COMMERCIAL TYPES IN GEORGIA

Community Store

Still a familiar part of rural Georgia scenery, community stores are also found in residential neighborhoods and on the fringes of small towns. Commonly built between the 1890s and the 1930s, community stores were typically general merchandise stores, front-gabled with covered porches and sometimes parapet roofs. The storefronts were normally symmetrical—a central entrance flanked by windows—and the sides were typically lighted with small windows toward the top, above the shelves lining the interior.

Corner Store

The urban equivalent to the community store, corner stores were usually general merchandise or grocery stores. Built mostly from 1900 through the 1940s in residential or mixed use neighborhoods, they were oriented toward street corners by way of angled corner entries. Corner stores were most often detached buildings.

Retail & Office

The single most common commercial type in Georgia, the retail & office type was successful because of the combination of retail space on the street level and rental office space above. Built mostly in the 1880s through the 1930s, this type was typically 2- to 4-stories high with flat or sloped roofs, built either as single units standing alone or as multiple units with party walls. The type was popular in small towns to large cities and even, surprisingly, in some crossroads communities.

Single Retail

Serving a wide variety of retail uses, the single retail type is a single unit built either standing alone or next to others. Built mostly in the 1880s through the 1950s in small to large towns, single retail buildings had flat or sloping roofs and usually 3-bay facades.
Multiple Retail

In this commercial type, two or more identical retail units were built together for rental income. One story high with flat or sloping roofs and identical facades and storefronts, usually 3-bay, multiple retail buildings were built mostly in the 1910s through the 1950s in small towns or urban settings.

Tall office buildings construction was almost limited to the largest cities, and even there, they did not form many dense districts. Typically six or more stories high with retail space at ground level, historic office towers were built mostly in the 1910s through the 1920s.