IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME:

Reeves Building

HISTORIC NAME:

Reeves Building

STREET ADDRESS:

N. Washington Street

PRESENT OWNER:

Reeves Realty

MAILING ADDRESS:

P.O. Box 4

CITY: Clarkesville

STATE:

Georgia

Clarkesville

**ZIP CODE:** 30523

CURRENT USE: Retail

ACREAGE: Approximately 0.59 acre

U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE Clarkesville

U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E268300 N3833040

V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: CL-15-60 (Northeast half of lot)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Art Moderne-style commercial block; 2 stories high, rectangular plan; built of stuccoed masonry, plate glass, structural glass block, and extruded aluminum; rectangular, geometric forms highlighted by banded windows and horizontal strip detailing; second-story setback emphasizes geometric design; some original signage; occupies entire southwest side of downtown square; good condition.

ORIGINAL OWNER:

Randolph Reeves

ORIGINAL USE: Retail

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

Norman Stanbaugh

**HISTORIC ACREAGE:** City Block

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1946

DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: Furniture store added northwest end, early 1950's.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): Immediately following World War II, this structure was built on the site of a former frame hotel. The building was designed by an architect in Atlanta who had grown up in a neighboring town, Demorest. With one exception, its original occupants (Reeves Hardware, Lee 5&10, and Belk-Gallant) have remained; only Belks has been replaced, by a drug store. In the early 1950's a furniture store was added to the northwest end of the complex.

N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Commerce

LEVEL: State

SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Architecturally, this building is significant as an extraordinary example of Art Moderne-style architecture in Georgia. Characteristic features include its three-dimensional geometric design with secondstory setback and low, horizontal proportions, its smooth stucco finishes, its use of structural glass block and plate glass, its banded windows, and its streamlined horizontal detailing. Its unusual degree of integrity is evidenced by the survival of some original signage. Unlike other early 20th century commercial buildings in Clarkesville and other small Georgia cities, which were basically late Victorian types of buildings

FORM PREPARED BY: A) Dale Jaeger, Planner ORGANIZATION: A) Georgia Mtns APDC

P) Bishard Cloude Architectural Historian B) Historic Preser. Sec, DNR

B) Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian B) Historic Preser. Se ADDRESS: A) P.O. Box 1720, Gainesville, GATELEPHONE NUMBER: A) 404/536-3431

B) 270 Washington St. Atlanta

404/656-2840

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: NONE

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Randolph Reeves, Charlotte Reeves

SOURCES



PHOTOGRAPHER: James R. Lockhart DATE: November, 1980

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--- NEGATIVES FILED: Georgia Department of Natural

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: West

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: modernized through streamlined detailing and finishes, this building represents a complete break with historical design traditions through not only its detailing and finishes but also through its overall design. Such examples of modern architecture are relatively rare in Georgia and tend to be confined to the larger cities; such a building is highly unusual in a small town, even more so in remote, mountainous north Georgia. In Clarkesville, the Reeves Building became an instant local landmark. While literally sweeping away vestiges of the past on the southwest side of the Square, it stands as a complement to the turn-of-the-century buildings on the northwest and northeast sides of the Square. In an architectural way it reflects Clarkesville's post-World War II building boom, which is more typically represented in outlying residential development. In terms of commerce, this building is significant as a major element in Clarkesville's downtown commercial development. Three major stores were located in the Reeves Building- a five and ten cent store, a chain department store, and Reeves' hardware store- and they were soon joined by a furniture store. This complementary array of retail establishments anchored downtown commerce for two decades after World War II.