

## Hapeville Historic District Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

**ATLANTA (October 28, 2009)** – The Hapeville Historic District, located in Hapeville, Fulton County, Georgia, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on October 14, 2009. The nomination was sponsored by the City of Hapeville. Nomination materials were prepared by the city and by members of the Hapeville Historical Society.

Hapeville was established in 1875 after Dr. Samuel Hape persuaded the Central Railroad and Banking Company of Georgia to establish a flag stop in the town. The city's growth has always been directly related to transportation and industrial developments. Streetcar lines connected the city to neighboring Atlanta during the early 20th century. Hapeville grew quickly after 1917 when Central Avenue was designated as U.S. Highway 41. The development of the Atlanta airport began in 1925 and over the following decades major regional and national carriers such as Delta located their headquarters in Hapeville. Local businesses flourished following the opening of the Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant in 1947. Between the late 1940s and early 1960s, two federal interstates (I-75 and I-85) were constructed around the city and disconnected portions of its historic boundaries. During this period the city prospered from the influx of blue-collar manufacturing and white-collar airport jobs that contributed to an expansion in new housing construction. Between 1967 and 1970, airport expansion destroyed more than 400 houses once located south of Oak Street.

The Hapeville Historic District is bounded by I-75 to the east, Mt. Zion Road to the north, I-85 to the west, streets north of Airport Loop Road and north of Oak Street, and a noncontiguous section west of I-85 along Cofield Drive. The district was listed in the National Register as significant for its commercial, residential, and community landmark buildings that are representative of architectural styles and types built in Georgia cities from the end of the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. Hapeville's significance is derived not only from its architecture, but also from the role the downtown commercial center played in its development and from the role transportation played in Hapeville's growth. The commercial district, which is composed of one- and two-story attached brick buildings on both sides of the railroad corridor and Central Avenue (U.S. 41), was established mostly between 1903 and 1930. This area includes the railroad depot (1890) and the Masonic Lodge (1903)—the city's first brick building. A second commercial district developed perpendicular to Central Avenue along Stewart Avenue (now Dogwood Drive) during the mid-20th century and features small automobile-oriented businesses.

The largest part of the district is a series of residential neighborhoods developed between 1917 and the early 1960s located primarily to the northeast of Central Avenue. These neighborhoods have houses designed in the Folk Victorian, Queen Anne, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, English

Vernacular Revival, and Classical Revival styles. House types popular throughout the state were built in Hapeville, including the Central Hall, Queen Anne, Gabled Wing, Bungalow, American Small House, Split Level, and Ranch house. The city also has a half-dozen mid-century apartment complexes that contain a number of two-story buildings arranged in a courtyard manner.

Community landmark buildings include the First United Methodist Church (1929: designed by the architectural firm Hentz, Adler, and Shutze), North Avenue School (1929: designed by architect Philip Shutze), post office (1940: built using Depression-era federal assistance and designed by architect Louis A. Simon), city hall complex (1950), United Auto Workers, Local 882, Union Hall (1955), and Josephine Wells Elementary School (1956: designed by architect A. Thomas Bradbury). A city park was built during the Great Depression using federal assistance. The architectural firm of Stevens and Wilkinson designed a library in 1974 in the West Coast “geometric” style.

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. For more information, please visit [www.gashpo.org](http://www.gashpo.org) or contact Gretchen Brock, National Register coordinator, at 404-651-6782 or [gretchen.brock@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:gretchen.brock@dnr.state.ga.us).

*The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Their 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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