

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Dalton Commercial Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Hamilton, Pentz, Waugh and Morris  not for publication  
city, town Dalton Streets N/A vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Georgia code GA county Whitfield code GA313 zip code 30720

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>85</u>	<u>40</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>86</u>	<u>40</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1  
(Western and Atlantic Depot)

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  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. N/A See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon 8/17/88  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Elizabeth A. Lyon, Deputy SHPO  
Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Amy Schaefer 12/5/88  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/department stores

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

GOVERNMENT/post office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/department stores

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate  
Romanesque

Late 19th/20th century revivals:

Colonial Revival

Classical Revival

Late 19th/20th century American Movements:

Modern Movement: Moderne, Art Deco, Commercial Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof asphalt

other terra cotta

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dalton Commercial National Register Historic District consists of historic buildings in downtown Dalton. The district is located along Hamilton and Pentz Streets between Waugh and Morris Streets; Hamilton and Pentz Streets, and the several streets which intersect them in the district, form the core of Dalton's historic gridiron street pattern. The district consists primarily of one- and two-story historic commercial buildings; also in the district are several public buildings (including a historic former post office, city hall, and fire station), an antebellum railroad depot, an early 20th-century "highrise" hotel, and an early 20th-century movie theater. These buildings date from the antebellum period through the 1930s; the majority date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Virtually all these buildings are built of brick with load-bearing brick walls and heavy timber interior framing. Most share party walls and a uniform setback from the street. Exceptions to these rules include the free-standing historic post office, city hall, and railroad depot and the "high-rise" hotel at the corner of Hamilton and Crawford Streets which takes up most of an entire city block. Brick is the principal building material in the district and is used both structurally and decoratively. Other important building materials include wood, cast and pressed metal, terra cotta, natural and cast stone, and glass. Historic architectural styles represented in the district include the following: mid-19th-century Italianate, with its characteristic bracketed eaves; late 19th-century Victorian, featuring cast-iron and plate glass storefronts, brick facades subdivided by projecting pilasters and recessed panels and ornamented with contrasting brick or stone trim, and high parapet walls with pressed metal or corbeled brick cornices; turn-of-the-century Neoclassical and Renaissance Revival, featuring symmetrical compositions of classical motifs including columns, pilasters, pediments, and cornices; early 20th-century Colonial or Georgian Revival, featuring classical or Renaissance detailing and the characteristic use of red brick with contrasting light trim; early 20th-century Commercial (or "modern"), featuring relatively plain, flat brick piers, walls, and parapets enlivened by shallow recessed panels, decorative brickwork, and simple but contrasting stone or terra-cotta details set into the brickwork, and large, often industrial-type metal sash windows; and early 20th-century Art Deco and Art Modern with characteristically smooth, almost streamlined surfaces, incised detailing, prefabricated panels, and bright colors and shiny surfaces. The most common architectural styles in the district are the late 19th-century Victorian and the early 20th-century Commercial. The oldest historic building in the district, the free-standing railroad depot at the end of King Street, features Italianate styling adapted to depot design;

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the latest major historic building in the district, the 1938 movie theater on Crawford Street, features Art Moderne styling. Both the historic post office and city hall were designed in the Colonial or Georgia Revival style. Other buildings in the district feature imaginative or eclectic combinations of historic styles and details. A contributing object within the historic commercial district is the 15-foot-high bronze statue of Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston. Erected in 1912, this monument commemorates General Johnston's command of the Confederate forces at Dalton in 1863. It is located on an island at the intersection of Crawford and Hamilton Streets.

**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)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

- architecture
- commerce
- community planning and development
- entertainment/recreation
- industry
- politics/government
- transportation

Period of Significance

1846-1938

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Statement of Significance

The Dalton Commercial Historic District represents a typical central business district in a small Georgia city. It contains a variety of historic commercial buildings, governmental structures, and transportation facilities all arranged according to a gridiron street plan.

In terms of architecture, the district is significant primarily for its concentration of an important building type--the commercial row or storefront building--characteristic of late 19th and early 20th century commercial development in Georgia and elsewhere and for the important historic architectural styles--including Italianate, Victorian, early 20th century Commercial, Colonial or Georgian Revival, Neoclassical and Renaissance Revival, and Art Deco and Art Moderne--that these commercial buildings represent. The district also contains other examples of important historic building types, including free-standing government buildings, a railroad depot, a hotel complex, and a movie theater, all representing important period architectural styles, and all of which are characteristic of historic central business districts in small Georgia cities.

In terms of commerce, the district is significant as Dalton's historic central business district. The majority of buildings housed a variety of stores, offices, and other places of business that provided day-to-day commercial activities including wholesaling, retailing, banking and professional services to the residents of Dalton and Whitfield County during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Entertainment and accommodations also were provided by the historic restaurants, taverns, movie theaters and hotel. Commercial development abated but did not cease during the Depression; the 1938 Wink movie theater, an Art Moderne building on Crawford Street, is the major privately financed enterprise from this period. It was preceded by one year by the Dalton City Hall, a Williamsburg-style public building built under the auspices of the Federal government's WPA program.

In terms of transportation, the district is significant for containing

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Caldwell, Flora., Dalton, Georgia. Interviews by telephone by Lisa Raflo, July, 1988. Ms. Caldwell is the Assistant Administrator for the City of Dalton.

Historic Preservation Commission, City of Dalton. Downtown Dalton Historic District: Rehabilitation Guidelines.

Whitfield-Murray Historical Society. Official History of Whitfield County, Georgia. Reprint of 1936 edition, the A.J. Showalter Company, Dalton, Georgia, 1981.

See continuation sheet

### 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

Specify repository:

N/A

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 20 acres

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	8	6	0	3	0	3	8	4	9	6	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	6	6	8	5	8	5	0	3	8	4	9	0	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	6	6	8	6	1	0	1	3	8	4	9	0	7	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	6	6	8	5	8	5	0	3	8	4	9	6	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Dalton Commercial Historic District in downtown Dalton, Whitfield County, is an area bounded generally by Hamilton Street on the east, Pentz Street on the west, Waugh Street on the north, and Morris Street to the south. See attached map for a detailed boundary description.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The National Register district boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the district sketch map and includes the most concentrated area of intact historic commercial, civic, and transportation buildings in downtown Dalton.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Cloues, National Register Coordinator and Lisa Raflo, National Register-  
organization Historic Preservation Office date July 25, 1988 Researcher  
street & number Georgia Department of Natural Resources telephone 404/656-2840  
city or town 205 Butler Street, SE, Suite 1462 state Georgia zip code 30334  
Atlanta,

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the 1852 W & A railroad depot. One of the few intact antebellum railroad depots in the state, this building helps document the character and appearance of the state's earliest rail transportation facilities. The railroad link from Atlanta to Chattanooga was completed in 1850, and the depot was constructed on land deeded to the State of Georgia by Mark Thornton in 1846 to be used solely for the purpose of establishing a railroad station. The depot represents the role that the Western and Atlantic railroad played in the historical development of Dalton and its central business district as a major trading center. The depot, already listed on the National Register, is all that remains of the original center of town. The one-mile radius of the city limits was measured from a circle of nail heads located in this depot. Later The Hotel Dalton, built in 1923 as a fireproof building, contributed to Dalton's transportation trade and was known as a resort for summer and winter tourists. Located downtown near both the railroad and the main street, it catered to the transportation needs of both rail and highway travelers.

In terms of politics and government, the district is significant for its three important public buildings--the old Federal Post Office, the city hall, and the county fire station--which represent the presence of federal and local government in Dalton during the early 20th century. City hall, built in 1937, is one of the few major buildings built in Dalton During the 1930s and, as such, reflects the economic stimulation that the WPA and other federal programs were designed to provide during the Depression. These buildings represent three different levels of government and their day-to-day operations in the community.

The district is significant in entertainment/recreation history for its role as the principal entertainment center for Dalton and Whitfield County. During the late 19th and early 20th century, entertainment was provided by the historic restaurants, taverns, opera house, and movie theaters. The 1938 Art Moderne style WINK movie theater was the only major privately financed structure built during the Depression and is the only remaining theater left in the historic district.

The district is significant in community planning and development for containing the intact historic core of Dalton's gridiron street plan. This plan was instrumental in shaping the architectural layout of the central business district. Gridiron street plans were common in Georgia's 19-century commercial and industrial cities, and the regular arrangement of streets, alleys, lots, and buildings afforded by this type of plan is characteristic of such planned communities. In 1846, Thornton deeded the land surrounding the depot to Edward White, an entrepreneur from Massachusetts, who proceeded to lay out a town with the envisioned depot as its center. White named the town "Dalton" after his mother's family and sold lots to businessmen for stores and small industries. He had the town incorporated, laid out roads and set aside areas for parks, schools, churches and other public buildings.

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The streets were laid out with the main ones a mile in length and a hundred feet wide, and named after prominent Dalton citizens. Dalton was originally in Murray County until 1852 when it became the county seat of Whitfield County.

In terms of industry, the district is significant for having originated and produced "tufted" bedspreads. During the Great Depression, several entrepreneurial women in Dalton developed a bedspread design by hand-tufting natural colored yarn onto unbleached cotton sheeting. As this cottage industry grew in popularity, the work was done not only in the homes but literally in every available space in many of the downtown commercial buildings. This industry is credited with enabling Dalton to survive the Depression years and the city soon became known as the "Tufted Bedspread Capital of the World" in the 1930s and 1940s. This was the beginning of the tufted carpet industry for Dalton which today has developed into a worldwide carpet industry.

### National Register Criteria

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

This district meets National Register Criteria A as it is associated with the events making a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. This commercial district, as the core of a small Southern town, reflects a great deal of the panorama of American life. The railroad depot reflects the town's origins as a rail stop on the important, state-owned Western and Atlantic Railroad. The district reflects the variety of needs of a growing community in the late 19th century. These historic buildings, all arranged according to a gridiron street plan, once housed general stores, dry goods merchants, specialty shops, etc., all needed in day-to-day life by its citizens. This district also contains a Masonic Lodge, several government buildings, a hotel complex and a movie theater, all aspects of a community's overall needs.

This district meets National Register Criteria C because of its architectural significance. The historic central business district contains a significant concentration of a particular historic building type--the commercial row building--characteristic of late 19th and early 20th century commercial development in Georgia. The district also contains good examples of important historic architectural styles--including Italianate, Victorian, Renaissance Revival, and Art Deco and Art Moderne--that represent important architectural periods and all of which are characteristic of historic central business districts in small Georgia cities.

### Period of Significance

In 1846 Dalton was given its present name, and the city's gridiron street

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plan which includes the downtown area was laid out. The oldest building in the district, the W & A railroad depot at the east end of King Street, dates from 1852. Most of Dalton's mid-19th-century commercial buildings were replaced during the late 19th century by Dalton's extant Victorian structures, most of which are located along Hamilton Street in the vicinity of King Street and the railroad depot. To the north and especially to the south along Hamilton Street are most of Dalton's early 20-century Commercial-style buildings, built during an era of intense local industrial growth and commercial development between the end of World War I and the onset of the Depression. Commercial development abated but did not cease during the Depression; the 1938 Wink movie theater, an Art Moderne building on Crawford Street, is the major privately financed structure from this period. It was preceded by one year by the Dalton City Hall, a Williamsburg-style public building built under the auspices of the Federal government's WPA program.



DALTON COMMERCIAL NATIONAL REGISTER  
 HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 DISTRICT SKETCH MAP

North ↑  
 0'-----275'  
 District Boundary ————  
 Contributing Property □  
 Noncontributing property ■  
 Photograph: locations indicated  
 by numbers along streets

100	25	24
104	21	22
	19	20
	17	18
	15	16
	13	14
102	11	12
	9	10
	7	8
	5	6
	3	4
99	1	2

90
88
86
84
82
80
78
76
74
72
70
69
68
67
66

WAUGH ST.

overpass

Female College  
 Baptist Ch.  
 White St. 20'  
 Street  
 Meth. Ch.  
 Millfield St.

KING ST.

House  
 Jail

CRAWFORD ST.

GORDON ST.

CUYLER ST.

MORRIS ST.

PENTZ ST.  
 WLA. FET. DEPOT  
 and Atlantic Property  
 VIADUCT  
 Western Street  
 HAMILTON ST.

65	64
63	62
61	60
59	58
57	56
55	54
53	52
51	50
49	48
47	46
45	44
43	42

College

41	40
39	38
37	36
35	34
33	32
31	30
29	28
27	26
25	24
23	22
21	20
19	18
17	16
15	14
13	12
11	10
9	8

Cuyler

7	6
5	4
3	2 1/2
1	2

Street

6 7

8

5

9

2

12

11

18

1

13

15

14

16

17

80 ft.

80 ft.

Street

Street