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JUL 25 1989United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNATIONAL
REGISTER**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 n/a
other names/site number North Main Street Commercial Historic District

2. Location

street & number North Main Street (U.S. 301) between Vine and Courtland Streets
city, town Statesboro (n/a) vicinity of
county Bulloch code GA 031
state Georgia code GA zip code 30458

(n/a) not for publication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	8	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	8	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Downtown Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

7/19/89
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 Alvoret Byers 9/6/89
- () determined eligible for the National Register _____
- () determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- () removed from the National Register _____
- () other, explain: _____
- () see continuation sheet

fu _____
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/professional
COMMERCE/department store
COMMERCE/business

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Commercial Style
Italianate

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	unknown
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The North Main Street Commercial Historic District is located in the small southeastern Georgia town of Statesboro, which is the Bulloch County seat. The district is located on level terrain, immediately west of the county courthouse, and is on the west side of North Main Street, between Courtland Street on the north and West Main Street on the south.

The North Main Street Commercial Historic District consists of one block of eight buildings, all constructed between 1900 and 1905. All of the buildings in the district are of masonry construction, all share party walls, and all but three are two stories in height. Lot sizes vary within the district, but the setbacks are uniform with a sidewalk between the buildings and the street. Landscaping within the district consists of recently planted trees along the sidewalk.

All of the buildings exhibit detailing typical of small-town, commercial structures built at the turn of the century in Georgia and elsewhere. Most feature corbeled brickwork, and the two-story structures have retained their pressed-metal cornices. The dominant stylistic influence is Italianate, with round-arched window openings combined with ornate pressed-metal cornices. None of the storefronts is intact; all have been modernized with recessed or filled-in entrances. In spite of these alterations, the district has maintained its integrity through the retention of original setback, scale, and height as well as the relatively intact upper level details.

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Boundaries of the district have been drawn to include this striking grouping of downtown commercial historic buildings. The commercial buildings immediately outside the small district have been so extensively altered that they no longer can be considered as historic.

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):

commerce
architecture

Period of Significance:

1900-1905

Significant Dates:

1900

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Blackburn, L. R.

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The North Main Street Commercial Historic District played an important part in the historical development of downtown Statesboro and is eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C as a part of the Statesboro multiple property listing. In support of the criteria, the district is significant in the area of architecture for its concentration of intact, historic, commercial buildings in downtown Statesboro, an area which has no large intact grouping of historic buildings. The district is also significant in the area of commerce for its reflection of the economic expansion which occurred in Statesboro during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The district is significant in the area of commerce because it was directly associated with, and today reflects, the commercial expansion and activity which occurred in response to Statesboro's late-19th and early 20th-century economic prosperity. Statesboro was founded in 1802, but its physical development did not truly commence until 1889 with the coming of the railroad. With its commerce tied to the Sea Island cotton market, Statesboro prospered from 1890 until the Great Depression of the 1930s. This district developed near the centrally located county courthouse and was part of the first commercial section to be developed in downtown Statesboro. Buildings within this district have been associated with J. A. Brannen, J. G. Blicht, and J. W. Olliff; these men were early developers of the district and as individuals they were major contributors to the growth of Statesboro. Buildings within the North Main Street Commercial Historic District have housed a wide variety of businesses, including jewelry, dry goods, music, and grocers. Today, the district remains a prime location for retail and office space in downtown Statesboro. Because Statesboro is the county seat, the district has continued to serve the retail, service and entertainment needs of the community and the county.

The district is significant in the area of architecture for its collection of historic commercial structures which, although typical of turn-of-the-century small-town commercial architecture, are nevertheless extraordinary in Statesboro. Several different contractors are associated with the district including L. R. Blackburn, a local contractor who worked during the historic period. The one- and two-story buildings exhibit unusually rich characteristic turn-of-the-century details, such as corbeled brickwork and pressed-metal cornices. The dominate stylistic influence is the Italianate,

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with round-arched window openings and prominent cornices. Though the buildings have been somewhat altered, they retain their integrity through the architectural details that remain on the upper levels of the structures. Taken together, these buildings constitute an extraordinary grouping of historic commercial architecture in downtown Statesboro because of their relatively large size, dense development, and high level of detailing. Their placement directly across North Main Street from the county courthouse square enhances their role as landmark buildings in downtown Statesboro.

National Register Criteria

Because of its association with the commercial expansion and activity experienced by Statesboro at the turn of the century and its continued importance as a retail center for this small, south Georgia city into the early 20th century, the district meets National register Criteria A. Because the district exhibits building types, architectural styles, and architectural details common to small-town, commercial structures of the early part of the 20th century but unusual in Statesboro, including corbeling, pressed-metal cornices, and round- and segmental-arched windows, the district meets National Register Criteria C.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1900-1905: period of development

9. Major Bibliographic References

Hanson, Sue P. and Robin Brown. "J. A. Brannen Block, Blitch Block Row."

Historic District Information Form, April 1986. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, 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
- () 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:

- (x) 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

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 426360 Northing 3590310

Verbal Boundary Description

The North Main Street Commercial Historic District includes properties on the west side of North Main Street, between Vine and Courtland Streets. The district boundaries are drawn to scale on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district encompass an isolated group of eight attached historic commercial buildings along the west side of North Main Street in Statesboro's central business district. To the north are scattered historic buildings, vacant lots, and nonhistoric commercial development; to the south is the remainder of the central business district with its mix of historic and nonhistoric buildings; to the west are vacant lots and nonhistoric development; and to the east is the county courthouse with its open square.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janice E. Adams, National Register Researcher, and Richard Cloues, National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** July 12, 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: North Main Street Commercial Historic District
City or Vicinity: Statesboro
County: Bulloch
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 1987

NOTE: Photographs taken in August 1987 were field-checked during the spring of 1989. These photographs convey an accurate impression of the photographed buildings and structures in downtown Statesboro.

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 4. North Main Street buildings, west of courthouse square; photographer facing southwest.

2 of 4. North Main Street buildings, west of courthouse square; photographer facing southwest.

3 of 4. North Main Street buildings, west of courthouse square; photographer facing northwest.

4 of 4. North Main Street buildings, west of courthouse square, showing setting and courthouse square to right; photographer facing north.

Allen
Bulloch County Bank & Trust Co
S. Main St

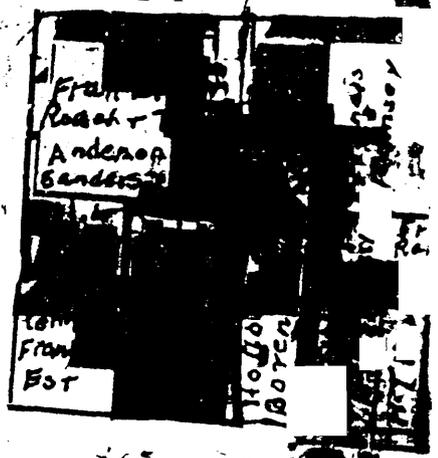
PARKING



W. MAIN ST.



COURTLAND ST.



1
2
3
N. MAIN ST.

4
E. MAIN ST.



S. MAIN ST.



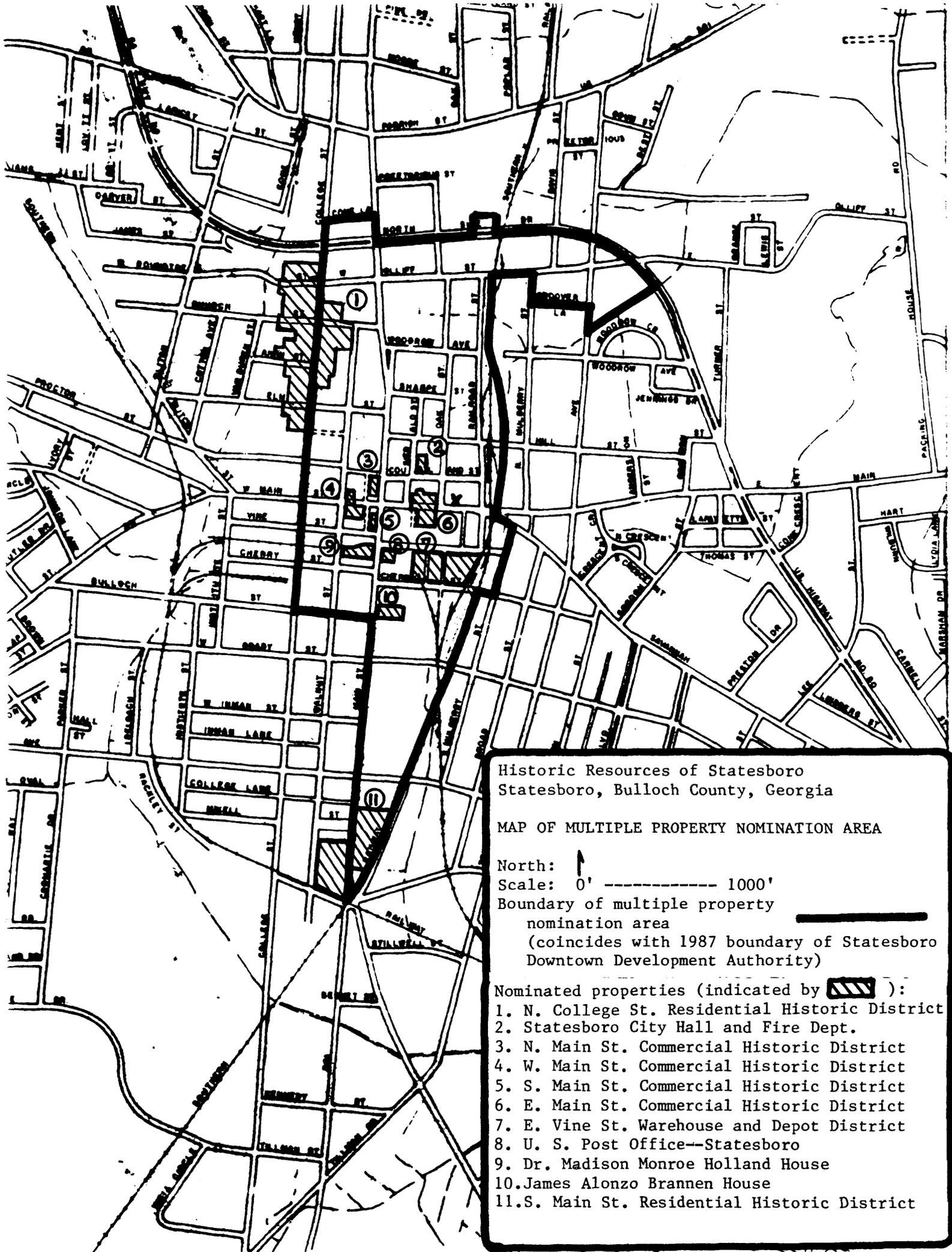
North Main Street Commercial Historic District
Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia

North: ↑
Scale: 0' ----- 100'
Historic district boundary: —————

Photograph and direction of view: ○

NOTE: All properties are contributing.

Statesboro, Georgia



Historic Resources of Statesboro
Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia

MAP OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY NOMINATION AREA

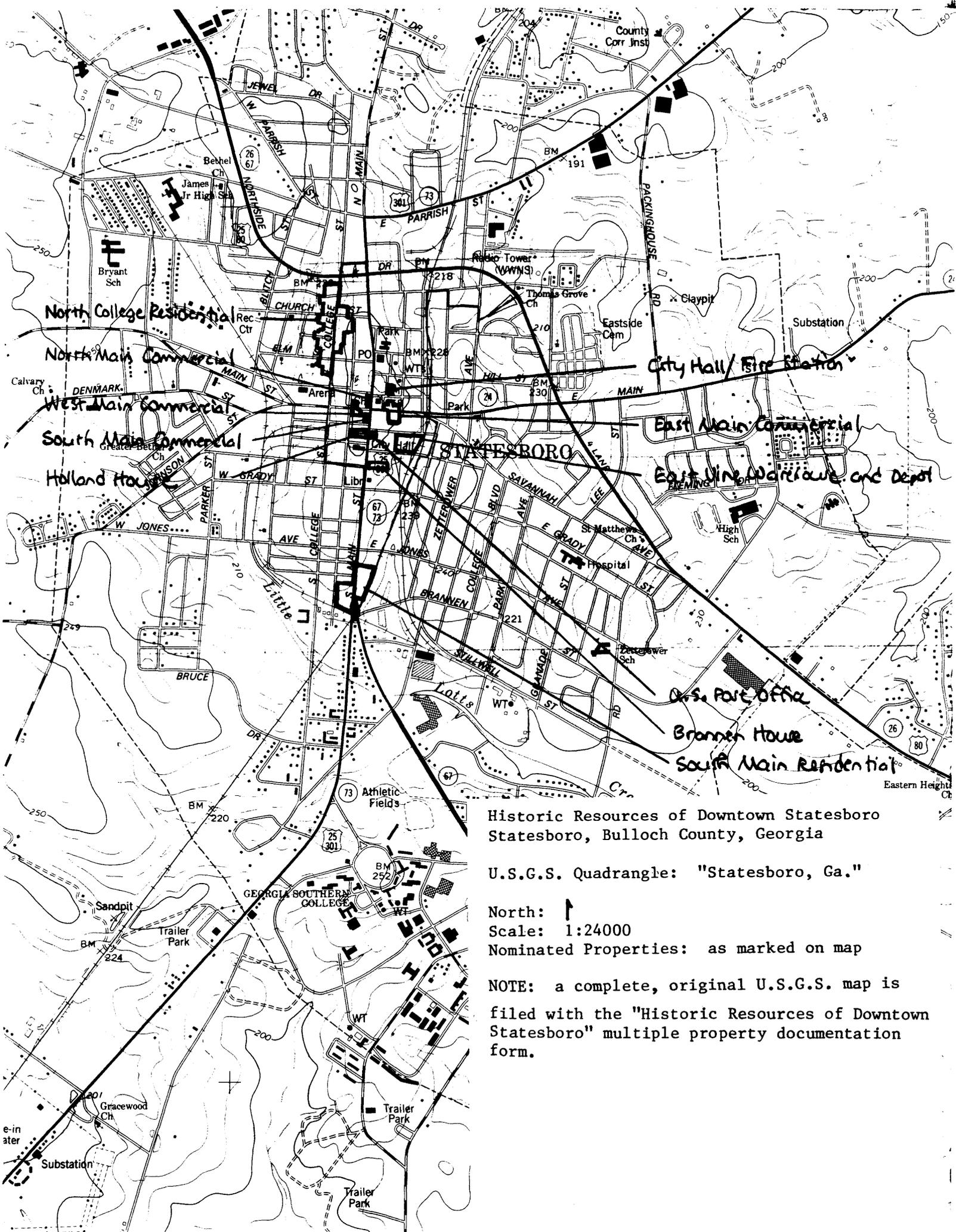
North: ↑

Scale: 0' ----- 1000'

Boundary of multiple property nomination area

(coincides with 1987 boundary of Statesboro Downtown Development Authority)

- Nominated properties (indicated by ):
1. N. College St. Residential Historic District
 2. Statesboro City Hall and Fire Dept.
 3. N. Main St. Commercial Historic District
 4. W. Main St. Commercial Historic District
 5. S. Main St. Commercial Historic District
 6. E. Main St. Commercial Historic District
 7. E. Vine St. Warehouse and Depot District
 8. U. S. Post Office—Statesboro
 9. Dr. Madison Monroe Holland House
 10. James Alonzo Brannen House
 11. S. Main St. Residential Historic District



**Historic Resources of Downtown Statesboro
Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia**

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: "Statesboro, Ga."

North: ↑

Scale: 1:24000

Nominated Properties: as marked on map

NOTE: a complete, original U.S.G.S. map is filed with the "Historic Resources of Downtown Statesboro" multiple property documentation form.