

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 97001558 **Date Listed:** 1/5/98

Lilly Historic District Dooly GEORGIA
Property Name **County** **State**

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


for _____
Signature of the Keeper

1/5/98
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

The period of significance is amended to end c. 1939. A few buildings date to the 1930s, but generally the town grew little following the 1920 fire.

This change has been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

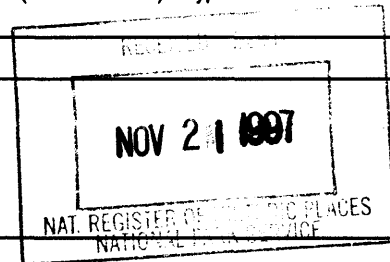
1558

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 Lilly Historic District
other names/site number N/A



2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by the CSX rail line and Church, Montezuma, Third, and School streets.

city, town Lilly
county Dooly code GA 693
state Georgia code GA zip code 31051

() vicinity of

() not for publication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:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	29	11
sites	1	0
structures	2	1
objects	0	0
total	32	12

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.

Mark R. Edwards Signature of certifying official November 11, 1997 Date

Mark R. Edwards
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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Ms. J. M. [Signature] 1/5/98

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for _____
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Commerce/Trade: specialty stores, department stores, financial institutions

Agriculture/Subsistence: processing, storage

Government: city hall, post office

Religion: religious facility

Transportation: rail-related

Education: school

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Commerce/Trade: specialty stores

Government: city hall, post office

Religion: religious facility

Transportation: rail-related

Education: school

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

Late Victorian: Victorian, Queen Anne

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Late 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials:

foundation Concrete

walls Wood

roof Metal

other Brick

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Lilly Historic District includes the intact residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings that comprise most of the town of Lilly. Founded as a railroad town at the beginning of the 20th century, Lilly was incorporated in 1907 with a circular city limit that includes large areas of agricultural land, most of which is not included in the historic district. The town is laid out on a gridiron plan that is bounded on the south by the active rail line. Two grids, one centered on Church Street and the other in line with Montezuma Street, are joined at the triangular-shaped lot formed by Montezuma, Pope, and Church streets.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

Lilly's small commercial district features several brick and frame one-story buildings mostly constructed after the 1920 fire, which destroyed most of downtown Lilly. The town's largest building currently serves as city hall and is among the few buildings to have survived the fire. It is a large brick building with storefronts along both Railroad and Wadley streets. The parapet and shed roof are obscured by a recently added gable roof. A pre-World War II Coca-Cola wall sign is painted on the west gable end. Adjacent to city hall is the Lilly Drug Company Building, which has not been altered. Built in 1911, the Drug Company building is a one-story, brick commercial building with a decorative brick parapet and shed roof. The storefront features a center entrance flanked by display windows. Other commercial buildings include the narrow, one-story gable-front doctor's office and the one-story three-bay post office. Both frame buildings were constructed between 1920 and World War II.

Lilly's residential areas are located along Church and Montezuma streets and include approximately 25 buildings. Most houses are one- and two-story, single-family frame dwellings set on large, level lots with open grassed lawns, mature trees, and smaller shrubs and foundation plantings. Though some of the houses feature concrete walks to the street, the town's only sidewalks are located downtown on Wadley Street.

The oldest houses in Lilly were built at the beginning of the 20th century. These include a house at the northeast corner of Montezuma and Walnut streets--a one-story, three-bay Greek Revival-style house with a Georgian plan. Located on the northwest corner of Montezuma and Walnut streets is a one- and one-half-story dwelling with a truncated hip roof that includes hip-roofed dormers and projecting gables. A small porte cochere mirrors the proportions of the main block. The property includes several outbuildings and a pecan grove. Other house types in Lilly are typical of those constructed throughout Georgia during the first half of the 20th century, including Queen Anne-style dwellings with Georgia plans; Queen-Anne cottages; one-story, single-pile dwellings with central hall-plans; Folk Victorian-style dwellings with projecting gable ends; American Foursquares; and Craftsman-style bungalows.

Community landmark buildings in Lilly include the Lilly Railroad Depot, built c.1902. The depot is board-and-batten building covered with a massive hipped roof. The roof is covered with sheet metal and supported by large curved brackets. The depot features spaces for both passengers and freight and, in Georgia, is among the best surviving examples of its type. The Lilly Baptist Church, built in 1905 by local-builder Perry G. Busby, is a Greek Revival-style, gable-front building with an engaged portico supported by four, battered posts. A large cemetery is associated with the church. The Lilly Methodist Church, also built in 1905, is a gable-front church building with a small gable-roofed entrance and a steeple that was probably added after the church was first built. The Lilly School House, built in 1912, is a large, two-story, frame building with a gable-on-hip roof and a two-story portico. Details, such as the exposed rafters and roof brackets, are Craftsman style. The school,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

which received a preservation grant for rehabilitation as an arts center, contains classrooms on the first floor and an auditorium above.

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
Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance:

c.1902-1946

Significant Dates:

c.1902 - Lilly founded along the newly laid rail line by the brothers John, Frank, and Robert Lilly.
1907 - Lilly incorporated.
1920 - Major fire burned most of downtown Lilly.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Perry G. Busby, a local builder, constructed many of the town's turn-of-the-century houses as well as the Lilly Baptist Church in 1905.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The town of Lilly is an excellent example of an early 20th-century railroad town in Georgia that includes residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. The Lilly Historic District is significant in the area of architecture because its residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings constructed from c.1902 to 1946 reflect styles and types popular in Georgia during the early 20th century. Many of the house types in Lilly are identified in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings, including the Georgian-plan houses, central-hall-plan houses, Queen Anne cottages, and bungalows. The houses in Lilly are also representative of styles common to Georgia. These include the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and the Craftsman styles.

Lilly is also significant in the area of Community Planning and Development because the town was laid out in a gridiron plan in response to the location of the rail line, with the commercial district located adjacent to the rail corridor. This is an excellent example of a cross-rail type, which is identified as a common town typology in Darlene Roth's 1989 study, Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types. Cross-rail towns were created with the rail line already intact or established simultaneously with the railroad. As a result, the rail line is more fully integrated into the town plan than if the rail line had been added after the formation of the town. Lilly, like other cross-rail towns, features a main intersection where the rail line crosses one or more main streets. The grid of streets on either side of the tracks were developed out from these streets. The cross-rail town is very common to Georgia, especially in South Georgia. Other cross-rail towns in Georgia include Rocky Ford, Oliver, Scarboro, Nahunta, McIntyre, and Blackshear.

National Register Criteria

A and C.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The c.1902-1946 period of significance begins in c.1902 with the introduction of the rail line and the founding of the town and ends in 1946, a closing date that includes historic resources 50 years of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

age. Because activities that have begun historically have continued to have importance, no more specific end date can be defined to end the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources in the historic district are those constructed between c.1902 and 1946 that are architecturally significant and/or represent a historic theme and retain historic integrity. Noncontributing resources are those constructed after 1946 and those that have lost their historic integrity. Contributing structures include the town plan and the rail line. The noncontributing structure is the water tower. The contributing site is the cemetery on Church Street.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The brothers John, Frank, and Robert Lilly founded the town in 1902, when the railroad was established through the town. Originally named Fuqua in the late 19th century, the town was later named Midway for a short time because of its location between Cordele and Montezuma. Lilly was incorporated with a circular city limits in 1907.

The railroad brought prosperity and growth to Lilly, which included three cotton gins, a meat market, bank, telephone company, livery stables, and other businesses. Robert Lilly owned the town's first store, a general merchandise store and post office. The first bank was founded by Tom Busbee. Oscar McGough served as the first cashier. Robert Lilly served as the President of the Planters Bank, the town's second bank.

Construction of community landmark buildings followed the establishment of the railroad in 1902. The rail depot was built in c.1902. Two churches, the Lilly Baptist Church and the Lilly Methodist Church, were built in 1905. The first school in Lilly was an L-shaped building that was moved from the site of the current school building, which was built in 1912. Designed by Perry Busbee, father of Georgia Governor George Busbee, the Lilly School served primary and secondary grades and later served as the meeting place for the Lilly Women's Club. The school has recently been rehabilitated and serves as a community arts center.

In 1910, plats for Lilly were drawn that featured hundreds of fifty-foot wide lots on both sides of the rail line. Houses were built mostly on Montezuma and Church streets but most of the land that was platted remained undeveloped.

In 1920, a fire destroyed most of the town's commercial district. Because there was no community well or central source of water, the fire was fought with buckets of water carried by hand. The commercial district was never fully rebuilt and currently features several brick and frame commercial

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

buildings, including one that survived the fire. Lilly's economy grew little in the decades after the fire. Several houses were built in the residential area but few new commercial buildings were constructed. The current population of Lilly numbers less than 300.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bryant, Stella Gray. Historic Property Information Form. August 1995. On file at the Division of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

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.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 60 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 228350	Northing 3560770
B)	Zone 17	Easting 229000	Northing 3560050
C)	Zone 17	Easting 228790	Northing 3559940
D)	Zone 17	Easting 228520	Northing 3560100
E)	Zone 17	Easting 228140	Northing 3560510

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The Lilly Historic District includes the intact governmental, educational, commercial, and residential buildings located in the town of Lilly. The historic district boundary is defined by the CSX rail line, road ways, and tax parcel boundary lines. The Lilly Historic District retains a high level of historic integrity.

A predominantly African-American neighborhood is located south of the historic district. The neighborhood contains no historic buildings except Turkey Creek Baptist Church. The church was not included in the district because it is located a significant distance from the concentration of resources that comprise the historic district. The area between the church and the town is flat, open land, which creates a significant visual break with the historic district.

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 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 20, 1997

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 80-Geographical Data

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)

not applicable

name/title Stella Gray Bryant

organization Middle Flint Regional Development Center

street and number 228 West Lamar Street

city or town Americus **state** Georgia **zip code** 31709

telephone (912) 931-2909

(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: Lilly Historic District
City or Vicinity: Lilly
County: Dolly
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 1996

Description of Photograph(s):

1. Downtown Lilly, photographer facing northeast.
2. Lilly railroad depot, photographer facing southeast.
3. City Hall, photographer facing northwest.
4. Doctor's office and post office, photographer facing northeast.
5. Montezuma Street, photographer facing northwest.
6. Montezuma Street, photographer facing southeast.
7. Walnut and Commerce streets, photographer facing southwest
8. Montezuma Street, photographer facing northwest.
9. Lilly Baptist Church, photographer facing northeast.
10. Lilly Baptist Church and cemetery, photographer facing northwest.
11. Church Street, photographer facing west.
12. Church Street, photographer facing northwest.
13. Church Street, photographer facing northeast.
14. Church Street, photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

15. Church Street, photographer facing east
16. Church Street, photographer facing northwest.
17. Lilly United Methodist Church, photographer facing east.
18. Lilly School, photographer facing southeast.