

RECORDED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAR 13 1991

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

Ala. Historical Commission

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 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District
other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number See inventory section #7 N/A not for publication
city, town Wetumpka N/A vicinity
state AL code AL county Elmore code 051 zip code 36092

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>25</u>	<u>10</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>25</u>	<u>10</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
[Signature] 1-8-92
Signature of certifying official Date
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 2/20/92
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE

GOVERNMENT

DOMESTIC

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE

GOVERNMENT

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

MID 19th CENTURY

LATE 19th CENTURY REVIVALS

OTHER: COMMERCIAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Stucco

roof Asphalt

other Metal

Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The East Wetumpka Commercial District encompasses most of the central business district of Wetumpka, Elmore County, Alabama, a town of about 5,000 people. It is a concentration of buildings clustered at the foot of a steep ridge on a bluff on the eastern side of the Coosa River. The District includes roughly five blocks but has tended to follow topography and old territorial road patterns rather than the early survey and plat maps in its development. The topography of the district provides for interesting walkways and steps as the district rises to the east from the river's edge.

The East Wetumpka Commercial District is bounded roughly on the west by the boundaries of the previously designated Bibb Graves Bridge, the east by Spring Street, the south by the southern most lot line of the Elmore County Court House and on the north by an irregular boundary based on current lot lines. (See map for precise boundaries.) It is a cohesive collection of 19th and early 20th Century commercial buildings but also includes a c.1820 structure traditionally thought to be the City's first jail. (#69) The buildings range in height from one to three stories with a predominance of two story buildings. Most are built of brick. Most street level storefronts in the District have suffered some degree of inappropriate alteration but four have retained remarkably intact wooden and/or iron storefronts (# 16, 20, 53 and 56) and most retain their original window and entrance configuration.

Most roofs in the district are either gable or sloping flat roofs concealed behind parapets. Traditional parapet treatment is employed, a corbeled brick cornice and/or brick panels providing the only embellishment. One store (#53) has a c.1895 ornate pressed tin cornice applied to what is probably an earlier building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

A strong five-point intersection forms the hub of the District. It is anchored by two, two story bank buildings both constructed about 1910 and a three story c.1903 hotel. One of the banks (#50) commands a strong presence because of its flatiron shape, pivotal location and landmark clock. The other (#37), commands attention because of its elegant and sophisticated architecture. A white masonry building, it has strong vertical emphasis created by tall slender windows and bold neoclassical detailing. Other than the County Court House, it appears to be the only architect-designed building contributing to the district.

The Court House (#45) defines the southern edge of the District while the northern tip is commanded by an ambitious three story brick building (#67) which is unique in the District for its scale and embellishment as well as its historical associations with the Black Community.

The eastern boundary of the District follows the base of a steep ridge while the western boundary is formed by the boundaries of the previously designated Bibb Graves Bridge over the Coosa River

There are thirty-five structures included in the East Wetumpka Commercial District and the relationship among the District's components is substantially unchanged since its period of significance. While all buildings in the District are of similar size, scale, mass and material, twenty-five of the buildings are considered contributing because they retain sufficient integrity of location, design, material, workmanship and/or feeling to convey overall the sense of time and place that gives the District its historical identity.

Ten buildings are considered noncontributing because removable coverings and inappropriate alterations obscure their historic character.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

Inventory

(Numbers correspond to inventory numbers assigned during Wetumpka Survey Phase I)

Contributing:

2. 100 East Main Street. c.1930. One story mixed-bond brick service station and auto repair shop with Tudoresque features.
12. 109 East Main Street. c.1903. Two story brick commercial building built after 1902 fire. Three bay facade with corbeled brick parapet and arched brick door and window heads. Entrance altered to aluminum framed door.
14. and 19.
East Main Street and 102 Court Street. c.1903.
Monumental, three story brick building with a two story western extension. Exposure of three streets. Four bay Court Street facade has simple vertical brick courses which suggest pilasters. The windows have square heads. The East Bridge Street facade has arched window heads as does the two story East Main Street facade. All upper floor windows are boarded and street level storefronts "modernized". Built as the Lancaster Hotel after this block burned in 1902. Site was purchased in 1887 by D. W. Walkley from M. E. and Ella Reese at which time a two story building on the lot was known as the "Houghton Store House".
17. 106 Court Street. c.1903. Two story brick commercial building built as a restaurant after the 1902 fire. Window and storefront alterations do not completely deny the building of its character because of surviving brick corbeling at the cornice line.
16. 108 Court Street. c.1855. Two story brick commercial building which survived in part the 1902 fire. Existing facade is c1903. Three bay facade has a corbeled brick cornice and an unusually well-preserved wooden storefront. Occupied for many years by E. M. Cain Drugstore which located here in 1867. Horatio Tulane purchased this building "known as the drugstore belonging to the estate of the late William B. Cooper" from M. E. Reese and N. W. Green in 1886.
15. 110 Court Street. c.1855. Two story brick commercial building which survived in part the 1902 fire. Three bay facade with exposures on Court and Commerce Street. c1920 brick veneer covers. Purchased for taxes by S. W. House in 1877. Early 20th Century location of City offices.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

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45. Commerce Street. 1931. Elmore County Court House. Monumental two story neoclassical building with Egyptian Art Deco overtones. Central loggia supported by eight massive, fluted columns. Architrave embellished with large modillions and flowerettes. Metal sash windows.
33. 103 East Bridge Street. c.1920. Simple one story brick storefront resting on tall brick piers. Originally had multipaned full width transom over central entrance storefront with multipaned windows. Walter Gaines Grocery in 1938.
35. 107 East Bridge Street. c.1925. One story brick storefront with altered neoclassical entrance. Rests on tall brick piers. Kings Barbershop in 1938.
36. 109 East Bridge Street. c.1855. Two story stuccoed brick commercial building with full daylight basement. Three bay facade with 9 over 9 double hung wooden sash and louvered blinds. Storefront alterations. Tall parapet. Second floor was site of the City Council Chambers c1885-1903. L. R. Robinson and Brothers Store c.1938.
50. Company Street. c.1910. Two story triangular brick bank and office building. Landmark building characterized by First National Bank clock mounted on corner. Tan Brick with decorative masonry banding at cornice lime and urn finials at top of corners. Metal sash windows. Hohenburg and Company purchased this corner in 1891 and opened the First National Bank here in 1905. Extensive fire damage here in 1908. Building either remodeled or rebuilt in c.1910. Site of mid-19th century Carnochan Block which was occupied variously by G. D. Robison Drug Store, the telephone exchange and a ladies millinery parlor. Sold by Samuel Carnochan to Israel Conklin in 1874.
20. 109 Court Street. c.1905. Two story three bay brick commercial building with exposures on Court, Commerce and Hill Street. Corbeled brick cornice. Wooden storefront intact. Court Street windows altered at second level. Arched two over two openings with iron ventilators on Commerce Street. In 1909 location of an automobile showroom. Arched "garage" opening and ramp in rear still intact. Gas pump on Court Street in c.1920 photo.
21. 107 Court Street. prior to 1885. Two story brick commercial building. New brick facade respects original window and storefront configuration.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

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37. 110 East Bridge Street. c.1910. Two story landmark bank building at southeast corner of East Bridge and Court Streets. White masonry structure with strong vertical emphasis created by tall narrow windows and neoclassical detailing. Pilasters support wide architrave above first floor windows. The pattern is repeated on a smaller scale at the second level. Built as Bank of Wetumpka.
40. 116-118 East Bridge Street. prior to 1885. Two story stuccoed brick commercial building at southwest corner of East Bridge and Hill Street. Six bay facade with two storefront entrances now altered to aluminum sash. Iron stair on east side of building was salvaged from 1884 Court House.
48. 100 Company Street. c.1925. One story brick commercial building. Unembellished storefront configuration.
53. 108-110 Company Street. prior to 1885. Important two story commercial building with pressed metal cornice and pilasters. Six bay building has two intact wooden storefront entrances. Thornhill Hardware opened here in 1907.
55. 112 Company Street. prior to 1885. Two story brick commercial building. Three bay. Second floor windows bricked in. Pyramidal parapet. Purchased by Horatio Tulane from H. C. and Osceola Kyle in 1868.
56. 114-116 Company Street. prior to 1885. Two story five bay brick commercial building with decorative cast iron pilasters at street level, two paneled wooden storefronts both intact and two over two windows with arched heads. Simple brick corbeling and star shaped tie rod anchors embellish facade.
59. 126-128 Company Street. c.1898. Two story stuccoed brick commercial building. Three bays. Nine over nine double hung wooden sash. Entrance openings unaltered but floor length windows removed and replaced with plate glass. Two story dwelling to rear built prior to 1885.
62. 130, 134 and 136 Company Street. c.1905, c.1925. Front gabled frame structure with two small irregularly shaped, one story storefront additions united behind a common c1925 brick veneer facade. Building now entirely stuccoed.
65. 201 Company Street. c.1920. One story brick veneer storefront attached to one story brick restaurant. (restaurant counted separately from storefront. see #64)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

66. 211 Company Street. c.1920. One story brick storefront. Gable front, cinderblock and frame structure with brick veneer facade.
67. 221 Company Street. c.1910. Landmark, three story brick commercial building featuring arched center entrance to upper floors. Handsome store frieze above entrance. Storefronts to each side have multipaned transom. One has been blocked with brick. The other has double hung sashes in the original show window openings. Historical social and economic hub of the Black Community. Traditionally known as the Rose-Geeter Funeral Home.
69. Old Jail. c.1820. Traditionally regarded as Wetumpka's first jail. One story rectangular brick structure on fieldstone foundation. Hipped roof, small barred windows on three sides and heavy wooden entrance door on eastern elevation.

Noncontributing:

44. 101 Commerce Street. c.1903. Two story brick commercial building constructed after 1902 fire. Original facades (south and west) obscured by stucco and synthetic shingle siding. Second floor windows altered to multipaned fixed sash with fixed colonial shutters. Structure known as the Wetumpka Insurance Company Building on this site as early as 1867 presumably burned in 1902.
13. and 18.
103 East Main Street and 104 Court Street. c.1903. Large two story el-shaped building fronting on both East main and Court Streets. Built after 1902 fire. All facades are obscured by corrugated metal. Early 20th Century location of Howle, Smith and Gamble Hardware and then Martin Hardware.
32. 101 East Bridge Street. c.1920. Two story brick commercial building with full basement. Storefront alterations with screening of second floor windows. Fain Theater opened here in 1920.
34. 105 East Bridge Street. c.1925. One story brick storefront resting on tall brick piers. Facade obscured by metal covering. Storefront altered to aluminum sash. Location of Ben Franklin Store in 1938.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

49. 102 Company Street. prior to 1885. Two story brick commercial building with second story fenestration bricked in. Storefront altered to aluminum sash. "Bake house" added to rear between 1897 and 1903.
51. 104 Company Street. prior to 1885. Two story brick commercial with new brick facade and jalousie windows at the second level. 1885 Sanborn map indicates that restaurant located here followed by dry goods stores for many years.
52. 106 Company Street. prior to 1885. Two story stuccoed brick and permastone facade. 1885 Sanborn indicates drug and book store at this location. Little Sam's Cafe opened here in 1909.
57. 120 Company Street. prior to 1885. Two story brick commercial building facade coated in textured stucco. Window and storefront alterations.
58. 124 Company Street. c.1905. One story brick storefront with new brick veneer facade. Lot purchased by Adolphe Hohenberg from G. L. and Sophie Zimmerman in 1894.
64. 201 Company Street. c.1920. One story brick restaurant attached to one story brick storefront.

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) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c.1820-1931

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Criterion C: Architecture

The East Wetumpka Commercial District is significant because it embodies characteristics representative of 19th and early 20th Century commercial architecture in Alabama from c.1820 to 1931. The District is a cohesive group of primarily two story, brick storefronts that are three to six bays in width and tend to reflect the community's economic evolution as well as contemporary architectural styles in their scale and embellishment. Most of the buildings have either gabled or sloping flat roofs concealed behind parapets which are typically comprised of corbeled brick cornices below simple brick panels. As typical in 19th Century Alabama Towns, the bank building(s) is predominant. The c.1900 hotel and hardware store also provide a strong presence.

Street patterns in the District were mapped in 1832 when the town was divided into lots and sold by the Federal Government. Strong topographical features and early roads influenced growth and give Wetumpka's commercial district a unique angular grid pattern. Within this pattern, all of the buildings are uniformly set back from the street and linked by cement and stone walks, steps and walls.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

Criterion A: Commerce

The East Wetumpka Commercial District is significant because it embodies characteristics representative of 19th and early 20th Century commercial growth in Alabama from c.1820 to 1931. The commercial growth of Wetumpka is indicative of economic development in Alabama as affected by pioneer settlement, removal of the native Americans, transportation methods and routes, agricultural trends, and national and local politics. The District retains its historical identity as a turn-of-the-century commercial center and remains Wetumpka's central business district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

Historical Summary

As European struggles to colonize and to dominate America and as American struggles to disengage European loyalist came to resolution in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, national attention turned to westward expansion with a zeal unchecked. Newly surveyed government lands in the old Louisiana Territory brought settlers streaming from Georgia and the Carolinas into Alabama through the Creek Indian Nation between Georgia and Alabama. The rich agricultural lands of the Creeks as well as the trading opportunities there did not go unnoticed.

Attempts by some factions of the Creek Nation to protect their lands in Alabama gave Andrew Jackson impetus to assemble an army of Tennesseans to march south and retaliate. During 1813 and 1814 he led a successful campaign to break the Creek Confederacy. The campaign was staged from the old French outpost, Fort Toulouse, renamed Fort Jackson, which was on the east bank of the Coosa River near its confluence with the Tallapoosa River less than five miles south of a major Creek Indian town, Wewautumcau.

Jackson extracted a treaty from the Indians in 1814 by which, "the Creeks gave up all their claims to the lands lying west of the Coosa and agreed to a boundary line drawn from a southwestern direction from the falls of Wetumpka to the mouth of the Summochio Creek on the Chattahoochee River below the town of Eufaula."

Thus, the rich farm land east of the Coosa opened up to white settlement. It was not until 1832, however, and the final removal of the Creek Indians from all their Alabama territory that their lands were officially surveyed and offered for sale by the Federal Government.

In the meantime, a trading outpost was developing just north of the old Creek settlement on the Coosa. It would be known as Wetumpka.

The formative decades of Wetumpka's existence, c.1830-1880, are characterized by growth, prosperity, political dissention, disaster and disappointment- all seemingly to the extreme. Once wrested from the Indians, Wetumpka's growth was immediate, rapid and prosperous because of the City's location at the head of navigation on the Coosa River in the midst of a rich agricultural region. It thrived as a trading center for goods shipped to and from the inland counties of Alabama and, according to the 1887 memoirs of a local judge, was "considered the entrepot of the whole southwest" during the 1830s. Its only rival was the smaller settlement of Montgomery some 20 miles down river.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

Political dissention was inherent. Split geographically by the Coosa River, Wetumpka was first part of Montgomery County. In 1818, West Wetumpka became part of Autauga County while East Wetumpka remained in Montgomery until 1839 when it became part of Coosa County. The City itself was not incorporated in total until that same year when North, East, and West Wetumpka became one. And it was not until 1866 that all of Wetumpka was united in one county when Elmore County was created.

In the midst of this jurisdictional confusion (1839), the State Legislature chose Wetumpka as the location for the state's first penitentiary without indicating which Wetumpka should be the site. Two years of hostility ensued as East and West Wetumpka vied for the prize. East Wetumpka was ultimately chosen.

Wetumpka's first railroad construction was brought to a halt by the panic of 1837 and possibly because of subsequent economic disappointments railroad service did not reach Wetumpka until 1878.

High hopes for Wetumpka's economic future faded dramatically when Daniel Pratt passed the City by in his search for a location for his cotton gin factory in the late 1830s. Pratt located some twenty miles west of Wetumpka on the Autauga Creek, creating the town of Prattville.

Economic hopes were devastated, however, when in 1845, Wetumpka lost her bid to become the state capital. Arch rival Montgomery won the honor, dramatically shifting the focus of area growth.

The same year that Wetumpka lost her bid to become state capital, fire destroyed most of the East Wetumpka Commercial District as it did again in 1852. And at least twice during Wetumpka's formative period, 1841 and 1844, the City was devastated by floods, not to mention the drought of 1839 which all but closed the Coosa to transportation.

Had it not been for the inherent value of its location as a transportation center in the early years, Wetumpka might not have survived its stormy beginnings.

The availability of primary information about Wetumpka's earliest years is obviously limited by the number of fires that have occurred in the City. The primary information that does survive is difficult to assemble because of the number of jurisdictional changes that also occurred during the formative years. What we do know at this writing is that river trade thrived for approximately forty years. And because of this, Wetumpka necessarily became a mecca for roads from the inland agricultural communities.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

By 1825 steamboats were traversing the river from Mobile to Wetumpka catering to the cotton trade. Judge George Smoot recalls in his 1887 memoirs that "with good steamboat navigation nearly all year around to Mobile and New Orleans, she [Wetumpka] soon became the principal grocery and cotton market for a large section of both Alabama and Georgia. A large and lucrative trade was carried on by flat boats on the line of the Coosa as far up as Rome, Georgia".

The communities of East, West and North Wetumpka sprang up in response to the mercantile trade that ensued. These trading centers were located at the river landing and along well established roads. It is interesting to note that because the area was a center for the Creek Nation and because Jackson had forged trails from the north, Wetumpka had "roads" before it was actually platted as a city. Thus, for instance, Company Street has a circuitous path seemingly unrelated to the plat map of Wetumpka.

With the panic of 1837, however, the wild speculative growth of Wetumpka, and frontier towns in general, subsided. West Wetumpka and North Wetumpka gave way to East Wetumpka as the City's commercial center although West Wetumpka remained an interesting and unusually compatible mix of manufacturing operations and residences.

It appears that the earliest commercial development in East Wetumpka developed around the river landing just north of the old Indian village and in the vicinity of the still extant Farmer's Alliance Warehouse (c.1820) at the southwest corner of Wharf and Ready Streets. It extended north to the bluff on which the old jail still stands. New construction, including the City's municipal complex, now separates the Alliance Warehouse from the proposed historic district.

The oldest remaining structures in the East Wetumpka Commercial District, aside from the jail, appear to be the storefronts on the north side of East Bridge Street and the east side of Company Street. The north side of East Bridge Street was destroyed by fire in 1852 and a row of five two story, three bay storefronts typical of mid-19th century architecture were built on the site c.1855. They housed retail establishments on the first level with a variety of business and fraternal organizations above. While the configuration of the buildings remains, only one of the c.1855 storefronts (#36) retains its integrity and is included within the boundaries of the District. The second floor of this store housed the City Council Chambers from c.1885 to 1903. The other structure particularly illustrative of this period is a six bay, two story, double storefront across the street. (#40)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

There are four other structures in the District (#s 49, 51, 52 & 57) which were constructed prior to 1885 and appear to be among the District's the earliest structures. Unfortunately, alterations have damaged their historic identities. Their historic uses as a bakery, cafe, dry goods store and drug and bookstore however contribute to our knowledge of the commercial development of Wetumpka.

Interviewed in 1887. S. W. House, one of Wetumpka's pioneers and large property owners, said that he spent his first years in Wetumpka as a contractor although he did not identify any specific buildings that he built. It is also interesting to note that men documented as closely associated with the construction of downtown Montgomery are also associated with and/or lived in Wetumpka in the early part of the century. These included Barrachias Holt and Ebenezer Pond. And 19th century newspaper advertisements confirm close developmental ties with Montgomery.

Development of toll roads also enhanced Wetumpka's commercial growth. By 1833, the Legislature had authorized a toll road from the river landing in Wetumpka north to Sylacauga. Others followed.

The idea was developed further with the advent of plank roads. This relatively short lived transportation phenomenon was greeted with enthusiasm, provided jobs and contributed to economic growth in general from the late 1840s until about 1855. The most famous of the roads was the Central Plank Road which started in Montgomery and passed through Wetumpka in its northern route to Winterboro, a community just south of Talladega. Its route traversed the approximate path of South Main and Company Streets. The plank roads were excessively difficult to maintain and by 1860 were no longer considered viable transportation. This does not, however, diminish their importance in linking historically the communities that supported Wetumpka's economic base.

The face of Wetumpka changed little from about 1861 until about 1880 as the prosperous 1850s gave way to Civil War and Reconstruction.

While Wetumpka's location was as fortuitous as ever, rapidly developing rail transportation in the last half of the 19th century suddenly made many other communities equally convenient. The steamboat era ended as faster, more convenient and relatively inexpensive rail transportation became available.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 7

East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

Rail lines came to Wetumpka in 1878. And post-reconstruction brought renewed prosperity to Wetumpka in the form of new banking, cotton brokering and utility companies. Certainly, it was the commerce of this period that created Wetumpka's strong turn-of-the-century presence. The Lancaster Hotel (#14 & 19) was built in 1903 and offered a shuttle service to and from Montgomery. Wetumpka's First National Bank opened in 1905 and was rebuilt in the same location after a 1908 fire. (#50) It's competitor, the Bank of Wetumpka, built an imposing neoclassical building across the street at about the same time. (#37)

The blocks south of East Bridge were developed in the early part of the 19th century but have burned twice and were reconfigured for the construction of the courthouses built in 1884 and 1931. While their identity is clearly turn-of-the-century, these buildings included a c.1855 storefront (#16) which survived in part the fire of 1902. It retains a handsome c.1903 wooden storefront and was occupied for many years by E. M. Cain Drugstore which first located there in 1867.

Economic prosperity and the advent of the automobile increased public agitation for better roads and bridges. The Coosa River, could be crossed by ferry only, during the early 19th century. A series of toll bridges followed, the most famous one being the 1844 covered bridge built by master builder, Horace King. It was washed away in the flood of 1886 and was replaced by an iron bridge in 1887.

It was not until 1908, however, that the bridge became free, greatly easing commerce and historic tension between East and West Wetumpka. And it was in 1924, two years after Alabama Mills announced its location in Wetumpka, that the first paved road to Montgomery was finished.

Improved roads ultimately changed the nature of commerce in Wetumpka. Downtown Wetumpka grew as undeveloped ravines on the north side of the District were claimed from nature. The City's first movie house opened in 1920 (#32) and the Ben Franklin chain opened a store in downtown Wetumpka. In 1931, an imposing new county courthouse was built. (#45)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

As automobile transportation became commonplace, Wetumpka also became more convenient to outlying communities, particularly Montgomery, and residential real estate development increased as did the resultant service industries.

As a result, the community has in a sense come full circle. Tremendous growth during the 1980s, particularly in the unincorporated areas between Wetumpka and Montgomery, have stimulated renewed economic development in the town and brought to public attention the East Wetumpka Commercial District, where it all began.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(see attachment)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approximately 6 acres

UTM References

A

1	6	5	7	4	5	8	0	3	6	0	0	1	4	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

C

1	6	5	7	4	5	8	0	3	5	9	9	8	9	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

B

1	6	5	7	4	8	0	0	3	6	0	0	2	4	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

D

1	6	5	7	4	6	9	0	3	5	9	9	9	0	0
Zone	Easting		Northing											

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The District is bounded on the east by Spring Street, on the west by the boundaries of the previously designated Bibb Graves Bridge over the Coosa River, on the south by the southernmost lot line of the Elmore County Court House and on the north by a boundary line based on current lot lines.
(see attached map)

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These boundaries generally coincide with the surviving commercial development of East Wetumpka c.1820-1931. It was not until the mid-20th Century that ravines on the northern edge of the District were filled and developed completing the existing commercial core.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marilyn B. Sullivan, Consultant; Melanie Betz/AHC Reviewer

organization _____ date December 31, 1990

street & number 3923 NE 45th Street #209 telephone (206) 522-6686

city or town Seattle state Washington zip code 98105

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

Major bibliographical sources:

Elmore County Probate Records, 1867-1940. Elmore County Court House.

Elmore County and Wetumpka Photo File, Alabama Department of Archives and History.

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OWNERSHIP MAP
COUNTY OF ELM

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF REVE
AD VALOREM TAX DIVISION

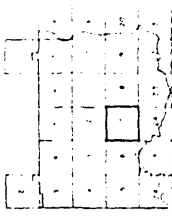
PREPARED BY

EDC - AERO TOPO, INC
BURLINGAME, CALIFORNIA

DATE OF MAP SURVEYING DATE OF REVISION



COUNTY LOCATOR



TOWNSHIP LOCATOR

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36

SUB SHEET INDEX

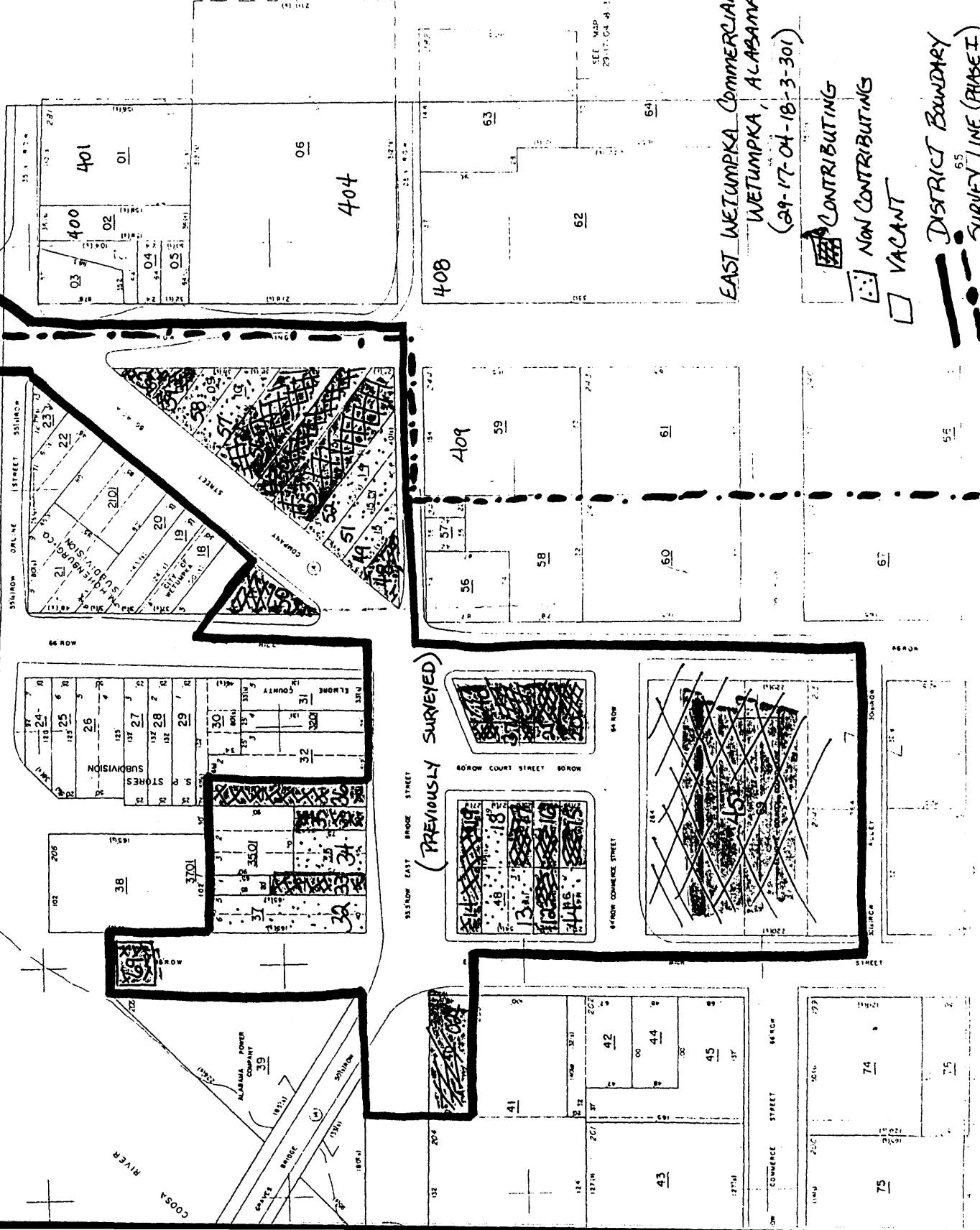


LEGEND

[Symbol]	AREA NUMBER
[Symbol]	AREA EASEMENT
[Symbol]	ADJACENT OWNERS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT LOTS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT BLOCKS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT TOWNSHIPS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT COUNTIES
[Symbol]	ADJACENT STATES
[Symbol]	ADJACENT COUNTRIES
[Symbol]	ADJACENT OCEANS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT LAKES
[Symbol]	ADJACENT RIVERS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT MOUNTAINS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT PLAINS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT HILLS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT VALLEYS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT MOUNTAINS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT PLAINS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT HILLS
[Symbol]	ADJACENT VALLEYS

(MAP #29-17-04-10-3)

SEE MAP 29-17-04-10-3



EAST WETUMPKA COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
WETUMPKA, ALABAMA
(29-17-04-10-3-301)

- [Hatched pattern] CONTRIBUTING
- [Dotted pattern] NON CONTRIBUTING
- [Empty box] VACANT

DISTRICT BOUNDARY
SURVEY LINE (PMBE I)

(PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS photo-
Section number graphs Page 1 East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

The East Wetumpka Commercial District located in Wetumpka, Elmore County, Alabama. All photographs taken by Marilyn Sullivan between June and October of 1990. Negatives submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission.

1. Looking southwest toward intersection of Hill, Court and East Bridge Streets.
2. Looking northwest toward #20, 109 Court Street.
3. Looking northwest toward rear of #20.
4. Looking south down Court Street toward Court House.
5. Looking northeast up Court Street toward intersection with East Bridge Street.
6. Entrance detail #37.
7. Looking northwest up Court Street toward intersection with East Bridge Street.
8. Storefront detail #16.
9. Looking southeast along south side of East Bridge Street.
10. Looking northeast toward district. Corner of Court House lawn right side of photo.
11. Looking northeast along east side of East Main Street toward East Bridge Street.
12. Looking northeast along north side of Commerce Street toward Hill Street.
13. Looking east at #12.
14. Looking south from Commerce Street/Court Street intersection toward County Court House.
15. Looking northwest at the north side of East Bridge from its intersection with Court Street.
16. Looking north at #s 32, 33 and 34 on the north side of East Bridge Street.
17. Looking north at #s 35, 36, 38 and 39 on the north side of East Bridge Street.
18. Looking north at #36.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

PHOTOGRAPHS photo-
Section number graphs

Page 2

East Wetumpka Commercial Historic District

19. Looking northwest toward the intersection of East Bridge Street and Hill Street.
20. Looking northwest along the west side of Hill Street.
21. Looking southeast at the rear of buildings on the north side of East Bridge Street. Two story with full basement is #36.
22. Looking southeast at the rear of buildings on north side of East Bridge Street.
23. Looking south at the rear of the buildings on the north side of East Bridge Street.
24. Looking northeast along the east side of Company Street from its intersection with East Bridge Street.
25. Looking east at #53.
26. Looking east at #56.
27. Looking west at the rear of #59 showing early two story dwelling now attached to store.
28. Looking northwest along the west side of Company Street from its intersection with Online Street.
29. Looking northeast at #60.
30. Looking from intersection of Company, Spring and East Bridge Streets out of district up ridge. Note fieldstone wall built natural rock base. Path and steps in rear of picture lead to continuation of East Bridge Street and residential section.