

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

other name/site number DAOB 76-78, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 89-98 and 151-209

2. Location

street & number between Frederica and Clay streets and 2nd and 4th streets ☐ N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Owensboro

☒ vicinity

state Kentucky code KY county Daviess code 059 zip code 42303

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

David L. Morgan, SHPO

Date

Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal Agency and bureau

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.  
☐ removed from the National Register.  
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

for Daniel J. Viscia 7/26/05

Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District  
Name of Property

Daviess Co., Kentucky  
County and State

## 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

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
25	13	buildings
3		sites
		structures
		objects
28	13	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA) and  
Owensboro Historic Commercial District

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

29

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE / department store  
COMMERCE/TRADE / specialty store  
COMMERCE/TRADE / financial institution  
COMMERCE/TRADE / business  
COMMERCE/TRADE / professional  
COMMERCE/TRADE / restaurant  
GOVERNMENT / courthouse  
RELIGION / religious facility  
SOCIAL / meeting hall  
LANDSCAPE / plaza  
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION / manufacturing

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT / courthouse  
SOCIAL / meeting hall  
COMMERCE /TRADE / specialty store  
COMMERCE/TRADE / restaurant  
COMMERCE/TRADE / professional  
COMMERCE/TRADE / business  
RELIGION / religious facility  
LANDSCAPE / parking lot  
LANDSCAPE / plaza

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian  
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  
walls Brick, Metal, Iron  
roof  
other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see attached sheets

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

**Section 7, continued**

**Description of the District**

*(Numbers in parentheses correspond to building numbers on Map 2)*

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District, located in Daviess County, Kentucky, comprises the core of the city's original business district. The district includes all or parts of twelve city blocks contained within an area bounded by Veterans Blvd. on the north, Fourth Street on the south, Frederica Street on the west, and Clay Street on the east (Map 2). The district connects two existing National Register Districts, the Owensboro Historic Commercial District<sup>1</sup> and the Doctor's Row Historic District (Historic Resources of Owensboro Multiple Resource Area) (Maps 3 and 4).<sup>2</sup> It also incorporates three individual structures listed as part of the Historic Resources of Owensboro Multiple Resource Area (Map 6). In all, twenty-nine of the contributing buildings in the Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District have been previously listed in the National Register.

The proposed district incorporates areas of Owensboro's historic commercial district that have not previously been surveyed. Some of these areas, especially Second Street east of J. R. Miller Blvd. and Third Street, contain buildings that have become eligible for the National Register in the years that have elapsed since the Owensboro Historic Commercial District was listed in 1982.

*Previous Nominations*

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District encompasses the three-block area of Second Street between St. Ann and J. R. Miller Blvd. (then Lewis St.) listed in 1982 as the Owensboro Historic Commercial District (Maps 3 and 6). The district encompassed 43 buildings, of which 31 were contributing elements.

Ten of the district's contributing buildings are no longer standing. The Owensboro Savings Bank/Walgreen Building on the southeast corner of St. Ann and West Second was razed in the 1980s. In the late 1980s five contributing buildings on the south side of the 100 block of East Second were razed to accommodate construction of the new Daviess County Judicial Center and adjacent parking. Between 1982 and 1985, the First Baptist Church razed three contributing buildings on the south side of Second Street between Daviess and J. R. Miller Boulevard to facilitate the construction of a Christian Life Center and adjacent parking. One contributing building on the north side of East Second Street between Daviess Street and J. R. Miller Blvd. was removed in

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the early 1990s for the construction of RiverPark Center (Maps 2 and 3).

Twenty-two of the currently extant buildings along Second Street between St. Ann and J. R. Miller Blvd. were listed as contributing buildings to the 1982 nomination (Map 3 and 6). All but two of those buildings, 100 W. Second Street (34) and 117 W. Second Street (4) contribute to this nomination. 100 W. Second Street was substantially altered in the mid-1980s. The façade of 117 W. Second Street has also been altered. The Geo. Schmuck Building (14) was classified as a non-contributing building in the 1982 district. The absence of survey forms, building descriptions, and photographs of the building make it difficult to assess the reason for its exclusion. The façade, which may have been covered in 1982, is intact and the building is a contributing element to this nomination.

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District also includes nine buildings listed as part of the Historic Resources of Owensboro Multiple Resource Area in 1985. Six of those buildings, on St. Ann, Fourth, and Frederica streets (44 through 49 on Map 2), comprise the Doctor's Row Historic District (Maps 4 and 6). Three individual buildings, the I.O.O.F. Building, 200 W. Third Street (59); Briedenbach Building, 208 W. Third Street (58); and Geo. Mischel & Sons Building, 412-414 E. Second Street (28); were also listed as part of that nomination (Map 6). All of those buildings are extant and contribute to this nomination.

*The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District*

The district includes the Courthouse Square, designated as such on the 1817 plan of the city, and around which commercial development was initially concentrated. Frederica Street, which ends at the Ohio River, has been the principal north-south street since Owensboro was founded and the city's first concentrated commercial development occurred along its length and on those streets adjacent to the courthouse square. Second Street developed fully as a commercial district between 1870 and 1910. Commercial development along Third Street was somewhat later, between about 1900 and 1935. Commercial development on Fourth Street was limited to the block east of Frederica. The surviving late 19<sup>th</sup> century residences adjacent to ca. 1900 commercial structures on that block attest to the spread of commercial development as the city grew beyond the original business district.

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District is located on and near the principal transportation routes that served the city. The first was the Ohio River; its banks located just



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north of Veterans Blvd., less than two blocks north of Second Street. When constructed, the railroad ran from the Ohio River south along Lewis Street, now J. R. Miller Blvd. Commercial buildings never occupied the still vacant lots on either side of Lewis between the riverfront and Second Street. In the mid-1920s, when first designated, US 60 entered Owensboro on Second Street. It remained the route of US 60 until the by-pass was completed in 1971. The Ohio River Bridge, which enters the city at J. R. Miller Blvd., was constructed in 1938. Its completion enlarged still further the geographic area served by Owensboro's commercial district and contributed to its growth.

The district includes (roughly) the buildings that front on both sides of Second Street between St. Ann and Clay; both sides of Third Street between Frederica and St. Ann; the north side of Third Street between St. Ann and J. R. Miller Blvd.; the north side of Fourth Street between Frederica and St. Ann; the east side of Frederica between Second and Fourth; both sides of St. Ann between Second and Third; the west side of St. Ann between Third and Fourth; both sides of Allen between Second and Third; and both sides of Daviess between Second and Third (Map 2).

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District is composed of 70 resources: 67 buildings and 3 sites, of which 54 buildings and 3 sites contribute to the district's sense of time and place. The buildings designated as noncontributing are those constructed after 1954 and those constructed earlier that have been so altered that they have lost their integrity as historic structures. The contributing buildings have retained their original appearance to a large degree. Forty-seven of the 54 buildings that contribute to the district (87%) have had little or no alteration. Of that number, 38 buildings have had no discernable change made to their appearance. On these buildings, the street level storefront has retained its original configuration, although the doors and windows may have been replaced; the upper levels exhibit their original fabric and the size and placement of the window openings has not been altered. The street level storefronts of nine of the buildings have been altered to some degree but their upper level(s) are intact. The remaining seven contributing buildings have had some alteration but their historic appearance is readily discernible. Three have intact street level storefronts but the windows on the second floor have been downsized. In all three buildings the original window openings are still clearly visible on the upper levels. Two of the buildings have been divided and each half is owned by a different party. In each case, one half of the building is intact and the other half has been altered to some degree. The west half of the *Inquirer Building* (64) has had little or no alteration. The elaborate cast iron façade is intact. The storefront of the east half of the building retains its original con-

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figuration but the upper façade of the building is covered in aluminum. Similarly, the west half of 210-212 W. Third Street (42) has had little or no alteration. The second story windows on the east half of the building are in their original position but have been downsized, framed, and a shingle overhang installed. The storefront has been modified. The remaining two buildings, 209 W. Fourth (48) and 221 Allen St. (68), have had alterations made to the façade but the original pattern is still clearly defined and many architectural and decorative details are intact. 209 W. Fourth St. has not been altered since it was listed as part of the Doctor's Row Historic District in the 1985 Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA).

Three sites are also considered as contributing to the district. The present Courthouse Square (53) is the same as that designated in the original plan for the city approved in 1817. It has been a traditional gathering place for the citizens of Owensboro since its beginnings and was the focal point around which the commercial district initially developed. The two remaining sites, 217-227 E. Second St. (22) and 303 E. Second St. (23), both on the north side of East Second Street, are on the west and east side of J. R. Miller Blvd., respectively. Both sites are adjacent to and associated with the development of the railroad, which ran down what is now J. R. Miller Blvd. to a depot and wharf on the banks of the Ohio River.

Most of the buildings in the district are one-and two-story brick buildings constructed between about 1881 and 1935. One building in the district, The Werner Smith (name missing) Glover Building (39), is believed to have been constructed ca. 1850. The most recent contributing building in the district is the Sears, Roebuck & Co. building, completed in 1950. An addition to the 1888 S. W. Anderson Co. building, completed in 1953, marks the end of the period of significance in the district. The buildings in the district exhibit many styles including Italianate, high Victorian revivals, Greek Revival, and Art Deco. Many of the more recent contributing buildings in the district, those constructed after 1930, are simple in style and exhibit few if any decorative flourishes.

Table 1 lists the contributing and non-contributing buildings and sites in the Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District and their National Register status at the time this nomination was prepared.

The limits of the proposed district are based on the traditional limits of the commercial district and the integrity of that area. The twelve blocks that comprise the district represent the majority

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Table 1

Map 2 Number	DAOB <sup>1</sup>	Historic Name	Date	Address	C/NC <sup>2</sup>	Previous NR <sup>3</sup>
1	167	The Louisville Store	ca. 1925	125 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
2	166	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1925	121-123 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
3	165	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	119 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	NC	1982 (NC)
4	164	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	117 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	NC	1982 (C)
5	163	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	115 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	NC	1982 (NC)
6	162	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	111 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	NC	1982 (NC)
7	161	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	109 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	NC	1982 (NC)
8	160	Commercial Bldg.	1890	105-107 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
9	93	Owensboro Savings Bank	ca. 1883	101 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
10	96	Newberry-Wile Bldg.	1888	101 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
11	97	Solomon Wile Bldg.	1881	105 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
12	159	Solomon Wile Bldg.	1881	107 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
13	158	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1890	109 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
14	157	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	111 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (NC)
15	156	Geo. Schmuck Bldg.	1912	113 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
16	155	Salm's Bldg.	ca. 1905	115-119 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
17	154	McAtee, Lyddane & Ray	1910	121 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
18	153	RiverPark Center	ca. 1995	101 Daviess St.	NC	
19	98	Miller Bldg.	1887	207-211 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)

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Map 2 Number	DAOB	Historic Name	Date	Address	C/NC	Previous NR
20	152	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	213 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
21	151	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	215 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
22	209	Open space	Since 1910	217-227 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
23	206	Open space/vacant lot	Since 1885	303 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
24	101	J. W. Barr Co.	ca. 1885	319 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
25	204	Wright Machine Co.	ca. 1905	321 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
26	203	Wright Machine Co.	ca. 1910	402 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
27	201	Progress Printing	ca. 1885	409 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
28	102	Geo. Mischel & Sons	ca. 1890	412-414 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1985
29	208	Owensboro Coca Cola Bottling Co.	ca 1925	400 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
30	207	Sears, Roebuck & Co.	1950	312 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	
31	82	First Baptist Church	1925	230 J. R. Miller Blvd.	NC	
32	173	S. W. Anderson Co.	1888	122 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
33	172	Daviess Co. Judicial Ctr.	1990	100 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	NC	
34	171	Commercial Bldg.	1915	100 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	NC	1982 (C)
35	170	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1930	102 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
36	169	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1930	104-106 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
37	168	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1885	108 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
38	92	Arnold Bldg.	1888	112 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)
39	91	Werner Smith ____ Glover Bldg.	ca. 1850	116-122 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> St.	C	1982 (C)



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Map 2 Number	DAOB	Historic Name	Date	Address	C/NC	Previous NR
40	185	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1890	215 St. Ann St.	NC	
41	184	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1890	221 S. Ann St.	C	
42	89	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1890	223-225 St. Ann St.	C	
43	183	Masonic Lodge	1912	227 St. Ann St.	C	
44	199	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	324-326 St. Ann St.	C	1985
45	198	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1905	201-203 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	C	1985
46	197	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1905	205 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	C	1985
47	76	Residence/Office	ca. 1900	207 W 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	C	1985
48	77	Residence/Office	ca. 1900	209 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> St.	C	1985
49	78	Commercial Bldg.	1893	335 Frederica St.	C	1985
50	196	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	333 Frederica St.	C	
51	193	Commercial Bldg.	1986	313 Frederica St.	NC	
52	191	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	305 Frederica	C	
53	88	Courthouse Square	since 1817		C	
54	88	Daviess Co. Courthouse	1963	Courthouse Square	NC	
55	189	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1925	218 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
56	188	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1910	214-216 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
57	187	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1925	210-212 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
58	87	Briedenbach Bldg.	1890	208 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	1985
59	86	I.O.O.F. Bldg.	1895	200 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	1985

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Map 2 Number	DAOB	Historic Name	Date	Address	C/NC	Previous NR
60	181	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	111 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
61	180	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	109 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
62	179	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	107 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
63	178	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	105 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
64	84	<i>The Inquirer</i> Bldg.	1889	101-103 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
65	177	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	222 Allen St.	NC	
66	176	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	210 Allen St.	C	
67	95	Mischel Marble Works	ca. 1900	217 Allen St.	C	
68	175	Commercial Bldg.	ca. 1900	221 Allen St.	C	
69	83	Owensboro Plumbing & Heating Co.	ca. 1900	111 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	
70	174	Gant & Butterfield	ca. 1925	115-117 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> St.	C	

1. Site number assigned by the Kentucky Heritage Council. DAOB is the prefix for sites recorded in Owensboro.
2. C: contributing element to this nomination, NC: non-contributing element to this nomination.
3. 1982: Owensboro Historic Commercial District National Register Nomination, Charlotte Worsham, 1982. (C): contributing element to that nomination, (NC): non-contributing element to that nomination.  
1985: Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA) National Register Nomination, Glenda Thacker, 1985.

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of the area that made up Owensboro's commercial district in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The north side of Second Street between St. Ann and Frederica and the west side of Frederica between Second and Fourth, which were part of the original commercial district, do not retain enough integrity to be included. The area between the buildings that front on Second Street and the Ohio River was not part of the commercial district but was an area of wharves, stockyards, warehouses, and tobacco stemmeries. Second Street east of Clay Street was and is a warehouse district. Third Street east of Crittenden is residential, as is most of the area south of Fourth Street, although more recent commercial development has intruded into some traditionally residential areas. The blocks south of Third Street between St. Ann and J. R. Miller Blvd. contain large open areas with scattered and recent commercial and city government buildings.

**Integrity**

Integrity of location, setting, design, materials, association, and feeling are necessary if the district is to convey a sense of the development of commerce in Owensboro and the changes that occurred during the period of significance, 1850-1953. In spite of the changes that have taken place, the Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District conveys a strong sense of the historic environment through its historic buildings, their arrangement in relation to one another, and as a whole.

The district has integrity of location and setting. The district developed along the streets laid out in the original plan of the city, which was approved by the General Assembly in 1817. The Daviess County Courthouse is still located on the block designated as the public square in that plan. The business district initially developed along the streets adjacent to the courthouse square. Once those streets were occupied, the district spread to the east, development to the west being hindered by a deep ravine. Development first occurred along Second Street and later Third Street. This pattern of development is evident today. The area south of the district still contains churches, city buildings, and residences. On Second Street east of Clay Street are historic warehouse buildings. The street plan of the district has not been altered. The location of the thoroughfares, their relationships to each other and to the buildings that border them are intact. The relationship and orientation of the district to its principal natural feature, the Ohio River, has not changed. The river dictated the orientation of the streets in the city plan, not a compass. The east-west streets were laid parallel to the river, rather than on a strict compass alignment. The north-south streets are perpendicular to those that parallel the river. The Ohio River remains a dominant feature. The river is not hidden from view behind a floodwall but is visible from most of the north/south

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oriented streets in the district.

The contributing buildings in the district demonstrate integrity of design and materials, having retained their original scale, architectural details, and patterns of fenestration. The great majority of buildings in the district retain intact upper story facades. Many buildings have retained the design of the original street level storefronts featuring recessed entries flanked by display windows. Many of the major retail buildings most identified with the downtown, including The Louisville Store, McAtee, Lyddane and Ray, S. W. Anderson Co., the Solomon Wile buildings, the Salm's Building, and Sears, Roebuck & Co., have had little or no alteration. The two major social buildings, the I.O.O. F Building and Masonic Lodge, have also undergone no substantial alteration. The same is true for the less ornate and more recently constructed buildings. Eighty-seven percent of the contributing buildings in the district have had little or no alteration. The broad ranges of architectural styles are indicative of the years during which the district developed. Cast iron storefronts, Beaux-Arts, Italianate, Art Deco, and various revival styles can be seen throughout the district. The structures on the principal commercial streets, Frederica, Second, and Third, attest to their role in the development of the district. The most recent contributing building, the Sears, Roebuck & Co. building, built in 1950, reflects modern department store design, demonstrating that Owensboro's commercial center changed over time.

The more recently constructed non-contributing buildings in the district, RiverPark Center, the additions to the First Baptist Church, and the Daviess County Judicial Center, have been designed in such a way that they do not greatly affect the overall integrity of the district. These buildings were constructed on a scale that is not out of context with the overall district. When viewed in plan view, the structures may seem disproportionately large, but this is not the impression one has when the structures are viewed from the street (photographs 12, 13, 14, 32, 33, 34, 38, and 41).

RiverPark Center resembles a series of buildings, rather than one large structure (photographs 12, 13, and 14). The East Second Street façade of the building incorporates three historic structures, retaining part of the historic streetscape (photographs 12 and 13). The new construction fronting on West Second Street is confined to the southwest corner of the building (photograph 12). Its bulk is no greater than the historic buildings it replaced. The remainder of the building facing West Second Street is recessed almost one-half block off of the street. The façade is stepped toward the Ohio River, suggesting a series of smaller structures rather than one large structure. The Daviess Street façade is also broken into distinct sections, again conveying the impression of



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several structures constructed side by side, much like the historic streetscape. The new portion of the building can readily be identified as new construction, which fits within the *Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Properties* which states: "Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use."

The First Baptist Church Complex was constructed in several stages. While the several sections of the complex are connected to each other, forming what appears from plan view, to be one large L-shaped structure, each section is visually distinct. The J. R. Miller Blvd. façade is composed of three sections, the Christian Life Center, the administration/education building, and the historic 1925 church (photographs 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, and 37). The Second Street façade of the Christian Life Center is stepped, breaking up its appearance (photographs 32 and 34). The open space at the corner of West Second and Daviess Streets further acts to visually balance the size of the building, which is mirrored in size by the S. W. Anderson building one-half block west (photographs 37 and 38). The East Third Street façade is, again, broken into several distinct areas. The irregular depth of the façade, which serves to visually interrupt the structure, enhances the illusion of multiple buildings. The new construction can readily be read as such and its scale is not incompatible with the other buildings in the district.

The exterior surface treatment of the Daviess County Judicial Center, constructed in 1990, seems designed to reduce the visual weight of the structure (photographs 38 and 41). The street level is clad in a dark marble while the upper floors are faced in a lighter color, cutting the building horizontally and visually reducing its bulk. The windows are bordered in yet lighter material, further breaking up the façade. The building is divided vertically by a centered entry with deeply recessed doors. Three open recesses mirror the entry on the second level and two narrow, two-story tall vertical openings cut the third and fourth levels above the entry. All of these vertical elements disrupt the façade and lessen the visual impact of the building when seen from across the street. The four-story building is no taller than others on the same block, including the S. W. Anderson Bldg., the Newberry-Wile, McAtee, Lyddane & Ray, or the Salm's Building. In fact, the rather bland design of the Judicial Center renders it less imposing than the other large, and much more ornate, buildings that stand near by.

The proposed Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District is composed of a wide variety of buildings. They vary in style from late 19<sup>th</sup> century revivals to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Sears, Roebuck & Co. "box store." In size they range from narrow, two-story storefronts, with

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one display window and an entrance, to large structures such as the four-story McAtee, Lyddane & Ray building, the Salm's building, the Coca Cola Bottling Co., the I.O.O.F., and the Sears building. Seen in the context of the wide variety of building styles, sizes, and exterior treatments that comprise the district's historic structures, RiverPark Center, the First Baptist Church Complex, and the Daviess County Judicial Center do not seem out of place. These buildings do not seriously impair the integrity of the district, as might be the case in a more temporally or stylistically limited collection of structures. Like the older buildings in the district, they reflect the changes that have occurred, not only in downtown Owensboro but in traditional city centers across the nation.

For the Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District to have retained its integrity of association and feeling it must be able to evoke memories and emotions in those acquainted with the district and to convey to those with no previous knowledge of the district a sense of its former importance and longevity as the historic commercial center of Owensboro. A visitor acquainted with Owensboro in 1900, 1925, or 1950 would have no difficulty recognizing the district or its individual buildings, or in recalling memories associated with those buildings and the time and place they represent. The district, through the arrangement and proximity its buildings, conveys the feeling of a cohesive commercial center. The varied architectural styles of the buildings suggest that the district enjoyed a long period of development and vitality. Even an individual new to the area would recognize that the district comprises the historic commercial center of Owensboro. Although some of the original buildings in the district are no longer extant, the open spaces are not extensive enough to seriously diminish the remaining buildings' ability to convey a sense of the district's identity. The district as a whole conveys a sense of Owensboro's history as a busy regional commercial center.

The district is still the governmental, cultural, and social center of Owensboro, if not its retail center. Museums, specialty stores, restaurants, and professional offices occupy buildings that housed department stores and groceries but the buildings themselves are much the same. The height and dimensions of the more recent buildings in the district, such as the Courthouse and the Judicial Center, are in keeping with the scale of the original buildings in the district. The newer buildings are faced in stucco, brick, or stone, materials compatible with those of the original buildings in the district. While they do not contribute to the district, neither do they unduly detract. The contributing buildings exhibit such a wide range of styles and ages that the newer buildings seem to represent yet another era in a commercial district that has continued to evolve

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since 1817.

**Building Descriptions**

Each building and site in the district is described below. The numbers correspond to those on Map 2. More detailed descriptions may be found on the Kentucky Historic Resources Individual Survey forms (KHC 91-1) on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky.

**1. 125 W. Second St. (DAOB 167) The Louisville Store, ca. 1925, contributing building**

This two-and-one-half-story two-part commercial block with one storefront is very similar in appearance to its neighbor to the east, 121-123 W. Second St. The façade is very plain, the only decoration being a row of vertical blonde bricks placed just above the windows. It is the same treatment seen above the windows of 121-123 except that it stretches the full width of the façade. The decorative band of blonde brick and the window treatments on the front of the building are carried around the corner onto the St. Ann St. façade for the width of one bay. The storefront has a central recessed double door entrance flanked by display windows. Inset into the granite flooring that defines the entrance is *The Louisville Store* in an Old English typeface. In the 1930s Fred Wier Clothing Company, an old and respected firm, occupied the building. By 1955 The Louisville Store, a department store, had moved into the structure. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**2. 121-123 W. Second St. (DAOB 166), ca. 1925, contributing building**

This building is very similar to its neighbor to the west, 125 W. Second Street. This large, two-and-one-half-story two-part red brick commercial block with two storefronts has little ornamentation. The roofline is capped with stone. The heads of the windows are topped with vertical blonde bricks. The sills are stone, as opposed to blonde brick at 125 W. Second. The upper façade is divided vertically by a wide expanse of brick that terminates in a squat pediment. At some point in time the building was subdivided, becoming two PVA parcels. Both storefronts have been remodeled, probably about 1980. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**3. 119 W. Second St. (DAOB 165), ca. 1885, non-contributing building**

The façade of this two-story two-part commercial block has been severely altered. No trace of the building's historic character remains. The façade above the storefront has been given a balcony

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and overhang treatment, both elements faced in crimped copper sheeting. The original window openings have been replaced by a glass wall composed of five large vertical steel-framed panes. The storefront has also been altered, the original entrance and display windows replaced by a flat wall of glass divided into panes by steel frames. The exposed edges of the façade have been faced in new brick from street level to roofline. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**4. 117 W. Second St. (DAOB 164), ca. 1885, non-contributing building**

The façade of this three-story two-part commercial block is believed to be intact but it is currently concealed beneath a sheath of pierced metal. No openings are visible on the second or third floors. The transom is covered with plywood. The storefront has a non-recessed central double-door entrance flanked by large display windows. The original material flanking the display windows has been replaced with or covered by new brick. Historic photographs indicate that the building had an ornate cast iron front. Although this building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District it does not contribute to this nomination because the storefront has been modified and the original upper façade is concealed.

**5. 115 W. Second St. (DAOB 163), ca. 1885, non-contributing building**

The façade of this two-story two-part commercial block has been severely altered. No trace of its historic character remains. The upper story has been covered with crimped sheet metal. The storefront is faced with new brick. The position of the central entrance may be original. Simple rectangular windows flank the entrance. The Hotel Braun occupied this building from 1895 until at least 1910. By 1914 the Stag Hotel was in residence. This building was a non-contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**6. 111 W. Second St. (DAOB 162), ca. 1885, non-contributing building**

The façade of this one story commercial building has been severely altered. The original façade and that of the building to the east, 111 W. Second St., have been replaced, combining the two historic structures into one façade of plain painted brick. The four bays of the combined building are trimmed with colonial-style moldings. On the 1885 Sanborn Insurance Map this building is labeled *New, Roof Not On*. From 1895 to 1905 a hardware store occupied the building and in 1910 the Orpheum Theatre was at this location. In 1983 the Bamberger and Abshire law offices, which occupied both buildings, constructed a uniform façade covering this building and 109 W.



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Second, giving them the appearance of one structure.<sup>3</sup> This building was a non-contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**7. 109 W. Second St. (DAOB 161), ca. 1885, non-contributing building**

The façade of this one-story commercial building has been severely altered. The original façade and that of the building to the west, 111 W. Second St., have been replaced, combining the two historic structures into one façade of plain painted brick. The four bays of the combined building are trimmed with colonial-style moldings. In 1983 the Bamberger and Abshire law offices, which occupied both buildings, constructed a uniform façade covering this building and 111 W. Second, giving them the appearance of one structure. This building was a non-contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**8. 105-107 W. Second St. (DAOB 160), 1890, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block with two storefronts was built in 1890. The decorative treatment is restrained. Beneath the limestone cornice are several rows of terra-cotta tiles and small decorative accents. Two recessed panels of unequal size correspond to the storefronts below. The smaller, west, panel has three narrow bays. The larger panel has three wider bays. Thick brick pilasters capped with elaborate cast iron capitals separate the bays. All of the windows are missing, the openings filled with plywood. At some time in the past, the upper west corner of the façade was damaged. The structural damage was repaired but no effort was made to duplicate the decorative elements. *Messenger* Printing occupied the building in 1910. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**9. 101 W. Second St. (DAOB 93), Owensboro Savings Bank, ca. 1883, contributing building**

This three-and-one-half-story two-part commercial block was constructed in the 1880s to house the Owensboro Savings Bank. The façade conveys the solidity and permanence desirable in a bank. Below the dentils at the roofline are several rows of terra cotta tiles. Squat colonnades define the attic level. The façade is divided into three sections consisting of an oriel window flanked by piers. Arches define the bays on either side. Basket weave terra cotta panels divide the second from the third story. Stone bands accent the façade and define the first story. The street level façade has been altered significantly in the past decade. The central entrance is still recessed but the display windows have been replaced by smaller, square windows. The Allen Street façade is more utilitarian, although care was taken to give it an air of style and prosperity. The decorative

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elements are similar to those on the front of the building but are more restrained. At the rear of the building are two additional storefronts defined by pediments that project well beyond the roofline. The storefronts have decorative treatments that mimic those on the Second Street façade but on a smaller scale.

The building, built at a cost of \$15,000, was described as “one of the finest bank and office buildings in all of the West.” The Owensboro Savings Bank called itself the bank of the common people. It had a large patronage among farmers and encouraged banking by mail.<sup>4</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**10. 101 E. Second St. (DAOB 96), Newberry-Wile Building, 1888, contributing building**

The Newberry-Wile Building is a two-story two-part commercial block constructed in 1888. The Second Street storefront was remodeled in the early 1990s. Three pilasters, one on each corner and one in the center, divide the Second Street façade into two equal parts. Each half has evenly spaced windows capped by terra-cotta hoods. The windows on the third floor are round-headed with a semi-circular light. Between the windows on both floors are square terra-cotta medallions. Stone bands decorate the façade. The first floor storefront was modified in the early 1990s. The new windows and door are recessed, set back approximately four feet from the remainder of the façade behind a row of four arched openings.

The Allen Street façade is divided by pilasters into seven sections that step down in height. All of the windows on the second story of the Allen street façade are rectangular, although those in sections one, four, and seven are topped with arched hoods. The others have rectangular hoods. The first section has one window; the remaining sections each have a pair of windows. Each pair of windows in the fourth and seventh sections is topped by large overarched hoods, making them appear more substantial than they actually are. All of the windows on the Allen Street side, with the exception of the “port hole” windows are accented by decorative brickwork, executed in yellow brick, between the hoods and the window heads.

Solomon Wile, a German immigrant who began as a country peddler, built his first store in 1865. Before 1885 he was prosperous enough to build two buildings with elaborate cast iron façades at 105 and 107 E. Second Street. By 1888 the Wile enterprises required more space and that year Solomon Wile or the Wile family erected this building. The Wile family enterprises occupied this

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building until at least 1918, when the city directory lists Wile Bros. as occupying the building.

In 1927 J. J. Newberry Company occupied the building. In June 1962 fire swept through the upper floors of the 10,000 square foot building. The interior was completely remodeled and the store reopened four months later. When the newest phase of renovation began in the early 1990s the building had been vacant and roofless for a number of years. Today, the building houses professional offices. A luxury apartment occupies the top floor. See also 105 and 107 E. Second Street.<sup>5</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**11. 105 E. Second St. (DAOB 97), Solomon Wile Building, ca. 1881, contributing building**

The elaborate cast iron pediment of this two-story two-part commercial block bears the legend: SOL. WILE & SONS CLOTHIERS. The entire building is covered by an elaborate cast-iron front. The first floor retains its centered recessed entry and display windows. The transom, while still visible, has been painted or backed with an opaque material. In the Owensboro Historic Commercial District National Register nomination (1982) Charlotte Worsham states: "Few commercial structures of this type can surpass the Solomon Wile building."

Solomon Wile, a German immigrant, began as a country peddler. He built his first store in 1865. Before 1885 he was prosperous enough to build two buildings with elaborate cast iron façades, this building and the adjacent building at 107 E. Second. In 1886 105 E. Second Street was occupied by Benjamin Wile and Bro., Clothing and 107 was occupied by Sol. Wile and Sons, Gents' Furnishings. By 1888 the space was no longer sufficient for the Wile enterprises and Mr. Wile constructed another building to the west at 101 E. Second St. In the 1899-1900 City Directory, Wile Bros., at 101-107 E. Second Street, is listed under both Dry Goods and Men's Furnishing Goods (there is no category for clothing). The Wile family enterprises occupied this building until at least 1918 when the city directory lists Wile & Co. as occupying 105 and 107. See also 101 and 107 E. Second Street.<sup>6</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**12. 107 E. Second St. (DAOB 159), Solomon Wile Building, ca. 1881, contributing building**

Solomon Wile constructed this building prior to 1885. An elaborate cast iron storefront covers the entire building, leaving little exposed brick. A cornice supported by brackets tops the arched windows, which are separated by small columns. The recessed central entrance is flanked by

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display windows and topped by a large fixed horizontal window. The elaborate detailing is carried to street level.

Solomon Wile, a German immigrant who began as a country peddler, built his first store in 1865. Before 1885 he was prosperous enough to build two buildings with elaborate cast iron façades, this building and the adjacent building at 105 E. Second. In 1886 105 E. Second Street was occupied by Benjamin Wile and Bro., Clothing and 107 was occupied by Sol. Wile and Sons, Gents' Furnishings. By 1888 the space was no longer sufficient for the Wile enterprises and Mr. Wile constructed another building to the west at 101 E. Second Street. In the 1899-1900 City Directory, Wile Bros., at 101-107 E. Second Street, is listed under both Dry Goods and Men's Furnishings (there is no category for clothing). The Wile family enterprises occupied this building until at least 1918 when the city directory lists Wile & Co. as occupying 105 and 107. See also 101 and 105 E. Second Street. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District. At the time, the upper façade was concealed beneath sheath of pierced metal similar to that which now covers 117 W. Second Street.

**13. 109 E. Second St. (DAOB 158), ca. 1890, contributing building**

This façade of this two-story two-part commercial block, built about 1890, was restored according to Secretary of Interior Standards in 1982-1983. The simple ornamentation includes a row of brick dentils at the roofline, simple Italianate hoods on brackets over each second floor window, and a brick belt course above the one-over-one windows. The recessed storefront has two display windows on either side of the door.<sup>7</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**14. 111 E. Second St. (DAOB 157), ca. 1885, contributing building**

This small one-and-one-half-story one-part commercial block has little ornamentation. The roofline is capped with stone. A row of nine recessed, arched niches is located below the roofline. Sheet metal now surrounds the entrance. The configuration of the recessed centered entrance and display windows appears to be original. In 1885, 1895, and 1910 a saloon occupied this building. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.



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**15. 113 E. Second St. (DAOB 156), Geo. Schmuck Building, 1912, contributing building**

The pediment of this two-story, two-part commercial block brick building bears a plaque reading: 1912 GEO. W. SCHMUCK. Below is a row of spaced horizontal brick. A row of deep brick corbelling forms the top of a recessed panel. The central window is exposed; those on either side are covered. The transom has been covered. The building has a single recessed entrance. This building was listed as a non-contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District. There is no description or photograph of the building in the nomination so the reason for its exclusion is unclear. The façade of the building, which may have been obscured in 1982, appears to be intact and it has been listed as a contributing element to this nomination

**16. 115-119 E. Second St. (DAOB 155), Salm's Building, ca. 1905, contributing building**

This three-and-one-half-story two-part commercial block is divided into two storefronts of unequal size. The building is restrained in design, with strong vertical elements created by separating pairs of windows, which are recessed, with brick pilasters. It has a simple cast iron cornice with a row of brick corbelling below. The street level, which is faced in cut stone, features recessed storefronts. The building was constructed about 1905. In that year it housed A. F. Wheeler Furniture. By 1909 Pierson Dry Goods occupied the building. One of its longest tenants was E. W. Smith Furniture, which occupied the building from 1914 until early 1935. In May 1935 Sears Roebuck & Co. opened its first Owensboro store in the building, remaining until 1950.

In August of 1950 Salm's, an Evansville clothing chain, moved into the building. Salm's of Owensboro specialized in "high fashion women's apparel." When Salm's took possession of the building the company remodeled the first floor, during which time the building "surrendered its plain exterior for a modern storefront and deep streamlined show windows." Salm's closed in the 1960s and Baynham's, a shoe store that kept a monkey in a cage in the front window, occupied the building. After Baynham's moved out in the late 1970s the building was mainly used for storage. It is now undergoing a sympathetic renovation.<sup>8</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**17. 121 E. Second St. (DAOB 154), McAtee, Lyddane & Ray, 1910, contributing building**

Four-story two-part commercial block is faced with glazed brown brick and decorated with stonework incorporating Egyptian revival elements. A stone plaque on the façade reads: M<sup>C</sup>ATEE LYDDANE & RAY. Stonework borders the cornice and forms pendants on each side. Beneath

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the cornice, the façade is divided into three unequal parts by brick pilasters. The second and third floor windows on the outer edge of the building are framed with stone, creating a strong vertical element. The stone pendants reach toward a decorative element incorporated into the window framing. This treatment is repeated on the Daviess Street façade over the first floor storefront. The first floor storefront has been modified, although the simple cast iron storefront has been retained. Large plate glass one-over-one windows form the entire first floor wall of the storefront. A transom tops an awning. On the back of the building a painted sign reads: McATEE, LYDDANE & RAY DEPARTMENT STORE.

McAtee, Lyddane & Ray was founded by Tyler W. McAtee, John A. Lyddane and Lee D. Ray in 1899 at 114 E. Second St. The firm erected this building in 1910. In 1939 the interior was completely remodeled and the exterior modified to reflect modern department store merchandising design. The street floor windows were modified and the awning installed at that time. The store was sold to Alden's of Chicago in 1955. McAtee, Lyddane and Ray remained in the building until mid-December 1977 when the store was closed.<sup>9</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**18. 101 Daviess St. (DAOB 153), RiverPark Center, ca. 1995, non-contributing building**

Contrasting bands of color divide the East Second St. façade of RiverPark Center into six panels. Blocks of contrasting stone form the cornice. Construction of RiverPark Place began in 1990 and was completed sometime in that decade. The Second Street façade of RiverPark Center incorporates three historic structures into its design: 207-211, 213 and 215. But the Second Street façade also replaced two historic structures, a small storefront at 201 and a large building at 203-205 that also had an entrance on Daviess Street. The dry goods firm of Phillips and McAtee occupied 203-205 E. Second for a number of years. They were succeeded by the T. J. Turley Co., wholesale and retail implements and hardware, about 1910. Turley Hardware remained in this location until at least 1955.

**19. 207-211 E. Second St. (DAOB 98), Miller Building, 1887, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block has three storefronts. An elaborately detailed cast iron cornice graces a façade that features recessed terra-cotta tiles placed between the arched second floor windows and stone belt course. The upper façade is divided into three parts. The central portion, which is set off by brick pilasters, is topped by a carved stone panel and a narrow over-

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arching band of stone. Above, set off by smaller pilasters, a vaulted opening has a stone plaque reading "1887." Brick arches top all of the windows, the larger having a stone keystone. The windows and entrances of the first floor storefronts are set apart by cast iron columns, some topped by elaborate capitals. The three recessed entrances are evenly spaced in the façade. The overall impression conveyed by the architecture is one of style and substance. This building is known as the Miller Building but no documentation has been found to support that name. In 1947 Barney's Cafeteria, Owensboro's first commercial cafeteria, opened at 211 E. Second Street.<sup>10</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**20. 213 E. Second St. (DAOB 152), ca. 1885, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block features Greek Revival elements. It has one storefront with a recessed entrance, which is located on the west side of façade. The upper portion of the façade features strong vertical and horizontal lines. Brick pilasters frame the façade. At the roofline are two narrow horizontal vents. A cast iron cornice, which appears to have been added at a later date, sits below. A deep row of brick corbelling separates the pilasters. Below this is a band of stone and two horizontal attic windows. A narrow band of stone, which stretches across the width of the building, acts as the sill. The second floor has two pairs of narrow vertical windows. The first floor is framed in cut stone blocks (Photo 14). A decorative band of cut stone separates the first story from the second. This building has been incorporated into RiverPark Center. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**21. 215 E. Second St. (DAOB 151), ca. 1885, contributing building**

A two-story two-part commercial block with cast iron storefront and cornice, this building features a recessed entrance located on the west side of the façade. The cornice incorporates Greek Revival elements. The façade between the cornice and windows has a row of brick corbelling, below which is a belt course. Brick pilasters with cast iron capitals separate the three upper story windows. This building has been incorporated into RiverPark Center. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**22. 217-225 E. Second St. (DAOB 209), vacant lot since 1910, contributing site**

By 1885 a brick commercial building was in existence at 217 E. Second Street. A dwelling was

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centered in the remainder of the space but by 1910 the dwelling was no longer present. That portion of the lot has remained vacant since that time. The east portion of this lot served as an open buffer space between the railroad, which began at the Ohio River and ran down Lewis Street (now J. R. Miller Blvd.), and the buildings to the west.

**23. 303 E. Second St. (DAOB 206), vacant lot since at least 1885, contributing site**

This lot has been vacant since at least 1885. In 1871 construction of the Owensboro & Russellville Railroad was completed as far as Livermore. The tracks began at the Ohio River wharves and ran down Lewis Street (now J. R. Miller Blvd.) The irregular shape of this lot (the northwest corner is cut off) accommodated a spur of the railroad, which branched into three tracks at Second Street as it headed north. The lot is now located under and adjacent to the approach to the Ohio River bridge.

**24. E. 319 E. Second St. (DAOB 101), J. W. Barr & Company, ca. 1885, contributing building**

Brick corbelling accents the roofline of this three-story building. Between the corbelling and the upper floor windows is a double row brick belt course. All upper story windows are set into round-headed openings topped with brick hoods featuring pendants. All windows are steel-frame replacements. The first floor has a cast iron front; however, the remainder of the first floor has been completely remodeled. The west façade was covered by a large mural of the state of Kentucky worked in pieces of mirrored glass in 1983 (Photo 16). The mural was commissioned by Robert A. Puckett, president of Progress Printing, and executed by Gary Biblefield.

This building appears on the 1885 Sanborn map as a wholesale dry goods establishment, listed in the 1886 city directory as J. Rothchild & Co. Over the next twenty years a succession of wholesale feed, grain, seed, and produce dealers occupied the building. By 1914 J. W. McJohnston & Co., wholesale seed dealers, occupied the building. In 1919, J. W. Barr & Company, Inc., fruit and vegetable wholesalers, purchased it from McJohnston. That company remained in the building until at least 1955. The building was remodeled in 1971 when Progress Printing moved to this location from 409 E. Second Street. Progress Printing remained in this location until 1985 when a fire on May 15, which gutted this building, caused them to relocate to 301 Hale Avenue.<sup>11</sup>



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**25. 321 E. Second St. (DAOB 204), Wright Machine Co., sales and showroom, ca. 1905, contributing building**

This three-story brick building has very little ornamentation. Two spaced rows of brick belt course are located just below the roofline. Continuous rows of brick beltcourse form arches over the windows, which have continuous stone sills that form a band across the width of the façade. The first floor is divided into three equal sections. The central recessed entrance has a transom and angled display windows on either side. The façade has been refaced with wire brick from the top of the transoms to the street. A photograph that appeared in *Owensboro, KY 1931: Historical and Pictorial Review of Owensboro* shows the building with a corner entrance. What appears to be another recessed entrance is shown to the west with another section of windows. Below all of the windows are small tiles. Across the front of the building is a sign reading THE WRIGHT MACHINE COMPANY AUTOMOTIVE PARTS & EQUIPMENT WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS and underneath that, MILL \_\_\_\_ & CONTRACTORS SUPPLIES HEAVY HARDWARE AUTO ACCESSORIES. As pictured, it looked much like 401-405 E. Second Street does today.

In 1880 Harry Gunther began The Novelty Machine Works in a frame building on this same corner. By 1900, The Novelty Machine Works, Harry Gunther (Guenther on Sanborn map) and Bro., Prop., had expanded, occupying their original building and the two to the east, from 401 to 411 E. Second St. In 1884 John S. Wright entered the company and by 1905 the Sanborn maps identify the firm as Gunther Wright Machine Co. The Sanborn maps indicate that the Wright Machine Company Office and Sales Room Building at 321-325 E. Second was constructed between 1900 and 1905. In 1900 the maps show several dwellings and buildings labeled 'old buildings' on this lot. This building first appears on the 1905 map. The first and second floors were given over to sales/sample rooms, offices, and storage. Mill supplies, pattern storage, and the machine shop and pattern shop occupied the third floor.

By 1910 the company had built another new building at 401-405 E. Second to house the foundry. Harry Gunther died in 1918 and in the business directory issued for that year the firm is identified as the Wright Machine Co. The Wright Machine Company remained at 401-405 until at least 1955 and probably into the mid-1960s. The firm continued to occupy 321-325 E. Second St. until about 1990 when the company moved to 320 E. Fourth St. Terry Woodward, who owns this building and almost all of the property that fronts E. Second St. between Lewis and Clay streets, recently rehabilitated this building. It currently houses the training center for WaxWorks



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VideoWorks, Mr. Woodward's firm. See also Wright Machine Co. foundry and machine shop, 401-405 E. Second St.<sup>12</sup>

**26. 401 E. Second St. (DAOB 203), Wright Machine Co., foundry, ca. 1910, contributing building**

The Sanborn maps indicate that this large three-story red brick building with a corner entrance was built between 1905 and 1910. The roofline is capped with stone. The upper stories have numerous windows set into round-headed openings. Two rows of belt course span the width of the building, forming arches over the windows. A brick belt course is located even with the top of the upper windows, which have stone sills connected by a brick belt course. The treatment of the second floor is identical to the third. Between the second and third floor windows a painted sign (white) reads: THE WRIGHT MACHINE CO. The first floor façade, which features a corner entrance, has been modified. Wire brick, which is not present on the second or third story, extends to the height of the second floor windowsills. A photograph taken in about 1930 shows the building before the façade was modified. The front of the building had an entrance on the west side. To the east of the door were two windows, a double door bay, and then three more windows. Between the second and third floors a painted sign reads THE WRIGHT MACHINE CO. Between the first and second floors a painted sign reads MACHINE SHOP.

The west side of the building is three stories toward the front of the building and then steps down to two stories. A painted sign (white letters on green background) above the bay reads: 4 (first line) KEEP OPEN TRUCK LOADING (second line). On both sides of the bay, in vertical text, a similar painted sign reads: NO PARKING. To the north is a modern metal utility door that has been placed in a former window opening. Just to the north of this door are three bricked-in window openings that have the same decorative brick treatment as the second and third floor windows. Originally, the sequence of bays from south to north would have been: double wood doors – loading bay – four windows – loading bay – four windows – loading bay – one window.

In 1880 Harry Gunther began the Novelty Machine Works in a frame building on this same corner. By 1900 The Novelty Machine Works, Harry Gunther (Guenther on Sanborn map) and Bro., Prop., had expanded, occupying their original building and the two to the east, from 401 to 411 E. Second St. In 1884 John S. Wright entered the company and by 1905 the Sanborn maps identify the firm as Gunther Wright Machine Co. By 1910 a new building occupied the lots from 401-405. By that time, the company had also constructed a building across Crittenden St. to

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house their offices, sales room, machine shop, and pattern shop. Harry Gunther died in 1918 and in the business directory issued for that year the firm is identified as the Wright Machine Company. The Wright Machine Company remained in this building until at least 1955 and probably into the mid-1960s. The firm continued to occupy 321-325 E. Second St. until about 1990. See also Wright Machine Co. office and sales room, 321-325 E. Second St.<sup>13</sup>

**27. 409 E. Second St. (DAOB 201), Progress Printing, ca. 1885, contributing building**

A two-story red brick building with two storefronts, 409 E. Second displays restrained ornamentation. Corbelling accents the roofline. Six windows are evenly spaced across the width of the second story. Between the recessed panels and the second floor windows is a brick belt course. Continuous brick belt course two rows wide connects the windows and arches over them to form stylized hoods. The first floor cast iron storefront with cornice is intact. The door is flanked by sidelights. Transoms top all of the doors and windows.

This building appears on the 1885 Sanborn map as a three-storefront building. It persists as such on the 1950 version of the Sanborn and as a business address in the city directory for 1955. Sometime after that the west-most storefront was demolished. That space, 407 E. Second St., is now a vacant lot. In 1885, 407 was occupied by a feed and grain dealer, 409 by a grocer, and 411 was vacant. In 1890 the feed and grain dealer and grocer were still in residence and a confectioneer occupied 411. By 1914 the Rowland-Reynolds Furniture Company occupied 407-409. In 1977 the three storefronts were occupied, west to east, by Hubert C. Vowels' furniture upholstering firm, Progress Printing, and William G. Barrett, janitorial supplies and harness making. The second floor of both 409 and 411 was given over to harness making as well. One of the building's longest tenants was Progress Printing, who occupied 409 from 1938 until 1970 when the business moved to 319 E. Second Street. Owner Terry Woodward recently rehabilitated the building. It is currently for lease.<sup>14</sup>

**28. 412-414 E. Second St. (DAOB 102), Geo. Mischel & Son, ca. 1890, contributing building**

This building was constructed between 1885 and 1890 at a time when the remainder of the block was given over to widely spaced dwellings. The one-story six-bay building with a limestone front is a testament to George Mischel's skill as a stonemason. The symmetrical storefront has two evenly spaced, slightly recessed doorways; each topped by a double pane transom and flanked by two large display window. All bays are the same height and are divided by piers of smoothly cut stone that rest on four-foot high bases. A flat stone cornice rests on the piers. The roofline peaks

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in a square parapet containing a panel reading GEO MISCHEL & SONS. Four rectangular attic vents are located beneath the panel. A stone cornice tops the parapet, which rises at each corner of the building with squat, square stone projections with matching cornices.

On the 1890 Sanborn map the building is labeled "Marble Works." The 1899-1900 City Directory lists George Mischel at 412 E. Main (now Second) St. and on the 1900 Sanborn map the building appears as "Owensboro Marble and Stone Works." An 1882-1883 business directory carries an advertisement for Owensboro Marble Works, Mischel Bro's, Proprietors on Main St, between Allen and Daviess. The advertisement lists three brothers- Nick Mischel, John Mischel, and George Mischel. By 1895-96 there are two separate listings: "Mischel, George, marble works" and on the next line "Mischel, Nicholas, marble works" in the directory. There is no listing for John Mischel. It would appear that by 1895 the brothers had parted ways and that George Mischel had opened his own business in a new building at 412 E. Second while Nick Mischel set up shop at 217 Allen Street. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps support this assumption.

By 1914 an addition had been made to the building and the address of "O'boro Monumental Works" is listed at 412-414 E. Second St. Several years later the business listing simply appears as "Geo. Mischel & Sons." By the mid-1930s the Elmwood Cemetery, Inc. offices are also listed as being located at 412-414 E. Second. George Mischel & Sons remained at this location through 1991, the last year the business is listed at this address in the city directory. This building was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA) National Register Nomination in 1985.

**29. 400 E. Second St. (DAOB 208), Owensboro Coca Cola Bottling Company, ca. 1925, contributing building**

The Owensboro Coca Cola Bottling Company bottling plant/office complex is composed of four interconnected buildings. The original block is three stories tall and is faced in large (4 x 8 inch) high-fired brick with a distinctive "corrugated" texture. The second and third floors of the Second St. façade each have evenly spaced windows with stone sills and lintels. On the first floor is a central, slightly recessed, entrance. Above is a stone lintel engraved OWENSBORO / COCA COLA BOTTLING CO. The street number, 400, is above the name. There are sidelights on either side of the pilasters.

On the Crittenden Street side, four second-story doors open onto a veranda that runs most of the

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length of the building. The veranda is supported by six brick piers and creates a roof over the sidewalk. Deep eaves are supported on Craftsman-style brackets. The roof is metal. On the south side of the main block is a one-story garage/storage block with its front façade facing Crittenden St. This side is faced in "corrugated" brick identical to the main block. A stepped pediment hides the flat roof. Attached to the east end (back) of the building is a smaller, one-story red brick building with a central loading bay flanked by large bays covered with metal grates. The last building in the complex has its front façade on Second St., east of the main block. This one-story building is faced in high-fired large (4x8 inch) wire brushed brick that closely matches that of the main block in color but not in surface treatment. The building has a stepped pediment.

The Owensboro Coca Cola Bottling Co. was begun in 1906 by N. B. Barnett. The first listing, in the 1907 City Directory, gives the company's location as 711 E. Second Street. By 1914 the company had moved to a building at 305 E. Second Street. Sometime between 1918 and 1937 (probably about 1930) the company moved across the street into a new building at 400 E. Second Street on the corner of Second and Crittenden. By 1955 they had acquired the garage to their east and sometime after 1950 also acquired the garage to their south (both of these building were constructed after 1910, until that time dwellings stood on these lots). The Owensboro Coca Cola Bottling Co. remained at 400 E. Second St. until 1977, the last year they are listed at this address in the city directory.

**30. 312 E. Second St. (DAOB 207), Sears, Roebuck & Co., 1950, contributing building**

The Sears Roebuck building is a one-story, blonde brick veneer mid-20<sup>th</sup> century commercial building. The structure is extremely plain with no attempt made at ornamentation. The Second Street façade is divided into three sections, which are defined by a slight change in height and depth from the street. The middle section, which contains both entrance doors, sits about four to six inches closer to the street and is about one foot taller than the sections that flank it. On this side of the building are, from east to west, five large windows, a two-door entrance, three large windows, a four-door entrance, and two large windows. The entrances are recessed and sheltered with aluminum overhangs. All of the doors and windows are aluminum frame.

The rear of the building, facing Third Street and fronting on a parking lot, has both a freight area and a customer entrance. The three-door loading bay is located in a recessed area on the east ¼ of the building. Above the bays are three square windows with metal frames. The west ¾ of the building is visually divided into three sections. The easternmost section has two large display



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windows. The middle section has a recessed two-door entrance flanked by sidelights. This door, which opens onto the parking lot, is now the main entrance for WaxWorks VideoWorks and the company has placed a steel portico/sculptural entry with the company name in front of the original entry area. To the west of the entrance are two small steel frame windows. The westernmost section of the building has a two-door entrance that is not recessed or accentuated in any way. It is flanked to the west by two small rectangular horizontal windows.

The east face of the building has a large display window on the Second Street corner, which is one story. The building rises to two stories beyond the display window and then, in three steps, drops to one story at the loading bay. There are few openings on this side of the building, all of them utilitarian. In the highest portion of the structure are two large vents and one small vent, each covered with a grill. Below, from south to north, are three steel frame rectangular horizontal windows and two large vents with metal grills identical to those directly above. At street level are two utility doors, one near the center of the building and one to the rear of the building. The west face of the building has no openings whatsoever.

Sears, Roebuck & Co. opened their first store in Owensboro on May 2, 1935 at 115 E. Second Street (Salm's Building, 16). In December 1949 the company broke ground for a new, modern Sears department store at 312 E. Second (then Main) St. The new store opened on Thursday, August 17, 1950 to huge crowds. Sears remained in this location until 1978 when the company's store in newly constructed Towne Square Mall on south Frederica Street opened. That same year, WaxWorks moved into the location. The company occupied 20,000 square feet of the building, the remaining 30,000 square feet being occupied by South Central Bell. Terry Woodward purchased the building in 1985 and after South Central Bell vacated the building in 1986 Woodward's expanding company, now named WaxWorks VideoWorks, took over the entire structure, which they still occupy.

**31. 230 J. R. Miller Blvd. (DAOB 82), First Baptist Church complex, 1925 to 1985, non-contributing building**

Today, the First Baptist Church, related buildings, and parking areas occupy the entire block bounded by Second, Third, J. R. Miller, and Daviess streets. In 1835 the Baptist congregation erected the first church building in Owensboro on the southern portion of this block. That building was demolished in May 1923 to make way for the construction of a new church building. Completed in 1924-1925, the First Baptist Church, a two-story temple plan building of brick and



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stone, was executed in the Greek Revival style. Broad steps lead to a portico supported on six columns.

By the late 1950s an education building had been constructed adjacent to and on the west side of the church. In the mid-1980s the First Baptist Church razed all of the buildings fronting on Second Street between Daviess and J. R. Miller Blvd. Among those buildings razed was the Gunther Hardware Building, DAOB 99. On the now-vacant land the Church constructed a \$1.6 million, 27,000 square foot Christian Life Center with frontage on J. R. Miller and Second Street. The lot at the corner of Daviess and Second was converted into parking. The construction of the Christian Life Center and modifications now being made to the Education Center have obscured all but the Third Street (front) façade of the original 1925 church building.<sup>15</sup>

**32. 122 E Second St. (DAOB 173), S. W. Anderson Co., 1888 to 1953, contributing building**

The S. W Anderson building was constructed over three building episodes. The oldest part of the building, which fronts on E. Second St., is a four-story two-part commercial block built in 1888 as the Temple Theater. In 1908 the building was sold to S. W. Anderson, who remodeled the structure and moved his department store, Anderson's Daylight Store, to this location. In 1939 the interior of the store was remodeled. In 1948 a ten-year expansion and modernization program was initiated. In 1953 a three-story addition with an entrance on Daviess Street was made to the rear of the store, part of which was a shipping and receiving area accessed from Third Street. In 1958 the display windows on Second Street were rebuilt and the masonry piers were faced in granite that matched that on the Daviess Street addition. In 1964 the former Alexander Paint & Wallpaper Co. building behind Andersons on Third Street was acquired. The following year the façade was remodeled to match the rest of the Anderson's building. This building provided a customer entrance from the Anderson's parking lot on the northeast corner of Third and Daviess. Anderson's Department Store remained in this location until January of 1990. The Owensboro Area Museum of Science & History acquired the building, which they now occupy, about 1994.

A 1908 photograph shows the building as it looked when Anderson's took possession. Although some changes have occurred, the original building is remarkably intact. In 1908 the building consisted of two parts – the four-story main block, which was faced in blonde brick and ornamented with restrained Greek Revival elements, and a more utilitarian looking red brick building extension. The Daviess Street façade is much simpler in appearance. The first section, part of the 1908 building, was red brick but is now painted. Brick corbelling accents the roofline. Both the

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second and third stories have nine narrow round-headed windows. There are no fourth floor bays.

The Daviess Street addition was constructed in 1953. It is three stories tall on the Daviess Street (front) side, rising to four stories at the rear. The four-door entrance is centered in the building and is surrounded by glass. Two large display windows are set to either side. An overhang shades the doors and display windows. The granite facing and brushed steel trim match the Second St. façade. The Third St. side of this portion of the Anderson complex has a covered loading dock with a loading bay door, a window, and a simple entry door. A sign on the metal loading dock roof reads S. W. ANDERSON CO., INC. The third portion of the Anderson complex was a separate structure until 1965. It is a two-story four-bay two-part block constructed ca. 1940. The recessed central entrance is flanked by wide display windows. The entrance surround now bears the polished granite and brushed steel trim that identifies the building as part of Anderson's Department Store. The first floor has one display window at the Third St. corner and a utility door near what was the rear of the building. This building was occupied by Alexander Paint & Wallpaper Company from September 1954 until at least October 1963.<sup>16</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**33. 100. E. Second St. (DAOB 172), Daviess County Judicial Center, 1990, non-contributing building**

The Daviess County Judicial Center was completed in the fall of 1990. The four-story building has a formal, central recessed entrance on E. Second Street. The security entrance, through which all visitors are required to pass, is housed in a small one-story square annex that projects from the east side of the main building. The placement and configuration of the bays and the use of three colors of polished stone on the façade impart a modicum of style to the structure. The Second Street entrance is defined by three windowless openings on the second story and two two-story narrow recessed windows above. On each side of the open bays are five square four-pane windows outlined in lighter stone. A light colored band of stone also defines the top of the first story, which is faced in darker stone than the three stories above.

The east façade of the building has received the same decorative treatment as the East Second Street façade, except that the two southernmost windows are three stories tall. On the Allen Street façade, two two-story windows are centered in the façade, breaking up the rows of square windows.

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**34. 100 W. Second St. (DAOB 171), 1915, non-contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block has been altered at least twice since its construction in 1915. The original brick exterior of this building was faced with opaque glass panels sometime after the Depression. This alteration did not affect the position or configuration of the entrance and windows, however. In 1983, however, this building was significantly modified. The entrance, formerly in the corner, was shifted to the center front. All of the windows were replaced and resized. The opaque glass panels placed on the building about 1935 are still present but have been painted. This recent remodeling has all but obliterated the historic character of the structure. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District but the modifications made in 1983 have caused it to be listed as a non-contributing element to this nomination.

**35. 102 W. Second St. (DAOB 170), ca. 1930, contributing building**

This building is a two-story two-part commercial block of simple design. A row of brick dentils below the roofline and brick belt courses above the second story windows, at their sills, and above the storefront transom, are the only decorative elements on the blonde brick façade. The storefront has a central recessed entrance flanked on either side by display windows. A transom runs the width of the façade. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**36. 104-106 W. Second St. (DAOB 169), ca. 1930, contributing building**

106 W. Second is almost identical to its neighbor to the east, 102 W. Second. It is a two-story two-part commercial block of simple design. A row of brick dentils below the roofline and brick belt courses above and below the second story windows and above the storefront transom are the only decorative elements on the blonde brick façade. The storefront has a central recessed entrance flanked on either side by two large display windows. A transom runs the width of the façade. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**37. 108 W. Second St. (DAOB 168), ca. 1885, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block with one storefront has little embellishment. Several rows of decorative brickwork embellish the façade between the roofline and the four second story windows. The rectangular windows have simple cast iron hood molds and sills. The street level storefront has a simple cast iron surround. The shallow recessed entrance is centered between two



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display windows. To the east of the façade is an access door to the upper floor of the building. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**38. 112 W. Second St. (DAOB 92), Arnold Building, 1888, contributing building**

This three-story two-part commercial block with one storefront has seen little alteration since its construction in 1888. The cornice is embellished with a cast iron façade that is restrained in design. The windows on both the second and third stories have simple cast iron hood molds. A band of stone below the cornice and at the window sills of both the second and third stories accent the façade. Cut stone accents are located between the second and third story windows. A metal sign, which projects over the sidewalk below and perpendicular to the façade, reads APEX. This building is traditionally known as the Arnold Building but no documentation has been found substantiating that title. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**39. 116-122 W. Second St. (DAOB 91) Werner Smith — Glover Building, ca. 1850, contributing building**

The ca. 1850 Werner Smith (missing word) Glover Building is a large, four storefront, two-story two-part commercial block said to have been constructed around 1850. The elaborate cast iron storefront that was added in the 1880s bears the names WERNER SMITH (missing) GLOVER on the highly detailed cornice. Fourteen second floor bays are separated by ornate pilasters. The storefront was manufactured by the George L. Mesker & Company of Evansville, Indiana. A door located between 116 and 118 leads to the upper floor of the building. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the 1982 Owensboro Historic Commercial District.

**40. 215 St. Ann St. (DAOB 185), ca. 1890, non-contributing building**

This building has been severely compromised. The north half of the building has been demolished and the second story has been removed. This building is the south half of a building that was associated with the Rudd Hotel, which was located to the north at 209-213 St. Ann Street. The Rudd Hotel was demolished in 1973. A photo in the January 19, 1973 issue of the Owensboro *Messenger Inquirer* clearly shows this structure. At that time the building, which had two storefronts, housed the Rudd Hotel coffee shop in the north storefront and Capital Loans, a finance company, in the south storefront. It is not known when the north half of the building was

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demolished. At some point the second story was also removed. The ghost of the original roofline is clearly visible on the adjacent building. Almost the entire brick exterior of the remaining building has been clad – the north face and the upper portion of the west face in aluminum siding and the lower portion of the west face in crimped sheet metal. The lower portion of the front (west) face is painted brick and appears to be relatively intact. The storefront entrance is offset to the north side. The entrance is not recessed. The doors and windows are steel frame. Brick pilasters divide the bays.

**41. 221 St. Ann St. (DAOB 184), ca. 1890, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block is similar to 223-225 St. Ann, located immediately to the south, although this building does not have a pediment. Brick pilasters, with corbelling at the top that forms supporting brackets for the cut-stone cornice, define the edges of the building. Below the cornice are two rows of brick dentils. Three arched vents with stone sills are evenly spaced on each storefront. Up to this point the building is the same as its neighbor at 223-225.

One of the unique features of this building is the stone window headers. The bottom of the central header is cut in a curving pattern. The bottoms of the headers on either side are saw-toothed. A stone band, at the center of the windows, runs the width of the building, meeting that on 223-225. The first floor storefront has a cast iron surround identical to that at 223-225. The transom has been covered. The central recessed entrance is flanked by half-height display windows. The space below the windows has been faced in tan brick.

In 1935 J. A. Vititow & Son Insurance moved into this building. In 1959 the firm's founder, J. A. Vititow, died, and his son, J. V. "Chubby" Vititow assumed ownership of the business. In 1963 "Chubby" remodeled the building, installing a new marquee above the entrance and new structural glass. Wood paneling and new fixtures were installed in the interior. The Vititow business stayed in this building until at least late 1963. A photograph taken at that time shows taller display windows. The space below the windows seems to have been faced in glass panels. The building is now vacant.<sup>17</sup>

**42. 223-225 St. Ann St. (DAOB 89), ca. 1890, contributing building**

This building is divided into two storefronts of unequal size, that on the north being somewhat larger. The storefronts are delineated by brick pilasters with corbelling at the top, which form supporting brackets for the cornice. A flat pediment rises above the roofline. A cut stone panel

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with a classic laurel design is centered above each storefront. Below the pediment is a cut stone cornice supported on brackets. Below the cornice are two rows of brick dentils. Three arched vents with stone sills are evenly spaced on each storefront. Below are two rows of brick belt course. On the north storefront there are rectangular windows set in round-headed openings. Three of the windows are the same size. The fourth (southernmost) is narrower and is set above the street level door leading to the second floor. There are three evenly spaced, equal size windows on the south storefront. All of the windows are defined by brick arches, cut stone keystones, and stone sills. A stone band, positioned in the middle of the windows, runs the width of the building.

The street level storefronts now look radically different. The north storefront has a cast iron surround. A row of dentils defines the top of the first story. The transom below has been covered. South of the entrance, which is on the north side of the façade, are two large display windows. The light above the door to the upper story has a cast iron surround. The transom above the door has been covered. The whole of the south storefront has been boxed in and covered with diagonally placed wood planks, probably ca. 1980. North of the door is a horizontal one-light window. The door, a replacement, is Victorian in style with narrow sidelights.

### **43. 227 Ann St. (DAOB 183), Masonic Lodge, 1912, contributing building**

The five-story Masonic Temple was constructed in 1912. The Sanborn maps note that this building is of fireproof construction, having a steel frame and concrete floors. The St. Ann Street and W. Third Street sides of the building are faced with blonde brick. The rear of the building and the side facing Second Street are red brick. Stepped brickwork gives the corners a rounded appearance.

On the St. Ann Street façade/front of building the projecting cornice, which is dropped below the roofline, rests on six pairs of narrow pilasters, which in turn rest on a projecting stone molding. Between the pilasters are five pairs of rectangular glass block windows. This decorative treatment defines the fifth floor, which is reserved for Masonic functions. The street level has three entrances. The main entrance, centered in the north three-fifths of the façade, leads to the lobby of the building and office spaces beyond. A metal awning/overhang, positioned below the transom, covers this portion of the building. The façade is faced with black glass panels. The south two-fifths of the building is divided into two storefronts. Both have an entry placed on the north and a half-height display window to the south.

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The upper four floors of the W. Third Street façade are identical in size and decorative treatment to the front of the building. However, there is a recess where the central pair of windows is located on the front of the building. This recess, about one room deep, contains the building's fire escapes. The north façade of the building, which faces Second Street, was not meant to be seen. Originally, the red brick face was concealed by the adjacent buildings. The building, with the exception of the fifth floor, is leased as office space.

**44. 324-326 St. Ann St. (DAOB 199), ca. 1900, contributing building**

This two-story brick building is one of only two in the downtown area with office space in the basement level, the other being the Briedenbach building at 208 W. Third Street. The façade is framed by three-story rusticated stone pilasters topped with rounded capitals. Simple brick corbelling defines the roofline. Four evenly spaced rectangular windows are set in round-headed bays. The windows are topped by two rows of vertical brick stretchers forming wide arches.

The basement level, which is seven steps below street level, is divided into two separate spaces. Each side has a door accessed by its own set of stairs, which are located on either side of the stairs leading to the first floor. Both basement doors are flanked by angled windows (identical to those on the first floor). The symmetry and scale of the features give the façade of 222-224 St. Ann an air of solidity. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the Doctors' Row Historic District, Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), 1985.

**45. 201-203 W. Fourth St. (DAOB 198), ca. 1905, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block with two storefronts shares common details with 205 W. Fourth, immediately to the west. Tile defines the roofline. Below are evenly spaced half-circle vents with stone surrounds. A stone belt course runs below, separating the vents from a row of small rectangular attic windows. A stone belt course acts as a sill. Another stone belt course above the second floor windows divides the façade horizontally. The second-floor windows are capped by brick pilasters topped by stone capitals, which divide the bays. The stone lintels over the windows are joined by a stone belt course. Another stone belt course forms the sills. The two storefronts on the first floor are separated by central a door leading to the second floor. 203 W. Fourth St. retains the original cast iron pilasters and cornice. The central entrance to the storefront at 201 has been moved to the west and fitted with a colonial-style door. A small rectangular window is located east of the door. The remainder of the façade has been faced in buff colored



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brick. The north face (back) of the building has eight round-headed bays on the second floor, each topped with a brick hood with pendants, similar to that on 305 Frederica St. The first floor has five round-headed bays – two doors, two single windows, and one double window. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the Doctors' Row Historic District, Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), 1985.

**46. 205 W. Fourth St. (DAOB 197), ca. 1905, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block shares common details with 201-203 W. Fourth to the east. The first floor has an intact cast iron storefront surrounding four bays. The storefront has a maker's mark reading KOKEN IRON WORKS ST. LOUIS. As noted above, on the east is the entrance to the second floor. To the west the storefront entrance is centered between two windows. All of the bays are slightly recessed. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the Doctors' Row Historic District, Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), 1985.

**47. 207 W. Fourth St. (DAOB 76), ca. 1900, contributing building**

This turn-of-the-century residence/office retains its original one-story front porch. The porch, which is three steps above street level, features turned columns, turned wood spindle balusters, and decorative brackets. It covers a narrow entrance door with a transom placed on the east side of the façade and a large central arched window frame that encloses two rectangular windows topped by an arched stained glass panel. Both door and window are topped by brick arches. The second story façade is ornamented with various brick treatments. A row of terra-cotta tiles defines the roofline. Below is a row of twelve rectangular recesses. A brick belt course separates the recesses from a deep row of brick corbelling. A brick belt course, a row of decorative brick, and a second brick belt course, spans the façade at mid-window height. 207 W. Fourth is now connected to 209 W. Fourth by a glass-walled passage that connects the buildings on both floors. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the Doctors' Row Historic District, Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), 1985.

**48. 209. W. Fourth St. (DAOB 77), ca. 1900, contributing building**

Several changes were made to the building in 1970. A photograph taken before restoration indicates that the roof was brought forward and down to cover the upper half-floor, which had two small windows. A large arched window on the first floor was replaced by a modern bay window. The window openings on the second floor have not changed but the windows have been replaced

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and colonial-style wood trim has been added. Originally, the entrance featured two adjacent doors. These have been replaced by a single, wider entrance flanked by sidelights and featuring colonial-style wood trim. The entrance is located seven steps above street level. 209 W. Fourth is now connected to 207 W. Fourth by a glass-walled passage that connects the buildings on both floors.<sup>18</sup> This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the Doctors' Row Historic District, Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), 1985.

**49. 335 Frederica St. (DAOB 78), 1893, contributing building**

This three-story two-part elaborately decorated Italianate commercial structure was constructed in 1893. The street level on the Frederica Street, the front of the building, has one storefront with a recessed corner entrance. The front façade has a cast iron front with an elaborate metal cornice; the central panel of which reads "1893." The cornice incorporates a corner turret decoration. Except for the storefront, all of the windows and doors on both the Frederica and the Fourth Street facades are topped by segmental-arched cut stone lintels.

The Fourth St. façade steps down in seven evenly divided sections, the first two sections being three stories high and the third through seventh being two stories high. The sections are clearly defined by brick pilasters that project above the roofline. The roofline is topped by terra-cotta tile and the cornice, defined by a brick corbel, is decorated with ornamental brickwork. 335 Frederica housed Karn & Carpenter, a drug store, for many years (ca 1925-1940). The Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Inc. currently occupies part of the building. The remainder is given over to business and professional offices. This building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing element to the Doctors' Row Historic District, Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), 1985.

**50. 333 Frederica St. (DAOB 196) Raines Shoe Hospital, ca. 1900, contributing building**

This small one-story one-part commercial block has housed the Raines Shoe Hospital since 1941. The building contains one storefront on the south side of the facade, although it probably originally had two. The entrance is on the north. To the south is a large display window. Below and on the south side of the window the building is faced with black glass panels. Both the door and window are steel frame. What may have originally been the second storefront is now a drive-through bay where customers can drop off or pick up their orders.

Raines Shoe Hospital was established in 1941 by W. A. Raines and his son, Clarence. In 1946

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Clarence Raines assumed ownership of the business. In 1952 a modern storefront was placed on the building and air conditioning installed. In 1958 the Raines Shoe Hospital became the first downtown store of its kind in the United States to provide drive-in facilities. It was at this time that the second storefront was converted to a drive-through bay. A portion of the "modern storefront" added in 1952 has since been removed, revealing the building's original upper façade. Raines Shoe Hospital still occupies the building.<sup>19</sup>

**51. 313 Frederica St. (DAOB 193), 1986, non-contributing building**

In 1982 two smaller buildings occupied this space. In late 1986 this building, a contemporary office building, was completed. The center front of the building is glass. The arched, double-door first floor entrance is set to the north side of the façade and is accentuated by several rows of stepped brick. A wide horizontal band of stone veneer divides the south portion of façade into two unequal parts. These elements are surrounded by glass. Another wide band of stone veneer, which projects from the façade, separates the first from the second story of the building. Above this band, a projecting window is divided into 21 lights of unequal size. The structure has no openings in the side walls.

**52. 305 Frederica St. (DAOB 191), ca. 1900, contributing building**

305 Frederica is a three-story two-part commercial block with one storefront that has had little alteration. Three rectangular windows in round-headed openings are evenly spaced on both the second and third stories. All are ornamented with rather elaborately styled brick hoods accentuated with pendants on each side. The first floor has a cast iron front manufactured by City Foundry & Machine Works of Owensboro. A recessed entry is located on the north side of the façade. Two display windows are located south of the door. The transom has been covered. In 1910 the building housed the Mecca Café, J. J. Bolton Proprietor. Kurtz Auction and Realty now occupy the building.<sup>20</sup>

**53. Courthouse Square (DAOB 88), since 1817, contributing site**

This block was designated the "Public Square" on the original plan of Owensboro approved by the General Assembly in January 1817. The first courthouse was built on the lot in 1818. A second courthouse, completed in 1856, was burned by Confederate guerillas in 1864. The courthouse was rebuilt between 1866 and 1868. It remained standing until 1963 while the present courthouse was built around it. Owensboro's first commercial district developed on the streets facing the square, initially along Frederica, which led from the landing on the Ohio River, and

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later along Second, Third, and St. Ann streets.

**54. Daviess County Courthouse (DAOB 88), 1963, non-contributing building**

The present Daviess County Courthouse, the fourth to stand on the square, was completed in 1963 at a cost of \$750,000. The U-shaped building, open to the north, is simple in appearance. It is faced in Indiana limestone. The courthouse is two stories tall. Its design emphasizes strong vertical lines, making the building appear taller than it is. The front of the structure, which faces W. Third Street, has a central entrance defined by a V-shaped portico with tall vertical openings. Twelve narrow twelve-light windows span almost the entire height of the façade. The Confederate Monument (DAOB 148) on the southwest corner of the courthouse square is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. On the northwest corner of the square is the bell salvaged from the preceding courthouse, which was built in 1868 and demolished in 1963.<sup>21</sup>

**55. 218 W. Third St. (DAOB 189), ca. 1925, contributing building**

The façade of this small two-story two-part commercial block with one storefront appears to have had little or no alteration. The blonde brick faced building has minimal ornamentation. The second floor has evenly spaced rectangular windows. The façade is divided by three separate rows of vertical brick - at the roofline, above, and below the windows. Four stone squares, two on each edge, accent the façade. The first floor storefront is faced in black glass panels. The shallowly recessed door to the second floor is on the east side of the façade. A similar storefront door is on the west side of the façade. To its east is a display window. Spanning the width of the window and door is a three-section transom.

**56. 214-216 W. Third St. (DAOB 188), ca. 1910, contributing building**

This plain two-story two-part commercial block with two storefronts retains many of its original features. The only ornamentation on the facade is a row of vertical brick at the roofline and a brick belt course that separates the first and second story. The second story windows are unevenly spaced. The windows are steel frame replacements and have been downsized but the original window openings are still visible. The storefronts are unequal in size, the east being smaller. The door to the east storefront is located on the east side. It is flanked by a display window. The door to the west storefront is located on the west side of the façade. It is also flanked by a display window. The storefront doors and windows appear to be original.



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**57. 210-212 W. Third St. (DAOB 187), ca. 1925, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block was subdivided and the two halves have been subjected to different degrees of modification. The façade is plain, with no ornamentation whatsoever. The west half of the building retains its original appearance and features. There are two steel frame casement windows on the second story. The storefront entrance, located on the west side of the façade, is flush with the front of the building. A display window is centered east of the door. Transoms top both the window and the door. The façade on the east half of the building was significantly modified ca. 1980. The second story windows are in their original position. The door and windows on the first floor have been modified but appear to be in their original positions. Centered between the two storefronts is the entrance to the second floor. This door has retained its original dimensions and transom.

**58. 208 W. Third St. (DAOB 87) Briedenbach Building, 1890, contributing building**

This three-story Romanesque Revival building is one of only two in the downtown area with office space in the basement level, the other being 324-326 St. Ann Street. Square brick piers on either side of the building define the first story. A flight of five steps on the east side of the building lead to the first floor entrance, which is flanked on the west by a large window. The door and window are topped by a transom. The second story is dominated by a pair of double round-headed windows. The window arches rest on slender columns on either side of and between the windows. The original windows have been replaced by smaller, rectangular windows. Rows of brick corbelling decorate the façade from the bottom of the second floor window arches to the bottom of the three rectangular third floor windows. These windows, original to the building, are separated by narrow columns. A simple square arch topped by a loaf-shaped keystone frames the windows. Above a row of brick corbelling and below the cast iron cornice is a panel reading E. H. BRIEDEBACH.

This building was constructed in 1890 by Edward H. Briedenbach, who served as light and water superintendent for Owensboro for over 50 years. Briedenbach was also a city commissioner, distiller, and landowner with extensive holdings. Briedenbach's offices on the first floor were familiar to the citizens of Owensboro as the place where they paid their light and gas bills. Sam Fite, a photographer, had a studio on the second floor when the building was first constructed. Since Briedenbach's tenure in the building ended it has housed an insurance office, a bank, and law offices. This building was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), National Register Nomination in 1985.

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**59. 200 W. Third St. (DAOB 86) I.O.O.F Building, 1895, contributing building**

The three-story I.O.O. F. building is one of the most elaborate commercial buildings in downtown Owensboro. Its architecture is a blend of Beaux-Arts and Italianate, featuring large windows capped with arches, decorative brickwork, and beautifully worked stone quoins, and pilaster capitals and bases. The corner of the building is highlighted by a flat, slightly projecting tower that rises above the roofline. The tower is repeated at each end of the building. The third floors of the towers have three-part windows topped by arches. The multi-paned windows feature blue glass. The sections between the towers have pairs of windows topped with similar arches. The second floor windows are arranged in the same configuration but are topped by transoms. The first floor on the W. Third Street façade is a wall of windows topped with transoms. The cast iron columns that divide the street level into sections are original, as is the cast iron cornice. Arched window openings run along the first floor of the St. Ann Street façade.

Brother's Lodge No. 132, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was organized in 1856. When the present building was constructed in 1895 the Lodge had a membership of 125 and owned half of the block of Third Street opposite the courthouse. The first floor of the building has always been occupied by retail establishments, the second by offices, and the third by Brother's Lodge 132. This building was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in the Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA), National Register Nomination in 1985.

**60. 111 W. Third St. (DAOB 181), ca. 1900, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block is very similar to both 107 and 109 W. Third Street. Several rows of brick corbelling define the cornice. Below, four arched vents are centered over four windows, which have been replaced. The original window openings were round-headed, topped by arches composed of two rows of brick headers. The first floor storefront bears no resemblance to the original. The entire first floor has been covered in stucco. The first floor is enframed, the frame executed in a contrasting color.

**61. 109 W. Third St. (DAOB 180), ca. 1900, contributing building**

The façade of this two-story two-part commercial block is very plain. Two arched vents are located between the roofline and the second story windows. The current windows are aluminum framed casement windows, composed of four horizontal panes each. Behind this double window, the outlines of three round-headed window openings are clearly visible. The entry to the storefront, which is joined to that of 107 W. Third Street, is set to the east. There are two wide, full

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height display windows to the west of the entrance. Visible on the brick behind the ca. 1950 storefront are two wide brick arches. The storefront has been reconfigured to angle inward from the west side to the east. The bulkhead is faced with small (3/4 inch) ceramic tile that matches that at 107 W. Third Street.

**62. 107 W. Third St. (DAOB 179), ca. 1900, contributing building**

The façade of this two-story two-part commercial block is very plain. A row of three arched vents is located between the roofline and the second story windows. The current windows are aluminum framed casement windows, composed of four horizontal panes each. Behind this double window, the outlines of three arched window openings are clearly visible. The storefront, which is joined to that of 109 W. Third St., has a second floor entry on the west side flanked by side-lights. The entry to the retail space is to the east of this doorway. There are two full height display windows east of the entrance. Visible on the brick behind the ca. 1950 storefront are two brick arches. The storefront has been reconfigured to angle inward from the east side to the west. The bulkhead is faced with small (3/4 inch) ceramic tile that matches that at 109 W. Third St.

**63. 105 W. Third St. (DAOB 178), ca. 1900, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block retains most, if not all, of its original features. The brick cornice is composed of two rows of corbelling in a large dentil pattern, below which is a row of smaller dentils. Narrow rectangular windows are placed on either side of a deep, centered recessed panel defined at the top brick corbelling. A group of three rectangular windows is centered in the panel. Between the cornice and the windows is a row of ornate terra-cotta tiles, each centered over a window.

On the east edge of the first floor is a door leading to the second floor. The remainder of the façade is given over to the storefront, which has a recessed central entrance flanked by full height display windows. The transom has been covered. In 1934, Smith Music Company, owned by George T. Smith, moved into this building. In 1950 the interior of the shop was renovated and in 1955 the exterior was remodeled and two "revealing picture windows" were added, "making Smith Music Co. Owensboro's most modern music store." Smith Music Co. occupied the building at least until late 1963.<sup>22</sup>

**64. 101-103 W. Third St. (DAOB 84), *The Inquirer Building*, 1889, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block has been subdivided for some time. The east half

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above the first floor is covered in crimped metal. The first floor has a recessed entrance flanked by display windows, below these the façade is covered in black glass panels. This entrance appears to be original.

The west half of the building has had little alteration. An elaborate cast iron storefront covers the entire upper floor of the building. A deep, projecting cornice is supported on brackets. The area between the cornice and windows is highly decorated. The five rectangular windows are grouped in two pairs separated by columns. The cast iron storefront also covers the first floor. The storefront entrance appears to have been modified. Three display windows angle from the west edge of the storefront to the door on the east edge, which is set back several feet from the sidewalk. The transom is covered. A door providing access to the second story is set in the original center of the building. It is flanked by cast iron pilasters.

The second story of the Allen Street façade has round-headed window openings; most are covered. The first story has two storefronts. The southernmost, 226 Allen St., has a flush entry with a separate half-height plate glass window to the south. 224 Allen St. has a flush display window and entry topped by a transom. An entrance on the north end of the building leads to the second floor back.

This building was constructed in 1889 by The Inquirer Publishing Company to house its newspaper, the *Owensboro Inquirer*. Offices in the building were leased to Western Union Telegraph and a US pension and claim attorney. The *Inquirer* office suffered a fire in 1909 but remained at this location until 1914 when its then-owner, Judge S. W. Hager, built a new building at 212-214 Allen Street. In 1957 the building housed a restaurant.<sup>23</sup>

**65. 222 Allen St. (DAOB 177), ca. 1900, non-contributing building**

222 Allen St. is a small one-story commercial building with two storefronts. The façade has been significantly altered. The upper portion of the façade is concealed by a shallow overhang of crimped metal. The lower portion of the façade has been refaced in new brick. The two entry doors are set toward the center of the building and are each flanked by a large display window. The doors and windows are steel frame replacements.

**66. 210 Allen St. (DAOB 176), ca. 1900, contributing building**

210 Allen St. is a two-story two-part commercial block with a cast iron storefront. A deep row of



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brick corbelling accents the façade above three evenly spaced vents. The vents are topped by a vertical row of brick. The second story has evenly spaced rectangular windows set into arched openings. These openings are topped by an arch of two rows of vertical brick and a band of stone. The first floor storefront includes an entrance to the second floor. The recessed main entrance is centered between two display windows. The Sanborn maps indicate that this building was built between 1895 and 1905, when it housed a tin shop.

**67. 217 Allen St. (DAOB 95) Mischel Marble Works, ca. 1900, contributing building**

The Sanborn maps indicate that this building was constructed between 1885 and 1895. This one-story red brick building is the south one-half of the building that originally stood here. The north half was demolished in 1985 to create parking for the Daviess County Judicial Center. What remains of the original building is one storefront. The recessed entrance is on the south side of the building. Display windows occupy the remainder of the lower façade. The transom has been covered. A metal awning projects from the façade just above the display windows. The cornice is cut stone, supported on four short pilasters topped with stone capitals. All of the elements of the façade are arranged symmetrically and employ the same design.

The use of stone on the façade is not surprising. The 1895 Sanborn map identifies this building as "Nick Mischel, Marble Works." An 1882-1883 business directory carries an advertisement for Owensboro Marble Works, Mischel Bro's, Proprietors, on Main St, between Allen and Daviess. The ad lists three brothers- Nick Mischel, John Mischel, and George Mischel. By 1895-96 there are two separate listings: "Mischel, George, marble works" and on the next line "Mischel, Nicholas, marble works" in the directory. There is no listing for John Mischel. It would appear that by 1895 the brothers had parted ways and that George Mischel had opened his own business in a new building at 412 E. Second while Nick Mischel set up shop at 217 Allen Street. When Nick Mischel died, his sons, George and John, continued the business. When John died the building was subdivided. John's widow became owner of the northern half of the building, which she rented out. The north half of the building remained in the family until at least 1982. It was sold and was demolished in 1985.

The south half of the building came under George Mischel's ownership, where he continued the monument operation for some years. Eventually the south half of the building was sold and over the years passed through several owners. In 1960 it was purchased by Thomas Andriakos, who operated his candy business, Andria's Candies, from that location for over 40 years.<sup>24</sup>

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**68. 221 Allen St. (DAOB 175), ca. 1900, contributing building**

The façade of this one-story, one-part commercial block has undergone considerable change but it is still possible to see the four storefronts that the building possessed in 1905. Two closely spaced rows of brick corbelling are placed between the roofline and above the storefront windows.

Today, four horizontal windows, each with three vertical panes, fill the top of the space once occupied by each of the four entrances. Below two of the windows the former entrance has been bricked in. The remaining two (first and third from the north) have been partially filled with square windows composed of three vertical panes. An entrance door is located in the third of the former bays, placed in the center of the building. On the ends of the building and between each bay, brick pilasters extend from street level to the brick beltcourse at the head of the windows. Two rows of brick beltcourse define the top of each pilaster.

Both the Third Street and the alley façades have been stuccoed. This structure appears to have been built between 1895 and 1900 as part of the YMCA complex. It has served as office space for a number of firms. The current occupants, an optometry firm, have been in the building for over 50 years.

**69. 111 E. Third St. (DAOB 83), Owensboro Plumbing and Heating Company, ca. 1900, contributing building**

An examination of Sanborn insurance maps indicated that this two-story red brick building (identified in 1905 as a grocery and 1910 as a garage) was constructed between 1900 and 1905. The façade was modernized in 1917 by the Owensboro Plumbing and Heating Company, whose name and the date appear on the building's new Art Deco style stone façade. A 1931 photograph shows the entrance in its present configuration and this modification was probably made in 1917 as well. Today, the original window openings on the second floor remain intact but modern steel frame windows have been installed. Owensboro Plumbing and Heating Co. was founded in 1902 by August Capell and William Troyer, at which time it was located at 203 W. Fourth Street. By 1911 the company had moved to 111 E. Third Street.<sup>25</sup>

**70. 115-117 E. Third St. (DAOB 174), Gant & Butterfield, ca. 1925, contributing building**

This two-story two-part commercial block is red brick with a blonde brick façade. The building has two storefronts, a single door storefront on the west and a double door storefront on the east. Both storefronts have recessed entrances and are flanked by large display windows. A metal awning runs the width of the building. The upper story has steel frame casement windows with

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stone lintels. A brick beltcourse between the roofline and the window heads is the only decoration.

Sometime before 1873 Lee Lumpkin established a business at 102 W. Second St. selling office supplies, stationary, books, and photographic supplies. In 1873 Lumpkin's clerk, W. E. Parrish, purchased the business, which he renamed Parrish Bookstore. In 1908 Parrish sold the business to his son-in-law, C. W. Gant. At that time the firm became known as Gant's Bookstore. After the firm suffered a fire in 1940, C. W. Gant retired. A. S. Gant, married to the granddaughter of the firm's founder, became owner of the company, which he moved to 117 E. Third St. that same year. A fire on October 12, 1948 forced them to temporarily abandon the E. Third St. location for a site at 315 Allen St. In the months following the fire, this building was completely refurbished. The company was also reorganized, becoming Gant and Butterfield. The firm reopened at this location July 28, 1949. At that time A. S. Gant was president of the company, Sidney Butterfield, (president of Smith & Butterfield of Evansville, Indiana) was treasurer, and Fred Sonemaker was vice-president. The firm remained Gant & Butterfield until at least late 1963. It is now Smith & Butterfield.<sup>26</sup>

**End Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Charlotte Worsham, *Owensboro Historic Commercial District National Register Nomination*, 1982, on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky.

<sup>2</sup> Glenda Thacker, *Historic Resources of Owensboro (MRA) National Register Nomination*, 1985, on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky.

<sup>3</sup> Downtown Owensboro, Inc. Annual Report, 1984.

<sup>4</sup> Glenda Thacker, "Owensboro's Main Street: The Building Years," *TV Facts Owensboro*, January 24-30 and correction February 7-13.

<sup>5</sup> *Messenger-Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963 and "Building will get a new lease on life," August 9, 1995.

<sup>6</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1885; City Directory for 1886 and 1918. Thacker, "Owensboro's Main Street: The Building Years," *TV Facts Owensboro*, January 24-30, 1982; Downtown Owensboro Inc., *Walking Tour of Historic Downtown Owensboro*.

<sup>7</sup> Downtown Owensboro, Inc., Annual Report, 1983.

<sup>8</sup> *Messenger-Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963 and "Building will get a new lease on life," August 9, 1995.

<sup>9</sup> "Formal opening of McAtee, Lyddane & Ray's Modernized store Will Take Place Tonight," *Messenger*, September 16, 1939; "McAtee's closing its doors," *Messenger-Inquirer*, December 14, 1977.

<sup>10</sup> The *Messenger-Inquirer*, *A Pictorial History of Owensboro-Daviess County*, Owensboro Publishing, Co., 1994.

<sup>11</sup> Lee A. Dew and Aloma W. Dew, *Owensboro: City on the Yellow Banks*, Rivendell Publications, Bowling Green,

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Kentucky, 1988 and unidentified clipping from the vertical file of the Daviess County Public Library.

<sup>12</sup> *Owensboro Messenger*, "Gunther Wright Machine Shop," May 22, 1910 and "Wright Machine is One of the Largest Firms of its Kind in Kentucky," November 4, 1937; *Owensboro, KY 1931: Historical and Pictorial Review of Owensboro*, no author, no publisher.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>14</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro: City on the Yellow Banks*.

<sup>15</sup> Keith Lawrence, "200 years of Owensboro" *Messenger-Inquirer* Bicentennial section, July 4, 1997; Owensboro, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1957; Downtown Owensboro, Inc., Annual Report, 1985.

<sup>16</sup> Advertisement for S. W. Anderson Company, *Messenger-Inquirer*, Daviess County Sesquicentennial Edition, Section D, October 5, 1965; Thacker, "Owensboro's Main Street: S.W. Anderson Co.," *TV Facts Owensboro*, February 7-13, 1982; Advertisement for S. W. Anderson Company, *Messenger-Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963.

<sup>17</sup> *Messenger-Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963.

<sup>18</sup> Glenn Hodges, "Renovation Turns Drab to Golden," *Messenger-Inquirer*, April 13, 1971.

<sup>19</sup> *Messenger-Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963.

<sup>20</sup> Advertisement for the Mecca Café, *Messenger*, May 5, 1910.

<sup>21</sup> Thacker, "Owensboro's Main Street: Daviess County Courthouses" from the vertical file at the Owensboro Public Library.

<sup>22</sup> *Messenger-Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963.

<sup>23</sup> Thacker, "Owensboro's Main Street: In 1892," *TV Facts Owensboro*, March 28-April 3, 1982; Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1957.

<sup>24</sup> Thacker, "Owensboro's Main Street: Kentucky Landmarks in the Downtown," *TV Facts Owensboro*, February 28-March 6, 1982.

<sup>25</sup> *Owensboro, KY 1931: Historical and Pictorial Review of Owensboro*, no author, no publisher, p. 15; *Illustrated Industrial Souvenir of Owensboro, KY*, no author, National Pub. Co., Chicago, Illinois, 1904, p. 60.

<sup>26</sup> *Messenger-Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963.



## 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 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.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

### Period of Significance

1850-1953

### Significant Dates

1881, 1885, 1900, 1950

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

unknown

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

see attached

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ 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

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Daviess County Public Library

Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District  
Name of property

Daviess Co. Kentucky  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 23 (approximate)

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	6	4	9	0	0	0	0	4	1	8	0	6	2	0
Zone			Easting						Northing						
2	1	6	4	9	0	1	0	0	4	1	8	0	6	8	0

3	1	6	4	9	0	5	8	0	4	1	8	0	7	0	0
Zone			Easting						Northing						
4	1	6	4	9	0	5	8	0	4	1	8	0	5	8	0

☒ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

see attached

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

see attached

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Maria Campbell Brent and Joseph Brent

organization Mudpuppy & Waterdog, Inc.

date July 27, 2004

street & number 129 Walnut Street

telephone 859-879-8509

city or town Versailles

state Kentucky

zip code 40383

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** see attached USGS map and sketch map

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** see attached

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name see attached list

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

**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. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Section 8, continued**

**Statement of Significance**

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District meets National Register Criterion A and is significant locally within the area of Commerce. Downtown Owensboro was the retail center of the city from its inception in 1817 until the mid-1970s but the period of significance, as reflected in the built environment, is 1850 to 1953. The oldest surviving commercial building in the district was constructed about 1850 while 1953 was the year in which one of the district's largest and most enduring retail establishments, S.W. Anderson Co., significantly enlarged its already substantial department store.

The changes in retail strategies and cultural attitudes toward traditional downtown retail centers engendered by the automobile had far reaching repercussions. Beginning in the 1960s and continuing through the 1980s numerous strategies were proposed to insure that downtown Owensboro would remain a vital retail center in the face of suburban competition. Efforts to keep major retailers downtown were unsuccessful. Nevertheless, downtown Owensboro remains the governmental, cultural, and social center of the city. Specialty stores rather than major retailers help draw traffic to the city center. The continuing effort to transform Downtown Owensboro into a cultural center accented by small specialty shops and eateries again reflects a national trend. The changes in downtown Owensboro are not unique, except in the details. These details are what shapes a city and give it a personality. Owensboro has its own style, which helped it become Kentucky's third largest city and kept its downtown the city's commercial center for over 150 years.

**CHANGES IN DOWNTOWN OWENSBORO:  
HOW NATIONAL TRENDS IN BUSINESS, TECHNOLOGY,  
AND CULTURAL ATTITUDES SHAPED A CITY**

*Early Owensboro, 1798-1860*

Economic opportunity brought many settlers to the west but many came looking not for fertile land but for the commercial opportunities offered by promising towns, and even town sites. In 1812 there were only two structures at "the yellow banks" of the Ohio River, which would become Owensboro, and both housed businesses. The first belonged to Bill Smothers,<sup>1</sup> a hunter and a trapper who settled in the area in 1798. Smothers also ran a public house that did a steady

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business providing travelers with food, liquor, and a bed. David Morton owned the second cabin, which housed a general store.<sup>2</sup>

When Daviess County was created on January 4, 1815 the settlement of Yellow Banks, then a cluster of houses, several stores, and a hotel, was designated as the county seat by virtue of its location on the Ohio River, the major artery of travel, and its relative accessibility by various roads and trails. The town lots were laid out on a grid with one block set aside for a public square, a popular design first employed by William Penn for the city of Philadelphia. The town stretched three blocks south from the Ohio River and a maximum of eight blocks east-west; four blocks on either side of Frederica, the main street, which ran south from the Ohio River and the important developing wharf district. The Public Square, located on the second block south of the river, was bordered on the east by Frederica. The new town was named Owensborough (later shortened to Owensboro), in honor of the Col. Abraham Owen, a casualty of the Battle of Tippecanoe.<sup>3</sup>

In 1815 steam traffic on the Ohio River was fast becoming a reality. Owensboro, on a deep-water bend in the river and with abundant fuel in its surrounding woodlands, was perfectly situated to be a river port. After the completion of the Louisville and Portland Canal in 1830 river traffic increased dramatically, almost doubling by 1833. That year the population of Owensboro was "scarcely 200 all told."<sup>4</sup> The city had several merchants and hotels but no banks, church buildings, or schools. That changed over the next few years. With commerce on the Ohio booming, and Davies County becoming a leading tobacco producer and processor, Owensboro became a commercial center. Steamboats off-loaded goods from around the world and took on tobacco, whiskey, hogs, geese, turkeys, sheep, and cattle. Owensboro lost much of its frontier appearance in the next decade as log structures were replaced by frame and brick. Educational, religious, social, and cultural institutions appeared. The county's first newspaper, the short-lived *Bulletin*, began in 1842. A busy commercial district developed along the first few blocks of Frederica Street and on the streets adjacent to the courthouse square<sup>5</sup>

By 1850 the population of Owensboro had increased to 1,215. That same year the city began to drain and improve the city streets and to install gas lights. The city's first bank was also established. The municipal improvements and the "fact that the bank was one of the institutions of the place, gave assurance that there was some money in town, and seemed to infuse new life into the citizens, even the old fogey part of the population, which had been adverse to enterprise."<sup>6</sup> Im-



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provements made to the business district included the construction of a large brick structure just off of St. Ann on the south side of Second Street. Newcomers continued to pour in to town and the population of Owensboro nearly doubled in ten years, to over 2,300.<sup>7</sup>

*The Civil War*

As the country drew ever closer to war, there was no question as to the sympathies of most Daviess County and Owensboro citizens. The county was overwhelmingly Whig and strongly pro-slavery, a stance common in many of the more prosperous counties in the Commonwealth. Whatever their politics, many businessmen in Owensboro and Daviess County looked upon the war as "an interruption of growth, and a devourer of energies."<sup>8</sup>

The predictions of economic stagnation made at the beginning of the war were never really realized in Owensboro. In spite of the disruption in river traffic caused by the impressment of steamboats into military service and intermittent embargoes, the guerilla raids, and the rifts caused by divisions over the issues of the war, the war years were ones of modest prosperity. Businesses did well, new stores and shops opened, the population increased slightly, and agriculture, the basis of the city's and county's economy, enjoyed high prices and firm demands.<sup>9</sup>

*Years of Prosperity, 1870-1905*

By the end of the Civil War securing a rail connection for the city had become a matter of pressing concern for many Owensboro businessmen. Others, especially the powerful and influential men with an interest in the steamboat trade, saw the railroad as competition for the lucrative passenger and mail trade. The pro-railroad faction prevailed and in 1872 Owensboro was connected to the Elizabethtown & Paducah Railroad.<sup>10</sup>

While Owensboro retained important ties to the river trade, the railroad, and its subsequent expansion, opened new economic opportunities. As a result, for Owensboro, as for many cities, the last quarter of the nineteenth century was a time of unprecedented growth and prosperity. As one observer said, "after the Civil War Owensboro went on quite a little boom."<sup>11</sup>

By 1872 the city's population had reached about 3,500. The city now stretched south to Seventh Street, east to the Litchfield Road, and west past Walnut Street to a deep ravine that inhibited further expansion. The employment opportunities offered by fifteen tobacco stemmeries, six distilleries, and numerous other industries drew new residents. The business district was still

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concentrated along Frederica Street and around the Courthouse Square but it was beginning to expand. The dwellings lining Second Street gave way to commercial buildings and livery stables. Everywhere, false-fronted frame and brick shops pushed up against wooden sidewalks and the dirt street. Forty-five different shops sold foodstuffs such as groceries, meats, vegetables, baked goods, and confections. Sixteen dry-goods stores, six drug stores and three hardware stores carried household essentials. Men could find a drink in one of thirty-five liquor saloons and six beer saloons in town. Specialty shops carried Queensware, millinery, jewelry, books, toys and hundreds of other items. Tailors, dressmakers, and shoe and boot makers provided custom goods stores such as Levy's provided ready-to-wear garments. Gunsmiths, tanners, photographers, barbers, doctors, dentists, lawyers offered their services.<sup>12</sup>

By the mid-1870's Owensboro's potential as a distilling center, with ready access to abundant grain and both river and rail facilities, had been recognized. Investors poured money into distilleries. Looking back from the perspective of 1888, the Owensboro *Daily Messenger* stated "In 1879 came the great whiskey boom and new distilleries sprang up about town in a few weeks. Their operators made money hand over fist. Men, who a few years before were almost poverty stricken, fairly rolled in wealth ... the boom continued about three years, during which Owensboro built up fine storehouses, residences and neat suburban cottages as if by magic."<sup>13</sup>

By 1883 there were eighteen distilleries in Daviess County, almost half of them located in Owensboro. The proliferation of distilleries created hundreds of jobs, both directly and indirectly, spurring an influx of immigrants from Europe as well as from areas closer to Owensboro. The county's distilling industry declined almost as quickly as it had risen, its end hastened by increasing government regulations, taxation, overproduction, and the inability of Owensboro sour-mash to compete with lower priced "quick-aging" whiskey. By 1900 only eight distilleries were still in operation.<sup>14</sup>

Even after the distilling industry declined Owensboro's economy, fueled by rising new industries such as wagon and buggy manufacture, continued to expand. The city's continuing prosperity was reflected in the expansion of Owensboro's commercial district. During the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century the commercial district expanded east from Frederica Street, initially down Second Street and later down Third and Fourth streets. Commercial development was far from uniform. In 1870 development was confined to the first three blocks of Frederica and those streets bordering the courthouse square. The streets nearest the courthouse were dedicated to shops, stores, and hotels.

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Livery stables and other space intensive pursuits were relegated to side streets and the south end of the Frederica Street. By 1885, with space around the courthouse occupied, the commercial district had expanded down Second Street. The north side of Second Street between St. Ann and Crittenden was mostly commercial buildings. The south side, however, was a mix of residences, livery stables, and brick and frame commercial buildings. Dwellings on large lots still occupied several corners. The whole block between Lewis and Crittenden was given over to the Upper Ward School. East of Crittenden commercial development was spotty. On the north side stood Harry Gunther's Novelty Machine works and several stores. The south side of the street was wholly residential.

Change along Second Street was hastened when one of the worst fires in Owensboro's history destroyed a number of buildings between Allen and Lewis (J. R. Miller Blvd.) in July 1887. The fire began in a livery stable on the south side of Second between Allen and Daviess where it destroyed a residence, coffin shop and livery stable. It spread east across Daviess Street, consuming a blacksmith shop, undertaking establishment, livery stable, and residence. Several buildings on the north side of Second Street were also destroyed. The fireproof building housing Phillips Bros. and McAtee Dry Goods on the northeast corner of Second and Daviess, was the only structure to survive the blaze. Losses were calculated at \$50,000, a tremendous sum in 1887. Within a few short years, however, the area decimated by fire was rebuilt, brick buildings replacing the frame commercial buildings and livery stables. Among the new buildings was the two-story Temple Theater on the southwest corner of Second and Daviess.<sup>15</sup>

It was between 1875 and 1915 that many of the structures that still define downtown Owensboro were built and that some of the retail firms and institutions most closely identified with the city were founded. In the 1880s the building on the corner of St. Ann and Second Street, built about 1850, received a facelift when an elaborate iron front was installed on the building. In about 1883 Owensboro Savings Bank constructed a new building on the northwest corner of Allen and Second. Solomon Wile built two buildings with an elaborate cast iron fronts at 105 and 107 East Second Street to house his clothing and dry goods establishment in 1881. By 1889 he had built an adjacent building at 101-103 East Second Street. That same year *The Inquirer* built a two story building with a cast iron front on Third Street. S. W. Anderson established Anderson's Bazaar on Daviess Street, and the newly established dry goods firm of McAtee, Lyddane and Ray rented space in the Miller building at 114-116 East Second Street. A. F. Wheeler Furniture Company moved into a new building at 115-119 E. Second in 1905. In 1908 S. W. Anderson purchased and

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remodeled the Temple Theater to house his growing department store. By 1911 McAtee, Lyddane and Ray had constructed a new four-story modern department store on the northwest corner of Second and Daviess streets.

About 1895, when social organizations and clubs of all kinds flourished, the Young Men's Christian Association constructed an impressive complex on the northeast corner of Third and Allen and the International Order of Odd Fellows built a three-story Beaux Arts building on the southwest corner of Third and St. Ann. In 1912, Masonic Lodge No. 130 built a five-story office block on the corner opposite the I. O. O. F. Building. It was perhaps fitting that the city on the Yellow Banks, which had changed so much since it was designated Owensborough in 1816, was given a new and modern spelling. Owensborough, by a change in Post Office Department policy, became Owensboro in 1893.<sup>16</sup>

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Owensboro's rail and water connections had changed the city from a small trade center into a manufacturing and industrial center. Trains and river craft brought grain, lumber, coal and other raw materials into the city and took tobacco, whiskey, wagons, and buggies to markets throughout the country. In 1905 the city had 63 manufacturing establishments. Flour, buggies, wagons, sewer pipe, iron frames for dynamos, and electric lights were just some of the products produced by a skilled workforce. Electricity, paved streets, streetcars, and telephones were becoming commonplace.<sup>17</sup>

*Depression and Prosperity, 1906-1929*

The Depression of 1906 initially had little effect on Owensboro but in the crash of 1908 two Owensboro banks, the Owensboro Savings Bank & Trust Co. and the Daviess County Bank, failed. By 1909 few businessmen in Owensboro could boast that they were doing a splendid business as they had two years earlier.

But by 1920 Owensboro was once again experiencing a wave of prosperity fueled, in part, by an oil boom that began in 1915 and reached its height in the late 1920s. The first commercial well was drilled in 1926, bringing oil men from Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Ohio, West Virginia, and East Kentucky. Most resided at the Hotel Owensboro where, as one oil man put it, "Every night the lobby was so jammed with men, tobacco smoke and rumors that it was impossible to find anyone or anything you might be searching for."<sup>18</sup> By 1930 there were 35 oil companies and four refinery businesses in Daviess County, most of them based in Owensboro.<sup>19</sup>



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The oil industry and a healthy tobacco industry helped mitigate the effects of Prohibition, which resulted in the closure of two distilleries, thirty-one saloons, several beer agents, and a number wholesale and retail liquor establishments in the year before the law went into effect in January 1920. Three more distilleries closed over the next decade and by 1930 only Glenmore Distillery, producing industrial and medicinal alcohols, remained.<sup>20</sup>

Between 1900 and 1930 the physical appearance of commercial centers across the nation began to change and Owensboro's was no exception. Some of these changes were also based in technology. Electric lights replaced gaslights. Movie theaters became commonplace. The bus replaced the streetcar. Although the first automobile had come to Owensboro about 1905 and the first repair shop opened in 1907, cars were still beyond the reach of most until Ford began to mass produce the Model T in 1913. By 1925 a majority of Americans owned automobiles and that fact was changing the face of downtown. In 1890 there were several livery stables downtown, some along Second Street, one at Frederica and Fourth, and others on the side streets. In 1914 the city had sixteen flourishing livery stables, several in the heart of downtown. By 1935 there were only three and none were located downtown. Some stable owners adapted to changing conditions. Five of the former stables had been converted into public garages by 1934, one into a combination stable and garage, and one into a truck depot.<sup>21</sup>

Changes in merchandising and retailing swept the nation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Some changes, such as the movement of small grocers away from downtown and into the suburbs, were based in economics. Others were the result of the growth of corporations, mass merchandising, and chain stores. After 1895, department stores, retailing chains, and mail-order businesses dominated merchandising. Corporations entered fields that touched every consumer, from meat packing to steel manufacturing to grocery stores and hotels. Technological advances, including those in mass production, packaging, transportation and distribution, and the advent of new energy sources, especially electricity, helped make the formation of national corporations possible. Equally important was the availability of huge amounts of capital for investment, capital pooled by new commercial and state banks and the new insurance companies. Some of those corporations began chains of stores that were uniformly managed and advertised and whose identities were created with logos or slogans. By 1918 chain stores had made their appearance in downtown Owensboro. Smith and Bates, a drugstore on the corner of Third and St. Ann, had become a Rexall Store by that year and there was a F. W. Woolworth variety store at 126 W. Third. On August 18, 1923 the J. C. Penny Company opened a store at 114 E. Second Street, the first Penny's store in Kentucky

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and number 475 in the company's chain.<sup>22</sup>

Before 1880 department stores did not exist but by 1900 large department stores could be found in cities and small towns alike, most of them locally owned. The dry goods store gradually became a thing of the past, replaced by department stores that relied increasingly on advertising, fashion shows, window displays, lighting, and other merchandising techniques to entice buyers. By the 1930s both S. W. Anderson, who had purchased the failing Temple Theater in 1908 to house his Daylight Store, and McAtee, Lyddane and Ray, located opposite each other at the intersection of Second and Daviess, were marketing their establishments as full service department stores and maintained offices and a staff of buyers in New York. Their competition, in part, was the chain stores J. C. Penny and Sears, Roebuck & Co.<sup>23</sup>

*The Great Depression, 1929-1945*

The effects of the Black Monday, October 29, 1929, were not felt immediately in Owensboro. The bank failures, rising unemployment, and falling stock prices experienced elsewhere seemed far removed from prosperous Owensboro. In 1931 auto sales were booming and W. H. Manning, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, wrote, "There is no industrial or agricultural depression in the territory which Owensboro serves as a banking and trading center, but, on the contrary, signs of prosperity are evident to the most casual observer." By the end of the year unemployment had risen but tobacco prices, generally a strong indicator of the city's economy, held firm. Most believed Owensboro would escape the economic chaos experienced elsewhere, and good Christmas sales for area retailers seemed to justify that optimism. But on January 2, 1932 Central Trust Company, an Owensboro institution since 1890, failed. Two weeks later National Deposit Bank enacted "emergency measures," including a limit on withdrawals.<sup>24</sup>

As the nation's economy continued on a downward slide some Owensboro businesses struggled, while others, including Ken-Rad and the Anglo-American Mill, were adding jobs. Increased orders led to extended work hours and larger paychecks for employees at Ames Corporation and other businesses. Owensboro's economy received another boost when Glenmore Distillery resumed full production with the repeal of prohibition on December 5, 1933, bringing "a welcome infusion of economic vitality into a deteriorating business environment." By 1937 four distilleries were operating in Owensboro. Owensboro also benefited from Roosevelt's new policies. In 1935 a CCC camp that employed over 200 men was built outside Owensboro. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) employed several hundred men on construction and road

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projects. Smaller but no less important to the people they employed were the Federal Writer's Project, the WPA historical records survey, and the WPA sewing projects for women.<sup>25</sup>

Nineteen thirty-seven began with what seemed to be never-ending rains that culminated in the worst flood ever recorded in the Ohio Valley. Owensboro's location on the high Yellow Banks saved the city from the worst of the Great Flood. Although water filled the commercial district along Second Street and flooded basements in the business section, most of the city suffered little damage. By late summer few indications of the flood remained and residents were looking forward with excitement to the construction of an Ohio River bridge at Owensboro to be partially funded by the Public Works Administration. The bridge was opened to traffic in June 1940, bringing increased traffic to downtown Owensboro from southern Indiana, to the benefit of many businesses.<sup>26</sup>

A heavily illustrated 1938-39 Chamber of Commerce brochure promoting Owensboro as an ideal location for industry and individuals alike carried the slogan "Kentucky Hospitality in the Center of the Nation's Market." Prominently displayed was an excerpt from a *Forbe's Magazine* article that described the city as the fifth most desirable location in which to do business in the nation. Photos of the shopping district and a sidebar, headed "Shopping Center of Western Kentucky," proudly proclaimed that Owensboro has 404 modern retail stores.<sup>27</sup>

At least two of those 404 modern retailers were added to Owensboro's downtown district during the Depression years. The fact that both were national, rather than local, companies was a reflection of the growth of national corporations. In 1929 S. S. Kresge moved into the former Westerfield, Purdy and Sheffer Furniture Co. store on the southeast corner of Second and Allen. Sears, Roebuck & Company opened in May 1935 in the former E. W. Smith Furniture Co. building next to McAtee, Lyddane and Ray. The opening of a new, modern department store seems to have spurred Owensboro's other major retailers to update their stores, all of which held formal openings between September 14 and 21, 1939. J. C. Penny's featured their newly opened second floor and complete interior remodeling. After several months spent remodeling and modernizing the interior of their store, McAtee, Lyddane and Ray emphasized their totally modern interior and new merchandising and fixtures. Their advertisement stated, "No sales will be made during the evening hours. We simply want you to see our contribution to a greater and better Owensboro." S. W. Anderson Co. invited the public to celebrate the company's fiftieth anniversary by visiting their newly remodeled store and enlarged men's store opening in the neighboring building.<sup>28</sup>

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Several new buildings were constructed in the business district in the two decades before the World War II. Three new buildings went up on the south side of Second Street between Allen and St. Ann. Westerfield, Purdy and Sheffer Furniture Co. built a three-story building on Second and Allen in 1925. About that same time, two buildings were erected on the north side of Second Street at St. Ann. The Owensboro Coca-Cola bottling Plant moved into a new building on the southeast corner of Second and Crittenden, opposite the buildings Wright Machine Company had constructed in the first decade of the century. Other commercial buildings were erected on Third Street opposite the courthouse and between Allen and Daviess streets. As it had many times in the past, the physical appearance of downtown Owensboro was being given a more modern appearance.

*Modern Owensboro*

In 1950 Owensboro had a population of 33,651. Not only was the population growing, the city itself was growing. The urbanized area stretched east and west along the river and south along Tripplett Street to the Old Hartford Road. Frederica Street extended to Twenty-fifth Street. Thirty-five miles of the city's eighty-eight miles of streets were paved. The county and city were becoming increasingly modernized. In the 1950s the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport was completed, new industries came to the city and several established industries expanded. Owensboro's industrial growth brought jobs and people to Owensboro, people whose paychecks were spent in Owensboro's retail establishments.<sup>29</sup>

Downtown Owensboro was a thriving retail center not only for Daviess and the neighboring counties but for portions of southern Indiana as well. Ever increasing numbers of people in Hancock, McLean, and Ohio counties in Kentucky and Spencer County in Indiana thought nothing of driving to Owensboro for a meal, a movie, or shopping. Faith in the future of the downtown was exemplified by the opening of a new, modern Sears, Roebuck & Co. store on East Second Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Crittenden on the site of the former Third Street School. The 50,000 square foot store building took up the north half of the block, its parking lot the south half. The grand opening on August 18, 1950 drew hundreds of people and the 114-car parking lot was filled to capacity all day.<sup>30</sup>

Secure in the importance of downtown Owensboro as a retail center, and perhaps prompted by reports of a new Sears store, Anderson's department store began a ten-year modernization program of interior and exterior improvements in 1948. In 1953 Anderson's constructed the three-



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story Daviess Street addition, which included a shipping and receiving bay on Third Street. Five years later the display windows were rebuilt and the piers faced in granite to match the façade of the new addition.<sup>31</sup>

In the 1950s drive-in service became a fad in Owensboro as it did almost everywhere else. The Owensboro Trust Company offered drive-in banking and the Dairy Drive-In on south Frederica became the local teenage gathering place. Raines Shoe Hospital at 333 Frederica became the first business of its kind in the United States to offer drive-in service when a drive-through bay was installed in 1958. *Shoe Service Magazine*, the trade publication, said, "Raines has rid himself of the parking problem and given customers greater convenience."<sup>32</sup>

In the 1950s downtown was the commercial and retail center of Owensboro, as it had been for over 130 years. Anderson's and McAtee's were the first destinations of the fashion conscious. Sears and Penny's drew customers looking for everything from tractors to baby clothes. Four theaters provided entertainment, as did watching the crowds from the lunch counters at Kresge's or Newberry's dime stores. The Rudd and Owensboro Hotels provided comfortable accommodations for travelers and many residents frequented their restaurants and lounges. But by the late 1950s changes in retailing, driven by the prevalence of the automobile and the availability of inexpensive open land outside the city center, were already well underway.<sup>33</sup>

Architects and planners, influenced by the Modern Movement, began to view the traditional model of densely packed buildings set on a street grid as outmoded and impractical. Modern considerations of space and volume dictated that new development should be freestanding or clustered and surrounded by large areas of open space. In new developments buildings often functioned simply as backdrops for the open spaces necessitated by the need to accommodate large numbers of automobiles. This pattern of thought was reflected in the form known as a "shopping center" in mass retailing.<sup>34</sup>

The nation's first shopping center opened in 1922 and by the mid-1950s they could be seen almost everywhere in the United States, including Owensboro. The first large-scale development, Gabe's Shopping Center, opened in 1959 at Eighteenth and Tripplett. It featured shops, a 12-story cylindrical tower hotel, Gabe's Restaurant, a popular Owensboro gathering place that moved from downtown to the new shopping center, and "plenty of free parking." Its opening, although few realized it, was the first of many that what would ultimately spell the end of the downtown as

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the commercial center of Owensboro.<sup>35</sup>

On October 4, 1963 the *Messenger-Inquirer* carried a special "Downtown Progress Section" heralding the completion of the Owensboro, a thoroughly modern hotel built on the corner of Frederica and Fourth, the site of the old Owensboro Hotel. The following year, S. W. Anderson Company expanded yet again with the purchase of the Alexander Paint & Wallpaper building that abutted the department store on Third Street. The building was remodeled, creating a new men's department. The entrance was opposite the store's parking lot, purchased the year before. Even though new, modern shopping centers were being erected all over town, the downtown remained the central retail district, bolstered by the presence of long-time anchor stores.<sup>36</sup>

The changing trends in merchandising, decisions made by non-local business owners, and corporate policies dictating new store locations began to have a noticeable affect on Owensboro's downtown in the 1970s. In 1977 McAtee's, which had been in the same location opposite S. W. Anderson's since 1911, closed its doors, its out-of-state owners citing company cutbacks and the competition posed by the coming Towne Square Mall. By the end of the year, twenty-two downtown storefronts were vacant. The completion of the mall in 1978 was the final blow for downtown retailing. McAtee's was already gone. Sears and Penny's moved to the new mall. In late November 1979 Schultz's, a women's clothing store, closed, the manager stating "The downtown's not a viable retail community for us anymore. The traffic's not there." On Christmas Eve of that year Kresge's, which had been in the same location for 55 years, closed and the company's new merchandising concept, a K-Mart store, opened in Wesleyan Park Plaza. Daniel Furniture City and Glen-More Clothing Company both closed in January 1980. Only Anderson's remained, keeping their downtown store open but at the same time opening a mall location. Owensboro was not alone. All over the nation cities of every size were facing similar problems. In a culture that emphasized the new, aging downtowns were seen as the relicts of an obsolete lifestyle.<sup>37</sup>

Two blocks of downtown Owensboro's streetscape along the south side of Second Street were greatly altered between 1985 and 1995. The new Daviess County Judicial Center replaced several buildings between Allen and Daviess streets. Between Daviess and J. R. Miller Blvd., the First Baptist Church erected a new 27,000 square foot Christian Life Center. Although it did not alter the physical appearance of the downtown, the closing of Anderson's department store, just months after the company celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, left another storefront vacant.

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*Conclusion*

Even before Owensboro was laid out in 1816, the most used path led south from the Ohio River and into the wilderness. On the town plan, the path became Frederica Street and by 1820 a hotel, several stores, and a handful of homes stood along its three-block length. The courthouse square defined the central business district. As the commercial district grew, the streets opposite the four sides of the square were the first to be developed. When the Civil War began, intensive commercial development was still limited to streets closest to the courthouse square. Beyond the commercial district, to the south and east, were dwelling interspersed with churches, municipal buildings, and livery stables. Industrial buildings were relegated to the waterfront and the fringes of the city.

After the Civil War, Owensboro, like many cities, experienced a period population growth and prosperity that resulted in a building boom. With space around the courthouse square filled, commercial development began to advance down adjacent streets. Because a deep ravine about two blocks west of Frederica limited building to the west, development spread eastward from St. Ann Street. Most new commercial development took place along Second Street, immediately south of the busy warehouse district along the riverfront. Development at the east end of Second Street was spurred by construction of the railroad down Lewis Street (now J. R. Miller Blvd.), which terminated in a depot at the riverfront.

By 1900 the nature of the businesses in the commercial district had shifted. Initially, all business was located in the small central business district. By the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, livery stables and other space intensive commercial pursuits had been relegated to the less developed parts of the commercial district. The coffin shops and undertaking establishments had moved out long ago. Gone, too, were most of the lower profit businesses such as grocers, bakeries, and butchers, who had moved into the developing suburbs. The commercial district was filled with hotels, new department stores, and other retail establishments. Frederica was developed to past Fourth Street. All of Second Street between St. Elizabeth to Crittenden was lined with commercial buildings, most of them brick. Third Street had developed as well, with commercial buildings, churches, a school, municipal buildings, and the I.O.O.F. and Y.M.C.A. within several blocks of the courthouse. Commercial buildings mingled with residences along Fourth Street just east of Frederica.

When the Federal government established a system of designated highways in the mid-1920s, the

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Owensboro-Louisville Road was designated as part of US 60. The highway entered Owensboro from the east on Second Street, reinforcing its position as the city's Main Street, the name given to Second Street during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At first, automobiles seemed a blessing to main streets everywhere, "ridding the street of the congestion, noise and filth that resulted from work animals, allowing suburban development, and bringing customers to shops, readers to libraries and voters to city hall."<sup>38</sup> That promise seemed to be fulfilled. The automobile made downtown Owensboro a regional shopping destination, a position it held from 1900 through the mid-1970s.

New ideas about commercial development in concert with the demands of modern merchandising and the increased need for automobile parking led to the development of the shopping center concept in the 1920s. Between the mid-1950s and the mid-1970s a number of shopping centers were built in rapidly growing Owensboro. Although many were anchored by grocery stores, they did draw some business from downtown retailers. But the major department, clothing, and variety stores remained downtown, which was still the principal shopping area.

Changing attitudes about what constituted a desirable shopping environment led to the development of the mall concept. Malls were inward looking. Their exteriors were nondescript and surrounded by acres of free parking. Inside, walls of glass defined shopping areas and allowed the "consumer," a term that developed with department stores in the 1890s, to see the store's merchandise. Climate control guaranteed a pleasant shopping experience. The construction of Owensboro's Towne Square Mall in the late 1970s signaled the end of downtown as a retail center.

Efforts to revitalize Owensboro's downtown began in the late 1970s. In 1982, a three-block section of Second Street was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1985, Doctors' Row Historic District, the I.O.O.F. Building, Briedenbach Building and Geo. Mischel & Sons were listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Owensboro Multiple Resource Area. That year, the Preservation Alliance was formed to promote the preservation and restoration of the community's historic building.<sup>39</sup>

Downtown Owensboro, always a governmental center, has been reinvented as the cultural center of Owensboro. The riverfront that was once lined with tobacco warehouses, mills, and stock-yards, is a park. Museums, RiverPark Center, restaurants, antique and specialty stores, and pro-



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Professional offices occupy many of the buildings. The Courthouse, Daviess County Judicial Center, and City Hall reaffirm the downtown as the center of government. New attention is being devoted to preserving and using the downtown's remaining historic structures. Downtown Owensboro continues to evolve to meet the needs of its citizens as it has for the past 200 years.

Owensboro's historic commercial center has had several identities over the past two centuries. Its evolution has been affected by the interplay of local and national events, the changing structure of American business, technology and cultural attitudes. It was the center of commerce in Owensboro from 1817 through the 1970s. After the automobile came into wide use it became a regional commercial center, a position strengthened by the opening of the Ohio River Bridge in 1940. Downtown Owensboro's built environment is significant as a physical record of the period 1850 through 1953, the years in which downtown Owensboro rose to prominence as a regional commercial and retail center.

**End Notes**

<sup>1</sup> Smothers is now the most commonly accepted spelling; variations that occur in texts include Smithers and Smeathers.

<sup>2</sup> Richard C. Wade, "Urban Life in Western America, 1790-1830," in *The Old Northwest*, edited by Harry N. Scheiber, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, Nebraska, 1969; Inter-State Publishing Co., *History of Davies Co.*, pp. 49, 321-324; W. H. Manning, *Owensboro*, 1931, typescript in the vertical file of the Daviess County Public Library: Owensboro-History; Lee A. Dew and Aloma W. Dew, *Owensboro: The City on the Yellow Banks*, Rivendell Publications, Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1988, p. 17.

<sup>3</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 25-27; Carole Rifkind, *Main Street: The Face of Urban America*, Harper & Row, Publishers, New York, 1977, p. 17; Hugh O. Potter, *In The Beginning ... Historical Facts About the Earliest Days of Present Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky*; Radio Station WOMI, Owensboro, Kentucky, 1968, p. 11.

<sup>4</sup> *History of Daviess County*, p. 327.

<sup>5</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 22, 28-39; *History of Daviess County*, pp. 324-327, 336; Keith Lawrence, "An Invisible History," *Messenger-Inquirer*, November 18, 1990; Hodges, "Owensboro's planes, trains and automobiles," *Messenger-Inquirer* Bicentennial section, July 4, 1997; Keith Lawrence, "200 years of Owensboro," *Messenger-Inquirer* Bicentennial section, July 4, 1997.

<sup>6</sup> Inter-State Publishing, *History of Daviess County*, p. 328.

<sup>7</sup> Inter-State Publishing Co., *History of Daviess County*, pp. 328, 332; Lee and Aloma Dew, "River Got Owensboro Rolling," *Messenger-Inquirer*, May 11, 1997; Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 33-40

<sup>8</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 41-47, 64.

<sup>9</sup> Lee A. Dew, "A Railroad to Russellville," *Filson Club Quarterly*, Vol. 52, January 1978, p. 26.

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- <sup>10</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 65-67; Lee A. Dew, "A Railroad to Russellville," p. 26.
- <sup>11</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, p. 64.
- <sup>12</sup> Inter-State Publishing Co., *History of Daviess County*, p. 330; Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, p. 65.
- <sup>13</sup> Mel Henton, "Looking Back to the 'Good Old Days' of Yesteryear," *Messenger-Inquirer*, March 19, 1972.
- <sup>14</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 81-90; Lee A. and Aloma Williams Dew, "Owensboro's Industrial Boom," *Messenger-Inquirer*, September 14, 1997.
- <sup>15</sup> Keith Lawrence, "An Invisible History," *Messenger-Inquirer*, November 18, 1990.
- <sup>16</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1895, 1905; Glenda Thacker, "S. W. Anderson Co.," *TV Facts Owensboro*, February 7-13, 1982; "McAtee, Lyddane & Ray Celebrates The Golden Anniversary of its Opening," *Messenger*, May 22, 1948; Rennick, *Kentucky Place Names*, p. 223.
- <sup>17</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, p. 115; Dew and Dew, "Owensboro's Industrial Boom," *Messenger-Inquirer*, September 14, 1997.
- <sup>18</sup> Potter, *Hugh O. Potter's History*, p. 150.
- <sup>19</sup> Potter, *Hugh O. Potter's History*, p. 150; Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 111-117.
- <sup>20</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, p. 117; Potter, *Hugh O. Potter's History*, p. 118.
- <sup>21</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 114, 117; Potter, *Daviess County Sesquicentennial Factbook*, p. 35; Paul S. Boyer, editor, *Oxford Companion to United States History*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2001, p. 517; "Livery Stables All But Vanish In Owensboro In Last Twenty Years," *Messenger-Inquirer*, August 19, 1934; "Only Three Livery Stables Are Left In City of Owensboro," *Messenger-Inquirer*, June 2, 1935.
- <sup>22</sup> William Leach, *Land of Desire*, Pantheon Books, New York, 1993, pp. 3-25; Owensboro City Directory, 1918; "Penny Store to Open August 18," *Messenger*, July 18, 1923.
- <sup>23</sup> Leach, *Land of Desire*, pp. 20-25
- <sup>24</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 145-7; Hayes, *Sixty Years of Owensboro*, p. 104; W. H. Manning, *Owensboro*, 1931, typescript in the vertical file of the Daviess County Public Library: Owensboro-History.
- <sup>25</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 147-157.
- <sup>26</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 158-160; Hayes, *Sixty Years of Owensboro*, pp. 140-144.
- <sup>27</sup> Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, *Owensboro, Kentucky*, ca. 1938, brochure in the vertical file of the Daviess County Public Library: Owensboro-Industries.
- <sup>28</sup> *Messenger-Inquirer, A Pictorial History of Owensboro-Daviess County*, Owensboro Publishing Company, 1994, p. 43; "Sears, Roebuck to Open Thursday," *Messenger*, May 1, 1935; "Penny company to Have formal Opening of Store," *Messenger*, September 13, 1939; "McAtee, Lyddane and Ray to Have Formal Opening" and "Anderson's New Store Formally Opens Wednesday," *Messenger*, September 10, 1939.
- <sup>29</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 166, 181-182.
- <sup>30</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, p. 166; "Ground is Broken for New Sears Store," *Messenger-Inquirer*, December 4, 1949; "Shoppers Throng New Sears Store Here at Formal Opening," *Owensboro Messenger*, August 18, 1950.

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<sup>31</sup> Advertisement for S. W. Anderson Co., Sesquicentennial Edition, Section D, *Messenger and Inquirer*, October 5, 1965.

<sup>32</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 166-167; Downtown Progress Section, *Messenger-Inquirer*, October 4, 1963.

<sup>33</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 166-167.

<sup>34</sup> James Mayo, *The American Grocery Store*, Greenwood Press, Westport Connecticut, 1993, p. 133; Richard Longstreath, *The Buildings of Main Street*, AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, California, 2000, p. 126-127

<sup>35</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, p. 167; "New Shopping Center," *Messenger and Inquirer*, September 23, 1956; Rifkind, *Main Street*, p. 222.

<sup>36</sup> Dew and Dew, *Owensboro*, pp. 190- 192; *Messenger- Inquirer*, Downtown Progress Section, October 4, 1963; Advertisement for S. W. Anderson Co., Sesquicentennial Edition, Section D, *Messenger and Inquirer*, October 5, 1965.

<sup>37</sup> John Ed Pearce, "Daviess County," *The Courier-Journal Magazine*, November 6, 1977; "McAtee, Lyddane & Ray Celebrates the Golden Anniversary of its Opening," *The Owensboro Messenger*, May 22, 1949; McAtee's closing its doors," *The Messenger-Inquirer*, December 14, 1977; Dew & Dew, *Owensboro*, p. 192; "Clothing store is closing in downtown Owensboro," *Courier-Journal*, November 30, 1979; "Fourth Owensboro Store Closing," *Henderson Gleaner*, January 1, 1980; Rifkind, *Main Street*, p. 228.

<sup>38</sup> Rifkind, *Main Street*, p. 221.

<sup>39</sup> Downtown Owensboro, Inc. Annual Report 1984; Charlotte Worsham, *Owensboro Historic Commercial District*, and Glenda Thacker, *Historic Resources of Owensboro (Multiple Resource Area)* National Register nominations on file at the Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky.

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Owensboro, Daviess County, Kentucky

**Section 10, Geographical Data, continued**

UTMs, continued

5. 16 E 490420 N 4180500

6. 16 E 490120 N 4180380

7. 16 E 490020 N 4180360

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District consists of 70 properties located roughly between Frederica, Clay, Fourth, and Second Streets in downtown Owensboro. It includes the buildings that front on the north side Second Street from St. Ann to 409 E. Second Street as well as the south side of Second Street from 414 W. Second Street to Frederica and from Frederica and Second to Frederica and Fourth Street. It also includes the buildings on both sides of Daviess, Allen, and St. Ann between Second and Third streets; the buildings on the west side of St. Ann between Fourth and Third; and those on the north side of Third Street between St. Ann and J. R. Miller Blvd. (Maps 1 and 2).

**Boundary Justification**

The object of this National Register nomination was to tie the original Owensboro Historic Commercial District (1982) and the Doctor's Row Historic District (1985) together. The Owensboro Historic Commercial District includes those building that front on the north and south side of Second Street between St. Ann and J. R. Miller Blvd. The Doctor's Row District [Historic Resources of Owensboro (Multiple Resource Area)] includes the building on the northwest corner of Frederica and Fourth, those buildings fronting on the north side of Fourth Street between Frederica and St. Ann and the southernmost building on the west side of St. Ann at Fourth.

This nomination expands the district and accomplishes the goal. All of the extant buildings that were part of the original Owensboro Historic Commercial District were retained in the district. The district was expanded 1.5 blocks east on Second Street to include an intact complex of properties of commercial/light industrial buildings including DAOB 102 (Geo. Mischel & Sons), which was previously listed as part of the Historic Resources of Owensboro (Multiple Resource Area).

The original district was expanded south to include the north side of Third Street between J. R. Miller

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Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

Blvd. and St. Ann, thus including all of the buildings that faced the east and west on St. Ann, Allen, Daviess, J. R. Miller Blvd., and Crittenden. The district was expanded east from St. Ann to Frederica, which includes the courthouse square, even though the courthouse itself is noncontributing. Finally, it is extended south from the courthouse square to include the whole block bound by Fourth, Third, Frederica, and St. Ann. This includes not only the Doctor's Row properties but also DAOB 86 (I.O.O.F. building) and DAOB 87 (Briedenbach Building), which were also listed as part of the Historic Resources of Owensboro (Multiple Resource Area).

The original two districts included 57 buildings, twelve of which were noncontributing. The new Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District includes 67 buildings and three sites for a total of 70 properties, of which thirteen buildings are noncontributing. The district has been increased by 13 properties.

The expanded district does not represent all that remains of Owensboro's once thriving downtown commercial district. There are other areas within the old core of downtown that may be eligible. However, those areas are not contiguous to this district, which is the largest and best preserved of part of the central business district.

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

**Property Owners**

See attached Property Valuation Maps 1-1, 1-2, and 1-5 for parcel locations

**MAP 1-1**

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 3 (101 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Peachtree Galleries  
105 W. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 4 (105-107 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Peachtree Galleries  
105. W. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 5 (109 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Bamberger and Abshire  
111 W. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 6 (111 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Bamberger and Abshire  
111 W. Second  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 7 (115 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Lee Roy Walker & Jack Ross  
3602 Marycrest W 42301  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 8 (117 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Cumberland Trace Legal Services, Inc.  
520 E. Main St.  
Bowling Green, KY 42102



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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 9 (119 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Peachtree Galleries  
105 W. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 10 (121 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Russ and Amy F. Wilke  
121 Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 11 (123 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: David J. and Eva G. Atkinson  
516 W. Seventh St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 2, Parcel 12 (125 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Mary E. Magliner  
1804 Sunset Dr.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 5 (121 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Frank and Linda Hayden  
209 Sutton Lane  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 6A (119 E. Second Street)

Property Owner: Davis & Hurst Properties, LLC  
119 E. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 6 (115 E. Second Street)

Property Owner: Rhodes Properties, LLC  
2150 Fieldcrest Dr.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

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PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 7 (113 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Stevie J. and Minnie Sue Jarvis  
4704 Shell Drive  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 8 (111 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Stevie J. and Minnie Sue Jarvis  
4704 Shell Drive  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 9 (109 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Rose Ann Williams  
109 E. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 10 (105-107 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Robert A. Puckett Declaration of Living Trust  
PO Box 1666  
Owensboro, Kentucky, 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 3, Parcel 11 (101 E. Second Street)

Property Owner: Newberry-Wile Building, LLC  
115 E. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 4, all (RiverPark Center)

Property Owner: City of Owensboro  
PO Box 10003  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 5, all (First Baptist Church/Complex)

Property Owner: First Baptist Church  
230 J. R. Miller Blvd.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 6, Parcel 1 (122 E Second St.)

Property Owner: City of Owensboro  
PO Box 847  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 6, Parcel 3 (115-117 E. Third St.)

Property Owner: Earl H. and Elaine Seibert  
600 Cullen Ave.  
Evansville, IN 47715

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 6, Parcel 4 (111 E. Third St.)

Property Owner: Max S. and Patti L. Hartz; Marvin P. and Deborah Nunley Trust  
PO Box 925  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 6, Parcels 5, 5A (221 Allen St.)

Property Owner: Drs. Heltsley & Schertzinger  
221 Allen St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 6, Parcel 6 (217 Allen St.)

Property Owner: David and Eve Atkinson  
516 W. Seventh St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 6, Parcel 10 (100 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Public Improvement Corp.  
100 E. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 1 (100 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: J. Craig Grant  
100 W. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 2 (210 Allen St.)

Property Owner: Owen Lawson  
210 Allen St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 3 (212 Allen St.)

Property Owner: City of Owensboro  
PO Box 847  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 3A (216 Allen St.)

Property Owner: City of Owensboro  
PO Box 847  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 4 (222 Allen St.)

Property Owner: Violet Lambert  
221 Brown Ct.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 5 (101 W. Third St./224-226 Allen St.)

Property Owner: Violet Lambert  
221 Brown Ct.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 6 (103 W. Third St.)

Property Owner: Violet Lambert  
221 Brown Ct.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 7 (105 W. Third St.)

Property Owner: James B. and Cleta DeWitt  
105 W. Third  
Owensboro, KY 42303



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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 8A (111 W. Third St.)

Property Owner: The Silver & Black Group  
111 W. Third St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 8 (107-109 W. Third. St.)

Property Owner: Jean J. McCulloch and Marilyn J. Fleming  
2900 Eastern Parkway  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 9 (115 W. Third St.)

Property Owner: William L. and Betty M. Wilson  
1414 Griffith Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 10 (227 St. Ann St.)

Property Owner: Masonic Lodge/Masonic Temple Co., Inc  
227 St. Ann St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 11 (225 St. Ann St.)

Property Owner: Albert W. Barber Jr. and Albert W. Barber II  
212 Brampton Ct.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 12 (223 St. Ann St.)

Property Owner: Audubon Loans I, LLC  
PO Box 205  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 13 (221 St. Ann St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

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PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 14 (209-215 St. Ann St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 15 (126 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 16 (122 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 17 (120 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 18 (118 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 19 (116 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 20 (112 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Robert D. Prather  
2302 Wintergreen Loop N  
Owensboro, KY 42301

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 21 (108 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Larry W. Peech and Scott Reader  
105 W. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 22 (104-106 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Peachtree Galleries  
106 W. Second  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 23 (102 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Martin Skidais, Inc.  
102 W. Second St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 7, Parcel 24 (124 W. Second St.)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-1, Block 8, all (Daviess County Courthouse Square)

Property Owner: Daviess County Fiscal Court  
PO Box 1716  
Owensboro, KY 42302

**MAP 1-2**

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 1 (200 W. Third St.)

Property Owner: Brothers Lodge IOOF, C/O Ebb Peacock  
2521 Gairview Spur  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 2 (310 St. Ann St.)

Property Owner: L. K. Harrington Family, LLC  
313 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 4 (324-326 St. Ann St.)

Property Owner: Charles S. Wible  
324 St. Ann St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 5 (201-203 W. Fourth St.)

Property Owner: Richard D. and Joyce H. Edwards  
1125 Griffith Ave.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 6 (205 W. Fourth St.)

Property Owner: George and Glenda Thacker  
3135 Settles Road  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 8 (207-209 W. Fourth St.)

Property Owner: Thacker, Thacker, and Bickel  
C/O Thacker, Thacker, Wetzel & Hodskins  
209 N. Fourth St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 10 (335 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: Evelyn M Raines and Deloris R. Knight, et. al.  
3507 Monticello Drive  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 11 (333 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: Evelyn M Raines and Deloris R. Knight, et. al.  
3507 Monticello Drive  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 14 (327-329 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: Evelyn M Raines and Deloris R. Knight, et. al.  
3507 Monticello Drive  
Owensboro, KY 42301



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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 15 (319 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: L. K. Harrington Family, LLC  
313 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 17 (313 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: L. K. Harrington Family, LLC  
313 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 19 (307-309 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: L. K. Harrington Family, LLC  
313 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, KY 42301

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 20 (305 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: William B. and Sharon Kurtz  
305 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 21 (301 Frederica St.)

Property Owner: William B. and Sharon Kurtz  
305 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 22 (218 W. Third St.)

Property Owner: William B. and Sharon Kurtz  
305 Frederica St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 23 (214-216 W. Third St.)

Property Owner: M&H Properties, LLC  
214 W. Third St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 24 (212 W. Third St.)  
Property Owner: Black Dog Properties, LLC  
C/O Brenda Mcallister  
PO Box 6051  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 25 (210 W. Third St.)  
Property Owner: Claud Porter  
210 W. Third St.  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-2, Block 1, Parcel 26 (208 W. Third St.)  
Property Owner: Michael T. and Teresa H. Wallace  
4304 Wood Trace  
Owensboro, KY 42303

**MAP 1-5**

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 1, Parcel 2 (303 E. Second St.)  
Property Owner: City of Owensboro  
P.O. Box 847  
Owensboro, KY 42302

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 1, Parcel 3 (305 E. Second St.)  
Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 1, Parcel 5 (319 E. Second St.)  
Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 1, Parcel 6 (321 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 2, Parcel 2 (401 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 2, Parcel 3 (407 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 2, Parcel 4 (409 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 8, Parcel 9 (412-414 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 8, Parcel 10 (400 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

PVA Reference: Map 1-5, Block 9, all (312 E. Second St.)

Property Owner: Terry Woodward  
3662 Bridgepointe  
Owensboro, KY 42303

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Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

**Photographs**

Photographer: Joseph Brent

Date taken: May 9, 2004

Negative location: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, Kentucky

See Map 4 for property numbers and photograph locations

Photo 1 – The north side of W. Second Street between St. Ann and Allen streets, looking northeast.  
Left to right: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Photo 2 – The north side of W. Second Street between St. Ann and Allen streets, looking northwest.  
Left to right: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Photo 3 – The north side of W. Second Street between St. Ann and Allen streets, looking northwest.  
Left to right: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Photo 4 – The north side of W. Second Street between St. Ann and Allen streets, looking northwest.  
Left to right: 8 and 9.

Photo 5 – The west side of Allen Street at W. Second Street, looking west northwest. The west  
façade of property 9.

Photo 6 – The north side of E. Second Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking northeast.  
Left to right buildings 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

Photo 7 – The north side of E. Second Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking northeast.  
Left to right: 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

Photo 8 – The north side of E. Second Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking north  
northeast. Left to right: 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Photo 9 – The north side of E. Second Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking north  
northeast. Left to right: 13, 14, 15 and 16.



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Photo 10 – The north side of E. Second Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking north northeast. Left to right: 16 and 17.

Photo 11 – The north side of E. Second Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking northwest. Left to right: 16 and 17.

Photo 12 – The north side of E. Second Street between Daviess Street and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking east northeast. Left to right: 19, 20 and 21.

Photo 13 – The north side of E. Second Street between Daviess Street and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking north. Left to right: 19, 20 and 21.

Photo 14 – The north side of E. Second Street between Daviess Street and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking north. Left to right: 19, 20, 21 and 22.

Photo 15 – The north side of E. Second Street between Daviess Street and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking north northeast. Left to right: 21 and 22 (site).

Photo 16 – The north side of E. Second Street between Daviess Street and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking northwest. Left to right: 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 (site).

Photo 17 – The north side of E. Second Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Crittenden Street, looking northwest. Property 23, vacant lot partially under Ohio River Bridge.

Photo 18 – The north side of E. Second Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Crittenden Street, looking east. Mural on the west façade of 24, J. W. Barr & Co.

Photo 19 – The north side of E. Second Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Crittenden Street, looking north northwest. Property 24, J. W. Barr & Co.

Photo 20 – The north side of E. Second Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Crittenden Street, looking northwest. Left to right: 24 and 25.

Photo 21 – The north side of E. Second Street between Crittenden and Clay streets, looking

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northeast. Left to right 26 and 27.

Photo 22 – The north side of E. Second Street between Crittenden and Clay streets, looking north. Property 27, Progress Printing.

Photo 23 – The north side of E. Second Street between Crittenden and Clay streets, looking northwest. Property 27, Progress Printing.

Photo 24 – The south side of E. Second Street between Clay and Crittenden streets, looking southwest. Property 28, Geo. Mischel & Son.

Photo 25 – The south side of E. Second Street between Clay and Crittenden streets, looking southwest. Left to right: 28 and 29.

Photo 26 – The south side of E. Second Street between Clay and Crittenden streets, looking southeast. Property 29, Owensboro Coca Cola Bottling Plant.

Photo 27 – The east side of Crittenden Street at E Second Street, looking north northeast. Property 29, Owensboro Coca Cola Bottling Plant.

Photo 28 – The south side of E. Second Street between Crittenden and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking southwest. Property 30, Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Photo 29 – The southwest corner of Crittenden Street and E. Second Street, looking south southwest. Property 30, Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Photo 30 – The south side of E. Second Street between Crittenden Street and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking south. Property 30, Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Photo 31 – The north side of E. Third Street between Crittenden Street and J. R. Miller Blvd., looking north northwest. Property 30, Sears, Roebuck & Co.

Photo 32 – The south side of E. Second Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Daviess Street, looking southwest. Property 31, First Baptist Church-Christian Life Building.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 88

Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

Photo 33 - The south side of E. Second Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Daviess Street, looking southeast. Property 31, First Baptist Church and associated buildings (parking lot and rear of buildings facing Third Street)

Photo 34 - The west side of J. R. Miller Blvd. between E. Second and E. Third streets, looking northwest. Property 31, First Baptist Church and associated buildings.

Photo 35 - The north side of E. Third Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Daviess Street, looking north northeast. Property 31, First Baptist Church.

Photo 36 - The north side of E. Third Street between J. R. Miller Blvd. and Daviess Street, looking north northeast. Property 31, First Baptist Church and associated buildings (new construction to west of original church building).

Photo 37 - The east side of Daviess Street between E. Second and E. Third streets, looking north. Property 31, First Baptist Church and associated buildings.

Photo 38 - The south side of E. Second Street between Daviess and Allen streets, looking southwest. Left to right: 32, S. W. Anderson Co. and 33, Daviess County Judicial Center.

Photo 39 - The west side of Daviess Street between E. Second and E. Third streets, looking south. Property 32, S. W. Anderson Co.

Photo 40 - The south side of E. Second Street between Daviess and Allen streets, looking southeast. Left to right: 32, S. W. Anderson Co., and a portion of 33, Daviess County Judicial Center.

Photo 41 - The south side of E. Second Street between Daviess and Allen streets, looking southeast. Property 33, Daviess Co. Judicial Center (also showing 34 and 35 on W. Second).

Photo 42 - The corner W. Second and Allen streets, looking southwest. Left to right: 66, facing Allen St. and 34, 35, and 36 on W. Second Street.

Photo 43 - The south side of W. Second Street between Allen and St. Ann streets, looking southwest. Left to right: 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, and 39.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 89

Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

Photo 44 – The south side of W. Second Street between Allen and St. Ann streets, looking southeast. Left to right: 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Photo 45 – The south side of W. Second Street between Allen and St. Ann streets, looking southeast. Left to right: 36, 37, 38, and 39.

Photo 46 – The south side of W. Second Street between Allen and St. Ann streets, looking southeast. Property 39.

Photo 47 – The east side of St. Ann Street between W. Second and W. Third streets, looking northeast. Left to right 40, 41, and 42.

Photo 48 – The east side of St. Ann Street between W. Second and W. Third streets, looking east. Property 43, Masonic Lodge.

Photo 49 – The west side of St. Ann Street between W. Third and W. Fourth streets, looking southwest. Property 59, I.O.O.F. Building.

Photo 50 – The west side of St. Ann Street between W. Third and W. Fourth streets, looking northwest. To left is rear of 51, to right is 59, I.O.O.F. Building.

Photo 51 – The west side of St. Ann Street between W. Third and W. Fourth streets, looking west. Left to right: 43 and 44.

Photo 52 – The west side of St. Ann Street between W. Third and W. Fourth streets, looking west. West façade of property 44.

Photo 53 – The north side of W. Fourth Street between St. Ann and Frederica streets, looking north northwest. Left to right: 46 and 45.

Photo 54 – The north side of W. Fourth Street between St. Ann and Frederica streets, looking north northwest. Left to right: 48, 47, and a portion of 46.

Photo 55 – The north side of W. Fourth Street between St. Ann and Frederica streets, looking



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number Photographs Page 90

Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

northeast. South façade of property 49.

Photo 56 – The east side of Frederica Street between W. Fourth and W. Third streets, looking southeast. Left to right: 50 and 49.

Photo 57 – The east side of Frederica Street between W. Fourth and W. Third streets, looking southeast. Left to right: 52 and 51; 50 and 49 can be seen in the background.

Photo 58 – The east side of Frederica Street between W. Fourth and W. Third streets, looking east. Property 52.

Photo 59 – Daviess County Courthouse, property 54, looking west northwest from the corner of St. Ann and W. Third streets.

Photo 60 – Daviess County Courthouse Square, property 53, looking south from W. Second Street. The Daviess County Courthouse is in the background.

Photo 61 – The south side of W. Third Street between Frederica and St. Ann streets, looking southeast. Left to right 57, 56, and 55.

Photo 62 – The south side of W. Third Street between Frederica and St. Ann streets, looking south southwest. Property 58, Briedenbach Building.

Photo 63 – The south side of W. Third Street between Frederica and St. Ann streets, looking south southwest. Property 59, I.O.O.F. Building.

Photo 64 – The south side of W. Third Street between Frederica and St. Ann streets, looking southwest. Left to right: 59, I. O. O. F. Building; 58, Briedenbach Building; and 57 (56 and 55 partially obscured).

Photo 65 – The north side of W. Third Street between St. Ann and Allen streets, looking northwest. Property 43, Masonic Lodge.

Photo 66 – The north side of W. Third Street between St. Ann and Allen streets, looking north-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 91

Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

Owensboro, Daviess, County, Kentucky

east. Left to right: 60, 61, 62, 63 and 64, *The Inquirer* Building.

Photo 67 – The north side of W. Third Street between St. Ann and Allen streets, looking north northwest. Property 64, *The Inquirer* Building.

Photo 68 – The northwest corner of the intersection of Allen and W. Third streets, looking northwest. On the west side of Allen Street between W. Third and W. Second streets, left to right: 65 and the east façade of 64, *The Inquirer* Building. On the north side of W. Third St., left to right: the rear of 43, Masonic Lodge (in the background), 60, 61, 62, 63, and 64, *The Inquirer* Building.

Photo 69 – The west side of Allen Street between E. Third and E. Second streets, looking northwest. Left to right 66 and the west façade of 34.

Photo 70 – The east side of Allen Street between E. Second and E. Third streets, looking southeast across the parking lot associated with property 33, Daviess County Judicial Center. Left to right: the rear of buildings fronting on the north side of E. Third Street - 32, S. W. Anderson Co.; building 70; and 69, Owensboro Plumbing and Heating Co.; and the north façade of 67.

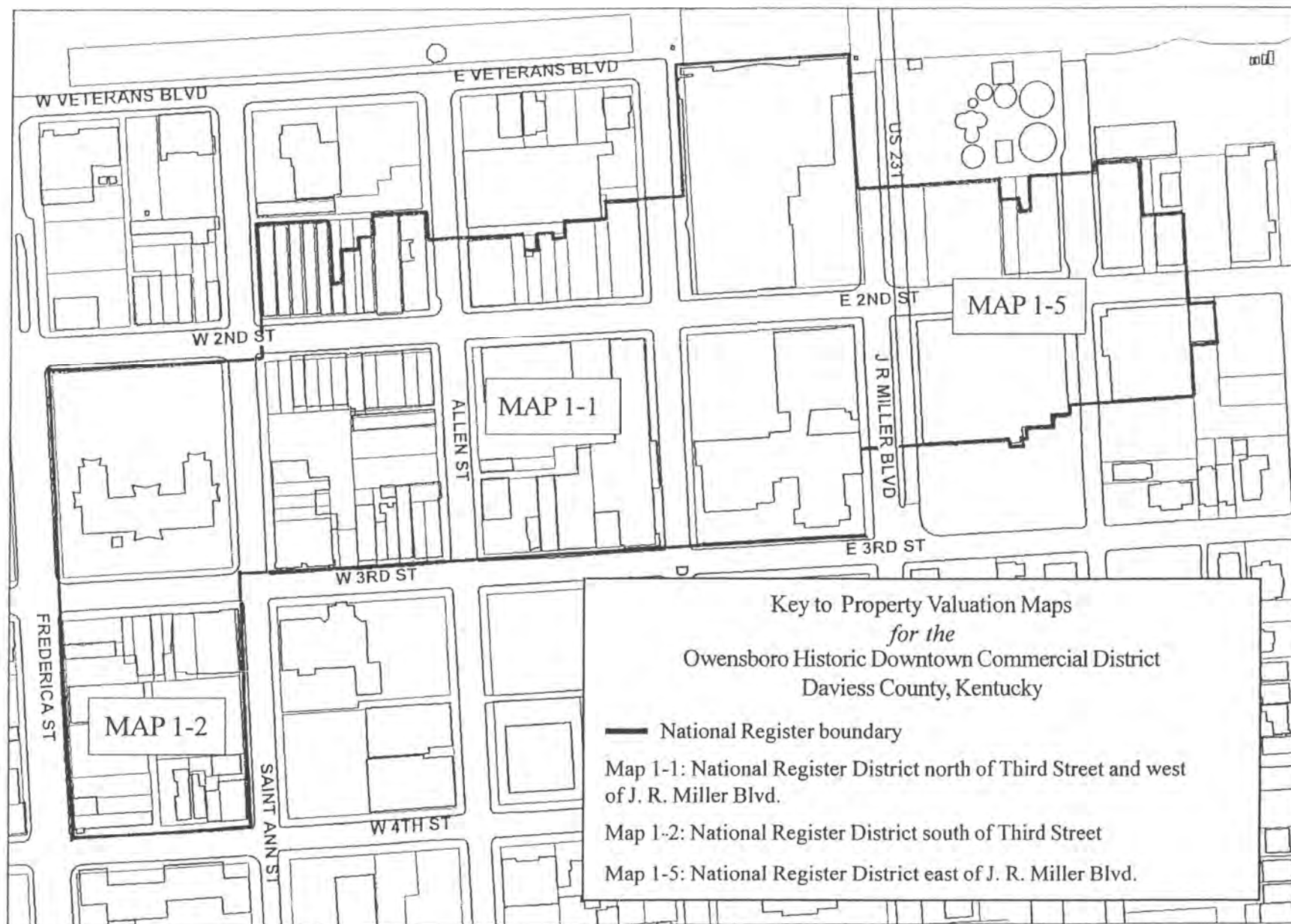
Photo 71 – The east side of Allen Street between E. Second and E. Third streets, looking east. Left to right: 67 and 68.

Photo 72 – The east side of Allen Street between E. Second and E. Third streets. Property 68.

Photo 73 – The north side of E. Third Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking north. Left to right: 69, Owensboro Plumbing and Heating Co., and 70, Gant & Butterfield.

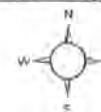
Photo 74 – The north side of E. Third Street between Allen and Daviess streets, looking north. Loading dock of property 32, S. W. Anderson Co.

Photo 75 – The northwest corner of the intersection of E. Third Street and Daviess Street. Property 32, S. W. Anderson Co. Property 70, Gant & Butterfield, is at far left.



**Downtown Area - Owensboro, KY**  
(Building footprints drawn from 1999 aerial photography)

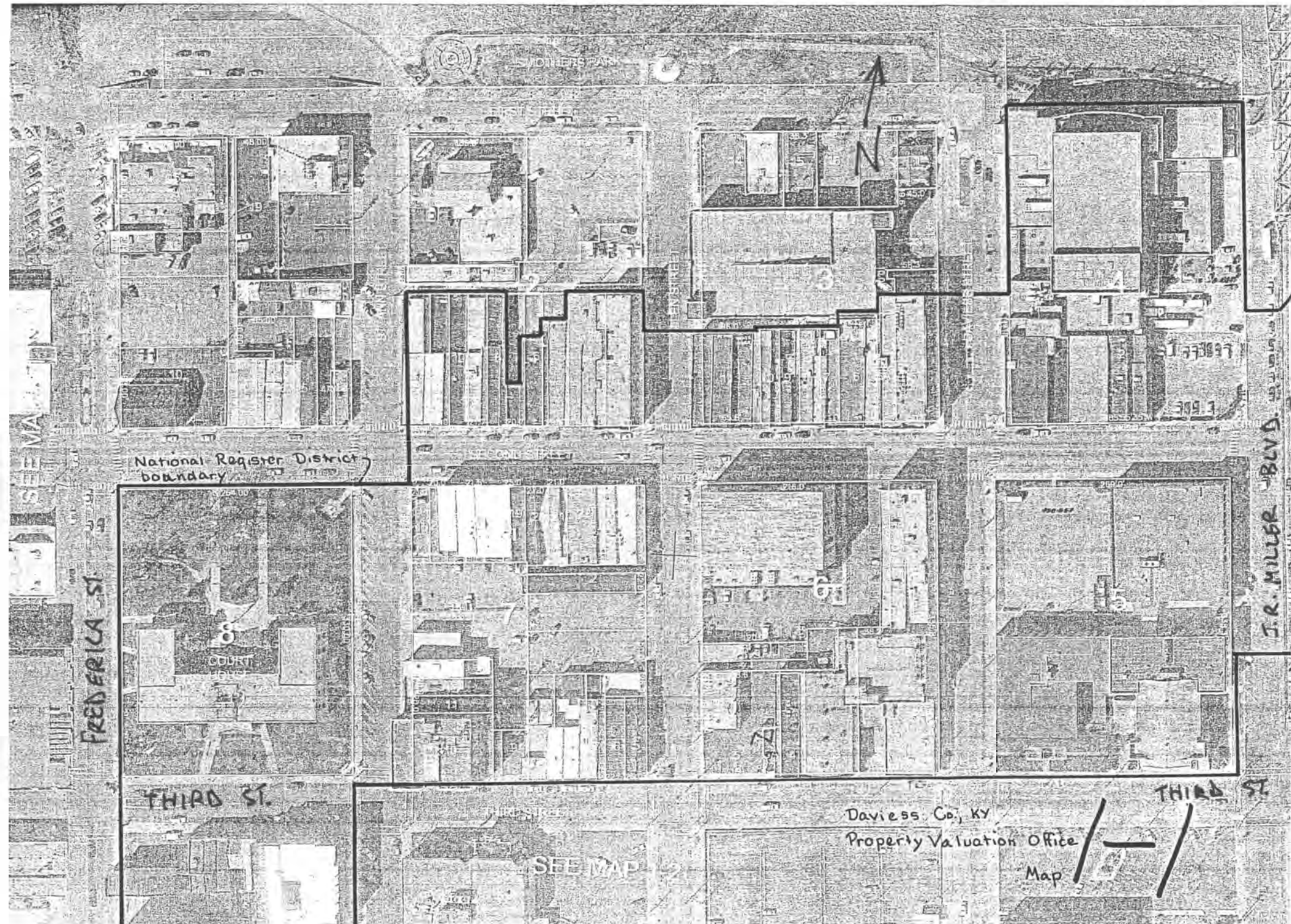
0 200 Feet



Data Sources: ODCGIS  
City of Owensboro IS Dept  
270-667-8634  
Map No. 04145



Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District, Daviess Co., KY  
Property Valuation Office Map 1-1







THIRD ST.

SEE MAP 1-1

FREDERICK STREET

National Register District Boundary

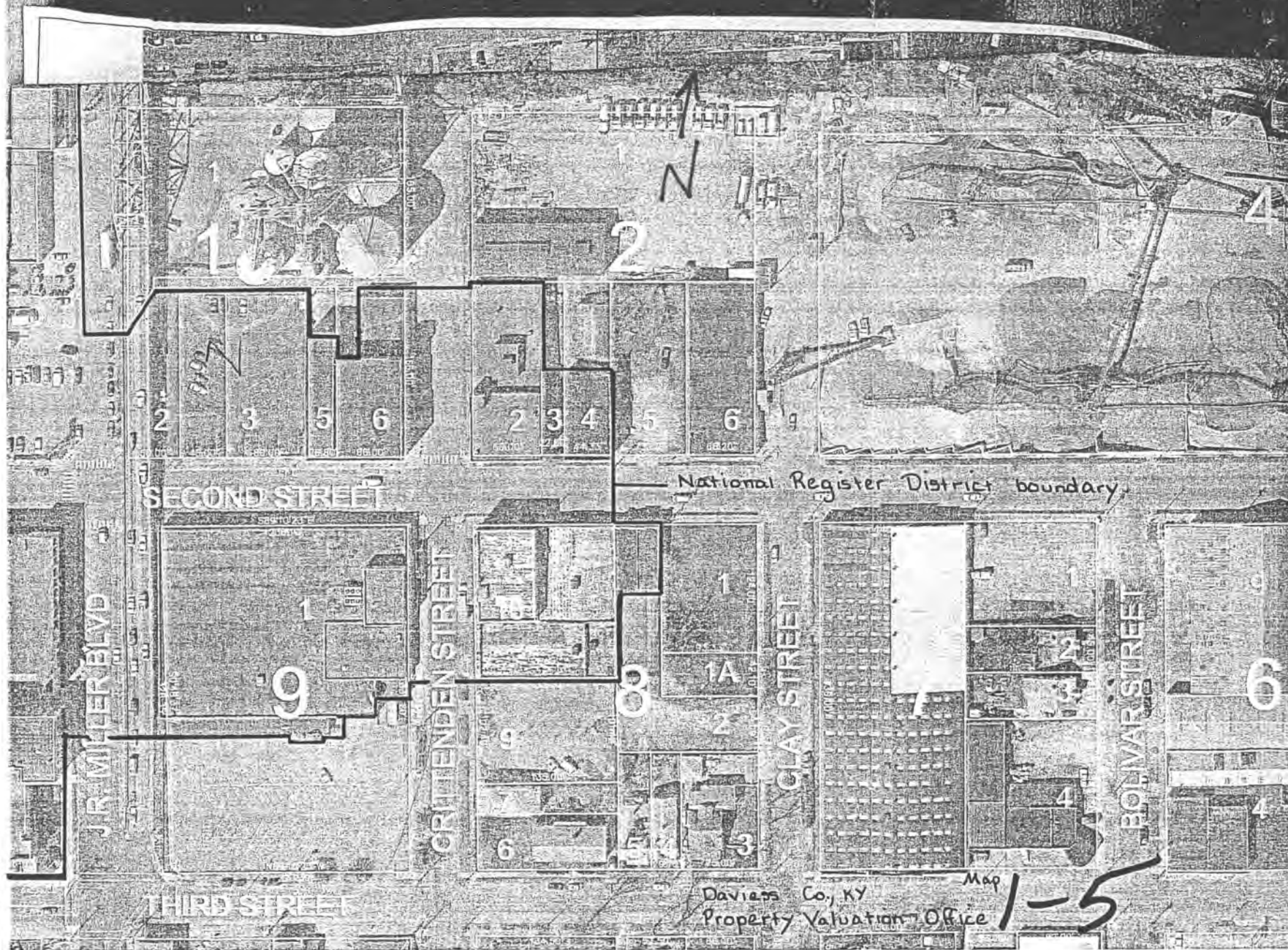
DavieSS Co, KY  
Property Valuation Office

Map

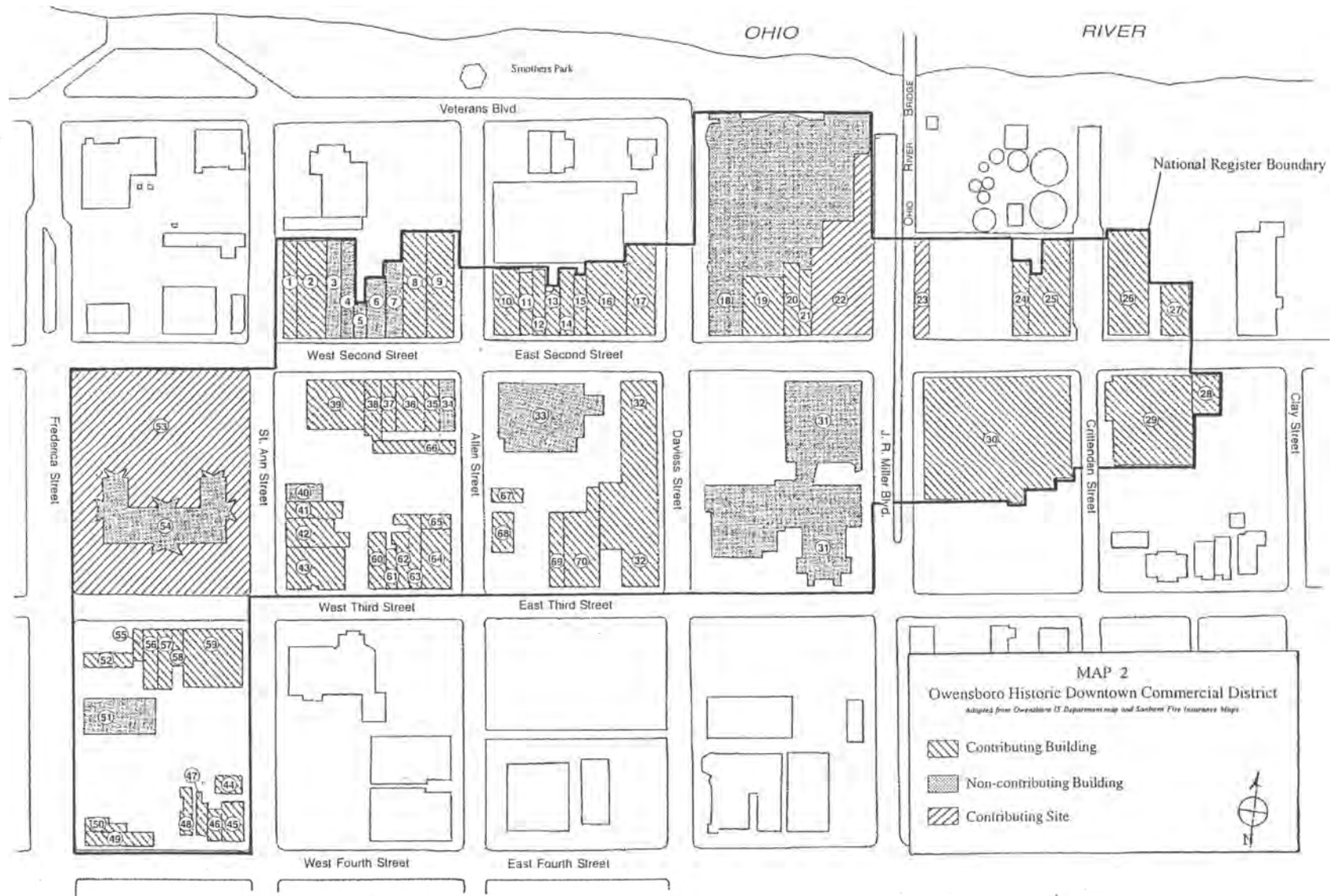
1-2

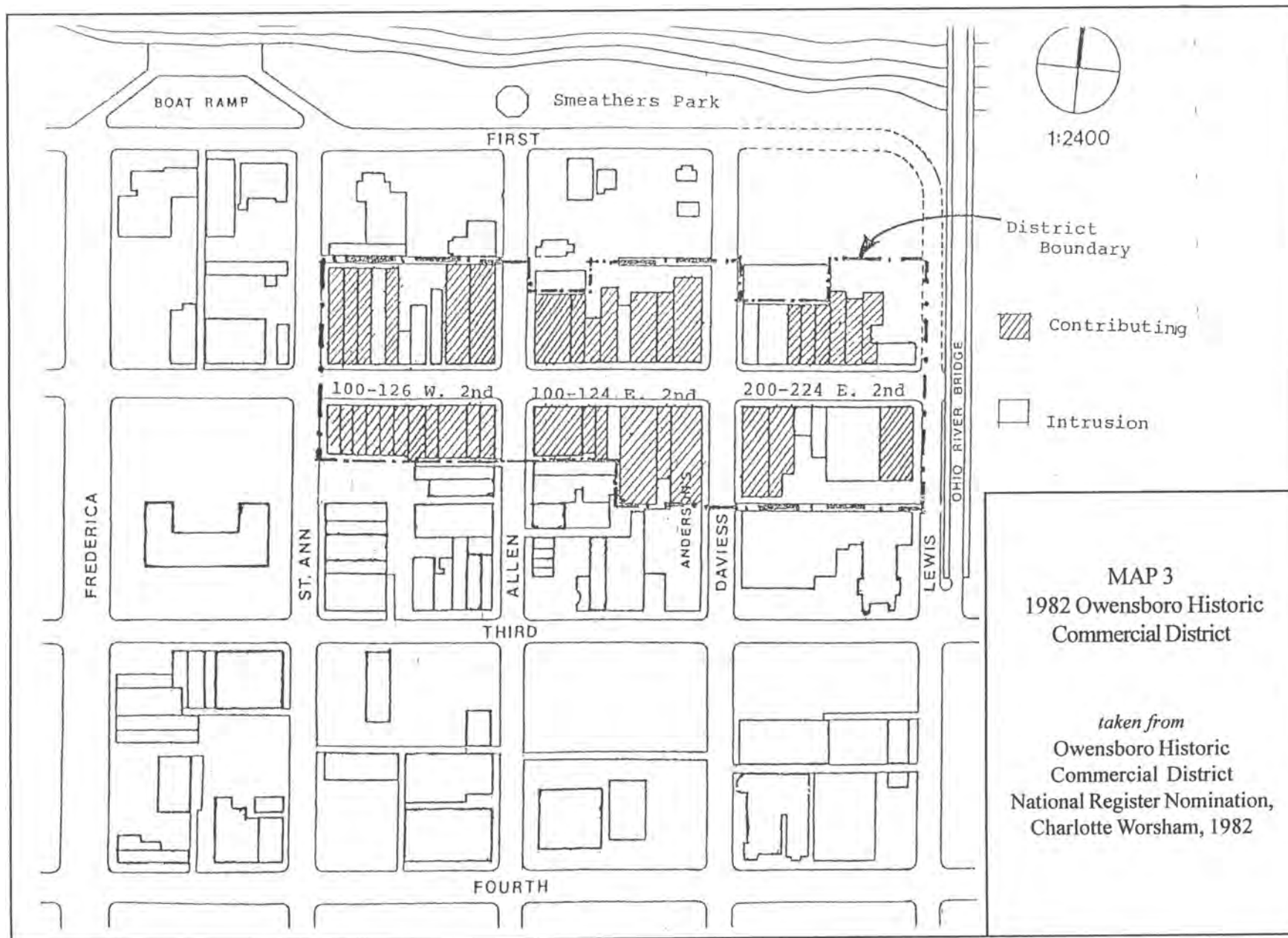
Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District, DavieSS Co, KY  
Property Valuation Map 1-2



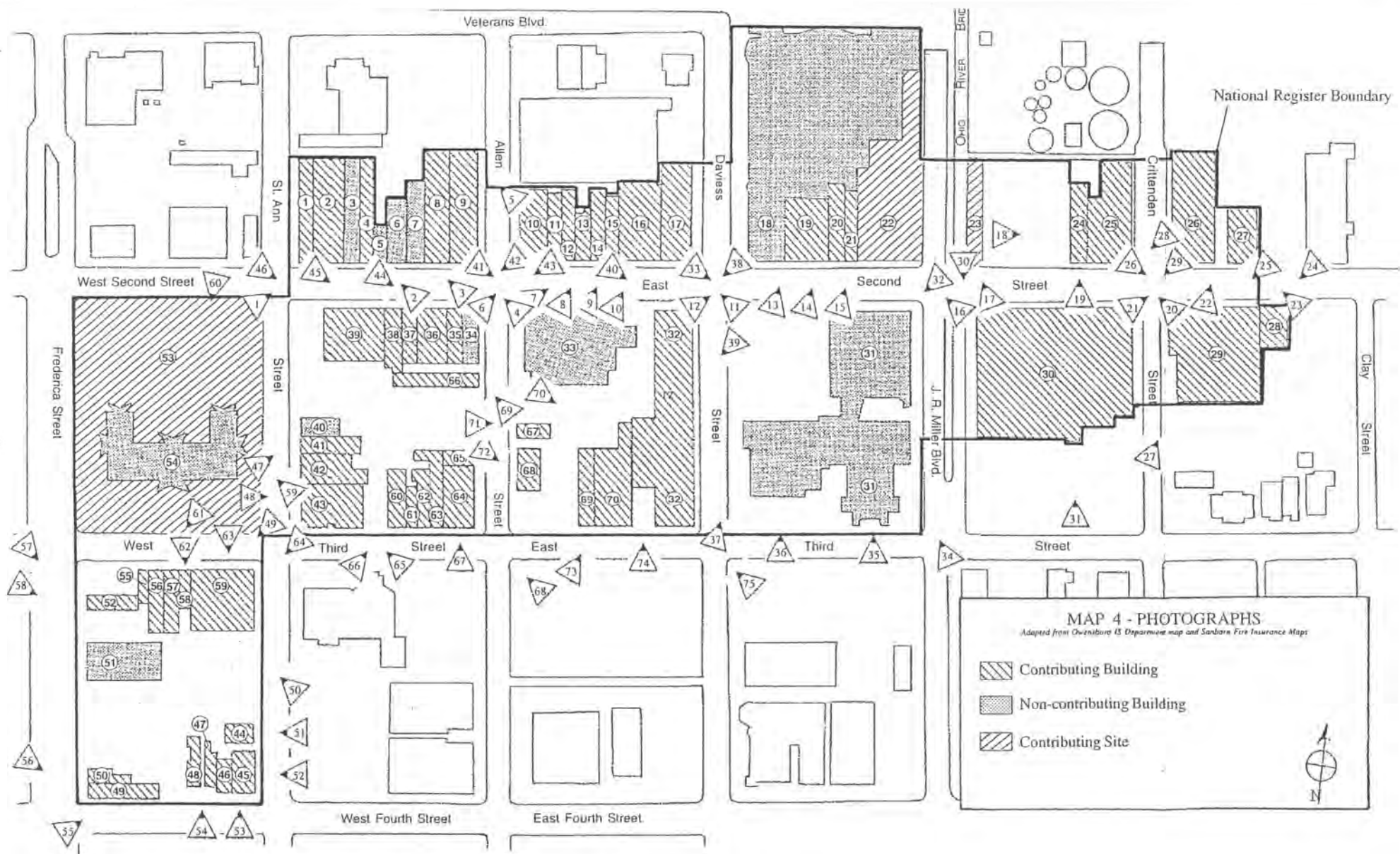


Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District, Daviess Co., Ky  
Property Valuation Office Map 1-5

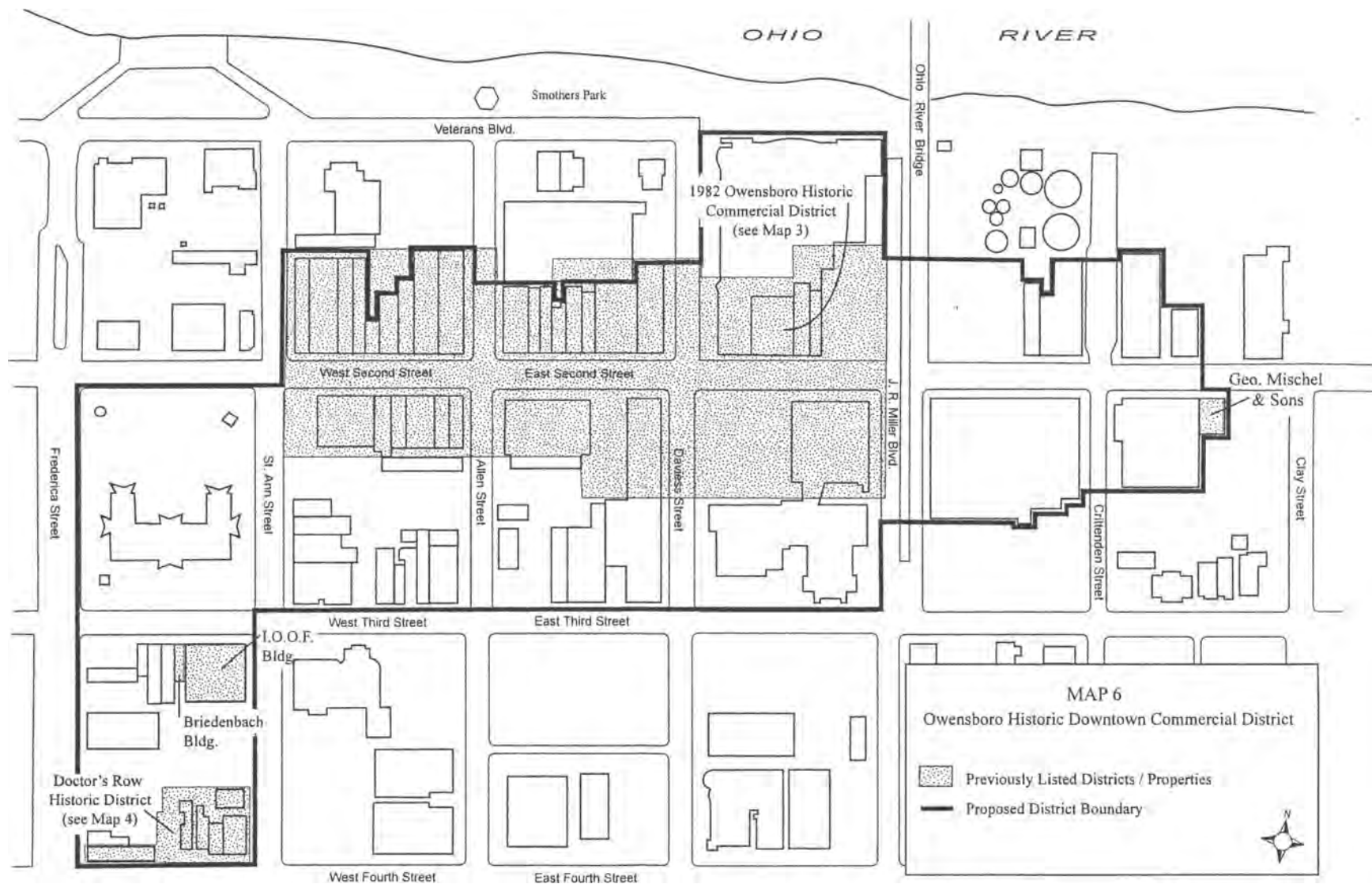












UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Owensboro MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Daviess

DATE RECEIVED: 10/13/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/19/04  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/04/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/26/04  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001251

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Return. Please see attached  
comments.*

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER Daniel Vivian DISCIPLINE Historian  
TELEPHONE (202) 354-2252 DATE 11/24/04

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



**The United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District  
Daviess County, Kentucky

Reference Number: 04001251

**Reason for Return:**

This nomination is being returned because of technical errors and questions concerning the justification provided for the integrity of the nominated property.

Because the documentation proposes to incorporate two previously-listed historic districts into a single district and to add new properties to the National Register, a map showing the boundaries of the previously-listed districts and the proposed boundaries of the new district is required. This map must clearly show the relationship between the previously-listed districts and the proposed district. We recommend that such a map be added to the supporting documentation before resubmitting the nomination.

Based on the information provided, it appears that the district conveys the historical significance of commerce in Owensboro and retains integrity. At the same time, it also appears that the demolition of historic properties in both of the previously-listed districts and the recent construction of several large buildings have compromised the overall character and appearance of the district. At the center of the district are several major buildings and large building complexes that are classified as noncontributing because of extensive alterations or recent dates of construction. These include the RiverPark Center, the First Baptist Church Complex, and the Daviess County Judicial Center. The scale of these buildings appears to be greater than most of the historic buildings in the district; both the First Baptist Church complex and the RiverPark Center occupy the better part of a city block. Although the nomination includes a statement concerning the integrity of the district (Section 7, pp. 9-10), it does not adequately address the effect of these buildings. We recommend that the integrity statement be revised to discuss the

effect of these buildings on the district and to demonstrate that the district retains its overall integrity, despite their presence.

The information provided under Section 6 of the registration form is incomplete. Although historic and current functions are provided, no subfunctions have been entered. Each historic and current function entered must have an accompanying subfunction. Please review the entries provided and add appropriate subfunctions.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You may reach me at (202) 354-2252 or by email at <Dan\_Vivian@nps.gov>. We look forward to receiving a revised nomination.

Daniel Vivian, Historian  
National Register of Historic Places

November 24, 2004



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Owensboro MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Daviess

DATE RECEIVED: 6/20/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/03/05  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001251

DETAILED EVALUATION:

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Edson.

This district encompasses  
two previously-listed districts:

- ① Doctors' Row HD 86000662
- ② Owensboro Historic Commercial Dist.

This documentation supersedes  
the original nominations for these  
districts. 83002626

The Owensboro Historic Downtown C  
of a downtown business district in an C  
commercial and civic life in Owensbor  
dramatically and settlers poured into w  
twentieth centuries. The district includ  
Historic Commercial District (listed Jan  
1986). Today, the district reflects the c  
mid-twentieth centuries and retains inte

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A

REVIEWER Daniel Vivian

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE (202) 354-2252

DATE 7/26/05

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Owensboro MRA  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: KENTUCKY, Daviess

DATE RECEIVED: 6/20/05 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/03/05  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001251

DETAILED EVALUATION:

\_\_\_ ACCEPT \_\_\_ RETURN \_\_\_ REJECT \_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District is locally significant under Criterion A as an example of a downtown business district in an Ohio River town. The district has historically served as the center of commercial and civic life in Owensboro, which was settled in the 1810s, as traffic on the river increased dramatically and settlers poured into western Kentucky. Most resources date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district includes two previously-listed National Register properties, the Owensboro Historic Commercial District (listed January 12, 1983) and the Doctors' Row Historic District (listed March 28, 1986). Today, the district reflects the commercial history of Owensboro from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries and retains integrity from its period of significance.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion A  
REVIEWER Daniel Vivian DISCIPLINE Historic  
TELEPHONE (202) 354-2252 DATE 7/26/05

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N































Robert Davis Center

ROBERT DAVIS CENTER  
THIRD FLOOR VICTORIAN SPRINGER PARTY  
TWO FOUR MUTTON DELIVERY SAT 2PM  
SAT BREWERY GRADUATION 10AM  
WWW.DR.DIP.ORG/STREET-ART





Discover



Downtown

HALL OF FAME

Cathedral  
PARISH CENTER





















BUILDING  
FOR  
LEASE  
970 0000

























FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH

STOP  
ONE WAY  
NO PARKING

NO PARKING  
IN FRONT  
OF CHURCH

SPEED LIMIT  
5













221 3rd St

VISITOR  
PARKING





A black and white photograph of a large, multi-story brick building, identified as the First Baptist Church. The building features a prominent entrance with a covered walkway and a series of windows on the upper floors. In the foreground, a parking lot is visible, with a signpost on the left side. A tall, dark lamppost stands in the center of the frame. The sky is clear, and the overall scene is well-lit.

WELCOME TO  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
VISITOR PARKING  
←  
PARKING LOT A

















PROPERTY

Cafe

CIGAR  
STORE

87-82









IOOF



ODD FELLOWS #132

IOOF















The Chamber



Greater  
Owensboro  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& TOURISM, INC.







KURTZ AUCTION & REALTY CO.



KURTZ AUCTION & REALTY CO.









J. E. H. BREIDENBACH

SLER  
RANCE  
ENCY INC

210

MAGNOLIA





COFFEY'S

100F

COFFEY'S

KESSLER  
INSURANCE  
AGENCY







111 West Third

DR. J. H. HARRIS

FURNITURE



By His Spirit

Christian books & gifts

103

Face Forward











OPENING SOON  
The Little  
Cafe

CANDLES



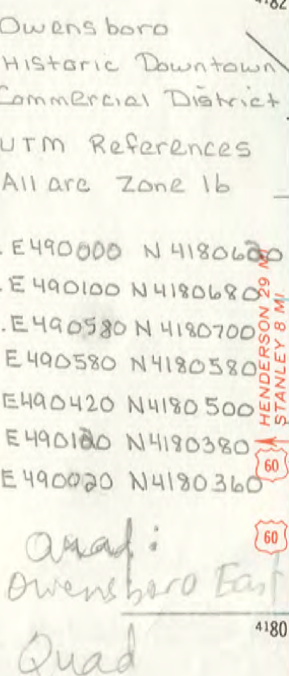












N3745—W8700/7.5  
1967  
PHOTOREVISED 198  
DMA 3559 I SE—SERIES V



101-103 West Second Street  
105-107 West Second Street  
104-106 West Second Street  
119 West Second Street

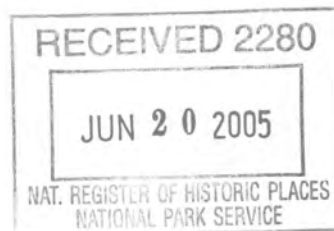
Date: September 20, 2004

RE: Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sending this letter as I object to this. I am not interested in this at all.

Thank you,  
Larry Peech, Owner  
G. Scott Reader, Owner  
Peachtree Gallery Mall



*E. J. Jones*  
3-15-2008

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2004

KY HERITAGE  
COUNCIL





112 W. 2nd Street  
Owensboro, KY 42303

Date: September 20, 2004

RE: Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter to inform you that I object to this. I am not nor will I be interested in this at all.

Thank you,  
Robert Prather, Owner  
Apex Best Chemicals

*Mary F. Newman*  
~~3/9/98~~  
3/15/08

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2004

KY HERITAGE  
COUNCIL

Owen D. Lawson  
210 Allen Street  
Owensboro, KY 42303

RECEIVED

SEP 28 2004

September 20, 2004

KY HERITAGE  
COUNCIL

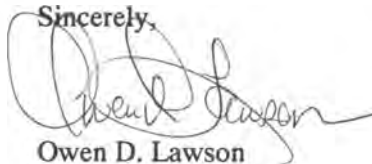
Commerce Cabinet  
Kentucky Heritage Council  
The State Historic Preservation Office  
Attn: David L. Morgan, Executive Director  
300 Washington Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Mr. Morgan:

I recently received your letter regarding nomination of my property at 210 Allen Street, Owensboro, Kentucky, to the National Register of Historic Places. This letter is to state my objection to this nomination. I am requesting that my property not be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Owen D. Lawson

This is the 20th day of Sept., 2004

  
Notary Public

6-3-06  
Commission Expires

**LAW OFFICES OF  
WILSON, WILSON & PLAIN**

414 MASONIC BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 852  
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY 42302

TELEPHONE (270) 926-2525

TELECOPIER (270) 683-3812

E-MAIL: [wwp1@bellsouth.net](mailto:wwp1@bellsouth.net)

R. SCOTT PLAIN  
WILLIAM L. WILSON, JR.  
T. STEVEN POTEAT  
R. SCOTT PLAIN, JR.

GEORGE S. WILSON, JR. (1902-1966)  
WILLIAM L. WILSON (1912-1993)

GEORGE S. WILSON III (OF COUNSEL)

September 20, 2004

**RECEIVED**  
SEP 23 2004

KY HERITAGE  
COUNCIL

David L. Morgan, Exec. Director  
Kentucky Historic Council for State  
Historic Preservation Officer  
300 Washington Street  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Re: Notarized Objection of The  
First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky

Dear Mr. Morgan:

The Chairman of the Trustees of The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky has requested me to forward this Notarized Objection to your proposal to place the properties of The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky in the Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District. The drawing furnished to us accurately shows The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky as being the sole owner of property identified on the map as No. 31 and being the entire block bounded on the North by East Second Street, on the East by J. R. Miller Blvd., on the South by East Third Street and on the West by Daviess Street. We have no objections to any other property being included in this historic district. However, do object to our Church and properties being included.

We can not identify any person who had the authority from the Church to request the Church to be included in such a proposed district and the Trustees of the Church have not authorized any person or entities to make such a request. The Trustees are the owners of the properties in their fiduciary capacity. The Trustees, through their Chairman, are in control of all real estate and personal properties of The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky.

The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky has no need for the additional eligibility for Federal tax provision nor consideration in planning, nor consideration concerning surface coal mining permits nor in qualifying for Federal grants. The Church strongly believes in separation of Church and State, including



David L. Morgan, Exec. Director  
Re: Notarized Objection of The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky  
September 20, 2004

Page 2

the proposed historic district. We request you to re-locate the boundary of the properties of the proposed district as to eliminate the inclusion of the properties and buildings of The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky.

This Verified Objection is being submitted by the undersigned as general counsel to the Trustees of The First Baptist Church of Owensboro, Kentucky and with their full authority.

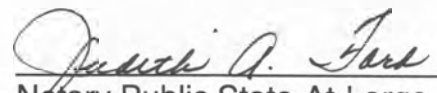
Very truly yours,

WILSON, WILSON & PLAIN

  
R. Scott Plain, Sr.

STATE OF KENTUCKY)  
COUNTY OF DAVIESS)

Subscribed and sworn to by R. Scott Plain, Sr. on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of  
September, 2004.

  
Notary Public State-At-Large  
My Commission Expires: 6-1-2005

RSP:jf

cc: Charles Conkright, Chairman of Trustees  
4930 Ridge Creek Road  
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303

Rev. Robert E. Farmer  
First Baptist Church  
230 J. R. Miller Blvd.  
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303

Dennis Waldroup, Moderator  
4428 Wilderness Trace  
Owensboro, Kentucky 42303

101-103 West Second Street  
105-107 West Second Street  
104-106 West Second Street  
119 West Second Street

Date: September 20, 2004

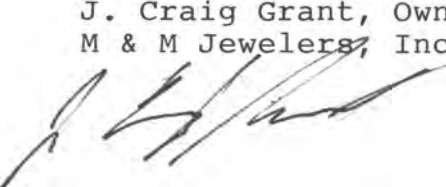
RE: Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District

---

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sending this letter as I object to this. I am not interested in this at all.

Thank you,  
J. Craig Grant, Owner  
M & M Jewelers, Inc



*E4 Pres*  
*3-11-2008*

RECEIVED

SEP 23 2004

KY HERITAGE  
COUNCIL



ERNIE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

COMMERCE CABINET

KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL  
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
(502) 564-7005 (502) 564-5820 FAX  
www.kentucky.gov

W. JAMES HOST  
SECRETARY

DAVID L. MORGAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

October 12, 2004

Ms. Carol Shull, Chief  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is documentation for Kentucky properties recommended by the Review Board to meet the National Register eligibility criteria at their October 1, 2004 meeting. The properties include:

**South Main Street Historic District**, Boone County, KY  
**Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District**, Daviess County, KY  
**St. Cecilia School Building**, Jefferson County, KY  
**Lane Theatre**, Whitley County, KY

Also included are three nominations of property associated with the MPS **Historic and Historic Archeeological Resources of the Cherokee Trail of Tears MPS**. They are:

**Whitepath and Fly Smith Gravesite**, Christian County, KY  
**Mantle Rock**, Livingston County, KY  
**Gray's Inn**, Todd County, KY

Finally, a resubmission of the **Howard—Hardy House**, Jefferson County, KY, revised according to the reviewer's comments, is enclosed.

As State Historic Preservation Officer, I conclude that these properties meet the National Register eligibility criteria. I request that they be entered in the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David L. Morgan, Executive Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council and  
State Historic Preservation Officer



ERNIE FLETCHER  
GOVERNOR

COMMERCE CABINET

KENTUCKY HERITAGE COUNCIL  
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
300 WASHINGTON STREET  
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601  
(502) 564-7005 (502) 564-5820 FAX  
www.kentucky.gov

W. JAMES HOST  
SECRETARY

DAVID L. MORGAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

May 27, 2005



Janet Snyder Matthews, Keeper  
National Park Service 2280  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street, NW 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington DC 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed are two resubmitted Kentucky nominations. Both forms have been revised to address questions or criticisms raised on their return sheets. These forms are:

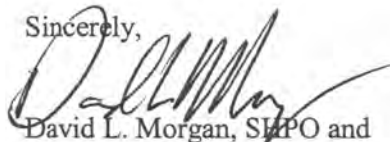
✓ Owensboro Historic Downtown Commercial District, Daviess County, Kentucky.  
Bradshaw—Duncan House, Oldham County, Kentucky.

Most of the new discussion in this resubmission centers on integrity on the Owensboro district nomination occurs on continuation sheet pages 7-10—7-12. This new text characterizes several large new buildings within the district and evaluates their impact on the overall district integrity. A new map, labeled as Map #6, showing the previously listed areas, as well as four additional maps that work as a single unit, from the Daviess County Property Valuation Assessor (local tax) office, have been added to this resubmission.

The resubmitted text for the Bradshaw—Duncan House differs from the original throughout both the Description and Statement of Significance. Minor changes have been made to page 2 and page 4 of the cover form.

We appreciate your efforts to list these Kentucky properties on the National Register.

Sincerely,

  
David L. Morgan, SHPO and  
Executive Director  
Kentucky Heritage Council