

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 21 1985

date entered APR 18 1985

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

1. Name

historic Camilla Commercial Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet N/A not for publication

city, town Camilla N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Mitchell code 205

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"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<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 Mitchell County Courthouse

city, town Camilla state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Surveys: Mitchell County has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1980 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section Georgia Department 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

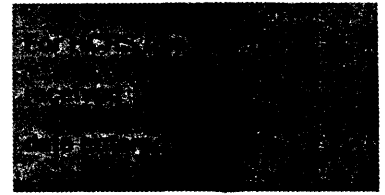
The Camilla Commercial Historic District consists of the historic commercial buildings in downtown Camilla and the adjacent Mitchell County Courthouse and square. Streets in the district are laid out on level ground with a gridiron pattern. The Courthouse square, although planned as the center of the community, is offset to the northeast from the central commercial intersection at Broad and Scott Streets. Lots in the district are narrow and rectangular. Buildings share party walls and uniform setbacks. They are one- to three-story commercial structures built of load-bearing brick and dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Architectural detailing confined to front and side facades, consists of modest and appropriate period work. Brick corbeling, cornices, decorated spandrels, parapets, cast iron columns, wooden storefronts, and plate glass windows are the most prominent exterior features. Interiors are finished with plaster, wood, and, in a few instances, pressed metal. Styles represented in the district include simple Victorian Eclectic, Early 20th-Century Commercial/Utilitarian, and Art Deco. The freestanding Art Deco-style Mitchell County Courthouse is landmark building in the district. Landscaping is confined to a few historic trees on the courthouse square and recently planted street trees. Modernized facades constitute the major non-historic elements in the district.

Boundary

The district boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, circumscribes the concentration of intact historic buildings in downtown Camilla. The district is surrounded by non-historic commercial development and residential development.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet

Location

Item number 2

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2. Location

The Camilla Commercial Historic District is located in Camilla, Mitchell County, Georgia. It consists of the historic commercial buildings in downtown Camilla, in addition to the Mitchell County Courthouse and square. It includes properties on both sides of Broad Street and South Scott Street and properties on the east side of North Scott Street.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1858; late 19th century
mid-1930s

Builder/Architect William J. J. Chase - Courthouse
Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Camilla Commercial Historic District is a typical late 19th-early 20th century county seat commercial center in southwest Georgia. It is historically significant in terms of community planning and development, architecture, commerce and politics and government. These areas of significance support the district's National Register eligibility under Criteria A and C.

Community Planning and Development

Camilla was laid out in 1858 as the county seat of newly created Mitchell County. Its original plan consisted of eight blocks laid out around a central courthouse square. This plan was altered in 1890 when a new courthouse was built on the southeast corner of the square, freeing the west side of the square for commercial development. Thus, Camilla's courthouse square is no longer the town's focal point. Camilla's early development was slowed by the Civil War. The town's real growth began in the 1870s and 1880s when a newly established railroad began to bring an influx of settlers to the surrounding countryside and new business to Camilla. The historic commercial area developed slowly to its present size from the late 1880s to the 1920s.

In terms of community planning and development Camilla is significant for its gridiron layout, which is characteristic of towns planned for civic and commercial purposes in 19th-century Georgia. The historic development of the town's commercial area somewhat away from, and not around, the courthouse illustrates the flexibility of a central courthouse plan and one of the possible variations from the more characteristic commercial development of commercial structures around the courthouse.

Architecture

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its collection of commercial buildings which reflects architectural styles and types, construction materials, and building techniques prevalent in Georgia's small towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The use of brick, both structurally and decoratively, in conjunction with cast iron, stone, pressed metal, and wood is characteristic of commercial architecture of the period in Georgia. The commercial buildings in Camilla are modest examples of the Victorian Eclectic, Early 20th-Century Commercial, and Art Deco styles and represent local builder/architects' interpretations of nationally popular styles. The district's historic commercial architecture is highlighted by the mid-1930s Art Deco-style Mitchell County Courthouse, designed by William J.J. Chase (1884-1967), an Atlanta architect who designed many schools, hospitals, and jails and at least six other courthouses around the state. This freestanding, white marble, Art Deco building provides a valuable contrast to the rows of brick commercial buildings.

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dixon, Sandra. "Historic District Information Form: Camilla Historic Commercial District." October 1983. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta. (Information in this form based on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, deeds, plats, interviews, newspaper articles, a county history, and old photographs.)

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Approximately 7 acres

Quadrangle name Camilla, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

1	6	7	6	5	8	7	0	3	4	5	8	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	6	7	6	5	7	4	0	3	4	5	8	2	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	6	7	6	5	5	0	0	3	4	5	8	3	4	0
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, outlined in black on the enclosed maps, is described and justified in Section 7.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Department of Natural Resources date 3/1/85

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW 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 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/14/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 4-18-85

for Robert Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

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8. Significance

Commerce

In terms of commerce, the district is significant as the historic commercial center of Camilla and parts of Mitchell and neighboring Bacon counties. The district served as the center for such day-to-day commercial activities as retailing, banking, professional services, and entertainment. These activities helped support the region's agricultural and naval stores economy.

Politics/Government

In terms of politics and government, the district is significant as the historic seat of government for Mitchell County since its creation in 1857. The present courthouse is the fourth to be built on the square. Constructed in the mid-1930s with assistance from the Public Works Administration, it is an important local example of the federal government's Depression-era social and economic relief programs.