

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name _____
State _____

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Downtown Athens Historic District
Boundary Increase

for
Keeper

Melvin Byers 5/3/84

entered in the
National Register

Attest

2.

Keeper

Attest

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National Park Service**

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BOUNDARY AMENDMENT TO THE
DOWNTOWN ATHENS NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT
ATHENS, CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Background Information

In 1978 a substantial portion of downtown Athens was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Downtown Athens Historic District. This district consists primarily of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings along with city and county government buildings, churches and other institutional buildings, hotels, warehouses, and railroad-related structures. On its western side the district extends to North Lumpkin Street between West Broad Street on the south and West Dougherty Street on the north but includes only properties on the east side of North Lumpkin Street. Historic commercial buildings on the west side of North Lumpkin Street are not included in the district, for reasons that are not documented in the National Register file.

Purpose of the Amendment

This amendment to the Downtown Athens Historic District adds the historic commercial properties on the west side of North Lumpkin Street to the district. In doing so it will bring this portion of the district into conformance with the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. It will also meet the needs of property owners who are working to preserve these buildings, especially by making available tax credits and other National Register incentives for rehabilitating historic structures.

Description of Properties to be Amended into the District

Properties to be added to the Downtown Athens Historic District are located along the west side of North Lumpkin Street between West Broad Street and West Dougherty Street. They consist of four commercial buildings fronting North Lumpkin Street (nos. 137-175, 187, 199, and 225), a fifth commercial building fronting North Hancock Street (no. 100), a sixth commercial building fronting the south side of West Clayton Street behind 187 and 199 North Lumpkin Street, and a movie theater fronting North Lumpkin Street (no. 216). Six of these buildings, including the movie theater, are grouped on either side of the intersection of West Clayton and North Lumpkin Streets. The seventh building stands alone at the intersection of West Hancock and North Lumpkin Streets.

The commercial buildings are all two-story, party-wall, brick structures. They date from the late nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. They feature storefronts (mostly remodeled) on the ground floor, relatively intact brick facades on the second floor, and cornices above. A variety of modest detailing enlivens the front facades of these buildings; this includes flat, segmental, and round arched windows, brick string courses and corbelled cornices, sheet metal

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cornices, polychrome masonry, brick piers, and parapets. The theater, a mid 1930s Art Deco-style building, was fashioned around an older structure on the site. It features a smooth stucco facade, geometric massing, and incised surface decoration.

No non-contributing buildings or vacant lots are included among the properties being amended into the historic district.

Significance of Properties to be Amended into the District

Properties to be added to the Downtown Athens Historic District contribute to the historic character and appearance of downtown Athens. They add to the architectural and commercial significance of the district. Because of their location at the western edge of the district, and because there are no other contiguous, intact historic structures beyond, they form a logical western boundary of the historic downtown area.

Architecturally, the Downtown Athens Historic District is significant in large part because of its range of late nineteenth and early twentieth century brick commercial buildings. In terms of size, age, massing, siting, materials, construction techniques, and style, the buildings to be added to the district are virtually identical to many of those already in the district - indeed even to those directly across North Lumpkin Street. The six buildings in the group at West Clayton Street also contribute to the overall historic urban form of the district by defining the remaining two corners of this important Clayton Street-Lumpkin Street intersection; the seventh building, at the northwest corner of the intersection of West Hancock and North Lumpkin, stands as a minor landmark marking this corner of the historic downtown area.

In terms of commerce, the Downtown Athens Historic District is significant for the range of commercial activities which took place during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Buildings to be added to the district housed a variety of historic, early-twentieth century commercial establishments, including retail stores, offices, a printing shop, a laundry, and a movie theater, which complement those that were found in the district.

Geographical Information about Properties to be Amended into the District

Acreage: Approximately 1 acre.

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: Athens West, Georgia.

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle scale: 1:24000.

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U.T.M. References for Amended Area:

A)	Z17	E280290	N3760140
B)	Z17	E280370	N3759840
C)	Z17	E280320	N3759830
D)	Z17	E280250	N3760130

Boundary Description/Justification: The amended boundary of the Downtown Athens Historic District is enlarged from the original to include historic commercial buildings on the west side of North Lumpkin Street between West Broad Street and West Dougherty Street. Non-historic properties, vacant lots, and parking lots along the west side of North Lumpkin Street have not been included. To the east of the amended area is the Downtown Athens Historic District. To the north, south, and west are non-historic buildings, vacant lots, and parking lots. The amended boundary is described by a heavy black line on the attached maps.

Form Prepared By:

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Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
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April 23, 1984

Signed by:

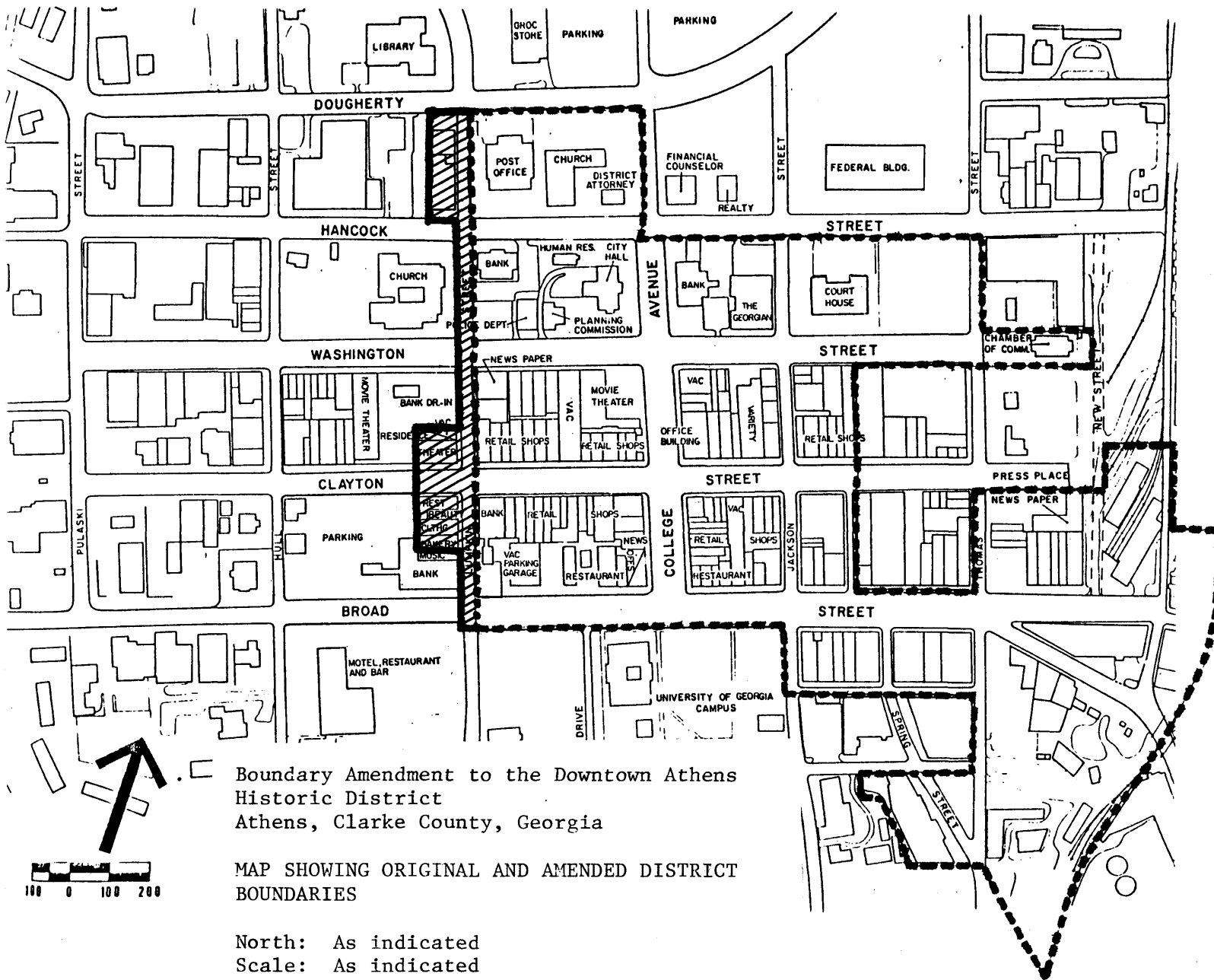
Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon, Chief
Historic Preservation Section
State Historic Preservation Officer

4/24/84
Date

Melvin Byers
for Keeper of the
National Register

Entered in the
National Register

5/31/84



Boundary Amendment to the Downtown Athens
Historic District
Athens, Clarke County, Georgia

MAP SHOWING ORIGINAL AND AMENDED DISTRICT
BOUNDARIES

North: As indicated

Scale: As indicated

Original District Boundary: - - - - -

Amended District Boundary: —————

Area Amended into District: // // // //

Note: No areas deleted from district:

5/1/84