NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Expires 5/31/2012)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

639

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Lithonia Historic District

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 440 acres in downtown Lithonia centered on the intersection of the CSX Railroad and Main Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Lithonia ☐ vicinity

state Georgia code GA county DeKalb code 089 zip code 30058

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this **X** 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 **X** meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide _x_ local

William R. Hover for Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO — 1 Aug. 2016

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official — Date

Title — State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ ___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:)

Jon Edson M. Beall — 9.19.16

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Lithonia Historic District
Name of Property

DeKalb County, Georgia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- [x] private
- [x] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [x] public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
343	140	buildings
7	1	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
351	141	**Total**

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

Note: The Seminary (6886 Main Street) was listed in the National Register in 1978; #78003097, and is therefore subtracted from this count.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC: single dwelling	DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling	DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure	DOMESTIC: secondary structure
DOMESTIC: hotel	COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution	COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store	COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store	SOCIAL: meeting hall
COMMERCE/TRADE: restaurant	GOVERNMENT: city hall
SOCIAL: meeting hall	GOVERNMENT: correctional facility
SOCIAL: clubhouse	GOVERNMENT: post office
GOVERNMENT: city hall	EDUCATION: school
GOVERNMENT: post office	RELIGION: religious facility
EDUCATION: school	FUNERARY: cemetery
RELIGION: religious facility	RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation
RELIGION: church school	HEALTH CARE: sanitarium
FUNERARY: cemetery	LANDSCAPE: park

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theatre	TRANSPORTATION: rail-related
RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation	
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing	
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage	
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: extractive facility	
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: waterworks	
HEALTH CARE: hospital	
HEALTH CARE: medical business/office	
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related	
LANDSCAPE: park	

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne; Folk Victorian

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Neoclassical Revival, English Vernacular Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Gothic Revival

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style; Post-Modern

OTHER: Single Retail, Retail & Office, Multiple Retail, Hall-Parlor, Saddlebag, Central Hallway, Georgian Cottage, Gabled Wing Cottage, Queen Anne Cottage, New South Cottage, Pyramid Cottage, Bungalow, I-House, Queen Anne House, American Foursquare, American Small House, Ranch House, Split-Foyer

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Granite; BRICK; CONCRETE

walls: STONE: Granite; BRICK; WOOD: weatherboard; CONCRETE

roof: TERRA COTTA; ASPHALT

other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Lithonia Historic District is a large, diverse district comprising the intact historic resources within the current and historic municipal boundary of the city of Lithonia. The district is composed of a central commercial core surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Main Street, the principal commercial corridor, runs perpendicular to the Georgia/CSX Railroad, which bisects the district. Commercial buildings, constructed largely of brick and locally quarried gneiss (a type of granite), are concentrated in a two-block area extending south along Main Street from its intersection with the railroad in the center of the district. Most storefronts are utilitarian in design with minimal detailing. Some noncontributing infill, including Lithonia Plaza (1968), a large commercial development surrounded by parking, is located on Main Street. The commercial core is surrounded by residential development representing common late 19th- to mid-20th-century types and styles. The use of locally quarried gneiss is prevalent in both ornament and structural elements, including stairs, foundations, columns, and entire facades. The district includes a large number of community landmark buildings, including the Masonic Lodge (1916), the Lithonia Women's Club (1928), the Lithonia First United Methodist Church (originally Lithonia M.E. Church, 1910), Antioch Baptist Church (1911), Lithonia Presbyterian Church, The Union Missionary Church (1911), the Bruce Street Elementary and High School (1955), and the Seminary (1895). Contributing sites in the district include three cemeteries, two parks, the former Georgia Railroad Quarry, and the ruins of the Lithonia Negro School (1938). The Lithonia Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Narrative Description

Portions of the following description were written by Mera Cardenas and George Rounds of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, Alliance, Inc., as part of a Historic Property Information Form for "Lithonia Historic District," August 19, 2013, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia. The description was compiled and expanded by Stephanie L. Cherry Farmer, National Register and Survey Program Manager, Georgia HPD.

The Lithonia Historic District contains 441 acres within the city limits of the city of Lithonia, in southeastern DeKalb County, Georgia. The town is located approximately 20 miles east of Atlanta, Georgia immediately north of Interstate 20. The district comprises the intact historic resources within the historic municipal boundary of the city of Lithonia, which was incorporated in 1856 and largely corresponds with the current municipal boundary.

The name "Lithonia" drives from the Greek words for rock, "lithos", and place, "onia." The geography of the Lithonia Historic District is not only the city's namesake, but the nexus of its historical prosperity. Located along a natural ridge, the district is relatively flat with gently rolling hills near the Lithonia City Park to the west. Pine Mountain Creek runs roughly west to east through the residential areas on the east side of the railroad. This area includes several large undeveloped tracts, some lightly forested, along Bruce Street.

Geologically, this region contains vast amounts of granite. Lithonia gneiss, a type of granite, is composed of white quartz and feldspar layers. The stone occurs in natural ledges that not only facilitate the quarrying of the stone, but made it suitable for few other purposes than general building purposes and street curbing. Because of its hardness, color retention, accessibility, and suitability for building construction, Lithonia gneiss

experienced high demand at the turn of the 20th century. The district today exhibits several areas of flat-surface gneiss exposure. The district's boundaries include a portion of the now-defunct Georgia Railroad Quarry (in the southeast corner of the district on Quarry Street), and there are still area quarries operating immediately outside the boundaries. In addition to scattered natural granite outcroppings that dot the district's landscape, gneiss is a character-defining building material prevalent throughout the district. Its use in residential buildings is seen in the form of foundations, porch steps, stoops, columns and façades throughout the district- there is a concentration of houses along Rock Chapel Road between Conyers and Avery streets that prominently exhibit gneiss construction. Gneiss is prominently used as a decorative element in commercial buildings. Additionally, gneiss features prominently in many of Lithonia's community landmark buildings, such as the Seminary (6886 Main Street), the 1910 Lithonia First United Methodist Church (3099 Stone Mountain Street) and the 1916 Masonic Lodge #84 (7282 Conyers Street). Gneiss is the primary construction material throughout Lithonia City Park, and is also used for curbing, retaining walls, foundations, sidewalks, and walkways throughout the district.

The Lithonia Historic District is composed of a central commercial core surrounded by residential neighborhoods. Main Street, the principal commercial corridor, runs perpendicular to the Georgia/CSX Railroad corridor, which bisects the district running northwest to southeast. The Georgia/CSX rail line is located along the historic route of the Georgia Railroad, with two lines of track running between Swift and Conyers streets. There are two at-grade crossings over the tracks: one is at Cagle Street to the southeast of the commercial area. The other at Main Street, between Conyers Street and Swift Streets, forms the cross-rail intersection that defines the historic center of Lithonia. Established as a crossroads settlement, development remained centered on the original crossroads with the arrival of the Georgia Railroad in 1845. Main Street continues today to be a major thoroughfare through the city. Immediately outside of the district's southwest boundary, Main Street becomes Evans Mill Road and serves as one of the area's primary access routes to Interstate 20.

Major roadways in the district vary between two and four lanes in width, with gneiss curbing and few sidewalks. New brick, granite, and concrete sidewalks were installed along Main Street in 2005, incorporating non-historic tree wells, parking, and street trees in the commercial core. Sidewalks are more common on secondary streets, and when present, are typically paved with either poured concrete or concrete hexagonal pavers and separated from the road by planting strips. Most secondary streets are two-lane, and mature street trees appear intermittently along some of these, such as Church Street.

Immediately south of the commercial core and west of the rail line, Lithonia exhibits a somewhat gridded street pattern, with fairly straight streets forming rectilinear blocks. In the commercial core, this pattern is interrupted by the noncontributing Lithonia Plaza shopping center (constructed in 1968). Deviations from the grid pattern are substantial farther from the central intersection of Main Street and the rail line; varied street configurations include curvilinear and straight, right angles, and dead-ends. Mid-20th century platting is evident east of the railroad, where Bruce Circle, Bruce Court, and Dean Court exemplify the loops and cul-de-sacs that became characteristic of residential development during that era.

Commercial Development in the Lithonia Historic District

Commercial buildings in Lithonia are concentrated in the commercial core, along Main Street and near the railroad, with scattered examples north along Stone Mountain Street and Rock Chapel Road.

The extant historic central business district forms the core of the Lithonia Historic District. The commercial core retains defining development patterns traditional of historic downtowns in Georgia. A dense formation of one- and two-story buildings fronts both sides of Main Street, from the rail line southwest to Wiggins Street. The buildings occupy narrow rectangular lots, generally sharing party walls, or situated within two to five feet of one another. Breaks between buildings often indicate a former street, particularly near the Lithonia Plaza shopping center. Other breaks have been created for vehicle parking and access, such as the driveway

adjacent to the former U. S. Post Office at 6975 Main Street (constructed in 1962). Primarily commercial development also characterizes the area west of the railroad tracks fronting Swift Street immediately south of its intersection with Main Street, and similarly, fronting Conyers/Center Street to the north. As Lithonia's commercial core was largely constructed from the late 19th century through the 1940s, the area's proximity to the railroad reflects the importance of the railroad to the development and economy of the town.

Historic commercial buildings within the district are largely constructed of brick or Lithonia gneiss, and as is common in historic commercial districts in smaller Georgia towns, they are overwhelmingly utilitarian in design, with minimal ornamentation. Buildings are rectangular in massing, generally abut the sidewalk, and feature flat primary elevations that include a storefront which is rarely recessed. When they do not abut another building, rear and side elevations typically exhibit few openings and little to no ornamentation. One exception is 6980 Main Street, constructed c.1890, which features fenestration running the length of its south elevation which formerly fronted the no-longer-extant Hollingsworth Street.

Single retail, retail & office, and multiple retail building types, as defined in the statewide typology *Commercial Types in Georgia*, are all present in the Lithonia Historic District.

Single retail buildings consist of a single unit. Built either as a detached building or adjacent to other buildings, these were constructed primarily from the late 19th century to the mid-20th century in Georgia towns of all sizes. These building types have flat or sloping roofs and, typically, three-bay facades. Lithonia's oldest commercial building at 6957 Main Street can today be considered an example of this type. Constructed in 1885, Johnson's Hall exhibits several of the character-defining features of the buildings of Lithonia's commercial core, most notably, its rough-cut gneiss construction with relatively simple decoration, including a belt course and segmental arched window openings with keystones. As with the majority of the district's historic commercial buildings, it is set at zero lot line. Originally two stories in height, granite window sills on the upper portion of the façade identify former window openings infilled with granite following a fire that destroyed the building's second story in the late 1930s.

Multiple retail building types are also found within Lithonia's commercial area. These groupings of two or more identical one-story retail units were commonly constructed as speculative ventures, built for rental income. Characteristic of this type are identical facades, usually three-bay, with either flat or sloping roofs, such as the building at 6970 Main Street, constructed in 1940 and featuring mid-20th century detailing including Roman Brick façade treatment and aluminum windows.

Examples of the retail & office type, the most common commercial type found in Georgia towns, are located along both sides of Main Street in the district. Typically two to four stories in height with flat or sloped roofs, these buildings were built either as detached units or attached and separated by party walls, and accommodated office space above ground-floor retail space. An example in Lithonia can be found at 6958 Main Street.

East of the railroad, Main Street becomes Rock Chapel Road. Moving north along the railroad from its intersection with Rock Chapel Road, commercial development remains dense fronting Center Street for approximately one block. Sanborn maps from 1895 to 1932 evidence that development in this block has varied dramatically over the years, progressing from scattered stand-alone buildings to primarily adjoined commercial buildings, largely during the early 20th century. Development in this block has historically been single-story and commercial in nature. The one-story granite building at 7260 Center Street appears on Sanborn maps as early as 1909, and was once used as a cotton warehouse and later, a storage building. Additionally buildings on the block appear to have been used largely for retail purposes. One of few frame buildings in the commercial core today, a portion of the former West Supply Company building materials warehouse, remains between Center Street and the railroad- it sits on the location of Lithonia's original railroad depot. Sometime between 1923 and 1932, a new depot was constructed west of the railroad across from where this warehouse sits today. This later depot was razed in the early 1960s.

Masonic Lodge #84 fronting Conyers Street is an outstanding example of the use of gneiss in Lithonia's commercial resources. Constructed in 1916, the building is gneiss ashlar. Its primary façade houses two storefronts sheltered by a one-story metal shed roof porch. The building also has arched window openings featuring gneiss voussoirs, and a crenellated parapet wall extending across a flat roof. Sanborn maps indicate that a Masonic hall existed further east from the railroad on this block by 1901. By 1923, that building was converted for use as the Ara Aliva Hospital, and by 1932, it disappeared from maps. Masonic Lodge #84 is the single extant historic commercial building on this block today, which hosted scattered commercial and residential development throughout its history.

Moving south along the railroad from its intersection with Main Street/Rock Chapel Road, freestanding single-story commercial development remains relatively dense for approximately one block fronting Swift Street. Sanborn maps evidence that historically, development along this block was scattered and varied, however as early as 1923, freestanding buildings noted as automobile repair and sales buildings were located here. These buildings remain extant, and remain primarily automobile and mechanical service-related today.

The previously-mentioned scattered commercial resources north of the commercial core along Stone Mountain Street and Rock Chapel Road are stand-alone commercial resources largely dating to the mid-20th century. They include banks, retail establishments, and a noncontributing post office constructed c.1975.

Architecturally, buildings within the commercial core are characterized by flat roofs and building lines abutting the sidewalks. Ornamentation is minimal; design details exhibited are those typical of small towns in Georgia from the 1880s through the 1950s. These include patterned brickwork and frieze paneling, decorative cornices with brackets, brick corbelling and dentils, low parapet walls, and transom windows. Arched window openings and granite sills are also common.

Although the gneiss commercial buildings tend to be simpler in ornamentation, they are perhaps the most distinctive. Granite ornamentation varies widely within the commercial area. Some buildings, such as Johnson's Hall at 6957 Main Street have large, highly rusticated, chamfered blocks. Others, such as 6983 Main Street, have fine tooled, smooth-faced, and semi-polished stone exteriors. Still others, such as 6979 Main Street, illustrate a stacked-stone effect with beaded mortar joints on the façade.

The district's brick commercial buildings vary in degree of ornamentation. Tapestry elements such as corbelled cornices, recessed spandrel panels, and hooded windows are common features, as exemplified by the building at 6958 Main Street. Less decorative brick ornamentation can be found on the primary façade of 6974 Main Street.

Several buildings within the commercial core exhibit alterations that date to within the district's period of significance. Storefront alterations, such as the addition of aluminum windows with a brick border to the façade of 6979 Main Street c.1958, are common in the commercial core. The building at 6981 Main Street retains its original window frames, although the glass has been replaced. The aluminum-frame glass door is also a replacement (c.1960) but the façade retains its historic 10-pane transom. 6974 Main Street has also undergone substantial modifications to its façade, incorporating recessed entryways with large-pane windows, while maintaining the zero building setback characteristic of the commercial area. These alterations, common to commercial buildings in older central business districts throughout Georgia, reflect changing trends in marketing and commerce over time, primarily during the mid-20th century.

As is typical of commercial centers developed through the mid-20th century in smaller Georgia towns, the majority of the commercial buildings within the historic district are not associated with any particular architectural style. However, there are in Lithonia two notable exceptions. First, a notable example of the International style can be found in the former post office at 6975 Main Street (constructed in 1962). The International style is characterized by simple lines that reflect the structural skeleton under the exterior

material. The roof is flat and windows flush with the walls, usually grouped in bands. The exterior wall material is smooth and unornamented.

The Citizens Trust Bank at 3065 Stone Mountain Street is an example of the Post-Modern style within the district. The Post-Modern style uses elements of past architectural styles within a modern concept. This brick building, constructed c.1965, is long and low with narrow, vertical window openings that are recessed. An Asian-influenced shingle roof appears to float over the recessed central mass of the building, which is largely glass. Typical of branch bank development of the era, the building features a drive-through and is surrounded by minimal landscaping and surface parking. It is considered contributing to the district.

Moving west on Main Street away from Lithonia's commercial core, the dense row of commercial buildings on the north side of the street is abruptly interrupted by the eight-acre Lithonia Plaza Shopping Center, a noncontributing resource constructed in 1968 as part of an Urban Renewal-funded redevelopment project. As evidenced by Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, this project resulted in the rerouting of Stone Mountain (formerly Academy), Hollingsworth (formerly Elliott), and Church streets and the creation of Max Cleland Boulevard (and the c.1970 replacement of the rail bridge that crosses it), and effectively erased this area's historic street and development patterns, along with its pre-1968 buildings. The shopping center consists of a complex of one-story buildings with half-timbered façades and a massive faux mansard roof. The building is surrounded by surface parking lot. This area was once the site of Lithonia community landmarks including the city's second rail depot and both historic locations of city hall. According to Sanborn maps, Lithonia's city hall was located between Bond Street/Max Cleland Boulevard and Hollingsworth Street from 1895 to 1909. By 1932, it was in another building, still on the west side of Hollingsworth Street, north of Main Street. No evidence of these resources exists today.

Moving away from the historic commercial core in all directions, historic development patterns are largely maintained, but are irregular. Lots tend to be narrow and deep and are typically less than ½ acre in size, with shallow building setbacks. Additional commercial development west along Main Street is less dense, with stand-alone buildings occupying larger lots. East across the railroad, development fronting Center/Conyers Street is overwhelmingly residential, with buildings occupying larger lots set back substantially from the street. Along Conyers and Swift streets, both residential and commercial buildings retain their historic orientation toward the railroad, a typical defining characteristic of cross-rail type towns.

There is a single contributing commercial site in the Lithonia Historic District- a portion of the remains of one of several area quarries, the Georgia Railroad Quarry, is within the southeastern boundary of the district. The northern half of this parcel is entirely wooded, while the former quarry site remains evident only on a small portion close to Conyers Street. These remnants consist of vacant land marred with pitting and clearing- dirt road traces remain evident, but as the site is being reclaimed by nature, even within these remnants the land is today substantially wooded.

Residential Development in the Lithonia Historic District

The majority of the Lithonia Historic District is residential in nature. Moving away from the commercial core and Main Street, development becomes overwhelmingly residential almost immediately. In the residential areas, the street layout and development patterns become increasingly irregular and varied, corresponding with piecemeal and largely unplatted development spanning from the mid-19th through the mid-20th century. Only select areas, such as the block between Stone Mountain Street and Randall Avenue north of Ida Street, and the lots fronting Bruce Circle and Dean Court, exhibit relatively uniform lot sizes that evidence platted development.

Lithonia's residential streets are lined with late 19th and early 20th century houses spaced irregularly, and are punctuated with relatively modern infill development. As is typical of Georgia towns, houses within the earliest residential areas tend to have setbacks that are close to the street. Residential buildings that have been lost,

either to neglect or fire, in many cases have not been replaced, resulting in a large number of vacant lots in the district.

Most houses in Lithonia are modest in size, generally one to one-and-a-half stories in height and oriented toward the street. There are two-story examples, some of which are substantial in size, scattered throughout the district; concentrations front Church Street, Stone Mountain Street, and Rock Chapel Road. Most houses sit on relatively large lots, which vary greatly in size and shape, again, corresponding with piecemeal development spanning from the mid-19th through the mid-20th century. Landscaping within residential areas is typically minimal. Plantings and circulation patterns are informal and reflect private property owner's preferences rather than an orchestrated design scheme. Most yards are informal, covered with grass. Foundation plantings and ornamental shrubs and trees are common. Some yards are enclosed with fencing constructed of varying materials including wood, cast iron, and chain link. Some fences incorporate granite or other stone construction. Some properties include outbuildings, but these are relatively small in size and have not been counted in the resource count for the district.

The majority of residential buildings in the district were constructed between 1890 and 1960. Concentrations of older residential resources can be found south of Main Street and west of the railroad and along Church Street, however, additional late 19th century resources are scattered throughout the district. Resources dating from all decades of the 20th century are found throughout the district, and there are several concentrations of exclusively mid-20th century houses found in the portion of the district that lies south of Rock Chapel Road and east of the railroad.

As documented in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, house "type" refers to the overall form (the exterior envelope) of the main or original mass of the house, and the general layout of the interior rooms. This includes the floor plan and the height. In contrast, a "style" relates primarily to the external ornament or decoration of a house and also to the aesthetic qualities of its overall form. Houses belonging to the same type may exhibit different styles, and the same architectural style may appear on numerous house types. Most houses in Lithonia have only sparse elements of or no defined architectural style and are characterized only by their type.

The Lithonia Historic District's residential sections contain examples of most of the house types that were popular in Georgia during the late 19th century and first half of the 20th century, as identified in *Georgia's Living Places*. These include:

Hall-Parlor
The hall-parlor house is a one-story house composed of two unequal sized rooms. This house has a side-gable roof and often has gable-end chimneys. Most Georgia examples were built between 1850 and 1930. An example of this type in Lithonia is located at 2403 Bruce Street.

Saddlebag
The saddlebag house is comprised of two rooms, usually square, with a central chimney located between the separate rooms. This house type was most popular in Georgia between 1910 and 1930. The two subtypes of this house type include one with an exterior door into each room on the primary elevation, and one with a single central door into a vestibule beside the chimney. An excellent example of the former variant is located at 2716 Council Street.

Central Hallway
The central hallway type is a two-room house with a central hallway leading from a centered exterior door. Each room features an end chimney on its exterior side. The roof is usually gabled. This type was very popular in Georgia, with most examples built between 1830 and 1930. 3040 Stone Mountain Street is an example of this type.

Georgian Cottage
The Georgian cottage is a symmetrical four-room house with a central hall and a hipped roof that usually includes interior chimneys. One of the most long-lived and popular of the documented house types in Georgia's history, examples of the Georgian cottage can be found 2642 Rock Chapel Road and 6784 Church Street. 2621 Wiggins Street is an excellent example of the type.

Gabled-Wing Cottage
The gabled-wing cottage is a one-story house type found throughout the Lithonia Historic District. Popular in Georgia between 1875 and 1915, it features a cross-gable roof and a T- or L-shaped plan. Most gabled-wing cottages include full-width porches and chimneys located either at the gable end or at the intersection of the roof ridgeline. Examples of this house type include 7061 Swift Street, 6831 College Avenue, and 6860 Main Street. There is a concentration of this type in the district on Randall Avenue just north of its intersection with Ida Street.

Queen Anne Cottage
The Queen Anne cottage is a one-story, asymmetrical house type. Popular during the 1880s and 1890s, it is composed of a principal square mass with gabled projections. There is no central hallway, and chimneys are usually interior. Many Queen Anne cottages include a wide covered porch that often extends around the side of the house. An example of this house type is located at 2688 Rock Chapel Road.

New South Cottage
The new south cottage is similar to the Queen Anne cottage, in that it is composed of a principal square mass with gabled projections. However, these projections are symmetrical on a new south cottage, as the house features a central hallway plan. The hallway is flanked by pairs of rooms, one or both of which might project forward. These homes were popular in Georgia from the 1890s to the 1920s. An example of this type is 3053 Stone Mountain Street.

Pyramid Cottage
The pyramid cottage is a square-mass, four-room house without a hallway. Constructed between 1910 and 1930, pyramid cottages are defined by a steeply-pitched pyramidal roof. An example of this type can be found at 7476 Conyers Street.

I-House
The I-house is a two-story, one room deep and two room wide house that can exhibit a central hallway, hall-parlor, double-pen or saddlebag plan, defining its subtype. Most examples of this type were built between 1830 and 1890. Only one example of the type exists in the Lithonia Historic District, constructed during the late 19th century. This house is located at 6915 Born Street.

Queen Anne House
The Queen Anne house is a two- to three-story version of the Queen Anne cottage. Popular during the 1880s and 1890s, the façade is asymmetrical; multiple gables project from the steeply-pitched roof that may incorporate a tower. Many include a wide covered porch that often extends around the side of the house. Examples of this type in Lithonia are located at 6783 and 6790 Church Street.

American Foursquare
The American foursquare, popular between 1915 and 1930, is a two-story house that features a square floor plan, cubical massing, and typically a pyramidal roof. Each floor has four rooms, one of which includes the stair. There is a single example of this type in the district, located at 2546 Bond Street.

Bungalow
The bungalow house type is very common in Lithonia, as it is in many Georgia towns of similar size. These one-story houses are long and low with irregular floor plans within an overall rectangular shape. Low-pitched front or side gabled or hipped roofs are common, while cross-gabled variants are rare. Integral porches are common. These houses were popular in Georgia in the early 20th century, typically between 1900 and 1930. Examples of this house type can be found at 2707 Rock Chapel Road and 3068 Stone Mountain Street.

American Small House
The American Small House is a compact three to five room house with an irregular floor plan and a moderately pitched end-gable roof. Popular during the 1930s and 1940s, these houses emerged during the Great Depression. Construction of this type peaked during the years following World War II as the nation faced housing shortage due to their low-cost, quality of design, and ease of expansion. There are numerous examples in the district, including 2658 Rock Chapel Road, a granite example at 2620 Johnson Street, and a brick example at 2580 Wiggins Street.

Ranch House
The quintessential suburban house type is the ranch house. This type is characterized by its single-story, long, narrow form and low-pitched roof (both gabled and hipped variants are common). Many have an attached garage or carport. A variety of window types may be found in a single house: in addition to the common picture window on the primary elevation, double-hung, sliding, fixed and casement windows are also common. Larger examples of this type may feature an over-scaled chimney. Roofs typically have moderate eaves or overhangs. The type was popular in Georgia from the late 1940s through the mid-1970s. Examples in Lithonia include 2554 Bond Street, 2601 Reagin Street, 2620 Wiggins Street, 6969 Braswell Street and 7066 Dean Court.

A newly identified house type not included in *Georgia's Living Places*, but currently the subject of ongoing analysis by the Historic Preservation Division, is the split-foyer. The split-foyer is a two-story type with its primary entrance located between the two levels. The primary entrance is at grade level, midway between the two floor levels. From this entry foyer, stairs access the main living level a half-floor up and the lower level, which is partially below-grade, a half-floor down. The exterior evidence denoting this house type is the location of the primary door opening in relation to the windows: the door does not line up with the windows for either level. Most popular in Georgia during the 1960s and 1970s, an example in Lithonia is 6939 Bruce Circle.[1]

In addition to the identified single-family types, there are in the district a handful of concrete block houses that do not represent any recognized type. Constructed c.1956, they are clustered fronting Magnolia Street near its intersection with Jenkins Street. They include 6875, 6876, and 6879 Magnolia Street.

Multi-family dwellings are located in clusters throughout the district. The majority are in the form of mid-20th century duplexes or triplexes. These dwellings are typically one story in height, and brick. Some are oriented with the primary elevation facing the street, while others are transverse, with what appears to be a secondary elevation oriented toward the street. Single car driveways or small parking areas are also present. These duplexes were constructed c.1961 as part of urban renewal projects aimed at revitalizing Lithonia, and remain owned by the Lithonia City Public Housing Authority today. The largest concentration of these is found within the Bruce Street Urban Renewal Project area, which included all of Bruce Circle and lots on the west side of Dean Court, and was platted in 1960. Additional examples are scattered independently throughout the district-examples include 6878 Max Cleland Boulevard, 2657 Johnson Street, 2444 Bruce Street, and 6817 and 6827 Parkway Road.

[1] Dr. Richard Cloues. *Split-Foyer Houses*. Lecture. Georgia Department of Natural Resources: Historic Preservation Division, May 8, 2015.

Apartment construction within the district is scattered, and is largely noncontributing to the district due to its age. Exceptions include a single apartment building located at 6986 Bruce Circle within the Bruce Street Urban Renewal Project area which was constructed c.1960. The long, low single-story brick apartment bears many of the exterior characteristics of the ranch house type. There is another single-story contributing apartment building dating to 1964 at 2596 Wiggins Street, constructed of concrete block. Three gable-roofed two story-brick apartment buildings located at 7063, 2582, and 2592 Kelly Street date to 1970 and thus, are considered noncontributing to the district. Larger multi-family developments are located between Tribble and Ida Streets and also near the intersection of Max Cleland Boulevard and Rock Chapel Road. These date from the 1990s to the 2000s and thus, are noncontributing to the Lithonia Historic District.

The district also includes representative examples of residential architectural styles popular in Georgia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as identified in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. These include:

Second Empire
Rare in Georgia, the Second Empire style emerged during the early Victorian era (1870-1890) after having been made popular in France during the reign of Napoleon III. This style is characterized primarily by its mansard (dual-pitched, hipped) roof. This roof is steeply pitched and almost always exhibits dormer windows. Other details of the style are similar to the Italianate style, but are more massive and heavy. These include eave brackets, windows with heavy moldings or hoods, porch columns that are often paired, and bay windows. A remarkable vernacular interpretation of the Second Empire style is located within the Lithonia Historic District at 6921 Born Street. Lithonia's example has gneiss columns supporting the porch roof, typical of the character-defining usage of this material on buildings throughout Lithonia.

Queen Anne
The Queen Anne was Georgia's most popular 19th-century style, widely used throughout the state from the 1880s to about 1910. Developed in England and based on medieval Elizabethan and Jacobean examples, the style utilizes a variety of materials to create textures and elaborate detailing. Queen Anne houses are asymmetrical, with complex roofs and walls shapes. Exterior surfaces exhibit projecting bays and textured materials such as patterned shingles. Many have a porch that is also asymmetrical and often wraps around at least two sides of the house, usually decorated with gingerbread ornamentation and elaborate, slender spindlework. Chimneys are typically prominent and elaborately detailed with patterned and corbelled brickwork. While Lithonia includes few examples of this style, 6783 Church Street is a representative one with more classically-inspired detailing.

Folk Victorian
The Folk Victorian style became popular in Georgia during the mid-to-late 19th century. Houses in this style are generally simple in form. They exhibit Victorian-era decorative details taken from more elaborate styles, such as gingerbread ornamentation including brackets and spindlework, applied to features such as the porch, roof gables, and around window and door openings. Some feature additional or irregular roof gables that have been added to break up the traditional massing of the house. Excellent examples of this style are located at 2671 Johnson Street and 6860 Main Street.

Neoclassical Revival
The Neoclassical Revival style, which combines Greek and Roman detailing, drew upon the earlier Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles. It was popular in Georgia from the 1890s through the 1930s. Examples of the Neoclassical Revival style are found in the Lithonia district, most notably at 3021 Stone Mountain Street (constructed 1910), and 6949 Main Street. The most notable feature of the Neoclassical Revival style is the dominant full-height front portico with classical columns, often with elaborate capitals. The façade is usually symmetrical and has a central entrance usually surrounded with pilasters, elaborated with fanlights, sidelights and a transom. A classical cornice with dentils and modillions is also a common feature. The roof is usually low pitched and may have a balustrade. Windows are often paired.

English Vernacular Revival
The English Vernacular Revival style was popular in the first four decades of the 20th century and is often referred to as Tudor Revival. Borrowing heavily from medieval English houses, the English Vernacular Revival style incorporates steeply pitched gable roofs ,usually with a dominant front-facing gable, and combinations of building materials such as brick, stone, stucco, and half timbering, although almost all houses of this style have masonry walls. Massive chimneys, often on the primary façade, are common. Windows are generally tall, narrow, and grouped. Arched entryways are common. Although not a residential building, the Lithonia Women's Club at 2561 Wiggins Street was designed in the residential tradition and is an example of this style, with its steeply pitched roof, asymmetrical façade, and dominant stone chimney. 6784 Main Street is also a good example of the style.

Mediterranean Revival
Italian and Spanish vernacular country houses along the Mediterranean Sea area provided the inspiration for the Mediterranean Revival style. Popular during the 1920s and 1930s, this style is characterized by masonry walls, often finished in smooth stucco, comprising an asymmetrical house. The roof is low-pitched, may be either hipped or gabled and, is covered in clay tiles. Windows are generally arched and may be grouped. An example of this style, following the Italian tradition with its overhanging eaves with brackets, is the "Yellow Brick House," found at 6903 Main Street.

Colonial Revival
A renewed interest in colonial American architecture, inspired by the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, birthed the Colonial Revival style. This style gained lengthy popularity in Georgia, from the 1890s through the mid-20th century. Most houses in the Colonial Revival style are symmetrical with a central entry framed by pilasters or columns. Broken pediments, fanlights, and sidelights are also common around the entrance. Windows are double-hung and multi-paned. The roof may be hipped or have a side-gable. A vernacular example of this style can be found in the district at 2607 Reagin Street.

Craftsman
Popular during the early 20th century, houses constructed in the Craftsman style are asymmetrical and exhibit distinctive elements meant to emphasize materials and craftsmanship: low-pitched roofs with wide unenclosed eave overhangs exposing roof rafters; decorative beams or brackets at the eaves within wide gables; and either full or partial width porches supported by square, often battered, columns on heavy masonry piers extending to ground, are all common. Windows are usually double-hung and consist of a multi-paned sash over a single-pane sash. Examples of the Craftsman can be found at 2677 Rock Chapel Road. A character-defining aspect of many Craftsman houses in Lithonia is the integration of gneiss in construction, usually in the porch construction or foundations.

Community Landmark Resources

Historic community landmark resources are found immediately surrounding the historic commercial core and scattered throughout the primarily residential balance of the Lithonia Historic District. They include buildings and sites. The buildings generally are detached and built for a variety of purposes. Almost all feature granite in their construction; most feature it prominently, as both a decorative and structural component. Granite also features prominently in most of the sites, which include three cemeteries, three parks (one noncontributing), and one ruin. Community landmark buildings in Lithonia include churches, social and fraternal organizations, schools, and a former library. These buildings and sites have served as gathering places for citizens of the city throughout Lithonia's history, and many of these continue to serve their original purpose.

Churches are the most numerous type of community landmark building in Lithonia. Most are constructed of locally quarried gneiss and were built between the early 1900s and the 1950s. The Lithonia First United Methodist Church (originally Lithonia M.E. Church) is located on Stone Mountain Street, west of the railroad,

between College and Church streets. Built in 1910 and designed by architect and Lithonia native John Parks Almand, Lithonia First United Methodist Church is a representative example of the Gothic Revival style. The church is constructed of rusticated granite in a traditional cruciform plan, with buttressed exterior walls and a projecting front tower with a crenellated parapet. Pointed-arch openings hold both stained and leaded glass windows with tracery. The original church on the property, a large frame building with a cupola, was located approximately 200 feet to the rear of the present building.

Good News Community CME Church (originally Antioch Baptist Church) is located at the corner of Parkway Road (formerly Decatur Street) and Park Drive (formerly Ezra Street). The building was built in 1911 and according to the 1923 Sanborn map was a "colored" church. This church is a representative example of the Gothic Revival style, constructed of rusticated granite with a projecting front tower with a crenellated parapet and pointed arch window openings. The building bears a notable resemblance to the previously-discussed Lithonia First United Methodist Church, constructed just a year earlier. Both are representative examples of the central tower church type, which is defined by its projecting entrance tower on the primary façade. As defined in *Church Types in Georgia*, this church type was popular throughout Georgia's rural areas and smaller tower from the 1850s through the 1930s.

Exousia Lighthouse International Christian Ministries (formerly Lithonia Presbyterian Church), is located at 2562 Bond Street. A church was constructed on this site in 1891, and rebuilt in 1952 after a fire. The extant building was reportedly designed by one R.O. Rennie, however, no documentation on this individual has been located. Exhibiting basic Colonial Revival style, the rectangular church is an example of Georgia's most common front-gable church type with a brick exterior supported by a granite foundation. A simple wood surround delineates the front entrance on an otherwise blank primary façade- arched window openings run the length of the east and west facades and a simple spire of wood with a copper roof caps the building, which sits on a triangular lot as a result of the construction of Max Cleland Boulevard.

Union Missionary Church (formerly Union Baptist Church) at 2508 Bruce Street, was built in 1911. Constructed in the Gothic Revival style, the church has a granite foundation and walls. The church's gables are today covered in siding where historically, a mix of wooden shingle and clapboard was used. Union Missionary is an example of a corner tower church type, as defined in *Church Types in Georgia*. This type was popular in Georgia's crossroads communities from the 1890s through the 1930s.

The congregation of the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church organized in 1879. Its first location lay at the intersection of Covington Highway and Evans Mill Road. In 1931, the church constructed the building now called the "Solid Rock," located at the intersection of Klondike Road and Magnolia Street. This building is constructed entirely of irregularly cut granite and has two pyramidal-roofed towers of different sizes flanking the main mass of the building. Historically, two primary entrances were housed in the two towers on the front façade. These infilled openings remain evident today. The projecting arched granite surround at the current primary entrance is not original, nor is the addition on the church's south façade. Although this building was constructed later, the congregation of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church is significant in Lithonia's 19th century history in that it was one of two churches in Lithonia that offered education for African American children as early as 1884.

Current and former educational facilities also have a substantial presence in the Lithonia Historic District. The district includes one building that is individually listed in the National Register. Listed in 1978, this large granite building located at 6886 Main Street is known as the Seminary, and was constructed in 1895 on land donated by Benjamin Franklin George. The George family were early Lithonia settlers. Concerned about the education of his seven children, George built a school on property adjoining his home. The school opened in 1895 and operated on a tuition basis for white students until the Lithonia public school system was established in 1905.[2]

[2] Judge Bond Almand. *Lithonia: The First Hundred Years 1856-1956.* On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.

The Seminary then closed and in 1906, George sold the property to John Keay Davidson, head of Lithonia's Davidson Granite Company, who converted the building into the "Auto Rest Hotel." Under that name, it served as a much-needed boarding house for quarry workers until 1917 when Davidson closed it and sold the property. It was a private residence until the 1980s, and currently serves as office space.

In 1920, a two-story granite high school was built on College Street near Randall Avenue. Over the years (most notably 1939, 1948, and 1953) several additions occurred. Between 1965 and 1966, the majority of the facility was demolished when the present Lithonia Middle School (constructed as a new Lithonia High School) was built. A single wing of the previous school- a sprawling one-story random ashlar granite building originally constructed as an addition in 1948- remains today. The 1966 school and 1948 building are not connected, and are counted as separate contributing buildings for the purposes of this nomination. The two-story 1966 building is brick and concrete. While the building has lost some original elements, such as decorative screening on the primary façade, and a 2003 addition obscured some of the building's east façade, it retains its original form and the majority of its original features, including the flared arch canopy above the primary entrance.

The Lithonia Negro School, constructed for African American students during the segregation era, is currently in ruins on Bruce Street in the northeastern quadrant of the district. Despite its condition, it remains an important symbol for the community, and the property is counted as a contributing site for the purposes of this nomination. Constructed in 1938, the one-story school burned after it closed in 1955. Portions of exterior walls, all constructed of locally quarried gneiss, remain standing today.

Across the street from the Lithonia Negro School ruins, the Bruce Street East DeKalb Center currently serves as the DeKalb County Police Academy as well as a community center. This building was constructed as the Bruce Street High and Elementary School, and originally served as what's known today as an equalization school- a school built, in this case for African American students, during the late segregation era as an attempt by the state of Georgia to maintain segregated public schools. The school was one of 13 new schools that opened in DeKalb County in 1955, and it features elements characteristic of the International style, including a flat roof, large metal windows, and a lack of ornament. The one-story school is U-shaped, and is constructed primarily of random ashlar granite and concrete. A detached two-story, brick gym stands immediately south of the school building, and is counted as a separate contributing resource. It was added to the campus in 1963. The school was designed by the Marietta architectural firm of Bothwell and Nash.
In addition to church and educational buildings, Lithonia has a variety of other historic community landmark resources.

The Lithonia Women's Club, at 3654 Wiggins Street, is a one-story building constructed of locally quarried granite. Constructed in 1928, the clubhouse exhibits English Vernacular Revival style elements, such as a gabled front roof projection and a massive stone chimney on the primary façade. Double doors flank the chimney and a large stone patio with apron walls extends across the front façade. At the time of its construction, the clubhouse consisted of an assembly room, kitchen, and a special wing for a library. This served as Lithonia's public library and the first lending library in DeKalb County. A handicap ramp was added in 2006 to the building's front porch. The building is currently owned by the Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance and is still used as a community gathering space today.
The Lithonia city waterworks was established in 1916. The only remaining element of the complex is a small L-shaped pump house at 6974 Ruth Street. The pump house is constructed of rough-cut granite featuring a decorative beaded mortar joint, and has a slate, hipped roof. The building appears on Sanborn maps by 1923. The property formerly included two rectangular concrete tanks and one circular concrete tank adjacent to the extant building. These elements of the property were demolished c.1981. Despite this loss, the property contributes to the Lithonia Historic District as an example of the city's early municipal infrastructure.

There are several parks within the proposed district. The largest by far is Lithonia City Park, along the west boundary of the district off of Park Drive. The park is overall heavily wooded, situated on rolling hills that slope up to the west from Park Drive, reaching a high point in the middle of the park and then sloping downward in the rear, westernmost portion. Brenda Lee Lane, a paved drive, loops through the east half of the park, which was developed in the late 1940s. It includes play areas, picnic areas with granite tables and bar-b-que pits, pavilions, and an open amphitheater. Gneiss features prominently in the park landscape, serving as the primary construction material for everything from the park's retaining walls, to park signage, to the picnic tables and pavilions, to the amphitheater seating and stage shelter. The stage shelter has been altered with the addition of a contemporary gabled roof, infill material in former window openings, and metal roof and lighting framing. A contemporary shelter of similar framing material has been added at the top, or west, edge of the amphitheater seating. The west half of the park includes a community swimming pool with associated concrete block buildings, all dating to c.1978. For the purposes of this nomination, Lithonia City Park is counted as one contributing site, and the park amphitheater is counted as a contributing structure.

William Kelly Park is a pocket park located next to Max Cleland Boulevard. Bordered on the east by Max Cleland Boulevard, Bond Street to the north, and the Seminary to the south, the park is generally flat with both deciduous and evergreen trees. Developed after the construction of Max Cleland Boulevard in the late 1960s, and named in honor of local World War II veteran, the park features a Vietnam War memorial, a gazebo, and several benches. Due to its date of development, this park is considered noncontributing to the Lithonia Historic District.

On Bruce Street is the smaller Bruce Street Park. This park is believed to have been developed c.1961, around the time of the development of the duplexes fronting adjacent Bruce Court, and is therefore considered a contributing site in the district. Bruce Street Park consists of an open, grassed area surrounded by wooded land. The open, grassed area abuts the intersection of Bruce and Kelley streets. There are two circular play areas featuring playground equipment, and a simple frame shelter, in the grassed area, all accessed by paved paths leading into the park from Bruce Street. A paved basketball court is situated southwest of the play areas.

Lithonia has three separate documented cemeteries, each of which is counted as a contributing site to the district. The Lithonia City Cemetery is located on the northern edge of the historic district boundary at the intersection of Tribble and Stone Mountain streets. Randall Avenue bisects the cemetery, which spreads over three separate tax parcels. The cemetery is approximately 8.6 acres in size and is largely flat, with a gentle slope upward to the east. There is very little planned landscaping. Both granite and marble curbing are present, and dirt paths facilitate vehicular access. The cemetery was established in 1851, and the earliest burials occurred along the eastern boundary, with the most recent burials located along the southwest boundary. Early residents J.R. George and J.M. Born donated the initial property for the cemetery, and the first burial was that of Ann T. Born. Many prominent white members of the Lithonia community are buried in this cemetery including members of the Anderson, Born, Bond, Cagle, George, Hollingsworth, Reagan, and Swift families; several roads in Lithonia bear the names of these early families. Although there is no evidence of the cemetery having been integrated historically, it is believed that some families may have buried slaves within the cemetery. Close to the intersection of Stone Mountain and Tribble streets, burials consist largely of individual graves laid in irregular rows oriented east-west. This pattern persists throughout the southernmost half of the cemetery, with grave orientation and alignment becoming increasingly irregular to the west. In the northern half of the cemetery, all burials are located within square plots laid in rows. The majority of the plots are delineated with granite blocks or other curbing. A few plots are enclosed with cast iron fencing, including one that is dedicated to Scottish granite workers. Many of the plots are graveled. Burials are marked with traditional stone grave markers of various shapes, and sizes. Grave markers range from relatively elaborate obelisks and pedestals to simpler variations of vertical and horizontal slab markers. Many of the headstones in this cemetery are made from locally quarried granite.

The two additional cemeteries in the district are located near Bruce Street; both are traditionally African American. Adjacent to the Bruce Street East DeKalb Center at the intersection of Bruce and Walker streets is Cemetery One. This 6.7-acre cemetery was originally part of the Jacob Chupp farm. Its earliest known burial of a man by the name of Sam Murders dates to 1911, and it remains an active cemetery today. The majority of the parcel is wooded- the southwest portion is cleared. The cemetery is bordered to the north by open/vacant land, to the east by wooded land, to the south by Walker Street and to the west by duplexes fronting Bruce Street and vacant land. A one-way unpaved loop road accesses the cemetery from Walker Street. The loop road trails through the lot with topography gradually rising from west to east, cresting near the center of the lot. There is a short granite retaining wall dividing the cemetery's southwestern edge from Walker Street. Burial plots are spread over the property. Overall, graves are generally oriented east-west. A limited number are oriented north-south. Burials consist largely of individual graves laid in irregular rows. Some are within plots delineated with a variety of materials including concrete block, granite, brick, and pavers. Some individual graves are similarly delineated. Many of these are graveled, while some are paved with bricks. Grave markers are generally simple vertical and horizontal slab markers, although some burials are marked only with a fieldstone. Common materials include concrete, brick, and granite, along with a number of marble military-issue markers. Cast concrete headstones are common, many bearing the name of the funeral home which produced the marker.

Across Bruce Street from Cemetery One is a second cemetery, known locally as Cemetery Two and referred to as Bruce Street Cemetery in some documentation. An unpaved loop path accesses the cemetery from Bruce Street, running adjacent to the Lithonia Negro School ruins. The cemetery lot, which is largely cleared, slopes toward a wooded area of mature pine and hardwood trees. Granite and concrete retaining walls, marking individual burial plots, create a series of terraces along the sloping terrain. This one-acre cemetery includes approximately 75 graves, the earliest marked dating to 1963. Burial plots are spread over the property. Graves are generally oriented east-west. Burials consist largely of individual graves laid in irregular rows. Some are within plots delineated with a variety of materials including concrete block, granite, and pavers. Some individual graves are similarly delineated, and many of these and the plots are graveled. Grave markers are generally simple vertical and horizontal slab markers. Common materials include concrete, brick, and granite.

Noncontributing Resources

Noncontributing resources to the Lithonia Historic District are those constructed after 1966 and those that have lost their historic integrity due to significant exterior alterations.

Many of the commercial resources in Lithonia have experienced some degree of alteration. Replacement storefront components are the most common alteration. Noncontributing commercial resources in the district are those that have been so substantially altered that their historic commercial form and detailing is no longer evident. Many commercial resources in Lithonia exhibit historic alterations that date to within the district's period of significance, while others have been substantially altered outside of the district's period of significance. 6977 Main Street is an example of a commercial resource exhibiting non-historic alterations substantial enough to render the building noncontributing to the district. 6977 Main Street currently exhibits a stucco exterior, a new metal-frame window and a single door, and an asphalt shingle hipped roof portico. Due to these extensive alterations dating to the early 2000s, the building has lost the majority of its character-defining features and is not considered contributing to the district. The commercial resources fronting Swift Street south of Main Street exhibit the most significant concentration of substantial non-historic alterations, including pop-up gable roofs, non-historic façade sheathings, and primary façade additions. Not all altered historic resources are considered noncontributing to the district: resources were assessed for their degree of alteration relevant to the resource's historic significance, and in the context of expected integrity within the district, in order to be determined contributing or noncontributing.

Non-historic single- and multi-family residential resources are scattered throughout the district. The most substantial of these is a complex of multi-family buildings located at 6800 and 6890 Park Drive, constructed in 2009. Older examples include the public housing complex at 6850 Robinson Street (constructed in 1971). Single-family residential infill is scattered- these houses were built between the 1970s to the early 2000s, such as 2586/2588 Reagin Street, built in 1972; 6883 Robinson Street, built in 1987; and 2525 Park Drive, built in 1990. Newer examples are modest; they are one- and two-story, typically set farther back from the street than neighboring historic houses, and feature garages on a primary elevation. Representative examples include 7050 Pendley Street, 6814 Ida Street, and 2409 Randall Avenue, all constructed between 1990 and 2010.

Many of the houses in Lithonia's residential areas, particularly in those areas that historically served lower-income populations, have been substantially altered over time. Infilled porches, additions, replacement windows, and the application of non-historic siding are common exterior alterations in the district. 6898 Magnolia Street, 2581 Johnson Street, and 2332 Rock Street represent extreme examples of these common alterations. As with commercial resources, not all altered residential resources are considered noncontributing to the Lithonia Historic District: resources were assessed for their degree of alteration relevant to the resource's historic significance, and in the context of expected integrity within the district, in order to be determined contributing or noncontributing.

Noncontributing properties in the primarily residential areas also include non-residential resources that were constructed outside of the period of significance or that have been heavily altered in form, materials, function, and ornamentation. Examples of resources constructed after the period of significance include the U.S. Post Office building located at the intersection of Stone Mountain and Ida streets, which was constructed c.1975, when the downtown post office building was sold, and the Lithonia-Davidson branch of the DeKalb County Public Library, which moved to its present location at 6821 Church Street in 1986.

The Lithonia Historic District possesses integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. While the district's integrity, particularly with regard to the aspect of design, has been compromised as a result of the development of Lithonia Plaza in 1968, which resulted in substantial demolition of historic resources and elimination of portions of the historic street pattern in the community's commercial core, Lithonia can still be interpreted as a crossroads town with a railroad community type, and its development as a community that has evolved from that crossroads remains sufficiently intact to qualify the community as a representative example of such. Despite some losses, the Lithonia Historic District retains most major elements that define period historic towns in Georgia, including diverse and largely intact residential neighborhoods, a rail line, a defined central business district, a substantial African American community, and diverse community landmark buildings.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- [ ] B removed from its original location.
- [ ] C a birthplace or grave.
- [ ] D a cemetery.
- [ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- [ ] F a commemorative property.
- [ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVLEOPMENT
ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
ETHNIC HERITAGE: European
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance
1845-1966

Significant Dates
1845: The Georgia Railroad begins service in Lithonia, linking the town to Atlanta and Augusta

1856: The city of Lithonia is incorporated

1879: Lithonia's first granite quarry begins operation

1895: Davidson Granite Company founded

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Almand, John Parks; architect of Lithonia First United Methodist Church

Bothwell and Nash, Architects; Bruce Street High and Elementary School

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1845, the year that the Georgia Railroad came to Lithonia, and continues until 1966, the end of the historic period at the time of this nomination, and immediately prior to the construction of Lithonia Plaza, the noncontributing shopping center fronting Main Street that altered downtown Lithonia's historic street patterns and resulted in the loss of significant historic fabric.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Originally a crossroads settlement that served the trading needs of a small community of rural farmers, the city of Lithonia, Georgia grew with the development of the Georgia Railroad (now CSX). The line, which runs southeast-to-northwest through the historic commercial center of town, connected the city with Atlanta and Augusta in 1845. The rail line allowed Lithonia to prosper beginning in the late 19th century as a center of the regional granite industry. The Lithonia Historic District is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its representative collection of commercial and residential buildings that reflect design and construction traditions found throughout Georgia. House types in the district, as defined in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, include central hallway, Georgian cottage, gabled-wing cottage, Queen Anne cottage, New South cottage, pyramid cottage, bungalow, Ranch house, I-House, Queen Anne house, and American Foursquare. Commercial types, as defined in "Commercial Types in Georgia," include single retail, multiple retail, and retail & office types. Stylistic influences in the district include Second Empire, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical Revival, English Vernacular Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. The Lithonia Historic District is also significant under Criterion A. The district is significant in the area of community planning and development as a representative example of a crossroads town with a railroad, as defined in the statewide context *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. In the area of industry, the Lithonia Historic District is significant for the role that Lithonia gneiss, a type of granite for which the city is named and because of which it prospered, has played in construction throughout the U.S. since 1879. The district contains a portion of a former quarry as a contributing site, and Lithonia gneiss features prominently in much of the district's architecture, reinforcing the importance of the granite mining industry to the city's development. In the area of black ethnic heritage, the district is significant because of the presence of an intact substantial African American community, the Bruce Street Community, with several key landmark buildings, including the ruins of a 1938 African American school, a 1955 equalization school, and two cemeteries. The district is also significant in the area of European ethnic heritage because of the influence of European immigrants, who came to the area to fulfill the quarries' need for skilled labor, on the district's development. The Lithonia Historic District is significant at the local level as a good representative example of a medium-sized Georgia town that retains its historic development patterns and a remarkable variety of intact historic commercial, residential, industrial, and community resources.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Portions of the following statement of significance were written by Mera Cardenas and George Rounds of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, Alliance, Inc., as part of a Historic Property Information Form for "Lithonia Historic District," August 19, 2013, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia. The description was compiled and expanded by Stephanie L. Cherry Farmer, National Register and Survey Program Manager, Georgia HPD.

The Lithonia Historic District is significant at the local level as a largely intact example of a 19th century Georgia town that prospered through the 20th century because of unique local natural resources and the railroad. Locally, Lithonia residents used Lithonia gneiss, a type of granite quarried within and immediately outside the district, in the construction of many buildings and structures throughout the city, creating an identity of place that remains evident today. Further afield, Lithonia has left an indelible legacy on the development of the United States through the provision of Lithonia gneiss for construction projects nationwide.

The Lithonia Historic District is significant in the area of **architecture** because of its contiguous intact collection of a variety of residential, commercial and community landmark buildings that are representative of building types and architectural styles that defined Georgia's built environment during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Houses range in size from modest to large. One- to one-and-a-half story construction is typical of Lithonia, but there are also two-story examples. House types in the district, as defined in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings*, include hall-parlor, saddlebag, central hallway, Georgian cottage, gabled-wing cottage, Queen Anne cottage, New South cottage, pyramid cottage, bungalow, Ranch house, I-House, Queen Anne house, and American Foursquare. Additional identified types found in the district include the American Small House and split-foyer types. Stylistic influences in the district include Second Empire, Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical Revival, English Vernacular Revival, Mediterranean Revival, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. None of the houses in the district are known to be architect designed. The varied houses in the district exemplify how popular styles and types were used for a variety of houses over time, and illustrate the vast assortment of tastes, incomes levels, and construction techniques that defined Georgia towns that developed from the mid-19th through the 20th centuries.

The district also contains representative examples of common commercial types as identified in Georgia, including the single retail, multiple retail, and retail and office types. Lithonia's commercial buildings are predominately one-and two-story, both detached and adjoined, and are constructed of brick and Lithonia gneiss. They are largely utilitarian in design, as is typical of Georgia towns of the period. They are concentrated along Main Street and the railroad. From offices to retail spaces to meeting and social functions to warehouses, the variety of extant resources exemplifies a cross-section of historic functions, sustaining the physical evidence needed to interpret the diverse industrial and commercial history of the town.

Lithonia's remarkable variety of historic community landmark buildings includes churches, educational resources, and public and social facilities. Churches are the most common of the community resource types- there are five historic churches scattered throughout the district. Both historically Caucasian and African American churches remain extant, reflecting the architectural traditions of each group during the 19th and 20th centuries. While the only documented style of church architecture in Lithonia is Gothic Revival, the majority of the churches in the district evidence elements of this style, reflecting that style's popularity in church design in Georgia during this time.

The district includes two buildings that have been documented as architect-designed. The Lithonia First United Methodist Church (originally Lithonia M.E. Church) was designed by architect and Lithonia native John Parks Almand in 1910. Almand was born in Lithonia in 1895, and entered Emory College (now Emory University) in Atlanta in 1903. He graduated Emory in 1907, and subsequently completed a degree in architecture at

Columbia University in New York in 1911. Almand worked as a draftsman with architects Hal Fitzgerald Hentz and J. Neel Reid in Atlanta during the summers throughout his college career, and the Lithonia M. E. Church was apparently one of his earliest design commissions, completed in 1910 when he was only a junior at Columbia.[3] Almand would go on to open an architecture practice in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1914, and was the 39th registered architect in that state. Throughout his career, which lasted through the early 1960s, Almand designed hotels, hospitals, office buildings, schools, and residences. He left private practice for a time in the 1930s to work for the U.S. Treasury Department to design a number of federal projects, including several post offices. However, he is best known for his church projects- he designed more than 50 in Arkansas alone, many of them Methodist.[4]

The Bruce Street High and Elementary School was designed by the Marietta architectural firm of Bothwell and Nash, Architects, designers of Decatur, Georgia's 1965 Decatur High School; the Sharian Rugs Building (436 West Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur) (1946); and the Lake Acworth Beach and Bath House in Acworth, Georgia (1953), among other works. Eugene L. Bothwell and Richard R. Nash partnered to form Bothwell and Nash, Architects, in Atlanta in 1938. In 1941, they relocated to Marietta and opened a branch office in Decatur. The firm specialized in, and quickly became known for, designs of government buildings, churches, and schools. They designed a number of additional schools for DeKalb County in in the 1950s, including Robert Shaw Elementary in Scottdale (1955) and Oak Grove Elementary in Atlanta (1958). Further afield, the team designed the Pickens County Courthouse in Jasper, Georgia (1950).

Lithonia is also significant in the area of architecture for the prevalent use of Lithonia gneiss throughout the district. The namesake of the city, and the basis for the industry that allowed Lithonia to prosper, remains evident in the city's extant built environment. Granite features such as foundations, chimneys, facades, walkways, retaining walls, porch supports, architectural details, fences, and street curbing and sidewalks, are found throughout Lithonia. Many of the city's early commercial buildings and churches have granite facades that exhibit, through a variety of bonds and decorative work, the craftsmanship of the skilled masons that moved to Lithonia in great numbers to work in area quarries. Granite provides an architectural cohesiveness to the city that belies its geology and the quarrying industry for which it was a regional center.

The Lithonia Historic District is significant in the area of **community planning and development** as a representative example of a crossroads town with a railroad, as defined in the statewide context *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. This type of community is defined as a crossroads town that is not primarily oriented toward a railroad, but has a railroad present, which factors prominently into the physical development or layout of the town. The railroad frequently post-dates the founding of the community, which is true for Lithonia, resulting in a layout that evolved from its origins in response to the railroad's arrival. In Lithonia, the oldest extant commercial buildings are oriented toward Main Street, but because the railroad was laid along the path of the historic intersecting road that created the original settlement of Cross Roads, and because the railroad came to Lithonia by 1845, precipitating the majority of the town's commercial development, substantial development was also oriented toward the rail line. The town's extant buildings along the intact railroad line reflect this evolution, and reinforce the importance of the railroad as the nexus of Lithonia's most active period of development, 1890 through the 1940s.

In the area of **industry**, the Lithonia Historic District is significant for the role that Lithonia gneiss, for which the city is named and because of which it prospered, has played in construction locally and throughout the U.S. Lithonia's first quarry opened in 1879, and by 1888 the granite industry supported the greater part of Lithonia's economy. Lithonia, as a result of its railroad connection, was a distribution center for quarrying operations from throughout the region.

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[3] Rachel Silva. "Crossett Methodist Church" National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Listed 2010.

[4] W. Russ Aikman. John Parks Almand (1885-1969). http://m.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/detail/?entryID=501 (accessed October 2, 2015).

Stone Mountain, Georgia, located approximately 10 miles northwest of Lithonia, is the Atlanta-area's best-known location of granite quarrying. Quarrying on Stone Mountain began as early as 1845, and by the 1890s, Stone Mountain had become the main granite quarry in Georgia.[5] The market initially favored Stone Mountain granite due primarily to its ease of extraction, however, its vulnerability to deterioration from exposure to weather decreased demand. Lithonia gneiss' resistance to weathering and color-retention properties made it a highly desirable building material at the turn of the 20th century. Many notable public buildings used Lithonia granite in their construction, including Bancroft Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy, Atlanta's Federal Reserve Building, the Rayburn Office Building in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, and the University of Georgia Library in Athens. Many city streets around the nation were constructed using Lithonia granite, particularly for curbing. Lithonia gneiss remains visible along streets throughout Atlanta today. Blocks of Lithonia gneiss were also used to construct the roadway of New York's Holland and Lincoln Tunnels. Because the stone can withstand the constant pounding of water, it has been used to pave waterfront areas in cities such as Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Savannah, St. Louis, and Memphis.[6] The district contains as a contributing site a portion of a former quarry operated by the Georgia Railroad Company, and the district's extant rail lines represent the pivotal role of transportation in the establishment of Lithonia's granite industry, and its ability to flourish through the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Lithonia Historic District is significant in the area of **black ethnic heritage** because it retains a significant variety of intact historic resources associated with African Americans. Traditionally, African American neighborhoods in Lithonia were nestled just behind the main streets. Documented elements of these neighborhoods, in the form of historically African American churches, remain intact throughout Lithonia today. Lithonia also retains a remarkably substantial concentration of historically African American resources centered along Bruce Street on the east side of the district. Settlement in the vicinity of what is today known as Bruce Street is documented on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps as early as 1895, and census records document the area as primarily African American by 1910. This area of Lithonia has long been a center for African American residential, educational, and religious building development. The city's two African American cemeteries remain intact along Bruce Street, as do the ruins of the Lithonia Negro School, the former Bruce Street High and Elementary School that served the area African American population from 1955 through 1965, and several churches. The extant variety of resource types spanning several decades allows a rare degree of interpretation and understanding of multiple facets of African American life in Georgia towns like Lithonia during the early and mid-20th century.

The Lithonia Historic District is also significant in the area of **European ethnic heritage** because of the many initial owners and workers in the granite quarrying industry who came directly from Europe to work in Lithonia's quarries. Until this influx of immigrants, who were sought for their stone-cutting skills, inhabitants of Lithonia consisted of farmers and operators of small mercantile establishments. However, Lithonia's prosperity would develop from its vast supply of granite. Increased business brought a flood of new residents. Between 1890 and 1920, the quarry industry demanded men skilled in the area of cutting and polishing stones, and drew cutters from Scotland, Wales, England, Italy and Scandinavian countries. They were artisans skilled in the shaping and polishing of gneiss into curbing and paving blocks. A large number of these immigrants settled locally, and Lithonia's built environment today remains characterized by skilled stone masonry that is the direct result of this population's influence on the city's development.

[5] Brad Bostwick, Mark Swanson, and J.W. Joseph. *Mining and Mineral Industries of North Georgia: A Historic Context*. Atlanta, Georgia, 2011.

[6] Gaines Brewster. *Rocks to Riches or How Granite Has Benefitted DeKalb*. Lecture. DeKalb History Center, 1974.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Portions of the following developmental history were written by Mera Cardenas and George Rounds of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area, Alliance, Inc., as part of a Historic Property Information Form for "Lithonia Historic District," August 19, 2013, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia. The description was compiled and expanded by Stephanie L. Cherry Farmer, National Register and Survey Program Manager, Georgia HPD.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, in the area that would later become Lithonia, white settlers continued to push westward into lands held by Native Americans. The 1821 Treaty of Indian Springs resulted in cession of Creek and Cherokee lands to the United States. These lands were divided into districts and land lots and sold to white settlers via a series of lotteries. The Lithonia Historic District is situated on seven land lots sold during the 1821 Land Lottery.

DeKalb County was created in 1822 from portions of Fayette, Henry and Gwinnett counties. Settlers established claims along former Indian trails and the old post road between Decatur (the county seat) and Augusta. In 1822, Thomas Roberts of Morgan County acquired Land Lot 152 in the historic district. Ephraim Britt and Elisha G. Crawford (both of Jasper County) acquired Land Lots 152 and 169, respectively, in 1823; Benjamin Freeman and Ebenezer Smith acquired Land Lots 136 and 153, respectively, in 1826; and Jacob Driver purchased Land Lot 137 in 1828. By the 1830s, a rural farming community known as "Crossroads" had emerged at the intersection of the Lawrenceville-McDonough road running north-south, and the Decatur-Augusta road running east and west.[7] Several pioneering families settled in the community during this time, notably the Bond, Pendley, and Born families.

Geography and geology would influence much of Lithonia's history from the mid-19th century forward.[8] Due in part to its location along a ridgeline, the Crossroads community became a stop along the Georgia Railroad's Augusta-Atlanta line in 1845. That same year, a post office was established in a general merchandise store owned and operated by William Rufus Pendley; James R. George served as the first postmaster.[9] Pendley, a Scottish immigrant, is said to have owned the land north of the rail road between Conyers Street and Pendley Street up to the Pine Mountain Road area. This area would eventually develop into Lithonia's primary African American community. During this early period in Lithonia's history, the population of the town was predominately white, mainly of English, Scottish, and Irish descent.

In 1847, the Crossroads community constructed its first schoolhouse on a site between Stone Mountain Street and the Georgia Railroad. The schoolhouse, described as "a one-room, log house with a dirt floor," doubled as a church for the growing community.[10] This building would serve the community until 1851, when Reverend James R. George donated land to build a new school. Known as The Academy, this building was located where the present Methodist church stands at Stone Mountain and Church streets.[11] Residents likely used the building until the 1890s when the Trustees built the Lithonia Institute, a privately owned, tuition-based facility that stood on the present site of Lithonia High School. According to Virginia McVey's 1966 article "Lithonia Traces Beginnings to 100 People at Cross Roads," tradition states that a Greek scholar at a local private school, possibly the Academy, gave the town the name "Lithonia," - ". . . a combination of the Greek words

[7] Cecil Cobb Wesley. *Lithonia: Place of Stone, A Brief History.*
[8] Virginia McVey."Lithonia Traces Beginnings to 100 People at Cross Roads" *The Atlanta Journal.* Wednesday May 4, 1966.
[9] Ibid.
[10] McVey, Virginia.
[11] Judge Bond Almand. *Lithonia: The First Hundred Years 1856-1956.* On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.

Lithos which means (rock), and Onia (place)," in reference to the area's abundant gneiss, a type of granite. The name belied the natural resources that would define the town's economic future.
On March 5, 1856, the City of Lithonia obtained its charter from the state. A one-half mile radius around the Georgia Railroad depot, then located along the east side of the railroad tracks near the intersection of Center Street and Rock Chapel Road, marked the city limits; the historic boundary remains relatively intact to this day. According to the 1850 census, Lithonia's total white population had grown to 456 persons. Of the 106 heads of household, 40 were listed as owners of a total of 168 slaves. By 1860, on the eve of the Civil War, the white population of Lithonia had decreased to 406 persons and of the 108 heads of household listed, 28 owned slaves. Town governance consisted of a commission comprised of men whose families would feature prominently throughout the course of the city's history: William Pendley, J.H. Rozan, John C. Maddox, William L. Born, and John M. Born. [12]

The turbulent political climate of the mid-19th century reached its climax on April 12, 1861 when Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. For the next four years, the country would be engulfed in a civil war which would see 27 Lithonians serve the Confederate forces.

As a stop along the Georgia Railroad, Lithonia lay in the path of General William Tecumseh Sherman's march to Savannah. Sherman's 14th Corps camped by the roadside near Lithonia on his first night out of Atlanta in the fall of 1864.[13] It is said that General Sherman personally supervised the destruction of the railroad lines in Lithonia and authorized the destruction of any associated buildings. According to Atlanta historian Franklin Garrett, Union troops "dismantled the Georgia Railroad in the approved fashion by manufacturing "Sherman's neckties." [14] Captain James Royal Ladd of the 113th Ohio Volunteers stated in his diary that they "tore up a few miles of [track] and also burned part of the town in retaliation for the inhabitants bushwhacking our men."[15] It would be 15 years before the town would begin to recover from the effects of the Civil War and begin to rebuild. The City of Lithonia was re-chartered by the state legislature in 1888, changing to a mayor-commission government. The first mayor elected was Henry George.[16]

During Reconstruction following the Civil War, African Americans began to establish church congregations in Lithonia. In 1869, African Americans established Antioch Baptist Church, the first documented black congregation in DeKalb County. The land on which the current church sits was purchased two years later for $150, and the first permanent sanctuary built at a cost of $800. In 1879, parishioners established the St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in a one-room building on the corner of Covington and Evans Mill Road.[17] St. Paul A.M.E. Church later moved, and in 1931 built a solid granite building at the intersection of Klondike Road and Arabia Road (now Williams Grant Reynolds Drive). This church closed when the congregation moved to its current location at 1704 Stone Mountain-Lithonia Road. These churches also provided educational facilities for African American children during the week. These church buildings are the extant remnant of Lithonia's earliest freed African American inhabitants, whose neighborhoods were nestled just behind the city's main streets.

Favorable geography and advances in technology would change the economic fortune of the town during the late 19th century. As the Greek translation of the city's name "stone place" suggests, the city and surrounding area contain abundant granite resources. In the 1870s, the pneumatic drill was developed by Samuel

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[12] Virgina McVey.

[13] Franklin M. Garrett, *Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of Its People and Events, Volume 1*, (Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1969), 651.

[14] Ibid

[15] "Lithonia Burned As Union Revenge For Bushwhacking." American Heritage Publishing Co., Inc. 1978.

[16] Vivian Price. *The History of DeKalb County Georgia: 1822-1900* (Fernandina Beach, FL: Wolfe Publishing Company, 1997).

[17] Mason, Jr., Herman "Skip". *African-American Life in DeKalb County 1823-1970* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1998), 92-93.

Ingersoll, a German engineer. His invention enabled granite to be mined more efficiently, and thereby redefined the economic future of Lithonia. [18]

Although the initial favored source of granite in the area was Stone Mountain, which lies a mere 10 miles northwest of Lithonia, due to its ease of extraction, its vulnerability to deterioration from exposure to weather impacted demand. "Lithonia gneiss," a type of granite celebrated for its fine grain, was found to be more resistant to weathering. It became a highly desirable construction material by the end of the 19th century, just as advances in technology facilitated its quarrying.[19] Lithonia's first quarry opened in 1879 and by 1888 through the second half of the 20th century, the granite industry supported the larger part of Lithonia's economy. Lithonia's abundance of desirable granite, its proximity to the railroad, and a labor force composed largely of skilled stoneworkers that emigrated to Lithonia in vast numbers during this period, led to an era of unprecedented growth and economic prosperity for the city. An *Atlanta Constitution* article, commenting on Lithonia's "boom," stated, "It is only twenty-five miles east of Atlanta on the Georgia railroad, but it is the central market and business place of a large thickly settled and exceedingly prosperous farming and manufacturing territory." In 1889, George Johnson along with other early settlers financed the construction of a rail line between Lithonia and Arabia Mountain, which had a large granite quarry. By 1910, lines had also been constructed to Pine Mountain and Rock Chapel Mountain, all for the purposes of transporting granite into Lithonia for distribution.[20] By 1913, Lithonia had surpassed Stone Mountain in granite production, "shipping twice as many tons of stone."[21]

Granite from Lithonia quarries such as the Venable, Davidson and still-operational Hanson Aggregates has been shipped around the country and can be found in many U.S. buildings, monument and roads. Many notable public buildings, regionally and across the country, have used Lithonia gneiss in their construction, including Bancroft Hall at the U.S. Naval Academy (constructed 1901-1906); Atlanta's Federal Reserve Building (1918); the Rayburn Office Building (1965) in Washington, D.C.; buildings at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York; and the University of Georgia Library in Athens. Lithonia gneiss has been used as cobblestone and curbing in the construction of many city streets around the nation, including in Atlanta, and blocks of Lithonia gneiss were also used to construct the roadway of New York's Holland and Lincoln tunnels. Because the stone can withstand the constant pounding of water, it has been used to pave waterfront areas in cities such as Cincinnati, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Savannah, St. Louis, and Memphis.[22]

As cities became increasingly equated with corruption and immorality during the late 19th century, a desire for healthful residential settings led to the emergence of suburban communities on the periphery of American cities. Aided by advances in transportation and building methods, the ensuing construction boom resulted in an increased demand throughout the nation for construction materials to use in curbing, paving, and building foundations. Concurrently, the United States experienced a wave of European immigration. Many newly arrived immigrants- primarily from Scotland, Wales, and Ireland- found their way to work in the quarries of Lithonia.

Some immigrants, such as John Keay Davidson, not only worked in the quarries, but established quarrying businesses. Davidson, who came to Lithonia from Scotland in 1888 at the age of 17, began the Davidson

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[18] "Stone Mountain Park: Historical Overview." http://stonemountainpark.org/text/quarry 4 resources_001.pdf (accessed May 26, 2013).

[19] Ibid.

[20] Judge Bond Almand. *Lithonia: The First Hundred Years 1856-1956.* On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.

[21] Cleland, Max. "Lithonia Carved Profits from Granite." *Moments in Georgia*, February 18, 1993. Courtesy Georgia Department of Natural Resources

[22] Gaines Brewster. *Rocks to Riches or How Granite Has Benefitted DeKalb*. Lecture. DeKalb History Center,1974.

Granite Company in 1895. The company grew under the families' leadership and by the mid-1960s the Davidson enterprise in Lithonia was considered to be the largest diversified granite producer in the world.[23]

Lithonia's primary period of commercial development coincided with growth of the quarrying industry in the late 19th century. As a primary thoroughfare of the city, Main Street served as the original chief commercial corridor. The oldest surviving buildings downtown date to this period and were constructed of brick and granite, many by African Americans. According to a 1948 article by Lithonian J.B. Bond, a writer for the *DeKalb New Era* and the *Lithonia Journal*, "I do not know of any three men who did more manual labor to build Lithonia than the following colored men, and I think they should have credit; Aleck Meadow, who made the mud for plastering and buildings; Job Johnson and Mart Bush, who done the drawing for Almand and George and J. C. Johnson. These men were on the job every day in all kinds of weather."[24]

A date stone engraved with the year 1885 suggests that the city's oldest remaining commercial building is located at 6957 Main Street. Although originally two stories in height, the building's upper floor was destroyed by a fire in the 1930s. 1895 maps indicate that the building housed a general store and a hardware store in its two first-floor commercial spaces, and "Johnson's Hall," utilized by Lithonians as a meeting space, on its second floor. By 1909, the second floor was being used as offices. Through the 1920s and 1930s the building stored general supplies and feed. It also served as the first location of the Lithonia Lighting Company from 1946 to the mid-1950s.

Along the north side of Main Street is a continuous row of one- and two-story commercial buildings dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These buildings have housed a range of typical downtown businesses such as druggists, law firms, and grocers. An undertaker and general store initially operated out of the two-story building at 6958 Main Street, known commonly as the Cofer Building. Constructed c.1890, by 1923, the city's telephone exchange operated out of the building's second floor. During the Great Depression, a portion of the building was occupied by Cofer Brothers Hardware. Adjacent buildings at 6962 through 6976 Main Street served mainly retail functions, housing dry goods, grocery, and drug businesses throughout their history.

With a prime location adjacent to the railroad and Main Street, the block bounded by Main and Hollingsworth (formerly Elliot) streets and the railroad has an interesting developmental history. At the southwest corner of Main and Hollingsworth streets is 6980 Main Street, constructed c.1890. From 1909 through 1923 it contained a grocery and butcher shop. By the 1930s it housed a post office and a branch of Peoples Bank.[25] Today, the building is the location of Lithonia City Hall.

Next to the 6980 building is the two-story Stewart Building (6984 and 6986 Main Street), constructed by the Stewart family in 1911. Dr. Stewart, a pharmacist, constructed the building to house his pharmacy and to rent the additional space. This building served as Stewart's Pharmacy into the 1970s. The other half of the building contained a grocery store throughout most of its history. In the 1960s and 1970s it contained the Southeast Federal Bank, as evidenced by a 1967 photograph.

Maps document that the rear portion of this block housed a livery as early as 1901. By 1909, a new livery had been constructed immediately behind the commercial buildings fronting Main Street, and by 1923, a furniture warehouse had been constructed immediately north of the livery. These buildings are noted as a sales stable and the "H.O. Wesley Rock House" on a 1927 plat, respectively. Later used as a general store and auto-

[23] Gaines Brewster. "Stone is God's Gift to Lithonia, Area's Number 1 Industry." July 23, 1981. *The Lithonia Observer: Heritage of Lithonia and DeKalb Counties*, 4B.

[24] J.B. Bond "Remembrances." Excerpt from *Lithonia Journal*, July 31, 1948.

[25] James Venable, interview with the DeKalb History Center. "I Remember Hour," May 28, 1982. http://www.dekalbhistory.org/documents/3JamesVenable5281982.pdf (accessed May 28, 2013).

related retail building, the two are the only remaining resources of those that formerly fronted Hollingsworth (formerly Elliot) Street, as most of the street was erased with the development of the Lithonia Shopping Plaza in 1968.

This block was also the second location of the Lithonia depot. The original depot, located between the rail road and Conyers Street at its intersection with Ruth Street, was demolished in the late 1920s. A new depot was then built across the tracks north of Main Street, between the previously-discussed livery and the railroad. This depot was demolished in the early 1960s.

Reinforcing the importance of quarrying to Lithonia's economy at the turn of the century, 1901 Sanborn maps show a "stone cutting" platform immediately adjacent to the rail road in the commercial core, although it appears that it no longer existed by 1909. Lithonia also had hotels in the commercial area to accommodate travelers and to serve as temporary living quarters for local quarry workers. Of these, only the Seminary at 6886 Main Street, a c.1895 school that was used as boarding house from 1906 to 1971, remains extant today. In the commercial core, the Anderson Hotel, constructed in the 1890s, was centered between Wiggins Street and the railroad, fronting Main Street, from at least 1895. By 1901, the name had changed to "The Cagill Hotel" and then "The Arco Hotel" in 1909. Through the 1920s, this block was further developed with a variety of retail operations, largely in one-story buildings.

As Lithonia's population grew, so did its need and capacity for community buildings and services. The development of community resources, including educational facilities, churches, clubs, and public buildings, had a significant impact on Lithonia during the first half of the 20th century, although in the tradition of southern towns of the era, that impact was segregated on the basis of race.

In 1907, Lula Almand established the first public library in DeKalb County in Lithonia, and served as its librarian until 1914. Almand filled the glass-front case in the living room of her house (outside the district) with books of her own, added a few from her family and friends, and invited all white residents of Lithonia to freely borrow and read. Over the years the library has had several locations, three of which were on Main Street. In 1929, when the Lithonia Women's Club built a clubhouse at 2654 Wiggins Street, the building housed the library in an adjoining room. The Women's Club supported the library financially through donations, tag days, silver teas, and book showers, eventually securing assistance from the Decatur Library and a staff person funded by the Work Progress Administration (WPA).They obtained their first public funding in 1938 with an annual contribution of $50 a month from the Lithonia City Council. In 1951, the Decatur-DeKalb, Lithonia, Brookhaven, and Rockdale County libraries joined to form a regional library system; however, the Lithonia Library maintained a separate board until 1971.[26]

The Lithonia Women's Club - one of the most important social organizations in Lithonia - was a member of the General and Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs- Fifth District. Founded by Lula Almand as the Lithonia Improvements Club, its first projects were the care of the city cemetery for whites and the continued sponsorship of the Lithonia Lending Library started by the club in 1906. In 1924, the Lithonia Women's Club was formed from the merging of the Improvements Club with the city's Needlework Club. The group purchased land at 2654 Wiggins Street in 1926 in the interest of building a clubhouse to accommodate increased membership. In addition to their fundamental work with the local library, the Women's Club historically strived to be an integral part of the larger community. Members worked on such projects as the Lithonia High School Gymnasium Fund in the 1930s to help support funding for Lithonia's first indoor gymnasium, held Red Cross blood drives, and made bandages for the Red Cross during World War II. In the 1950s, the club worked with the city on a Georgia Power Company Community Achievement Contest, which stressed beautification projects and won many awards for their scrapbook entries.

[26] Erin Whittemore. "Lithonia Women's Club" draft National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. 2009. On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.

At the turn of the 20th century, educational resources for whites included the Seminary (previously discussed) and the Lithonia Institute, which opened in 1892 in a two-story frame building on Randall Avenue, on the site of the present day Lithonia Middle School. The Lithonia Institute burned on April 3, 1919, and was replaced by the first Lithonia High School, constructed in 1920.[27]
Three of the five contributing churches in the district were constructed by 1911, and the congregation for at least one of those constructed later had been established. Of these four, three were African American. In the African American community, churches initially served dual purposes as worship and educational institutions. Educational facilities for the African American population in Lithonia started with small schools organized by local churches such as the St. Paul A.M.E. and Antioch Baptist churches. In 1922, a local group of citizens organized the Yellow River Grammar and High School. The building can be seen near Bruce Street on 1923 Sanborn maps. The school served the local community until it was destroyed by fire in 1935. The Mutual Aid Society Hall, which was reportedly behind Union Baptist Church on Bruce Street, was then used as a temporary school until 1938, when funds were raised and six acres were purchased on Bruce Street where a new school was built. The school, which was known as the Lithonia Negro School, was the first public school for African Americans in DeKalb County. In 1943 the school held its first high school graduation- the graduating class consisted of three students. The Lithonia Negro School closed during the equalization school era, when Bruce Street High and Elementary School was constructed across the street- it opened in 1955, and the Lithonia Negro School building burned in the 1950s. The remains of its exterior walls, all constructed of Lithonia granite, help tell the story of African American education in Lithonia and the developmental history of this historically African American section of Lithonia.

Masonic Lodges have an extensive history in Lithonia. The Lithonia Masonic Lodge was charted in 1849.[28] Sanborn maps indicate that a Masonic Hall existed east of the Georgia Railroad south of Rockbridge Road (now Rock Chapel Road) by 1909. The hall moved closer to the street and railroad in 1916, when Masonic Lodge #84 at 7282 Conyers Street was constructed. The Masonic Lodge is a two-story building constructed from locally quarried granite and is still used in this capacity. Lithonia's African American Alstock Masonic Lodge was established in 1920. Their current building, at 7087 Stone Street, was dedicated in 1956, and has also served as a funeral home and provided community gathering space.[29]

As with most Georgia towns of similar size, residential development occurred in a piecemeal fashion in Lithonia. Houses were largely constructed independently, by individual property owners to meet their own residential needs. Not until the ensuing demand for housing due to the "Granite Boom," when ". . . not a vacant house, be it cabin or mansion . . . be found in or near the town" did larger scale residential development occur. Research indicates that even then, subdivisions were few in number despite the "demand [right now] for hundreds of houses."[30]

Early residential development in Lithonia first took place along those streets closest to the railroad. By the late 19th century, several of the streets in the immediate area of Main Street had emerged along with houses and commercial buildings. According to the 1895 Sanborn map, few residential dwellings existed within the immediate center of town. On the east side of the railroad, a few single-story frame houses fronted Conyers Street and the railroad. The footprints of these houses suggest that they were gabled-wing or New South cottages, both popular house types during this period.

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[27] Judge Bond Almand. *Lithonia: The First Hundred Years 1856-1956.* On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.
[28] Ibid
[29] City of Lithonia. "Historic Lithonia: Walk About." http://arabiaalliance.org/trails/2851/ (accessed April 1, 2015).
[30] "At Stone Mountain: Strike of Cutters in Quarries There and at Lithonia." *The Atlanta Constitution*, February 8, 1888. http://ezproxy.gsu.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.gsu.edu/docview/194137306?accountid=11226 (accessed August 5, 2013).

On the west side of the railroad, in close proximity to the commercial district, several of Lithonia's larger and more prominent houses were constructed during the close of the 19th century. The Neoclassical Revival style Johnson House at 6949 Main Street is a quintessential example- historically on the same property as Johnson's Hall, Lithonia's oldest known extant commercial building, this house is estimated to have been constructed in the 1880s, but portions of the house may have existed earlier. The vernacular interpretation of a Second Empire style house at 6921 Born Street was also likely constructed during the 1880s based on its style, and the Queen Anne and Folk Victorian-style examples in the district, all west of the rail road and in close proximity to Main Street, would likely have been constructed by 1900. Period Sanborn maps also show one- and two- story frame dwellings existed along the former Academy Street, in the vicinity of the Lithonia Plaza Shopping Center today.

Dr. William Bond, son of DeKalb County pioneer Joseph Ballard Bond, who came to the area c.1834 and settled in the Rock Chapel area approximately three miles northwest of Lithonia, by the late 19th century owned much of the land surrounding present-day Lithonia First United Methodist Church (3089 Stone Mountain Street). It was at this time that Bond extended Church Street south to Decatur Street (now Parkway Road). He then opened Bond Street to intersect with Main Street. A postcard of Bond Street dating from around 1900 depicts an unpaved, tree-lined street with a Georgian house situated along the road's northern side. On the southeast corner of the intersection of Bond and Church streets, Dr. Claud Almand, Lithonia merchant and President of the People's Bank (and also, father of architect John Parks Almand), built the Queen Anne-style house at 6783 Church Street c.1900.

Landowning residents within the city began to subdivide their property during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. According to J.B. Bond, Professor R.H. Randall developed one of the earliest residential subdivisions in Lithonia, located along Randall Avenue. According to Bond, "most all the lots were sold and homes built rapidly."[31] This likely corresponds with the extant concentration of gabled-wing cottages along Randall Avenue north of Ida Street. The house types constructed in Lithonia subdivisions of 1890s through the 1920s indicate development largely targeted at middle and working-class residents. These included gabled-wing, New South, and Queen Anne cottages which often incorporated Folk Victorian style ornamentation, as well as bungalows.

No plats of subdivision in Lithonia prior to 1923 have been found. However, the 1920s appears to have been a period of rapid residential growth in Lithonia, as was the case for much of the Atlanta region. In June of 1923, the Born property, between Main Street and Bond Street (now Robinson Street), was subdivided into 14 lots. In general, this subdivision contained lots roughly one-third to one-half acre in size. This plat was likely the nexus of today's Jenkins Street, which is labeled Born Street on the plat and appears to have been laid in the oddly bent angle still evident today along the property line so as to provide street frontage to all lots. The majority of these lots have since been combined or re-subdivided.

In March 1927, J.F. Oglesby began development of several parcels of what was then known as the G.M. Johnson property. The first phase of this development was commercial, located on the block bounded by Main and Hollingsworth streets and the rail road. However, the second part of this development occurred on 24 lots along Lucellen, College, and Church streets. According to the subdivision plat, individual lots within this subdivision varied between 25 feet (along Lucellen Street) and 75 feet (along Church and College Streets) in width. While a modern multi-family dwelling now exists on a portion of this land, much of the platting can still be identified today.

Census records help to gain insight into the spatial distribution of racial residential housing patterns during the first three decades of the 20th century in Lithonia. In 1900, the majority of white residents in Lithonia lived on streets located in close proximity to the city center. For example, along Main Street, the white population stood

[31] J.B. Bond "Remembrances." Excerpt from *Lithonia Journal*, July 31, 1948.

at 333 persons, while the African American population stood at 61 persons. Bond, Born, Church, and Stone Mountain streets all had a majority white population with very few or no African American persons. Many of the residences of local quarry superintendents were located in these areas; for example, Charles and Wheeler Davidson, as superintendents of a local quarry in 1930, resided on Bond and Main streets, respectively. This pattern, which remained intact through the mid-20th century, is evident on Stone Mountain Street in 1900, where 127 white persons and 31 African American persons resided. The African American population on this street decreased each decade while the white population increased. By 1940, 166 white persons and no African Americans resided on the street.

Conversely, Arabia Road (now Williams Grant Reynolds Drive) in the southwest corner of the district, and Bruce Alley, located on the outer periphery of the original city limits, has historically maintained a majority African American population. In 1910, the census reports 17 African Americans, zero white, and 12 mixed-race persons residing on Arabia Road. The African American population steadily increased on this road though 1940, when the census counted 78 African Americans and zero white persons. Likewise, African Americans have traditionally represented the majority population in the vicinity of Bruce Street. In 1910 the census reports 16 African Americans residing on Bruce Alley, 67 in 1920, 125 in 1930, and 110 in 1940. The white population on this road remained zero, the one exception being in 1920, when five white persons were counted. Similarly, according to an interview with Oscar Reid, "In 1898 on Cagle Street there were three white families, the Argoes and the Andersons and the Cagles and the others were colored people."[32]

Along with increasing population and growing prosperity, the end of the 19th and first decades of the 20th century brought improved infrastructure and basic services to Lithonia. Lithonia's telephone exchange was built in 1895, and electricity service was established in 1905 with the creation of Panola Power and Light Company, which was serviced via a hydroelectric plant on the nearby South River. According to the 1909 Sanborn maps, Lithonia's streets were "nearly level and not paved" (many streets in Lithonia would not be paved until the 1940s and 1950s).

The city waterworks was constructed in 1916, from the proceeds of a city bond issue. Prior to this, water facilities consisted of private wells. Of the historic waterworks complex, only a small L-shaped rough-cut stone building at 6974 Ruth Street which dates to the 1920s remains today. The remains of two rectangular concrete tanks and one circular concrete tank were located next to the building, however, these elements of the property were demolished c.1981. However, the remains of the Lithonia waterworks today still represent a significant stage in the development of city infrastructure in the district.

The Great Depression slowed commercial development in Lithonia. Area granite quarrying, by this time the unequivocal foundation of Lithonia's economy, continued to expand until the stock market crash of 1929, when "government road building programs hit dead ends, and across the country plans for new office buildings were left on the drawing board."[33] While many area quarries were forced to cease operations, the Davidson Granite Quarry remained opened, supported by "city street improvements in major eastern and Midwestern cities," namely Cleveland and Philadelphia.[34] Additionally, non-construction uses for Lithonia granite were discovered. According to Paul Wood of the Vermont Granite Museum, it was in 1929 that the Davidson Granite Company began production of an insoluble poultry grit as a result of a connection to Quaker Oats Company. Dr. O.B. Kent, a researcher for the company, had discovered that the finely ground granite helped chickens to digest

[32] Oscar Reid. Interview with DeKalb Historical Society. *History of Lithonia From 1895.* On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.

[33] Cleland, Max. "Lithonia Carved Profits from Granite." *Moments in Georgia*, February 18, 1993. Courtesy Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

[34] *Florre Jo Everett Davidson*. Loveland, CO: Heritage Publishing, Inc., 1999.

feed.[35] The product became nationally known as "Stonemo," and the Stone Mountain Granite Grit Company, the division of Davidson that produced poultry grit, would go on to become the largest producer of insoluble grit in the U.S.[36]

Research indicates that few buildings were constructed in Lithonia's commercial core during the 1930s. In the early 1930s, the Neil Movie Theatre opened at 6975 Main Street. It was demolished c.1962 when the U.S. post office on was built in its place. By 1932, the previously-discussed Arco Hotel on the same block of Main Street had been repurposed as a hospital, and both corners of the block were occupied in part by filling stations, as the corner closest to the railroad remains today. There is in fact a long history of automobile-related businesses within the commercial heart of the city of Lithonia. As early as the 1920s an "Auto Repair Shop" was located on Stone Mountain Street, between Main and Church streets. Additionally, a Standard Oil station occupied the northeast corner of Ruth Street and Conyers Street by 1932. A November 1926 plat for the Davidson Granite Company shows a garage at what is today 7001 Swift Street- this building continues to be used in this capacity today, although it has been substantially modified.

The Great Depression also resulted in tepid residential growth for the city. Only one subdivision is documented as having been platted during the 1930s. In 1938, substantial property still owned by early Lithonia settler G.M. Johnson, located along Bruce and Stone streets between Walker and Pine Mountain streets, was subdivided for residential development. Much of the platting is still evident today, and houses in this northeast portion of the district include types common to middle- and working-class areas of the era, such as side-gabled cottages and bungalows.

As World War II came to a close, development reached unprecedented levels as soldiers returning home and the postwar 'baby boom," on the heels of a ban on non-essential construction during World War II, led to a shortage of housing across the country. The resumption of construction led to another increase in demand for Lithonia granite. By the 1950s, at least 31 quarries were in operation in the vicinity of Lithonia. By 1950, "out of the 1540 people living in Lithonia, about 350 families relied on the patriarch working out of one of the main quarries."[37]

Residential construction in Lithonia during the 1940s and 1950s illustrated the ongoing piecemeal nature of residential development in the city, consisting primarily of infill construction interspersed with older house types along previously-developed streets throughout the city. Infill construction of American Small Houses, such as 2620 Johnson Street, and ranch houses, such as 2620 Wiggins Street, proliferated throughout Lithonia. Ranch houses emerged as the dominant house type along a few streets, such as the southwest portion of Reagin Street and Dean Court.

At World War II's end, businesses continued catering to a society increasingly centered on automobile use. Lithonia's commercial core, already home to multiple automobile-related businesses, reflects this trend. Aaron B. Cameron subdivided seven lots between Main, Swift, Born and Wiggins streets in June 1946. This subdivision expanded upon the pattern established by the 1926 Davidson Granite Company subdivision, with residential located along the northeast corner of Born and Wiggins streets and commercial along Swift Street. These commercial buildings along Swift Street served as the location for a Chevrolet dealership during the 1950s and 1960s, but have all been altered to the degree that they no longer contribute to the district.

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[35] Paul Wood. "Granite Poultry Grit: Barre Aids the "Food For Victory" Program." The Vermont Granite Museum. http://quarriesandbeyond.org/sources/pdf/granite_poultry_grit_barre_vermont_article_by_paul_wood_vermont_granit_museum_april_2012.pdf (accessed 10/21/2015).

[36] Ibid

[37] Granite History. On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.

Research conducted via interviews, newspapers, city directories, as well as the Flat Rock Archives and DeKalb History Center, has thus far yielded few clues into the location and operations of African American businesses during Lithonia's history. According to J.B. Bond, a restaurant owned by an African American known as Tom Thornton, was located on Rockbridge (now Rock Chapel) Road. Freedom Turner, an African American, owned Lithonia's first barber shop.[38] A blacksmith shop and a shoe repair shop, both owned by African Americans, did exist in the downtown area prior to the 1960s.

More information has been found on African American community resources in Lithonia. In 1938, the Lithonia public school system incorporated into the DeKalb County School System.[39] That same year, the Lithonia Negro School opened as a combined elementary and high school for the African American community in Lithonia. The school's construction was funded by teachers from the Yellow River School, formerly located in the vicinity, who joined together with the community to raise the funds needed to purchase the land and build the Lithonia Negro School after their facility was destroyed by fire in 1935. Six acres along Bruce Street were purchased, and the school was built of Lithonia gneiss for $18,000. Originally, the school served grades one through eleven. In 1943, the school held its first high school graduation.

In 1949, Georgia Governor Herman Talmadge initiated the Minimum Foundation Program for Education, which sought to address geographic, class and racial disparities in educational opportunities in Georgia. The legislation effectively avoided integration of schools, while providing equal facilities for black students. The new schools built under the plan, called "equalization schools," allowed state schools to remain segregated.[40] Bruce Street High and Elementary School was one of 500 school built for African Americans statewide under the program. It opened in 1955, and provided education for African Americans until 1969, when the DeKalb County Board of Education phased it out of operation, along with six other DeKalb County schools that had served African American students only.[41] The school included 13 elementary classrooms, eight high school classrooms, offices, a library, and a cafeteria. The gymnasium was added in 1963. The Bruce Street High and Elementary School was the first black school in the county to offer business education and typing.[42] The school's high school program operated until 1968, when black students enrolled at Lithonia High School for the first time. The elementary program at Bruce Street School continued through spring 1969. The building was later purchased by DeKalb County and operates today as the Lucious Sanders Recreation Center.

Important community recreational facilities were also constructed in the years immediately following World War II. The Lithonia City Park features an amphitheater, pavilion, granite retaining walls, granite picnic tables, as well as tennis courts, soccer fields, and a community swimming pool. Dr. Thomas W. Stewart donated the land for the amphitheater. Construction was completed in 1951, and the structure was dedicated in 1954. Local high school graduations were held at the amphitheater from the 1950s to the 1970s.

In 1966, Lithonia High School (now Lithonia Middle School) was largely rebuilt. The gneiss building that had served as the city's high school for white students since 1920 was demolished in 1965- only one of the building's additions, dating to 1948, was retained on the campus. About the redevelopment, the 1966 Lithonia High School yearbook proclaims, "For everything gained, something is lost. Lithonia is an example of these

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[38] "HE WANTS DAMAGES: Because He Was Arrested by an Atlanta Policeman." *The Atlanta Constitution (1881-1945)*, August 17, 1891. http://ezproxy.gsu.edu/login?url=http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.gsu.edu/docview/193625673?accountid=11226 (accessed August 12, 2013).

[39] Judge Bond Almand. *Lithonia: The First Hundred Years 1856-1956.* On file at the DeKalb Historical Society. Lithonia Subject file #1986-23.

[40] Steven Moffson. *Equalization School in Georgia's African-American Communities: 1951-1970.* http://georgiashpo.org/sites/uploads/hpd/pdf/Equalization_Schools_in_Georgia.pdf (accessed November 10, 2015).

[41] Narvie J. Harris. History of Bruce Elementary and High Schools: 1884-1966. On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.

[42] Carol Pennington. "Bruce Street School was First School for Blacks." *The Lithonia Observer.* July 23, 1981.

words spoken by Emerson...We all like to hold on to old traditions, but we must move on and to greater heights."

By the 1950s and 1960s, Lithonia as a whole was indeed a place of substantial change. Lithonia's economic fortunes had begun to decline. By this time, concrete had become the preferred building material for street curbing and many other building applications nationwide due to its economy and versatility, greatly diminishing the demand for granite. As a result, the granite quarrying industry was in decline. By the 1970s, concrete had largely eclipsed granite as a general base material for construction.

Additionally, major initiatives of the Federal government began to significantly impact Lithonia's economy. The construction of the interstate highway system would exacerbate the decline of the economy of Lithonia and cities throughout the United States. Construction of Interstate 20, running just south of Lithonia, began in August 1958. Whereas the interstate brought increased traffic to the vicinity of the city, it siphoned business from the town's central business district, catering to travelers seeking easy access to and from the highway where fast food restaurants and gas stations abounded. As traffic decreased in the downtown area, businesses began to relocate, leaving a number of downtown buildings vacant.

Federal initiatives in the form of Urban Renewal funding also underwrote massive physical change in the Lithonia Historic District during the mid-20th century. Urban renewal efforts in Lithonia began with housing. The United States Housing Act of 1937 established the public housing program, which authorized loans to local public housing agencies for lower-rent public housing construction. Although briefly stalled by World War II, the program resumed during the immediate postwar years, partially in response to a shortage of housing. Beginning in the early 1950s, the Lithonia Housing Authority began to build low-income rental units throughout the city. The projects rerouted streets and added duplexes, multifamily units and a few single-family houses. One example is the Bruce Street Urban Renewal Project which resulted in the construction of Bruce Circle, Dean Court, and Bruce Court by the Housing Authority of the City of Lithonia c.1961. These units appear to have replaced older housing in these areas- according to Sanborn maps, by 1932, a group of small dwellings existed in the area of present-day Dean Court and Kelly Street, and a group of small residences denoted as "Monk Alley" existed across Bruce Street in the area that is now Bruce Circle. Exactly how the area was redeveloped during the mid-20th century is unclear, but by 1961, the City of Lithonia Housing Authority owned much of this land, as a plat for the Bruce Street Urban Renewal Project area dates to that year, and shows the creation of Bruce Circle and Dean Court on the land. 2610 Bruce Street, constructed in 1945, appears to be one of few remaining residences pre-dating urban renewal in the immediate area today.

Urban renewal in the commercial core had an even more disruptive impact. By the 1960s, much of Lithonia's commercial core stood vacant. In response, city leaders devised plans aimed at attracting investment downtown. A 1963 plat entitled "Property Disposal Map, Downtown Area" for the Housing Authority of the city of Lithonia reveals plans for rerouting and eliminating streets, and clearing a substantial area. That year, Lithonia residents approved an urban renewal initiative, aimed toward improving the town's "blighted" and "time worn" buildings. Lithonia's plan targeted approximately eight acres north and west of Main Street for the construction of a suburban style strip mall with a parking area. In addition to improvements to walkways, the plan called for sheathing the upper stories of existing downtown buildings to give the area a uniform appearance. By 1969, more than 20 buildings in the 17 acres included in the initial program had been demolished.[43] Among the buildings removed were several historic commercial buildings, the second Lithonia train depot (constructed during the 1920s), and the Lithonia Baptist Church, which had been constructed in 1861. Construction of Lithonia Plaza began under the direction of architect Albert O. Ordway and developer Horace Pendley.

[43] Gaines Brewster. "Lithonia Businessmen Discuss City Rehabilitation Program." *The Lithonia Observer*, August 7, 1969.

The Lithonia Plaza initiative also resulted in the reconfiguration of the city's original street patterns. Sections of Stone Mountain and Hollingsworth streets were removed for construction of the shopping center, thus disrupting the historic grid pattern. As a result, Stone Mountain Street no longer connected to Main Street and Hollingsworth Street no longer connected to Church Street. Additionally, a section of Church Street from the Lithonia First United Methodist Church to Swift Street was removed. Around 1970, the Lithonia bypass (later named Max Cleland Boulevard in honor of former Georgia Secretary of State and U.S. Senator Max Cleland, who was raised in Lithonia), was constructed north of the plaza through a portion of what was Church Street. It was also at this time that the nearby wooden Georgia Railroad bridge spanning what was formerly Church Street was razed, and a new bridge spanning the bypass was constructed.

The Bruce Street neighborhood benefitted during this period due in large part to the work of resident Lucious Sanders in advocating for better facilities for the African American community during the Civil Rights movement. A Lithonia native, Sanders, known to many as the "Dr. King of Lithonia," was born July 15, 1915. He was raised in Lithonia and enlisted in the U.S. Army on April 7, 1941. After returning from military service during WWII, he fought for voting rights and equal services for African Americans in DeKalb County. It is believed he organized one of the first voter registration drives in DeKalb County when he gathered groups of black men and women and drove to Decatur to demand the right to vote. Sanders founded the Lithonia Federal Credit Union in 1968 at Antioch Baptist Church, and the Anna Sanders Educational Fund (named for his mother), a non-profit foundation that provides scholarships and low interest loans to black students in need[44]. He started the Lithonia Civic League, pushing the county to upgrade services in Lithonia's African American neighborhoods, such as paving of roads, sewer lines and the development of parks and recreational facilities, and eventually became the first black member of the DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Board- the Lucious Sanders Recreation Center on Bruce Street is named in his honor.[45] In addition, Sanders promoted black history programs, and black representation in government. African American political activism in Lithonia is an excellent example of grassroots political action of the era in medium-sized Southern cities.

Sanders also started an African American Boy Scout troop, and in his work as a Scout leader, influenced the development of a prominent politician from Lithonia, Howard Lee. Lee was born July 28, 1934 and raised in Lithonia. He attended Lithonia Negro School, and later, Clark College, and subsequently received a degree from Fort Valley University. Lee was drafted into the Army where he organized a sit-in at Killeen, TX, and his organization of another sit-in on the Ft. Hood base was thwarted. He ultimately served in Korea and moved to Chapel Hill, NC to attend graduate school. It was there that Lee became involved in public service and was elected mayor of Chapel Hill in 1969, the first black man elected mayor of a Southern city since Reconstruction. Lee would ultimately serve three terms as mayor, and two terms in the North Carolina Senate.

Although Lithonia experienced an economic decline beginning in the 1950s, its population remained relatively steady. Aside from a slight decrease in population from 1940 to 1950, the population posted an increase in every census year until 1990. Furthermore, perhaps due to its already-suburban location in eastern DeKalb County, the city, though undergoing a gradual shift in its racial composition, did not experience a drastic demographic shift during the mid-20th century, as experienced in many larger urban areas. For example, African Americans remained a minority population in the city through the 1980 census, representing 44% of 2,637 Lithonians. By 2000, African Americans made up approximately 80% of the population.[46] As of 2010, Lithonia's African American population stood at 1,639 -- roughly 85% of the population. Thus, while interstate highways pulled business from urban centers and Main streets throughout the nation, the population of

[44] Greig Guthey. "Civil rights Activist 'made a difference in the lives of a lot of us.'" *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*, June 10, 1993. http://ezproxy.gsu.edu:2055/universe/printdoc (accessed April 20, 2005).

[45] Barry Brown, Allyson Combee, Laura Drummond, Tom Frank, Andrew Reisinger, Sharman Southall. *Lithonia African-American Cemetery,* (Georgia State University, 2004), 1-3.

[46] *U.S. Census of Population, 2000: Subject Reports: Summary Population and Housing Characteristics.* Final Report. Washington: Government Printing Office, September 2002.

Lithonia continued to grow. Furthermore, although a gradual demographic shift from majority white to majority African American was already underway by the 1950s, the massive scale of "white flight" experienced in many locations throughout the country bypassed Lithonia as a whole, at least until the 1980s.

In more recent years, Lithonia has focused on revitalization. In 1993, the aluminum sheathing and awnings that had obscured portion of most of Main Street's commercial resources since the late 1960s were removed, revealing the historic appearance of the commercial core. In 2005, a Georgia Department of Transportation-funded streetscape improvement project along Main Street improved walkability and accessibility in the commercial core, although Main Street's historic granite sidewalks were removed in the process. Most recently, Lithonia was incorporated into the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area when it was established in 2006.[47] As part of the Arabia Mountain Trail, which connects Lithonia with other heritage area destinations, an abandoned rail spur line (noted as A.R.R. on the 1923-1932 Sanborn map), intersecting Johnson Street at the southern edge of the district, has been donated to the PATH Foundation by Hanson Aggregates for the construction of a concrete multi-use hike/bike PATH. This line originally served to transport stone to Lithonia's main rail line from the Arabia Mountain quarries. The historic physical location of the line itself remains evident, and supports the continued interpretation of the importance of the rail road and quarrying industry to Lithonia's history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Roth, Darlene. *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types.* December 1989. On file at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division.

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 #_____
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #_____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

[47] City of Lithonia. "Historic Lithonia: Walk About." http://arabiaalliance.org/trails/2851/ (accessed April 1, 2015).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 440.01
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. **Latitude: 33.719560** **Longitude: -84.108053**
2. **Latitude: 33.716576** **Longitude: -84.103122**
3. **Latitude: 33.716173** **Longitude: -84.097689**
4. **Latitude: 33.715486** **Longitude: -84.095952**
5. **Latitude: 33.706575** **Longitude: -84.098687**
6. **Latitude: 33.706117** **Longitude: -84.110376**
7. **Latitude: 33.711114** **Longitude: -84.112229**
8. **Latitude: 33.714447** **Longitude: -84.116649**

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached district map, drawn to scale with a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Lithonia Historic District boundary includes the intact, contiguous historic resources within the current and historic municipal boundary of the city of Lithonia, roughly encompassing major historic roads and part of the CSX railroad corridor. The district boundary extends outside the municipal boundary when necessary to encompass the entirety of contributing parcels that are bisected by the municipal boundary, and excludes all parcels of which no portion lies within the municipal boundary. The district boundary excludes large areas of dense noncontributing infill. Much of the development immediately outside the district boundary dates to outside the period of significance.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stephanie L. Cherry-Farmer; National Register and Survey Program Manager
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e-mail stephanie.cherry-farmer@dnr.ga.gov

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

  A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Lithonia Historic District

City or Vicinity: Lithonia

County: DeKalb State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Date Photographed: December 19, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Image 1 of 67: 6958-6984 Main Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 2 of 67: 6958-6974 Main Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 3 of 67: 6980-6984 Main Street; photographer facing north
Image 4 of 67: Detail of 6983-6985 Main Street
Image 5 of 67: Rail line and 7282 Conyers Street; photographer facing east
Image 6 of 67: Rail line, Conyers Street, and 6980-6984 Main Street; photographer facing west
Image 7 of 67: Side and rear façades fronting Swift Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 8 of 67: 2562 Bond Street; photographer facing northwest
Image 9 of 67: 2554 Bond Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 10 of 67: 6790-6812 Church Street; photographer facing north
Image 11 of 67: DeKalb County Public Library; 6821 Church Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 12 of 67: 3089 Stone Mountain Street; photographer facing northwest
Image 13 of 67: 6882-6888 Max Cleland Boulevard; photographer facing north
Image 14 of 67: Georgia Railroad bridge over Max Cleland Boulevard; photographer facing northeast
Image 15 of 67: 6834 College Avenue; photographer facing north
Image 16 of 67: Lithonia Middle School; photographer facing north
Image 17 of 67: 6832 Church Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 18 of 67: 6776 Church Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 19 of 67: 6768 Church Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 20 of 67: 6860-6872 Parkway Road; photographer facing northwest

Image 21 of 67: The Seminary; 6886 Main Street; photographer facing west
Image 22 of 67: Good News Community CME Church; 2547 Parkway Road; photographer facing north
Image 23 of 67: Picnic area, Lithonia City Park; photographer facing south
Image 24 of 67: Amphitheater, Lithonia City Park; photographer facing west
Image 25 of 67: Amphitheater, Lithonia City Park; photographer facing east
Image 26 of 67: Lithonia City Park sign; photographer facing west
Image 27 of 67: Lithonia Middle School, c.1940s granite building; photographer facing northwest
Image 28 of 67: 2438 Randall Avenue; photographer facing east
Image 29 of 67: Lithonia City Cemetery; photographer facing northeast
Image 30 of 67: Lithonia City Cemetery; photographer facing southeast
Image 31 of 67: 3021 Stone Mountain Street; photographer facing west
Image 32 of 67: 3015-2997 Stone Mountain Street; photographer facing northwest
Image 33 of 67: 2664 Williams Grant Reynolds Drive; photographer facing east
Image 34 of 67: St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church; 2687 Klondike Road; photographer facing west
Image 35 of 67: 6865 Magnolia Street; photographer facing southeast
Image 36 of 67: Historically vacant lots at 6853 and 6859 Magnolia Street, evidencing the type of vacant land that is found throughout the residential areas of the district; photographer facing east
Image 37 of 67: 6876 Magnolia Street; photographer facing north
Image 38 of 67: PATH recreational trail occupying former railroad right-of-way adjacent to 2657 Johnson Street; photographer facing west
Image 39 of 67: 2657 Johnson Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 40 of 67: 2674 Council Street; photographer facing east
Image 41 of 67: 2671 Johnson Street; photographer facing south
Image 42 of 67: 2605 and 2611 Wiggins Street; photographer facing south
Image 43 of 67: 6921 Born Street (house, and outbuilding fronting Wiggins Street); photographer facing south
Image 44 of 67: 6915 Born Street; photographer facing east
Image 45 of 67: 6949 Main Street; photographer facing southeast
Image 46 of 67: Johnson's Hall; 6957 Main Street; photographer facing southeast
Image 47 of 67: Lithonia Women's Club; 2564 Wiggins Street; photographer facing east
Image 48 of 67: 6975 Main Street; photographer facing east
Image 49 of 67: 6979-6985 Main Street and 7282 Conyers Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 50 of 67: 2613 Bruce Street; photographer facing north
Image 51 of 67: 2597-2585 Bruce Street; photographer facing north
Image 52 of 67: Lucious Sanders Recreation Center (formerly the Bruce Street Elementary and High School (2484 Bruce Street)), main school building; photographer facing east
Image 53 of 67: Lucious Sanders Recreation Center (formerly the Bruce Street Elementary and High School (2484 Bruce Street)), gym; photographer facing southeast
Image 54 of 67: Lithonia Negro School ruins (2449 Bruce Street); photographer looking northwest
Image 55 of 67: Cemetery 1; photographer facing northeast
Image 56 of 67: Cemetery 1; photographer facing east
Image 57 of 67: Bruce Street Park; photographer facing northeast
Image 58 of 67: 7040-7066 Dean Court; photographer facing north
Image 59 of 67: 6939 Bruce Circle; photographer facing northwest
Image 60 of 67: Former Lithonia city waterworks building; 6974 Church Street; photographer facing southwest
Image 61 of 67: 2707-2717 Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing north
Image 62 of 67: 2688 Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing east
Image 63 of 67: 2643-2661 Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing north

Image 64 of 67: 2601 Reagin Street; photographer facing northwest
Image 65 of 67: 2616-2624 Reagin Street; photographer facing northeast
Image 66 of 67: Lithonia Plaza shopping center; photographer facing north
Image 67 of 67: Lithonia Plaza shopping center; photographer facing northeast

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Lithonia Historic District
DeKalb County, Georgia

Lithonia City Park
Lithonia Middle School
Lithonia City Cemetery
Cemetery 1
Cemetery 2
Lithonia Negro School Ruins
Bruce Street Park
Georgia Railroad Quarry
Amphitheater
Lillian Kelly Park
William Reynolds Drive

Varkel Ln
Varkel Way
Rantail Rd
Tribble St
Rue De Pierre
Rue De Belle Vue
Parc Chateau West
Parc Chateau Dr
Ida St
Bonner Lake Dr
Center St
Stone Mountain Creek
Briddall Ave
Brenda Lee Ln
College Ave
Lucullen Ave
Max Cleland Blvd
Swift St
Parkway Tri
Parkway Trce
Parkway Rd
Albert Way
Park Dr
Phillips St
Hawes Dr
Layton Dr
Spring St
Covington Rd
Covington Hwy
Hutar St
Evans Mill Rd
Davidson Dr
Rock Chapel Rd
Pine Mountain St
Rankins Aly
Turner Hill Rd
Lithonia Bypass
Braswell St
Avery St
Luther St
Pine Mountain Rd
Smokey Row
Hammond Way
Stone St
Walker St
Pendley St
Rock Chapel Road
Church St
Ruth St
Bruce Cir
Bruce St
Kelly St
Dean St
Conyers St
S Wiggins St
Born St
Johnson St
Robinson St
Main St
Reagin St
Klondike Rd
Magnolia St
Eagle St
Quarry St
Clifford St
Lucas Dr
Council St
McDaniel St

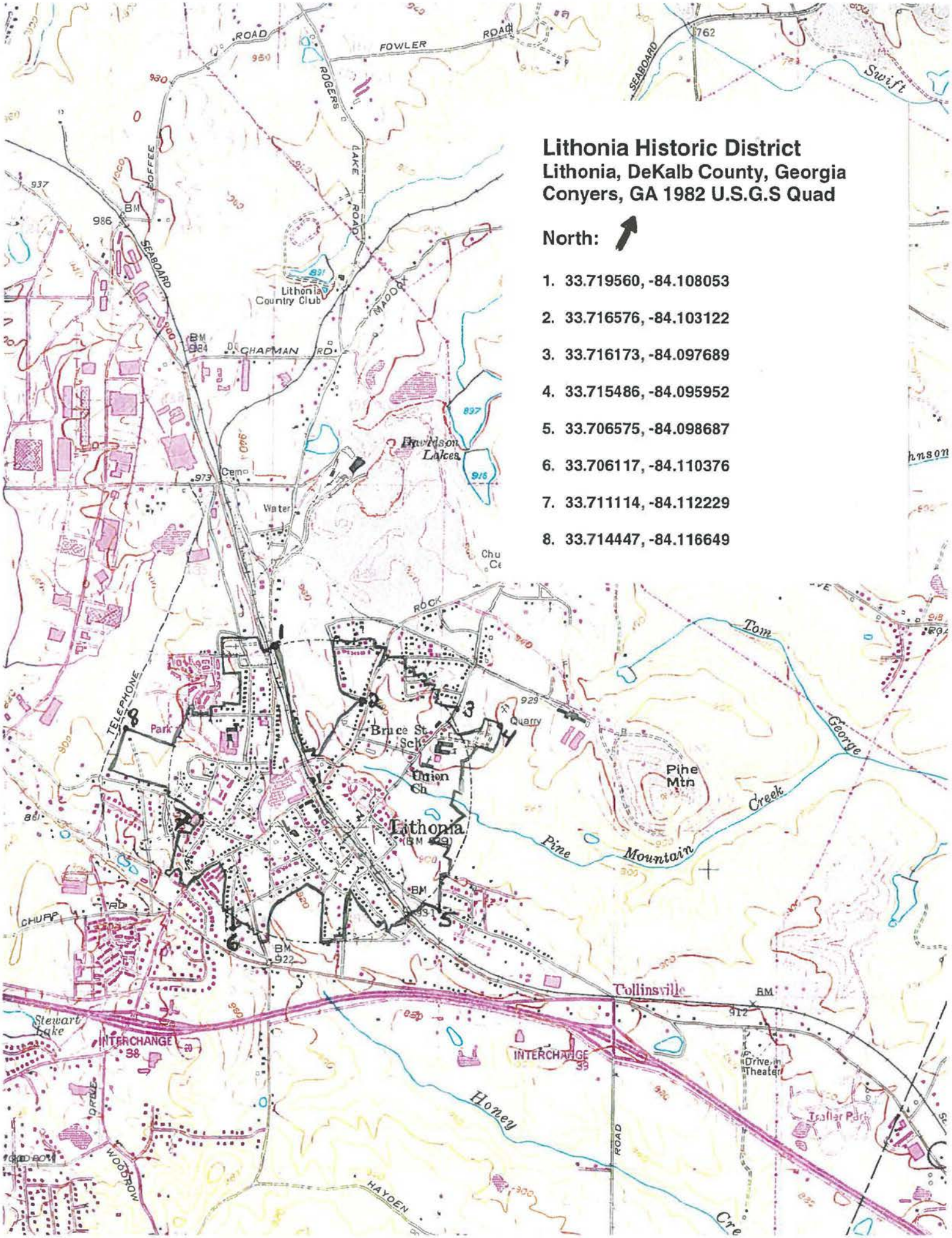
Lithonia Historic District
Lithonia, DeKalb County, Georgia
National Register Map

Scale: 13/16 inch=200 feet
Contributing property:
Noncontributing property:
Vacant property: V
Photograph/Direction of view:

District Boundary
Railroad

0 200 400 800 1,200 1,600 Feet

ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION
regional impact + local relevance


Lithonia Historic District
Lithonia, DeKalb County, Georgia
Conyers, GA 1982 U.S.G.S Quad
North:
1. 33.719560, -84.108053
2. 33.716576, -84.103122
3. 33.716173, -84.097689
4. 33.715486, -84.095952
5. 33.706575, -84.098687
6. 33.706117, -84.110376
7. 33.711114, -84.112229
8. 33.714447, -84.116649
FOWLER ROAD
ROGERS LAKE ROAD
SEABOARD
Lithonia Country Club
CHAPMAN RD
Davidson Lakes
Water
Bruce St Sch
Union Ch
Lithonia
Quarry
Pine Mtn
Pine Mountain Creek
Tom George
Collinsville
Drive-in Theater
Trailer Park
Stewart Lake
INTERCHANGE 38
INTERCHANGE 39
Honey Cre
TELEPHONE
CHUPP RD
HAYDEN
WOODROW
Swift

CALVARY CAKES
CAFE'
LITHONIA
ALTERATIONS

POLICE

Swift St

Lithonia-Davidson Branch
DeKalb County Public Library
PARKING
BOOK DEPOSITORY
DO NOT
ENTER

D&J SUPPLY

GEORGIA RAILROAD

6834

6872

LITHONIA CITY PARK

BRASWELL

2664

First Saint Paul A.M.E. Church
2687 Klondike Rd. Lithonia, Ga. 30058
Rev. Michael L. Crawford Senior Pastor
770-484-8650

6957B
FOR RENT
6957A
FOR RENT
READY TO
RENT
3,000 Sq. Ft.

LITHONIA
WOMAN'S CLUB

Salon Shoa
BYRD'S TV
Sales and Service
GAMERS
XPERIENCE
$3

WILSON ROOFING

Wayfield
BEAUTY MART
FAMILY DOLLAR
STORE
Blue Bell Ice Cream

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Lithonia Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, De Kalb

DATE RECEIVED: 8/05/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/20/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000639

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	N
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	N	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

√ ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT 9.19.16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA_____

REVIEWER_____ DISCIPLINE_____

TELEPHONE_____ DATE_____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

RECEIVED 2280
AUG - 5 2016
Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

August 1, 2016

J. Paul Loether
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for **Lithonia Historic District** in **DeKalb County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places.

___X___ Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf

___X___ Disk with digital photo images

___X___ Physical signature page

_____ Original USGS topographic map(s)

_____ Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)

_____ Correspondence

_____ Other: Letters of support

COMMENTS:

_____ Please insure that this nomination is reviewed

_____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67

_____ The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____ constitute a majority of property owners.

_____ Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Lynn Speno
National Register Specialist

Enclosures