

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

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



Continuation sheet

CAVE SPRING COMMERCIAL

Item number

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CAVE SPRING COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name: Cave Spring Commercial Historic District, Cave Spring, Floyd County,
Georgia

Location:

Centered on the intersections of Alabama Road, Broad Street, Rome Road, Cedartown Road, and Padlock Street, and extending for about a block in all directions.

Acreage: 6 acres

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary of the Cave Spring Commercial Historic District is identified and described by a heavy black line on the attached map of the Cave Spring multiple-resource area. This boundary circumscribes the intact historic commercial area of Cave Spring. It also includes a small downtown park. It does not include modern commercial buildings to the east and southeast, nor does it include residential properties to the north, west, and south.

UTM Reference:

E	Zone 16	E653380	N3775210
F	Zone 16	E653605	N3775210
G	Zone 16	E653460	N3775020
H	Zone 16	E653340	N3775020

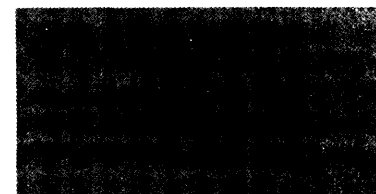
Description:

The Cave Spring Commercial Historic District encompasses the historic commercial downtown of Cave Spring. It is centrally located within the city limits at the northeast corner of the gridiron street plan. Principal city streets and rural highways intersect in this area, creating an elongated, triangular-shaped park. Architecturally, the district consists primarily of a relatively dense group of several one- to two-story, late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century brick buildings. These buildings fill three sides of the major downtown intersections; some front as well on two sides of the small triangular park. They are pushed forward to the sidewalks and virtually line the

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downtown streets with unbroken facades. Brick is used decoratively as well as structurally in the form of piers, pilasters, stringcourses, parapet panels, segmental arches, and corbelled cornices. Wood is used in imitation of cast iron on the storefronts of buildings fronting Alabama Road west of Broad Street. A single wood-framed structure, a two-story Greek Revival-era hotel/residence, stands at the southern end of the district. Three buildings date after the 1920s but are compatible with the district; they are the corner building north-west of the intersection of Alabama Road and Broad Street, the corner building northwest of the intersection of Alabama Road and Rome Road, and the southern-most building in the row of three along the west side of the park. A fourth building, in the middle of the row of three along the west side of the park, was not built until the 1950s and, although non-historic, is compatible with the district. Several buildings have also been altered in varying degrees. At least two structures have been demolished, leaving large gaps in the fabric along Alabama Road and Broad Street. Modern commercial buildings southeast of the park, including a bank, gas station, and restaurant, with their lawns and parking lots, have been excluded from the district. Landscaping in the commercial district is confined to the trees, lawn, and curbing of the small triangular park.

Significance:

Architecture. The Cave Spring Commercial Historic District is significant in terms of architecture primarily because of its concentration of commercial buildings which creates a distinctly downtown environment in this part of the city. This effect is due to the uniform scale and massing of the buildings, the consistent use of materials, and the regular siting of the buildings. These architectural aspects reinforce the organizing influence of the gridiron street pattern and define two sides of the small triangular park where the gridiron is joined by roads from the countryside. The district is also significant for its collection of modest, turn-of-the-century brick buildings. These buildings are fine examples of what was accomplished by carpenters and builders working with a limited range of materials in a local setting, and they represent the kind of vernacularized commercial architecture found in many small Georgia towns. Brick detailing is especially noteworthy, as is the use of wood storefronts in imitation of cast iron. Brick buildings like those along Alabama Road typically replaced earlier wood-framed structures toward the end of the nineteenth century; the survival of a wood-framed, Greek Revival-era commercial structure at the south end of the district must be regarded as unusual. The architecture in the district is also important for its associations with the commercial history of Cave Spring.

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Landscape Architecture. The Cave Spring Commercial Historic District is significant in terms of landscape architecture because of the small triangular-shaped park in its midst. This park is typical of the kind of landscaping found in the centers of many small Georgia towns, although its elongated triangular shape is somewhat unusual and can be attributed to the intersection of streets and roads in the vicinity. The park's simple landscaping -- trees, grass, and curbs -- reflects the tastes and abilities of small-town residents in the early-twentieth century. The park's history of development, from a wide place in the street to a grassy island and then a park, reflects the changing attitudes toward landscaping from a pragmatic, expedient outlook in the mid-nineteenth century to a more aesthetic, urbane orientation in the early-twentieth century.

Community Planning and Development. The Cave Spring Commercial Historic District is significant in terms of community planning and development because it represents the growth of a commercial center in a town that was "planned" only by virtue of a gridiron street plan joined to country roads. Its development was neither inevitable nor fortuitous; rather, it resulted from need and a convenient location at a major crossroads. Once started, it grew upon itself in a self-reinforcing cycle. This rather ad-hoc development of a commercial center at a major intersection within an otherwise undifferentiated gridiron is typical of small-town growth in the nineteenth century. The district is also significant for the way in which it incorporates both the planned gridiron street pattern and the rather haphazard alignment of the intersecting country roads.

Commerce. The Cave Spring Commercial Historic District is significant in commerce, as it has served as the commercial center for Cave Spring since the late-1830s/early-1840s. General stores were the first to locate in the district. They offered goods ranging from food to clothing to agricultural implements. It was not until after the Civil War that the commercial district truly developed. Cobblers, grocers, druggists and a variety of other commercial enterprises set up shop in the area. One of the three hotels remains in the district. (One of the hotels was located directly east of the district.) Blacksmith shops and tanneries were also commercial enterprises located in downtown Cave Spring. The commercial enterprises oriented themselves toward the local market as well as the outlying farms.

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LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS AND ADDRESSES

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45	Wayne Coursey, Alabama Road, Cave Spring, GA	30124
46	Mackey Lodge No. 120 F & AM, Alabama Road, Cave Spring, GA	30124
47	Same as No. 46	
48	Jackie Cline, Alabama Road, Cave Spring, Ga	30124
51-52	Horace Cline (northern half), Alabama Road, Cave Spring, Ga Martha Jane Montgomery (southern half), Alabama Road, Cave Spring, GA	30124 30124
53	Dewell Lindsey, Park Street, Cave Spring, GA	30124
54	Horace Cline and Dewell Lindsey, Park Street, Cave Spring, GA	30124
55	Horace Cline Alabama Road, Cave Spring, GA	30124
58	Same as No. 54	
59	Tom Lindsey, Park Street, Cave Spring, GA	30124
61	Newton Tumlin, W. Fairmont Street, Cave Spring, GA	30124
62	Calhoun Smith, Alabama Road, Cave Spring, GA	30124
67	Marjorie Nicholson, Rome Road, Cave Spring, GA	30124