

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

SEP 28 1987

NOV 20 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lebanon Historic Commercial District

and or common

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet

not for publication

city, town Lebanon

vicinity of

state Kentucky

code 021

county Marion

code 155

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> na in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> na being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (See Continuation Sheets)

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marion County Courthouse

street & number 120 West Main Street

city, town Lebanon

state Kentucky

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources of Kentucky Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Kentucky Heritage Council

city, town Frankfort

state Kentucky

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lebanon Historic Commercial District consists of a total 42 buildings, of which nine are non-contributing. The district includes government and commercial buildings in a roughly one-block area centered on Main Street between Proctor Knott Avenue on the west and Spalding Avenue on the east, as well as buildings on Proctor Knott and Spalding immediately adjacent to Main Street. The densely built district consists primarily of two-story brick buildings carrying typical late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial facades. Also included is the 1935 Classical Revival W.P.A. Marion County Courthouse and the important and rare mid-nineteenth century Court Square, a grouping of one-and two-story, mid-nineteenth to early twentieth-century professional offices surrounding the courthouse and forming an indentation in the south side of Main Street. The district also includes the 1876 City Hall, the 1911 Post Office, and the ca. 1935 Art Deco Arista Theater. While most of the commercial structures have undergone typical storefront alterations, all the buildings within the district are well-maintained and none is vacant. As a result, the district presents a lively streetscape to the passerby.

The City of Lebanon (population 6,590 - 1980 census) is the seat of government for Marion County, which lies in the western portion of the predominantly agricultural Outer Bluegrass Region of Kentucky. The county is centrally located in the Commonwealth, with Lebanon being located approximately 75 miles southeast of Louisville. Lebanon is situated on the waters of Hardins Creek, a tributary of Rolling Fork.

The City of Lebanon was surveyed by Joe DeSpain in 1983 as part of a comprehensive survey of Marion County funded by a grant from the Kentucky Heritage Council. Buildings were photographed and recorded on individual Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory forms. Significant interiors were documented, and limited historical data was gathered on selected sites. The boundaries for the historic district were determined by the consultants and the staff of the Kentucky Heritage Council based upon the application of National Register criteria. The area being nominated represents the concentration of surviving historic structures which reflect the commercial and governmental development of the City of Lebanon.

The numbers in parenthesis throughout the text and in the list of contributing and non-contributing resources refer to the building site numbers shown on maps 1 and 2.

The north side of Main Street contains the impressive three-story Central Block (#39) which appears to incorporate the Shuck Hall of 1859. The building has a large decorative pressed-metal cornice with a central pediment containing the name and the date 1888, as well as decorative window heads and cast iron first floor columns. The storefront and third-floor windows have been altered. The two adjacent brick, two-story structures (#37 and #38) are typical nineteenth century commercial buildings, and while the first floors have been altered, they still bear their metal cornices and original fenestration. The second building to the east has the most ornate cornice as well as inset panels over the second floor windows. It contained a clothing store in the early twentieth century, while its simpler neighbor was the site of a hardware shop. The rest of the block is of more modern date, including the Marion National Bank (#36), on whose limestone ashlar facade a pair of colossal Ionic columns set *in antis* support a classical cornice and attic. Despite alteration of its storefront below the almost full-facade transom, the two-story brick building (#35) at the northwest corner of Main Street and Spalding Avenue remains a good example of typical small-scale 1920s Neoclassical Revival commercial architecture due to the bold dentilled cornice highlighting an intact upper elevation.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca.1850 - ca.1935 **Builder/Architect** Thomas Nolen, architect (courthouse)
James Knox Taylor, architect (post office)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lebanon Historic Commercial District is locally significant under criterion C in the area of architecture as a distinguishable entity of commercial and institutional buildings from the period ca. 1850-ca. 1935. Lebanon has been Marion County's seat since the county's founding in 1834, and the district contains the city's and county's historic business and governmental center. The Lebanon Historic Commercial District is composed of typical late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings displaying the popular Italianate, Classical Revival, and Art Deco styles which characterize the majority of Kentucky's smaller towns of the period. In addition, the district contains an important and rare survivor in the mid-nineteenth century Court Square. Also within the Lebanon Historic Commercial District are the Marion County Courthouse of 1935, the Post Office of 1911, the City Hall of 1876, and the ca. 1935 Arista Theater. These buildings form a cohesive unit reflecting a period of significant growth and prosperity in the city and Marion County. The densely built urban streetscape, typical of other central Kentucky county seat towns, is well preserved despite some intrusive elements.

The commercial area of Lebanon today consists of a row of commercial and institutional buildings lining each side of the city's Main Street for a block east and west of Proctor Knott (formerly Market) Avenue on the east. Main Street, which bends slightly at the intersection with Proctor Knott, appears to correspond to the route of an old road or trail from Harrodsburg to Blue Spring shown on John Filson's Map of Kentucky of 1784.

According to early histories, the first building in the community was a log meeting house used principally by the Presbyterians in the area, but available to all. Known as the Hardins Creek Church, it was built in 1789 at the most convenient point in the region, then located in the southern part of Nelson County, Virginia.¹ In 1784 Nelson had been created from Jefferson County, and with statehood in 1792, Washington County was carved from that territory. Finally, in 1834 Marion County was formed from the southern half of Washington. Lebanon, which began as an informal village near the Hardins Creek Church in Washington County, became the new county's seat. Mills began to be built in the vicinity of the church by the late 1780s. By 1795 a new church was built, also of log, just north of the present town. In 1800 the National Road, the principal thoroughfare in the region, was built to connect Maysville, Kentucky, on the Ohio River, with Nashville, Tennessee. It followed the old road through Marion County and the small village's existing main street. Thereafter the town grew more rapidly. A log school was built nearby in 1810. A log store building, operated by early settler Ben Spalding, was constructed in ca. 1813, apparently on the south side of Main Street midway between Proctor Knott and the later courthouse.

In 1815 the town was officially incorporated by act of the legislature. Presumably it had suffered from its subordinate position to the Washington County seat at Springfield in not receiving incorporation earlier. Thirty-three and 3/4 acres belonging to six men was to be laid off in streets and lots. The three principal streets were laid off in that year by John Handley, including Market and Republican Streets. The pre-existence of divided ownership along the National Road, as well as several early structures, seems to have dictated that Lebanon, as it was to be called, should have an irregular rather than perfectly square grid plan, as was more usually the case.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Johnston, C. A., "Lebanon As I Have Known It: Recollections." Lebanon, KY: Lebanon Enterprise, 1922 (reprint of late nineteenth century text). Filed at Marion County Public Library.

Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory Forms, Frankfort, KY: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1983.
(Continued)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 7 acres

Quadrangle name Lebanon West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6
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6	5	4	3	0	0
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4	1	5	9	2	8	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham, Historical Architect & Charlotte Worsham, Preservation Consultant

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date January 1987

street & number Yellow Sulphur Springs, Route #2 telephone 703/552-4730

city or town Christiansburg state Virginia 24073

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *David L. Meyer*

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date 9-22-87

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Patrick Andrews date 11/10/87
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Lebanon Historic Commercial District, Marion County, Kentucky

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Location:

Street and Number:

101 East Main Street, 102-160 West Main Street (even numbers), 202-210 West Main Street (even numbers), 203-207 West Main Street (odd numbers), 101 West Main Street, 131 West Main Street, 151-159 West Main Street (odd numbers), 104-108 North Proctor Knott Street (even numbers), 109-119 South Proctor Knott (odd numbers), 4-23 Court Square, 113 North Spalding Avenue, 106-118 South Spalding Avenue (even numbers).

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Location:

Owner and Address of Owner:

Contributing Resources:

101 East Main Street

United States Postal Service
c/o Postmaster
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

113 North Spalding Avenue

David A. Yieser
Maurice D. Spalding
113 North Spalding Avenue
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

102 West Main Street

Charles E. Lancaster
The Lancaster Agency
102 West Main Street
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

104 West Main Street

Vivian (Ben) Johnston
348 North Harrison Street
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

106 West Main Street

Theodore H. Lavit
106 West Main Street
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

120 West Main Street

Marion County Fiscal Court
c/o The Honorable Abell Thomas
Judge/Executive
Marion County Courthouse
Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

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Lebanon Historic Commercial District, Marion County, Kentucky

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126 West Main Street	Frank D. Spragens 470 North Spalding Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
128 West Main Street	Martha Carrico Isaacs Route #4, Country Club Drive Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
132 West Main Street	Farmers National Bank Attn: Mr. T. E. Spragens, Jr., President 136 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
134 West Main Street	Farmers National Bank Attn: Mr. T. E. Spragens, Jr., President 136 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
144 West Main Street	Electric and Gas Company Attn: Mrs. Louis Buckler 144 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
146 West Main Street	Dr. Jack Colley 144 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
150 West Main Street	John Berry Adams Adams Pharmacy 150 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
160 West Main Street	Mrs. Alberta Gray Route #4, Country Club Drive Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
111 South Proctor Knott Avenue	City of Lebanon Attn: Maurice D. Spalding, Mayor Post Office Box 840 Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
119 South Proctor Knott Avenue	Landmark Community Newspaper of KY Post Office Box 549 Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065

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202-210 West Main Street	Charles L. Borders A. Borders and Sons 202 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
203-207 West Main Street	A. J. Lerman, et al. 522-24 West Main Street Louisville, Kentucky 40202
104-108 North Proctor Knott Avenue	Avis Edlin Post Office Box Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
114 North Proctor Knott Avenue	Isaac E. and Morris Owen c/o Morris Owen 339 Oak Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
157 West Main Street and 159 West Main Street	Donald Cox 159 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
153 West Main Street	Toni O'Daniel Mullins 502 Penwood Louisville, Kentucky 40206
151 West Main Street	William L. Parham 151 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
131 West Main Street	Marion National Bank Post Office Drawer 637 Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
101 West Main Street	William Hagan 475 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
4 Court Square	Edward A. Wilson 23 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
5 Court Square	Spencer and Helen Clark Springfield Highway Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

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9 Court Square	Henry G. Boldrick 9 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
10 Court Square	Charles T. Mattingly 10 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
11 Court Square and 12 Court Square	Spragens, Smith & Higdon, PSC 15 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
13 Court Square and 15 Court Square	Robert M. Spragens, Jr. 15 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
17 Court Square	Spragens, Smith & Higdon, PSC 15 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
23 Court Square	Frank D. Spragens 470 North Spalding Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
106 South Spalding Avenue	Dr. Salem M. George 247 South Proctor Knott Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
112 South Spalding Avenue	Lester Helm Spalding 7 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
114 South Spalding Avenue and 116 South Spalding Avenue (one building)	Higdon Brothers c/o William Higdon Valley Lane Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
118 South Spalding Avenue	William H. Leake c/o Lebanon Jewelry and Gift 118 South Spalding Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

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Lebanon Historic Commercial District, Marion County, Kentucky

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Non-Contributing Resources:

124 West Main Street	Frank D. Spragens 470 North Spalding Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
136 West Main Street	Farmers National Bank Attn: T. E. Spragens, Jr., President 136 West Main Street Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
109 South Proctor Knott Avenue	Frank D. Spragens 470 North Spalding Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
113 South Proctor Knott Avenue and 115 South Proctor Avenue	City of Lebanon Attn: Maurice D. Spalding, Mayor Post Office Box 840 Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
6 Court Square and 7 Court Square	Lester H. Spalding 7 Court Square Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
18-20 Court Square	Margaret M. George 463 North Spalding Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033
21 Court Square	Frank D. Spragens 470 North Spalding Avenue Lebanon, Kentucky 40033

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The south side of Main Street, which is shown in a historic photograph from ca. 1888 as only half built up with substantial brick commercial buildings, is today among the most visually intact parts of the district. The two two-story buildings on the southwest corner of Main Street and Proctor Knott Avenues (#1 and #2), as well as the two buildings on the southeast corner (#8 and #9), were built in the 1880s, with the Dr. William F. Conway Building (#8) on the southeast corner, built in 1883, perhaps as the oldest. It, and the adjacent B. T. Conway Building (#9), built several years later by Dr. Conway's son, are identical in treatment with metal cornices and a scalloped brick frieze. The B. T. Conway Building housed the city's post office from before 1890 until the construction of the present Post Office in 1911.¹ The buildings on the southwest corner are similar in scale, built before 1890. The Hilpp Brothers and Goodin Building (#2) on the corner is equipped with the city's most decorative pressed-metal streetfront, ornamented with consoles, pilasters, and a panelled parapet. Like many commercial buildings at prominent intersections in Kentucky towns, both the Dr. Conway Building and the Hilpp Brothers Building were apparently originally entered through doors located in bevelled corners facing the crossing. This is still the case at the Hilpp Brothers Building.

By 1890 the south side of the courthouse block had been almost entirely rebuilt, with mostly two-story brick buildings with pressed-metal details and forms following the pattern of the Conway Buildings. The first floors, almost all now altered, were filled with glass show windows and supported the walls above on iron beams and columns. The two structures (#10 and #11) to the east of the Conway Buildings exhibit interesting features. The first structure (#10), moving west to east, was built in the years shortly before 1890. Its metal storefront and pressed-metal cornice were manufactured by Sned and Company of Louisville. The two buildings to the east (#11), which housed a saloon and a saddlery, were built in the early twentieth century. The block's principal three-story building during this period, the Masonic Temple, is the only missing historic commercial structure in the block. It has been replaced with a non-contributing modern bank (#12).

Beyond the Masonic Temple site, stands another group of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings (#13-17), examples of the types we have examined above. One of them, the Clark Building (#14), projects above the conventional roofline of the others with a more ornamental pressed metal cornice and metal window heads. The two buildings to the east (#15 and #16) were constructed to correspond to each other. They were built after 1895, one of them containing a jewelry store. The buildings' metal storefronts and cornices were manufactured by one of the nation's largest streetfront manufacturers, George L. Mesker of Evansville, Indiana. Although the doors on the westernmost building (#15) have been replaced, the storefront is one of the best preserved in the city. An early twentieth-century photograph shows the storefronts of both buildings in their original form very clearly.

The courthouse (#25) itself is a three-story classically inspired brick building built with W.P.A. assistance in 1935. Thomas Nolen was the architect. It features a carved limestone classical facade with shallow pilasters and a brick parapet with inset stone panels ornamented with carved shields and garlands. The one-story entrance porch is in a delicate full Doric order, while the mass of the building bulks heavily behind, nearly filling the court square. Around the border of the square on three sides, originally facing the courthouse of 1835, is a ring of professional offices,

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Lebanon Historic Commercial District, Marion County, Kentucky

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mostly of one story. Many were built in the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century and feature pressed-metal cornices, segmentally arched windows, or wooden bracketed cornices. Good examples include the offices at 5, 10, and 11 Court Square (#22, #23, #28), which best preserve fenestration patterns and cornice details.

Two-story buildings along the east and part of the west side of the square were built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and also contain offices. Several have been altered heavily in recent decades. The well-preserved building on the southwest corner of Spalding Avenue and Main Street (#30) forms part of the east side of the square. Built in the years following the turn of the century, the Court Block is composed of two parts. The first, on the corner, was built by Dr. Edward Kelly, who operated his practice on the first floor. Several years later Hugh P. Cooper constructed a wide streetfront between it and the Court Square, unifying its design so that they appear to be one building.² It is a two-story structure with a brick parapet containing wreathed panels. A central storefront is flanked by ground floor offices, over each of which central bays project. Second floor bay windows also project along the Spalding Avenue side, while three doors opening off Court Square give access to individual offices in a rear wing. A two-story commercial building with altered storefront and metal cornice dating from the late nineteenth century stands just behind (south) of the Court Block (#31).

At the rear of the square a long one-story building (#20 and #21) with altered fenestration contains a pair of offices reached by a centrally located foyer. The building corresponds to a description of the 1838 clerk's office, burned, according to the same source, by Confederate raider John Hunt Morgan in 1863: "Both Circuit and County Clerk's Offices were under one roof and consisted of two rooms each, one in front and one in back."³ The labelling of each of the rear rooms of the existing building as vaults on late nineteenth-century maps supports the theory,⁴ as do the flat-headed jack arches over the windows, similar to those on the 1835 courthouse. It seems to represent a rebuilding or repairing of the clerk's office in the period following the Civil War and thus represents the district's earliest structure.

The district also includes the Lebanon Post Office (#33), on the northeast corner of Main Street and Spalding Avenue, built of yellow Flemish bond brick in 1911. The architect was James Knox Taylor, who designed a number of Federal projects across the nation during the early years of the twentieth century. It is a two-story, three-bay structure with a hipped roof and one-story wings. The triple-arched entry doors are contained within an arcaded terrazo-floored porch. The building sits on a tooled ashlar foundation. The exterior also includes decorative masonry elements such as arched window heads, basketweave brickwork, panels outlined in inset soldier courses, a stone cornice at the level of the second floor line, and deep projecting eaves with exposed rafter ends, giving the whole an Italian Renaissance flavor. The interior contains marble wainscoting, panelled beams incorporating dentils, and a dentillated cornice supported on panelled piers. The Post Office has been well maintained through the years.

Just north of the Post Office on Spalding Avenue stands the Arista Theater (#34), an Art Deco-influenced movie house, now housing the Marion County Recreational Center. The ca. 1935 theater is one of Lebanon's most dramatic buildings. The stucco-clad masonry building consists of a high-ceilinged main auditorium fronted by a lower flat-roofed lobby structure which has been

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altered, but flanking commercial rental units preserve their storefronts intact. The principal facade of the auditorium block and the entrance section both have decorative incised lines, while the entrance front incorporates inset panels depicting decorative sun rays and machine gears in the Art Deco style. The interior has been partially altered.

The district includes buildings located north and south of Main Street on Proctor Knott Avenue. South of Main Street on the east side of Proctor Knott, stands the two-story brick City Hall (#6), built in 1876. It originally incorporated the city offices on the second floor and still serves as the firehouse on the first floor. The hipped-roof Italianate structure has four arch-headed windows on the second floor streetfront (west wall) joined under a group of three connected round arches, the larger central arch covering the two central windows. The corners of the principal facade are ornamented with stone quoins with inset panels on the first and second levels. The deep front eaves are supported by paired wood brackets and a panelled frieze. The firehouse door has been widened in recent decades, but a historic photograph shows little other alteration. The name "City of Lebanon" and the date "1876" are set on the cornice and arch. The building carries the elaborate materials and details associated with public buildings in the period, but in many other respects takes as its model the commercial building typical of the region.

A building between the City Hall and the Dr. William F. Conway Building is a much-altered frame commercial building (#7) and is non-contributing. To the south, on the northeast corner of Proctor Knott Avenue and Mulberry Street, stands a two-story brick building (#3) which housed a carriage or automobile firm in 1915. The ornate facade incorporates red brick panels within yellow brick strip pilasters and belt courses. Corbelled brick and a metal cornice top the four-bay facade, on which windows with stone lintels and sills flank a pair of former carriage doors. The structure first appears on the 1915 Sanborn map of Lebanon. It is separated from the City Hall by two non-contributing one-story structures containing expanded city offices.

North of Main Street, on the west side of Proctor Knott Avenue, three buildings contribute to the district and illustrate the commercial history of Lebanon. The first two buildings (#40 and #41), two-story brick commercial buildings with simple metal cornices and window heads, were apparently built as annexes to the now-demolished three-story Putnam's Dry Goods Store which stood on the corner. The southernmost building (#40) has a storefront with iron columns and inset entrance which remains intact. To the immediate north, the one-story Kemp-Raley Motor Company (#42) was created before 1922 by covering a frame livery stable, built around 1900,⁵ with a rusticated concrete block facade with a stepped parapet. The Kemp-Raley Company sold Dodge cars. It is characteristic of automobile sales establishments of the 1920s, and is one of three in Lebanon built of concrete block.

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Contributing Resources:

1. 202-210 West Main Street
2. 202-210 West Main Street
3. 119 South Proctor Knott Avenue
6. 111 South Proctor Knott Avenue
8. 160 West Main Street
9. 150 West Main Street
10. 146 West Main Street
11. 144 West Main Street
13. 134 West Main Street
14. 132 West Main Street
15. 128 West Main Street
16. 126 West Main Street
20. 13-17 Court Square
21. 12 Court Square
22. 11 Court Square
23. 10 Court Square
24. 9 Court Square
25. 120 West Main Street
28. 5 Court Square
29. 4 Court Square
30. 102-106 West Main Street
31. 114-116 South Spalding Avenue
32. 106 South Spalding Avenue
33. 101 East Main Street
34. 113 North Spalding Avenue
35. 101 West Main Street
36. 131 West Main Street
37. 151 West Main Street
38. 153 West Main Street
39. 157-159 West Main Street
40. 104-108 North Proctor Knott Avenue
41. 104-108 North Proctor Knott Avenue
42. 114 North Proctor Knott Avenue

Non-Contributing Resources:

4. 115 South Proctor Knott Avenue
5. 113 South Proctor Knott Avenue
7. 109 South Proctor Knott Avenue
12. 136 West Main Street
17. 124 West Main Street
18. 21 Court Square
19. 18 - 20 Court Square
26. 7 Court Square
27. 6 Court Square

The district includes a total of 42 buildings: 33 are contributing, while nine are non-contributing.

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Notes:

¹Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1890, 1910.

²Johnston, C. A., "Lebanon As I Have Known It: Recollections," Lebanon, KY, Lebanon Enterprise, 1922 (reprint of late nineteenth-century text), filed at Marion County Public Library.

³Ibid., page 111.

⁴Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1885-1905.

⁵Ibid., 1901.

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Lebanon Historic Commercial District, Marion County, Kentucky

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In the following year a post office was opened, and Lebanon began to give Springfield some competition in commerce. A bank was opened optimistically in 1818, but failed to prosper and closed the following year. By 1830, the first year the town appears in the Federal census, it had a population of 384, compared to Springfield's 618. Lebanon's success in the following years is seen in its population increase to 953 in 1860, while Springfield actually decreased to 497 by that year.

In 1834, when a bill to create a new county was proposed by a local representative, it was strongly opposed by the Washington County authorities, but was passed by the legislature. A courthouse was immediately built on a square laid out on the south side of Main Street west of Spalding Avenue. A clerk's office and jail were built within five years. The town grew rapidly until the panic of the late 1830s slowed activity temporarily. By 1840 Presbyterian, Catholic, and Methodist congregations were worshipping in substantial churches, and there were male and female educational institutions, fourteen stores, and three hotels.

In 1844 Main Street was improved with a macadamized surface and a number of obstructions to pedestrian and vehicular traffic were removed. New turnpikes incorporated across the state in the antebellum period had their effect in Marion County, improving access to Danville, Springfield and other points. In 1854 Lebanon was incorporated as a city. After some local debate as to its desirability, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad built a connection from Lebanon to its main line near Boston, Kentucky, and the Lebanon Branch Railroad gave additional vitality to the city as trade from the entire region began to flow through Lebanon. Symbolic of the prosperity of the period is an apparent survivor from 1859, the three-story Shuck Hall (#39) at the northeast corner of Main Street and North Proctor Knott Avenue built by Dr. M. Shuck. It seems to be the same building renovated in 1888 as the Central Block with an added metal cornice and iron streetfront. The building is said to have contained a third-floor hall in which the public could hold meetings and concerts. It would thus appear to be the earliest building to survive in the immediate district.² The city built a two-story City Hall (#6) in 1879 on South Proctor Knott which also contained the jail and fire department.

The two commercial blocks underwent their greatest development in the late nineteenth century, spurred by several serious fires which cleared earlier structures for new development. The north side of Main Street opposite the courthouse was the principal business block. The block west of Proctor Knott and the entire south side of the street did not support dense building until late in the nineteenth century.³ The block west of Proctor Knott was eventually heavily built up on the north side, but has been largely destroyed in the mid-twentieth century. At one time the block contained the important Vaughan Hotel and the two-story Opera House, built before 1886. The north side of Main, being the most built up, suffered from several fires, one of the most damaging of which destroyed a large part of the block in 1888, and seems to have resulted in the construction of a fine new row of brick commercial structures. The 1888 date in the cornice of the Central Block (#39) appears to represent a partial rebuilding of Shuck Hall following damage during that year. In any event building was going on all along Main Street during that decade.

Ironically, the north side of Main as suffered most from destruction and alterations in recent years, and while it contains some fine buildings it no longer forms an entirely cohesive whole. Two important buildings on the north side of Main Street, the Marion National Bank (#36) and the Post

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Office (#33), built in the first quarter of the twentieth century, symbolize the ongoing prosperity of the county, and while the bank removed its very finely detailed earlier building to build the present one, in doing so it provided one of the most distinguished buildings on the street. Both it and the Post Office represent the architect-designed Classical Revival style of the period. The courthouse (#25), across the street, replaced in 1935 with a poorly conceived structure on the same site, was the only missing element on the south side of the block until the late nineteenth-century, three-story Masonic Temple was lost in recent decades. That site is occupied today by a modern bank (#12) which faces perpendicularly to Main Street.

Notes:

¹J. F. McElroy, "History of Lebanon," prepared for the Dialect Club of Lebanon in 1867, reprinted by the Lebanon Enterprise in 1910, typescript filed at the Marion County Public Library.

²Ibid.

³C. A. Johnson, "Lebanon As I Have Known It: Recollections," Lebanon, KY, Lebanon Enterprise, 1922 (reprint of late nineteenth-century text), filed at Marion County Public Library, page 11.

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McElroy, J. F. "History of Lebanon." Prepared for the Dialect Club of Lebanon in 1867; reprinted by the Lebanon Enterprise in 1910. Typescript filed at the Marion County Public Library.

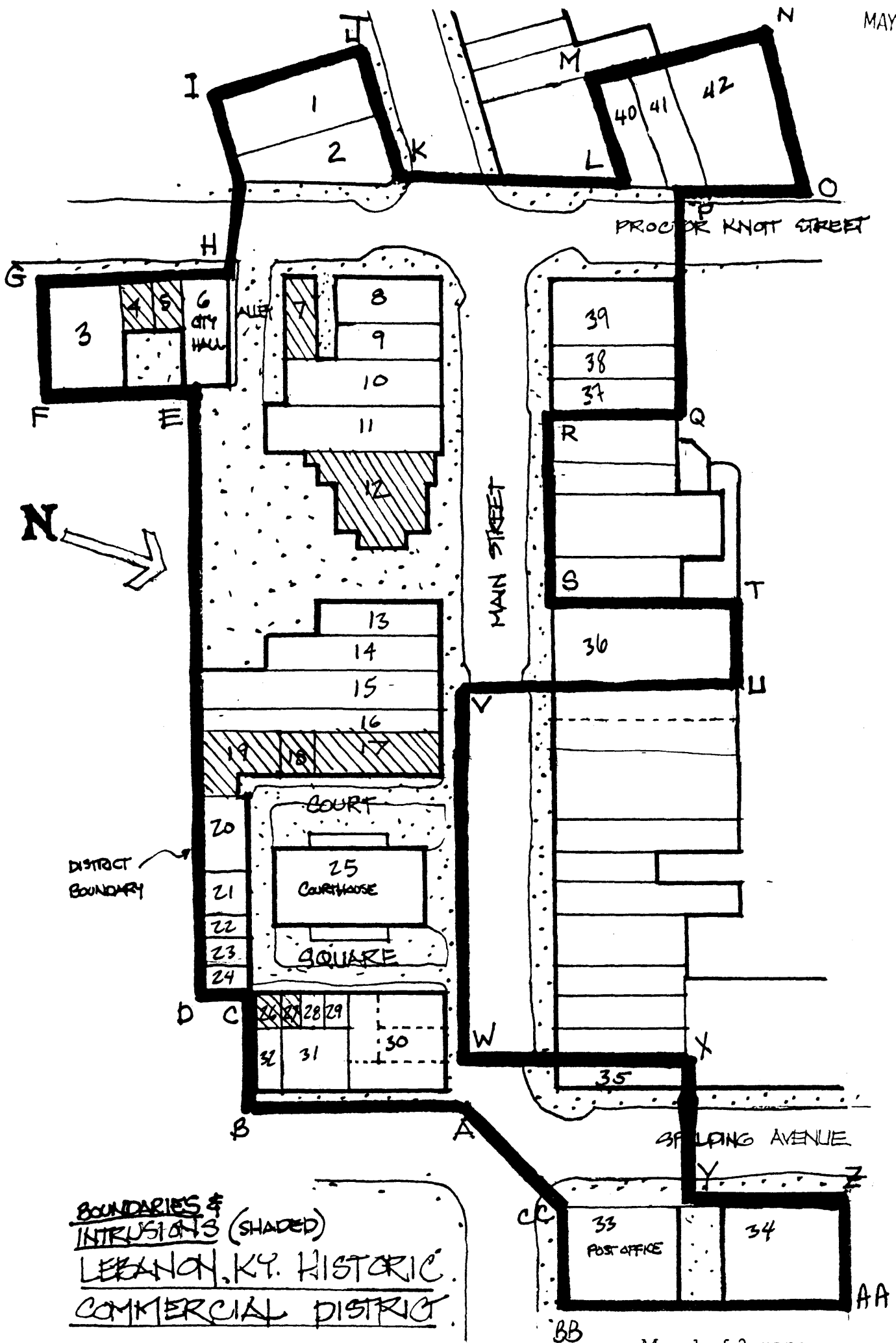
Sanborn Insurance Maps. Lebanon, Kentucky. 1886, 1890, 1895, 1901, 1905, 1915, and 1927.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at A, at the northeast corner of Main and Spalding, south along the west side of Spalding to B, thence west along the south lot lines of buildings 32 and 26 to C, thence south along the east lot line of building 24 to D, thence west along the south lot lines of buildings 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, and 11 to E, thence south along the east lot lines of buildings 6, 5, 4, and 3 to F, thence west along the south lot line of building 3 to G, thence north along the east side of South Proctor Knott to H, thence west crossing South Proctor Knott and along the south lot lines of buildings 1 and 2 to I, thence north along the west lot line of building 1 to J, thence east along the north side of Main Street to K, thence north crossing Main Street and along the west side of North Proctor Knott to L, thence west along the south lot line of building 40 to M, thence north along the west lot lines of buildings 40, 41, and 42 to north, thence east along the north lot line of building 42 to O, thence south along the east side of North Proctor Knott to P, thence east crossing North Proctor Knott and along the north lot lines of buildings 39, 38, and 37 to Q, thence south along the east lot line of building 37 to R, thence east along the north side of Main Street to S, thence north along the west lot line of building 36 to T, thence east along the north lot line of said building to U, thence south along the east lot line of said building and crossing Main Street to V, thence east along the north side of Main Street to W, thence north across Main Street and along the west lot line of building 35 to X, thence east along the north lot line of building 35 and across Spalding Avenue to Y, thence north along the west lot line of building 34 to Z and then east along Building 34's north lot line to AA, thence south along the east lot lines of buildings 34 and 33 to BB, thence west along the south lot line of building 33 to CC, finally in a line diagonally across the intersection of Main Street and Spalding Avenue to A, the point of origin.

The boundaries were chosen to incorporate those structures which form a cohesive district and to exclude those which have been heavily altered and/or are not in keeping with the historic character of the district.



BOUNDARIES & INTRUSIONS (SHADED)
LEBANON, KY. HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

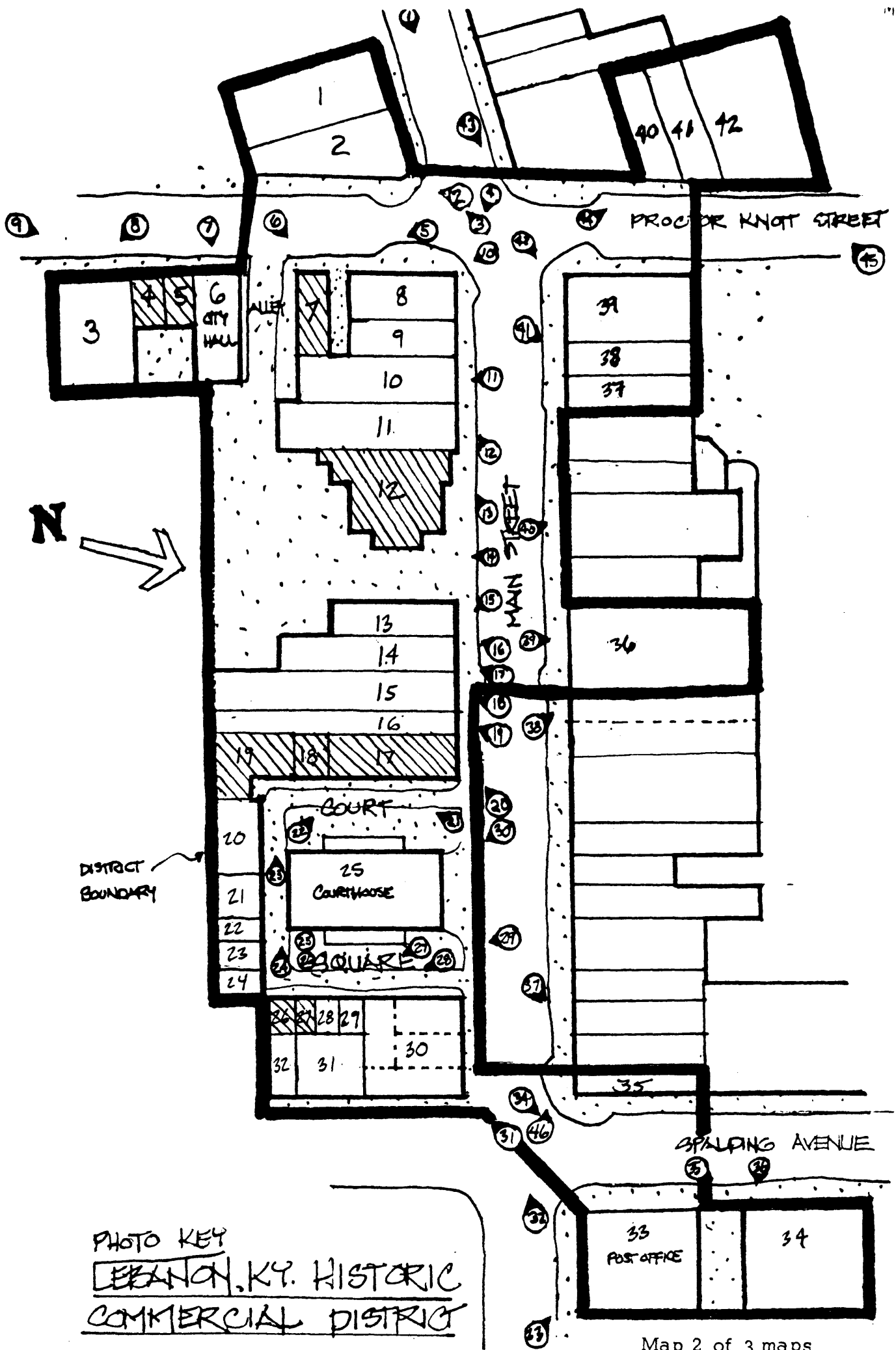


PHOTO KEY
 LEBANON, KY. HISTORIC
 COMMERCIAL DISTRICT