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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 Butler Downtown Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Downtown Butler centered on the courthouse square and includes resources on Main Street, Broad Street, and Ivey Street
city, town Butler () vicinity of
county Taylor **code** GA 269
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31006

() not for publication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	46	15
sites	1	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	49	15

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of previous listing: Taylor County Courthouse, listed June 14, 1995

Name of related multiple property listing: Georgia Courthouses Thematic National Register Listing

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 Cowles

11-22-04

Signature of certifying official

Date

for
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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

() entered in the National Register

Daniel J. Vivia 1/12/05

() 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:

COMMERCE/TRADE/BUSINESS/OFFICE BUILDING
COMMERCE/TRADE/PROFESSIONAL/LAW OFFICE
COMMERCE/TRADE/FINANCIAL INSTITUTION/BANK
COMMERCE/TRADE/DEPARTMENT STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/SPECIALTY STORE/AUTO SHOWROOM
COMMERCE/TRADE/RESTAURANT
SOCIAL/MEETING HALL/LODGE
GOVERNMENT/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY/POLICE STATION
GOVERNMENT/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY/JAIL
GOVERNMENT/POST OFFICE
GOVERNMENT/COURTHOUSE/COUNTY COURTHOUSE
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH
FUNERARY/CEMETERY
OTHER/GAS STATION

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE/BUSINESS/OFFICE BUILDING
COMMERCE/TRADE/PROFESSIONAL/LAW OFFICE
COMMERCE/TRADE/FINANCIAL INSTITUTION/BANK
COMMERCE/TRADE/DEPARTMENT STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/RESTAURANT
SOCIAL/MEETING HALL/LODGE
GOVERNMENT/CORRECTIONAL FACILITY/POLICE STATION
GOVERNMENT/POST OFFICE
GOVERNMENT/COURTHOUSE/COUNTY COURTHOUSE
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH
FUNERARY/CEMETERY
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/COLONIAL REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/CLASSICAL REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/CLASSICAL REVIVAL/NEOCLASSICAL REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/COMMERCIAL STYLE
MODERN MOVEMENT/MODERNE/ART MODERNE
MODERN MOVEMENT/ART DECO
MODERN MOVEMENT/INTERNATIONAL STYLE

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Materials:

foundation Brick; Stone/Granite/Limestone; Concrete
walls Wood/Weatherboard; Brick; Stucco; Concrete
roof Wood/Shake; Metal/Tin; Asphalt
other Stone/Limestone; Ceramic Tile

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The small town of Butler is located in central Taylor County in rural west central Georgia. The Butler Downtown Historic District consists of the courthouse square and surrounding commercial properties in Butler. Taylor County was established on January 15, 1852. The town of Butler was designated the county seat in February, 1852, and was incorporated on February 8, 1854. The Butler town plan, laid out in 1852, is an example of the Augusta-type county seat plan. The Augusta plan places the courthouse beside a major street and the street pattern around the courthouse square will vary somewhat from town to town with some having secondary streets on the sides of the square and others having none. In Butler, the courthouse was constructed on Main Street, the primary east-west thoroughfare through the town. The courthouse is on the south side of the street while the north side contains commercial development.

The buildings within the commercial area include one- and two-story attached brick buildings and one- and two-story freestanding brick buildings. The buildings represent the Commercial style with decorative brickwork, Classical Revival style, and Art Moderne style. Buildings north of the square (photographs 5 and 9, background) are mostly one-story attached brick buildings with decorative brickwork in the cornices and feature recessed storefronts. The building on the northwest corner of Main Street and North Ivey Street (photograph 5, right) was constructed in the 1940s as a car dealership. The Art Moderne-style building features a flat roof, flat, unadorned wall surfaces, horizontal bands visible in the brickwork, and a rounded corner.

The buildings south of the square are similar to those north of the square. They (photograph 4) are one-story, attached brick buildings with decorative brickwork and recessed storefronts. A few of the buildings have altered storefronts and false mansard roofs (photographs 3 and 4). The only International style building in the district is the United States Post Office (photograph 4, left) that is located on the southeast corner of the square. The one-story building was constructed in 1963, and ends the period of significant development in downtown Butler during the historic period. The character-defining features of the building include the flat roof, flat, unadorned wall surfaces, ribbon windows, and the asymmetrical façade. United States Post Offices constructed during the middle of the 20th century are often the only examples of International style architecture found in small Georgia cities (other examples are often found as additions or auxiliary buildings on early 20th century school campuses). It is often times the only building associated with the federal government in small towns as well. The Franklin Financial building (photograph 2, foreground) (a former bank building) is located on the southwest corner of the square. It features elements of the Classical Revival style. It is a one-story brick building that features a dentil course just below the cornice, limestone window

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

headers with dentils, marble window sills, and a large limestone door header supported by marble pilasters at the entrance.

Buildings on West Main Street (photographs 8 and 9), west of the square, include one- and two-story attached brick buildings exhibiting the Commercial style. Buildings on East Main Street (photograph 6), east of the square, are one-story attached buildings, some with decorative brickwork and recessed storefronts. Some of these buildings have infilled storefronts and false Mansard roofs.

Ivey Street, which runs north-south along the east side of the square, contains a local landmark. The Rabbit Box, a hamburger stand, is located on South Ivey Street (photograph 3, second building from the left). The building was constructed in 1914. The hamburger stand was run by John and Ruth Turk, who were famous for making "Turk Burgers."

Broad Street runs north-south along the west side of the square. It is characterized by one-story attached brick buildings (photographs 11, 12, and 13) that feature decorative brickwork, primarily in cornices and window lintels. There are three historic gas stations (photographs 10, 11, and 12) located on South Broad Street and West Main Street, an unusually large number for a town of Butler's size. The oblong box style (photograph 10) and the house-with-canopy style (photograph 12), as defined in the Journal of American Culture, are represented in the district. Taylor County Farm Supply (photograph 7) is located on North Broad Street. The one-story brick building features a flat roof, tile coping, and a shed awning. A second building (photograph 7), which shares a party wall with the farm supply building, also features a flat roof and tile coping. It has metal casement windows and wooden garage doors.

The Butler Downtown Historic District contains several community landmark buildings, described below in chronological order according to dates of construction. The Taylor County Jail (photograph 15), constructed in 1880, is the oldest building in the district. It is a two-story, square brick building with a hipped roof. The first floor features a one-story entry porch, segmental arches over the windows, and a limestone ledge beneath the windows. The second-floor windows currently have flat arches, but possibly had segmental arches at one time. All windows are covered with iron bars. A historic iron fence (photograph 15) surrounds the jail.

The Masonic Lodge (photograph 16), located on the northwest corner of the square, was constructed in 1920. It is a two-story brick building with a parapet wall at the roofline. The first floor features a central double-door entrance with a rounded transom topped by a rounded arch with a limestone keystone. The first floor houses a barber shop, which is accessed through a second entrance to the right of the main entrance, and a second business. The second floor features large, multi-pane casement windows, a brick beltcourse, decorative brickwork in the cornice, and limestone Art Deco motifs at the corners and along the beltcourse.

The 1920 Butler United Methodist Church (photographs 1 and 17) is located on East Main Street on the eastern edge of the district. The two-story Colonial Revival-style brick building features a cross-gable roof, round- and flat-arched stained-glass windows, and a one-story entry vestibule with two

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Section 7--Description

double-door entries and fluted columns. There is a historic cemetery (photograph 18) located behind (south of) the church. It is bordered by a chain-and-post fence.

The Taylor County Courthouse (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 14, 1995), constructed in 1935 and designed by Frederick Roy Duncan, is located in the center of downtown Butler in the square. It replaced an earlier courthouse that burned. The courthouse (photographs 1, background; 2; 6, background; 9, right; and 14) is a two-story, cross-gable, brick building exhibiting the Neoclassical style with Colonial Revival details. The two main façades, which face west and east, have full-height pedimented porticos supported by plain columns and pilasters. The secondary façades, which face north and south, are pedimented and feature pilasters. Other architectural features include quoins, keystones on first-floor windows, and elliptical transoms on the three second-floor windows on the main façades. Windows are six-over-six double-hung-sash. The entrances on the main façades feature limestone pediments. A Colonial Revival-style cupola and clock tower is also featured on the courthouse. A small six-sided building (photograph 9, center) is located on the square, northwest of the courthouse. The building, which was originally the police station, is brick with an asphalt shingle roof and board-and-batten interior. Also located on the courthouse square is a granite Confederate monument (photograph 2, center), placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, which is located southwest of the courthouse.

Landscaping in the district is minimal. Commercial buildings are built along front and side lots lines, adjacent to sidewalks and neighboring buildings. The courthouse square contains foundation plantings, mature trees, concrete sidewalks and walkways, and a chain-and-post fence.

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
Politics and Government

Period of Significance:

1852-1963

Significant Dates:

1852-Butler designated county seat and town plan laid out which forms the developmental framework for the City of Butler
1905-Fire destroys buildings on south side of courthouse square
1935-Construction of existing county courthouse
1940-Fire destroys portion of east side of courthouse square
1952-Municipal paving program approved
1963-Construction of United States Post Office

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Duncan, Frederick Roy-Taylor County Courthouse

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Butler Downtown Historic District encompasses the historic central business district of Butler, a small county-seat community in a rural area west of Columbus that developed c.1852 through 1963. It includes the community's central business district and associated public or community landmark buildings centered on the historic courthouse square.

The Butler Downtown Historic District is significant in the area of architecture for its representative collection of intact 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings that represents prevailing design and construction traditions of small cities and towns in Georgia. They include freestanding and attached one- and two-story buildings. Character-defining features of these types of buildings include: freestanding or attached with party walls; simple rectangular forms; oriented to the street, usually in lines or rows with a common setback usually fronting directly on the sidewalk; storefronts with cast-iron or wood columns, large display windows with transom lights and wood or brick bulkheads; architectural ornament primarily on the front and sometimes side facades; parapet rooflines, some with recessed panels; second-story segmental-arched windows; and ornamented projecting cornices. Architectural styles represented by these buildings include good examples of the Italianate, Classical Revival, Commercial, and Art Moderne styles. Characteristics of the Classical Revival style include dominant full-height entry porch with roof supported by classical columns, windows aligned horizontally and vertically in symmetrical rows, and a central door. Characteristics of the Colonial Revival style are an accentuated front door with a decorative pediment supported by pilasters, symmetrical facade with a central door and multi-pane windows. Characteristics of the Commercial style include geometric form, storefronts with large display windows, parapet rooflines, second-story segmental-arched windows, and ornamented projecting cornices. Characteristics of the Art Moderne style include smooth wall surface, flat roof, coping at roofline, horizontal lines in walls, symmetrical facade. The use of brick, both structurally and decoratively, as the principal building material, in conjunction with cast iron, stone, ceramic tile, pressed metal and wood also is characteristic of the way in which these kinds of commercial buildings were built during these periods in small Georgia cities. Other kinds of important commercial buildings are represented in the district. Excellent early 20th century gas stations including representative examples of nationally recognized types such as house-with-canopy and oblong box are located within the district. The district also contains architecturally significant community landmark buildings including the Taylor County Courthouse, the Taylor County Jail, the Masonic Building, and the Butler United Methodist Church. These are excellent local examples of the Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Art Deco styles as evidenced by their detailing and distinctive features. The materials used in the construction of these buildings are the same as those used in the construction of the commercial buildings in the district, however some of the materials such as stone are used in applied ornamentation on the community landmark buildings. These buildings generally possess a high degree of craftsmanship as evidenced by architectural details and other ornamentation common to the architectural styles represented in the district.

The Butler Downtown Historic District is significant in the area of commerce as the historic commercial center of Butler and the surrounding county. Typically the county seat was also the

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

principal commercial center in the county. Such commercial centers generally featured a range of retail stores, offices and professional services, warehouses, artisans, mechanics, entertainment and related services, and communications-related businesses. Extant buildings in the Butler Downtown Historic District represent many of these commercial activities including general merchandise, hardware, drug store, gas stations, banks, law offices, and auto repair. These historic buildings and the commercial activity they represent are directly related to the economic development and prosperity of the community and its surrounding region during the 19th- and early 20th- centuries. Butler's development was due in large part to the placement of the town along a rail line between Columbus and Macon. Butler was not the only commercial center in the county, however. Reynolds, eight miles to the east along the same rail line, also had a commercial center. The existence of two small commercial centers in the same county is somewhat unusual in rural Georgia; usually one community dominates, and usually but not always is the county seat.

The Butler Downtown Historic District is significant in the area of community planning and development for its intact historic town plan. This plan is a good example of the Augusta-type of county seat plan, one of four major types of county seat plans that prevailed in Georgia from the late 18th-century through the early 20th century. The courthouse site may occupy all or only part of a block. The common feature of this plan is the placement of the courthouse on an existing street. The character-defining features include placement of the courthouse beside a major street on the square, grid pattern of downtown streets, and main thoroughfares and secondary streets intersecting on the sides of the square. This plan also reflects the designation of the community as the Taylor County seat. In Georgia, generally, only county seat communities were laid out in this distinctive manner. Reinforcing the importance of the plan is the concentration of historic commercial and community landmark buildings around the square and along the principal streets that creates a clearly defined downtown or central business district. This pattern of development represents the traditional way in which Georgia's county seats grew and developed over time. The architectural development of the central business district also reflects some of the major periods of community growth and development and the major economic factors that contributed to the community's growth and development.

The Butler Downtown Historic District is significant in the area of politics and government as the county seat of Butler County and because of the presence of buildings and structures directly related to activities and events associated with local county government. Throughout much of Georgia's history, the county has been the most important and powerful form of government. County governments made and enforced laws; provided essential public services including building and maintaining roads, water and sewer systems, and other utility services; administered important aspects of the legal system including courts, birth and death records, taxes, wills and probate, and property deeds; and provided public education throughout the county through county school boards. County commissioners, sheriffs, and judges traditionally are the most important local political figures. These important governmental functions and the politics that directed them are generally represented by the county courthouse, often a courthouse square, the county jail, and sometimes auxiliary offices. In the Butler Downtown Historic District, county government is represented by the courthouse square with its traditional placement at the center of the central business district and the accompanying

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Confederate monument and by the courthouse itself and nearby jail.

National Register Criteria

The Butler Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of commerce, community planning and development, and politics and government for the extant historic resources related to the typical activities that took place in Butler as the seat of government and commerce for Taylor County. The Butler Historic District is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its collection of commercial and community landmark buildings constructed from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The period of significance for the Butler Downtown Historic District is 1852 to 1963. The district meets Criterion Consideration G due to the fact that it achieved significance in a period less than fifty years before the nomination. The construction of the United States Post Office on the southeast corner of the courthouse square represents the last community landmark building constructed in the city. The post office was an important community landmark building because it was the center for community activity in the small town.

The post office, with its reliance on modern building materials, asymmetry, and lack of references to past architectural styles, is significant as the only example of the International Style of architecture in Butler. After World War II, the International Style filtered into Georgia's rural communities through host projects funded by local, state, and federal funds. These projects principally included schools built to accommodate the growing number of baby boomers, health centers that were built to serve migrant and rural populations, and new, modern post offices. In some cases, these buildings inspired the construction of International Style residential and commercial buildings or, as in Butler, they remained the town's only example of modern design.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Butler Downtown Historic District begins in 1852, the year in which the town plan was laid out and Butler was designated the county seat. The town developed around its commercial core, typical of county seat towns in Georgia, through 1963, the end of the historic period. The gridiron street plan just laid out in 1852 provided the physical framework for development in the area and retains a strong presence in the district today. The construction of the Post Office in 1963 represents the last major community landmark building constructed in Butler.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing buildings in the Butler Downtown Historic District include commercial and community landmark buildings that were constructed during the period of significance that retain their historic integrity. A contributing site within the district is the cemetery located behind the Methodist church.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

The two contributing structures in the district are the intact town plan and the unusual historic iron fence surrounding the jail. A contributing object in the district is the Confederate monument located on the courthouse square.

The majority of noncontributing resources in the Butler Downtown Historic District are historic buildings that have lost their historic integrity due to significant alterations such as the application of false façades, nonhistoric mansard roofs, and reworked storefronts. There are very few post-1963 buildings in the district. Noncontributing resources include those resources constructed after 1963 (photographs 1, center; and 11, left), and those that have lost historic integrity through alteration (photographs 4, 6, and 13).

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by Megan and Brian Eades, Historic Preservation Consultants, October, 2002, and Randi Doveton, January, 2003. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Taylor County was created by legislative act in 1852 and named for General Zachary Taylor, a Mexican War veteran and twelfth president of the United States. The county was carved out of Crawford, Talbot, Marion, and Macon Counties and was to contain a total land area of 403 square miles. Shortly thereafter, the need for a county seat became apparent and in 1852, the newly appointed county treasurer hired Jonathan Stewart to survey the streets of Butler. The construction of the courthouse was assigned to Patrick Adams while John Hobbs was charged with constructing a jail. It was decided that the area known as Fifty Mile Station on the railroad was the location because it was the approximate center of the new county. Fifty Mile Station had various names, Mount Pleasant and Wolf Pen among them. The name Butler was given to the county seat on February 19, 1852. This is recorded in the Inferior Court minutes of that date. However, Butler was not incorporated until February 8, 1854, and did not receive its charter until 1870. The county grew steadily and the 1860 U.S. Census lists 5,998 residents.

According to Lucien Lamar Knight in Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials, and Legends, "Butler, the county seat of Taylor County, was named for General William Orlando Butler, a distinguished soldier of the Mexican War and a candidate for Vice President on the ticket with General Cass of Michigan. He was also a poet of some reputation and the author of a celebrated song called The Boatman's Horn."

Butler's initial growth and development was fueled by the arrival of the Southwestern Railroad in 1853. This line joined the lines owned by the Muscogee Railroad, thus providing a rail link between Macon and Columbus. The town's development was again stimulated by the extension of the Central of Georgia Railroad's Columbus Branch to Butler in 1870. The railroad provided the county's farmers, merchants, and manufacturers access to larger markets.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Taylor County continued to grow and by 1870, the county boasted 7,133 residents with Butler as the largest town with 2,479 residents. Agricultural pursuits were still a prominent feature in the local economy during this era and the county's livestock was valued at \$220,695. However, industry was slowly gaining popularity among New South proponents and forty manufacturing establishments and twenty-seven steam engines were reported in the 1870 Census.

Originally, Butler's square was empty except for the jail, which was constructed at approximately the same time as the original courthouse. By the turn of the 20th century the square was full of buildings and Butler was a bustling town. Butler was the midway point between Macon and Columbus for the railroad. The trains from Macon would be turned around on a turntable and sent back and the same was done for the trains from Columbus. This continued until 1892 when the rail lines were linked thus connecting the cities of Macon and Columbus.

In spite of the prosperity that the railroad promised to deliver along its routes and industry sought to manufacture from within the factory walls, many Taylor County farmers viewed railroads and industrial development with skepticism. As a result, the county remained heavily dependent on agriculture. The Coastal Plain soil in the area was excellent for cotton cultivation and in 1880 the county produced 18,000 bales of cotton. To defend themselves from the perceived threat of industry and the New South ideology, the large agrarian faction of the county, along with others throughout the rural South and Midwest, embraced Populism during the 1890s. The industry was losing its hold in the county as evidenced by the 1880 Census that lists only 28 manufacturing establishments as compared to 40 in 1870.

Like most rural towns, many of the early buildings in Butler were of frame construction and heated by stoves. Inevitably, fires would spread out of control and Butler's town center suffered through at least four fires occurring in 1905, 1923, the 1940s, and the 1950s. These fires claimed many of the early buildings that lined the courthouse square. Initial efforts to rebuild in the early decades of the 1900s focused on masonry construction along with a considerable degree of internal improvements. During this time, the Butler Male and Female College (forerunner of Butler High School) grew and provided the town's youth with a suitable education. In 1911, the Butler Water Works Company was founded to provide an adequate water supply to the town. In that same year, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company were given permission to bring telephone service to the town. This was followed in 1915 by the construction of an electric light plant. By 1920, Butler's Masons had enough capital to support the construction of a new Masonic Lodge on the square, replacing the original building that had been severely damaged by two fires.

Each building on the square has a story. The current Sheriff's office was once a car dealership, then an attorney's office. Thomas Byrd owned the dealership. Garland T. Byrd, Sr., former Lt. Governor, then located his office in the building before moving across the street. The Flint Veterinary building was home to Pennington's Rexall Drugstore. The former bank is now a First Franklin Finance. The old telegraph building is only a hull and the dime store is now a bank. With all the changes that time has brought to the square, one thing remains, the Rabbit Box. It is a hamburger stand once owned

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

by Mr. John Turk. Mrs. Ruth Turk still makes Turk Burgers. The present brick building was constructed in 1914, replacing the original frame building.

The Taylor County News has been around since 1876 when William Nathaniel Bennis moved to Butler from Talbot County. The newspaper stayed within the Bennis family until 1962 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Griggs. The paper was sold again in 1980 to Jim and Wynelle Cosey. Mr. Cosey was the editor until his death in 2000, at which time the reigns were passed to his daughter, Valori Moore. The Taylor County News is now located in the old Smith's Pharmacy building on the west side of the square.

Undoubtedly, hard times befell the citizens of Taylor County during the Great Depression. However, the county's pride is reflected in the courthouse that was constructed in 1935 and was the focal point of a beautification movement in the courthouse square. The 1930s also witnessed the paving of Butler's streets as well as the establishment of an adequate water system that was finished in 1935 with the assistance of the Public Works Administration.

During World War II, an airport and weather station were built in Butler. Following the war, internal improvements continued in Butler with the addition of two hangars at the airport in 1947, the purchase of a new fire truck in 1951, a street paving project in 1952, and the establishment of a sewer system in 1958.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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Caldwell, Wilber W., The Courthouse and the Depot: The Architecture of Hope in an Age of Despair: A Narrative Guide to Railroad Expansion and its Impact on Public Architecture in Georgia, 1833-1910. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 2001.

Childs, Essie J. ed., They Tarried In Taylor (A Georgia County): 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900 Census Records, County Records, Church Records, and Family Records. Warner Robins, GA: Central Georgia Genealogical Society, Inc., 1992.

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Gowans, Alan. Styles and Types of North American Architecture: Social Function and Cultural Expression. New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1992.

Longstreth, Richard. The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press and National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1987.

Sharp, Leslie N. "Taylor County Courthouse." National Register Nomination Form. April 13, 1995. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Taylor County, Georgia: From Mount Pleasant or Fifty Mile Station to Butler. Published as a supplement to Taylor County News and the Butler Herald, 1976.

U.S. Census Records, Ninth Census of the United States, (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1870).

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 #**

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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

Acreege of Property 23 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 16	Easting 759661	Northing 3605516
B)	Zone 16	Easting 759661	Northing 3605147
C)	Zone 16	Easting 759194	Northing 3605133
D)	Zone 16	Easting 759183	Northing 3605501

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed boundary of the Butler Downtown Historic District is indicated on the attached map by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property is centered on the historic courthouse square and includes the intact portion of downtown Butler that developed during the historic period as the commercial center of Taylor County. The historic railroad depot, located along the railroad tracks three blocks east of the district, could not be included in the historic district because of its separation from the district by new development.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** November 19, 2004
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Megan and Brian Eades
organization Historic Preservation Consultants of Middle Georgia
mailing address 2983 Victoria Circle
city or town Macon **state** Georgia **zip code** 37204
telephone (478)476-8549
e-mail

- () **property owner**
- (X) **consultant**
- () **regional development center preservation planner**
- () **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Randi Doveton
organization (if applicable) Taylor County Historic Preservation Commission
mailing address P.O. Box 278
city or town Butler **state** Georgia **zip code** 31006
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Butler Downtown Historic District
City or Vicinity: Butler
County: Taylor
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: November, 2003

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 18




1. East Main Street; photographer facing west.
2. Courthouse square, southwest corner; photographer facing northeast.
3. South and east sides of courthouse square; photographer facing southeast.
4. South side of courthouse square; photographer facing southwest.
5. North side of courthouse square; photographer facing northwest.
6. East Main Street; photographer facing northwest.
7. North Broad Street; photographer facing northwest.
8. Corner of West Main Street and North Broad Street; photographer facing northwest.
9. West Main Street; photographer facing east.
10. South Broad Street; photographer facing north.
11. South Broad Street; photographer facing north.
12. South Broad Street; photographer facing northeast.
13. South Broad Street; photographer facing northwest.
14. Taylor County Courthouse; photographer facing southwest.
15. Taylor County Jail; photographer facing northwest.

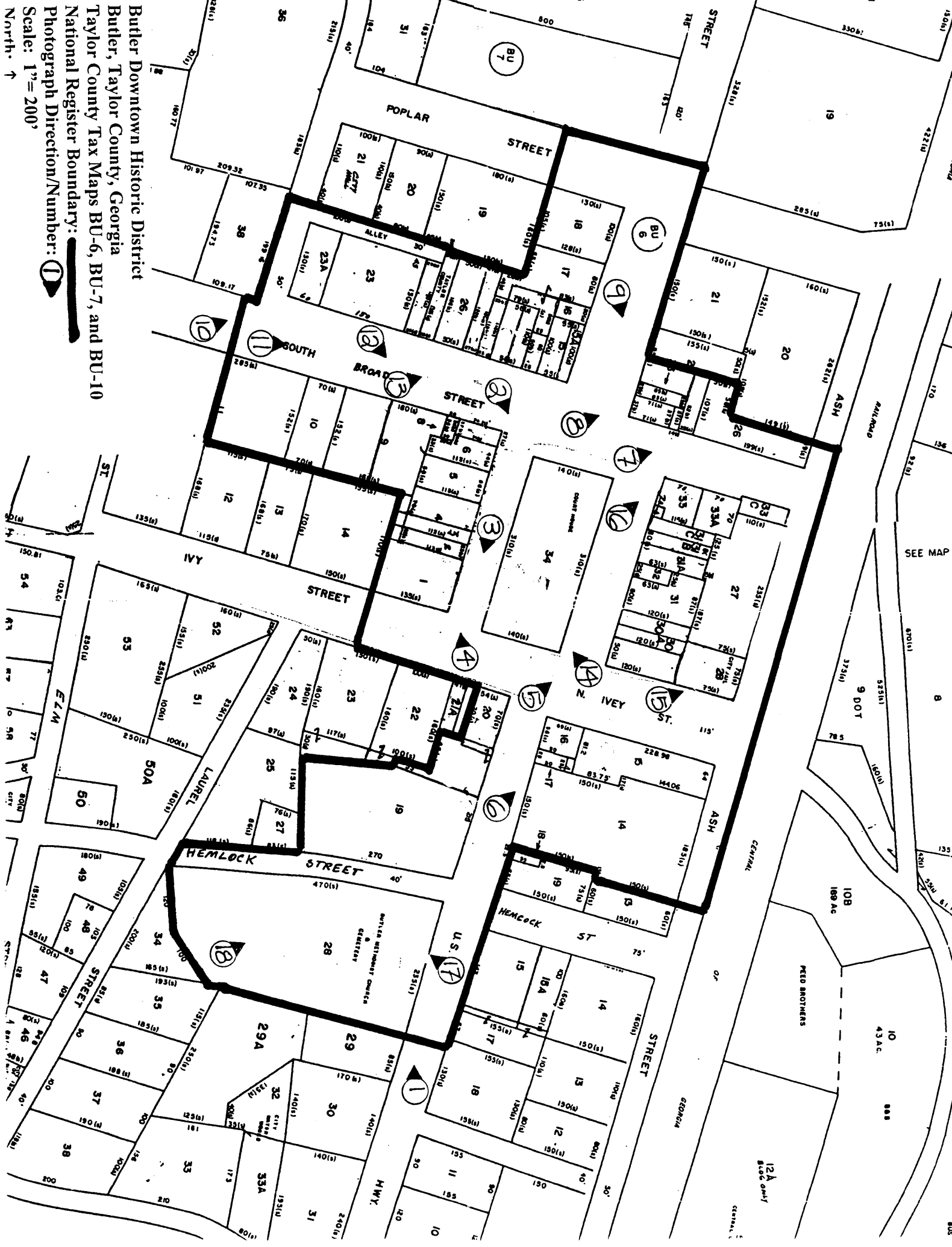
National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

16. Masonic Lodge; photographer facing northwest.
17. Butler United Methodist Church; photographer facing southwest.
18. Butler United Methodist Church Cemetery; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Butler Downtown Historic District
 Butler, Taylor County, Georgia
 Taylor County Tax Maps BU-6, BU-7, and BU-10
 National Register Boundary: 
 Photograph Direction/Number: 
 Scale: 1"=200'
 North: 



SEE MAP

9 DOT

10 43.2 AC

12A 1200 sq ft

10B 100 AC