

395

APR 10 1989

NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Harkins Law Office Building  
other names/site number n/a #FD-2

2. Location

street & number 1 South Arnold Avenue n/a not for publication  
city, town Prestonsburg n/a vicinity  
state Kentucky code KY county Floyd code KY 071 zip code 41653

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u> sites
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u> structures
<u>   </u>	<u>   </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

David L. Morgan  
Signature of certifying official David L. Morgan Date 3-30-89  
State Historic Preservation Officer, Commonwealth of Kentucky

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Arlene Byers Entered by the National Register 5/18/89

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: professional

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: professional

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th century revivals:  
Neo-Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: sandstone

walls Stone: sandstone

roof Tile

other Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    n/a

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Other: Community Development

Period of Significance

1914-1919

Significant Dates

1914

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See overview form.

- 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 Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other

Specify repository:  
Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A 

1	7
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3	4	3	5	2	0
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4	1	7	0	1	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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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Margaret Warminski, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date December 1988

street & number 340 East Second Street telephone (606) 581-2883

city or town Newport state Kentucky zip code 41071

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Harkins Law Office Building, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Section number 7 Page 1

The Harkins Law Office Building is an imposing and beautifully-preserved Neo-Classical building built in 1914. Although comparatively small in size, its scale is monumental. The building is constructed of rough-cut yellow sandstone; a variety of details and textures, as well as varied window treatments, enliven its wall surfaces. Included in the nominated area is the building and the immediately adjacent portion of its lot.

The Harkins Law Office Building is located in the heart of Prestonsburg's downtown commercial district at the southeast corner of South Arnold Avenue and West Court Street, one block east of the Front Street Historic District. The law office building is sited close to the front line of its relatively small corner lot. The front portion of this lot, directly in front of the law office building, is devoted to a paved parking area. Adjoining the law office building on the south is a parking lot; to the east, along West Court Street, stands a row of small-scale retail buildings.

The law office building is a primary landmark of Prestonsburg. It provides a marked contrast to the downtown buildings that surround it, most of which are functional in design, employ less expensive materials, and date from the 1920's or 1930's. The monumental scale of the Harkins Law Office building belies its relatively small size. It stands one-and-a-half stories tall on a raised foundation with stone stoops front and rear. The building is cubic in form and completely symmetrical, with slightly projecting gabled pavilions adjoining the front and rear elevations. The body of the law office building is constructed of rough-cut locally-quarried yellow sandstone. The facade is dominated by a full-height portico borne by pairs of tapered Ionic columns, built of smooth-faced stone with bands of bosses accenting the capitals, resting on ashlar bases. Carved into the frieze of the entablature is the legend "Harkins Law Office" and the date "1914." A bullseye window is centered in the pediment. Windows are tall, narrow, double-hung wood sash with 1-1 lights; those of the front and rear pavilions are set above blind inset panels. Some of the building's windows are round-topped, with smooth-faced surrounds and projecting keystones, and a few in the rear elevation employ translucent stained green glass. The roof is gently sloping and pyramidal, clad in regularly-coursed green Spanish tile, with hipped dormers protruding from its north and south slopes. A projecting cornice, and a flat frieze embellished by a row of dentils, complete the composition.

A variety of textures are employed on the wall surfaces. The coursed rough-cut ashlar of the exterior walls contrasts with the smooth-dressed stone of the water table and of the belt course that encircles the building at impost level. At the base of the porch large square blocks are randomly juxtaposed with long, rectangular ones. The steps, coping and corner pillars of the front stoop are built of smooth-faced stone. On its side walls small blocks of rough-cut stone alternate with smooth-faced ones for a checkerboard-like effect. The rear stoop is constructed of alternating wide and narrow courses of rough-cut ashlar.

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Harkins Law Office Building, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

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The Harkins Law Office building has been very well preserved. Its most significant exterior change--replacement of its original doors with modern ones of clear glass and metal--has diminished its integrity only slightly.

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Harkins Law Office Building, Historic Resources of Prestonsburg

Section number 8 Page 1

The Harkins Law Office Building, built in 1914, is locally significant under Criterion C in the context of the architectural resources of Prestonsburg as an excellent and well-preserved example of the Neo-Classical style of architecture. The Harkins Law Office exhibits a sophistication of design that is unique among the city's commercial buildings. It is also noteworthy under Criterion A in the context of the community development of Prestonsburg for its association with the Harkins family, who gained prominence in banking and legal practice and amassed great wealth from the exploitation of the area's coal deposits during the early twentieth century. The law office building is one of several in the city representing an important period in the city's socio-economic development (c. 1900-1919). The Harkins Law Office Building's period of significance begins in 1914, the date of its construction, and extends to 1919, the year it ceased to be occupied by its original owner.

The building was constructed in 1914 for attorney Walter S. Harkins to house his family's law firm. Harkins' son Joseph D. Harkins Sr. was admitted to the bar in 1906, and was eventually joined by Joseph D. Harkins Jr. (1939) and Walter S. Harkins III (1941). The Harkins family was one of the wealthiest and most prominent in Prestonsburg, and the main source of their wealth was coal mining. The elder Harkins was an associate of John C. C. Mayo of Paintsville in neighboring Johnson County, founder of a coal empire in the late nineteenth century, and the two men were among the first to recognize the value of the area's coal resources. It was Harkins' practice to purchase mineral rights from property owners for \$100.00 and then exploit the deposits himself. For this he was criticized by some of his contemporaries, but he defended the practice by saying the sum seemed like a great deal of money to the people from whom he bought the rights. In 1890 Walter S. Harkins founded the Bank Josephine, which he named after his wife Josephine Davidson Harkins, and served as its first president.

Although the Harkins family law firm has been well documented, little has yet been learned about the history of the office building itself. Local tradition attributes its design to Edwin Stamler of Paris, Kentucky, an architect who gained notoriety in the Bluegrass region for his work in the Colonial Revival style during the early 1900's. If this is indeed the case, it would be the first work of Stamler identified in eastern Kentucky. The design of the Harkins Law Office Building does bear a superficial resemblance to other buildings identified with Stamler, notably the Bourbon County Public Library (1904), built in the Beaux Arts style, and the Robneel Building (1908--attributed to Stamler), in the Colonial Revival style, in Paris. But it seems more likely, given the sophistication of the law office building's design, that it was actually executed by noted architect S. F. Jesjardins of Cincinnati, with whom Stamler studied.

At the time of its construction, the Harkins Law Office Building stood next to the Harkins family mansion, remembered by Prestonsburg residents as the city's grandest residence. These two buildings, located side by side, must have constituted an impressive ensemble,

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attesting to the family's wealth and standing in the community. The Harkins home stood next to the law office building until the 1960's, when it was demolished by the heirs and its lot subdivided. Only its iron fence remains to mark the site. The law office building, which had remained in the family for over half a century, was also sold at this time. It currently houses professional offices.

The architectural significance of the Harkins Law Office Building within the context of local commercial architecture is discussed in the context statement. In sum, the building's sophisticated design and high-quality materials and craftsmanship are unique in the city. The Harkins Law Office Building is also notable as one of the earliest extant buildings in the city that was clearly designed by an architect rather than a local builder.

Further research may establish the architectural significance of the law office building within a larger, area-wide context, as one of several extraordinary buildings of its type in eastern Kentucky towns. Another theme worthy of exploration in defining the historical significance of the property is the role the Harkins family played in the development of the area's coal industry.

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**10. Geographic Information**

Beginning at the intersection of the east line of South Arnold Avenue with the south line of West Court Street; then proceeding in an easterly direction with the south line of West Court Street a distance of 100 feet, more or less; then proceeding in a southerly direction at right angles to West Court Street a distance of 75 feet, more or less; then in a westerly direction parallel to West Court Street a distance of 100 feet, more or less, to the east line of South Arnold Avenue; then in a northerly direction along said east line a distance of 75 feet, more or less, to its intersection with the south line of West Court Street: the place of beginning.

The nominated area includes the portion of the legal parcel that includes the law office building and its surrounding yard but excludes a parking area that does not contribute the area of significance for which the property is nominated. The boundary encloses the nominated building and immediately adjacent land; the area within the boundary constitutes the extent of significant architectural and historical resources with sufficient integrity to qualify for National Register listing.



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Harkins Law Office Building  
Historic Resources of Prestonsburg MPS, Floyd Co., KY

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Photo 7

Prestonsburg Multiple Properties Submission (same for all photos)

Harkins Law Office Building

1 South Arnold Avenue (same for photos 7 through 10)

Prestonsburg, Kentucky (same for all photos)

Margaret Warminski (same for all photos)

February 1988

Negative location: Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort (same for all photos)

Streetscape view looking northeast from the west side of South Arnold Avenue, showing facade, portico and south elevation of law office building; municipal parking lot in foreground.

Photo 8

Harkins Law Office Building

December 1987

View of portico, looking northeast from the west side of South Arnold Avenue.

Photo 9

Harkins Law Office Building

February 1988

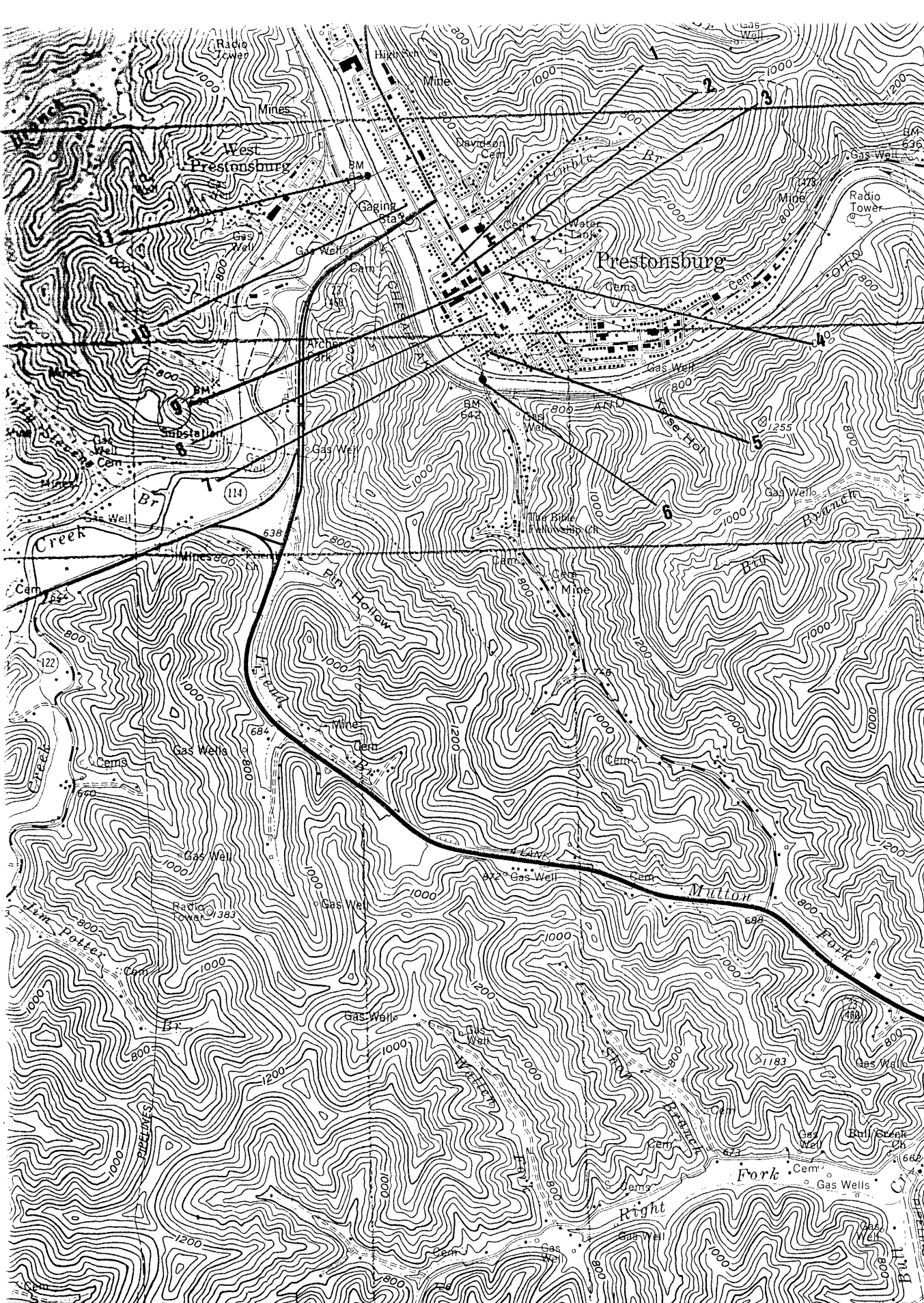
View of facade, north elevation, and parking area in front of building, looking southeast from the north side of West Court Street.

Photo 10

Harkins Law Office Building

July 1988

View of rear elevation, looking south from West Court Street.



#9 Harkins Law  
Office Building  
Floyd Co., KY  
17/343520/4170180

NEW ALLEN 1.2 MI.  
PIKEVILLE 22 MI.

4166000m N.  
37°37'30"  
82°45'

47°30' 342

343

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978  
344 345000m E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road

(HAROLD)  
4452 11 SW