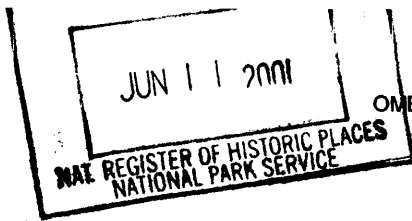


740



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Siloam Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly centered on Main Street (S.R. 15), Union Point Highway (S.R. 77), and Church Street.

city, town Siloam () vicinity of
county Greene code 033
state Georgia code GA zip code 30665

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	40	11
sites	1	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	42	11

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Richard Coates
Signature of certifying official

6-4-01
Date

W. Ray Luce
W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

Date

5. 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:
- see continuation sheet

Patrick Andrews 7/26/2001

Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Commerce/Trade: financial institution, specialty store, department store

Religion: religious facility

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

Religion: religious facility

Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Italianate, Queen Anne

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Other: Folk Victorian

Other: Georgian-plan cottage

Other: Center-hall-plan cottage

Other: Gabled-ell cottage

Other: Saddlebag cottage

Materials:

foundation Brick

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other Stone

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Siloam is a small crossroads community located just south of Interstate 20 in rural Greene County halfway between Atlanta and Augusta. The Siloam Historic District consists of the town's residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. The irregular-shaped historic district, which lies within the circular city limits, is stretched out along several principal roads: Main Street (Georgia Highway 15), Georgia Highway 77, Fuller School Road, and Peek Avenue. The commercial buildings are clustered on very small lots along Main Street at its intersection with Georgia Highway 77. Around these commercial buildings are situated many small houses. Houses closer to downtown are set on small lots while outlying properties have larger lots and outbuildings associated

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

with small-scale agricultural activity. The historic district also includes the alignment of the railroad that has since been replaced with Railroad Street north of downtown and Highway 77/15 east of downtown.

The small commercial district on Main Street comprises four one- and two-story attached and freestanding brick commercial blocks built during the early 20th century (photos 1-4). These buildings, including the current post office and the former bank building, feature corbeled brick cornices, parapets, panels, and pilasters in the Italianate style. Several of the buildings feature cast-iron storefronts (photo 2).

Single-family dwellings in the district were built between 1880 and the 1940 and are located along the district's main and secondary roads. The houses are mostly one- and one-and-one-half-story, frame dwellings. Georgian-plan cottages—four principal rooms divided by a central hall—and the two-story equivalent, the Georgian-plan house, are found throughout the historic district (photos 14, 15, 21, and 28). Closely related to the Georgian plan is the New South Cottage, which features four rooms divided by a center hall except that rooms on one side of the hall are pushed forward resulting in a front projecting gable and offset interior doorways (photos 17 and 19). Examples of the center hall-plan house—two rooms divided by a central hall—are also found in the district (photo 6, 20, and 22).

Gabled-ell cottages are located in the district downtown and in more rural, outlying areas (photos 4, 8, and 26). These houses consist of a projecting gabled front and side ell. A porch often spans the front of the ell. Smaller house types include the hall-parlor with its two unequally sized rooms (photo 7) and the saddlebag house, which is defined as two rooms set on either side of a chimney (photo 18). Some of the last houses built in the historic district are Craftsman-style bungalows with full-width porches and long, rectangular plans (photos 9 and 24).

Most houses, regardless of house type, feature Folk Victorian details. Folk Victorian is the phenomena in which mass-produced, jig-sawn ornament became readily available to middle- and working-class homeowners. Rather than a true style, Folk Victorian is a method in which ornament was applied to new and existing homes that became widely popular in the late 19th century and the first decades of 20th century. Examples range from houses with limited decoration (photos 16 and 17) to houses that feature a combination of decoratively sawn posts, brackets, bargeboard, and variegated shingles (photos 26 and 28).

Community landmark buildings include the Siloam Baptist Church and the Siloam Presbyterian Church. Both buildings are located on Church Street in the center of the historic district. The Siloam Baptist Church was established in 1828. The first church building was built before 1832. This building was used as a school when the second church building was constructed in 1848. These earlier buildings no longer survive. The current Gothic Revival-style Siloam Baptist Church building was built in 1896 (photos 10-12). It is a large, frame building distinguished by its picturesque twin towers.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

In 1902, the Baptist congregation donated a portion of their land to the Siloam Presbyterian Church, which built a church building south of the Baptist church (photo 10 and 13). The Presbyterian church was built in the form of a Colonial Revival-style with a gable-front rectangular plan and a front entrance tower. The pent gable shelters the double-leaf entrance.

The New Siloam Methodist Church merged with a congregation in nearby Hastings and built this first building in Siloam in 1894. The Methodist church, located south of the Presbyterian Church, burned in 1952. The congregation built a Colonial Revival-style church on the same site in 1954 (photos 10 and 13, background).

In 1878, the Baptist church established the city cemetery for use by the Siloam's white population (photos 11-13). The cemetery is located on Church Street with the oldest burials at the north end near the two church buildings. Burials are organized in family plots, some surrounded by iron fences. The cemetery is planted with cedar and evergreen trees, traditional 19th-century landscape features.

Noncontributing properties in the district are limited to nonhistoric buildings, mostly houses, with two exceptions being gas stations/convenience stores on Georgia Highway 77 (photos 1 and 3). Surrounding the district is low-density modern development, mostly houses and rural fields and woods.

Located east of the historic district is the Siloam Junior High School, a historic school complex that includes a classroom building built in 1929 and a vocational building that was constructed in 1937. The school complex, which is in the process of being listed individually, was approved by the Georgia/National Register Review Board in September 1999. The complex is not included within the bounds of the Siloam Historic District because it is separated from the most of the district's resources by numerous noncontributing properties.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance:

1878-1940

Significant Dates:

1878 – City cemetery established.
1889 – Railroad laid through Siloam.
1927 – Discontinuance of rail service through Siloam.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s): N/A

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Siloam Historic District is significant as an intact rural crossroads community that retains its downtown commercial, residential, and community landmark buildings. The Siloam Historic District is significant under the theme of architecture because its residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings are representative of styles and types built throughout Georgia during the 19th and 20th centuries. Its downtown commercial buildings feature cast-iron storefronts, decorative brickwork, and stepped parapets that are typical of Italianate-style commercial buildings constructed throughout Georgia during the 1900s and 1910s. Residential architecture in Siloam is mostly vernacular with Folk Victorian details. Most houses may be characterized by house type, the combination of floor plan and the number of stories as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings*. These include good examples of Georgian-plan, center-hall plan, gabled-ell, and the smaller saddlebag cottages that were popular in the last decades of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century. There are also good examples of Craftsman-style bungalows. Siloam's community landmark buildings include its two historic churches, the Gothic Revival-style Siloam Baptist Church and the Colonial Revival-style Siloam Presbyterian Church. Both are excellent examples of rural church architecture in Georgia at the turn of the 20th century.

The district is significant in the area of commerce because Siloam served as a center for economic activity in this area of Greene County as represented by its intact commercial buildings. Its small downtown retains a high level of historic integrity and represents Siloam's growth during the period in which the economy was supported by cotton production and shipping. Siloam is typical of small towns throughout Georgia whose fortunes were derived from cotton and then lost with the arrival of the boll weevil in the 1910s and 1920s, the collapse of the tenant-farm system, and the Great Depression.

The historic district is also significant under the theme of community planning and development because Siloam's crossroads community-type plan remains intact. The rail line, which was laid after the town was established, influenced the development of Siloam. The town became a shipping point for cotton and experienced a period of dramatic growth. The rail line was replaced with Railroad Street north of downtown and Highway 77/15 east of downtown. Crossroads community-type plans are common throughout Georgia and include towns such as Warthen in Washington County.

National Register Criteria

A and C.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1878 with the establishment of the city cemetery, the town's oldest surviving resource, and ends in 1940 when most new building in Siloam had ceased.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources in the historic district are those constructed between 1878 and 1940 that are significant for the themes of architecture, commerce, and community planning and development and which retain historic integrity. This includes houses, commercial buildings, and churches in Siloam that date from 1878 to 1940. The plan of Siloam is counted as a contributing structure and the Siloam cemetery is counted as a contributing site.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The Siloam Historic District represents the historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings of the Piedmont town of Siloam. The town was settled in the first half of the 19th century by the Brooks, Peeks, Veazy, Champion, Crutchfield, and Dolvin families. First known as Smyrna, the town's name was changed to Siloam because a town with same name existed in Cobb County.

Siloam was called the "white land" section of Greene County because of the color of the soil, compact pea-size gravel that slows water seepage. The area was cultivated by small farming operations because the soil was not conducive to large plantations. After the Civil War, crops in the area fertilized with guano produced high yields. Families farmed larger tracts by clearing new tracts and selling the trees for timber and taking on tenant families and wage hands.

The first store was built in 1870, and in 1879 W. T. Johnson established a general merchandise store. By 1886, the population of Siloam numbered 150 persons. During the late 19th century, downtown Siloam featured a carriage maker, grist mill, cotton gin, and several general stores. In 1889, the rail line between Union Point and White Plains established a depot in Siloam, establishing the town as a shipping point for cotton. Downtown development continued with the Siloam Baptist Church (1896), the Siloam Presbyterian Church (1903), and the Bank of Siloam on Main Street (1904).

During the first decade of the 20th century, Siloam and the surrounding Greene County towns of White Plains, Greensboro, and Union Point grew with economies based on cotton production. Speculators from other parts of the country purchased land, driving up real-estate prices. Siloam's downtown included groceries, liveries, blacksmith shops, cotton gins, doctor's office and pharmacy, a bank, and movie theater.

Siloam's economy, however, waned during the 1910s and 1920s with the arrival of the boll weevil, the collapse of the tenant-farm system, and Great Depression. In 1927, rail service through Siloam

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

was discontinued. After 1940, little has been built in Siloam except for two nonhistoric gas stations and convenience stores and nonhistoric houses.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings*. Atlanta: Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1991.

Groover, Amy and Katherine Malone. Historic District Information Form. Siloam Historic District. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 100 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 306760	Northing 3712990
B)	Zone 17	Easting 306910	Northing 3712810
C)	Zone 17	Easting 307150	Northing 3712290
D)	Zone 17	Easting 306720	Northing 3711790
E)	Zone 17	Easting 306510	Northing 3711760
F)	Zone 17	Easting 306220	Northing 3712040
G)	Zone 17	Easting 306250	Northing 3712140
H)	Zone 17	Easting 306410	Northing 3712600

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the intact residential, commercial, and religious resources associated with the city of Siloam.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W.

city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303

telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** April 15, 2001

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) (x) not applicable

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Siloam Historic District
City or Vicinity: Siloam
County: Greene
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 1998

Description of Photograph(s):

1. Main Street (Highway 15), photographer facing west.
2. Main Street (Highway 15), photographer facing west.
3. Main Street (Highway 15), photographer facing east.
4. Church Street, photographer facing north.
5. Main Street (Highway 15), photographer facing northwest.
6. Highway 15, photographer facing west.
7. Highway 15, photographer facing west.
8. O'Neal Street, photographer facing northwest.
9. O'Neal Street, photographer facing southwest.
10. Siloam Baptist Church (foreground) and Siloam Presbyterian Church (background), Church Street, photographer facing southwest.
11. Siloam Baptist Church and Siloam city cemetery, photographer facing west.
12. Siloam city cemetery and Siloam Baptist Church, photographer facing northwest.
13. Siloam city cemetery and Siloam Presbyterian Church, photographer facing west.
14. Fuller School Road, photographer facing west.
15. Fuller School Road, photographer facing west.
16. Fuller School Road, photographer facing northwest.
17. Fuller School Road, photographer facing northwest.
18. Nantahala Road, photographer facing north.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

19. Peek Avenue, photographer facing west.
20. Peek Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
21. Nacoochee Road, photographer facing northwest.
22. Highway 15 and 77, photographer facing northwest.
23. Railroad Street, photographer facing northwest.
24. Main Street (Highway 15 and 77), photographer facing west.
25. Georgia Highway 77, photographer facing northeast.
26. Georgia Highway 77, photographer facing northwest.
27. Georgia Highway 77, photographer facing west.
28. Georgia Highway 77, photographer facing west.