

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

For NPS use only

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

received JUL 2 1985

date entered AUG 30 1985

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

1. Name

historic Flowery Branch Commercial Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main Street and Railroad Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Flowery Branch

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Hall

code 139

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
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town

_____ vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Hall County Courthouse

city, town Gainesville

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structural Field Survey

title Hall County

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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		

0E

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Flowery Branch Commercial Historic District is located in the central business district in the town of Flowery Branch along Main Street and Railroad Avenue. The district consists of a collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings that are attached and sited at the sidewalks in a dense concentration. The buildings are one or two stories high and are constructed of brick or rusticated concrete block with Victorian-eclectic details. Decorative elements include corbeled and stepped cornices, metal cornices with floral designs, metal columns, arched and trabeated windows, brick pilasters, and decorative brick string courses. The Carlisle Building, a two-story brick building located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and Railroad Avenue, has original large storefront windows, and an elaborate Italianate style entrance doorway with double doors, round-arched lunette window and arched-hood molding of brick. Four attached buildings on the north side of Main Street near Church Street have rusticated concrete-block masonry facades.

The district is situated on an incline, perpendicular to the railroad tracks. The incline is visually minimized by the placement of one-story buildings at the higher end and two-story buildings at the lower end, and by the use of sidewalk steps on the south side between the Carlisle Building and Railroad Avenue. The district boundary is based on the intact area of historic buildings in the central business district of Flowery Branch. The immediate area to the west and south of the district contains a mixture of historic and non-historic residences, and to the north is an industrial section. Main Street terminates at the railroad. There is a caboose located at the terminus of Main Street, which is used as a local museum, that was moved to this location in 1976. A recently renovated depot is located south of the caboose.

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"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
			Local history
Specific dates	1871 - 1934	Builder/Architect	various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Flowery Branch Commercial Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, community planning and development, and local history.

In terms of architecture, the district is important for its intact collection of representative late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings in Victorian-eclectic and Italianate styles. The one- and two-story attached brick and masonry buildings, sited at the sidewalks in a dense concentration, are good examples of small town commercial architecture in Georgia and the southeast at the turn of the century. Significant architectural details include rusticated concrete-block facades, corbeled and stepped cornices, metal cornices with floral designs, metal columns, arched and trabeated windows, brick pilasters, and decorative brick string courses.

In the area of commerce, the district is significant as a good example of a historic retail, service, marketing, and shipping center which served the community of Flowery Branch and neighboring counties in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in northeast Georgia. Businesses included a repair shop for agricultural implements, wagons, and buggies. In addition, there were several stores, bars, a cabinet shop, a blacksmith shop, two hotels, and two cotton gins. Flowery Branch served as a major shipping point for thousands of bales of cotton annually for Jackson, Gwinnett, Forsyth, Dawson, and Lumpkin Counties in the late 19th century. In the early 1900s new industries included several mills and a furniture manufacturing company, known as Chattahoochee Furniture, which is still in operation today. Other commercial establishments consisted of general merchandise, dry goods, and grocery stores, a bank, and a hardware store.

The district is significant in terms of community planning and development for its development perpendicular to the railroad tracks in the 1870s, a characteristic feature of many late 19th-century railroad towns in Georgia and the southeast. The construction of the Richmond and Danville Air-Line Railroad around 1871 was the major reason for the growth of the town of Flowery Branch. The business district developed as two separate, but complementary areas. The area paralleling the railroad, outside the boundaries of the nominated district, served as the warehouse and commercial district. The commercial core of the town center with its retail and professional buildings developed on both sides of Main Street, perpendicular to the rail line.

The district contributes to the area of local history for its association with Eli Carlisle, a prosperous farmer who built the Carlisle Building; Ben Hurt, a cotton buyer who built a two-story rusticated masonry-block building and sold general merchandise; Dr. Orr, who operated a pharmacy; Mr. Porter, who owned a grocery store; and many other individuals. These individuals were among Flowery Branch's prominent businessmen and civic leaders.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jaeger, Dale. "Town of Flowery Branch Commercial Historic District-Historic District Information Form". September, 1984. (On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres, approximately

Quadrangle name Flowery Branch, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary, marked by a heavy black line on the enclosed "property/shetch map," is described and justified in Section 7.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resource date 6-12-85

street & number 270 Washington Street SW 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/19/85

For NPS use only

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

Delores Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in 1985
National Register

date 8/30/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

