

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

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

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Continuation sheet LUMPKIN COMMERCIAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Item number

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LUMPKIN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name: Lumpkin Commercial Historic District.

Location:

In Lumpkin, Stewart County, Georgia; centered on the courthouse square, which is between Main and Broad Street, and Cotton and Mulberry St., including the buildings which face the courthouse on the eight blocks around it.

Acreage: 10 acres (approximate)

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary of the Lumpkin Commercial District is identified by a black line on the attached map of the Lumpkin Multiple Resource Area. This boundary includes all the historic commercial and public buildings in downtown Lumpkin.

UTM References:

A	16	E708340	N 3548060
B	16	E708340	N 3547800
C	16	E708100	N 3547800
D	16	E708100	N 3548060

Description:

The Lumpkin Commercial Historic District contains the historic center for commerce and government in Lumpkin. It is the center of the city limits, as well as the city's gridiron plan. The courthouse square, with a monument to the Confederate dead, is the heart of the commercial district. The two-story brick, early 20th century Classical Revival courthouse in the center of the square has previously been nominated to the National Register in the County Courthouses of Georgia Thematic Nomination. Since 1900 a water tower has been on the southwest corner of the square. There are two major types of commercial architecture, Victorian and Greek Revival, around the square. One and two story Victorian stores dominate the north and south sides of the square. These buildings generally have tripart front facades, including a central entrance and two flanking windows or showcases. Heavily corbelled brick parapets are favored, and the buildings often have cast iron columns for support. Two of the buildings boast pressed metal front facades. There are two intrusions on the north side of the square; these are one story buildings with non-descript facades which filled in two alleyways in the 1940's. They maintain the scale of the square, however. There are no intrusions on the south side. The east and west sides of the square have historically been weak in terms of contiguous buildings. The west side has the two-story Greek Revival Beddingfield Inn (listed on the National Register in 1973), two empty lots, a non-historic yet unobtrusive drugstore and florist building, and a 1930's one story brick bank building. The east side of the square contains the city government building along with a few businesses in a one story brick complex of non-historic nature. Beside this complex is a pocket park and an extensively altered one story brick Victorian building.

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The four remaining blocks which touch the courthouse square at its corners hold a variety of buildings, from a one story brick Victorian warehouse on the southwest corner, to the 1912 filling station (converted to a warehouse) and a one-story brick Victorian office on the southeast corner, to the two-story late Victorian (c. 1910) Stewart County Jail on the northeast corner. The northwest corner is not included in this nomination; although a filling station has been on the site since 1922, the present one is non-historic.

Landscaping is at a minimum on the square, with shrubbery around the courthouse and water tower, trees on the public square lawn, and trees in the open areas of the sidewalk. The pocket park was planted in 1979 to provide an outdoor sitting area and a green space. Angle parking is allowed on both the inner and outer sides of the square.

Significance:

Architecture. The Lumpkin Commercial Historic District is architecturally significant because of its series of Victorian commercial storefronts on the north and south sides of the square. Primarily one story in height, with some two story buildings, these brick buildings have front facades of cast iron columns and plate glass showcases. This grouping of commercial buildings is completely intact and almost totally unchanged. Other architecturally significant buildings include the Greek Revival Bedingfield Inn (National Register listed); the Stewart County Jail, an imposing example of the Victorian style employed in government buildings; and the Classical Revival Courthouse, which suggests the power of the governmental system through its imposing columned porticos. All commercial buildings are centered around the courthouse square and maintain the same facade line, creating a solid line of fronts on the north and south sides. The east and west sides have historically had open, empty lots with only a few buildings. This can perhaps be attributed to the north/south axis of the courthouse.

Commerce. The Lumpkin Commercial Historic District is significant in the area of commerce because it has served as the center of city and county business since the early 1830's. General stores and dry goods stores were the first to locate in the district. As Lumpkin became the established center of shopping for the county, the merchandisers became specialized and built a series of groceries, saloons, drugstores, hardware, millineries, and general stores on the square. One hotel served Lumpkin from 1840 until the 1940's, that being Bedingfield Inn. Blacksmith shops, laundrys, and liverys were generally located to the south of the square; few if any of these structures have survived.

Community Planning and Development. The Lumpkin Commercial Historic District is significant to community planning and development because it is the center of the planned city of Lumpkin. Originally designated as the center of town because of the courthouse square, the natural course of commercial development was around that central building. Expansion did not move far beyond the central square plan except for some spillover into the south end of town, and along Broad Street, the main thoroughfare, but this has not been a significant development. The original gridiron plan for Lumpkin is virtually intact in this part of the city.

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Government/Politics. The Lumpkin Commercial Historic District is significant to government and politics as the county seat of Stewart County for 157 years. Lumpkin has been the center for all local transactions concerning the county, therefore drawing citizens from all over the county to participate in the development of the town.

Local History. The Lumpkin Commercial Historic District is significant to local history because it is closely associated with the development of Stewart County by Stewart County citizens. It is the commercial center for the town, having held a variety of stores throughout its history, from dry goods and grocery stores, to the present drug store, museum, city and county services, and beauth parlors. The Commercial Historic District shows the evolution of commercial building tastes through its Greek Revival, Victorian, and Neo-Classical buildings, as well as the awareness of national styles and tastes in the different periods of design. Many of Lumpkin's prominent families had businesses in Lumpkin's historic commercial district.

Photographs. Numbers 27-31 of 40.

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NATIONAL REGISTER LISTINGS:

The Bedingfield Inn, located in the Lumpkin Commercial Historic District, was individually listed in the National Register on May 9, 1973.

The Stewart County Courthouse was listed in the National Register on September 18, 1980, as part of the County Courthouses of Georgia Thematic nomination

-  Lumpkin Commercial Historic District
-  Uptown Residential Historic District
-  East Main Street Historic District
-  Pigtail Alley Historic District
-  Individually Numbered Properties

