

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 26 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Warren Commercial Historic District

Other names/site number: BR0138

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by Alabama and Elm streets on the north, Chestnut and 2nd streets on the east, Church Street on the south, and Main and Howard streets on the west.

City or town: Warren State: AR County: Bradley

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

	
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Jan Eason H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

7.11.16

Date of Action

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

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>41</u>	<u>29</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>41</u>	<u>29</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 4

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: Business, Professional, Financial Institution, Specialty Store, Department Store, Restaurant, Warehouse

GOVERNMENT: City Hall, Correctional Facility, Fire Station, Government Office, Post Office, Courthouse

FUNERARY: Mortuary

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater, monument/marker

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (brick streets)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE: Business, Professional, Financial Institution, Specialty Store, Department Store, Restaurant, Warehouse

GOVERNMENT: City Hall, Government Office, Courthouse

FUNERARY: Mortuary

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater, monument/marker

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related (brick streets)

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL STYLES: Beaux Arts, Colonial Revival,
Classical Revival (Neo-Classica Revival), Mission Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne, Art Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Plywood; BRICK; METAL: Cast
Iron, Aluminum, Tin; STUCCO, CONCRETE, GLASS (carrera),

Roof: ASPHALT **Foundation:** BRICK, CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Warren Commercial Historic District is comprised of 74 resources; 41(55.4%) contribute to the district's significance and 29 resources (39.2%) that are noncontributing. There are 4 buildings (5.4%) within the districted that have previously been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The majority of the buildings within the district are one or two-story brick commercial buildings. Throughout the years, most alterations that have occurred to these buildings have been to the storefront of the building while the area above the storefront remains intact. The focal point of the district is the courthouse square. The Bradley County Courthouse is the largest and most distinctive building in the district and is designed in the Beaux Arts style (National Register (NR) Listed 1976). The Warren Commercial District encompasses approximately ten city blocks and retains a high degree of integrity. The **period of significance** for this district spans **1890 to 1966**. Since the mid- to late-1800s, Warren has been an important part of Bradley County's history; the town still continues to serve as the economic and political center for Bradley County and is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance**, under **Criterion A**.

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Narrative Description

ELABORATION

Warren is located in Bradley County. It is situated 213 feet above sea-level and comprises approximately 7.2 square miles. Warren has served as the commercial, political and social center for Bradley County since the mid- to late-nineteenth century. The first commercial buildings in Warren were made of wood and have long since been replaced with brick buildings. By 1861, the first two-story brick courthouse stood as a landmark in this thriving small town. Three years later, in 1863, Warren had its first brick commercial building. Some of the early businesses in town were most likely located in proximity to the courthouse and the adjacent railroad (1880). This area eventually became known as the courthouse square, with businesses being constructed on all four sides of the courthouse and continuing south down Vine Street (present-day Main Street) as shown on a 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.¹ The oldest identified building within the district is the County Clerk building that dates to 1890. Using Sanborn Maps, historical documents, historic photos and present-day visual clues, it appears that some of the oldest extant buildings in the proposed district were constructed between ca. 1900 and 1910. These buildings are located in the 200 block of South Main, the 100 block of East Cedar Street; 100 East First Street (BR0135), 108 N. Myrtle Street (BR0131), and the County Courthouse (BR0001).

The city of Warren incurred much damage from two large tornados, the first in 1949 and the second in 1975. Fortunately, the commercial district escaped most of the path of destruction caused by both tornados. However, the downtown area has endured its share of fires throughout the years. Some of those fires include the burning of the Warren Bank in the early 1920s at the northwest corner of Main and Cypress Streets; the loss of the Southerland Hotel (later named Southern Hotel) at the southwest corner of Cedar and Myrtle Streets in 1964; the destruction of four historic buildings between present-day 101/103 N. Main Street and 113 N. Main Street in 1980; and the most recent fire (December 2015) that severely damaged the Martin and Scobey Building (BR0081) located at the southwest corner of Main and Cypress streets. Despite these fires, the downtown area still retains a high degree of integrity as evidenced by the remaining historic buildings and brick streets.

Noteworthy Architects

Within the district boundaries, there are three buildings that have been identified as being designed by reputable Arkansas architects. The first building is the Art Deco-inspired Municipal Building designed by H. Ray Burks. Burks (1890 to 1948), was born in nearby Monticello where he grew up and attended school. Burks then attended college and studied architecture at the Saint Louis School of Fine arts at Washington University. After finishing school, his first job was working for W.A. Halley, an architect in Monticello. After moving to Little Rock in 1917, he began working for architect James H. Bliss and later he opened his own firm in 1922. In

¹ Warren, Arkansas, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1907."

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

1945, he began a partnership with Bruce Anderson.² Burks' early work in the mid-20s is mostly residential and reflects the popularity of the Craftsman and English Revival designs. Later, with larger commissions, he adopted the Art Deco and Art Moderne idioms coupled with Classical elements befitting the municipal use of the buildings. Designs of note are the Drew County Courthouse, Lonoke County Courthouse, and War Memorial Stadium. His designs in Warren include the Blankenship Motor Company (BR0030, NR Listed 11/02/01), Warren Municipal Building (BR0016), and the Ederington House (NR Listed 06/21/84).³

Architect Frank W. Gibb (1861-1932), designed the Bradley County Courthouse in 1903 (BR0001, NR Listed 12/12/76). Gibb's practice began in Little Rock in 1890 as F. W. Gibb, architect. Gibb developed a distinguished architectural practice in Little Rock and throughout Arkansas; throughout his career he collaborated with many well-known Arkansas architects. Gibb was noted for his fine monumental public buildings as well as for his extensive residential work. He designed public buildings, churches, hotels, office buildings and over fifty residences. Included among his prolific works are the YMCA building (now the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* Building) and the Country Club of Little Rock (clubhouse) both in Little Rock, Arkansas. He also designed the Buckstaff Bath House in Hot Springs. Gibb's accomplishments rank him as one of Arkansas's outstanding local architects.⁴

The Courthouse Square/Bradley County Courthouse and County Clerk's Office (BR0001 – NR Listed 12/12/76)

Courthouses are among the most widely recognized, used, and appreciated assets in many communities. Many courthouses throughout the United States, serve as the anchor for what is known as the "courthouse square." In Warren, the present-day 1903 Courthouse, located at the northern end of the proposed district, is the third courthouse to occupy this location. Located next to the courthouse is the 1890 County Clerk's Office building that was associated with the second courthouse. The first courthouse was built in 1843, approximately two years after the creation of the county. This "temporary" courthouse was replaced in 1858, by a brick two-story courthouse that served the county until the present-day 1903 courthouse was built. Frank W. Gibb, a Little Rock architect, designed the 1903 courthouse and E. L. Koonce served as the contractor. Gibb designed the courthouse in a simplified Beaux Arts style using two colors of brick for decorative and design purposes. The rusticated wall surface of brick on the first level and brick quoins (almost resembling brick pilasters) are a distinctive characteristic of the building. As in other courthouses designed by Gibb, the building consists of a central core flanked by wings and towers. Also typical of Gibb's designs, the core of the building projects slightly.⁵ In 2002, an addition was added to the north elevation of the building, increasing its space and functionality. Since 1903, the present-day courthouse has served as the anchor for Warren's commercial center and as the political center of Bradley County.

² Charles Witsell and Gordon Wittenberg, *Architects of Little Rock 1833-1950*, (Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 2014), 42-45.

³ *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, "Blankenship Motor Company Building," 2001.

⁴ Witsell and Wittenberg, *Architects of Little Rock*, 88-89.

⁵ *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, "Bradley County Courthouse," 1976.

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Brick Streets (BR0037 – NR Listed 1/24/07)

A 1924 photograph shows that the streets of downtown Warren were still dirt. Sometime between 1924 and 1927 the streets were paved. Warren's brick streets are one of the most distinctive characteristics of downtown Warren. The city of Warren contracted the construction of the brick, two-lane streets circa 1927. The brick streets display a running bond pattern with diagonal sections at the intersections. The brick streets encompass portions of Cedar, Myrtle, Chestnut, 1st, Walnut, Elm and Cypress Streets. These brick streets are a rare surviving example of a once common paving type for city streets throughout the early twentieth century. These streets contribute to the overall significance of the commercial district.⁶

Building Styles and Types

STANDARD ONE- & TWO- STORY 20th CENTURY COMMERCIAL STYLE

The most common building type located through the district is commercial. Most of these buildings are designed in the standard twentieth-century commercial style. They are one- or two-story brick buildings supported by a concrete slab foundation and topped by a flat, tar-built-up roof. On the majority of the buildings, ornamentation is confined to a raised parapet, sometimes accented with brick corbelling or concrete coping. Oftentimes, decorative iron vents are located within recessed brick panels near the top of most of the brick buildings. Throughout the years, the addition of wood, metal or signage has concealed (and indirectly protected) original transoms over storefront windows and doors. Over time, some of the storefronts have been altered to adapt the buildings to different uses or to increase their functionality. However, the majority of the buildings that have had alterations have occurred at street level and the area above the storefront still retains its integrity.

BEAUX ARTS: Bradley County Courthouse (BR0001- NR LISTED 12/12/76)

Popular between 1885 and the 1930s, the Beaux Arts style generally emphasized classical (Greek and Roman) forms and features, elaborate detailing, massive plans, and heavy masonry. On high-style Beaux Arts buildings, a hallmark of the style is its elaborate, decorated surfaces with little area left unornamented; ornamentation might include grand Roman arches and colossal columns or pilasters – often paired – along with other Renaissance and Baroque-era designs. Beaux-Arts was mostly used for grand public and institutional buildings, and for the private homes of America's industrial barons.⁷ The Bradley County Courthouse is an example of restrained Beaux Arts design. Little Rock-based architect, Frank Gibb, used two colors of brick to provide a decorative contrast on the façade of the building. The rusticated wall surface of brick on the first floor level and brick quoins (almost resembling brick plasters) are a distinctive characteristic of the building. The building features a water table and belt course of cut stone. Typical classical features found on the courthouse include paired pilasters, dentils, balustrades, and Corinthian columns. The 1903 portion of the building consists of a central core flanked by wings and towers, with the core of the building projecting slightly.⁸

⁶ *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, "Warren Brick Streets," 2007.

⁷ "Architectural Styles (Beaux Arts)," <http://architecturalstyles.org>

⁸ *NR Nomination*, "Bradley County Courthouse."

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

NEO-CLASSICAL REVIVAL: Warren Bank (BR0098)

Neo-classical Revival became a dominant style for domestic buildings nationwide between 1900 and the 1940s. The style often includes features of classical symmetry, full-height porch with columns and temple front, and various classical ornament such as dentil cornices. Basically, this is the rebirth of the Greek Revival style that dominated the first half of the 19th century. Because the Neo-classical style was more scaled down and flexible than its grander cousin, the Beaux-Arts, it spread prolifically throughout the U.S. and became popular for a wide range of everyday buildings. Everything from townhouses, suburban homes, county courthouses, main street commercial buildings, and bank branches readily employed variations of the style. Often the single identifying feature on simpler structures might be the prominent columned porch with Greek portico above the entryway.⁹ The Warren Bank, which is now First State Bank (BR0098), was built in 1927 and is the best example of Neo-Classical Revival architecture in the district. The brick bank sits atop a concrete slab foundation and is topped by a flat roof that is concealed behind a castellated parapet adorned by an eagle on the front elevation. Two prominent pilasters flank two engaged columns dominating the front façade. The front elevation is accented by a central entrance that is flanked by two decorative engaged columns and is topped by a large ornate pediment. Garland swags, rosettes, and Corinthian and Doric columns are other decorative elements included in the design of the building. The current windows are not original to the building.

COLONIAL REVIVAL: Post Office (BR0018 – NR Listed 1/21/04)

Revival styles identify specifically with an architecture of an earlier time and place, especially those related to early American or European precedents. The Colonial Revival style was initially inspired by the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exposition, essentially America's first-ever World's Fair. The event sparked a new interest in the American colonial past, in contrast to earlier decades when colonial architecture had been dismissed as antiquated or obsolete. Architects were studying colonial styles throughout New England by the 1890s and a decade later, Colonial Revival emerged as a dominant style for domestic buildings nationwide and remained popular up through World War II. The "revival styles" became popular in residential, commercial, and civic building design.¹⁰ The only example of Colonial Revival architecture in the downtown commercial area is the Warren U.S. Post Office (BR0018). The brick building was constructed in 1935-1936. The building features a brick foundation and walls and a flat roof behind a brick parapet with concrete cornice trim. It is essentially rectangular in plan with a partial basement and a main floor that housed the lobby and postal service functions. The entrance is the most decorative feature of the building; the entry is flanked by two engaged pilasters and topped by an ornate fanlight with a spider web design.¹¹

MISSION STYLE: Pastime Theater (BR0048) & Peek Esso Station (BR0085)

The Mission style originated in southern California and was the first style to diffuse eastward from the West. The style was popular from 1880 through the mid-1950s and was considered the "California counterpart" to the Georgian-inspired Colonial Revival popular in the Northeast.

⁹ "Architectural Styles (Neo-Classical Revival)."

¹⁰ "Architectural Styles (Colonial Revival)."

¹¹ *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, "Warren Post Office," 2004.

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Most famously, the style was adopted by both the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railways for train stations, resort hotels, and other rail corridor buildings, essentially as an effort to “theme” the Southwest for eastern travelers. The style includes mission-shaped dormers and/or roof parapets; wide, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter beams, red-tiled roofs, stucco walls, and arched windows or doors on the ground level. It is relatively easy to identify the Mission style with its distinctive curved or shaped parapet (the wall extending up above the roof line) and – in ornate cases – one or two square towers symbolizing a mission church and its bell tower. Unlike Spanish Revival, there also tends to be a small roof overhang (eaves) with visible rafters underneath.¹² The two examples of Mission Style in the district are the Pastime Theater (BR0048) and the Peek Esso Station (BR0085). The Pastime Theater was constructed circa 1925, and operated as a movie theater throughout the 1970s. This building, clad in stucco, rests atop a concrete slab foundation. This one and one-half story building, originally had a separate rear entrance and separate seating for African-American people in the balcony. The Mission style-inspired parapet and the original marquee are the defining characteristics of this theater. The storefront, beneath the marquee, has been renovated in recent years, concealing and/or changing original fenestration. The Peek Esso Station (ca. 1935), is another example of Mission style architecture. This stucco-clad building rests atop a concrete foundation and is topped by a flat roof, concealed behind a mission style-inspired parapet. Red-tiles accentuate parts of the roof and the over-hanging canopy. Large piers support the canopy, which is decorated with pressed tin on the underside. The north end of the building was the service area, as distinguished by two large wooden garage doors, while the south end would have been the office/store space.

Art Moderne: Blankenship Motor Company (BR0030—NR Listed 11/02/01)

Art Moderne style (1920-1940) is often characterized by the following: smooth, rounded wall surfaces, often covered in stucco; flat roofs with small ledges at the roofline; horizontal grooves or lines in walls (sometimes fluted or pressed metal); asymmetrical façades; casement, corner, or ribbon windows arranged horizontally; metal balustrades; glass-block windows, often curved and built into the curved wall. Unlike Art Deco, this style emphasis is on the horizontal. The styles were most popular in New York City and other large metropolitan areas that continued to grow during the 1930s and 40s.¹³ The Blankenship Motor Company is an example of restrained Art Moderne architecture as applied to a 1940 building. The building was designed by Little Rock architect H. Ray Burks and is relatively small in comparison to many other commissions by Burks. The dealership sold Ford and Mercury automobiles from 1940 until 1965 when the sales section closed. Auto parts and engine servicing were available until 1982. Sited on a southwest corner of Cypress and Myrtle streets, the Blankenship Motor Company building is representative of a multi-use automobile sales and service building in the 1940s. The large setback of the building once allowed for gasoline pumps facing Cypress Street (these pumps were removed circa 1970). A “modernistic” two-story buff brick showroom contains the majority of the Art Moderne decorative elements such as two linear bands of concrete above the store front; symmetrically placed groups of four-beside-four metal casement windows; and the full-length cantilevered canopy that spans the front of the building accentuating the horizontal design of the building. Located to the south of the showroom is a more austere auto repair shop. Constructed

¹² “Architectural Styles (Mission Revival).”

¹³ “Architectural Styles (Art Moderne).”

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

of red brick and reinforced by brick pilasters, this section is topped by a barrel vaulted roof. In the 1960s, a flat roof extension was added to the west elevations of the auto repair shop.¹⁴

ART DECO: Warren Municipal Building (BR0016) & Ederington Buildings BR0014/BR0015) Art Deco, popular from 1920 through the 1940s, is defined by smooth wall surfaces, often stucco; smooth-faced stone and metal; polychrome, often with vivid colors; forms simplified and streamlined; geometric designs including zigzags and chevrons; towers and other vertical projections, presenting a vertical emphasis; machined and often metallic construction materials for decorative features. Though relatively rare compared to other more popular styles, both Art Deco and Art Moderne spread widely throughout the country into large city and small town alike.¹⁵ The best example of Art Deco architecture in the district is the Municipal Building built in 1931, designed by architect H. Ray Burks. The exterior of the building is clad in a smooth buff brick with cast-concrete detailing with geometric shapes. Brick pilasters, located along the front façade, enhance the vertical feeling of the building. It is built on the site of Warren's original fire station. This building was originally constructed to serve as the city hall, fire station, police station, city jail and chamber of commerce. Part of the second floor had a living quarters for the fireman (complete with a fireman's pole). In 1978, the municipal building was remodeled to house the mayor's office, sanitation department, chamber of commerce and a municipal courtroom. At this time, in 1978, the police department and fire department moved to their present-day location. In 1996, the entrance to the municipal building was renovated to its present-day configuration and most likely the windows were also replaced at that time. Another example of Art Deco architecture, are the Ederington Buildings. These buildings were constructed circa 1900 (possibly earlier) as brick commercial buildings. J. T. Ederington had these buildings remodeled circa 1940 to their present-day Art Deco inspired style. Ederington incorporated elements of the Art Deco style including the application of stucco to give the brick walls a smooth appearance and the incorporation of medallions and decorative pilasters. Ederington made these changes in an effort to modernize the building and to give it a more vertical feel and Art Deco ambience.

AUTOMOBILE-RELATED

Although, "automobile-related" is not a "style", but more of a "type" of building, it is worth categorizing and discussing when studying the development of downtown Warren. When looking at Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the area that comprises the proposed district, had several automobile-related businesses/buildings: four in 1920, nine in 1931 and ten in 1938. By 1938, there were several automobile-related businesses on the periphery of the district.¹⁶ City Business and/or Telephone Directories from this period note the influx of automobile-related services. A 1907 City Directory has no listings for any automobile-related businesses; however, an advertisement in the 1924/25 Warren Telephone Directory says "Adolph Daniel Garage (309 N. Vine) since 1912."¹⁷ By the 1940s there were filling stations on three corners at the Main & Church Street intersection. By 1947, the Williams and Waites Esso Service Station was located

¹⁴ *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, "Blankenship Motor Company Building," 2001.

¹⁵ "Architectural Styles (Art Deco)."

¹⁶ *Warren, Arkansas*, "Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1907, 1912, 1921, 1931, and 1931 (Rev. 1938)," (digitalized).

¹⁷ *Arkansas Telephone Directories: Rison-Wynne*, 1924/25.

Warren Commercial Historic District

Bradley Co., Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

on the southwest corner (now a carwash and outside of the district boundaries) of Main and Church Streets. By 1957, it was the location of Williams Pan-Am Service Station and by 1960, Williams Amoco (American Oil) was present at this site. In 1947, Jack's Service Station occupied the Southeast corner of Main and Church Streets (located within the district but now vacant). This site was later occupied by Williams Bros. Lion Oil Station (301 S. Main) that was a black and white station that was demolished in 2013, except for an awning. In 1947, the 44 (Four-Four) Tire & Service Station (which also housed Chatham Bros. Taxi and Magnolia Petroleum Company offices) occupied the Northeast corner of Church and Main streets. By 1960, Henry's Mobil Oil Station was located at this site. In September 1967, Curley Cathey bought and ran the service station until 1986 when he sold it to the Swap Shop (BR0087).¹⁸ There are several building within the district that are tied to the automobile culture such as 233 & 235 South Main (BR0088/BR0089), 206 E. Cedar (BR0125), 208 E. Cedar (BR0124), 209 E. Cedar (BR0126) and , 207 E. Cedar (BR0127). As previously discussed, Blankenship Motor (BR0030) is an excellent example of the Art Moderne style and Peek Esso Station (BR0085) is a good example of Mission style architecture as applied to an automobile-related building.

PRESENT-DAY DOWNTOWN WARREN

The automobile not only influenced the built environment of downtown Warren, but it also changed the landscape of the town too. As previously mentioned, the streets downtown were paved between 1924 and 1927 and the brick streets were laid circa 1927. Arkansas Highway 15 (now U.S. Hwy 63) was one of the original 1926 routes designated by the Arkansas Highway Commission that continued east from El Dorado into Bradley County through Hermitage and Warren.¹⁹ During the 1970s, Warren's first shopping center was built along Highway 15 and contained Dixie Dandy (grocery store), Howard Brother's and Super D. In the 1990s, Warren resident and long-time House of Representative, John Lipton, was instrumental in securing the federal designation for Highway 15 which became U.S. Highway 63. This highway was expanded to a four-lane highway that runs through the center of Warren, and Business Route 63, runs through the center of the downtown commercial area. At this same time, Arkansas Highway 4 also received a federal designation and is now U.S. Highway 278.²⁰ These are the two main thoroughfares that intersect Warren today. Many new buildings and businesses have been constructed along Highway 63 during the last twenty years.

Warren's downtown commercial area enjoyed a long-time steady occupancy by businesses – through the 1990s. Today it still is a busy commercial area, due in part to the fact U.S. Highway 63 (business route) runs through the center of the commercial area (also Main Street), and also due to the fact that the Bradley County Courthouse anchors the north-end of downtown. Other municipal buildings located in the downtown area are Warren City Hall, the police and fire departments, the YMCA, and the water department (BR0130). The Bradley County Economic Development Company (BR0132) and the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service (BR0135) are two other businesses important to the downtown area. Two large banks that are currently known as Warren Bank and Trust (BR0097) and First State Bank

¹⁸ Rachel Silva, "Walks through History: Historic Downtown Warren," 31 May 1914, (presentation notes).

¹⁹ "Arkansas Highway 15," accessed February 3, 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arkansas_Highway_15

²⁰ JeNelle Lipton, Email correspondence with author, February 08, 2016.

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

(BR0098/BR0099) are two of the larger businesses downtown. There are several unoccupied storefronts downtown, but there are also many buildings downtown that are occupied by antique stores and specialty stores while other buildings serve as office space or as eating establishments. Circa 1996, the downtown area received Enhancement Funds through the state, which were funded by the federal government, and used to make improvements downtown.²¹ These downtown enhancements included new sidewalks, addition of streetlamps and landscaping, and parking changes (which some citizens felt like made parking more difficult and spaces harder to come by). During this same time, Warren's economy took a direct hit with the downsizing of Potlatch in the 1990s. The widening of the highway in the 1990s and the new construction along the said-highway, fewer parking spaces downtown, and a declining economy are all factors that contributed to the vacant storefronts that currently occupy downtown. Yet despite these changes, downtown Warren still has a strong public presence, inviting streetscapes, and strong sense of time and place as evidenced by the overall integrity of the built environment.

CONCLUSION

The Warren Commercial district displays integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, association and workmanship and is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance**, under **Criterion A**. The period of significance for this district spans **1890 to 1966** encompassing over seventy-five years of continuous use as a commercial and political center for Bradley County.

²¹ JeNelle Lipton, Phone conversation with author, January 2016, and Bryan Martin, Email Correspondence with author, February 05, 2016.

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Warren Commercial Historic District (BR0138)
Bradley County

Resource # Name Address C/NC

BR0037	Warren Brick Streets	Multiple	L
BR0018	U.S. Post Office	236 S. Main St	L
BR0070	West Brothers Department Store (c.1947-1970)	230-232 S. Main St	NC
BR0071	no name	226- 228 S. Main St	C
BR0072	No Name	224 S. Main St	NC
BR0073	Busy Bee Florist and Crafts	222 S. Main St	C
BR0074	New Destiny Church	220 S. Main St	C
BR0075	Hunt Brothers Pizza	218 S. Main St	C
BR0076	Cato Clothing Store	212 & 216 S. Main St	NC
BR0077	The Spinning Wheel	210 S. Main St	C
BR0078	Angela Marshall Insurance	208 S. Main St	C
BR0079	no name	204-206 S. Main St	C

Warren Commercial Historic District

Bradley Co., Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

BR0080	no name	202 S. Main St	NC
BR0081	Martin & Scoby Department Store	200 S. Main St	NC
BR0082	The Eagle Publishing Co.	200 W. Cypress	NC
BR0083	Paisano	202 W. Cypress	C
BR0084	no name	204 W. Cypress	C
BR0085	Peek Esso	300 S. Main St	C
BR0086	no name	No Address	NC
BR0087	Swap Shop	101 E. Church St. (Corner of S. Main & Church)	NC
BR0088	Warren Motor Suppy	233 S. Main St	C
BR0089	no name	235 S. Main St	C
BR0090	Junkin Around	223 S. Main St	C
BR0091	Good News Mission Resale	221 S. Main ST	C
BR0092	Super Tienda- Texmexicana	219 S. Main St	C
BR0093	Bradley Store	215 S. Main St	C

Warren Commercial Historic District

Bradley Co., Arkansas

Name of Property			County and State
BR0094	Tax Centers of America	213 S. Main St	C
BR0095	Building and Loft Apartments	211 S. Main St	NC
BR0096	Martin - Moseley Building	209 S. Main St	C
BR0097	Warren Bank	201 S. Main St	NC
BR0098	First State Bank (Building A)	104 S. Main St (Cypress and N. Main)	C
BR0099	First State Bank (Building B)	104 S. Main St (Cedar and N. Main)	NC
BR0100	Ganaway Drugstore & Pink Zebra	101 & 103 N. Main St	C
BR0101	C & C Electronics	106 W. Cedar St	NC
BR0048	Pastime Theatre	110 W. Cedar St	NC
BR0102	Coker Hotel Annex	112 W. Cedar St	C
BR0103	Coker Hotel	112 W. Cedar St	C
BR0104	no name	113 N. Main St	C
BR0105	Heartfelt Creations & Salon	117 N. Main St	C
BR0106	Robert W. Smalling - Dr. of Optometry	119 N. Main St	NC
BR0107	Vision Source & Eye Max Vision Therapy	121-123 N. Main St	C

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

			County and State
BR0108	Snowcone Shop (Portable Metal Building)	Located South of 113 N. Main St	NC
BR0109	GWH Building	101 E. Elm St	NC
BR0110	Warren Bank Drive Through/ATM	Corner of Cypress & Myrtle St	NC
BR0111	no name	110-112 E. Cedar St	C
BR0112	C.W. Hankins & Sons Hardware	108 E. Cedar St.	C
BR0113	The Sandwich Shop	105 E. Cedar St.	C
BR0114	J.T. Ederington Co. Dry Goods Store	100 E. Cedar St?	C
BR0115	J.T. Ederington Co. Dry Goods Store	No Address	C
BR0116	C & R Computers	114 E. Cypress	C
BR0117	Downtown Accessories	209-213 S. 2nd St	NC
BR0118	no name	116 E. Cypress	NC
BR0119	Shear Madness Beauty Shop	118 E. Cypress	NC
BR0030	Curtis Blankinship Motors	120 E. Cypress	L
BR0120	Molly's Diner	201 S. Myrtle	C

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

			County and State
BR0121	103-111 S. Myrtle	103-111 S. Myrtle	NC
BR0122	Robert C. Milton Bookkeeping	101 S. Myrtle	NC
BR0123	T & S Warehouses/Storage units	No Address	NC
BR0124	Reeps Tax Service	206 E. Cedar	C
BR0125	no name	208 E. Cedar	C
BR0126	Lupita's Restaurant	209 E. Cedar	C
BR0127	Galloway Floor Covering	207 E. Cedar	NC
BR0128	no name	205 E. Cedar ?	C
BR0129	Blake Marshall	100-102 N. Myrtle	C
BR0016	Warren Municipal Building	104 N. Myrtle	NC
BR0130	Water and Sewer	106 N. Myrtle	NC
BR0131	Key Reality	108 N. Myrtle	C
BR0132	BCIDC	116 N Myrtle	C
BR0133	Hurley Building	114 N. Myrtle	NC

Warren Commercial Historic District
 Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

			County and State
BR0134	no name	No Address	NC
BR0135	Bradley County Coop. ext	100 1st St	NC
BR0001	Bradley County Courthouse	101 E. Cedar	L
BR0136	Dress Shop	104 South Main	C
BR0137	Metal Shed	Alley behind BR0076	C

TOTAL: 74

L: 4 (5.4%)

NC: 29 (39.2%)

C: 41 (55.4%)

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1890-1966

Significant Dates

1890 (oldest extant building)

1903 (courthouse)

1927 (brick streets)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Frank Gibb, Architect

H. Ray Burks, Architect

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

SUMMARY

The Warren Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** as an integral part of understanding Warren's political and economic history as it relates to its built environment and as a representation of small-town commercial centers throughout the United States. The **period of significance** for this district spans **1890 through 1966**. Warren has served as the county seat since 1840 and continues to serve as the political and commercial center for Bradley County. The district is made up of one and two story brick buildings and defined by historic brick streets (NR Listed 2007). The proposed district contains four properties previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

ELABORATION HISTORY

The Arkansas legislature formed Bradley County in December of 1840. The county was named after Captain Hugh Bradley, one of the early pioneers. Circa 1825, Captain Bradley settled the area near the Saline River, east of present-day Warren. In April of 1841, the first circuit court met at the home of Captain Bradley. In 1841, commissioners E. B. Owen, Nathaniel Barnett and A. S. Franklin chose a site near the present-day courthouse to serve as the county seat. John H. Marks and John Splawn donated 40 acres of land for the new town site.²² Goodspeed, published in 1890, states the county is named for Hugh Bradley and also notes that Warren is located in Pennington Township, which was named after Bradley's son-in-law J. H. Pennington. Goodspeed also says that the town of Warren was named after Hugh Bradley's slave, Warren Bradley.²³ It has long been questioned whether the county was named after Bradley's slave or after Bradley's close friend Edward Allen Warren, who practiced law in Camden and served the state as a U.S. representative. However, in 2015, a time capsule discovered in the courthouse confirmed that the county was named after Captain Hugh Bradley's slave, Warren Bradley.²⁴

Despite nearby Civil War battles and skirmishes, Warren appears to have suffered more during Reconstruction than during the Civil War. Dr. Junius Bragg wrote letters in which he described the hardships for Warren's citizens because troops confiscated all food products. When martial law was declared and Reconstruction began, the town was devoid of business life. During this time, the only store in the little town was a new store that opened May 1865 for the benefit of the

²² Judge David A. Bradham, "A Short History of Bradley County (originally written in 1951)," Accessed October 2015, http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbradle/indexes/co_unt_y_history_1951.html

²³ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Bradley County*, (Goodspeed Publishing Co. 1890; reprint, Higginsville, MO: Hearthstone Legacy Publishing, 2007), 750.

²⁴ Rachel Silva. "Walks through History: Historic Downtown Warren," 31 May 1914 (Presentation Notes).

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Federal soldiers who were garrisoned in the town. The Ku Klux Klan (KKK) became popular during this period.²⁵

The County Examiner's Record of 1888 states that some of the county's earliest pioneer families included: Scobeys, Broughtons, Brooks, Hughey, Grider, Price, Bailey, Blankenship, Baker, Belin, Braswell, Brady, Robertson, Gannaway, Lyon, Durham, Davis, Hickman, Koonce, Cone, Martin, Pollard, Roddey, Stedman, Ritchey, Ruth, Sloan, Wheeler, Wheless, Franklin, Smith, Sutton, VanValkenburg, Adams, Meek, Moseley, Bond, and Packard.²⁶ Many of these pioneer family names have been listed in various city directories as business owners in Warren throughout the years.

An article in the 1883 *Arkansas Gazette* states the following:

At the western terminus of the Ouachita division of the Little Rock, Mississippi River and Texas railway is situated the town of Warren. It boasts of a population of about 400 and is the county seat of Bradley County. The railroad has been finished to this point but a short time, but already its good effects are noticeable by the influx of strangers and improvements of every character. All the progress is due to the railroad. ... Most of the plantation and general supplies in the town are handled by W. H. Wheeler & Co. and Martin and Goodwin. The former house is doing business in the only brick store the place contains, but Martin & Goodwin are breaking ground for a large brick building to be completed during the summer. Gannaway & Sutton carry a well selected stock of groceries. E. C. Gannaway & Sutton carry a well selected stock of groceries. E.C. Gannaway & Co. are forwarding and commission merchants. They also carry a full line of drugs and undertakers' goods. W.F. Mack & Co. deal in dry goods, groceries, notions, etc. Dry goods are also handled by J. Ritchie & Co. and S.W. Wheeler. H. L. Turner has a fine stock of groceries, while next door to him J. Braswell keeps the only jewelry and gun store in the place. The drug trade is done by Gannaway & Co., Reynolds & Meeks and J.W. Bailey. T.M. Gill and C.N. Hankins each do a large hardware and tinware business. Martin & Co. have the only furniture house and carry a well selected stock.²⁷

The County Examiner's Record of 1888, notes that the only roads leading to the county were: one leading to Dallas County, Hiley's Ferry, Cornish Ferry, and Burks landing.²⁸ By the 1880s, Warren was becoming more than a "settlement," it was a small town. The oldest known extant commercial buildings in the district appears to be the Ederington Buildings (BR0114 and

²⁵ Jann Woodard, "Warren (Bradley County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, accessed October 2015, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=840>

²⁶ *Centennial Magazine*, pg. 6.

²⁷ Jann Woodard, "Extracts from the *Arkansas Gazette: 1841-1900*" (1997), (Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock), 33.

²⁸ *Bradley County Centennial Magazine: Presenting the Growth and Progress of the County* (1936), (Special Collections. Arkansas History Commission. Little Rock), 6.

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

BR0115). John H. Page came to Warren on August 30, 1888. In a newspaper article written approximately forty-eight years later, on October 29, 1936, Page recalled coming to Warren:

When I came to Warren there were three brick buildings, one of which remains. They were the court house, the 2-story store of Martin & Goodwin, facing east on the present site of the Merchants & Planters Bank and the store building of John T. Ederington, now remaining.

An article in the 1889 *Arkansas Gazette* states:

The large stores of general merchandise in Warren are to be noted. They are full of goods and handsomely arranged. Principal among these are Martin & Goodwin, J. T. Ederington and W.H. Wheeler.... Messrs. Martin Goodwin are remodeling and enlarging the building formerly occupied by Martin, Russell & Co., and will soon have completed one of the largest business rooms in this part of the state...²⁹

As previously mentioned in the 1883 *Gazette* article; in 1880, Warren became the western terminus of the Ouachita Division of the Little Rock, Mississippi River & Texas Railroad. In 1887, the Little Rock, Mississippi River and Texas Railroad was acquired by the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern line, which later merged with the Missouri Pacific in 1917.³⁰ The arrival of the railroad opened up southern Arkansas for settlement and also provided a reliable means of transportation and allowed for efficient export of cotton and timber to other markets. Since the early days of Bradley County, cotton served as the primary cash crop and would continue to through the late 1940s. During the 1880s small lumber mills began operating throughout Bradley County. Between the railroad and the timber industry, Warren began to grow.³¹ Circa 1900, lumbermen from the north moved to Bradley County and started buying timber. Businessmen from the northern Midwest included: Frederick Weyerhaeuser and his associates, operating as Weyerhaeuser and Denkmann (Denkmann was Weyerhaeuser's brother-in-law), Moses Rittenhouse and his partner, James W. Embree, both of Chicago, and Samuel Homes Fullerton of St. Louis. The Weyerhaeuser group founded Southern Lumber Company, the only venture the staunchly-patriotic Weyerhaeuser ever had in the south; Rittenhouse and Embree engaged Clifford J. Mansfield of St. Louis to establish Arkansas Lumber Company. S. H. Fullerton bought a small mill from W. H. Wheeler and then engaged Joe L. Reaves, Sr., a direct descendant of Captain Hugh Bradley to buy timber, thus establishing Bradley Lumber Company of Arkansas. The Fullerton sons, Robert W., a graduate of Cornell, and S. Baker, who had been educated in the Midwest, were sent to Warren to operate Bradley Lumber Company. These three large mills would continue to impact Warren's economy during the early to mid-20th Century.³²

²⁹ Woodard, *Gazette* Compilation, 54.

³⁰ Silva, "Historic Downtown Warren."

³¹ *Centennial Magazine*, pgs. 8-11.

³² Bradham, "A Short History."

Warren Commercial Historic District

Bradley Co., Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

As Bradley County became more populated and Warren became more settled there was a need for a new courthouse. Prior to the construction of the 1903 courthouse, two other courthouses had stood on its site. In 1903, the county hired Little Rock architect, Frank W. Gibb, to design a new courthouse to serve the county and its growing population. E. L. Koonce, served as contractor for the construction. The Beaux Arts-inspired courthouse (NR Listed 12/12/76) is located on the north end of the commercial area. Sitting adjacent to the Courthouse is the County Clerk's building that dates to 1890. It originally served as an annex to the 1861 Courthouse (replaced by the 1903 Courthouse).³³ Warren experienced an "explosive growth" prior to World War I (1914-1918), and a steady growth afterwards.³⁴

Warren enjoyed its "heyday" during the 1920s and 1930s. The *Bradley County Centennial Magazine* noted the following of Bradley County in 1936: "... Good roads, electric lights, natural gas, a water system, sewerage, automobiles, electric and gas cook stoves, electric and gas refrigerators, and many other kinds of time and labor savers. ..."³⁵ In order to better accommodate the growing community and the increasing use of the automobile, Warren began paving its main roads in the late 1920s. A 1924 photograph, shows that the roads in the downtown area were not paved and were a muddy mess. Around 1927, the city laid the brick streets and likely paved the remaining streets in the commercial area.³⁶ In addition to better roads to accommodate the automobiles, automobile-related businesses began "popping up" in Warren. The earliest automobile-related business identified, was the only automobile related business on the 1912 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map at the northwest corner of Cedar and Mulberry Streets. On the 1920 Sanborn Map there are four automobile-related businesses in the commercial area. A 1923 Warren Business Directory, lists seven automobile-related businesses, in conjunction with blacksmith shops and liveries. By the late 1930s, there seemed to be a gas station or auto-servicing business on almost every corner downtown.

Many of the extant buildings within the district were built in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. The timber industry was thriving during the early part of the century, bringing money and people to Warren. However, when registration for World War I began, the mills experienced a shortage of manpower and began hiring women. The dress rule for women was simple- wear dress to work, change into slacks, and wear a dress home. The Bradley Lumber Company (which dated back to the turn of the century) was a large employer.³⁷ A circa 1936 publication states: "The employees of this institution, the Bradley Lumber Company of Arkansas, average in number more than one thousand, and the labor turnover is at the minimum. It owns more than two hundred residences, moderately equipped and furnished to employees at about half the regular rental." Bradley Lumber Company also owned the Bradley Company Store located on Main Street (BR0093).³⁸ The Southern Lumber Company actually began in 1882 as Lindsay Land and Lumber but began

³³ *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, "Bradley County Courthouse," 1976.

³⁴ Bradham, "A Short History."

³⁵ *Centennial Magazine*, pg. 7.

³⁶ *National Register of Historic Places Nomination*, "Warren Brick Streets," 2007.

³⁷ Woodard, "Warren (Bradley Co.)," *Encyclopedia of AH & C*.

³⁸ *Centennial Magazine*, pgs. 8-11

Warren Commercial Historic District

Bradley Co., Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

operating as Southern Lumber Company circa 1902; it continued to operate as a major contributor to Warren's economy until 1956 when it was purchased by Potlatch.³⁹

During this era, many of Warren's patrons could be found enjoying the social aspect of the community at various locals throughout the town. In 1907, there was a roller skating rink, which by 1912, had been converted to the "Rink Theater" by adding a stage. In 1912, there was also a "moving picture" theater at the northwest corner of Cedar and Mulberry streets; and in 1920, the movie theater was located at 120 Cedar Street. In 1918, a group of citizens and businessmen, dubbed the "Council of 22," saw the need for youth and recreational programs with an emphasis on faith. In 1920, the Warren chapter of the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) received its charter. The 1920 building burned in 1944, and was replaced with the building that continues to serve as the YMCA today (remodeled many times). Circa 1925, another theater was opened in Warren, the Pastime Theater. During this era, segregation still ran deep in the south and racial tensions were high. The Pastime Theater (BR0048) had a separate entrance for black patrons who sat in the balcony. In 1941, there was a protest against the Pastime Theater for police brutality. This happened because a policeman kicked Ms. O. Z. Jackson, because she refused to wait in an alley until all of the white patrons had purchased their tickets. In the early 1950s, Warren had its first drive-in theater on Highway 278.

In addition to the timber industry, agriculture has been an important part of Bradley County since it was first settled. For the last part of the 19th Century and the first part of the 20th Century, cotton was a major cash crop and agricultural staple for Bradley County. By the 1940s, Bradley County was making a name for itself by growing and selling tomatoes. Pink tomatoes were first sold commercially in Bradley County in 1923, at a time when cotton was becoming less profitable for farmers. Among the first families in Bradley County to grow plots of tomatoes were the Jim Johnson family, the Rufus Woodward family, the Ingalls family and the Nathan Barber family. Prior to 1949, most farmers sold tomatoes out of their trucks. In 1949, a group of farmers from Hermitage (Bradley County) formed the first privately owned tomato market. The market was styled after a tobacco auction of that time. Tomato farmers from Warren would later form their own market in 1953. Due to the success and popularity of the pink tomato, Warren established the Pink Tomato Festival in 1956, which today is one of Arkansas's oldest festivals.⁴⁰ In 1987, The Arkansas General Assembly officially adopted the South Arkansas Vine Ripe Pink Tomato as the state fruit.⁴¹

Warren's history cannot be told without mentioning the tragedy that occurred when a tornado ripped through the city on January 3, 1949. On the courthouse square, at Wayne's Confectionery, the electric clock stopped at 5:45 p.m.⁴² The tornado cut a swath approximately half-mile wide

³⁹ Silva, "Historic Downtown Warren." and *Centennial Magazine*, 9-11.

⁴⁰ Leah Forrest Sexton, "Tomato Industry," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, accessed December 2015, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=5526>

⁴¹ Woodard, "Warren (Bradley County)," *Encyclopedia of AH&C*.

⁴² "A Tragic Record: January 3, 1942," accessed October 2015, http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbradle/tornado/tornado_record.html

Warren Commercial Historic District

Bradley Co., Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

and wrecked 15 to 20 percent of the homes and buildings in the southern sections of the town.⁴³ Fortunately, the downtown area was left relatively unscathed. On January 3, 1949, the Associated Press announced: "This weeping and torn timber town today counted 46 dead and nearly 300 injured in the wake of a tornado which hit with a thundering roar late yesterday afternoon."⁴⁴ On January 6, 1949, the local newspaper reported that 360 homes were destroyed or damaged. 450 buildings were hit. Fifty-six people were killed, and there was major destruction of the Bradley Lumber Company which employed over 1,000 people. All total, there was approximately \$13 million in property damage.⁴⁵ In 1975, another large tornado hit Warren, hitting much of the same area as the 1949 tornado. The 1975 tornado killed seven people and injured sixty.

Warren's commercial area continued to thrive, and businesses stayed in the downtown area throughout the 1990s, therefore the period of significance spans 1905-1966. Today Warren has a population of 5,960. The commercial area still has several anchor businesses located downtown, including two large banks, CATO's women's dress shop, and several small specialty shops. There are numerous vacant storefronts but the presence of the Bradley County Courthouse and other city-related businesses (water department, fire station, police station, chamber of commerce, etc.) keep the area occupied and busy. The timber industry is still an important part of Warren's economy. In 1956, Potlatch merged with Southern Lumber Company (founded by the Weyerhaeuser syndicate in 1882). Potlatch then purchased the Bradley Lumber company (circa 1958) giving Potlatch control over more than 100,000 acres of Arkansas timberland, mostly southern yellow pine, oak and other hardwoods.⁴⁶ Today Potlatch owns approximately 409 acres of forestland in southern Arkansas; timber harvested from Arkansas is sold to the Potlatch mill in Warren, and to other lumber and paper manufacturers in the area.⁴⁷ Although Warren has grown and changed throughout the years, the downtown area maintains a high degree of architectural integrity and is an important part of Warren's history and continues to play an important role in present-day Warren. The proposed commercial district is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance**, under **Criterion A** with a **period of significance** that spans **1890-1966**.

⁴³ Stu Beitler, "Warren, AR Tornado Destroys Towns, Jan 1949," accessed December 2015, <http://www3.gendisasters.com/arkansas/11233/warren-ar-tornado-destroys-towns-jan-1949>

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ "2014 is the 65th Anniversary of the 1949 Warren Tornado," *Saline River Chronical On-line*, January 14, 2014, accessed

December 2015, <http://salineriverfeatures.blogspot.com/2014/01/2014-is-65th-anniversary-of-1949-warren.html>

⁴⁶ "Potlatch Corp.," accessed December 2015, http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Potlatch_Corp.aspx

⁴⁷ "Potlatch," accessed December 2015, <http://www.potlatchcorp.com/ArkansasTimberlands.aspx>

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“A Tragic Record: January 3, 1942.” Accessed October 2015.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbradle/tornado/tornado_record.html

“Architectural Styles.” Accessed February 3, 2015. <http://architecturalstyles.org>

“Arkansas Highway 15.” Accessed February 3, 2015.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arkansas_Highway_15

Arkansas Telephone Directories: Rison-Wynne (Warren-Hermitage: 1922; 1923; 1924; 1924-25; 1926; 1927; 1928; 1929). Arkansas History Commission. Little Rock.

Beitler, Stu. “Warren, AR Tornado Destroys Towns, Jan 1949.” Accessed December 2015.

<http://www3.gendisasters.com/arkansas/11233/warren-ar-tornado-destroys-towns-jan-1949>

Bradham, Judge David A. “A Short History of Bradley County (originally written in 1951)”. Accessed October 2015.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbradle/indexes/county_history_1951.html

Bradley County Centennial Magazine: Presenting the Growth and Progress of the County (1936). Special Collections. Arkansas History Commission. Little Rock.

Federal Writers Project: The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas. Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1987.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Bradley County. Goodspeed Publishing Co. 1890; reprint, Higginsville, MO: Hearthstone Legacy Publishing, 2007.

Lipton, JeNelle. Email Correspondence to Kara Oosterhous. January 2016.

Martin, Bryan. Email Correspondence to Kara Oosterhous. February 5, 2016.

Martin. B. W. “Recalls History of this County in Pioneer Days.” *Eagle Democrat*, October 27, 1932. Accessed October

2015. http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbradle/indexes/county_history_1932.html

“Millions of Dollars in Damage in Warren; Storm Follows Almost the Same Path

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

as '49." Accessed October 2015.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbradle/tornado/millions.html>

National Register of Historic Places Nominations:

"Blankenship Motor Company Building – Warren, AR." (NR Listed 11/02/2001)

"Bradley County Courthouse – Warren, AR." (NR Listed 12/12/1976)

"Warren Brick Streets – Warren, AR." (NR Listed 01/24/2007)

"Warren Post Office – Warren, AR." (NR Listed 01/21/2004)

Page, John H. "Old Timers," *The Eagle Democrat*. 20 October 1936. Accessed October 2015.

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~arbradle/in_county/old_timers.html

"Potlatch." Accessed December 2015.

<http://www.potlatchcorp.com/ArkansasTimberlands.aspx>

"Potlatch Corp." Accessed December 2015.

http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Potlatch_Corp.aspx

Sexton, Leah Forrest. "Tomato Industry." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Accessed December 2015.

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=5526>

Silva, Rachel. "Walks through History: Historic Downtown Warren." 31 May 1914. (Presentation Notes).

Warren, Arkansas: City Directories: 1947 and 1957 [transcribed – from the office of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program].

Warren, Arkansas [map]. 1907. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1907". Digitalized (courtesy of AHPP).

Warren, Arkansas [map]. 1912. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1912." Digitalized (courtesy of AHPP).

Warren, Arkansas [map]. 1920. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920." Digitalized (courtesy of AHPP).

Warren, Arkansas [map]. 1931. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1931." Digitalized (courtesy of AHPP).

Warren, Arkansas [map]. 1931 (Rev. 1938). "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1931

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

(Rev. 1938).” Digitalized.

Witsell, Charles and Gordon Wittenberg. *Architects of Little Rock 1833-1950*. Fayetteville, AR: University of Arkansas Press, 2014.

Woodard, Jann. *City Directories: 1894, 1907, 1923* (Compilation by Jann of Woodard Research). Accessed October 2015.
http://www.bradleycountyresearch.com/1894_1907_and_1923_warren_businessdir

Woodard, Jann. “Extracts from the *Arkansas Gazette: 1841-1900*” (1997). Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock.

Woodard, Jann. “Warren (Bradley County).” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*. Accessed October 2015.
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=840>

Woodruff, Nan Elizabeth. *American Congo: The African American Freedom Struggle in the Delta*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2003. Accessed December 2015.
https://books.google.com/books?id=99eCKWar_sIC&pg=PA219&lpg=PA219&dq=warren,+ar+%2B+Pastime+theater&source=bl&ots=HgIoH1zUTE&sig=jtemzS80-x6pWOKvOK5zEyIkfag&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwilpt6UsJnKAhWDKB4KHQmgBA8Q6AEIOjAI#v=onepage&q=warren%2C%20ar%20%2B%20Pastime%20theater&f=false

“2014 is the 65th Anniversary of the 1949 Warren Tornado.” *Saline River Chronical On-line*. January 14, 2014. Accessed December 2015. <http://salineriverfeatures.blogspot.com/2014/01/2014-is-65th-anniversary-of-1949-warren.html>

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

- Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BR0138

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 20 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1929 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| A. Zone: 15 | Easting: 586790 | Northing: 3719781 |
| B. Zone: 15 | Easting: 586803 | Northing: 3719954 |
| C. Zone: 15 | Easting: 587019 | Northing: 3719843 |
| D. Zone: 15 | Easting: 586831 | Northing: 3719501 |

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

E. Zone: 15

Easting : 586733

Northing: 3719576

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The bulk of the district is located between Alabama Street to the north and Church Street (U.S. Hwy 278) to the south; and between Howard Street to the west and Chestnut Street to the East. Commercial buildings line both Main and Myrtle Street that run north to south between Alabama and Church Streets.

The Warren commercial historic district includes the following: The boundary includes the Peek Esso Service Station (BR0085) and the vacant lot that contains a covered area and sign (BR0086 - northwest corner of the block) and then continues west along Church Street where it turns north and follows the alley behind the U.S. Post Office (BR0018) and adjacent commercial buildings until it reaches Cypress Street where it turns east for approximately ½ a block until the boundary turns and proceeds north behind the commercial buildings until it reaches Cedar Street. At this point the boundary turns west and continues until it meets Howard Street where the boundary turns north and then goes east behind the Coker Hotel (BR0103) and Pastime Theater (BR0048) until it turns north and passes behind a row of commercial buildings that front Main Street. The boundary continues north until it hits Elm Street and turns east for approximately ½ a block where it meets Main Street and runs north until it meets Alabama Street. At Alabama Street, the boundary turns east for approximately ½ a block and then turns south until it meets Elm Street. The boundary continues east along Elm Street (crossing Myrtle Street) until it turns south and continues down the alley behind the commercial buildings for approximately ½ a block. At this point the boundary turns east until it runs into Chestnut Street. At this point the boundary turns south and continues for approximately 1 ½ blocks until it meets Cypress Street where the boundary turns west for ½ a block and then continues South behind Molly's Dinner (BR0120) before turning west until it meets Myrtle Street. Once at Myrtle Street the boundary continues south for approximately ½ a block where it turns west and continues to 2nd Street. At 2nd Street the boundary continues south until it meets Church Street (U.S. Hwy 278). The boundary then turns west for approximately ¼ of a block until it is back to the parcel of land that contains the covered area and sign (BR0086).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries chosen to delineate this district include the intact historic fabric that historically comprised Warren's commercial area. The selected area is a cohesive group of commercial buildings that continue to display integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, association and materials.

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kara Oosterhous, consultant, edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500

city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201

e-mail: Ralph Wilcox: ralph@arkansasheritage.org

telephone: (501) 324-9787

date: April 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Warren Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Warren

County: Bradley

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Kara Oosterhous

Date Photographed: October and November 2015/ January 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- | | | |
|----------|-------------|--|
| 1 of 21 | BR0085 | Peek Esso Station. Looking Northeast at the South and West Elevations |
| 2 of 21 | BR0001 | County Courthouse. Looking Northeast at South Elevation |
| 3 of 21 | BR0001 | County Clerk's Office. Looking North at the South Elevation |
| 4 of 21 | BR0096 | Martin-Moseley Building. Looking East to Southeast at the West Elevation |
| 5 of 21 | BR0098 | Warren Bank. Looking Northwest at the South and East Elevations |
| 6 of 21 | BR0048 | Pastime Theater. Looking Northwest at the South and East Elevations |
| 7 of 21 | BR0030 | Blankenship Motor Company. Looking Southeast at the North Elevation. |
| 8 of 21 | BR0125 | Service Station. Looking Southwest on E. Cedar at the North and East Elevation |
| 9 of 21 | BR0016 | Bradley County Municipal Building. Looking East at the West Elevation |
| 10 of 21 | BR0074 | 220 S. Main Street. Looking Northwest at the East Elevation. |
| 11 of 21 | BR0089 | Warren Motor Company. Looking Northeast at the West Elevation |
| 12 of 21 | Streetscape | Looking Southeast on East Cedar Street at North-Facing Front Facades |
| 13 of 21 | Streetscape | Looking Southeast on West Cypress Street at North-Facing Front Facades |
| 14 of 21 | Streetscape | Looking Southeast on South Main Street looking at West-Facing Front Facades |
| 15 of 21 | Streetscape | Looking Northeast on North Myrtle Street at West-Facing Front Facades |

Warren Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Bradley Co., Arkansas

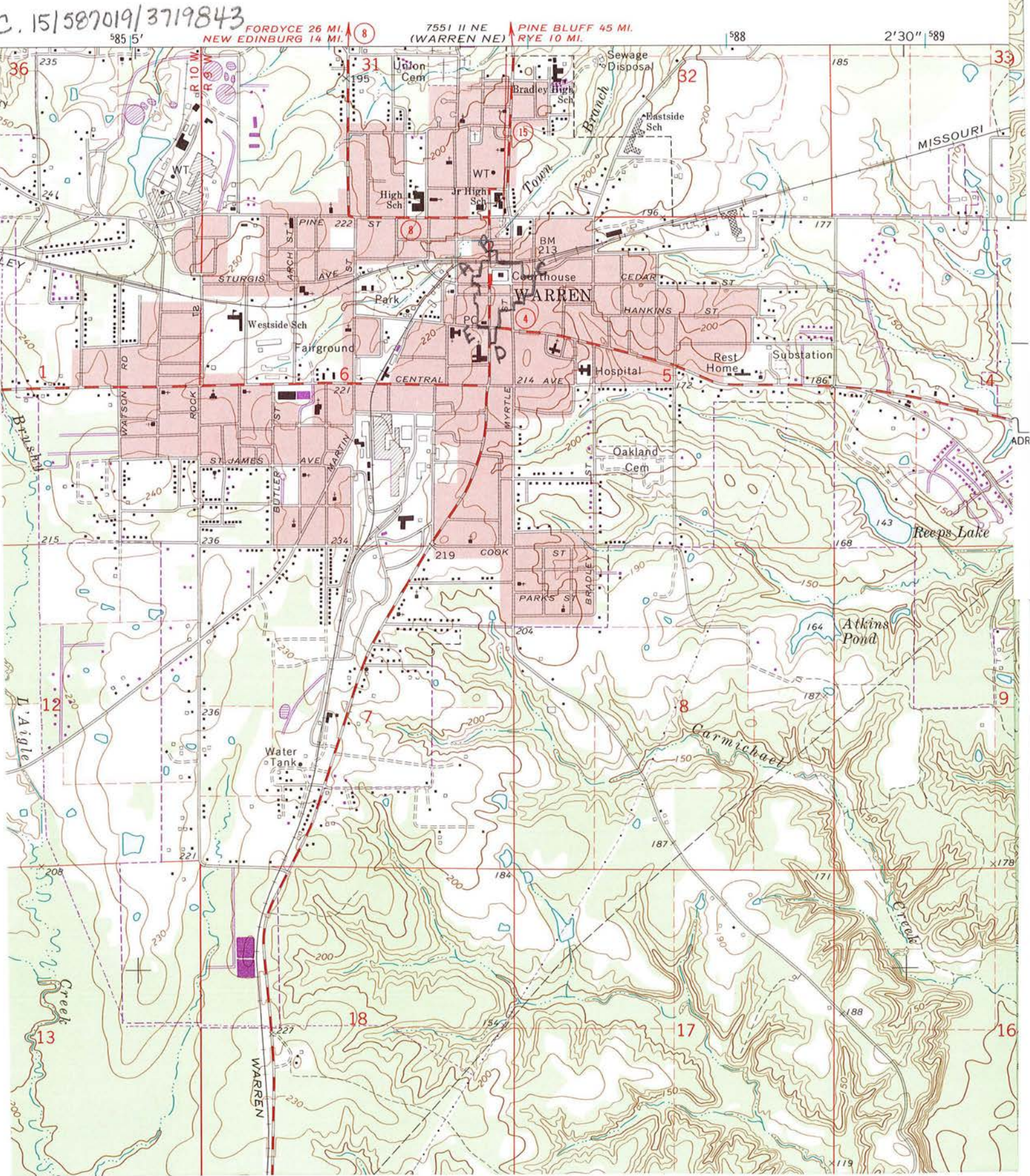
County and State

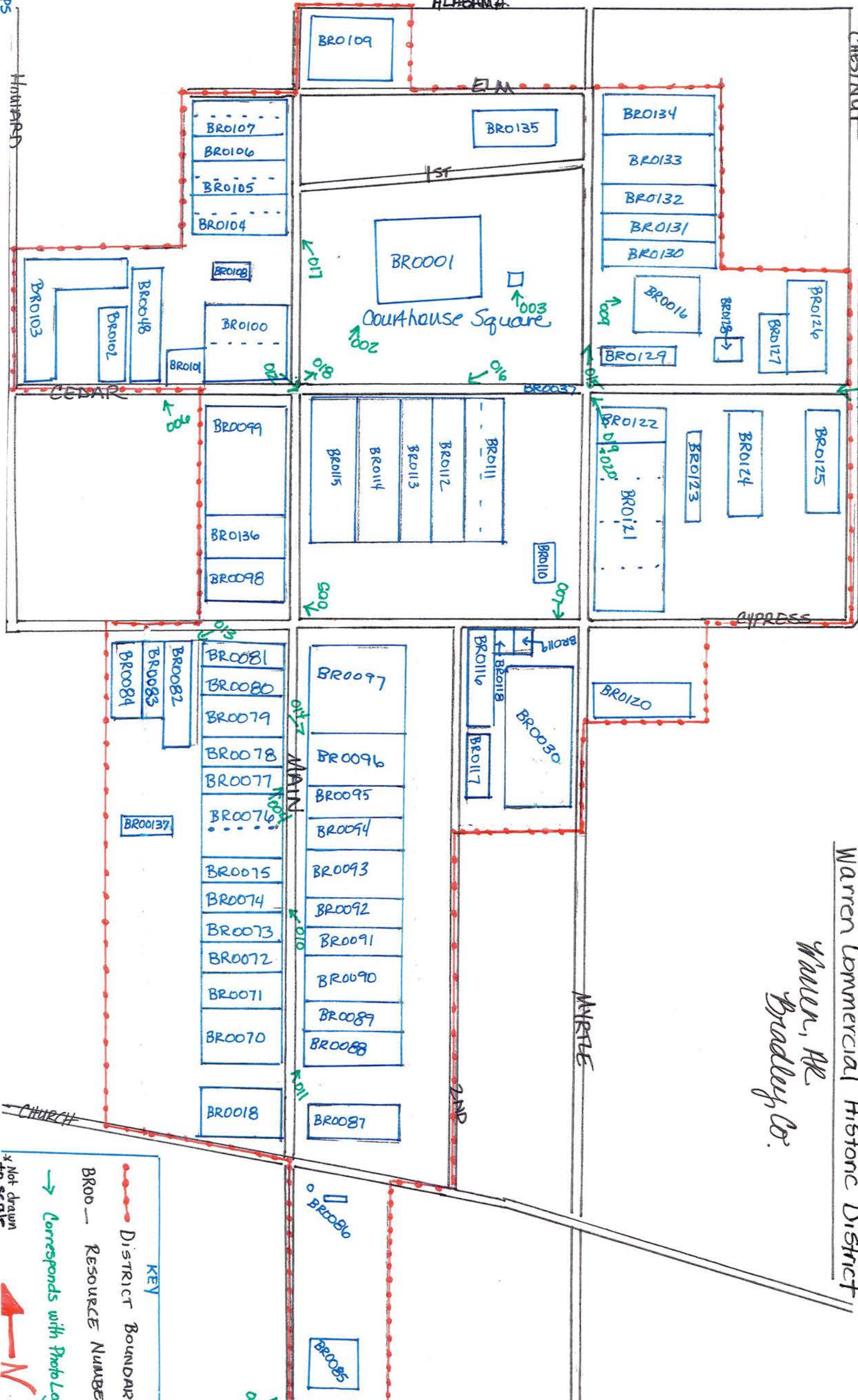
16 of 21	Streetscape	Looking Southwest on East Cedar Street at North-Facing Front Facades
17 of 21	Streetscape	Looking Northwest on South Main at North-Facing Front Facade
18 of 21	BR0001	Looking Northeast towards the Courthouse at the Southwest-Facing Monument
19 of 21	BR0037	Brick Street- Looking Northwest towards the Courthouse Square
20 of 21	BR0037	Brick Street-Detail Shot of the brick streets at an intersection
21 of 21	Streetscape	Looking West on East Cedar Street

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

A. 15/586790/3719781 D. 15/586831/3719501 Warren Commercial Historic District
B. 15/586803/3719954 E. 15/586733/3719576 Warren, AR / Bradley Co.





Warren Commercial Historic District

Warren, AL
Bradley Co.

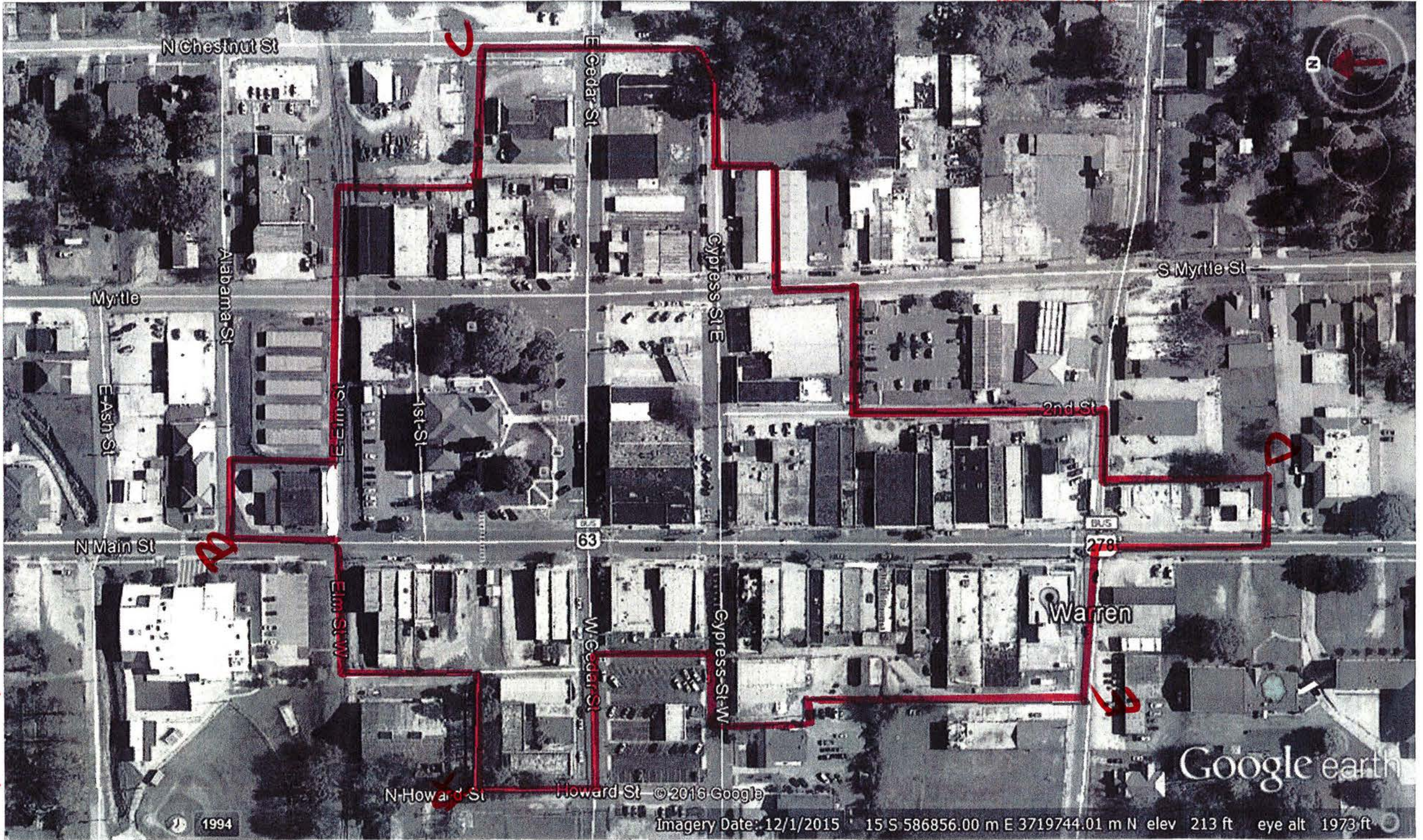
KEY

- ⋯ DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- BR00 — RESOURCE NUMBER
- Corresponds with Photo Log
- ↖ Not drawn to scale

N

Warren Commercial Historic District
Warren, AR Bradley Co.

- A. 15/586790/3719781
- B. 15/586803/3719954
- C. 15/587019/3719843
- D. 15/586831/3719501
- E. 15/586733/3719576







BRADLEY COUNTY COURT-HOUSE



COUNTY CLERK
1890

9 MARTIN MOSELEY 28



THE
FLEA MARKET
ON MAIN
OPEN
• ANTIQUES
• COLLECTIBLES
• ODDS AND ENDS





1927

|| BANK ||



☆ PASTIME ☆





WARREN PAWN
226-2454

BUY • SELL • TRADE
226-2454

Janet Gray
WRECKER SERVICE
24-Hour Wrecker Service
Buy • Sell • Trade • 226-2454
Night/1770 826-1111

GOLD

BUY - SELL - TRADE
DIAMONDS
JEWELRY

GUNS
TV

OPEN

TOOLS

LAYAWAYS
AVAILABLE

**Janet
GRAY'S WRECKER SERVICE**
24-Hour Wrecker Service
Buy • Sell • Trade • 226-2454
Night/1770 826-1111
120 E. Cypress





LAUNDRY
CUSTOMER
PARKING
ONLY

FOR SALE
CALL
870-820-7086

LAUNDRY
CUSTOMER
PARKING
ONLY



WARREN
MUNICIPAL
BUILDING





NEW DESTINY CHURCH



WARREN MOTOR SUPPLY

233

AC SPARK PLUGS

WARREN LUBRICANTS
OIL FILTERS
36 PRODUCTS

REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGNS
870-226-6131

WE SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

OPEN
GOLD
ANYTHING!
504-990-9755



Warren Bank

73°
ATM

ANTIQUE
ORIENTAL
RUGS

ICEBERG
CHURN

Fresh Fudge

Antiques
Gifts, & more...

DO NOT
ENTER



ONE WAY
→

The EAGLE
PUBLISHING
CO., INC.

The
EAGLE
PUB.
CO. INC.
EST.
1885

CONCEPCION &
CARRASCO EL
PASO
TEL. 970.225-4305

CHOICES
HealthCare

918 OEP



MARTIN MOSELEY

Mike Nichols & Sons

AUTHORISED
IRVING
PROVE





ANTIQUES
ORIENTAL
RUGS

ICE CREAM
CHURN

Fresh Fudge



Heartfelt Creations
1111 1st St.
724-224-4993
724-224-9222

Smiling
EYE CLINIC
GENERAL OPTOMETRY · CONTACT LENSES

Venus Spa
Dr. Robert A. Walker
Optometrist



BRADLEY COUNTY
EVERLASTING TRIBUTE

WILLIAM H. BRADLEY
MAY 15 1850
OCT 15 1915

MARY H. BRADLEY
MAY 15 1850
OCT 15 1915

WILLIAM H. BRADLEY
MAY 15 1850
OCT 15 1915

MARY H. BRADLEY
MAY 15 1850
OCT 15 1915







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Warren Commercial Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Bradley

DATE RECEIVED: 5/26/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/11/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000433

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7-11-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 26 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

April 6, 2016

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Warren Commercial Historic District – Warren, Bradley
County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Warren Commercial Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure



ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



National Historic
Preservation Act 1966-2016



323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: 711

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer