National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received JUL 2

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1985

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

Type all entries	complete applicable	sections		
1. Nam	e			
historic Ga	llatin Commercial	Historic Distric	t	
	and the second s			
and or common				
2. Loca				
street & number	College St., Fra Public Square, a			N/A not for publication
city, town	Gallatin	N/A vicinity o	ıf	
state	Tennessee co	de ⁰⁴⁷ co	unty Sumner	code 165
3. Clas	sification			
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public privateX_ both Public Acquisition N/A in process being considered	Status _X_ occupied _X_ unoccupied _X_ work in progr Accessible _X_ yes: restricte yes: unrestricte	d entertainmen Z government	museum park X private residence X religious Scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty		
name	Multiple Ownersh	ip		
street & number	N/A			
city, town	N/A	N/Avicinity o	f sta	ate N/A
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descrip	otion	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Sumner County Co	ourthouse	
street & number		Public Square		
city, town		Gallatin	sta	ate Tennessee
6. Rep	resentation	in Existin	g Surveys	
title Sumner	County Survey	has th	is property been determine	d eligible?yesX_n
date 1983			federal	state countyX loca
depository for su	rvey records Tenne	ssee Historical		
city, town	Nashv	ille	sta	ate Tennessee

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
X excellentX deteriora _X good, ruins fair unexpos	_X_ altered	X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gallatin Commercial Historic District is comprised of eighty-six buildings around the Public Square, East Main Street, and Water Avenue in the county seat town of Gallatin, about thirty miles northeast of Nashville. The buildings are primarily commercial with several institutional and residential buildings interspersed. Dating primarily from the 1810s to 1935, a majority of the buildings exhibit on their facades architectural influence of the Italianate, Victorian, and early twentieth century commercial styles. The buildings range from one to three stories in height, are of brick, stone, and frame construction, and range from modest and plain to substantial and ornate. Most buildings remain in good condition. Some buildings, particularly those along N. Water north of Franklin Street, have one-story brick and concrete rear additions which, while noncontributive, are not visible from the main streets. Several buildings have received insensitive storefront alterations. Some of the Victorian period or earlier buildings have been updated with 1930s cararra glass storefronts which make a positive contribution to the district although out of character with their upper facades. On the whole, the district retains its historic and architectural character and integrity.

The nominated district is the historic commercial area around the courthouse square and along East Main Street and North and South Water avenues of downtown Gallatin (pop. 17,191). The square sits atop a slope in land south of the Nashville Pike (U.S. 31-E), about three miles north of the Cumberland River. An imposing three-story courthouse, a vernacular governmental building constructed in 1939 and exhibiting Art Deco and classical influences, dominates the square. While less than fifty years old, the scale, style, and materials of the courthouse are not incongruous with the character of the district. Most of the district's buildings, those around the square and along North and South Water streets, are rectangular-shaped, flat-roofed, two to three-story commercial buildings. These range in periods of construction from the 1860s to ca. 1935. The decades of the 1880s, 1900s, and the 1930s are more heavily represented, with about ten to fifteen buildings each. The character of the district changes from the side-by-side, long rectangular commercial buildings around the square and on Water Street to scattered individual structures of varying types, functions, and styles along East Main, East Franklin, and College streets. Early twentieth century buildings dominate East Main with a 1914 church, 1917 post office, 1930 school, ca. 1930 apartment house, ca. 1930 gas station, and several early 1900s houses. Residential buildings on East Franklin and College streets, most of which have long been used for commercial purposes, are some of the town's best, most unusual examples of Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire and Victorian houses. While containing a variety of building types, the district is visually cohesive by siting atop a hill and separation from older residential areas by areas of vacant land and scattered newer commercial buildings.

The district contains 66 contributing buildings, 22mon-contributing buildings, and 3 vacant lots. Contributing buildings (C) are significant in the historic and architectural development of the district, possess compatible design elements, and maintain the scale, use, and texture of the district. Non-contributing buildings (N) are less than fifty years old and/or may disrupt the scale and texture of the district, have little or no historic or architectural significance, or have been considerably altered. They are listed in the inventory by street address with county map parcel numbers in parentheses.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 _X 1900–		community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	literature military music philosophy	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1814 - 1935	Builder/Architect	Multiple	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gallatin Commercial Historic District is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C for its significance to Gallatin and Sumner County in architecture and commercial history. The district contains primarily commercial buildings, with several institutional and residential buildings interspersed. Most buildings exhibit influence of the Italianate, Victorian, and early twentieth century commercial styles. As a collection, these buildings are the best example of historic commercial architecture in the county and serve to illustrate the architectural and historical development of the town.

Gallatin's town plan dates to 1802 when several property owners in Sumner County (established in 1786) were appointed by the state's General Assembly to purchase 40 acres of land, lay out a town for the seat of justice, and superintend the sale of lots and construction of public buildings. These commissioners purchased $42\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land for \$490.00 from Captain James Trousdale on a branch of Station Camp Creek, about three miles north of the Cumberland River. Among the first purchasers of lots were Andrew Jackson, Jno. C. Hamilton, James Cage, William Montgomery, David Shelby, Robert Trousdale, William Sample, Peter Looney, John Brigance, and G.D. Blakemore.

The first courthouse, a two-story building with a courtroom on the first story and public offices on the second story, was built in 1803 and stood until 1839 when it was torn down and another built. The second courthouse was later remodeled and replaced with the existing courthouse in 1939. The town's early growth was gradual. Town commissioners governed the town until incorporation by the state legislature in 1815 when the mayor and alderman election form a government began. In 1830 the town contained a courthouse, jail, public offices, a large brick church, a Masonic home, a printing office, twelve stores, two taverns, eleven lawyers, four physicians, a cabinet shop, a chair factory, a number of other trade shops, and one male and two female academies. There were 666 inhabitants and 35 log, 38 frame, and 27 brick houses.

During the Civil War Gallatin was first under Federal occupation in 1862 under Colonel Boone and later in the same year under General Payne, which lasted until the war's end. The town grew after the war as the agricultural county prospered in production of corn, oats, hay, potatoes, lespedeza, and tobacco. The county also prospered in livestock growing and race horse breeding.

One building in the district remains from the first half of the nineteenth century, the 1814 Boyers Building, which has received considerable, although reversible, alteration. Several buildings on the east side of the square appear to date from the mid-nineteenth

9. Ma	jor Bibliog	raphica	Refe	rences		
. Ga	alter T. Old Sumne allatin, Tennessee entennial Edition,	: Sumner Co	unty Publi	c Library, 1	969.	40.
10. G	eographica	ıl Data				
_	name Gallatin,	proximately : Tenn.	24 acres	Q	uadrangle scale	1:24000
Zone Ea	5 0 1 6 0 4 0 2 asting Northin 4 9 4 8 0 4 0 2 	ng	B _ Z D _ F _ H _	1, 6	1, 6, 0) 4, 0 2, 6 Northing 4, 9, 0 4, 0 2, 7	8 ₁ 6 ₁ 0 ₁ 2 ₁ 5 ₁ 0 ₁
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		code N/A	county	N/A	code	N/A
	orm Prepar		county	14774		
name/title	Shain Dennison				e de la companya de l	
organization	N/A			date	April, 1985	
street & numb	per 4017 Dodson Ch	apel Road		telephone	615/889-2071	
city or town	Hermitage			state	Tennessee 37	076
12. St	tate Histori	ic Prese	ervatio	n Offic	er Certific	ation
As the design 665), I hereby	d significance of this property factorial atted State Historic Preservent from the criteria and procedure.	state ervation Officer fo or inclusion in the	X local or the National e National Re	gister and certify	ation Act of 1966 (Pu that it has been evalu	blic Law 89– uated
	Preservation Officer sig		which I comm	Skyn ission	date 6/17/85	,
- (propertify that this property	is included in the	e National Reg	yister	date 10/2	3/85
Reeper or	the National Register				date	
	Registration					

GPO 894-785

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Gallatin Commercial Historic District
Continuation sheet

Gallatin Commercial Historic District
Item number

For NPS use only received 45/5/ data entered

Page

7

2

INVENTORY

College Street

1. 112 College. Ca. 1885, Second Empire style house, frame, one-story over basement, three-bay, metal mansard roof, veranda with turned posts, spindle frieze, brackets, and balustrade. (F,32) C

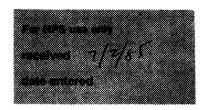
120 College. Vacant lot.

- 2. 130 College. Ca. 1960s, large brick apartment building, gable roof, three two-story pedimented porticos, two-story. (F,1) N
- 3. 133 College. Ca. 1880, Victorian style house, frame, one-story, L-shaped, arched windows, corner veranda with turned posts, metal gable roof. (E,8)C
- 4. 135 College. Ca. 1870, Italianate style house, stuccoed brick, rectangular-shaped, metal hipped roof, three-bay, central porch with turned posts, paired narrow rectangular windows, paired brackets. (E,7) C

Franklin Street

- 5. 100 W. Franklin. Ca. 1940 vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, plain, glass and metal storefront. (B,14) N
- 6. 101 W. Franklin. Ca. 1940 vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, plain, wood single-leaf entrance, glass store window. (G,12-rear) N
- 7. 122-128 W. Franklin. Ca. 1890 vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, flat roof with parapet, segmental-arched windows, four single-leaf entrances, originally fire department building. (B,13) C
- 8. 120 E. Franklin. Ca. 1975 vernacular commercial, one-story, frame, L-shaped, board and batten siding. (C,8) N
- 9. 124 E. Franklin. Ca. 1865, Gothic Revival style house, two-story, frame, cross-gable roof, three-bay, veranda with turned posts, decorative vergeboards. (C,9) C
- 10. 125 E. Franklin. Ca. 1885, Victorian style house, one-story, frame with new brick veneer on facade, wraparound corner porch, gable and pyramidal-hip roof, vergeboard. (F,8) N
- 11. 209 E. Franklin. Ca. 1880, Victorian period cottage, one-story, brick, three-bay, flat roof, segmental-arched windows, single-leaf door, bracketed cornice. (F,4) C
- 12. 215 E. Franklin. Ca. 1870s, Italianate style cottage, one-story, brick, three-bay, gable roof, altered window, single-leaf door. (F,2) C
- 13. 217 E. Franklin. Ca. 1870s, Italianate period cottage, one-story, brick, three-bay segmental-arched window openings with round-arched 4/4 windows, flat roof, modillioned cornice. (F,3) C

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Commercial Historic District

Item number

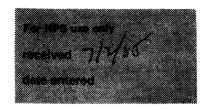
Page 3

- 14. 101-105 E. Main Ca. 1895, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, parapet, six-bay, narrow rectangular 1/1 windows, corbeling, three altered storefronts. (K,1) C
- 15. 107-109 E. Main. Ca. 1875 vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, round-arched windows, corbeling, brick inset panels, altered storefront. (K,26) C
- 16. 111-113 E. Main. Ca. 1890 vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, tall parapet, five-bay, corbeling, three narrow round-arched window openings flanked by wide rectangular windows with transoms, glass and metal storefronts. (K,25) C
- 17. 115 E. Main. Ca. 1905 vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, four-bay, segmental-arched windows, original three-bay storefront with pedimented entrance, pilasters, corbeled parapet. (K,24) C
- 18. 117 E. Main. Ca. 1900 vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, four-bay, tall heavily corbeled parapet, ornate terra cotta detailing, narrow rectangular windows, brick altered storefront. (K,23) C
- 19. 121 E. Main. Ca. 1935 vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, plain, two-bay store-front with wide multi-light window and single-leaf door with transom. (K,22) C
- 20. 123-129 E. Main. 1958 vernacular commercial, two-story, metal and concrete, corrugated and textured metal sheathing, metal and glass storefront. (K, 21) N
- 21. 126 E. Main. Ca. 1900 vernacular commercial, three-story, brick, parapet, six-bay, corbeling, rectangular 1/1 windows. (F,24) C
- 22. 134 E. Main. 1961 vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, metal and glass store-fronts, flat roof. (F,25) N
- 23. 135-137 E. Main. Boyers Building. 1814 vernacular commercial, two-story, frame with new brick veneer facade, bracketed cornice, 8/8 windows with flat lintels, central gable with vergeboard, three altered storefronts. (K,20) N
- 24. 142 E. Main. Ca. 1930 vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, parapet, corbeling, patterned brickwork, altered metal and glass storefront. (F,26) C
- 145 E. Main. Vacant lot.
- 25. 151 E. Main. Church of Christ. 1914, yellow brick, classical detailing, parapet, pedimented two-story portico with square columns, decorative brickwork insets, large non-contributing chapel addition. (F) C
- 26. 155 E. Main, Gallatin United States Post Office. 1917, vernacular with classical influence, one-story, brick, flat roof, three-bay, pilasters, decorative vents. (K,17) C
- 27. 201 E. Main. First Baptist Church. 1948, large brick church building, gable roof, pedimented gabled facade with recessed entrance, quoins. (K,16) N

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet Gallatin Commercial Historic District Item number

Page

4

- 28. 202 E. Main. Ca. 1900, vernaular cottage, two-story, frame, clipped gable roof, veranda with classical posts, heavily altered with stone veneer and aluminum siding. (F,27) N
- 29. 208 E. Main. Ca. 1930, vernacular house, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, frame, gable roof, three-bay, central arched porch, arched entrance, arched dormers. (F,28) C
- 30. 214 E. Main. Ca. 1930, vernacular, apartment house, two-story, brick, pyramid metal roof, two-story veranda with brick piers, central exterior stairs. (F,29) C
- 31. 220 E. Main. Ca. 1935, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, flat roof, two-bay, parapet tile cresting. (F,30) C
- 32. 228 E. Main. Union 76 Gas Station. Ca. 1930, one-story, stuccoed brick, terra cotta tile mansard roof, pressed tin ceiling on exterior pump porch, Greek fretwork, exposed rafters, side lights and transom at entrance. (F,31) C
- 231 E. Main. Vacant lots. (K,15.01)
- 33. 256 E. Main. Howard Elementary School. 1930, vernacular with classical influence, large brick institutional building, yellow brick, U-shaped, two-story, flat roof, two-story flat portico with Tuscan stone columns. (K,15) C
- 34. 258-264 E. Main. Ca. 1895, Second Empire style house, two-story, brick central tower, five-bay, round-arched window and door openings, paired rectangular windows. (K,14) C
- 35. 101 West Main. Ca. 1890, vernacular commercial, three-story, brick, six-bay, segmental-arched windows, metal cornice, altered storefronts. (J,9) C
- 36. 110 West Main. Ca. 1925, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, flat roof, one-bay, four window grouping, corbeling, parapet. (G,34) C

Water Street

- 37. 100-102 N. Water. Guthrie Building. 1900, vernacular commercial, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, brick, ornate, decorative brick parapet, raised pyramidal roof over flat roof, hipped dormer, oriel windows, segmental-arched windows, corbeling, altered storefronts. (G,1) C
- 38. 108 N. Water. Ca. 1930, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, plain, two-bay, corbeling, carrara glass recessed storefront. (G,2) C
- 39. 110-112 N. Water. Ca. 1870, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, six-bay, round-arched 1/1 windows, heavy molded brick cornice, altered storefronts. (G,3,4) C
- 40. 114 N. Water. Ca. 1880, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, metal sheathing covers entire facade. (G,5) N
- 41. 116 N. Water. Ca. 1880, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, six-bay, rectangular enclosed windows, elaborate metal cornice, altered storefront. (G,6) C

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Gallatin Commercial Historic District
Continuation sheet Item number

Page

7

5

- 42. 118 N. Water. Ca. 1870, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, round-arched enclosed windows, decorative hood molds, dentiled and bracketed metal cornice. (G,7) C
- 43. 120 N. Water. Ca. 1885, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, two-bay, corbeled parapet, segmental-arched windows, radiating voussoirs, enclosed storefront. (G,8) C
- 44. 122 N. Water. Ca. 1910, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, rectangular 1/1 windows, patterned brickwork, corbeling, recessed storefront. (G,9) C
- 45. 124 N. Water. Fiddler Building. 1899, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, two-bay, parapet corbeling, rectangular windows with transoms and egg and dart molding. (G.10) C
- 46. 126 N. Water. Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, corbeled parapet, rectangular 1/1 windows with transoms and segmental radiating voussoirs, altered storefront. (G,11) C
- 47. 130-132 N. Water. Ca. 1880, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, corbeling, metal cornice, carrara glass (G,12) C
- 48. 140 N. Water. Ca. 1925 facade on older buildings, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, two-bay, patterned brickwork, Victorian period metal cornice, altered storefront. (B.14) C
- 49. 141 N. Water. Ca. 1880, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, six-bay, two store-fronts, segmental-arched windows, three hood molds, corbeled cornice on left half of facade, bracketed metal cornice on right facade, altered storefront. (C.7) C
- 50. 142 N. Water, Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, corbeled parapet, altered storefront, (B,15) C
- 51. 146 N. Water. 1908, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, two storefronts, corbeled parapet, outstanding carrara glass storefront at south bay, altered storefront at north bay, pressed tin ceiling on awning. (B,16) C
- 52. 149 N. Water. Gallatin Buggy and Implement Co. 1917, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, upper story covered with metal shingles, original brick, wood, and glass storefront. (C,16) C
- 53. 150 N. Water. 1908, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, corbeled parapet, plain, altered storefront. (B,17) C
- 54. 152-158 N. Water. Ca. 1920, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, corbeled parapet, raised central bay parapet, three altered storefronts, plain brick pilasters. (B,18) C
- 55. 159 N. Water. Ca. 1920, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, brick corbeling, three-bay first story, plain upper facade. (C,5) C
- 56. 160 N. Water. Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, upper story sheathed in metal shingles, two storefronts divided by tall pilasters, dentiled cornice. (B,19) C

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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7

Gallatin Commercial Historic District
Continuation sheet Item number

Page

- 57. 161 N. Water. Ca. 1935, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, plain upper story, altered storefront, tile parapet cresting. (C,4) C
- 58. 166-168 N. Water. Ca. 1935, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick and concrete, stone caping, brick insets, three recessed storefronts. (B,20) C
- 59. 172 N. Water. Ca. 1940, verncaular commercial, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -story, brick, three-storefronts, central garage opening. (B,21) N
- 60. 204 N. Water. Ca. 1950, commercial, two-story, concrete block, gable roof, recessed from street. (B,22) N
- 61. 206 N. Water. Ca. 1910, vernacular commercial, two-story, stuccoed brick, metal low hip roof, wide eaves, enclosed rectangular windows, altered storefront. (B,23) C
- 62. 208 N. Water. Ca. 1945, vernacular commercial, one-story, frame, asbestos siding, garage opening. (B,24) N
 - 63. 212 N. Water. Ca. 1930, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, stuccoed parapet, tile cresting, wide double windows, two storefronts, glazed single-leaf doors with transoms. (B,25) C
 - 64. 110 S. Water. Ca. 1880, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, gable roof, gable facing street, two-bay, narrow segmental-arched window openings, plain freize and boxed cornice, altered storefront, one-story plain brick addition to south side covered on first story with board and batten. (J,8) C
 - 65. 113 S. Water. Ca. 1890, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, heavily altered with stone veneer and aluminum sheathing. (K, 1.01) N
 - 66. 115 S. Water. Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick covered with board siding, altered storefront. (K,2) N
 - 67. 117. S. Water. Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, covered with board siding. (K,3) N
 - 68. 119 S. Water. Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, segmental-arched window openings, patterned brickwork, altered storefront. (K,4) C
 - 69. 121 S. Water. Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, segmental-arched window openings, original storefront, patterned brickwork. C
 - 70. 123 S. Water. Ca. 1935, vernacular commercial, one-story, brick, three-bay, central double-leaf entrance, little-altered. (K,6) C
 - 71. 125 S. Water. Ca. 1925, vernacular commercial, one-story, stuccoed brick, single-leaf entrance at far left bay, 4/4 windows, metal cornice. (K,7) C
 - 72. 127-129 S. Water. 1922, vernacular commercial, two-story, stuccoed brick and concrete, three storefronts, metal cornice, four rectangular window/vents. (K,8) C

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For FFS use only
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Gallatin Commercial Historic District Continuation sheet Item number

Page

7

e 7

Public Square

- 73. Public Square, Sumner County Courthouse. 1939-40, vernacular with Art Deco and classical influences, three-story, smooth ashlar stone, seven-bay, fluted pilasters, dentiled entablature, parapet, casement windows, double-leaf entrances with entablature surrounds. Building will attain contributing status in 1990 when 50 year age criterion is met. Marr and Holman, architects. N
 - 74. 101 E. Public Square. 1905, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, six-bay, round-arched windows on first story (three northernmost bays not original), rectangular 1/1 windows with transoms and keystone lintels, leaded glass, corbeling, parapet. (F,23) C
 - 75. 105 E. Public Square. Ca. 1900, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, ca. 1935 upper story facade and two-bay carrara glass storefront. (F,22) C
 - 76. 109 E. Public Square. Ca. 1900, commercial, two-story, brick, heavily altered ca. 1970 with gable roof, aluminum siding, multi-light windows, new brick. (F,21) N
 - 77. 111-115 E. Public Square. Ca. 1860, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, stuccoed upper story, four-bay, heavily altered storefronts and windows. (F,20,19,19.01) N
 - 78. 117-119 E. Public Square. Ca. 1960, commercial, two-story, brick, four-bay, gable roof. (F,18) N
 - 79. 121 E. Public Square. Ca. 1890, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, segmental-arched windows, corbeling, altered storefront. (F,17) C
 - 80. 123 E. Public Square. Ca. 1960, commercial, one-story, brick, L-shaped, three-bay, 6/6 windows, pedimented door, flat roof. (F.16) N
 - 81. 102 N. Public Square. Ca. 1890, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, segmental-arched windows, corbeled parapet, altered storefront. (F,14) C
 - 82. 106 N. Public Square. Suddarths. 1924, vernacular commercial, $2\frac{1}{2}$ -story, brick, virtually unaltered, three-bay, original storefront with decorative tilework, patterned brickwork. (F,13) C
 - 83. 108 N. Public Square. Ca. 1925, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, paired 1/1 windows, patterned brickwork, altered storefront. (F,12) C
 - 84. 112 N. Public Square. Ca. 1880 with ca. 1920 alterations on upper story, vernacular commercial, two-story, brick, three-bay, paired 1/1 windows, dentiled and bracketed metal cornice. (F,11) C
 - 85. 114-116 Public Square. Ca. 1875, Italianate commercial, two-story, brick, eight-bay, narrow segmental-arched window openings, hood molds, elaborate cornice, quoins, storefront altered ca.1970 to imitate upper story. (F,10) C
 - 86. 118 Public Square. First and Peoples National Bank. Vernacular commercial with classical influence, 1923, two-story, ashlar stone, parapet, pilasters, pedimented central entrance, swags, five-bay. (F,9) C

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

date entered

Gallatin Commercial Historic District
Continuation sheet Item number

Page

2

century; although altered, their size, shape, and window openings are in line with early buildings shown in historic photographs and on early maps.

Most of the district's buildings were built between 1870 and 1935, having replaced burned or demolished earlier buildings. Flat-roofed, long rectangular commercial buildings illustrating primarily Italianate, Victorian, and early twentieth century styles, are located around the square and along N. and S. Water streets. They are anchored by a 1939 Art Deco- and classical-influenced, three-story courthouse in the middle of the square which, while less than fifty years old, does not detract from the architectural and historic character of the district. Scattered individual buildings are located along E. Main, E. College, and E. Franklin streets, which because of their varying types, styles, and functions, provide a diverse character to the district.

Pivotal buildings in the district are the most substantial and ornate buildings located on the corners of the square and a number of good to outstanding examples of various commercial and residential architectural styles scattered throughout. A particularly noteworthy example of commercial architecture is the Suddarth Building (#82) on the east side of the square. It is an outstanding unaltered example of 1920s commercial architecture with its luxor glass, contrasting use of materials, texture, and color, and tile and glass recessed storefront. The 1917 Gallatin Buggy and Implement Company building remains unaltered as a good example of a more vernacular style, functional commerical building of the early twentieth century with its plain facade, wood, glass and brick storefronts, and original awning. Outstanding examples of commercial Italianate, Victorian, and turn of the century classical styles are found on the upper stories of numerous buildings on the square. These include the Italianate style Swaney Swift Drug Company Building (#42) and 116 N. Water Street (#85), the Victorian style buildings at 141 and 110 N. Water Street, and the classical turn of the century Commerce Union Bank Building (#17), which is unaltered on both stories. Important residential architecture in the district are 135 College Street (#4), an unusual and outstanding example of the Italianate style, 112 College Street (#1), a rare example of a Second Empire style cottage, 124 E. Franklin (#9), an unusual example of a large frame Gothic Revival style house, and 258 E. Main (#34), a good example of a large scale, towered Second Empire style building.

As well as representing good examples of various architectural styles and building types, the buildings of the district physically represent the development of Gallatin from 1814 to 1935 as a trade and retail center for Sumner County. All of the district's buildings, except for thirteen built or remodeled after 1935, were constructed during this period of steady prosperity which resulted in part from successes of the town's major industries, including a shoe factory, tobacco market, stock yard, creamery, cheese plant, and chicken hatchery, and largely from the thriving agricultural and industrial pursuits of the surrounding county.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Gallatin Commercial Historic District Item number

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Page

8

3

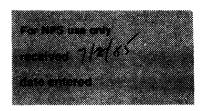
By 1935 Sumner County ranked high among Tennessee's ninety-five counties in livestock production: second in sheep; fifth in horses; sixth in hogs; thirteenth in cattle; and fifteenth in mules. The county ranked eleventh in the state in number of farms and it boasted a wide variety of strong industries, including flour and lumber mills, tobacco markets, handle, box, shoe and berry crate factories, dairying, and strawberry production.

Gallatin's downtown became a hub serving the daily needs of the townsmen and Sumner countians for foodstuffs, mercantile goods, medicines, entertainment, trade, and commerce. Its buildings were used as groceries, hardware and dry goods stores, saloons, restaurants, bakeries, banks, offices, drug stores, book stores, wallpaper stores, jewelry stores, farm implement manufacturing and sales stores, produce stores, barber shops, funiture stores, filling stations, trade shops, apartment houses, and a movie theatre, an opera house, an auto repair and sales shop, a fire department, a church, a post office, and a school. Collectively, the buildings and their historic uses serve to provide a nearly complete view of architecture, commerce, and trade in the county seat town of Gallatin until 1935 when, soon after in the vein of popular trend, most new commercial developments occurred in shopping strips along major highways on the outskirts of town.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet

Gallatin Commercial Historic District Item number



Page 2

The Gallatin Commercial Historic District is an irregularly-shaped area generally mincluding properties around the courthouse square and along both sides of E. Main St. between the southwest corner of the square to College St. on the north side of Main St. and a half block farther on the south side of Main St.; on the west side of N. Water St. from Town Creek to halfway down the first block of S. Water St. and on the east side of N. Water St. from Prince St. along S. Water St. to Smith St.; along W. Franklin St. from N. Trimble St. to one-half block on E. Franklin St. past N. Water St. and part of the block on E. Franklin St. between Boyers and College streets; and along College St. from E. Franklin St. to E. Main St. The boundaries follow rear property lines, except for the properties along E. Main Street where the boundaries generally are drawn halfway between the length of the parcels to include the buildings and to exclude large areas of vacant land, and were drawn to include the largest concentration of nineteenth and early twentieth century downtown Gallatin commercial buildings. The edges of the district are defined by areas of vacant land and concentrations of buildings less than fifty years old.

10

