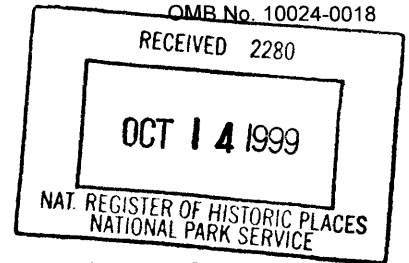


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1373



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 Lebanon Commercial Historic District
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number Roughly around the Public Square (101-151 Public Sq.); &104-124 N. College; 105-115 N. Cumberland; 102-203 E. Main St.; 103-122 E. Market St. NA not for publication
city or town Lebanon NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Wilson code 189 zip code 37087

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 the procedural and professional requirements set for 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.)

Herbert L. Hrycaj 10/6/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
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 certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

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:) _____

Elson H. Ball _____
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 11/18/99

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 count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
43	9	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
44	9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE: financial institution
- COMMERCE: professional
- COMMERCE: specialty store
- COMMERCE: warehouse
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- GOVERNMENT: post office
- INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE: professional
- COMMERCE: specialty store
- SOCIAL: meeting hall
- GOVERNMENT: government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- One and Two-Part Commercial Blocks;
- Beaux Arts; Italianate

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE
- walls BRICK, WOOD, STUCCO, CONCRETE BLOCK
- roof METAL, ASPHALT
- other WOOD, GLASS, CONCRETE, METAL

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets

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 N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1880 - 1947

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Multiple; Unknown; Wenderoth, Oscar – architect;
Corse, James - builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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): N/A

- 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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History

Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Wilson County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 10 acres

Lebanon 314 NE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>563890</u>	<u>4007220</u>	3	<u>16</u>	<u>563600</u>	<u>4006890</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>16</u>	<u>563850</u>	<u>4006880</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>563650</u>	<u>4007260</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amanda Wild, Diane West, Ed Salo, Dawn Muir, Dustin Hendrix, Lorne McWatters
organization Middle Tennessee State University, Department of History date July 20, 1999
street & number MTSU, P.O. Box 23 telephone 615-898-5805
city or town Murfreesboro State TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name See continuation sheets
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 listing. 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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

VII. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The city of Lebanon, Tennessee, located six miles south of the Cumberland River in Wilson County, has been a center for commerce and education since its incorporation in 1819. Today, its downtown area, the Lebanon Commercial Historic District, is an excellent example of a late nineteenth and twentieth century commercial district. Of the fifty-three properties included within the downtown area, thirty are located directly on the square, while twenty-three are just off the square. Even though the courthouse was removed from the Public Square in 1968, the city of Lebanon still centers on the downtown area, and almost every building on the Public Square is inhabited by offices and small businesses. The courthouse lot has been adapted to provide parking and a Confederate War memorial statue now sits in the center of the Public Square. Much of the Square and surrounding area still reflects the era of Lebanon's prosperity, 1890s-1947, although it developed in four distinct periods: the founding and growth of the town, 1801 to 1870; a brief period of economic stagnation and decline succeeding the Civil War and lingering into the mid or late 1880s; a period of significant growth, progress and prosperity, 1886 to 1920; and a period characterized by increased technological advances and transportation changes, 1920 to 1947. These periods can be seen in the changing architecture and subsequent development of styles and forms in the historic district.

On October 26, 1799, the Tennessee General Assembly approved the establishment of Wilson County, and shortly thereafter, on November 13, 1801, created the boundaries for the town that would become Lebanon. In 1801 the county commissioners also set aside one acre to establish the Public Square. A year later, the acre was divided into eight lots and sold. However, these lots have experienced many subdivisions and expanded into thirty-two lots, divided into four quadrants marked by East and West Main Streets and North and South Cumberland Streets.

The division of streets in Lebanon is commonly referred to as a Philadelphia Square Plan. Edward Price, author of *The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat*, defines the Philadelphia Square Plan as "formed of rectangular corners cut out of the four adjoining blocks."¹ In Lebanon the rectangular corners include East and West Main Streets and North and South Cumberland Streets. Price explains that although many Tennessee square plans were platted to resemble the block square or Shelbyville square plan, Lebanon's development in the early 1800s lent itself to the utilization of the Philadelphia Square Plan, thought to have originated in eastern Europe.

¹ Edward T. Price, "The Central Square in the American County Seat," *Common Places: Readings in the American Vernacular Architecture* (University of Georgia Press, 1986,) , 124-125.

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

Once the town was laid out and incorporated, cabins and businesses were built. Many of these early buildings were of wood materials and the first floor generally contained businesses while the second floor was used as professional offices. Industry quickly developed. The early 1800s saw the first cloth factory in 1828 and another in 1839, followed by a Tennessee manufacturing company in 1844. This rapid period of growth came to a halt when the Civil War broke out and a cholera epidemic swept the area. Shortly thereafter, the railroads had trouble locating in Lebanon because of fierce competition among railroads and the towns that were vying for a railroad. At this same time Cumberland University (Memorial Hall NR 4/29/77), an already established school, a few blocks west of the Public Square, struggled. This time of hardship was increased by a devastating fire in 1881, the first of many natural disasters that would plague Lebanon.

By the mid 1880s, Lebanon began to turn the corner on these darker moments. The construction of several buildings on the square demonstrates the economic revitalization and the increasing significance of the public square to the citizens of the town and county. Five buildings were constructed on the square during the 1880s (100, 101, 102, 103, and 124 Public Square) and seven additional buildings were constructed in the 1890s (126, 128, 129, 130, 132, 133, and 151 Public Square) This third period of Lebanon's development spans from the mid 1880s until 1920 and was characterized by Progressive reforms, population growth, and an increase in business volume and the number of businesses constructed along the Public Square and streets adjacent to the square.

Although the Public Square had already re-built, its growth pattern again changed in 1898. On December 30, 1898, a fire destroyed much of the southeast quadrant, leaving the square an empty shell. Because of this destructive fire, the third period of development is prominently displayed on today's public square. Many buildings had to be rebuilt, and some made important changes after the fire. For example, the buildings located at 100 and 151 Public Square changed their entrances. Both were banks at the time, and each altered its main entrance from a typical door in the middle of a wall to an angled wall that faced the square and created a mirror image on that corner.

During this third period of development, a majority of the downtown's fifty-three properties were either built or rebuilt. The style of the buildings that were constructed during this time period indicates the prosperity in Lebanon as Richard Francaviglia explains, "Architectural style is one of the indicators of change and stability on Main Street."² Victorian era facades with Italianate and classical features characterize many of the buildings on the Public Square. Examples of these

² Richard Francaviglia, *Main Street Revisited* (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 1996), 5.

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

buildings are seen in the southeast and southwest quadrants. Many of these buildings (For example, 126, 128, 130, 132, 138, 140, 144, 146, 149, 150 and 151 Public Square) have decorative facades with decorative brackets, arched windows, and/or decorative parapets.

All of the buildings erected during this third period of development share common building materials, such as brick, and continuous footing foundations. Many have asphalt roofing and are similar in size and mass. Around the turn of the century, commercial buildings were built next to each other on deep lots, usually of a standard size. This is evident in Lebanon, as many of the buildings share common walls and utilize common building and floor plans placed on standard-sized lots. These buildings clearly demonstrate two-part commercial block style, which is characterized by two to four stories and a horizontal division creating two distinct sections. Historically, the ground level contained commercial space and opened onto the street, while the second division or story remained private. At the turn of the century, the second story was used primarily for housing store owners.³ Some of the buildings in Lebanon continue to display these separations. The Bradshaw Building, built circa 1882 and home today of Guys and Dolls Comic Shop at 124 Public Square, has living space on the second floor, and 148 Public Square, built circa 1901, and now utilized by Partnership Lebanon, has a kitchen and small living space on the upper story.

Between 1908 and 1913 the population in Lebanon nearly doubled to approximately 5,000 people. As business volume increased, new buildings were constructed on streets adjacent to the Public Square. The need for a new post office became apparent and a new building was constructed one block east of the Square in 1914. The post office is an excellent example of the Beaux Arts style with its decorative swags and garlands and prominent columns on the front facade. Several announcements were made in 1908 newspapers illustrating the prosperity of the times. The Lebanon Woolen Mills announced plans to move to Lebanon; the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railroad announced its plan to move its current station to the square; and the Gulf Red Cedar Company stated that it would move into the Lebanon area.⁴

Modernization characterizes the fourth period of Lebanon's development from 1920 to 1947 as transportation changes and increased technology altered the Public Square and streets adjacent to the Square. During this time period fifteen buildings were constructed. Garages and service stations replaced livery stables; College Street Auto Sales (107 North College Street), for example, was constructed in 1920. In 1924 concrete paving of major streets was authorized. Also during this

³ Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings, *American Vernacular Design 1870-1940* (Iowa City: Iowa State University Press, 1988), 240.

⁴ Frank Burns, *Wilson County in the Tennessee County Historical Series*, ed. Robert E. Corlew (Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1983), 224.

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

period, the Lebanon Garment Factory (122 East Market Street) was constructed (1936), demonstrating the relationship of the downtown with industry. This building utilizes another popular style of the times, Art Deco, and is distinct in its use of pilasters and decorative capstones.

Together, the buildings in the downtown area create a continuous commercial streetscape around the square. Horizontal features such as string and belt courses, cornices, and corbelling pull together many of the small buildings that are connected or share a common wall. Two-part commercial block buildings, which are the form of many of the structures downtown, usually gain their identity from the facade. The rear elevation was never meant to be seen, and therefore is not usually detailed. Parapet walls are a common feature of this style, with some becoming very elaborately detailed, such as the one located on 140 Public Square, now Cuz's Antique Store, constructed in 1909 and others remaining fairly simple, such as the building at 121 Public Square, constructed in 1900.

The properties nominated in this district include a total of fifty-three resources, forty-four contributing and nine noncontributing. These properties include the Public Square and several buildings just off of the square. Buildings designated as contributing are significant to the district architecturally and reveal the commercial character of the district. Buildings designated noncontributing have retained few architectural details from the period of significance and have little or no integrity.

Inventory

North College Street

1. 104 & 106 North College Street. c. 1947. Sue Ann's Once Again Shop/Along the Way Cafe/Masonic Lodge.

Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick, gabled roof, rectangular plan. Four upper-story casement windows, 10 lights. Three entrances: Entrance to second-story Masonic Lodge is a wood paneled door with awning; entryway to Sue Ann's has three large display windows, glass and metal entrance with awning; entrance to vacant building is metal and glass with four large display windows, awning. (C)

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

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2. 107 North College Street. c. 1920. College Street Auto Sales.
One-part commercial block, brick front double garage with Spanish tile coping along roofline, rectangular plan. Four rectangular windows have been boarded up. (C)
3. 116-120 North College Street. c. 1913. Superior Bookkeeping Service/vacant building.
Two-part commercial block, 5-bay brick, stone foundation, Spanish tile coping along façade roof line, rectangular plan. Five upper-story windows, 8 lights, arched hoods have been removed. Two recessed glass and metal entrances with 6 large display windows and one recessed entrance in center of building, broken pediment above door. (C)
4. 123 North College Street. c. 1985. Fur Person Dog Grooming.
Residential brick front, steep pitched roof gable roof, first story is brick and second story is sided. Upper story window is 6/6 with wood shutters. One large square window with 20 lights is located between two glazed doors on first floor. (NC)
5. 124 North College Street. c. 1913. Harry Holland CPA
Two-part commercial block, 4-bay with brick corbel table along façade and south elevation, stone foundation, rectangular plan. Four upper-story double-hung, segmental arched windows, innermost windows are boarded. Five arched, double-hung windows along south elevation on upper-story; 3 small rectangular single light windows on first story. Recessed metal and glass entrance with 6 large display windows; glazed door with rectangular transom above. (C)

North Cumberland Street

6. 105 North Cumberland Street. c. 1907. Town Pump.
One-part commercial block, modern stucco, 4-light transom above display windows and entrance, rectangular plan. Two large 1-light display windows. Altered. (NC)
7. 107 North Cumberland Street. c. 1929. Mike Pawn Shop/ Mike's Music Shop.
Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick with Spanish tile coping along roof line, star anchor in center of building, rectangular plan. Four upper-story windows; windows above Mike's Music are 8-light casement windows; two double-hung windows on second-story of Mike's Pawn. Wood and glass entrance for Mike's Pawn with two 1-light display windows, rectangular transom above doors. Recessed wood, metal, and glass entrance for Mike's Music. (C)
8. 111 North Cumberland Street. c. 1929. Vacant.
One-part commercial block, brick, with stone foundation and rectangular plan. Recessed entrance with four 1-light display windows. Five light transom above entrance and display windows. (C)

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
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9. 113 North Cumberland Street. c. 1929. Vacant
One-part commercial block, brick, painted brick corbel table, rectangular plan. Recessed entrance, display windows and transom are boarded up. (C)

10. 115 North Cumberland Street. c. 1929. Deacon's Bargain Store.
One-part commercial block, 1-bay brick, stone foundation, with Spanish tile coping along façade roofline, stepped parapet roof, rectangular plan. Metal and glass recessed entrance, transom covered by Deacon's sign. (C)

East Main Street

11. 102 East Main Street. c. 1901. Taylor, Taylor, Lannom, Williams, Attorneys.
Two-part commercial block, 3-bay modern stucco, gabled parapet, brick corbel table, rectangular plan. Three upper-story segmental arched windows with 15 lights, concrete keystones. Recessed panel, with diamond shapes above a wood awning and first floor entrance. Two 1-light windows with keystone lintels flank a paneled door with a keystone. Altered. (NC)

12. 103 & 105 East Main Street. c. 1933. Vacant/Cash Advance.
Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick, stone foundation, rectangular plan. Four single light upper-story segmental arched windows. Recessed glass and metal entrance, canvas awnings. (C)

13. 104 East Main Street. c. 1900. McCullough's Office Furniture.
Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick, brick corbel table, rectangular plan. Three 1/1 segmental arched upper-story windows. Seven-light transom above entrance and display windows. Recessed metal and glass entrance with four large display windows, glazed door with rectangular transom above. (C)

14. 106 East Main Street. c. 1901. McCullough's Office Supply.
Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick, with brick corbel table, 2 rectangular recessed panels above upper-story windows, rectangular plan. Three 1/1 windows set in segmental arched casing on upper-story windows. Glass and metal entrance with 4 large display windows, square transom over glazed door. (C)

15. 107&111 East Main Street. c. 1932. Shawn J. McBride, Attorney/Sof Tek. (Historic site of Sam Houston's first law office).
One-part commercial block, 3-bay brick, stepped parapet, soldier course brickwork above windows and entrance. Glass and metal entrance. Transom above entrance is covered. (NC)

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

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16. 108 East Main Street. c. 1901. McCullough's Office Supply and Furniture. Two-part commercial block, 7-bay brick with rectangular plan. Brick corbel table, seven 1/1 second-story windows with concrete hood moldings and keystones and continuous concrete sills. Metal and glass entrance, metal slipcover on first floor. (C).
17. 112 & 114 East Main Street. c. 1901. Buddies of Wilson County/ Susan Parke's Law Office. Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick, brick corbel table, two recessed rectangular panels above second-story windows, rectangular plan. Four 1/1 upper-story windows with concrete hood moldings and keystones, continuous concrete sills. Concrete beltcourse separates first and second story. Metal and glass recessed entrance, metal slipcover over first floor windows. (C)
18. 113 East Main Street. c. 1920. Wilson World. One-part commercial block, modern stucco façade, rectangular plan. Metal and glass recessed entrance. Storefront altered. (NC)
19. 115 East Main Street. c. 1901. Grand Central Junktion/office building. Two-part commercial block, ten-bay brick, stone foundation, rectangular plan. Brick corbel table and parapet along façade and east elevation with stepped parapet on side elevation. Ten 1/1 arched windows with concrete, keystones, and continuous sills and pilasters along second-story façade. Ten 1/1 segmental arched windows with transoms and concrete sills along east side, second-story are boarded. Recessed glass and metal entryway and display windows, metal slipcover on front façade. (C)
20. 203 East Main Street. c. 1914. Wilson County Elections Commission (former Lebanon Post Office). Two-story, Beaux Arts, 7-bay brick, stone foundation, T-shape plan. Streamlined geometric cornice treatment extends along the perimeter of the building, portico with six unfluted Corinthian columns. Two upper-story 8/8 double hung windows, stone belt course forms lintels of windows. Six first-story windows, outermost two windows are double-hung, 8/8 with flat limestone sill. Two windows frame each side of central entrance; lower half of windows have 12 lights, arched upper-half of window has 17 lights with arched brick and limestone casings and decorative keystones. Central entrance is a double door, each door consisting of a single bottom panel and vertical glazed panel; garland frieze and recessed arched window of 9 lights above door. High water table of limestone with cornerstone on southwest corner; inscription reads: "William G. McAdoo, Secretary of the Treasury; Oscar Wenderoth, Supervising Architect, MCMXIII." Nine stone steps lead to portico with wrought-iron guardrail on both sides of the stairs and along the portico. West elevation consists of seven bays. Three bays on the main block of the building are recessed, sills are of limestone and lintels of upper story windows are formed by a continuous belt course. The extended T-shape

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

portion of the building contains four, recessed arched windows. Two historic lamp posts are attached to the building. (C)

East Market Street

21. 103 East Market Street. c. 1922. People's Barber Shop. One-part commercial block, 2-bay, textured block with Spanish tile coping along roof line, rectangular plan. Right entryway with rectangular transom above the door is between two large 1-light display windows, one of which is boarded up. Left entrance consists of door with single light transom that is boarded up, metal awning above entryway. (C)

22. 104 & 106 East Market Street. c. 1922. Storage facility (former Lebanon Garment Factory Warehouse from 1936-1954).

One-part commercial block, two garage entrances, Spanish tile coping along roof line, stepped parapet roof on elevation of building. Three large windows are boarded up. (C)

23. 122 East Market Street. c. 1936. Lebanon Used Furniture (former Lebanon Garment Factory). One-part commercial block, stone foundation, rectangular plan. With Art Deco detailing. Concrete pilasters with stone capitals along the front façade, sawtooth clerestory windows. All windows are boarded up. Single entrance on front façade. (C)

Public Square

24. 100 Public Square. c. 1882. Hugh Green Law Office (former Bank of Lebanon and Union Bank).

Two-part commercial block, 3-bays with angled (canted) corner entrance, stone foundation, rectangular plan. Upper-story windows on façade and both floors of south elevation are 1/1. Two on upper story of façade are segmental arched windows with concrete lintels. First story façade has paired display windows with concrete lintels. Entrance has paired doors and large square transom. A brick belt course runs between first and second stories. Brick corbel table and parapet along façade and south elevation, where the parapet is stepped (C).

25. 101 Public Square. c. 1888. S&B Shoes.

Two-part commercial block, 2-bay modern stucco, stone foundation, rectangular plan. Two 1/1, segmental arched windows with transoms and concrete lintels. Brick corbel table and pilasters along sides of façade. Recessed glass and metal entryway and display windows. Altered. (NC)

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

26. 102 Public Square. c. 1888. Ideal Barber Shop.

Two-part commercial block, 2-bay modern stucco, stone foundation, rectangular. Two second story, arched, single light windows with arched metal painted hoods, brick corbel table. Recessed glass and metal entryway and display windows. Altered. (NC)

27. 103 Public Square. c. 1880. Coach House Antiques and Gifts (former Alvin Buford's Grocery Store).

Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick with small pediment and brick merlins, brick corbel table, and recessed panel with basketweave (diagonal bond) brick above second-story windows, rectangular plan. Three, 1/1 arched windows with brick hoods on upper story. Metal slipcover and awning above glass and metal display windows and entrance on first floor. (C)

28. 104 Public Square. c. 1907. Agee & Agee Attorneys/Geneva's Barber Shop.

Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick with angled (canted) side entrance, rectangular plan. Four second story single light windows with modern wood shutters. Recessed wood and glass and metal entryway and display windows. (C)

29. 105 Public Square. c. 1913. Southern Rose Antiques.

Two-part commercial block, 1-bay brick with gabled parapet, square plan. One large upper-story window with two rectangular side lights. Five light transom above glass doorway and entrance. Glass and metal entrance with two single light display windows and glazed door, rectangular transom above door. (C)

30. 107 Public Square. c. 1926. Caroline's Antiques.

Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick with wide brick corbel table, multi-light transom above first floor display windows and entryway, rectangular plan. Three, 15 light upper story pivoted windows. Metal and glass recessed entrance and display windows, canvas awning. (C)

31. 108 and 109 Public Square. c. 1926. Heartbreak Ridge General Store/ The Emporium.

Two-part commercial block, 6-bay brick, brick corbel table, rectangular plan. Six second-story pivoted windows with 12 lights. Wood siding and awning above first story entrance of the Heartbreak Ridge, glass and metal recessed entrance with rectangular transom above double doorway. Metal slipcover and awning above the entrance and display windows of the Emporium, metal and glass entrance, transom above single glazed door. (C)

32. 110 Public Square. c. 1926. Edward Jones Investments.

Two-part commercial block, 2-bay brick, stone foundation, rectangular plan. Two, 6/6 second story windows with concrete sills and flat arch with keystones, brick corbel table. Metal slipcover and

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
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awning on first floor. Two large 1 light display windows with glass entrance, rectangular transom above door. (C)

33. 112 Public Square. c. 1907. Antique Mall.

Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick, rectangular plan. Four second story pivoted windows with 12 lights and concrete lintels, brick corbel table. Metal slipcover and awning on first story. Recessed metal and glass double door glass entrance with rectangular transom above. Five large 1 light display windows. (C)

34. 118-121 Public Square. c. 1900. Cumberland Real Estate/ office buildings (former Copeland Building).

Two-part commercial block, 5-bay brick. Brick corbel table. Five second story three part windows, fanlight. Multiple entrances, metal and glass entrances, transoms above display windows and doorways. (C)

35. 124 Public Square. c. 1882. Guys and Dolls (former Bradshaw Building).

Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick, Spanish tile coping along roofline, square plan. Four second story windows on façade, 3 on south elevation, all are 12 light windows with arched metal hoods. Stepped parapet along south facade. Recessed entrance on angled wall with wood awning. (C).

36. 126 Public Square. c. 1890. Swindell's.

Two-part commercial block, 3-bays brick with Italianate detailing, brick corbel table, rectangular plan. Three second-story arched double-hung windows with decorative brick crowns. Six second story arched windows and one large square window with four lights on north façade. Three circular windows, 2 large display windows with 3 light transom, and 6 light square window on first floor of north façade. Recessed metal and glass entrance with metal awning. Structural glass (probably Carrera or Vitrolite) storefront. (C)

37. 128 Public Square. c. 1890. Four Seasons Tanning Beds.

Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick, rectangular plan. Italianate detailing, brick corbel table. Three double-hung, second story arched windows with decorative brick crowns. Metal and glass recessed entrance. (C)

38. 129 Public Square. c. 1890. Nita's Hallmark.

Two-part commercial block, 2-bay brick, rectangular plan. Parapet with rectangular detail above, decorative second story stone work with faux keystones. Two second-story double-hung 1/1 windows. Metal and glass entrance with rectangular transom above door, metal awning. (C)

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39. 130 Public Square. c. 1890. Classic Travel/Zack Griffith Attorney at Law. Two-story commercial block, 2-bay brick, rectangular plan. Italianate decorative brackets and wood cornice. Two second-story single light rectangular windows. Metal and glass entrance. (C)
40. 132 Public Square. c. 1890. Seat's Studio (A). Two-part commercial block, 2-bay brick, Italianate decorative brackets and cornice, rectangular plan. Two second story arched, hooded, double-hung windows. Two large metal and glass display windows. Single glazed door with rectangular transom located above. Metal awning and slipcover on first floor. (C)
41. 133 Public Square. c. 1890. Seat's Studio (B). Two-part commercial block, 3-bay textured concrete block with Spanish tile coping along roof line, stone beltcourse between first and second stories, rectangular plan. Three upper story double-hung windows. Metal and glass entrance with two large 1 light display windows and single glazed door with rectangular transom. Metal slipcover and awning on first floor. (C)
42. 133 Public Square. c. 1890. Lannom Realty. Two-part commercial block, 3-bay mid twentieth century sandstone façade, applied over brick. Concrete beltcourse, 3 chimneys on south elevation, rectangular plan. Three second story 1/1 rectangular windows on façade. Six second story 1/1 segmental arched windows with concrete lintels and three 1/1 segmental arched windows with concrete lintels and segmental arched entryway along south façade. First floor main entrance is metal and glass with 3 light transom above display windows and doorway. (C)
43. 137 Public Square. c. 1977. Rainbow Relics (former Lebanon Bank). Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick, parapet along façade and west elevation. Three upper-story windows on façade and both floors of west elevation are 1/1 with concrete sills and keystones. First floor façade has two windows, same as second story. Recessed entrance, concrete pilasters flank door. (NC due to date of construction)
44. 138 Public Square. c. 1909. Cuz Jr.'s Antiques and Gallery (former Lester McCarthey Company). Two-part commercial block, 4-bay brick. Dentil moldings, brick corbelling and panels, and Italianate brackets. Four second-story 1/1 rectangular windows with continuous stone sill. Recessed metal and glass entrance and display windows, rectangular transom above single glazed door. (C)

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45. 140 Public Square. c. 1909. Cuz's Antique Center (former Weir Dry Goods). Two-part commercial block, 6-bay brick with Italianate detailing, rectangular plan. Dentil moldings, brackets, semicircular and triangular parapets, elaborate cornice with corbelling and panels. Eight double-hung rectangular upper-story windows, continuous stone sill. Recessed metal and glass entrances and display windows, rectangular transom over double door entryway. (C)
46. 142 Public Square. c. 1909. Art Gallery (former Arcade). Metal Slipcover covers second story façade that appears to be an Italianate Victorian era building. Metal and glass entrance. (NC due to slipcover).
47. 144 Public Square. c. 1909. Cuz's Antiques No. 2 (former McAdoo's). Two-part commercial block with Italianate detailing, 4-bay (with one bay rounded), brick, rectangular plan. Parapets, molded brick trim and corbelling, dentil moldings. Three 1/1 double-hung upper-story windows with square transoms; one rectangular four-light window and battlement roofline on rounded portion, continuous stone sill. Glass and metal entrance and display windows, metal awning. (C)
48. 146 Public Square. c. 1909. The Crown and the Rose (former McFarland's Dry Good Store). Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick with rectangular plan. Classical detailing, pilasters with Corinthian and Doric capitals, corbelling, parapet roof with projecting gabled pediment, recessed oval detailing. Three second-story 1/1 rectangular windows with continuous sills. Recessed glass and metal entryway with metal awning and display windows on first floor entrance. (C)
49. 148 Public Square. c. 1901. Grannis, Whisenant & Associates (former Shannon's Drug Store). Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick with rectangular plan. Gabled, decorative parapet, coping and corbel table. Three second-story 1/1 rectangular windows with concrete lintels and continuous sills. canvas awning with glass and wooden door and display windows. (C)
50. 149 Public Square. c. 1901. Lebanon-Wilson County Chamber of Commerce (former McDonald & Cowan Drug Store). Two-part commercial block, Classical detailing, 3-bay brick, rectangular plan. Detailed, stepped gable, corbelling, pilasters with Corinthian capitals, brick corbel table, recessed oval paneling. Four second story 1/1 rectangular windows with dentil sills. Cloth awnings with glass and wooden door and display windows with transoms over windows and first floor entrance. (C)

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51. 150 Public Square. c. 1901. Geraldines Antiques (former Golladay Building). Two-part commercial block, 3-bay brick with rectangular plan. Italianate detailing with pilasters and stepped gable pediment. Three second story 1/1 rectangular windows. Recessed glass and metal entrance with display windows and metal awning over first floor main entrance. (C)
52. 151 Public Square. c. 1898. Corner Books - Lowery Building (former Wilson County Bank). Two-part commercial block, Italianate, 2-bay brick with angled corner entrance, pilasters with Ionic capitals, stone foundation, rectangular plan. Gabled brick parapets, brick merlins, corbelling, quoins on angled (canted) corner entrance, beltcourse along front and north elevations. Two windows on façade; one double-hung with decorative brick lintel and the second has one light with transom, continuous stone sill. One double-hung rectangular window on angled entrance. Eight segmental arched upper-story windows on north façade. Metal and glass entrance, double door entryway with side lights and 3 light transom. (C)
53. Public Square. c. 1912. Confederate Veteran's Memorial and Confederate Park. Square shaped green space with parking spaces around the park is located in the center of the Public Square. It contains Victorian lampposts and a statue of General Robert Hatton. Hatton was a local Confederate general during the Civil War. The statue rests upon an engraved stone foundation. (C)

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VIII: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lebanon Commercial Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the development of commerce in Wilson County. The district, which includes 53 properties, portrays the development of business in a small rural county seat from circa 1880 until 1947. The district is also eligible under Criterion C because it contains a significant collection of two-part commercial buildings. Especially notable are the classical and Italianate details found on many of the buildings around the square. The styles and forms in the district represent the local interpretation of popular styles from the 1880s to the 1940s. The earliest contributing buildings were constructed in the 1880s, the last in 1947.

From Lebanon's founding through the late twentieth century, the Public Square served as the commercial, political, and social center for both the city and the county. The Public Square contained businesses for the white and African-American communities of Wilson County, as well as other institutions such as fraternal lodges and governmental offices. Many of the existing buildings date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The area contained within the district served as the center of the county's commercial activities from the founding of Lebanon in 1801 until the 1960s, when both the courthouse and the post office moved to new buildings outside the Square. In addition, ten bank branches moved their banking operations away from the Square. Historian Frank Burns commented in the 1970s that the city was "feel[ing] the strong tug of metropolitan Nashville and . . . [soon] may be reduced to the role of a satellite."⁵

The Lebanon Public Square is the site of the first settlement in Lebanon. In 1800, Edward (Neddy) Jacobs and his Native-American spouse, Layula, built a cabin near a spring in what is now the northwest corner of the Public Square, just outside of the district near the present day Burger King. In 1802, county officials chose the area around the spring as the site of the county seat of Wilson County. Although state officials wanted the seat nearer to the center of the county, the water supply from the spring offered a resource that would serve the city until 1908. Legend has it that one of the county commissioners, Christopher Cooper, saw the spring and proclaimed, "This is the place."⁶

⁵ Ibid., iii.

⁶ Dixon Merritt, *The History of Wilson County: Its Land and Its Life* (Nashville: Benson Printing Co., 1961), 43.

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What would evolve into the Public Square developed almost immediately around the first settlers. Early development witnessed the building of many cabins and some businesses. In 1802, settlers constructed four cabins, and by 1803, William Allen operated a store, Edward Mitchell opened an inn, and John Imprison lived in the first "proper" house in the area. From the very beginning, the Public Square was the center of commercial activities in Lebanon.⁷

As early buildings were constructed on the Public Square, the geographic style of the square began to take shape. Lebanon's Public Square is unique in Middle Tennessee because it is designed according to the Philadelphia Square Plan, while most town squares in Tennessee developed along the Shelbyville Plan. In his article charting the original platting of Lebanon, local historian James Miller explains that the city officials used the Philadelphia model from the outset as they developed the town grid.⁸ [See Figure 6]

Consistent with the Philadelphia plan, Wilson County officials erected the first courthouse, constructed of brick and designed by William Seawell, in the center of the square in 1811. In 1848, however, the county built a new courthouse on Lot 8 on the west side of the Public Square. This courthouse had the distinction of being designed by William Strickland, architect of the Tennessee State Capitol (NHL). Unfortunately, the courthouse burned in an 1881 fire, and the county constructed a new brick building, designed by J. F. Bowers and Brothers, upon its ashes in 1882. Until 1968, the courthouse represented the Public Square's importance not only in the business dealings of the county but also in the political aspects of the community. Other governmental offices also had their offices on or near the Square. During the New Deal, for example, the Agricultural Adjustment Agency was located in a building on the Public Square. The location of the post office (203 East Main St.), a block adjacent to the Public Square, placed this important governmental facility in close proximity to businesses as well as town dwellers.

In 1968, the county moved its courthouse to a new building several blocks away from the square, demolished the old courthouse and used the vacant area as a parking lot. A Tennessee Historical Marker now designates the location of the courthouse on the west side of the Square. The relocation of the Courthouse represented the loss of the political role of the Public Square.

The time period from Lebanon's founding in 1801 until the Civil War represents the early development and growth of the downtown Lebanon Public Square. During these years, farming in Wilson County expanded; Lebanon became the center for many post roads in the area; businesses

⁷ Burns, *Wilson County*, 14, 19.; Francaviglia, 59. Francaviglia argues that this growth of small cabins and small business is the first stage of growth for a Main Street community.

⁸ James Miller, "The Establishment of Lebanon, Tennessee", unpublished paper, 1998.

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increased; and the establishment of industries such as the Tennessee Manufacturing Company (1844), signaled the industrialization of the county.

Photographs from the 1850s show that many wooden buildings on the Public Square contained stores on the first floor and professional offices on the second. There was also a covered walkway in front of many of the buildings. The only published record of the businesses on the Public Square in the mid-1800s is in the *Goodspeed* history, which does not indicate the exact location of the businesses. It is known that Sam Houston rented a law office in 1818. The site of the law office was located on what is now known as East Main Street at 107-111 East Main Street. A plaque designates this historic site. In 1879, J. V. Drake described Lebanon's commercial district as having:

Six dry goods stores, three drug and book stores, 10 [sic] family groceries, two hardware stores, two millinery shops, three restaurants, five saloons, one bakery and confectionery, 2 [sic] saddle and harness shops, three tin and stove shops, two tobacco and cigar shops, three carriage and wagon shops, three blacksmith shops, two carpenter shops, two undertakers, three barber shops, one marble yard . . . four hotels . . . two national banks.⁹

While Drake does not list which buildings were on the Public Square, Sanborn maps demonstrate that many businesses operated in the Public Square area. None of these early building remain, but they clearly represented the Public Square's tradition as the commercial center for the county.

As in many small Tennessee towns, Lebanon's economy relied heavily on agriculture. The Public Square in Lebanon served as a commercial center for the agricultural community. Beginning in the 1800s, farmers held a street livestock market on the Public Square on the first Monday of every month. Called Mule Day, this event brought people from all over the county to the Public Square, where they would trade livestock and conduct business with the merchants [see Figure 14]. This event continued to be held on the Public Square until 1939 when the Tennessee State Highway Department ordered that the practice of Mule Day no longer be continued on the square because it congested the highways. The mule market moved south of the Square.¹⁰

⁹ J.V. Drake, *A Historical Sketch of Wilson County, Tennessee From its First Settlement to the Present Time* (Nashville: Tavel, Eastman & Howell, 1879) ,

¹⁰ Burns, *Wilson County*, xi; Ellen Taylor Schlink, *This is the Place: A History of Lebanon, Tennessee 1780-1972*, Vol. 2, (N.P.: Blue Grey Press, 1976) , 102.

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A series of fires from the during the 1870s and 1880s changed the face of the Public Square. Natural disasters usually advance the natural process of change in the development of a geographic area, and the fires in Lebanon had such an effect.¹¹ Fires in 1873 and 1874 consumed nearly half of the buildings along the Square. On December 13, 1881, a fire destroyed the courthouse and part of the southeast corner of the Public Square. After this fire, buildings such as Hugh Green Law office (100 Public Square, c. 1882) and the Bradshaw Building (124 Public Square, c.1882) were built to replace the destroyed buildings.

Other fires also set the stage for new buildings that occupy the present Public Square. Swindell's (126 Public Square) building in the southwest quadrant appeared after the 1887 fire and the Lowery Building (151 Public Square) were built after the 1897 fire. The present Cuz's Antiques store (138 and 140 Public Square) resulted from a fire in 1909. Fires also led to façade changes. Damage from the fire of 1889, for example, resulted in the construction of an angled façade at 100 Public Square. Many more of the current buildings began to appear in the 1880s, although some along East Main Street were built in 1900-1901.

Growth, progress and prosperity characterize the period of Lebanon's history from the mid 1880s to 1920. A significant population increase and the viability of the town led to increased businesses and the construction of new buildings. Sanborn maps from 1880 onward indicated the evolving nature of the square and its growth. The number of businesses increased and the type of stores occupying the buildings also changed. An 1888 Sanborn demonstrates that the Square was not as occupied as it became in later years; businesses included liverys, hotels and drug stores. Sanborn maps from 1907 indicate a significant increase in the number and type of businesses on the Square and also on the streets adjacent to the Square. On East Market Street, for example, there was a livery, novelty shop, Wagon shop and a grocery. A tin shop and hotel were located on North Cumberland, while Universal Milling Company, a produce store and a livery were located on South Cumberland. [See Figures 6-10].

The commercial buildings on the Public Square housed a succession of different businesses that continued the historical tradition of the Public Square as the commercial center of the county. The two buildings on the corner of East Main Street and the Public Square, for example, have contained a succession of banks. 100 Public Square was built in circa 1880 for the Bank of Lebanon and housed a series of banks until 1950. The Wilson County bank occupied the Lowery building from 1898 until 1911 and became the Planters Bank and Trust Company from 1923 until 1925. The Victorian era architecture of these two buildings reflects the growth and prosperity in Lebanon.

¹¹ Francaviglia, 59-64.

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Since the Public Square was the center of the county, the buildings in the area verified the city's role as the center of commercial power.

Most historians agree that the pivotal year in Lebanon's modern development is 1908. In this year, the city ceased using the spring in the northwest corner of the Public Square as a source of water and installed a new system, lessening the critical status of the Square. During this same year, significant business propositions and ventures, such as the establishment of the Lebanon Woolen Mills and the Gulf Cedar Company insured the economic and industrial development of this farm market town. The Nashville, Chattanooga & St. Louis Railroad, which had been located a mile south of the Public Square, relocated its depot and extended its tracks into the downtown area on the corner of East Gay and South Cumberland Streets. Moreover, the first movie theater opened in town, and two new stores, a sanitarium, feed plant, and warehouse were constructed. The size of Lebanon's business district doubled.¹²

Sanborn maps from 1881 onward indicate that there were always many grocers and dry goods stores along the Public Square. These stores were important because they sold the necessary items for people's daily lives such as flour, sugar, meat, etc. The Lowery Building, for example, served as a grocery store. From 1911 until 1914, W.S. Haridson operated the Cash Grocer in the building. Unlike other grocers of the time, he offered no credit or delivery services. The presence of stores such as this one, demonstrate that individuals conducted their daily business along the Square.

A significant building on the Public Square that was built a result of a fire that occurred in 1909 is the Arcade, which is located in the southeast corner. Arcades at the end of the nineteenth century symbolized the "heart of a business district . . . [and served as a symbol of] the importance of business and small-city life."¹³ The inclusion of an arcade in the Square demonstrates the prosperity and promise of the area. While the current Arcade is noncontributing because of an aluminum slipcover, the historic facade and interior retain a great deal of their integrity. [See Figure 11]

The Public Square also served as the center for many Progressive Era improvements in Wilson County. When the telephone first came to Lebanon in 1882, the exchange was located in 100 Public Square. In 1888, the county began a beautification program on the Square by planting trees, although the beautification project apparently lost out to asphalt as the city paved the Square in

¹² Frank Burns, Vertical File, Wilson County Public Library, 1908.

¹³ Gottfried and Jennings, 239, 242-3.

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1928.¹⁴ In addition, brick sidewalks were laid between 1906-1908. Another Progressive improvement was "cleaning up" the "Devil's Elbow" in the northwest quadrant. This section gained its nickname from the many bars, pool halls, and saloons in the area. The Bradshaw Building (124 Public Square) is the only survivor in old "Devil's Elbow." As across the nation, the temperance movement forced many saloons to close. A local example of this is the bar in the Bradshaw building, which closed in 1916 and was replaced by a variety of businesses.

In 1932, Dr. Frank Williams acquired the Bradshaw building and opened Williams Drugs, changed to Bradshaw Drugs when the store changed owners in 1938. Drug stores were more than medicine shops. The Owen & Allison Drug Store (1849) sold law, medical, and school books to the citizens. Other drug stores sold stationary, tobacco, oils, varnishes, wine, window glass, and cutlery.¹⁵ Many of these drug stores also had soda fountains, such as Shannon's Drug at 148 Public Square. Historian David Schwart summarizes the cultural and social significance of soda fountains:

As an institution, the soda fountain was called 'the national thirst quencher' not only for its scale but for its democratic appeal. Millionaires may have sipped champagne in hotel lounges while workingmen quaffed beer at neighborhood bars, but the next afternoon they both ordered chocolate sodas at the drugstore counter.¹⁶

As in other American cities and towns, the drugstores of Lebanon probably served as facilitators of community identify and interaction.

In 1902, Lebanon became eligible for free city mail delivery and the city qualified for a post office. With the help of Senator Cordell Hull, Congress appropriated \$50,000 for construction of a post office on the corner of East Main and North College (203 East Main Street). Designed by Oscar Wenderoth, supervising architect, and constructed by James Corse, contractor on a number of government buildings across the nation, the post office represents a high point in Lebanon's history. The building was constructed in 1914. The Beaux Arts style building stands as an architectural focal point of the community and a statement on Lebanon's growth and prosperity. The location of the post office outside of the Public Square demonstrates the expansion of businesses and commercial buildings to areas adjacent to the square. The city outgrew the post

¹⁴ Frank Burns, ed., *History of Wilson County* (Lebanon, TN: n.p., 1987), 221.

¹⁵ Schlink, (Vol. 1) 8., Vol. 2, 66-67.

¹⁶ David M. Schwart, "Life Was Sweeter, and More Innocent, in Our Soda Days," *Smithsonian* 17 (July 1986): 117.

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office by 1964, and the building was purchased several years later by Wilson County to serve as the Wilson County Election Commission.

Another important landmark was built in the growth decade of the 1910s. On May 20, 1912 a large crowd assembled at the Square for the unveiling of the Confederate Monument and statue of General Robert Hatton. The statue honors a Wilson County Civil War general who died in the war. The erection of the monument corresponds to a national trend from 1870-1910 to erect monuments honoring America's warriors and heroes.¹⁷ Hatton's statue serves as a monument to Lebanon's Confederate veterans.

Modernization, technological advances and transportation changes altered the Public Square. From 1913 till 1947, much of the growth in commercial activities in the Public Square area occurred in the northeast quadrant of the Public Square. Merchants constructed new buildings and opened new businesses to serve current needs. The emerging car culture in the United States required new services and new styles of buildings to fit the needs of the automobile. The succession of businesses to occupy the present-day Deacon's Bargain Store (115 North Cumberland) represents the evolution of businesses to meet present needs. This building site once had a boarding house, but circa 1929-1930, it was purchased and a gasoline warehouse was built for the Sinclair Gas Company. Many roads lead directly to Lebanon's Public Square, including Highway 70W and 231.

Sanborn maps show that, as early as 1920, garages and auto parts stores began to appear on the around the northeast quadrant. A property located off the Public Square on North College (107 North College Street) is a good example of a 40-car garage built in the 1920s that still retains its integrity and function. A second example of transportation technology is also indicated by Sanborn maps, which show that buildings formally used as livery stables became garages. [See Figures 7-10]

As in many smaller towns, industries also developed near the square. In 1936, the city of Lebanon held a vote and decided to develop a piece of land northeast of the Public Square as an industrial site. The city leased the property (122 East Market Street), including a twentieth-century industrial building with Art Deco elements and a warehouse across the street, to O'Bryan Brothers Manufacturing Company, maker of Duckhead pants from 1936 until 1954. The factory provided jobs during the Great Depression and continued the textile traditions of Lebanon and the South. In 1954, the City Council voted to sell the factory to Southern Manufacturing company for \$55,000, and the public-private partnership ceased.

¹⁷ Michael Kammen, *Mystic Chords of Memory – The Transformation of Tradition in American Culture* (New York: First Vintage Books Edition, 1993), 33.

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Lebanon's African-American community also had a presence in the Public Square's commercial life. Before 1865, local historian, Dixon Merritt, discovered that there was no distinctive African-American community in Lebanon.¹⁸ By 1888, however, Sanborn maps show "Negro Cabins" and "Negro Tenants" in buildings on the northwest quadrant. They remained as a presence there until circa 1907 [See Figure 7]. At the turn of the century, an African-American residential section arose in the northeastern area of Lebanon.¹⁹ Beginning with the 1913 Sanborn, the maps shows that the three-building complex on the corner of North College and East Market (116-124 North College Street) served over a period of time as an African-American boarding house, pool hall, café, and lodge. In addition, some businesses operated by African-Americans along the Public Square served both whites and African-Americans, such as Reuben Hale's restaurant located in the northwest corner of the Public Square. The People's Barber Shop (103 East Market) has served as an African-American barbershop since the 1920s. Andrew Muirhead, an African-American barber who started his career in 1889, cut hair there until he retired in 1936. The predominance of African American churches in this area is a further indication of the presence of African-Americans in Lebanon.²⁰

The last historic building constructed in the district was the Mason's Lodge along North College Street, built in 1947. During the 1800s, the Masonic lodge was located on the Public Square; however, it was destroyed by a fire in the late nineteenth century. The location of the new Mason Lodge off the square attests to the strength of the business sector in areas outside of the square. As Lebanon's commercial activity grew, it spread towards Highway 70 and later to Interstate 40. Strip malls began to take the place of the commercial buildings downtown. People commuted to Nashville instead of working in the industries in Lebanon.

¹⁸ Dixon Merritt, *The History of Wilson County: Its Land and Its Life* (Lebanon, TN: n.p., 1961), 279.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 285.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 284-5.

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The Public Square of Lebanon, however, still represents the core of a commercial district. The Lebanon Commercial historic District is significant under Criterion A because of its contributions to the development of commerce in Wilson County. The district's properties still characterize the development of business in a small rural county seat from the 1880s until 1947. Under Criterion C, the Lebanon Commercial Historic District is a locally significant collection of commercial architecture dating from the 1880s to 1947. The district possesses a notable collection of one- and two-part commercial buildings, many with Italianate details. Although modifications, mostly historic changes to accommodate modern needs, have been made, the contributing buildings retain a high level of integrity.

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X. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Lebanon Commercial Historic District includes properties along Main, Market, Cumberland and College streets. The district is centered around the court square. See accompanying tax map (Figure 3) and photo key map (Figure 1).

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Lebanon Public Square Historic District includes all of the buildings and a structure located in and the Public Square as well as commercial properties along North Cumberland, East Market Street, North College Street, and East Main Street. These buildings retain their integrity in building materials, use, and construction within the period of significance. Excluded from this district are properties that have been constructed after the period of significance or those that no longer retain their integrity. Buildings located along streets adjacent to the Public Square that have not been included have been either destroyed or altered, excluding them from the district boundaries.

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PROPERTY OWNERS

Location

1. 104-106 North College Street

Owner/Address

Richard Green
1622 Woodside Drive
Lebanon, TN 37087

2. 107 North College Street

Ray Alsup
107 North College Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

3. 116-120 North College Street

Cedar Realty Corp
219 Oak Hill Drive
Lebanon, TN 27087

4 123 North College Street

Bass Wright
201 East Market Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

5. 124 North College Street

Harry Holland
211 East Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

6. 105 North Cumberland

G.H. Tucker
494 Eastover Rd.
Lebanon, TN 37090

7. 107 North Cumberland

Michael Walker
107 North Cumberland
Lebanon, TN 37087

8. 109 North Cumberland

Michael Walker
107 North Cumberland
Lebanon, TN 37087

9. 111 North Cumberland

Michael Walker
107 North Cumberland
Lebanon, TN 37087

United States Department of the Interior
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Section number owners Page 27

Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

10. 115 North Cumberland

Joseph Morgan
113 North Cumberland
Lebanon, TN 37087

11. 102 East Main Street

Jerry Hunt
P.O. Box 812
Lebanon, TN 37087

12. 103-105 East Main Street

Jenny Lee Cook
332 McClain Avenue
Lebanon, TN 37087

13. 104 East Main Street

Jenny Lee Cook
332 McClain Avenue
Lebanon, TN 37087

14. 106 East Main Street

Jimmy & Phyllis McCullough
108 East Market Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

15. 107 & 111 East Main Street

Randy Newman
425 West Spring Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

16. 108 East Main Street

Jimmy & Phyllis McCullough
108 East Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087

17. 113 East Main Street

Thomas Allen Bryan
et ux, Jean V.
P.O. Box 487
Lebanon, TN 37088

18. 112-114 East Main Street

Jerry Hunt
1106 Bel Air Drive
Lebanon, TN 37087

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number owners Page 28

Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

-
- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 19. 115 East Main Street | Lynn Hill Lester
1606 Woodside Drive
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 20. 203 East Main Street | Wilson County
County Executive
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 21. 103 East Market Street | Garland Allen
508 Watson Street
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 22. 106 East Market Street | Joe Bob Haynes
225 Knoxville Avenue
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 23. 122 East Market Street | Joe Bob Haynes
225 Knoxville Avenue
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 24. 100 Public Square | Hugh Green
100 Public Square
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 25. 101 Public Square | B.L. Markham, Sr.
P.O. Box 86
Carthage, TN 37087 |
| 26. 102 Public Square | Martha Ann Leyhew
102 Public Square
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 27. 103 Public Square | William Green
1828 Indian Hill Road
Lebanon, TN 37087 |

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number owners Page 29

Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

-
- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 28. 104 Public Square | Vester Agee, Jr.
P.O. Box 649
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 29. 105 Public Square | Hazel Johnson
1400 Tetley Drive
Cookeville, TN 38501 |
| 30. 107 Public Square | Frank & Linda Buster
230 Sugar Flatt Road
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 31. 108 Public Square | Walter Baird, et al
Ed Baird
P.O. Box 589
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 32. 109 Public Square | Ed Baird
P.O. Box 589
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 33. 110 Public Square | Ed Baird
P.O. Box 589
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 34. 112 Public Square | Hollis McClanahan
P.O. Box 222
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 35. 118-121 Public Square | Kevin Lester
P.O. Box 1422
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 36. 124 Public Square | Ronald Stark
104 E. Forrest Ave
Lebanon, TN 37087 |

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Section number owners Page 30

Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

-
- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 37. 126 Public Square | Sam Swindell
2675 Swindell Hollow Rd
Lebanon, TN 37090 |
| 38. 128 Public Square | A.A. Adams, Jr.
P.O. Box 724
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 39. 129 Public Square | Raymond Whitfield
Anita Whitfield
1609 Edgewood Drive
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 40. 130 Public Square | Dorris and June Garrett
P.O. Box 607
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 41. 132 Public Square | Lillard & Frances Barrett
5974 Bender's Ferry Rd
Mt. Juliet, TN 37122 |
| 42. 133 Public Square | A.A. Adams, Jr.
P.O. Box 724
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 43. 137 Public Square | O.J. & Hiwanda Gaerte
340 Lock Five Rd
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 44. 138 Public Square | Alfred Adams, VI
138 Public Square
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 45. 140 Public Square | Frank & Linda Buster
230 Sugar Flatt Rd.
Lebanon, TN 37087 |

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

-
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 46. 142 Public Square | Jimmy & Phyllis McCullough
108 E. Main Street
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 47. 144 Public Square | Frank Buster
P.O. Box 936
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 48. 146 Public Square | Frank Buster
P.O. Box 936
Lebanon, TN 37088 |
| 49. 148 Public Square | Jere McCullough
109 Castle Heights Ave., N.
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 50. 149 Public Square | Chamber of Commerce
149 Public Square
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 51. 150 Public Square | Jack Lowery
222 Bethlehem Rd
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 52. 151 Public Square | Jack Lowery
222 Bethlehem Rd
Lebanon, TN 37087 |
| 53. Public Square, Confederate statue | Wilson County
County Executive
Lebanon, TN 37087 |

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Section number photos Page 32

Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

PHOTOGRAPHS

Lebanon Public Square Historic District
Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee
Photographs by: Rebecca Conard
Date: October 14, 1998
November 18, 1998
Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
Nashville, TN

106 N College St., Masonic Lodge/ Sue Ann's Once Again, facing east northeast
#1 of 25

107 N College, College Street Auto, facing east
#2 of 25

116-120 N College, Superior Bookkeeping; vacant, facing west
#3 of 25

107 N Cumberland, Mike's Pawn Shop/Mike's Music, facing east
#4 of 25

115 N Cumberland, Deacon's, facing southeast
#5 of 25

102 E. Main St., attorneys, facing southeast
104 E. Main St., McCullough Office Supply #3
106 E. Main St., McCullough Office Supply #2
#6 of 25

103-105 E. Main St., Cash Advance
107-111 E. Main St., Sof Tek, facing northwest
113 E. Main St., Wilson World
#7 of 25

108 E. Main St., McCullough Office Supply, facing south
112-114 E. Main St., Buddies of Wilson County; Susan Parke's Law Office
#8 of 25

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

115 E. Main St., Grand Central Junction; Office Building, facing northwest
#9 of 25

203 E. Main St., Wilson County Election Commission, facing north
#10 of 25

103 E Market St., People's Barber Shop, facing northeast
#11 of 25

122 E Market St., Lebanon Used Furniture, facing north
#12 of 25

100 Public Square, Law Offices of Hugh Green, facing northeast
#13 of 25

103 Public Square, Coach House Antiques, facing northeast
#14 of 25

107 Public Square, Caroline's Antiques, facing northeast
108 Public Square, Emporium Antiques/Heartbreak Ridge General Store
#15 of 25

110 Public Square, Edward Jones Investments, facing north
112 Public Square, Antique Mall
#16 of 25

118 Public Square, Copeland Building (H), facing northwest
#17 of 25

124 Public Square, Guys and Dolls, facing northwest
#18 of 25

126 Public Square, Swindell's, facing southwest
#19 of 25

130 Public Square, Classic Travel, facing west
#20 of 25

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Continuation Sheet

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Lebanon Commercial Historic District
Wilson County, Tennessee

138 Public Square, Cuz's Jrs., facing southeast

140 Public Square, Cuz's Antiques

#21 of 25

144 Public Square, Cuz's Antiques #2

146 Public Square, Crown & Rose Antiques, facing east southeast

#22 of 25

148 Public Square, Grannis Whisenant, facing east

149 Public Square, Chamber of Commerce

#23 of 25

150 Public Square, Geraldine's Antiques

151 Public Square, Lowery Building, facing southeast

#24 of 25

Public Square, Confederate Veterans Memorial Statue, facing northeast

#25 of 25

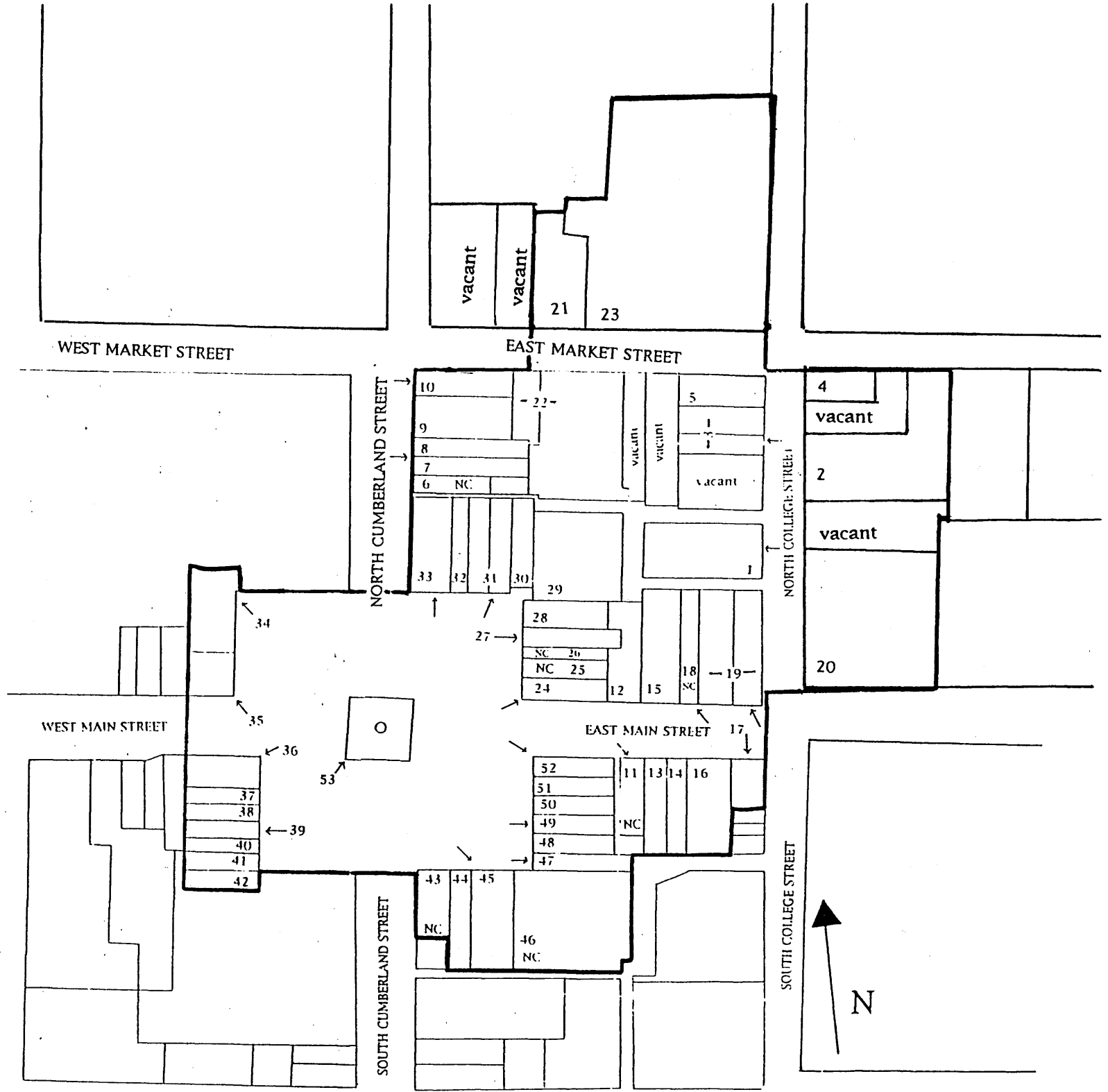


FIGURE 1- Photo Key Map and
 Contributing (C) and Non-Contributing (NC) Properties
 Lebanon Public Square Historic District
 Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee

Note: All properties are Contribution (C),
 except where indicated as Non-Contributing (NC)

→ DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH SCALE: 1"=200'

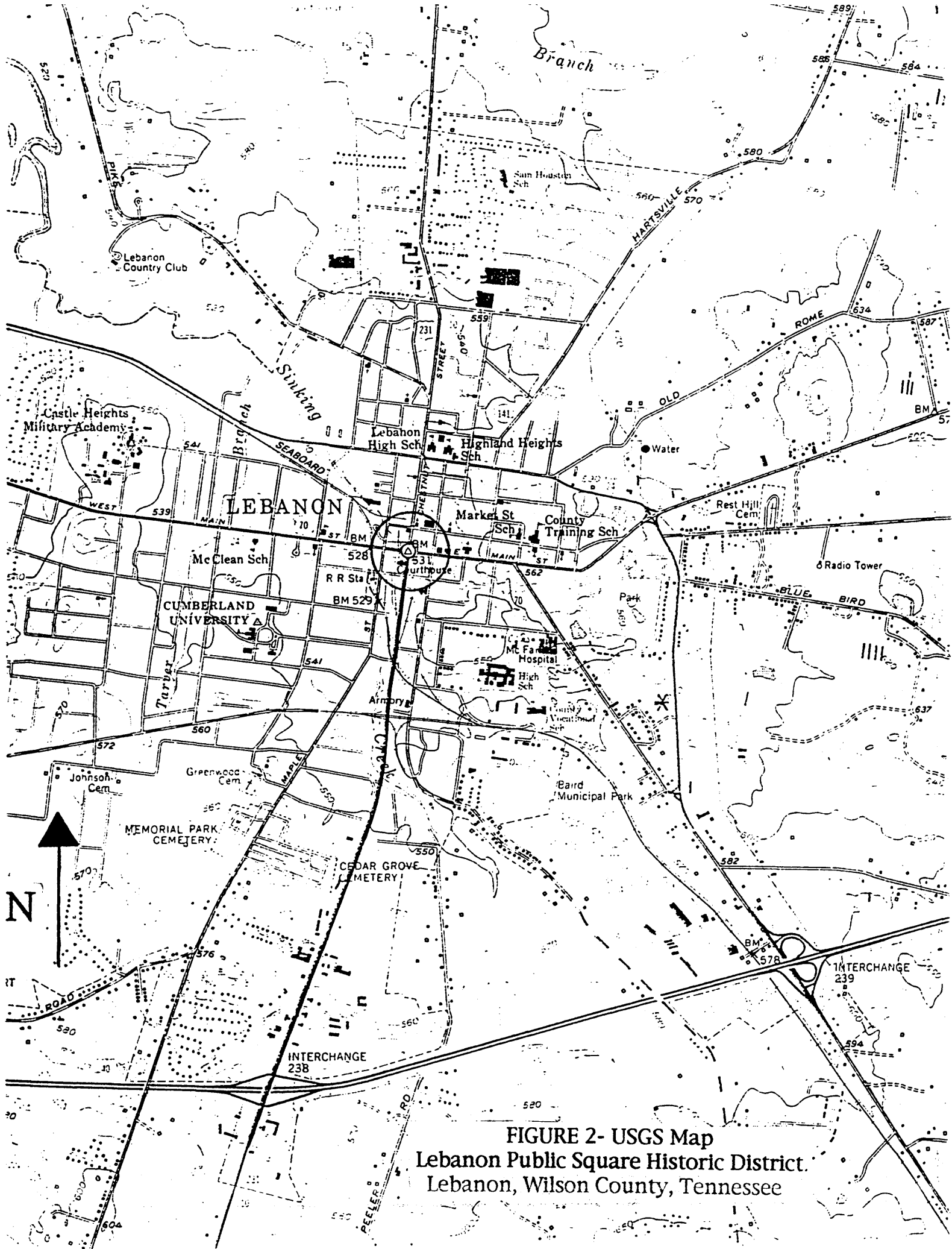


FIGURE 2- USGS Map
 Lebanon Public Square Historic District.
 Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee

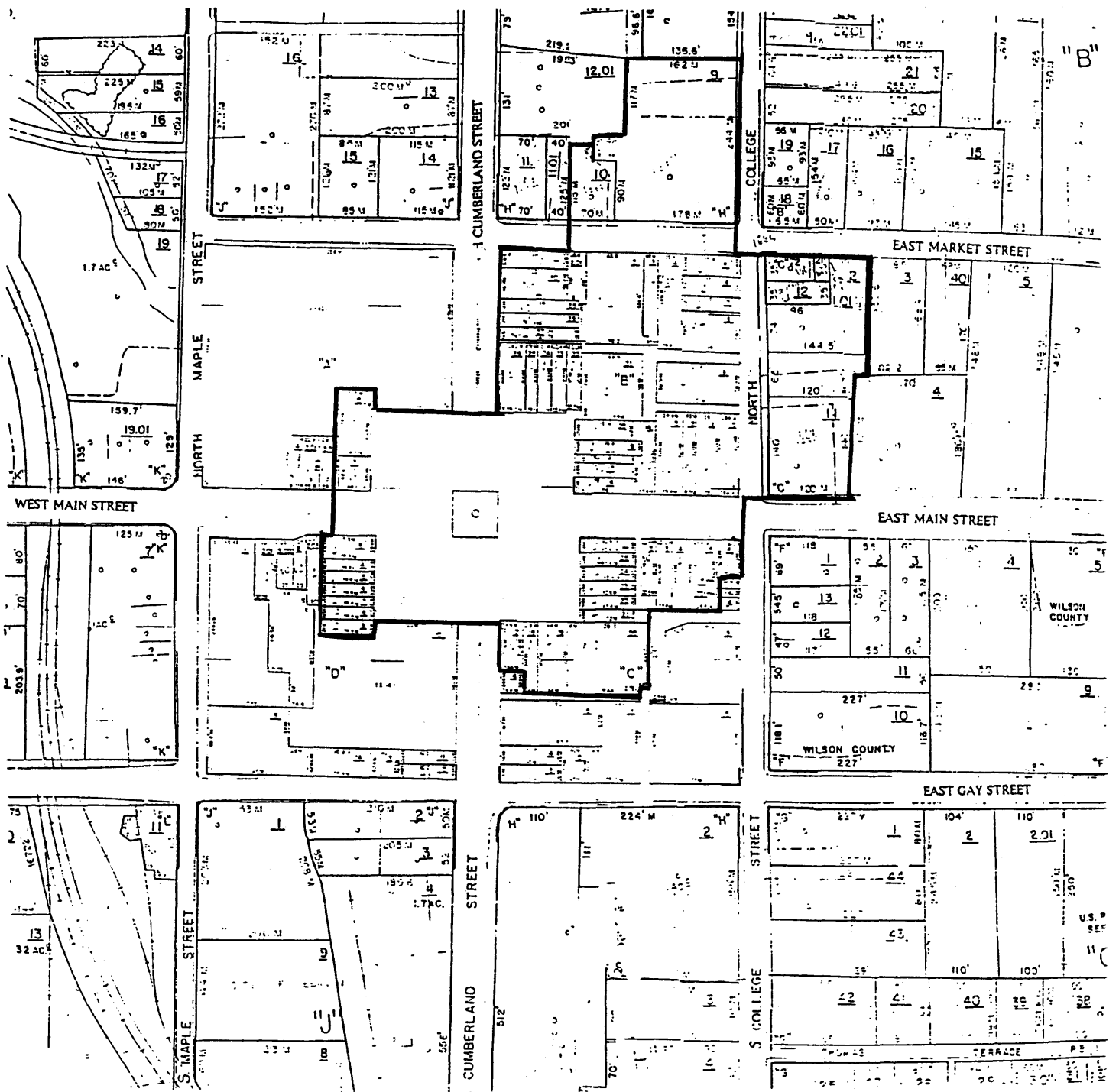


FIGURE 3- Tax Map
 Lebanon Public Square Historic District
 Lebanon, Wilson County Tennessee

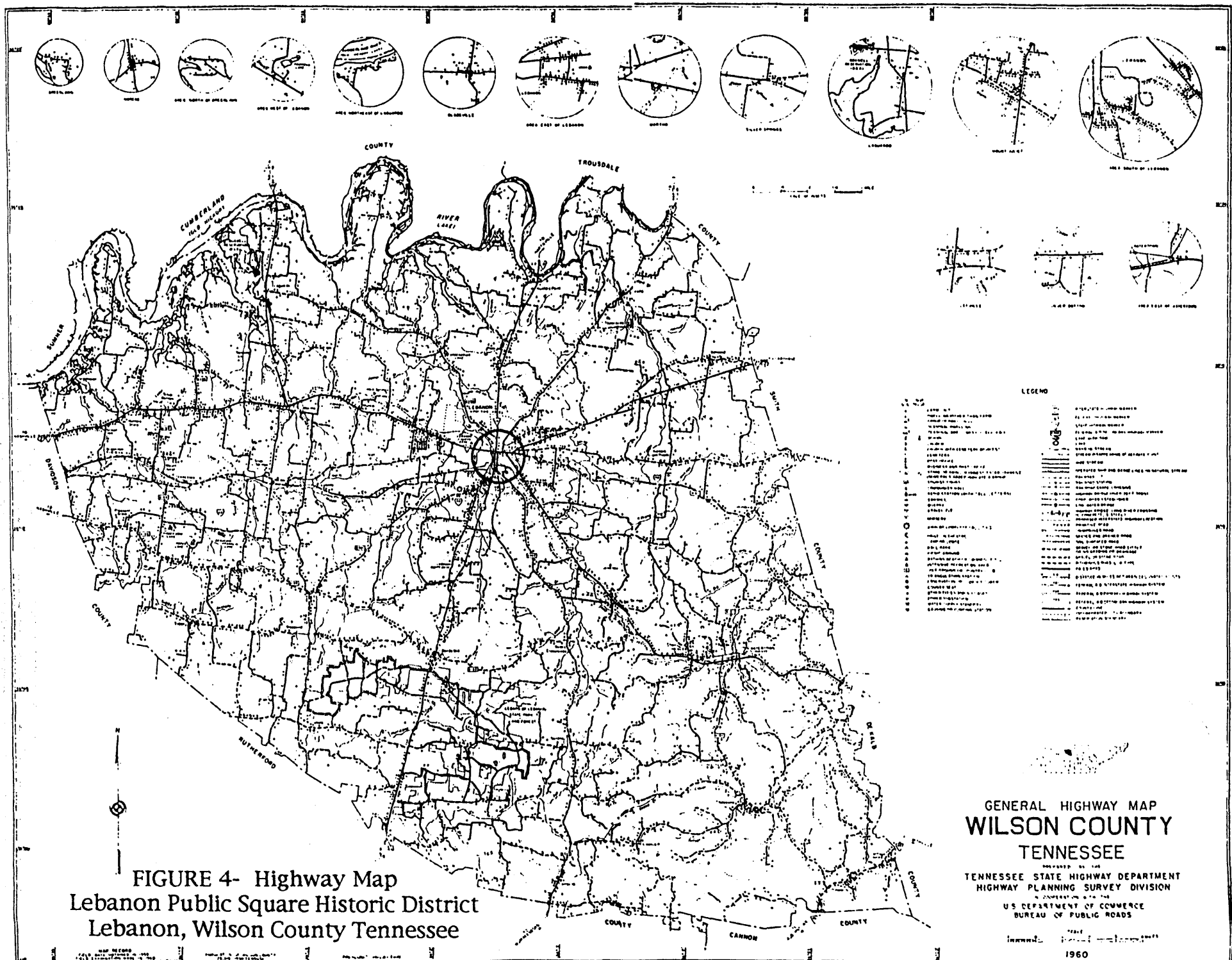
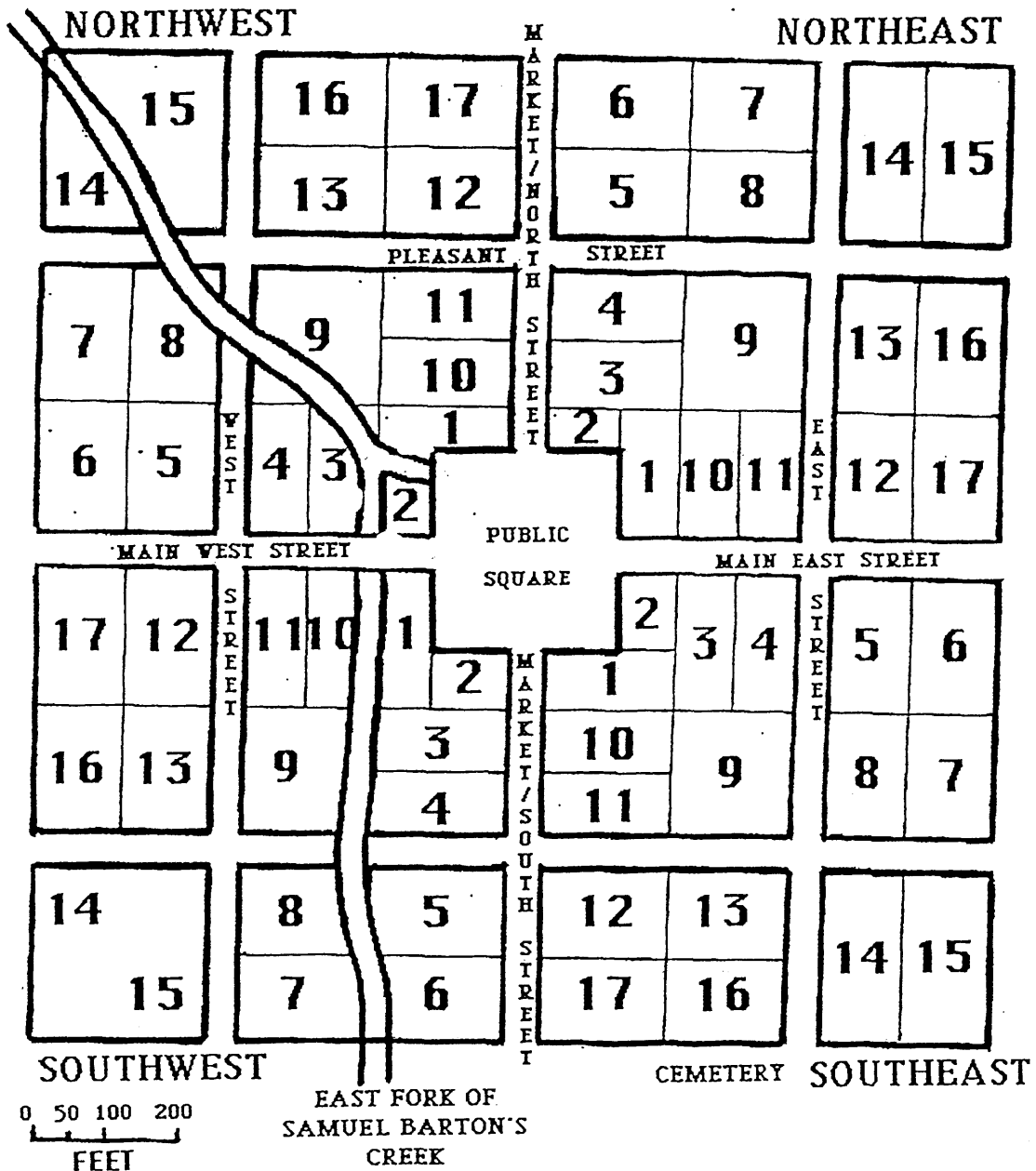


FIGURE 4- Highway Map
 Lebanon Public Square Historic District
 Lebanon, Wilson County Tennessee

GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
WILSON COUNTY
 TENNESSEE
 TENNESSEE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
 HIGHWAY PLANNING SURVEY DIVISION
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
 BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

1960



ORIGINAL LOTS LEBANON, TENNESSEE - 1802

Figure 6 - 1802 Lebanon town lot plan, created by historian James Miller. Demonstrates the organization of the town into four quadrants with a central Public Square.

FIGURE 7 - 1907 Sanborn Map
 Downtown Lebanon Historic District
 Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee

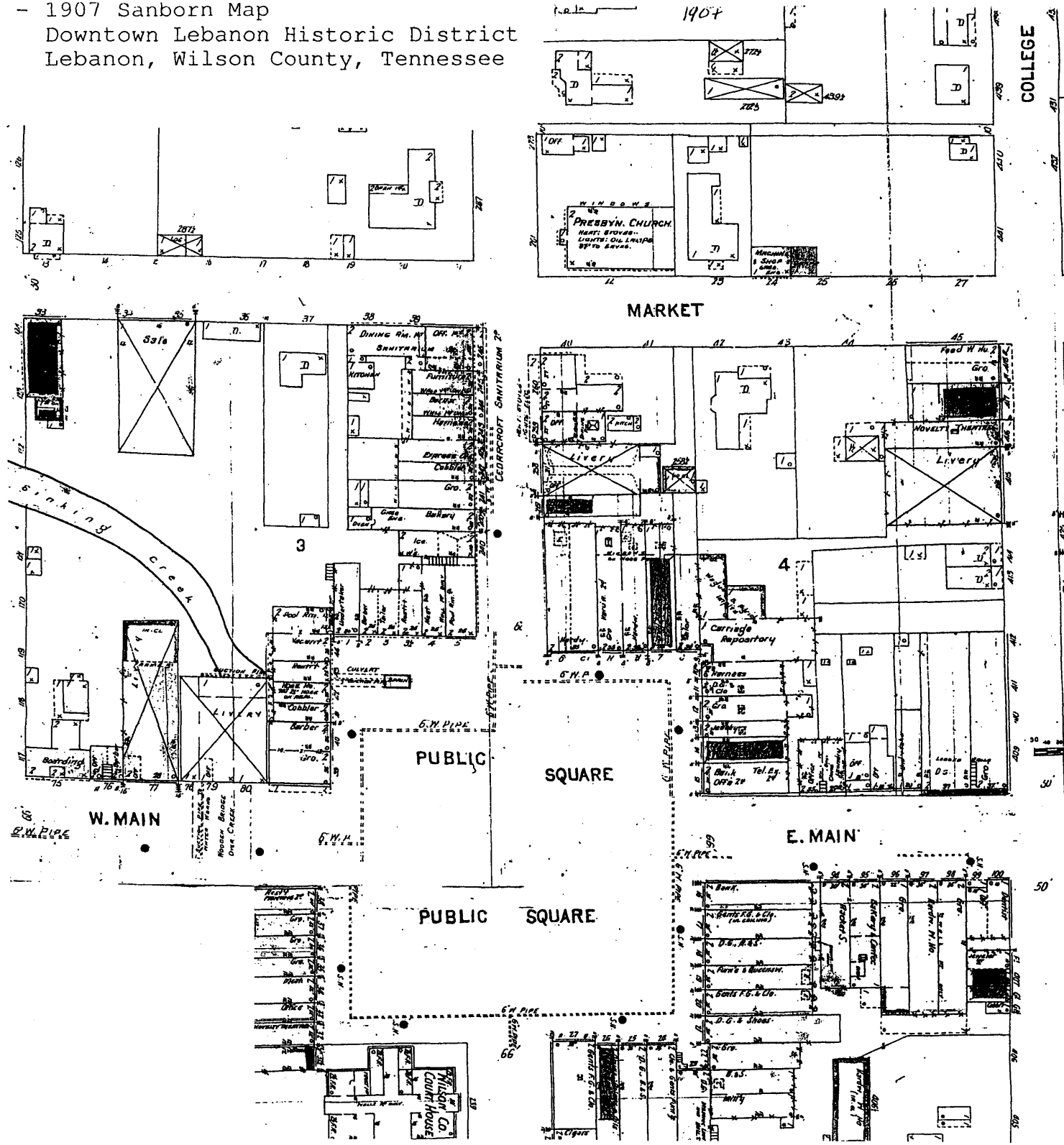
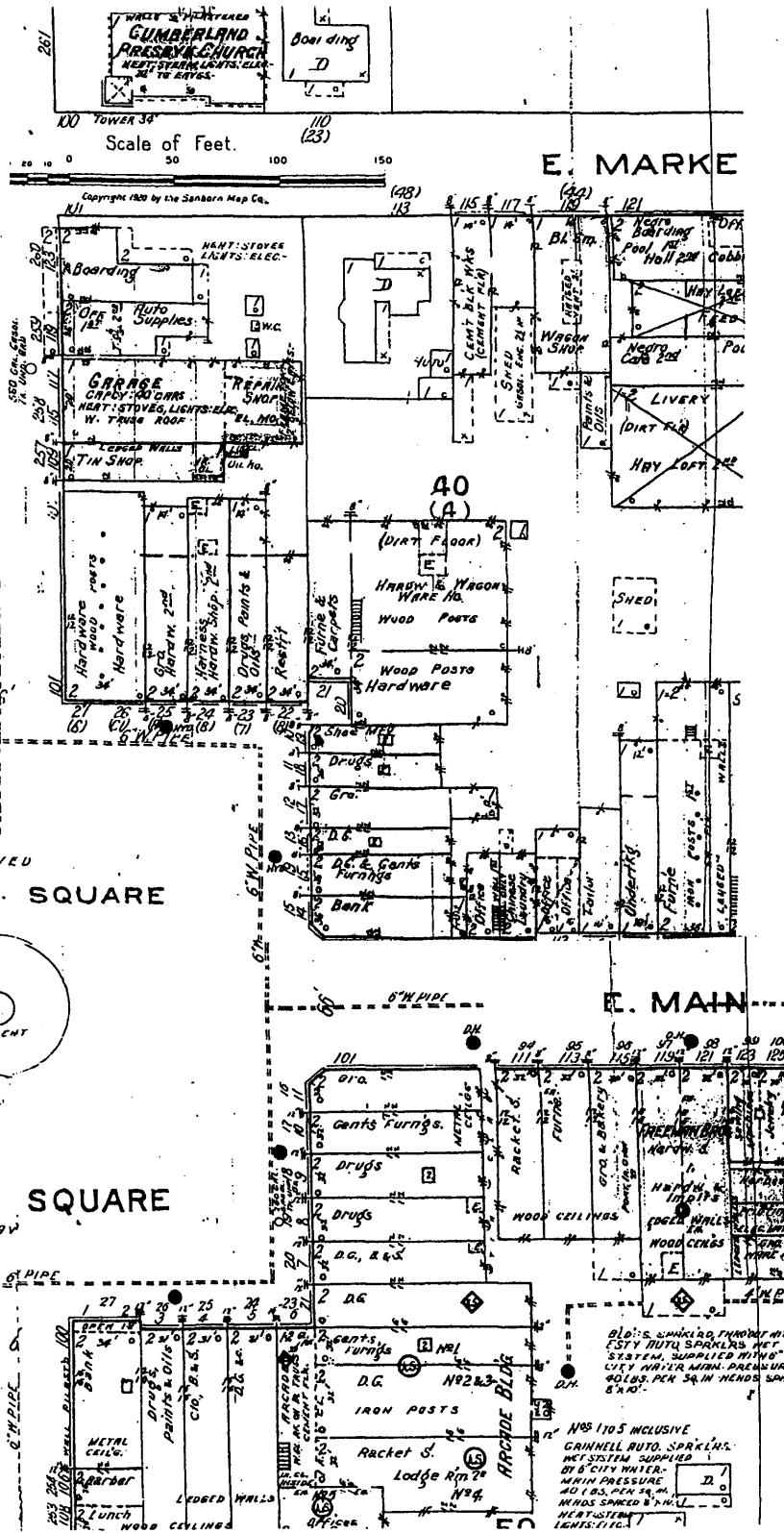
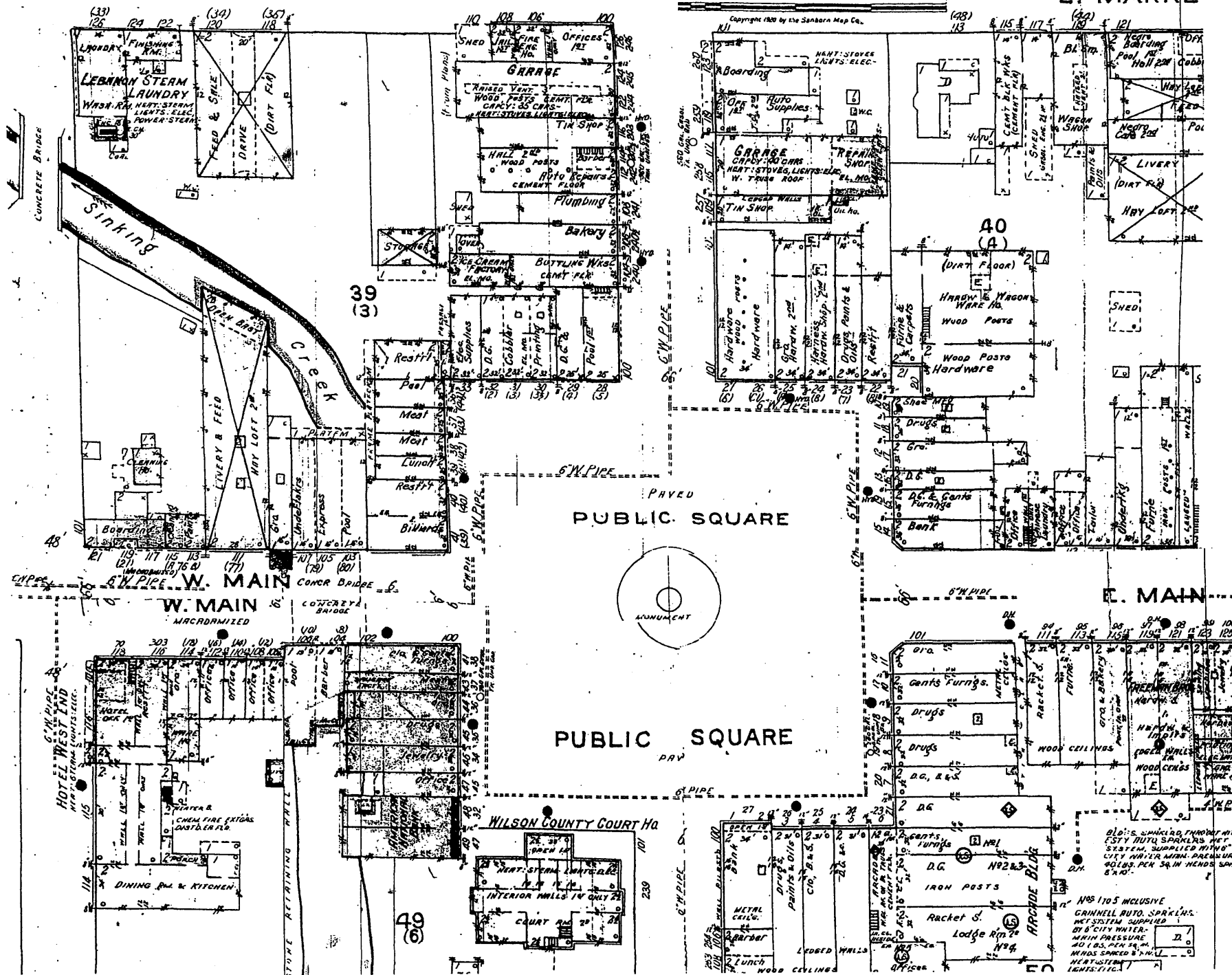


Figure 9 - 1920 Sanborn Map
 Downtown Lebanon Historic District
 Lebanon, Wilson County, Tennessee



BLD'G. SHAKING THROUGH AT
 1STY AUTO SPARKS 1/2"
 SYSTEM, SUPPLIED WITH
 CITY WATER. MAIN PRESSURE
 40 LBS. PER SQ. IN.
 WALLS CONCRETE 8" THICK
 HEAT-RESISTANT
 LIGHTS: ELEC. 1

NOS 1105 INCLUSIVE
 GRINWELL AUTO. SPARKS
 WET SYSTEM SUPPLIED
 BY CITY WATER.
 MAIN PRESSURE
 40 LBS. PER SQ. IN.
 WALLS CONCRETE 8" THICK
 HEAT-RESISTANT
 LIGHTS: ELEC. 1

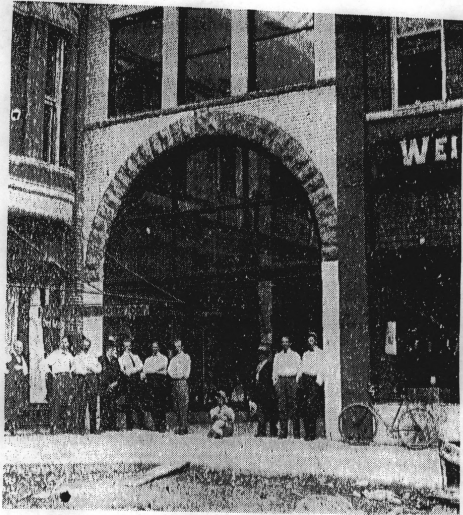


FIGURE 11 - The Arcade, built after the 1909 fire.
An aluminum slipcover on the front facade
makes the Arcade a non-contributing
building at present.



FIGURE 12 - On May 20, 1912, the Square was filled with what was then the largest crowd to assemble there, for the unveiling of the confederate monument and statue of General Hatton.

Lebanon of Yesteryear: 1928



FIGURE 13 - This aerial photograph of the Lebanon Public Square was taken in 1926.



FIGURE 14 - Mule Day was held at the Lebanon Public Square on the first Monday of every month. The event brought people from all over the county to the Public Square.



FIGURE 15 - Northeast quadrant of the Lebanon Public Square. Frank Burns states, "In August 1939 a freshet came down the Town Creek and submerged the Public Square of Lebanon under four feet of water."



FIGURE 16 - Looking at the west corner of the Public Square during the 1939 flood.

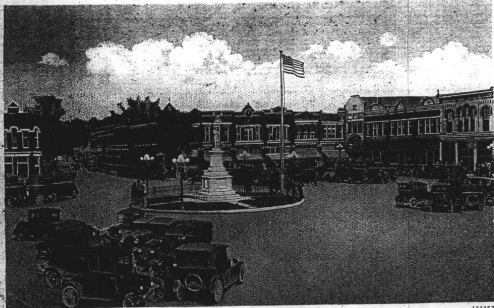


Figure 17 - Looking at the southeast corner of the Public Square during the 1939 flood.



FIGURE 18 - The Booster Tour of 1938 passed through the Lebanon Public Square. Photograph is facing the northwest quadrant of the Public Square. A Burger King restaurant now stands in the place of many of these buildings.

VIEW OF PUBLIC SQUARE, LEBANON, TENNESSEE



122297

Southeast Corner of Public Square, Lebanon, Tenn.



8A336-N

FIGURE 19 - Postcards of the Lebanon Public Square, facing the southeast quadrant.

Public Square Looking West, Lebanon, Tenn.

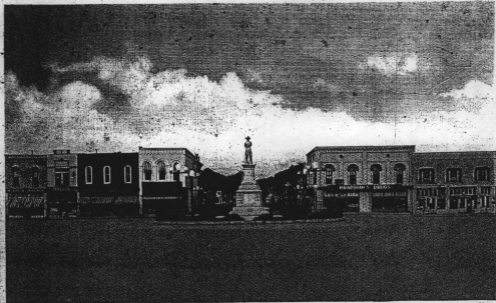


FIGURE 20 - Postcard of the Lebanon Public Square, facing west.



Figure 21 - Photograph of buildings along the first block of East Main Street, facing north.



Figure 22 - Photograph of buildings on East Main Street, facing south.