National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

	2010
1. Name of Property Historic name: Attalla Downtown	n Historic District
Other names/site number:	n Historic District NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Name of related multiple property listing:	
	N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multip	ple property listing
2. Location	
Street & number: 3 rd St. N, 4 th St. N, and 5 th	
City or town: Attalla State: AL C Not For Publication: Vicinity:	ounty: <u>Etowan</u>
vicinity.	J.
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the Nationa	al Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
	request for determination of eligibility meets
the documentation standards for registering pr	1
	onal requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets I recommend that this property be considered	does not meet the National Register Criteria.
level(s) of significance:	significant at the following
.,	X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:	<u>A</u> local
XA B XC D	
JR). VE	Executive Director October 21, 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Alabama Historical Commission	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Trib	oal Government
In my opinion, the property meets	_ does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau

National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Attalla Downtown Historic District

County and State Name of Property 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: 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:) 5. Classification **Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.) Private: Public - Local Public - State Public - Federal **Category of Property** (Check only one box.) Building(s) District Site Structure Object

Etowah, AL

alla Downtown Historic District	Etowah, AL County and Stat
	,
Number of Resources within Property	
(Do not include previously listed resources	
8	oncontributing
30	12buildings
	sites
1	structures
	objects
31	11 Total
	TI Total
Number of contributing resources previous	ly listed in the National Register 1
Number of contributing resources previous.	iy iistod iii dio italional itografo.
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions	
(Enter categories from instructions.)	
COMMERCE/TRADE/business	
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional	
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution	
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store	
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse	
GOVERNMENT/post office	
RECREATION AND CULTURE/theatre	
_ KLOKEMIIOIVIIVD COBI CILD MISUNO	
Current Functions	
(Enter categories from instructions.)	
COMMERCE/TRADE/business	
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional	
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution	
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store	
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse	
GOVERNMENT/post office	
OOVERNITEIVI7post office	
7. Description	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification	
(Enter categories from instructions.)	
LATE 19 th AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVA	ALS/Beaux Arts_
LATE 19 th AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVA	ALS/Colonial Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT/International Styl	
MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne	_
THODERT HO VEHILLITHOUGH	
Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: _V	WOOD BRICK STONE METAL STUCCO
	YOOD, DICICIS, STORE, METAL, STOCCO,
CONCRETE, GLASS, SYNTHETICS	

Attalla Downtown Historic District

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Street Addresses

The district contains the following street numbers:

3 rd St. NW	406
4 th Ave. NW	312
4 th St. NW	401 - 430
5 th Ave. NW	200 - 432

Summary Paragraph

The Attalla Downtown Historic District consists of an irregularly shaped area within the city of Attalla that contains approximately 11 acres of land. The topography of the district is generally flat but slopes somewhat to the southeast. The district is generally bounded to the north by the rear property lines of the parcels along the north side of 4th Street NW, to the east by the rear property lines of the parcels along the east side of 5th Avenue NW, to the south by 3rd Street NW, and to the west by 4th Avenue NW and the west and rear property lines of 309 4th Street NW. The boundary also extends to the southeast along 5th Avenue NW to include a large concrete highway underpass that defines the entrance to the district from the south. The district incorporates the historic central business district of Attalla. Buildings typically abut one another. Streets are typically lined with sidewalks and have some modern landscaping and reproduction light poles.

Narrative Description

The district includes 43 resources, 32 (74%) of which are contributing (1 of which was previously listed in the National Register). 11 of the resources are noncontributing (26%). Contributing resources date from the following periods: 1885-1904, 6; 1905-1920, 9; 1921-1930, 2; 1931-1940, 3; and 1941-1963, 12. The majority of the contributing resources (25, 78%) are commercial buildings. Other resources include the U.S. Post Office (National Register, Resource #4), a garage (Resource #1) a theatre (Resource #43), four warehouses (Resources #9, 13, 15 and 17), and one highway underpass (Resource #27). Of the contributing resources, one is a highway structure, 21 (68%) are one story, and 9 (29%) are two stories. 22 (71%) of the contributing resources are constructed of brick, 5 have been stuccoed (16%), three are frame (10%), and one is constructed of concrete.

Noncontributing resources include 4 (36%) that were constructed after the district's period of significance and 7 (64%) that were substantially altered after the district's period of significance.

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Inventory

- Garage, Not Named 3rd St. NW, 406 1940 ca. Contributing One story brick garage building with a front-facing gable composition shingle roof; faces south, 4x3 bay core, freestanding; off-center garage entrance at the façade with double leaf paneled wood doors flanked to the east by a pedestrian entrance and at its outer bays by single 1/1 windows, similar windows at the side elevations; exposed oversized header bricks at all elevations; concrete slab foundation. (Photo #28)
- 2 Family Dollar Store 4th Ave. NW, 312 1990 ca. Noncontributing Modern one-story brick veneer commercial building with a projecting mansard canopy.
- 3 Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 309 1955 ca. Contributing One-story brick veneer and concrete block Post-War Modern style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces north, rectangular, freestanding; center pillar breaks aluminum framed storefront system into two bays, east bay has an entrance with double leaf doors and single light transom flanked to the east by a 2-panel fixed storefront window on a low brick bulkhead, west bay has a 2-panel fixed storefront window on a low brick bulkhead, slightly projecting continuous flat metal canopy across the entire storefront; exposed brick veneer at the façade with painted concrete block at the side elevations; concrete slab foundation. (Photo #27)
- 4 United States Post Office 4th St. NW, 401 1931 Contributing One and one-half story brick Colonial Revival style post office with a slate mansard roof with 3 segmental arched dormers at its front slope and 4 similar dormers at each of its side slopes, molded cast cornice; faces north, rectangular 5x6 bay core with rear cargo bay extension, freestanding; slightly projecting central gable entrance, entrance set within limestone broken pedimented surround with urn, double leaf 12-light windows with transom; 12/12 windows at the outer bays with limestone lintels and sills, limestone water course, similar windows at the side elevations; exposed brick exterior walls set in Flemish bond; cornerstone at foundation level reads "A W Mellon/SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY/JAMES A WETMORE/ACTING SUPERVISING ARCHITECT/1931. (Photo #19; Photo #20, right)
- 5. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 402 1950 ca. Contributing One-story stucco Post-War Modern style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet with clay tile cap and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces south, rectangular, abuts an adjacent building to the east and fronts along 4th Avenue NW to the west; storefront with off-center recessed entrance with double leaf doors and transom flanked to the west by a 5-panel fixed storefront window and to the east by a 3-panel fixed storefront window, both on low tiled bulkheads, slightly projecting continuous flat aluminum canopy across the entire storefront; tile band surrounds the storefront with painted stucco above and at the west elevation; foundation not visible. (Photo #21, left)

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- 6. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 404 1960 ca. Contributing One-story brick veneer Post-War Modern style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet; faces south, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern storefront with off-center recessed entrance with double leaf doors and transom flanked to the west by a single panel fixed storefront window and to the east by a 2-panel fixed storefront window, both on low concrete block bulkheads, modern full-width shed canopy across the entire storefront; painted brick veneer at the upper facade; foundation not visible. (Photo #21, 2nd from left)
- 7. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th Ave. NW, 408 1975 ca. Noncontributing Modern one-story commercial building with a flat roof. (Photo #21, 3rd from left)
- 8. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 410 1890 ca. Contributing Two-story brick veneer two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces south, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; storefront with modern aluminum framed recessed entrance at the west side flanked by a 2-panel fixed storefront window on a low stone veneer bulkhead, slightly projecting full-width aluminum canopy; 3 segmental arched window openings at the 2nd level now bricked in; painted stucco finish the upper facade; continuous brick foundation; building appears to have been historically combined with Resource #11 but they are now on separate parcels. (Photo #21, 4th from left)
- 9. Warehouse, Not Named 4th St. NW, 410, rear 1950 ca. Contributing One story frame freestanding ancillary warehouse to the rear of Resource #8; rectangular with corrugated metal roof with exposed rafter ends; corrugated metal siding.
- 10. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 411 1920 ca. Contributing One-story stucco Early 20th Century Commercial style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces north, rectangular, abuts an adjacent building to the east and a vacant lot to the west; modern aluminum framed storefront with an entrance at its east side flanked to the west by a 4-panel fixed storefront window on a low frame bulkhead, continuous fabric awning across the entire storefront; historic storefront piers remain exposed, weatherboard siding added at upper façade and storefront transom (ca. 1990); foundation not visible. (Photo #20, 2nd from right)
- 11. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 412 1890 ca. Contributing Two-story stucco two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces south, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern aluminum framed storefront with recessed central entrance with splayed sidewalls flanked by single fixed storefront windows on low stucco bulkheads; no window openings at the 2nd level; painted stucco finish the upper facade; continuous brick foundation; building appears to originally been combined with Resource #8 but they are now on separate parcels. (Photo #21, 5th from left)
- 12. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 413 1950 ca. Contributing One-story brick veneer Post-War Modern style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and its sides by stepped parapets;

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faces north, rectangular, abuts adjacent building to the west and is exposed along an alley to the east; storefront with central recessed entrance with double leaf doors and transom flanked to either side by fixed storefront windows on low structural glass clad bulkheads, modern full-width shed canopy across the entire storefront; painted stucco at the upper façade wraps to the east elevation, rear bays of the east elevation are exposed brick set in common bond; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #18 and Photo #20, 3rd from right)

- 13 Warehouse, Not Named 4th St. NW, 413, rear 1950 ca. Contributing One story frame freestanding ancillary warehouse to the rear of Resource #12; rectangular with corrugated metal roof with exposed rafter ends; corrugated metal siding.
- 14. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 414 1900 ca. Noncontributing Extensively altered two-story brick commercial building with a monpoitch roof; rectangular, faces south, abuts buildings to either side; modern blank false front. (Photo #21, 6th from left)
- 15 Warehouse, Not Named 4th St. NW, 414, rear 1950 ca. Contributing One story frame freestanding ancillary warehouse to the rear of Resource #14; rectangular with corrugated metal roof with exposed rafter ends; corrugated metal siding. (Photo #25)
- 16. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 416 1920 ca. Contributing One-story brick Early 20th Century Commercial style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces south, rectangular, abuts an adjacent building to the west and is exposed along an alley to the east; modern storefront (ca. 1975) with an entrance at its east end flanked to the west by a fixed storefront window on a low stone veneered bulkhead, modern continuous shed awning (ca. 1975) across the entire storefront; exposed brick veneer at upper façade with recessed panel and patterned brickwork, exposed brick at side and rear elevations set in common bond; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #23)
- 17 Warehouse, Not Named 4th St. NW, 416, rear 1940 ca. Contributing One story stucco freestanding ancillary warehouse to the rear of Resource #16; rectangular, freestanding, with gable metal roof; 13-bay east façade along alley with a series of now infilled window and door openings, garage door at the north elevation; painted stucco exterior walls; the north portion of the building was constructed circa 1940 and the southern portion was added circa 1950. (Photo #24)
- 18. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 417-21 1900 ca. Contributing One-story stucco late Folk Victorian style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet with clay tile cap and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces north, rectangular, abuts an adjacent building to the east and is exposed along an alley to the west; 3-bay modern storefront (ca. 1990) with two eastern bays representing one retail unit and the western bay another, east storefront has an entrance at its east end flanked to the west by a fixed storefront window on a low brick bulkhead, much of which is covered with wood siding, west storefront has a modern aluminum framed system and a shed fabric awning; painted brick at upper façade with recessed panels and corbelled cap; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #16, 3rd from left; Photo #20, 4th from right)

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- 19. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 423 1900 ca. Noncontributing Extensively altered one-story brick commercial building with a monpoitch roof; rectangular, faces south, abuts adjacent building to the east and extends along an alley to the west; modern blank false front, exposed brick at side elevation set in common bond. (Photo #26, left)
- 20. Stone's Department Store 4th St. NW, 420 1920 ca. Contributing One-story stucco Early 20th Century Commercial style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet with clay tile cap and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces south, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern storefront (ca. 2005) with an entrance to the east flanked to the west by brick infill with a modern aluminum window, exposed wood framing at the transom; exposed brick at the upper façade with recessed sign panel and patterned brickwork; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #26, 2nd from left)
- 21. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 422 1965 ca. Noncontributing Modern one-story concrete block commercial building with a monopitch roof; rectangular, faces south, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; appears to have originally been part of Resource # 23 but is now on a separate parcel. (Photo #26, 3rd from left)
- 22. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 423 1920 ca. Contributing Two-story stucco Early 20th Century Commercial style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces north, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern storefront (ca. 1975) with a central entrance and an entrance at its east end flanked by fixed storefront windows on low bulkheads, modern continuous aluminum shed canopy (ca. 1965) across the entire storefront; 4 aluminum replacement windows (ca. 1965) in rectangular openings at the 2nd floor with slightly projecting brick sills and corner blocks; painted brick at upper façade with decorative cast panels at the parapet; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #7, right; Photo #16, 2nd from left; Photo #17)
- 23. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 424 1965 ca. Noncontributing Modern one-story concrete block commercial building with a monpoitch roof; rectangular, faces south, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; appears to have originally been part of Resource # 21 but is now on a separate parcel. (Photo #26, 4th from left)
- 24. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 426 1940 ca. Noncontributing Extensively altered one-story concrete block commercial building with a monpoitch roof; rectangular, faces south, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern false front at upper façade (ca. 2000). (Photo #26, 5th from left)
- 25. Commercial Building, Not Named 4th St. NW, 428 1920 ca. Contributing One-story brick Early 20th Century Commercial style one-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces south, rectangular, abuts an adjacent building to the west and is exposed to an open lot to the east; modern storefront (ca. 1975) with an entrance at its east end flanked to the west by a fixed storefront window on a stucco bulkhead, modern continuous flat

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canopy (ca. 1975) across the entire storefront; exposed brick at upper façade with recessed panel and patterned brickwork; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #26, 6th from left)

- 26. Restroom Facility, Not Named 4th St. NW, 430 2000 ca. Noncontributing Modern one-story concrete block building with a gable on hipped composition shingle roof roof; rectangular, faces south; building is recessed from the street and there is a modern gazebo in front of it. (Photo #13, left-gazebo and building)
- 27 Highway 278/431 Underpass 5th Ave. NW, 200 block 1936 ca. Contributing Concrete highway underpass allowing traffic to pass under the Southern Railroad tracks; 3 tracks cross a bridge at the center of the structure; concrete sidewalls at underpass with decorative panel details, recessed pedestrian staircases are recessed into the sidewalls on either side of the road to the north and south or the bridge; solid concrete railings with paneled walls. (Photos #11-12)
- 5th Ave. NW, 301 1915 ca. Contributing 28. Bank of Attalla One-story Beaux Arts style one-part form commercial building with a flat roof concealed by flat brick parapets with intermediate balconettes at its facade; faces west, rectangular 1x5 bay core with a historic 1-story flat extension to the rear and a modern (ca. 1985) addition to the north, freestanding; central portion of the façade is recessed between brick cantoned corners and has paired Corinthian columns in antis that flank a central entrance with a pedimented frontispiece surround within a tall arched opening with a transom, small replacement windows with decorative cast hoods are located between each set of columns, the south elevation along 3rd St. NW is similar in design with three full height arched openings with cast surrounds in its central bays with modern aluminum windows below blind blocking and similar small windows between its columns, the rear and west elevations are plain and their lower levels are obscured by the extension and addition; painted brick exterior walls, elaborate molded cornice extends along the façade and south elevation; continuous brick foundation, (Photo #1, right; Photo #2)
- 29. Commercial Building, Not Named 5th Ave. NW, 307 1945 ca. Contributing Two-story brick Early 20th Century Commercial style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces west, rectangular, abuts an adjacent building to north and is exposed along an open lot to the south; modern storefront (ca. 1975) with entrances at either end flanking a fixed storefront window on a low brick bulkhead, modern continuous fabric shed awning across the entire storefront; 2 double synthetic replacement windows (ca. 2010) in rectangular openings at the 2nd level with slightly projecting brick sills and header lintels; painted brick at upper façade with decorative brick patterned panel at the parapet; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #1; 2nd from right; Photo #3, right)
- 30. Commercial Building, Not Named 5th Ave. NW, 309 1895 ca. Noncontributing Extensively altered two-story brick commercial building with a modern gable roof addition; rectangular, faces west, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; replacement windows at upper level and replacement storefront (ca. 2010). (Photo #1, 3rd from right; Photo #3, 2nd from right)

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- 31. Alabama Power Company 5th Ave. NW, 311-313 1929 Contributing Two-story brick Early 20th Century Commercial style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces west, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either; two altered storefronts, each with central entrances flanked to either side by display windows on bulkheads, pedestrian entrance at the south bay of the facade within an arched opening with a modern stone veneer surround; projecting modern box sign across the north storefront below a historic neon Alabama Power Company vertical sign, flat aluminum canopy at the south storefront; 6 steel casement windows within rectangular openings at the 2nd floor; exposed brick veneer at upper façade with decorative brick patterned panel at the parapet with decorative shaped insert that reads "1929"; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #3, 3rd from right; Photo #4)
- 5th Ave. NW, 315 1910 ca. Noncontributing 32. Commercial Building, Not Named Extensively altered two-story brick commercial building with a monpoitch roof; rectangular, faces west, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; replacement windows at upper level, replacement storefront, and modern synthetic stucco finishes at the facade (ca. 2010). (Photo #3, 4th from right)
- 5th Ave. NW. 316 1885 ca. Contributing 33. Commercial Building, Not Named Two-story brick Late Folk Victorian style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces east, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern storefront (ca. 1975) with central aluminum framed entrance with sidelights and transom flanked by fixed storefront windows on stucco bulkheads, continuous flat aluminum canopy across the entire storefront with stucco applied to sign panel above; 4 segmental arched window openings at the 2nd floor with arcaded brick head moldings, windows now infilled with plywood; exposed brick exterior walls with corbelled cornice and parapet decoration; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #7, 6th from right; Photo #9; Photo #10, 4th from left)
- 1915 ca. Contributing 5th Ave. NW, 317-319 34. Commercial Building, Not Named One-story brick Early 20th Century Commercial style one-part form 3-unit commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces west, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern storefront systems in all retail bays, northern bay has an entrance at its south end flanked by a fixed storefront window on a brick bulkhead and a full transom that has been covered, the central storefront is similar in layout but with a tall glass block bulkhead and no transom, the southern storefront has a recessed splayed central entrance bay with fixed storefront windows on composition bulkheads; the northern bay of the façade retains its original painted brick pilasters and parapet details including a molded cornice, remaining bays retain their pilasters but had detailing of their upper facades concealed by applied sidings (ca. 1975); continuous brick foundation. (Photo #3, 5th from right; Photo #6, 4th from left)
- 5th Ave. NW, 318 1890 ca. Contributing 35. Commercial Building, Not Named Two-story brick Late Folk Victorian style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its facade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces east, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; modern storefront (ca. 1970) with a

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recessed entrance flanked by fixed storefront windows on stucco bulkheads to the north flanked by a single entrance and a fixed storefront window on a stucco bulkhead, corbelled band across the entire storefront; 3 segmental arched window openings at the 2nd floor with fixed sheet glazing (ca. 1970); painted brick exterior walls with corbelled cornice at the facade; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #7, 5th from right; Photo #8; Photo #10, 5th from left)

- 36. Commercial Building, Not Named 5th Ave. NW, 320 1955 ca. Contributing Two-story brick International Style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet; faces east, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; aluminum framed storefront with an off center recessed entrance with paired double-leaf doors with a continuous transom flanked by fixed storefront windows on brick veneer bulkheads and with a single entrance at its southern end; 5 banded rectangular aluminum horizontal 2/2 windows at the 2nd floor; exposed brick veneer at the upper facade; concrete slab foundation. (Photo #7, 4th from right; Photo #8; Photo #10, 6th from left)
- 37. Commercial Building, Not Named 5th Ave. NW, 321 1890 ca. Contributing Two-story brick Late Folk Victorian style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade by a flat parapet and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces west, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; storefront with an off-center entrance flanked by fixed storefront windows on a frame bulkheads, 3 transom lights, pedestrian entrance at the south bay separated from the storefront by a brick pillar, full-width exposed iron header atop the storefront; 4 segmental arched window openings at the 2nd floor with rectangular 1/1 double hung sash windows; exposed brick exterior walls with corbelled cornice at the facade; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #3, 6th from right; Photo #6, 3rd from left)
- 1910 ca. Contributing 5th Ave. NW, 325-329 38. Commercial Building, Not Named Two-story brick Late Folk Victorian style two-part form commercial building with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade and at its side elevations with stepped parapets; faces west, rectangular, abuts adjacent buildings to either side; central entrance flanked by cast iron pilasters flanked to the north by a single storefront system and to the south by two storefront systems, northern aluminum framed storefront has an off-center entrance with a transom flanked by fixed storefront windows on low brick bulkheads, center storefront has an entrance at its south with a transom flanked by fixed storefront windows on low brick bulkheads, south storefront has a central entrance with a transom flanked by fixed storefront windows on low brick bulkheads, a thin flat aluminum canopy extends across the northern storefront and a modern metal shed canopy extends across the central entrance and the two southern storefronts, modern (ca. 1975) blank sign panels above; upper level divided by low relief pilasters that rise to a corbelled parapet cap and visually divide the upper façade into five bays, the central bay has a segmental arched opening with a double 1/1 double hung sash window and the outer bays have similar paired single windows; exposed brick upper facade; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #3, 7th from right; Photo #5; Photo #6, 2nd from left)
- 39. Commercial Building, Not Named 5th Ave. NW, 326 1975 ca. Noncontributing Modern or extensively altered two-story commercial building with tall metal mansard roof; rectangular, faces east, abuts adjacent buildings to either side. (Photo #7, 3rd from right)

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- 5th Ave. NW, 328 1916 Contributing 40. Walker's Drug Store Building Two-story brick Early 20th Century Commercial style two-part form commercial building with a modern shed roof (ca. 2000) with metal skirt; faces east, rectangular, abuts an adjacent building to the south and is exposed along 4th Street NW to the north; 2 modern aluminum framed storefront systems (ca. 1965) separated by a tiled pillar, southern system has an entrance at its north side flanked by a fixed storefront window on a low tiled bulkhead, northern unit has a cutaway corner entrance and wraps to the north elevation with a tiled corner pillar and pillars flanking the entrance with fixed storefront windows to either side on low tiled bulkheads, continuous flat metal canopy wraps to the north elevation with transom above at the façade now concealed by metal; 3 triple aluminum replacement windows at the upper level with decorative hoods, similar single and double windows at the north elevation; painted brick at the upper façade with decorative pattern work at the parapet and a central brick sign panel reading "19-WALKER-16"; continuous brick foundation. (Photo #7, 2nd from right; Photo #16, left)
- 41. Commercial Building, Not Named 5th Ave. NW, 331 1960 ca. Contributing One-story stucco Post-War Modern style one-part form commercial building with a flat roof concealed at its façade and a portion of its north elevation by flat metal parapet; faces west, rectangular with a rectangular extension at the rear bays of the north elevation and rear extensions, abuts an adjacent building to the south and fronts along 4th Street NW to the north; storefront with a recessed entrance at its southern bay with a transom flanked by tilted fixed storefront windows on a low brick veneer bulkhead, continuous flat aluminum canopy extends across the entire storefront and wraps to the first bay of the north elevation; brick veneer exterior wall at the north elevation; concrete slab foundation. (Photo #6, left)
- 42. Commercial Building, Not Named 5th Ave. NW, 414 1950 ca. Contributing One-story brick veneer commercial building with a front-facing gable composition shingle roof; faces east, rectangular with a rectangular extension at the rear, freestanding; full façade gable portico with wood posts and raised concrete block deck flanked to either side by fixed display windows on low brick veneer bulkheads; exposed brick veneer exterior walls; concrete slab foundation. (Photo #13, 2nd from right)
- 43. Etowah Theatre 5th Ave. NW, 432 1948 Contributing Two-story brick veneer Art Moderne style motion picture theatre with a monopitch roof concealed at its façade and side elevations by stepped parapets; faces east, rectangular, freestanding; storefront with modern brick infill (ca. 1980) with double leaf doors at its center bays and cast stone decorative panels at its outer bays, full-width metal sign above storefront; upper level has a slightly elevated central area covered with white stone veneer with an inset lower panel of gray stone with 4 infilled windows, outer bays have similar gray stone veneer with a vertical row of 3 low-relief panels in each bay; exposed brick exterior side and rear exterior walls; interior has been gutted and only the roof trusses remain. (Photo #13, right; Photo #14)

Archaeology

An archaeological assessment of the study area was not completed as part of this project. However, given the nature of the area's history, there is potential that subsurface remains could provide additional information about the historical development of the area.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form OMB No. 1024-0018 NPS Form 10-900 Attalla Downtown Historic District Etowah, AL County and State Name of Property 8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.) A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of X. construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes B. Removed from its original location

C. A birthplace or grave

F. A commemorative property

E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

D. A cemetery

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance Enter categories from instructions.) Commerce Architecture Period of Significance	County and State
Enter categories from instructions.) Commerce Architecture Period of Significance	
Commerce Architecture Period of Significance	
Architecture Period of Significance	
Period of Significance	
1005 1000	
ca. 1885-1963	
Significant Dates	
Significant Dates	
N/A	
Significant Person	
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
N/A	
Cultural Affiliation	
Architect/Builder	
Wetmore, James A.	

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Period of Significance (Justification)

The period of significance for the district extends from circa 1885, when its earliest contributing resource was constructed, to 1963, the National Register program's fifty-year cutoff.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Attalla Downtown Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its role as the traditional commercial core of the City of Attalla. It is also locally significant under Criterion C for its collection of architectural styles that are representative of the district's period of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Commerce:

The Attalla Downtown Historic District illustrates the town's commercial development from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century. Founded in 1870, the town developed as a center of rail transportation during the great industrial boom in north Alabama that occurred after the Civil War. The railroads spurred industrial, commercial and residential growth in the community. This growth was supplemented by the presence of iron ore in the area and the construction of a hydroelectric dam on nearby Big Wills Creek in 1913 by W. P. Lay, who later helped to found the Alabama Power Company.

<u>Architecture</u>

The contributing buildings in the Attalla Downtown Historic District reflect the town's historical development from circa 1885 through the mid-20th century. The majority of the district's contributing resources are modest one and two story commercial buildings. Stylistically, most of the resources in the district are loosely based on the prevailing styles popular at the time of their construction: Victorian storefronts that retain decorative corbelled brickwork and other decorative features, early 20th century commercial buildings that are similar in scale and materials but simpler in their architectural detailing, and scattered Post-War Modern style buildings that continued the trend toward streamlined designs with minimal ornamentation.

Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information

The city of Attalla, located at a critical location at a gap in Big Ridge Mountain and Little Wills Valley, developed as a nexus of rail transportation during the great industrial boom in north Alabama after the Civil War. Commercial and residential areas grew up to serve developing industry and rail lines. The discovery of iron ore in the area and the location of an early hydroelectric dam on nearby Big Wills Creek by W. P. Lay, who was later with William Martin to found Alabama Power Company, fixed Attalla as a boomtown in the early 20th century.

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A Native-American village known as Atale "which was of considerable importance during the Creek War" is thought to have been the first settlement of the site. ¹ European-American settlement began around 1830 and a community at this site was first named New Town. Local tradition holds that the settlement was later renamed Newton by Stanton, Cravath, and Stanton, the promoters of the Wills Valley Railroad who were from Newton, Massachusetts. In 1860, they began developing a rail line along the Little Wills Creek but those plans were delayed by the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. The Wills Valley Railroad joined with the North East & South West Railroad in 1868 to create the Alabama and Chattanooga Railway.

"In 1859, John S. Moragne sank what was probably the first iron ore shaft in northeast Alabama" in what was to be the city of Attalla. Morange exported the first iron ore from the state in 1871, shipping it by rail to Wheeling, West Virginia. "In the late 1880s, Attalla was noted as being the largest iron ore shipping point in the state. At first, the ore was hauled from the mines by horse drawn wagon and piled at the corner of Fifth Avenue and the Alabama Great Southern Railroad. It was probably loaded on the train by men wielding shovels, then shipped to furnaces in Chattanooga and Birmingham, and finally taken to Gadsden furnaces."

The present town was developed on land donated by W.C. Hammond in 1870 and its name was changed to Attalla when the town's post office was established, as another Alabama post office with the name Newton already existed. The founding coincided with the completion of the Alabama Chattanooga Railroad in 1870 that ran from Chattanooga to Meridian, Mississippi. "Atalla" is shown on Asher and Adams 1872 map of Georgia and Alabama. The town was officially incorporated on February 5, 1872 with 300 residents.

According to a nomination form prepared for the downtown area for the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage:

The area developed quickly and, by the late 1880s, it was the third largest rail center in Alabama, with 22 passenger trains entering or leaving daily, as well as 36 freight trains on a daily schedule. The city had also become the largest ore shipping point in the state. The commercial area grew up near the railroads, with groceries and dry goods readily available, and buildings providing services like tailors and banks. An article in the Attalla Herald in 1893 read, "Attalla is a city made by the railroads. It grew because it had to grow, and the railroads came because they had to, and will have to come, to get away from the mountains. It's destiny is fixed by location and it's people are alive to the fact and the active bustling town is a living example of present prosperity."

The downtown suffered major fires in 1887 and 1891. Prior to these fires, most of the town's buildings were of frame construction. Afterward, all of the buildings in the downtown were constructed of masonry.

³ Martin, Will I., <u>Gadsden Times</u>, January 23, 1953.

⁵ Owen, ibid.

¹ Owen, Thomas MacAdory, <u>History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography</u> (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1921), p. 72.

² Owen ihid

⁴ Asher and Allen, Asher & Adams' Georgia and Alabama (New York: Asher & Adams, 1872)

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The Alabama Register nomination continues:

In 1902, the first street light in the country that was powered by hydroelectric power was lit in Attalla. This was an idea of Captain W. P. Lay, who built a hydroelectric dam on Big Wills Creek roughly two miles from the heart of Attalla. Lay's crew strung a wire from the dam to downtown Attalla, nailing insulators to trees, pulling the line to a pole at the corner of 4th Street and 5th Avenue. The wire was connected to a light bulb on top of the pole, and lit, to prove the possibility and efficacy of streetlights. The event has had a long lasting effect for Attalla, however, as Lay decreed that as the first place with electric streetlights, that electricity should be provided for streetlights for free, forever. To this day, electricity for streetlights is free in Attalla by the company Lay founded, Alabama Power Company.

Lay was a third generation riverboat captain who saw the energy of the rivers as the source for potential prosperity in Alabama. He had congressional approval to build a dam near lock 12 on the Coosa River, but lacked the capital to realize his dreams. Lay joined with James Mitchell and William Martin to found Alabama Power in Gadsden on December 4, 1906. Lay's intimate knowledge of the rivers of Alabama gave him the knowledge about the most effective places to locate dams. Martin's political acuity and Mitchell's connection to the financial markets in London made the men uniquely qualified to develop Alabama's resources at a time when most people in the state were farmers and 90% of the residents had no electric power. Alabama Power moved their headquarters to Birmingham in 1925.

Between 1888 and 1916, the town's population grew tenfold, from 400 to 4,000.⁶ By the early 20th century, the town could boast of considerable industrial development, including "a pipe works; hosiery mill; 50 coke ovens, 2 cotton ginneries; 2 cotton compresses, one operated by electricity; 2 marble yards; a foundry, 2 stave and heading mills; 1 cottonseed oil mill; 1 grain and mixed feed mill; ore and coal mines; marble and sandstone quarries; ice plant; waterworks; and electric light and power plants owned by the city, but leased to and operated by Alabama Power Co."

Industrial production in the area grew during World War II and Attalla's population again rose sharply between 1940 and 1952, from 4,585 to 7,537. The Etowah Theatre (Resource #43) was constructed in 1948 and replaced the older Liberty Theatre at 430 4th Street NW. Industrial production gradually declined after the war, as did the city's strategic value as a rail center. As a result, Attalla has now largely become a smaller bedroom community to the nearby larger city of Gadsden.

Architecture

⁶ Owen, ibid.

⁷ Owen, ibid.

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The contributing buildings in the Attalla Downtown Historic District reflect the town's historical development from circa 1885 through the mid-20th Century. Stylistically, buildings within the district are representative of major architectural styles and common folk forms typically constructed during the district's period of significance. Commercial buildings in the district are typically simple in design and detailing. Most of the district's commercial buildings are constructed of brick and are one or two stories in height.

Buildings that represent specific architectural styles include the Colonial Revival style U.S. Post Office (Resource #4, photo #19; photo #20, right), the Bank of Attalla (now Wells Fargo) at 301 5th Avenue NW (Resource #28, photo #1, right; photo #2), an International Style commercial building at 320 5th Avenue NW (Resource #36, photo #7, 4th from right; photo #8; photo #10, 6th from left), and the Art Moderne style Etowah Theatre (Resource #43, photo #13, 3rd from right; photo #14).

A number of buildings in the district are representative of the latter period of the Folk Victorian style typified by corbelled cornices and other decorative elements that are typical of the various Victorian architectural styles. Examples include: the commercial building at 316 5th Avenue NW (Resource #33, photo #7, 6th from right; photo #9; photo #10, 4th from left), the commercial building at 318 5th Avenue NW (Resource #35, photo #7, 5th from right; photo #8; photo #10, 5th from left), the commercial building at 321 5th Avenue NW (Resource #37, photo #3, 6th from right; photo #6, 3rd from left), and the commercial building at 325-329 5th Avenue NW (Resource #38, photo #3, 7th from right; photo #5; photo #6, 2nd from left).

Many of the district's buildings are examples of the Early Twentieth Century Commercial style. These buildings are somewhat more restrained in their architectural detail from those of the Folk Victorian era and typically have shaped or stepped parapets and often patterned brickwork at their upper facades. Representative examples include: commercial building at 416 4th Street NW (Resource #16, photo #23), the Alabama Power Company Building (Resource #31, photo #3, 3rd from right; photo #4), the commercial building at 317-319 5th Avenue NW (Resource #34, photo #3, 5th from right; photo #6, 4th from left), and the commercial building at 328 5th Avenue NW (Resource #40, photo #7, 2nd from right; photo #16, left).

Several commercial buildings are consistent with the Post War Modern style. These buildings are typically quite austere in their use of ornamentation, typically relying on broad expanses of glass or plain wall surfaces and often signage to define their architectural character. Two representative examples include the commercial buildings at 309 4th Street NW (Resource #3, photo #27) and 331 5th Avenue NW (resource #41, photo #13, 2nd from right).

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National Park Service / National	Register of Historic Places Registration Form
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Attalla Downtown Historic District

Name of Property

Etowah, AL	
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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- Bob Scarboro, Bob and Mike Goodson. <u>Etowah County</u>. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1998.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

ne of Property		L'OLIDIV AND STATE
		County and State
previously listed in the previously determine designated a National recorded by Historic recorded by Historic	d eligible by the National Register	
Primary location of addit	ional data:	
X State Historic Preserv		
Other State agency	vacion Office	
Federal agency		
Local government		
University		
Other		
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Name of repository: Historic Resources Surve 10. Geographical Data	ey Number (if assigned):	
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Attalla Downtown Historic District Name of Property		-		Etowah, AL County and State
1. Zone: 16	Easting:	583923	Northing:	3764929
2. Zone: 16	Easting:	584183	Northing:	3764904
3. Zone: 16	Easting:	584356	Northing:	3764555
4. Zone: 16	Easting:	538931	Northing:	3764695

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Attalla Downtown Historic District are indicated on an accompanying scaled map. The map was based on information obtained from U.S.G.S. topographic maps, the county tax assessor, and U.S.G.S. satellite images.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the central portions of the city of Attalla that retain sufficient integrity to convey a sense of the historic time and place of the district.

11. Form Prepa	rea By				
organization:	David B. Schneider (re Schneider Historic Pre : 411 E. 6 th Street		Enzweile	er, AHC NR C	oordinator)
city or town: e-mail	Anniston dbschneider@bellse	state: outh.net	AL	zip code:	36207
	256-310-6320 August 19, 2013				

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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• Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Attalla Downtown Historic District

City or Vicinity: Attalla

County: Etowah State: AL

Photographer: David B. Schneider

Date Photographed: June 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0001) 5th Avenue NW streetscape, 300 block, east side, camera facing northeast

Photo #2 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0002) Bank of Attalla, resource #28, camera facing north

Photo #3 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0003) 5th Avenue NW streetscape, 300 block, east side, camera facing north

Photo #4 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0004)
Alabama Power Company, resource #31, camera facing northeast

Photo #5 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0005)
Commercial Building, Not Named, resource #38, camera facing northeast

Photo #6 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0006)
5th Avenue NW streetscape, 300 block, east side, camera facing southeast

Photo #7 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0007)
5th Avenue NW streetscape, 300 block, west side, camera facing south

Photo #8 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0008)
Commercial Building, Not Named, resource #36, camera facing south

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Photo #9 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0009)
Commercial Building, Not Named, resource #33, camera facing west

Photo #10 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0010) 5th Avenue NW streetscape, 300 block, west side, camera fac. NW (note: district begins 4th bld. fr. left)

Photo #11 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0011)
Highway 278/431 Underpass, resource #27, camera facing southeast

Photo #12 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0012)
Highway 278/431 Underpass, resource #27, camera facing northeast

Photo #13 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0013) 5th Avenue NW streetscape, 400 block, west side, camera facing west

Photo #14 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0014) Etowah Theatre, resource #43, camera facing southwest

Photo #15 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0015) 5th Avenue NW streetscape, 400 and 300 (rear) blocks, camera facing southeast

Photo #16 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0016)
4th Street NW streetscape, 400 block, south side, camera facing southwest

Photo #17 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0017)
Commercial Building, Not Named, resource #22, camera facing southeast

Photo #18 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0018)
Commercial Building, Not Named, resource #12, camera facing south

Photo #19 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0019) U.S. Post Office, resource #4, camera facing southeast

Photo #20 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0020)
4th Street NW streetscape, 400 block, south side, camera facing east

Photo #21 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0021) 4th Street NW streetscape, 400 block, north side, camera facing northeast

Photo #22 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0022) 4th Street NW streetscape, 400 block, camera facing northeast

Photo #23 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0023)
Commercial Building, Not Named, resource #16, camera facing northwest

Photo #24 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0024)
Warehouse, Not Named, resource #17, camera facing south

Photo #25 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0025)

Attalla Downtown Historic District	
Name of Property	

Etowah, AL County and State

Ancillary Building to Resource #15, camera facing east

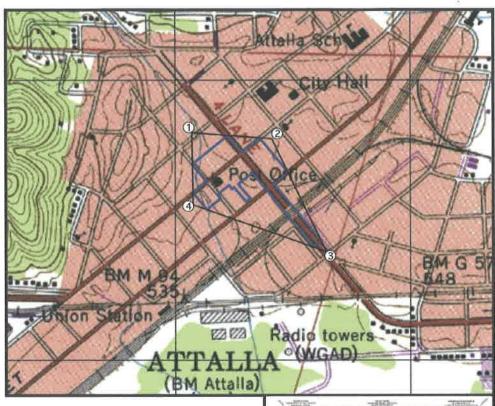
Photo #26 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0026)
4th Street NW streetscape, 400 block, north side, camera facing northeast

Photo #27 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0027)
Commercial Building, Not Named, resource #3, camera facing south

Photo #28 (AL_EtowahCo_AttallaDowntownHD_0028) Garage, Not Named, resource #1, camera facing north

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



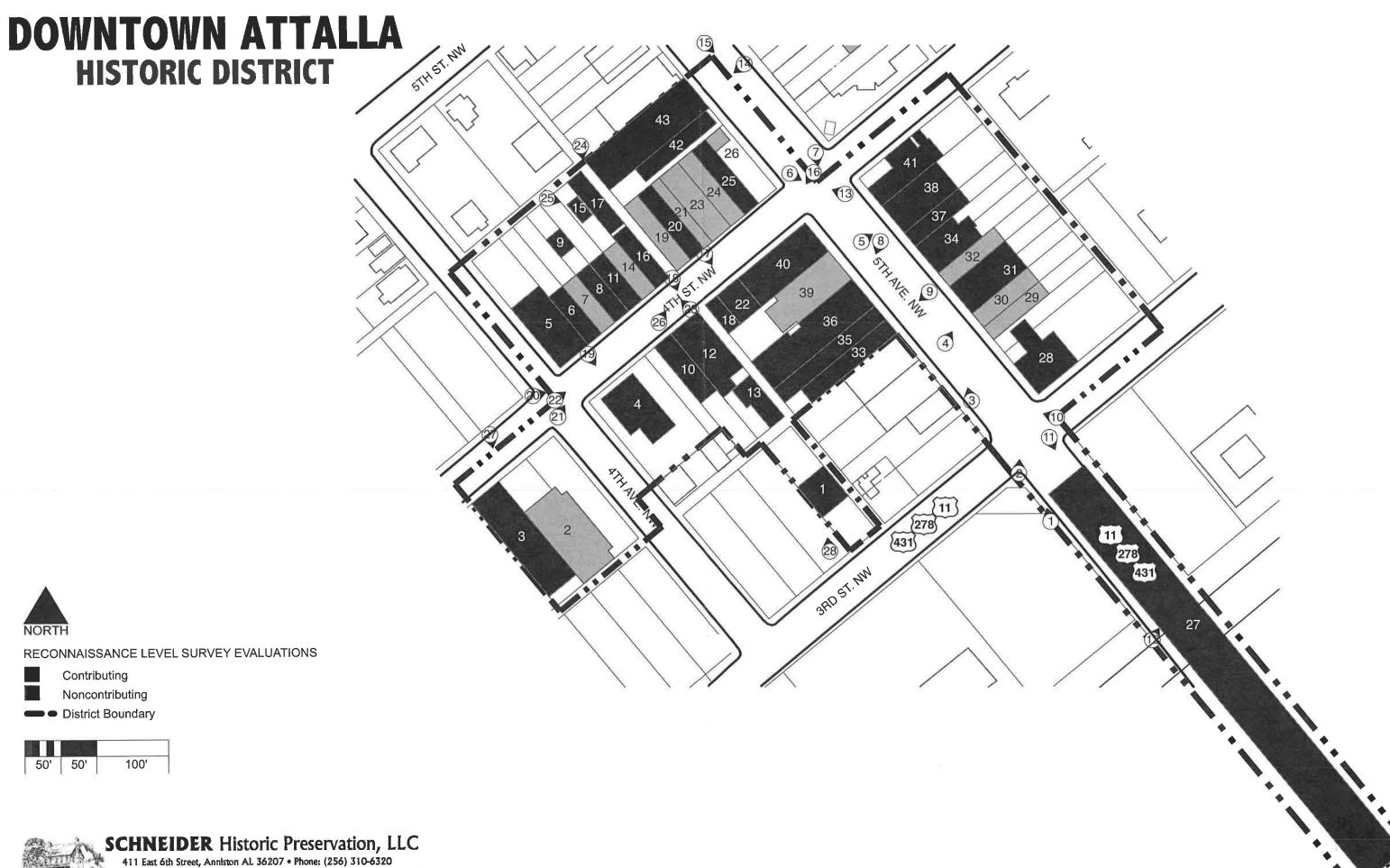
U.S.G.S. Topographic Map Gadsden West Quadrangle

Zone Easting Northing
1 16 583923 3764929
2 16 584183 3764904
3 16 584356 3764555
4 16 538931 3764695



DOWNTOWN ATTALLA HISTORIC DISTRICT 39 36 RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY EVALUATIONS Contributing Noncontributing District Boundary 50' 50' 100' SCHNEIDER Historic Preservation, LLC
411 East 6th Street, Anniston AL 36207 • Phone: (256) 310-6320
Fax: (334) 323-5631 • e-mall: dbschnelder@bellsouth.net

www.shphistoric.com



F11 East 6th Street, Anniston AL 36207 • Phone: (256) 310-6320 Fax: (334) 323-5631 • e-mall: dbschnelder@bellsouth.net www.shphistoric.com



