

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

For NPS use only

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

received **DEC 16 1983**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Canton Commercial Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

*Roughly bounded by Main, Church, Archer, and
C. Marietta Sts.*

street & number See Continuation Sheet. N/A not for publication

city, town Canton N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Cherokee code 057

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (fewer than 50)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Cherokee County Courthouse

city, town Canton state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title Cherokee County [See Continuation Sheet.] has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Canton Commercial Historic District consists of one and one-half blocks of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial buildings in downtown Canton. It is centrally located in the city of Canton on a high rise of ground. Streets in the district form part of the city's original gridiron street system. Lots are generally long and narrow, and are relatively small in size. Buildings in the district occupy much of the available land. They share party walls and are uniformly set back from the streets. The buildings range from one to three stories in height and have long, narrow proportions. They date from the 1890s to the 1930s. Styles represented in the district include simple Victorian Eclectic, early-twentieth-century Commercial, Beaux Arts, and Art Moderne; several buildings in the district are utilitarian in design and express no architectural style. Brick, the predominant building material, is used both structurally and decoratively. Detailing is confined primarily to front facades and is for the most part relatively simple. Examples of corbeled cornices and stringcourses, decorative spandrels, segmental arches, and pent and parapet rooflines are all found in the district. The Beaux Arts style, marble-clad Bank of Canton (1892) and the Art Moderne, stucco-clad Canton Theatre (1913, remodeled ca. 1940) stand out because of their distinct styles and building materials. Many storefronts in the district have been remodeled, along with a few front facades, although there are virtually no non-historic structures in the district.

Boundary

The district boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed map, circumscribes a relatively intact group of historic commercial buildings in downtown Canton. These buildings constitute approximately half of Canton's central business district. To the south and east is residential development; to the north and west is a mix of historic and non-historic commercial development. The Cherokee County Courthouse is located one block northwest of the district.

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Canton Commercial Historic District is an "L"-shaped area in the central business district of Canton, including properties on the south side of Main Street between Cannon Street and East Marietta Street, and on both sides of East Marietta Street between Main Street and Archer Street.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1890s–1930s **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Canton Commercial Historic District is historically significant in the areas of architecture and commerce. In terms of architecture, the district is significant because of its collection of modest late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial buildings that reflect the types and styles of buildings built in the central business districts of Georgia's small towns. In terms of commerce, the district is significant for representing the intact portion of Canton's historic central business district. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

Architecture

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its representative late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial buildings. Included in the district are relatively simple versions of such prevailing national styles as Victorian Eclectic, Commercial, Beaux Arts, and Moderne; other buildings in the district are characteristically utilitarian in design. Buildings in the district reflect the widespread use of brick in commercial buildings during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, superseding the wood construction of the early- to mid-nineteenth century. The district is highlighted by a fine Beaux Arts-style bank, an intact 1920s commercial/residential structure with pent roofs, a Masonic Lodge with intact interior, and an Art Moderne or Depression-style movie theater. It is further distinguished by the variety of building heights along Main Street. The commercial district comprises approximately one-half of Canton's historic central business district and provides an impression of what the entire downtown area must have been like a half century ago. It also represents the type of commercial development found in many of Georgia's small cities.

Commerce

In terms of commerce, the district is significant for representing the intact portion of Canton's historic central business district. Downtown Canton served as the historic commercial center for the city and much of Cherokee County during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Canton, originally named Etowah, was founded in the early-nineteenth century in conjunction with the north Georgia gold rush. In 1833, it was designated county seat, and in 1834, the town's name was changed to Canton to recognize one of the community's first industries, silk manufacturing. Canton grew slowly in the antebellum years and was almost completely destroyed by Sherman's troops during the Civil War. The town began rebuilding following the war, and aided by the 1879 arrival of the Marietta and North Georgia Railroad, it began to prosper and expand. Buildings in the historic district,

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Approximately 2 acres

Quadrangle name Canton, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary description and justification are included in Section 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher
Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date October 21, 1983

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 12/9/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

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

date 1/12/84

for Allores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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which date from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, reflect Canton's second period of historic growth and development, which began in the 1890s with the establishment of two major local industries--the Georgia Marble Finishing Works (1891) and the Canton Cotton Mills (1899)--and its first bank (1892, the still-extant Bank of Canton). This growth continued at a rapid pace until about 1910 before tapering off in the years before the Great Depression. Canton has experienced little growth since then.

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Brown, David. "Historic Property Information Form: Canton Historic District,"
April 23, 1982. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Atlanta,
Georgia. (This National Register nomination is based largely on the infor-
mation contained in this document.)

The Cherokee Advance, Canton, Georgia, 1880-1930.

Historic American Engineering Record: Inventory Form on Canton Cotton Mills.

Marlin, Lloyd G. The History of Cherokee County. Atlanta: Brown Publishing
Company, 1932.

Sanborn Insurance Maps for Canton: 1921 and 1930.