

Renotification/80 Amendments

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 MAY 20 1982

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

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

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

**1. Name**

historic Elberton Commercial Historic District

and/or common Elberton Commercial Historic District

**2. Location**

Public Sq., Church, Elbert, Oliver, and  
 McIntosh Sts.

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 N/A not for publication

city, town Elberton N/A vicinity of congressional district 10th-Douglas Barnard,  
Jr.

state Georgia code 013 county Elbert code 105

**3. Classification**

| Category                                     | Ownership                                 | Status  | Present Use  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied          | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)         | <input type="checkbox"/> private          | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park</span> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both  | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                 | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object              | <u>N/A</u> in process                     | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>      |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>  |
|  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>                       |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Ownership (fewer than fifty property owners)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Elbert County Courthouse

city, town Elberton state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Elbert County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Atlanta See Continuation Sheet. state Georgia

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### Description

The Elberton Commercial Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic commercial downtown of Elberton. It is located on a rise of ground at the center of Elberton's circular city limits. Principal city streets intersect at right angles in this area, creating a tight gridiron pattern of several blocks arranged around a central rectangular "square." The blocks are generally subdivided into long, narrow lots fronting onto the main streets and backing up to service alleys. Buildings on these lots are for the most part late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century two-story brick commercial structures. They are densely grouped within the district and share both party walls and a common setback from the sidewalks. Styles of architecture represented in the district include the Romanesque, Renaissance, and Neoclassical; numerous examples of Victorian Eclectic design appear as well. Brick, the principal building material, is used structurally and decoratively in foundations, piers, load-bearing walls, pilasters, spandrel and parapet panels, segmental arches, string courses, and corbelled cornices. It is complemented by cast-iron columns in storefronts, stone foundations, and stone, terracotta, and pressed-metal ornamentation. Exceptions to these general rules include the free-standing Renaissance Revival Elbert County Courthouse at the eastern-most corner of the district, the Tudor Revival Elbert Hotel at the corner of South Oliver Street and Public Square South, and several Art Deco facades with black carrara glass along Public Square South. Non-historic properties that do not contribute to the historic character and appearance of the district are limited to remodeled storefronts throughout the district, remodeled facades and a pre-fabricated metal structure on South McIntosh Street, and a one-story contemporary building on Oliver Street; a few other buildings have storefronts modernized with aluminum, plate glass, and pent roofs. Landscaping in the district is confined to the central square, known as Sutton Square, which features expanses of lawn, trees, flower gardens, monuments, a fountain, benches, and walks, and to the courthouse grounds with their trees and lawn. Several sidewalks in the district are paved with early-twentieth-century hexagonal blocks. Streets, originally paved with brick, have been resurfaced with asphalt.

#### Boundary

The boundary of the Elberton Commercial Historic District is described by a heavy black line on the attached map. To the west, the boundary follows a service alley to the rear (west) of properties fronting on the west side of North and South Oliver streets; to the east, a service alley to the rear (east) of properties fronting on the east side of North and South McIntosh streets; to the south, the north edge of the right-of-way along Church Street and the service alley to the rear (south) of properties fronting on the south side of Public Square South between South Oliver and South McIntosh streets; and to the north, the south edge of the right-of-way along College Avenue/Elbert Street. This boundary circumscribes the contiguous historic commercial downtown of Elberton. To the north is College Avenue/Elbert Street, a modern five-lane highway; to the west are a parking lot, modern commercial structures, and houses; and to the south and east are modern commercial buildings, parking lots, and vacant lots.

[continued]

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Photographs

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in July, 1980 still provide an accurate view of the district. No significant changes have been made since that date.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** late 18th - early 20th century **Builder/Architect** multiple

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Elberton Commercial Historic District is historically significant in terms of architecture, community planning and development, and commerce. It meets National Register criteria A and C.

Architecture

The district is architecturally significant for its fine collection of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial buildings that represent the prevailing design and construction principles and practices of commercial architecture at the time, especially as found in small northeast Georgia cities. Important architectural styles including Romanesque, Renaissance, Neoclassical, and Victorian Eclectic are well represented. Period details including piers, pilasters, columns, spandrel and parapet panels, segmental arches, string courses, and corbelled and modillioned cornices are widely apparent. The use of brick, both structurally and decoratively, in conjunction with cast iron, stone, terracotta, and pressed metal, is characteristic of turn-of-the-century commercial building. This architectural repertoire is a fine example of what could be accomplished by architects and contractors working with a range of building materials, designs, and techniques during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, and it represents the way in which high-style architecture was interpreted in small northeast Georgia cities.

The district is also significant architecturally because of its extreme concentration of historic commercial buildings arranged in a rectilinear pattern which creates a distinctly downtown environment in this part of Elberton. This effect is enhanced by the relatively uniform scale and massing of the buildings, with principal structures highlighted through their size, location, or design, the consistent use of materials, compatible ornamentation, and the regular siting of the buildings along the gridiron street pattern and around the central square. Few intrusions or vacant lots mar the historic character and appearance of the district.

Community Planning and Development

The district is significant in terms of community planning and development because it represents the downtown commercial center of a historic county seat that was planned and developed in ways that are characteristic of such cities in northeast Georgia. Elberton was founded in the late-eighteenth century, designated county seat in 1803, and officially platted by 1808; its downtown gridiron street plan was located on high ground at the center of circular city limits. This early-nineteenth-century framework then accommodated intensive late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century commercial development fostered by the arrival of the railroad in

[continued]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9 acres (est.)

Quadrangle name Elberton East, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| A | <u>1</u> <u>7</u> | <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| B | <u>1</u> <u>7</u> | <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| C | <u>1</u> <u>7</u> | <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |  |
|---|-------------------|---|--|
| D | <u>1</u> <u>7</u> | <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> | <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing   |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| E | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| F | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| G | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

|   |                   |   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|---|
| H | <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> | <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting   | Northing  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is described by a heavy black line on the attached property/sketch map and is justified in Section 7.

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| N/A   |      |        |      |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian  
Historic Preservation Section,

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date October 15, 1980 / April 12, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

*4/12/82 EAL*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/4/80

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

*Deloris Byers*

Entered in the  
National Register

date 5/20/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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1878, the emergence of the granite industry in the late-nineteenth century, and the growth of the supporting community. The resulting downtown area embodied such characteristic features as a central square and gridded streets lined with brick buildings. The district is also significant because its growth and development reflected a shift in modes of transportation from the river and such riverside communities as Petersburg to the railroad and such trackside communities as Elberton.

Commercial Significance

The district is significant in terms of the history of commerce because of its layout and its role as the principal commercial center in Elbert County. The district has a gridded street plan that has been identified as an important characteristic of small Georgia cities founded and developed for commercial as well as civic reasons. The district served as the center for day-to-day commercial activity in the city and the county; these commercial activities included wholesaling and retailing, banking, professional services, hotel accommodations, and entertainment. The district also housed offices related to important local businesses and industries, including the late-nineteenth-century granite industry for which Elberton -- the "Granite City" -- is widely known in the United States.

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

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(2) Location

The Elberton Commercial Historic District is centered on the downtown Public Square and includes properties on either side of North and South Oliver streets between College Avenue/Elbert Street and Church Street, North and South McIntosh streets between Elbert Street and Church Street, James Street between Elbert Street and Public Square North, and Public Square North and South.

(6) Representation

The Elbert County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 18, 1980, as part of the "County Courthouses in Georgia" thematic group nomination.

E-5

E-5

E-4

STREET

COLLEGE

AVENUE

ELBERT

STREET

ELBERT

Elberton Commercial Historic District  
Elberton, Elbert County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

North: ↑  
Scale: 0' ————— 100'  
Boundary of historic district:   
Intrusion: X  
Photograph and direction of view: 

③

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PUBLIC SQUARE NORTH

PUBLIC SQUARE SOUTH

Already Listed

ELBERT COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE

CHURCH

STREET

WEST

CHURCH

STREET

EAST

CHURCH

STREET

E-9

E-9

THOMAS