

JUL 25 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL
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 West Main Street Commercial Historic District

2. Location

street & number West Main Street (Georgia Highway 24)
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(n/a) not for publication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	5	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	5	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

Alaric Byrum 9/6/89
Entered in the National Register

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet

for _____
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/business

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/specialty store
COMMERCE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Commercial
Italianate

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	unknown
other	plate glass display windows

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The West Main Street Commercial Historic District is located in downtown Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia. Statesboro has a gridiron street pattern, laid out around a central courthouse square. The West Main Street Commercial Historic District is located along West Main, immediately east of Walnut Street and a block southwest of the county courthouse. The district is comprised of five storefront buildings, one single-story and four two-stories in height, containing sixteen storefronts. Constructed of brick between 1905 and 1923, the buildings within the district have uniform setbacks and are on lots of unequal size. Sidewalks, curbs and parking spaces separate the buildings from traffic along West Main. As with the other commercial districts, there are no major landscape features or green spaces within the nominated district.

The buildings are typical of those found in early 20th-century commercial districts. Modest details, including corbeled brick work, segmental-arched windows, pilasters, and pressed-metal cornices, are featured on utilitarian, storefront-type commercial buildings. Many of these buildings have received unsympathetic alterations in the 1970s and 1980s. These alterations have been confined to modernization of the storefronts; upper level details remain intact.

West Main Street's most outstanding structure was known historically as the Brannen Building. Located at the corner of West Main and Walnut, the Brannen Building is a series of five attached storefronts constructed in a row. Each storefront steps down with the downhill slope of West Main Street. The buildings share a common pressed-metal cornice and identical storefronts. Details include double-door

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entrances set flush with the sidewalk, pressed-metal pilasters, and display windows. Each building also has three two-over-two windows with segmental-arched openings on the second floor. These buildings, with their matching details intact, comprise the best preserved early 20th-century commercial group in downtown Statesboro.

Several of the buildings within the district have received unsympathetic alterations in recent years, but because the buildings have retained their original overall design, scale, setback, and decorative details, the integrity of the district has not been compromised. The boundaries of the historic district were determined by the concentration of buildings which have retained their integrity. Neighboring buildings were excluded because extensive alterations had compromised their integrity.

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:

1905-1923

Significant Dates:

1905

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Blackburn, L. R.

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Section 8

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The West Main Street 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 Downtown Statesboro multiple property listing. In support of the criteria, the district is significant in the area of architecture for its early 20th-century commercial buildings which are similar to those found in other Georgia cities but uniquely well-preserved in Statesboro. The district is also significant in the area of commerce for its association with, and reflection of, the economic expansion and activities which occurred in downtown Statesboro during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The district is significant in the area of commerce because it was associated with, and today reflects, the commercial expansion and activities which occurred in response to Statesboro's early 20th-century economic prosperity. Statesboro was founded in 1802, but its physical development did not 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. The West Main Street Commercial Historic District developed near the county courthouse and was among the first commercial sections of downtown Statesboro. Since the early 20th century, commercial structures in the district have housed various businesses. Because Statesboro is the county seat, the district has continued to serve the retail, service, and entertainment needs of both the city and the county.

In the area of architecture, the district is significant for containing intact historic commercial buildings in downtown Statesboro. Several builders worked within the district. L. R. Blackburn has been associated with the commercial construction which occurred in this district and the rest of the central business district. These buildings are typical of the small-town commercial architecture that was popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Statesboro and throughout Georgia and the nation. Significant features include the overall "storefront" design of the buildings in the district and decorative details including pressed-metal and corbeled brick cornices. Five of the storefronts in the district are built in a row and comprise the best preserved early 20th-century commercial group in Statesboro.

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Section 8

National Register Criteria

Because of its association with the commercial expansion and activity experienced by Statesboro during the early 20th century and its continued importance as a retail center for Statesboro, 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 storefront designs, corbeling, and pressed-metal cornices, the district meets National Register Criteria C.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1905-1923: period of development in district

9. Major Bibliographic References

Hanson, Sue P. and Robin Brown. "West Main Street Commercial Historic District." Historic District Information Form, May 1986. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. 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 426280 Northing 3590260

Verbal Boundary Description

The West Main Street Commercial Historic District is located on West Main Street, immediately east of Walnut Street, one block southwest of the county courthouse square. The district boundary is drawn to scale on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district include all of the intact properties historically associated with commercial development along West Main Street in downtown Statesboro.

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

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: West 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. Commercial block on south side of West Main Street; photographer facing southeast.

2 of 4. Commercial block on south side of West Main Street; photographer facing southwest.

3 of 4. Commercial buildings on north side of West Main Street; photographer facing northwest.

4 of 4. Commercial buildings on north side of West Main Street; photographer facing northeast.



WALNUT ST.

N. MAIN ST.

S. MAIN ST.

E. MAIN ST.

W. MAIN ST.

④
①
③
②

Matilda Benson

Bulloch County

Collier

Franklin
Rashley
Anderson
Sanders

Tom A
Ashley

Tom
Frank
Est

Holla
Botch

C.P.
O'Leary
F. E. Ken

Mrs. Frank
Ashley

Edwin
Arkus

W.C. King
& Co

H.A. Burns

H.Z. Smith
Twiss

Gregory
Arue

W. Morray

AVCO
T.L. Dixon

Franklin
Chevrolet
Co

Franklin
Chevrolet
Co

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

North: ↑

Scale: 0' ----- 100'

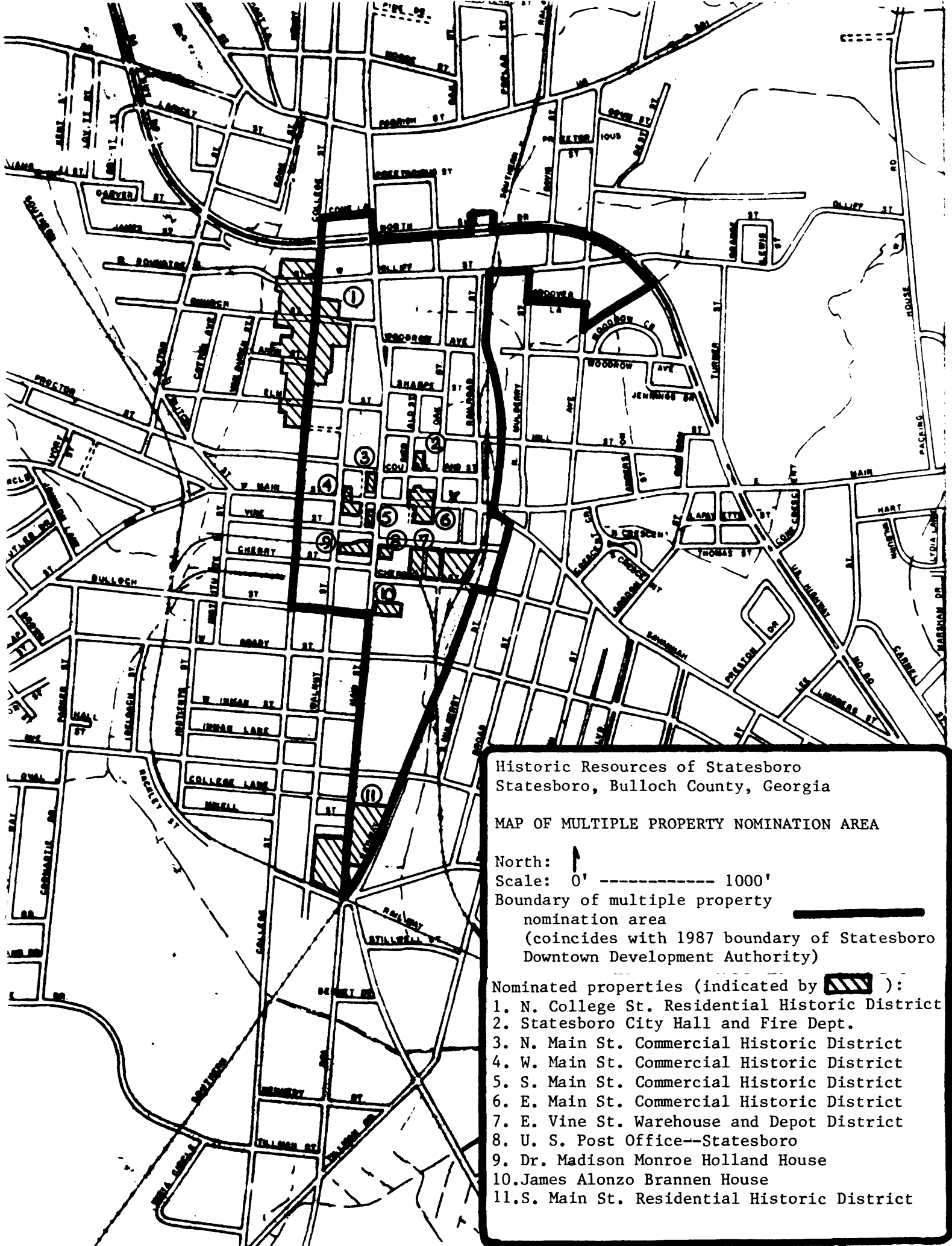
Historic district boundary: —————

Photograph and direction of view: ○

NOTE: All properties are contributing.

City of
Statesboro

M.M.
Hollander





Historic Resources of Statesboro
Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia

MAP OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY NOMINATION AREA

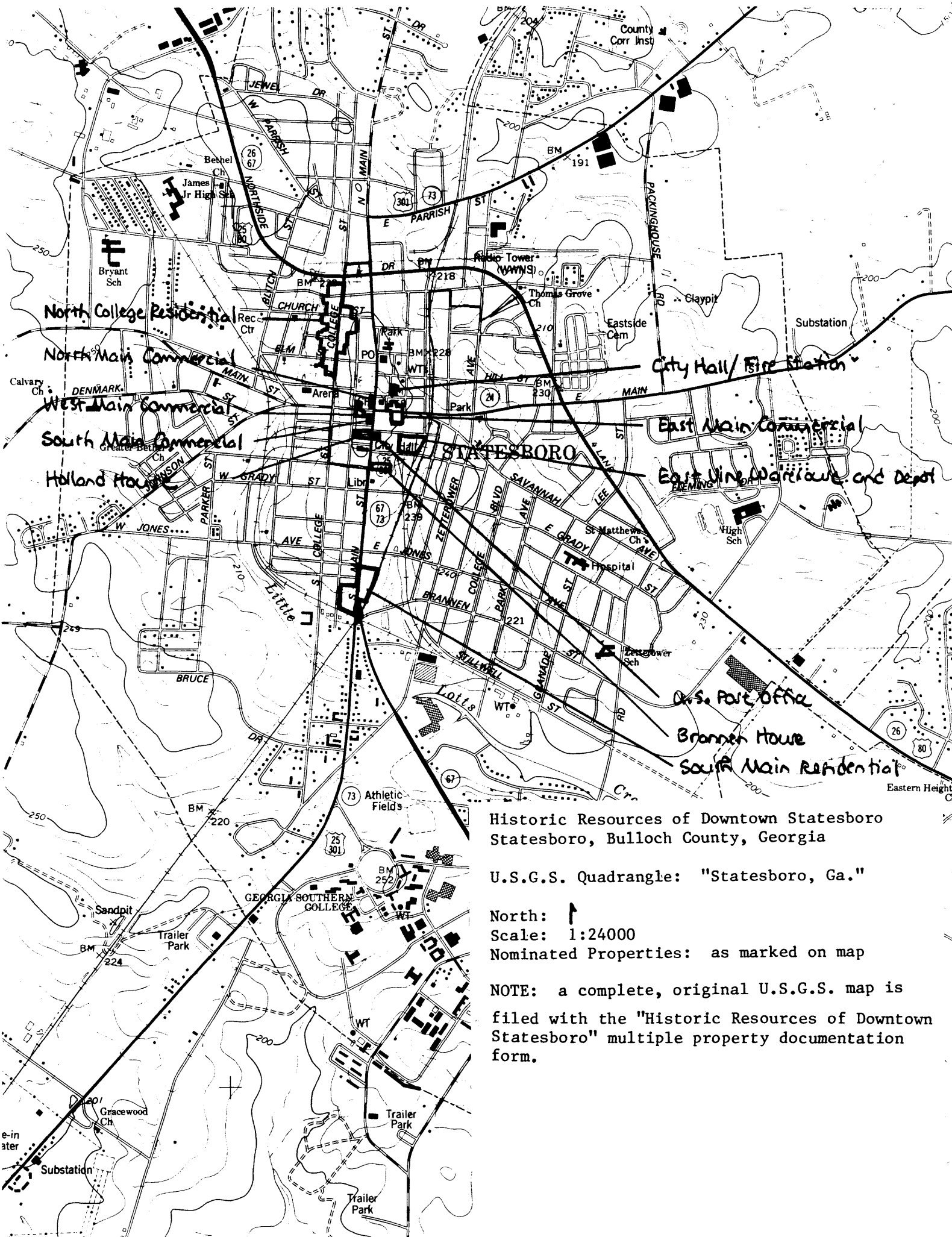
North: ↑

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.