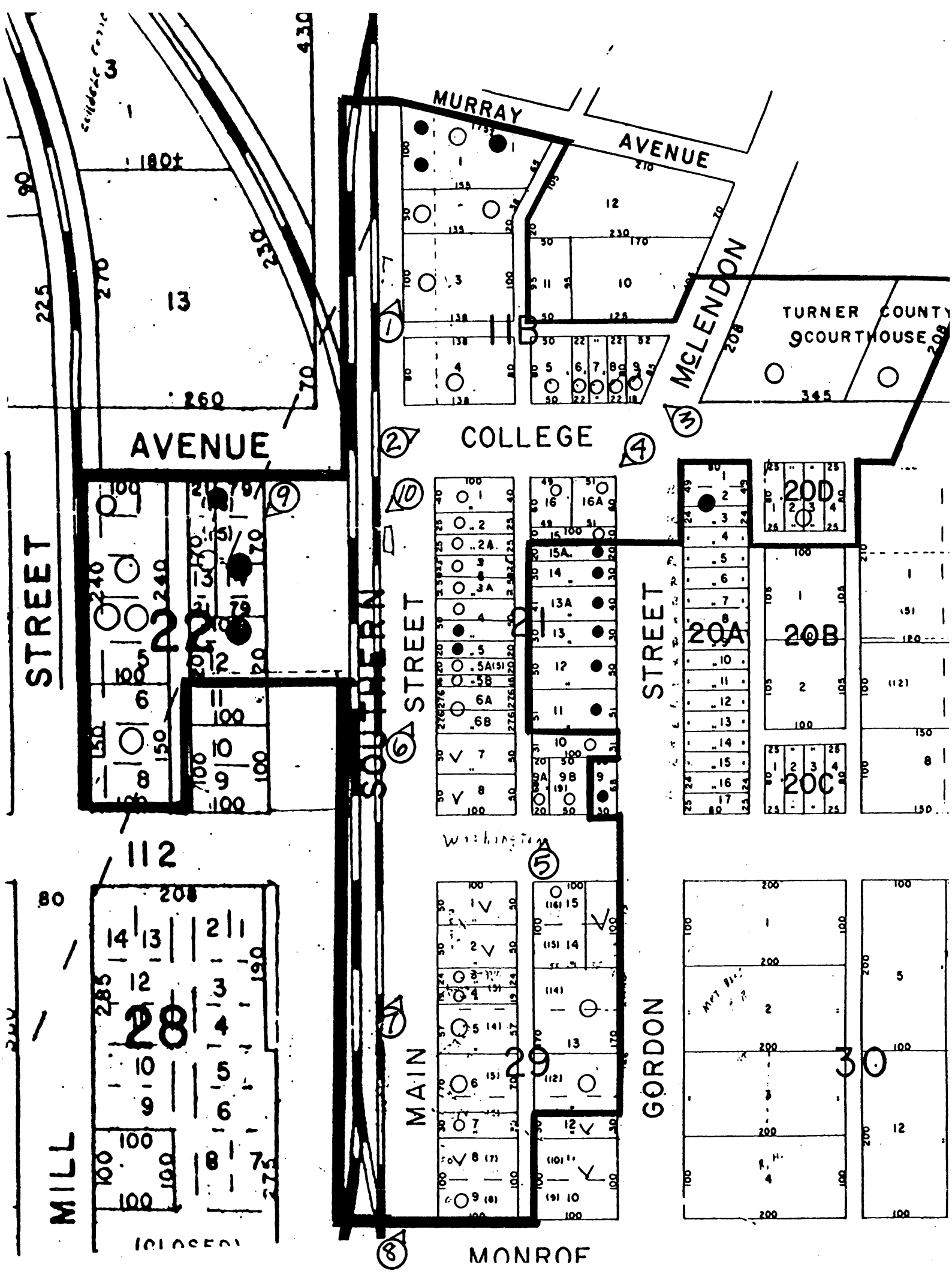
6 of 10: Main Street between College and Washington Avenues; photographer facing northeast.

7 of 10: Streetscape view of Main Street and remaining foundation of train depot; photographer facing northeast.

8 of 10: Gas station, corner of Main Street and Monroe Street; photographer facing northeast.

9 of 10: Peanut oil warehouse, city waterworks; photographer facing west.

10 of 10: Industrial section, water tower, city jail; photographer facing west.



Ashburn Commercial Historic District
 Ashburn, Turner County, Georgia

Boundary Map

Scale: 1"----- 150'
 Photographs indicated by: (3)
 Contributing: ○
 Noncontributing: ●
 Boundary: —

