

## **Bowman Commercial Historic District Listed in the National Register of Historic Places**

**ATLANTA (April 20, 2016)** – The Bowman Commercial Historic District, centered on the public square in Bowman, Ga. (Elbert County), has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination was sponsored by the City of Bowman.

In the late-1870s, as the Elberton Airline was building a rail line in northeast Georgia from Toccoa to Elberton, Thomas Jefferson Bowman purchased and later subdivided lots along the railroad in what came to be called Bowman. By 1879, two stores and a water well were established around the public square. Bowman was incorporated in 1907, and the town flourished in the early part of the 20th century. Early businesses in city included a brickyard, shoe and harness shop, blacksmith, lumberyard, bank, drugstore, grocery, and telephone company.

The buildings that comprise the historic district are excellent representative examples of commercial buildings built in small towns throughout Georgia in the early decades of the 20th century. Bowman retains its intact historic town plan of streets, and its commercial buildings organized around a public square and the railroad. Most of the commercial buildings are brick, with storefronts supported by cast-iron columns to allow larger display windows. The buildings' entablatures are ornamented with brick corbels, panels, and basket-weave patterns. The historic district boundary extends south and west of the square to include commercial buildings fronting South Broad Street, a major thoroughfare.

The National Register of Historic Places is our country's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. The National Register provides formal recognition of a property's architectural, historical, or archaeological significance. It also identifies historic properties for planning purposes and insures that these properties will be considered in the planning of state or federally assisted projects. National Register listing encourages preservation of historic properties through public awareness, federal and state tax incentives, and grants. Listing in the National Register does not place obligations or restrictions on the use, treatment, transfer, or disposition of private property.

*The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Its mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance.*

*The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.*

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